

# Charlton Villager

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Thursday-Friday, July 2-3, 2026

## Sturbridge awarded \$500,000 Mass Trails Grant

STURBRIDGE — The Sturbridge Trail Committee was awarded a \$500,000 Mass Trails grant for the 469a Trail & Bridge project. The award was announced today at the annual Mass Trails Grant ceremony held in Clinton. This grant will fund a portion of the \$2 million dollar project that will construct a shared use path from 501 Main st to the Riverlands, installing a bridge to cross the Quinebaug River and a board walk over the historic Canal that took water form the river to the former "auger shop" on Route 20.

This project was first envisioned more than 20 years ago as a part of the town wide goal of connecting

Courtesy

(Right) Accepting the certificate of award of the Mass trails grant from left to right, Garcia Guadalupe, MassTrails Grant Coordinator, Fritz Reeve & Tom Chamberland, Sturbridge Trail Committee and Amanda Lewis Mass Trails Program Director.



Sturbridge Town Administrator Robin Grimm said of the award, "I am excited to announce this grant award and the tireless efforts of the Sturbridge Trails Committee in achieving this grant towards the bridge project recently voted at the town meeting. This bridge will connect the trails system to our parking lot in the commercial retail district giving trail users access to and from our restaurants and small retail shops on Route 20. This money will directly offset the costs approved by the Town Meeting from the CPC funds freeing up that amount for future CPC projects."

Sturbridge trails Comm Chair, Brandon Goodwin added, "This trail & bridge project will complete a key connection of the Riverlands & Grand Trunk Trail to our Rt 20 commercial and residential areas, a major goal of our Trails masterplan."

Construction is expected to start in the fall of 2026 and be completed in late summer 2027.

neighborhoods too our open space properties. Attending the ceremony to receive

the grant were Trail Comm members Fritz Reeve and Tom Chamberland. Both

were instrumental in completing and submitting the grant application.

### Local residents to participate in 2026 Pan-Mass Challenge to support cancer research

NEEDHAM — This August 1 and 2, the Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC) will bring together more than 6,000 cyclists and 4,000 volunteers on August 1-2 to raise money for cancer research and patient care at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Participants from local communities will be among those helping support the PMC's mission to fund lifesaving cancer research and treatment.

- Local participants include:
- Anthony Fama of Sturbridge
  - Marie Dubrey of Sturbridge
  - Michele Dubrey - Peterson of Sturbridge
  - Melissa Beauchemin of Sturbridge
  - David Darrin of Sturbridge
  - Beverly Spreemann of Sturbridge
  - Steven Sexton of Sturbridge
  - Timothy Langevin of Sturbridge
  - Wesley Peterson of Sturbridge
  - Beth DiFederico of Sturbridge
  - Leigh Mapplebeck-Darrin of Sturbridge
  - Jack Canavan of Sturbridge
  - Ellen Canavan of Sturbridge
  - Thomas Mapplebeck of Sturbridge
  - Matthew Hart of Sturbridge
  - Jackie Berube of Sturbridge
  - Bill McGee of Sturbridge
  - Raki Zwiebel of Sturbridge
  - Mary Dowling of Sturbridge

Turn To **PMC** page **A10**

### Master Masons hold MYCHIP Community Outreach event

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE  
MAJOR GENERAL SALEM TOWNE LODGE  
SOUTHBRIDGE

SOUTHBRIDGE — On Saturday, June 27, Master Masons from the Major General Salem Towne Lodge (MGSTL) set up pop up tents and tables for the Family Fun Day event at the Southbridge common. Children lined up waited to complete their MYCHIP identification kits. The Massachusetts Youth Child Identification Program (MYCHIP) event was sponsored by MGSTL. Committee Chairman Brother Joel Reich of MGSTL says families can learn about this free child safety program and receive valuable child identification material. The Masonic MYCHIP program is one of the most comprehensive services of its kind and is offered to the pub-

Turn To **MYCHIP** page **A6**



Courtesy

Two-year-old Ella Tully of Worcester in front of the height measuring chart, with her mother, Meg, at the video and photo station. Volunteer Taralin Mitchell and Brother Clay Tull operated the equipment to record the information onto a wallet Identification card.

## Hitchcock's Summer Concert Series rocks Brimfield Town Common on Wednesday evenings

BRIMFIELD — The Hitchcock Summer Concert Series sponsored by Country Bank will take place on Wednesdays, 6 to 8 p.m., July 1 through Aug. 19 on the Brimfield Town Common. In the case of rain, concerts will move to Thursday. A food truck will be on site at each event. Picnics are also welcome; chairs and blankets are encouraged.

The series kicks off on July 1 with Woodshed, bringing Acoustic Folk, Country & Americana. Members Jason Wood of Brimfield, along with A.J. Kiernan, Karen Gallant, and Mike St. Germain are four musical friends who found each other through a love of



music and mutual admiration, and are known for their signature three-part harmony. BT's Smokehouse will

be on site. July 8 brings The Island Castaways whose love of Buffet-style escapism infus-

es the pride they take in creating a relaxing atmosphere where there are many smiles, laughter and dancing, and

lasting good time memories that create the ultimate Trop Rock experience. The featured food truck will be Flippin' the Bird BBQ.

After a weeklong hiatus for July's Brimfield Flea Market, The New England Digital Accordion Orchestra returns on July 22. Conducted by Sam Falcetti, the nation's first digital accordion orchestra features about 20 musicians from across New England. Using state-of-the-art Roland digital accordions, the group replicates the sounds of various instruments like flutes, trumpet, and a rhythm section to showcase an impressive range of genres including Big Band, Broadway, Ethnic,

Country, and Rock. BT's Smokehouse will return on this evening.

July 29 is all about polka with the return of The Eddie Forman Orchestra, also known as "E.F.O.," is a western Massachusetts polka band that has been performing before audiences since 1968. Eddie Forman started the band while he was still in high school, and has been creating and recreating music ever since, garnering one of the largest polka followings in the New England area. Off The Hook will be the evening's featured food truck.

August 5th brings the Brimfield debut of The Turn To **CONCERTS** page **A10**

# Brian Langevin of Sturbridge awarded degree from University of Alabama

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Brian Langevin of Sturbridge has received the following degree(s) from The University of Alabama: Bachelor of Science. UA awarded some 7,000 degrees during its spring commencement ceremonies.

A recent economic analysis found that a degree from The University of Alabama has proven

to provide an abundant return on investment for graduates, setting the stage for legendary careers while also creating priceless experiences and memories.

The University provides numerous opportunities for service and growth to help prepare future generations through its educational, cultural and social experiences. UA is not only home to

competitive academic programs, expert faculty and a beautiful campus, but it is also the place Where Legends Are Made.

The University of Alabama, part of The University of Alabama System, is the state's flagship university. UA shapes a better world through its teaching, research and service. With a global reputation for excellence, UA provides a for-

ward-thinking environment and over 200 degree programs on a beautiful, student-centered campus. A leader in cut-

ting-edge research, UA advances discovery, creative inquiry and knowledge through more than 30 research

centers. As the state's largest higher education institution, UA drives economic growth in Alabama and beyond.

## Sturbridge resident named to Dean College's Spring Semester Dean's List

FRANKLIN — Dean College is pleased to announce that Riley Lancour of Sturbridge has earned a place on the Dean's List for the Spring 2026 semester. Students named to the Dean's List have demonstrated a serious commitment to their studies while at Dean College. Students achieve a place on the Dean's List when they have earned a semester

Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.500 or higher with no grade below a "C" and no "RW," "RP," "RF" or "WF" grades for that semester. Part-time students are eligible after earning 12 credits. Full-time students must complete at least 75% of attempted credits to be eligible for Dean's List consideration.

Founded in 1865, Dean College is a private, residen-

tial college located in Franklin Massachusetts, 45 minutes from Boston, Massachusetts, and Providence, Rhode Island. Dean College offers baccalaureate degrees, associate degree programs, as well as a robust schedule of part-time continuing and professional education credit and certificate programs throughout the calendar year.

## Will Reece of Charlton graduates from Roger Williams University

BRISTOL, R.I. — Roger Williams University is proud to announce that Will Reece of Charlton graduated with a B.S. in Accounting in May as part of the


Class of 2026. About RWU Roger Williams University offers professional studies and liberal arts programs, with campuses in Bristol and

Providence, Rhode Island. We provide real-world learning that empowers students to become the changemakers and leaders our world needs next.

# REAL ESTATE

CHARLTON None SOUTHBRIDGE \$555,000, 77 Off Hamilton St, Jmt Holdings LLC, to Clough, Selina. \$530,000, 110 Dennison Hill Rd, Mccallum, Duncan K, and Mccallum, Sandra K, to Marino, Vincent, and Marino, Jaime. \$450,000, 601 Charlton St, Guardado, James J, and Vazquez, Darelly, to Guardado, James, and Guardado, Madeline. \$365,000, 108 Lebanon St, Ruiz, Daniel, and Ruiz, Melinda, to Aza, Franyelis R D, and Flores, Marvin E M. \$350,000, 242 Everett St, Hunt, Craig S, and Hunt, Jean D, to Reyes, Edwin. \$269,000, 104 Riverview Pl #C, Parker, Alfred, and Parker,

Alfred R, to Lizotte, Thomas E. STURBRIDGE \$878,500, 19 Bennetts Rd, Kathleen G Mason Qprt, and Mason, Richard, to Silwoski, Kara, and Leary, Brian O. \$545,000, 6 Walker Pond Rd, Culhane, Matthew, and Culhane, Jennifer, to Hultgren, John K, and Hultgren, Ashley M. \$540,000, 3 Woodlawn Dr, Mannix, Tyson, to Wolf, Alexandra, and Wolf, Thomas. \$430,000, 349 Leadmine Rd, French Ft, and French, Marc D, to Buckel, Jeffrey. \$370,000, 35 New Boston Rd, Fontaine Jr, Richard R, to Canning, Robert, and Canning, Andrea. \$350,000, 37 Breakneck Ln, Freedom Mortgage Corp, to Goff, Ryan Lucas, and Stgermain, Stephanie A.

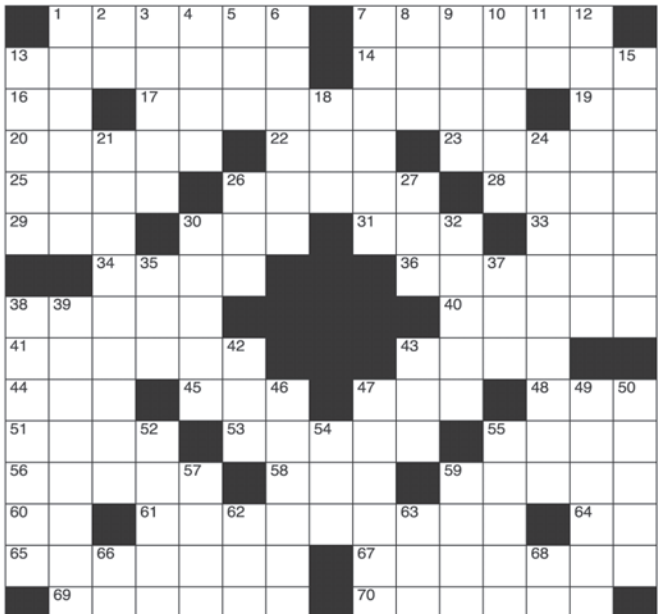


### ARTHRITIS?

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

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Associate Professor of Medicine, Umass-Chan Medical School  
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- #### CLUES ACROSS
- Mended
  - Hymns
  - Commercial transport of goods
  - Poked holes in the ground
  - They precede C
  - Branch of knowledge concerned with wealth
  - Larry and Curly's pal
  - Injured
  - Popular type of dance
  - Moon crater
  - American state
  - Places to lock valuables
  - Stalk that supports the capsule
  - Keyboard key
  - '\_ death do us part
  - A type of cage
  - A place to sleep
  - Annual music awards show
  - Made over
  - Hard, stony substance
  - Incantations
  - Long-legged, wading bird
  - Breathe noisily
  - Congressman
  - Rip off
  - Golf score
  - Popular pickup truck
  - Where infants sleep
  - Music term
  - Small opening in a surface
  - Musical term meaning "very"
  - Soviet Socialist Republic
  - Treats with powder
  - Email subject line feature
  - A British lawyer
  - Expression of laughter
  - Farmer's calendar
  - Seeds used as food
  - Eurasian shrubs
  - Periods of inactivity

- #### CLUES DOWN
- Hard things to kick
  - Collective of countries
  - Letter of Hebrew alphabet
  - One-time Alabama running back Eddie
  - One's sense of self-esteem
  - Of the teeth
  - Treat with care
  - Type of whale
  - Curved structure
  - Emits coherent radiation
  - One of the Gospels (abbr.)
  - Smallest interval in western music
  - Netherlands seat of government
  - Gives to charitably
  - Lout
  - Pastas
  - Release from restrictions
  - Female sibling
  - Title of respect
  - Silver coins
  - Region in India
  - Partner to cheese
  - Dark or dusky
  - Pacific Northwest tree
  - Exaggerate
  - Toddler
  - Touch lightly
  - Fundamentals
  - Jeopardies
  - Curved structures
  - Isolated, flat-topped hills
  - Forming the bottom layer
  - Reciprocal of sine
  - Genus of Old World birds
  - New York college
  - Cloak
  - Kawhi Leonard's team (abbr.)
  - Vietnamese offensive
  - "The Great Lakes State"
  - "\_, myself and I"

### PUZZLE SOLUTION

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256 Main St., Southbridge, MA 01550  
Tel 508/764-6365; Worship 10:00 A.M.
- Charlton Federated Church,** 64 Main St., 508- 248-5550, Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. Summer worship is 9:30 a.m. www.fed-church.org
- Charlton Baptist Church,** 50 Hammond Hill Road, 248-4488, www.charltonbaptist.org, Sunday worship 10 a.m.
- Charlton City United Methodist,** 74 Stafford St. 248-7379, web site: CharltonCityUMC.org Sunday worship and Children's church 10am
- St. Anne St. Patrick Church,** 16 Church St., Fiskdale (508) 347-7338  
www.stannestpatparish.com  
Saturday Vigil Mass at 4 pm, Sunday 8 am, 10 am, 12 noon, Youth Mass (September to May) 5 pm. Daily Mass Mon - Thurs 7:30 and 10 am, Fri and Sat 7:30 am
- Elm Street Congregational Church,** 61 Elm Street, Southbridge, Ma 01550  
Phone: 508-764-8085 • Sunday service 10:00 am  
Pastor Kathryn Light
- Faith Baptist Church,** 515 Dennison Drive, Southbridge  
Phone number 508-764-6132,  
Worship Service: Sunday 10:00 a.m.
- St. Joseph's Church,** 10 H. Putnam Ext, 248-7862, www.stjosephscharlton.com, Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 p.m., Sunday Mass 8 a.m., Sunday Family Mass 10 a.m., Sunday LifeTEEN Mass 5 p.m., Weekday Mass Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30 a.m.
- Wayside Church,** 6 Haggerty Road, 248-5144
- Assemblies of God Southern New England District Headquarters,** Route 20, 248-3771, snedag.org, Office hours Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Living Word Church of Charlton,** 10 Main Street - Grange building 1st Floor, Charlton, Ma 01507, Pastor Craig Bellisario, (508) 233-8349  
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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  
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Web: www.bethlehesturbridge.org  
Services - Sunday 9:00 am  
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Pastor Dan Maketansky
- Holy Trinity Episcopal Church**  
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Web: www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org  
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Pastor Dan Purtell
- St. John Paul II Parish**  
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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

# Worcester Polytechnic Institute announces Spring Dean's List

WORCESTER — Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) has announced the university's Dean's List for academic excellence for the spring 2026 semester.

The criteria for the WPI Dean's List differ from that of most other universities as WPI does not compute a grade point average (GPA). Instead, WPI students are named to the Dean's List based on the amount of work completed at the A level in courses and hands-on projects.

"WPI's academic programs are rigorous and require a level of independence beyond what is required in traditional courses. WPI students work on real-world, open-ended problems on campus and in communities around the globe. Far from being simple academic exercises, the projects students complete have genuine and lasting impacts in our partner communities," said Provost Andrew Sears. "Some of this nation's best and brightest students

come to WPI to study engineering, science, business, and the humanities. Those named to the Dean's List have excelled in all of their work, and we are exceptionally proud of these outstanding students."

The following students were recognized:

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

Brookfield resident Alexander Shettler, class of 2026, majoring in Computer Science

Southbridge resident Ella Favreau, class of 2027, majoring in Architectural Engineering

Southbridge resident Neo Phommachanh, class of 2028, majoring in Aerospace Engineering

Charlton resident Adam Faucher, class of 2026, majoring in Society, Technology and Policy

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

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

Charlton resident Bridget McGonagle, class of 2027, majoring in Chemical Engineering

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

Charlton resident David Cranney, class of 2028, majoring in Mathematical Sciences

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

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

Charlton resident Rachel Carpenter, class of 2028, majoring in Chemical Engineering

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) is a top-tier, STEM-focused university with an R1 research classi-

fication and global leadership in project-based learning. Founded in 1865, WPI's distinctive approach integrates classroom theory with real-world practice, preparing students to tackle critical challenges through inclusive education, impactful projects, and interdisciplinary research. With more than 70 bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs across 18 academic departments and over 50 global project centers, WPI advances knowledge and innovation in fields such as life sciences, smart technologies, advanced materials and manufacturing, and global innovation. Learn more at [www.wpi.edu](http://www.wpi.edu).

## Jess Ertsgard awarded degree from Miami University

OXFORD, Ohio — Jess Ertsgard of Sturbridge was among over 4,500 students from Miami University who received degrees during the spring commencement on May 16.

A total of 4,519 degrees were conferred during the ceremony. That includes 3,718 bachelor's degrees, 493 master's degrees, 217 certificates, 59 associate degrees, and 32 doctorates.

The top 10 undergraduate degrees expected to be conferred this year are: Finance (341), Marketing (289),

Psychology (213), Biology (200), Kinesiology (156), Nursing (144), Accountancy (115), Computer Science (115), Strategic Communications (95), and Emerging Technology in Business and Design and Primary Education PK-5 (both 94).

Ertsgard graduated with a B.S. in Kin, Nutr & Health degree, majoring in Kinesiology.

The most recent complete candidates for graduation lists are

always available for downloading at commencement, dean's and president's lists.

Nationally recognized as one of the most outstanding undergraduate institutions, Miami University is a public university located in Oxford, Ohio. With a student body of over 22,000, Miami effectively combines a wide range of strong academic programs with faculty who love to teach and the personal attention ordinarily found only at much smaller institutions.

Established in 1809, Miami University is consistently ranked among the top 50 national public universities by the U.S. News & World Report for providing students with an Ivy League-quality education at a public school price. Located in quintessential college town Oxford, Ohio-with regional campuses in Hamilton and Middletown, a learning center in West Chester, and a European study center in Luxembourg-Miami serves more than 22,600

undergraduates across more than 100 areas of study, and more than 2,200 graduate students through 78 master's and doctoral degree programs. At this comprehensive research university, students engage and conduct research with premiere teacher-scholars. Miami adds \$2.3 billion each year to Ohio's economy through innovative partnerships and job creation. Miami is an NCAA Division I school, serving more than 500 student-athletes across 19 varsity

sports. For more information, visit [MiamiOH.edu](http://MiamiOH.edu).

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## Local students earn President's List honors at Nichols College

DUDLEY — Nichols College is proud to recognize the academic accomplishments of students on the spring 2026 President's List.

President's List recognizes those students who achieve high grades during a single semester. Students whose semester grade point average is 3.85 or higher for at least 12 undergraduate credit-hours and no grades below B- will receive President's List honors.

The following local students have achieved President's List honors:

- Emily Westwell of Southbridge
- Luisa Henao of Southbridge
- Emma White of Charlton
- Timothy Charette of Charlton
- John Guerin of Charlton
- Olivia Charette of Charlton

- Muhammad Abdul Wasay of Charlton
- Maggie Mullaly of Charlton
- Matthew Lach of Charlton
- Robert Cleary of Fiskdale
- Brayden Fillios of Fiskdale
- Lydia Julian of Holland
- Ryan Leary of Sturbridge
- Benjamin Yarter of Sturbridge

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## Building connections that benefit everyone

Some community projects are easy to appreciate because their benefits are immediate. A new playground fills with children the day it opens. A renovated building quickly becomes a source of neighborhood pride. Other projects require a bit more vision, asking residents to imagine how a single improvement today can reshape a community for decades to come.

The Sturbridge Trail Committee's successful effort to secure a \$500,000 Mass Trails grant for the Route 20 Trail and Bridge project is one of those visionary investments.

The grant represents much more than outside funding. It is validation that a project conceived more than two decades ago has matured into something worthy of state support. It is also recognition of the persistence shown by volunteers who continued refining the idea, pursuing partnerships, and completing the extensive work necessary to compete for a highly sought-after grant.

Volunteer committees often work quietly behind the scenes, spending countless hours in meetings, reviewing engineering plans, preparing applications and answering questions that few residents ever see. Those efforts rarely make headlines, but they are essential to moving ambitious projects from concept to reality. The dedication shown by members of the Sturbridge Trail Committee deserves recognition.

The proposed trail extension will do more than connect two points on a map. By linking Route 20's commercial district with the Riverlands and Grand Trunk Trail system, the project creates opportunities for residents and visitors to experience Sturbridge in a different way. A family can park once, enjoy a walk along the trails, stop for lunch at a local restaurant, browse a few shops and spend an afternoon exploring the community without getting back into the car.

That type of connectivity has become increasingly important in communities across Massachusetts. Well-designed trail systems encourage healthy lifestyles, provide safe recreational opportunities, support tourism and strengthen local businesses. They also help preserve the natural landscapes that make towns like Sturbridge attractive places to live and visit.

The project also demonstrates thoughtful stewardship of local resources. Town officials noted that the state grant will offset a significant portion of the project costs previously approved through Community Preservation Act funding. That means local dollars originally committed to the bridge project may now become available for future preservation, recreation or historic initiatives that will benefit residents in other ways.

Good planning often produces this kind of multiplier effect. One successful grant application not only advances its intended project but also creates new possibilities for future community improvements.

The timeline calls for construction to begin this fall, with completion expected in late summer 2027. Large infrastructure projects inevitably bring temporary inconveniences and occasionally encounter unforeseen challenges. That is simply part of building something designed to serve generations of residents.

When the bridge finally spans the Quinebaug River and walkers cross the boardwalk over the historic canal, many users may never know how many years of planning made that moment possible. They may not realize the project was first imagined more than 20 years earlier or appreciate the countless volunteer hours invested before a single shovel entered the ground.

But that is often how the best civic projects work. Their greatest success is that they become such a natural part of the community that future generations assume they have always been there.

Communities grow stronger when they think beyond immediate needs and invest in projects that improve quality of life for everyone. The Route 20 Trail and Bridge project reflects that kind of long-term thinking, balancing recreation, conservation, economic opportunity and community connectivity.

Years from now, residents walking across the Quinebaug River bridge may simply enjoy the scenery without giving much thought to how it came to be. That may ultimately be the greatest measure of success. The project will have become not simply a bridge, but another thread connecting the people, businesses, history and natural beauty that make Sturbridge a special place to call home.

# OPINION

## Small habits help shape a stronger financial future

Financial security doesn't have to come from a big salary, a lucky investment, or some dramatic turning point. For most people, wealth is built more simply, through small habits repeated many times over.

If you're like many young people, you may feel you don't have enough money to start investing. The reality is that you're in a great position to build the small habits that will help you create lasting wealth. Here are five tips to help you get started.

1. Automate savings before you spend. One of the most powerful financial habits you can build is among the easiest. Set up an automatic transfer such as by contributing to an employer retirement plan or exploring if you can direct part of your paycheck to a savings or investment account.

This helps remove the temptation to spend that money instead of saving it. Even setting aside 1 to 5 percent of your income can help build momentum over time.

2. Watch the small stuff. It's easy to dismiss a \$15-a-month streaming service or a \$6 coffee twice a week. But those small purchases add up. Forgotten subscriptions, food delivery fees, and impulse buys can quietly drain your bank account.

"Just \$25 a week, if invested well, can grow into the thousands in a few short years." Scan your recurring charges regularly, cancel what you don't use and put that money to work instead.

3. Don't let your lifestyle outpace your income. When you get a raise or bonus, it's tempting to upgrade your apartment, car or everyday spending. This "lifestyle creep" can be a significant hindrance to building wealth.

Here's an alternate approach: Every time your income

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goes up, increase your savings rate before anything else. Even saving half of a raise while spending the rest puts you ahead.

4. Start now, even imperfectly. Don't wait to start investing. Even if you can only set aside a small amount each month, do it. Starting just five to 10 years earlier can result in significantly more wealth down the line, even if the early contributions

are small, thanks to compounding.

Compounding means your contributions earn interest, and even that interest earns interest. Over decades, that snowball effect can make a world of difference.

5. Stay aware, not obsessed. You don't necessarily need to track every dollar you spend. But you do need to be aware of your money habits. A quick weekly or monthly check-in on your accounts, spending patterns and progress toward savings goals can help you catch problems early.

Financial awareness also means protecting what you build. An emergency fund covering three to six months of total expenses keeps one bad month from becoming a financial crisis. Avoiding high-interest debt does the same. These defensive habits make everything else possible.

Your financial future likely won't be shaped by one big decision. Instead, it will probably be built by small choices you make every day. And the best time to start making good choices is now.

*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.*

## The freedom found between the fireworks

### LANTERNS ALONG MAIN STREET

By CHARLES

Every Fourth of July seems to arrive with the same familiar soundtrack.

Somewhere in town, someone is already testing fireworks a few nights early. Flags appear on front porches that looked bare only a week before. The grocery stores suddenly have mountains of hamburger buns stacked where the breakfast cereal used to be, and every weather forecast becomes the most important broadcast of the week.

In Massachusetts, Independence Day has always carried a little extra weight. We live where so much of the nation's story began. We grow up hearing about Lexington and Concord, Bunker Hill and the Boston Tea Party. Schoolchildren memorize dates that happened just down the road from where they ride bicycles today. This year, as the nation marks its 250th birthday, those connections feel even closer. Communities across the Commonwealth are celebrating not only with fireworks and parades, but with historical programs that remind us how much of America's story started here.

Yet, I suspect most of us don't spend the Fourth thinking about history books. Instead, we remember our own traditions.

Maybe it's the neighborhood parade where every kid decorated a bicycle with crepe paper. Maybe it's sitting on a blanket waiting for darkness while trying to guess where the first fireworks will appear. Maybe it's a backyard filled

with folding chairs that have somehow become family heirlooms. There is comfort in traditions that don't need improving.

Every year, someone insists they know the perfect way to grill corn on the cob. Every year someone burns the hot dogs while insisting they're "just getting flavor." Every year someone forgets the bug spray

until it's too late. Some things are worth repeating.

The older I get, the more I think Independence Day isn't really about the fireworks at all. They're beautiful, certainly, but they're over in half an hour. The holiday lasts because of everything surrounding them. It's neighbors waving from across the street. It's children staying up far later than they should. It's veterans quietly standing when the national anthem is played. It's grandparents explaining to curious youngsters why the holiday matters without turning it into a lecture. Those moments don't make headlines, but they make communities.

Our towns have changed over the years. Storefronts come and go. Schools expand. Roads are rebuilt. New families arrive while others move away. Yet on the Fourth of July, people still gather in the same parks, line the same sidewalks, and spread blankets across the same fields their parents and grandparents once used. That's a remarkable kind of continuity.

We spend much of the year talking about what divides us. Turn on the television for ten minutes and you'll be reminded of every disagreement imaginable.

Then Independence Day arrives. For one evening, we all look in the same direction.

Nobody argues about whether the red burst was prettier than the blue one. Children don't care who their parents voted for. The only debate that matters is whether the grand finale has started or if the biggest shells are still coming.

Perhaps that's the lesson hidden beneath all the celebration. A community doesn't become stronger because everyone thinks alike. It becomes stronger because people choose, again and again, to share the same spaces, the same traditions, and the same hopes for tomorrow.

So this weekend, enjoy the parade. Eat one too many hamburgers. Wave to someone you haven't seen in a while. Stay for the fireworks, even if you've seen hundreds before.

And when the last echo fades into the summer night, remember that the brightest part of Independence Day was never what exploded overhead. It was the people standing beside you, looking up together.

### 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.

# Community Broadband Networks and Massachusetts Broadband Institute announce launch of high-speed Internet initiative in South Worcester County

SOUTHBRIDGE — Community Broadband Networks (“CBN”), funded by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI), a division of the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MassTech), is pleased to announce the launch of its project within the Residential Retrofit Program, bringing affordable, high-speed fiber internet service to residents across South Worcester County. The initiative formally commenced with a Go-Live event on June 17, 2026, at 60 Charlton Street in Southbridge, the first property to receive CBN service under this transformative program.

Supported by funding from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through the American Rescue

Plan Act’s Capital Projects Fund, the Residential Retrofit Program is designed to deliver reliable, gigabit-capable broadband infrastructure to underserved multi-dwelling communities. This investment represents a significant step forward in expanding digital access and ensuring that residents in historically underserved areas have the connectivity necessary to participate fully in today’s digital economy.

The June 17 Go-Live event celebrated the activation of service at the Southbridge Housing Authority property located at 60 Charlton Street. Residents had the opportunity to learn more about available service offerings, engage directly with the CBN team, and take advantage of early enrollment

opportunities. The event also served as a community gathering to mark the beginning of a broader effort to modernize connectivity throughout the region.

“This launch represents a meaningful milestone not only for Southbridge, but for the entire region,” said James Orioli, Chief Operating Officer of Community Broadband Networks. “Our mission is to ensure that reliable, high-speed internet is both accessible and affordable for all residents. Through our partnership with MBI, we are proud to deliver critical infrastructure that will support education, workforce development, healthcare access, and overall quality of life for the communities we serve.”

The 60 Charlton St. deployment

represents the first phase of a broader infrastructure initiative that will extend throughout South Worcester County, including communities such as Southbridge, Charlton, Sturbridge, Oxford, Webster, and surrounding areas. Construction across the project footprint is scheduled to occur through July 2026, with phased service activations continuing thereafter as each location is completed.

As part of the Residential Retrofit Program, CBN is deploying a fiber-to-the-premises network architecture within participating properties, enabling residents to access high-capacity, low-latency broadband service. The network is designed to deliver symmetrical gigabit speeds, with scalability to support

future increases in demand. In addition to infrastructure improvements, the program includes a strong emphasis on digital equity, ensuring that residents have not only access to service, but also the tools and support necessary to fully benefit from connectivity.

“Through the Residential Retrofit Program, MBI is providing affordable and reliable access to help residents gain digital skills, apply for jobs and access community resources,” said MBI Director Michael Baldino. “Our partnership with CBN across South Worcester County will uplift historically marginalized communities, narrowing the digital divide and expanding economic opportunity in the region.”

The project includes enhancements to in-build-

ing infrastructure, expanded connectivity to individual residential units, and improvements to shared spaces to support reliable internet access throughout each property. These investments are intended to create a long-term, sustainable broadband solution that meets the needs of residents today while preparing communities for the future.

The Go-Live event at 60 Charlton Street marks the beginning of this broader regional deployment and underscores the shared commitment of CBN and MBI to closing the digital divide across Massachusetts.

Community members interested in learning more about the service or

upcoming availability are encouraged to contact Community Broadband Networks for additional information.

Community Broadband Networks (CBN)

Networks is dedicated to expanding access to reliable, affordable broadband services in underserved and unserved communities. Through strategic partnerships and investment in modern infrastructure, CBN delivers high-quality connectivity solutions that support economic development, education, and community growth.

About the Massachusetts Broadband Institute at

MassTech  
A division of the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) is working to extend high-speed internet access and availability across the state. To achieve this, MBI uses state and federal funding to launch infrastructure expansion programs that target areas of the state that lack high-speed internet access as well as digital equity programs that tackle barriers to internet adoption and increase availability, addressing critical issues around affordability, enhanced public Wi-Fi, the need for internet-enabled devices, and digital literacy training.

## Area residents named to Clark University’s Spring Dean’s List

WORCESTER — Clark University announces students named to the Spring 2026 Dean’s List.

Alexis M. Taudel, of Fiskdale was named to second honors

Jaiden E. Gombos, of Brimfield was named to first honors

Students must have a GPA of

3.8 or above for first honors or a GPA between 3.50 and 3.79 for second honors.

Founded in 1887, Clark University is a liberal arts-based research university that prepares its students to meet tomorrow’s most daunting challenges and embrace its greatest opportunities. Through 44 undergraduate

majors, more than 30 advanced degree programs, and nationally recognized community partnerships, Clark fuses rigorous scholarship with authentic world and workplace experiences that empower our students to pursue lives and careers of meaning and consequence.

## Local residents named to Dean’s List at Saint Anselm College

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — Saint Anselm College has released the Dean’s List of high academic achievers for the second semester of the 2025-2026 school year, including Caraline Stewart of Brimfield and Summer Chaffee of Charlton.

To be eligible for this honor, students must earn 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, a total of 721 students from 25 states and five countries were recognized.

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 seacoast, 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.

## Roger Williams University announces Spring Dean’s List

BRISTOL, R.I. — Select students have been named to the Spring 2026 Dean’s List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I. Full-time students who complete 12 or more credits per semester and earn a GPA of 3.4 or higher

are placed on the Dean’s List that semester.

Christopher Davey of Charlton  
Will Reece of Charlton  
Sofia Vangel of Charlton  
About RWU  
Roger Williams University

offers professional studies and liberal arts programs, with campuses in Bristol and Providence, Rhode Island. We provide real-world learning that empowers students to become the changemakers and leaders our world needs next.

## Andrew Briere of Holland graduates from University of Hartford

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. — The University of Hartford is pleased to announce that Andrew Briere of Holland has been awarded the degree of Master of Architecture from the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture.

1,093 students received graduate and undergraduate degrees this spring as part of the Class

of 2026.

Please join us in congratulating all our students for their hard work and academic success!

The University of Hartford blends raw passion with emerging talent, offering intentional preparation across six career-focused schools and colleges so every student can thrive.

Located on a 350-acre campus neighboring Connecticut’s capital city and positioned midway between New York City and Boston—the University is home to approximately 4,300 undergraduate and 1,700 graduate students from 42 states and 53 countries. Here, students are guided to discover their place, their people, and their purpose.

## July Gardening Calendar from the Charlton Garden Club

1. Inspect garden plants regularly for insect and disease problems.
2. Sanitation practices, insecticidal soaps, and insect traps are alternatives to pesticides.
3. Properly placed shade trees will reduce air conditioning costs.
4. Try shade tolerant ground covers in areas where lack of sunlight limits grass growth.
5. Excess nitrogen fertilizer stimulates succulent new turf growth which is more susceptible to diseases.
6. Raise your mowing height to 3 inches during hot weather.
7. Cucumbers get bitter if water is lacking during ripening.
8. Tomato hornworms are large green caterpillars that feed on the leaves of tomatoes and related plants. Hand-pick or control with B.t.
9. Cut back mums, tall asters, Montauk daisies and helianthus by about one-quarter for bushy, more floriferous plants.
10. Hummingbirds are attracted to red salvia, coral bells and bee balm.



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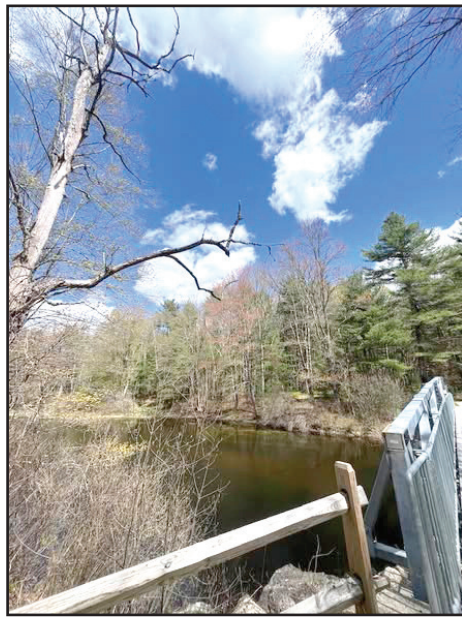
# Ruth Wells Center presents art by Laurie Boniface

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Ruth Wells Center for the Arts is excited to announce the July exhibit will be of works by Laurie Boniface. The galleries, located at 111 Main St. in Southbridge, will be filled with photographs, paintings and jewelry.

Opening reception is Saturday, July 11 from noon to 4 p.m., and the galleries will be open Saturday and Sunday throughout the month.

"Thanks for the privilege of allowing me to show my work," Boniface says. "I'm excited to focus on what I feel to be a new chapter in my life."

"How lucky I was as a child growing up on River Road in Sturbridge with the woods, river, and ponds as our playground. My love of nature was nurtured by daily reality - creating camps, collecting specimens of every



kind - full of wonder and observation of plants and animals of every description we came upon as we ranged. I loved the turtles, mushrooms, flowers, frogs, insects and endless array of fauna and all walks of forest life.

As an adult, antiquities became a focus. My life's work was creating jewelry from found parts. Providence RI was the costume jewelry manufacturing capitol of the world at the beginning of the 20th century and I built my jewelry design studio utilizing materials from old factories shuttering their doors after a century, creating a business that has sustained me and my helpmates over my lifetime.

"I believe we are all artists and creators. Our media vary and our talents are many. We are creators; when we give ourselves permission to explore

and experiment, when the process is more significant than the outcome, when we're executing our creations for the joy of creativity and not necessarily for gain, our visions nourish both self and society.

And now, I return to the simplicity of painting. I'm an amateur but challenged by the process and content attempting the portrayal. My brain chatters about Impressionism and methodology and endless ideas, but hand to paper or canvas gives me the outlet of expression! I enjoy it!"

Laurie Boniface is well-known as the guiding star of the beloved Sadie Green's in Sturbridge. To make a viewing appointment please call 508-909-6155. For more information about the Ruth Wells Center, go to the Web site, ruthwellscenter.com.

## MYCHIP

continued from page A1

lic free of charge. All identification materials created during the event were provided directly to each child's family.

At these MYCHIP events, Freemasons set up the equipment and work with other volunteer Masons from the 24th Masonic District, along with additional volunteers as needed, to create child identification kits. Each child moves through several stations, which together take about 10 to 15 minutes to complete. The process collects key identification information, including voice recordings, fingerprints, a short video, and photographs. MYCHIP gives law enforcement valuable tools to help recover a missing child quickly and safely. Thanks to the generosity of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts and its members, this service is offered free of charge. Massachusetts Freemasons remain committed to providing this program to families across the state on an ongoing basis. Once completed, the child's information is given to the parent or guardian on a USB wallet card for safekeeping.

All information is confidential and the Masonic my Chip retains nothing but the permission form when the kits are complete. All other data is permanently erased after the child's USB drive wallet card is prepared. Privacy is our number one focus. If you would



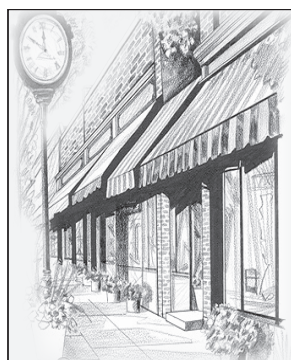
The Vinuela family of Southbridge waits in line to complete paperwork for their children's MYCHIP wallet Identification cards.

like more information or would like to request one of these Masonic my chip events in your area, go to www.

mychip.org to read more information and to schedule an event near you. If you would like more information about

Freemasonry, go to massfreemasonry.org to read to and to find a lodge nearest you.

Courtesy



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# St. Anne–St. Patrick Parish & Shrine announces 139th Annual Novena to Saint Anne

FISKDALE — St. Anne–St. Patrick Parish & Shrine invites the public to the 139th Annual Novena to Saint Anne, taking place Saturday, July 18 through Sunday, July 26. The Novena offers nine days of prayer, worship, and fellowship, bringing together Catholics from many cultures and communities throughout New England.

“This year’s theme is ‘One in Christ, United in Mission,’ which reflects the diversity of the Church and the unity we share through our faith,” said Fr. Salvator Musande, pastor. “As diverse as we might be, we share in the common mission of the Church: making missionary-disciples,” he added. “Everyone is welcome to attend one day, several days, or the entire Novena.”

For more than a century, pilgrims and visitors have gathered at St. Anne Shrine to honor Saint Anne, the moth-



Courtesy Photo

Rosary Procession held before the Novena Mass in the Outdoor Pavilion. Photo provided by St. Anne – St. Patrick Parish.

er of the Blessed Virgin Mary and grandmother of Jesus. The tradition of praying a novena dates back to the nine days of prayer between Christ’s Ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Today, novenas continue

to be a cherished Catholic devotion, offering an opportunity for prayer, thanksgiving, healing, and spiritual renewal. Each evening of the Novena includes:

- 5:30 p.m. – Sacrament of Reconciliation in the St. Anne

Church Sacristy

- 6:30 p.m. – Rosary Procession beginning at the Generations Statue near the Gift Shop
- 7 p.m. – Novena Mass in the Outdoor Pavilion

This year’s guest celebrants and participat-

ing communities include:

- Saturday, July 18 – Filipino Community, Rev. Alex Castro, A.A.
- Sunday, July 19 – Vietnamese Community, Rev. Peter Tam Bui
- Monday, July 20 – Hispanic Community, Rev. Hugo Cano
- Tuesday, July 21 – Polish Community, Rev. Richard Polek
- Wednesday, July 22 – Parish Community, Rev. Dominic Mbaeze, A.A.
- Thursday, July 23 – African Community, Rev. Enoch Kyeremateng
- Friday, July 24 – Brazilian Community, Rev.

Cleber de Paula

- Saturday, July 25 – The Cursillo Movement, Rev.

Donald Ouellette

The Feast of Saints Anne and Joachim will be

celebrated on Sunday, July 26, with:

- Noon – Healing Mass with Anointing of the Sick, celebrated by Rev. Salvator Musande, A.A.
- 7 p.m. – Closing Liturgy featuring the Parish Choir, celebrated by Rev. Chi Ai Nguyen, A.A., Provincial of the Assumptionists, North American Province

Saint Anne is known as the patron saint of mothers, grandmothers, women in labor, and those seeking to conceive. As the grandmother of Jesus, she is a beloved figure to whom many bring their prayers, hopes, and intentions. For additional information, directions, or a complete Novena schedule, visit [www.StAnneStPatrickParish.com](http://www.StAnneStPatrickParish.com).

## VILLAGE GARDEN CENTER

389 Main Street, Spencer (across from Ahearn’s equipment)  
508-885-3560

**1 Gallon Perennials**    **12” Mixed Patio Pots**

**BUY 2 GET 1 FREE**

**5 for \$100**



4 for \$90    3 for \$75    2 for \$55 or \$29.99 ea.

**6” Premium Annuals**    **11” Hanging Baskets**



**6 for \$46**    **2 for \$42**

or \$7.99 each    or \$24.99 ea.

**LOCALLY GROWN FAMILY BUSINESS**



Courtesy Photo

Tyler Phillips, a sophomore and member of the Tantasqua golf team, recorded his first hole-in-one on Tuesday, June 23 at Hemlock Ridge Golf Course on hole 8 during golf league play. He used an 8-iron from 165 yards.

**Brookfield Water Department**  
**6 Central St.**  
**Brookfield MA. 01506**

### Water Superintendent/Primary Operator

The Town of Brookfield is seeking a full time MA DEP Licensed Water Superintendent/Primary Operator dedicated to water system operations, with additional duties as directed and assigned.

The Superintendent/Primary Operator will work under the direct supervision and authority of the Brookfield Water Commissioner. This position is responsible for all aspects of supervision, planning, administration, operations-maintenance and customer service of the Brookfield Public Water Department, D1/T1 system.

In accordance with MA DEP regulations, the Superintendent/Primary Operator must be available to the system within one hour travel time. For more information and a copy of the Position Description, please contact the Brookfield Water Department at 508-867-2930 X17 or via email: [hchisholm@brookfieldma.us](mailto:hchisholm@brookfieldma.us)

## Friday’s Child



**Richard**  
**Age 14**  
**Registration #8694**

Richard is an engaging, energetic, and friendly boy with a great sense of humor. He enjoys playing video games, watching movies, and participating in sports. Richard has built many positive relationships with both peers and adults at school and is known for being kind, respectful, and easy to connect with. Those who know Richard describe him as compassionate, intuitive, and exceptionally polite. He cares deeply about others and strongly believes in standing up for people when needed, while also advocating for himself. Richard’s caring nature, strong values, and outgoing personality make him a joy to be around.

He would benefit from a supportive and encouraging family that can continue to help him grow and thrive.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/21181269059>

#### 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](http://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.



# LEGALS

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING Carpenter Hill Power - Community Meeting

Wednesday, July 8, 2026 | 5:30 PM  
Charlton Public Library | 40 Main Street,  
Charlton, MA  
Carpenter Hill Power is proposing a  
battery energy storage facility at 131  
Carpenter Hill Road in Charlton. Come  
learn about the project, ask questions,  
and share your input.  
This meeting will also be available vir-  
tually. Visit [carpenterhillpower.com](http://carpenterhillpower.com)  
for details.  
July 3, 2026

## CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland  
Protection Act of the General Laws of  
the Commonwealth of Massachusetts,  
Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton  
Conservation Commission will hold a  
public hearing on July 15, 2026, at 7PM  
on the application of Todd Bidwell.  
The applicant has submitted a Request  
for Determination of Applicability for  
the removal of an existing concrete  
wall and slab and the construction of a  
wood deck within the 100-ft buffer zone  
to Prindle Lake. Address: 15 Oak Ridge  
Drive, Charlton, MA, 01507. Parcel ID:  
61A-C-24  
Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts  
of 2021, this meeting of the Charlton  
Conservation Commission will be  
conducted in person and via remote  
means. Members of the public who  
wish to participate can access the  
meeting remotely by request.  
Copies of the RDA may be examined  
at the Conservation Office by appoint-  
ment during business hours.  
Thomas O'Malley  
Chair, Charlton Conservation  
Commission  
July 2, 2026

## NOTICE OF SALE Lein Sale

Request a Notice of Lein Sale be Pub-  
lished on the following listed Units  
**Household & Misc, Items**  
Unit No 335  
Christine Oday  
7 Follam Hill Rd  
N. Brookfield, MA 01535  
**Household & Misc, Items**  
Unit No 125  
Diane Curran  
1320 Arenidaday Mesilla #1245  
Las Cruces, NM 88005  
**Household & Misc, Items**  
Unit No 421  
Paul LaForté  
53 Waterville St  
North Grafton, MA 01536  
**Household & Misc, Items**  
Unit No 379  
William Kingsland  
PO Box 23  
Siloam, NC 27041  
**Household & Misc, Items**  
Unit No 643  
Amanda Leaming  
33 Leno Rd.  
Holland, MA 01521  
**Household & Misc, Items**  
Unit No 321  
Belinda St. John  
PO Box 176  
Charlton, MA 01507  
**LEIN SALE WILL BE HELD:**  
Date: 7/8/26  
Time: 12 Noon  
Location: 94 Brookfield Rd., Charlton  
MA 01507  
June 26, 2026  
July 3, 2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Worcester Probate and Family  
Court  
225 Main Street  
Worcester, MA 01608  
Docket No. WO23P0881PM  
CITATION GIVING NOTICE  
OF CONSERVATOR'S ACCOUNT  
In the matter of:  
Gloria J Marcelonis  
Of: Charlton, MA  
Protected Person/Disabled Person/  
Respondent**

To the named Respondent and all other  
interested persons, you are  
hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of  
the Supplemental Rules of the Probate  
& Family Court, that the 1st account(s)  
of Gay J Larkin of Lyndeborough, NH  
NH as Conservator of the property of  
said Respondent has or have been  
presented to the Court for allowance.  
**You have the right to object to the  
ac-count(s).** If you wish to do so, you  
or your attorney must file a written ap-  
pear-ance and objection at this court on  
or before 10:00 A.M on the return date  
of **07/14/2026** This day is NOT a hear-  
ing date, but a deadline date by which  
you have to object to the account(s). If  
you fail to file the written appearance  
and objection by the return date action  
may be taken in this matter without fur-  
ther notice to you, including the allow-  
ance of the account(s).  
Additionally, within thirty days after said

return day (or within such other time as  
the Court upon motion may order), you  
must file a written affidavit of objections  
stating the specific facts and grounds  
upon which each objection is based  
and a copy shall be served upon the  
Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the  
Supplemental Rules of the Probate &  
Family Court

You have the right to send to the  
Con-servator, by registered or certified  
mail, a written request to receive a copy  
of the Petition and account(s) at no cost  
to you

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

**The outcome of this proceeding may  
limit or completely take away the  
above-named person's right to make  
decisions about personal af-fairs or  
financial affairs or both. The above-  
named person has the right to ask  
for a lawyer. Anyone may make this  
request on behalf of the above-  
named person. If the above-named  
person cannot afford a lawyer, one  
may be appointed at State expense.**  
WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey,  
June 15, 2026

Stephanie K. Fattman

July 2, 2026

## CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland  
Protection Act of the General Laws of  
the Commonwealth of Massachusetts,  
Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton  
Conservation Commission will hold a  
public hearing on July 15, at 7PM on  
the application of James & Tammie  
Gillies.

The applicant has filed a Notice of Intent  
for the construction of a single-family  
residence, driveway, and associated  
site work within the 100-ft buffer zone  
to a Bordering Vegetated Wetland.  
The project location is: Lot 3 & 4 Smith  
Road, Charlton, MA 01507. Parcel ID:  
6-A-4.17 & 4.18

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts  
of 2021, this meeting of the Charlton  
Conservation Commission will be  
conducted in person and via remote  
means. Members of the public who  
wish to participate can access the  
meeting remotely by request.  
Copies of the NOI may be examined  
at the Conservation Office by appoint-  
ment during business hours.

Thomas O'Malley  
Chair, Charlton Conservation  
Commission  
July 2, 2026

## CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland  
Protection Act of the General Laws of  
the Commonwealth of Massachusetts,  
Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton  
Conservation Commission will hold a  
public hearing on July 15, 2026, at 7PM  
on the application of Janet Hagstrom.

The applicant has submitted a Request  
for Determination of Applicability for  
the construction of a deck within the  
100-ft buffer zone to South Charlton  
Reservoir. Address: 51 Leland Drive,  
Charlton, MA, 01507. Parcel ID: 73A-  
A-15

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts  
of 2021, this meeting of the Charlton  
Conservation Commission will be  
conducted in person and via remote  
means. Members of the public who  
wish to participate can access the  
meeting remotely by request.  
Copies of the RDA may be examined  
at the Conservation Office by appoint-  
ment during business hours.

Thomas O'Malley  
Chair, Charlton Conservation  
Commission  
July 2, 2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Worcester Probate and Family  
Court  
225 Main Street  
Worcester, MA 01608  
Docket No. WO23P0881PM  
CITATION GIVING NOTICE  
OF CONSERVATOR'S ACCOUNT  
In the matter of:  
Gloria J Marcelonis  
Of: Charlton, MA  
Protected Person/Disabled Person/  
Respondent**

To the named Respondent and all other  
interested persons, you are  
hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of  
the Supplemental Rules of the Probate  
& Family Court, that the 2nd account(s)  
of Gay J Larkin of Lyndeborough, NH  
NH as Conservator of the property of  
said Respondent has or have been  
presented to the Court for allowance.  
**You have the right to object to the  
ac-count(s).** If you wish to do so, you  
or your attorney must file a written ap-  
pear-ance and objection at this court on  
or before 10:00 A.M on the return date  
of **07/14/2026** This day is NOT a hear-  
ing date, but a deadline date by which  
you have to object to the account(s). If

you fail to file the written appearance  
and objection by the return date action  
may be taken in this matter without fur-  
ther notice to you, including the allow-  
ance of the account(s).

Additionally, within thirty days after said  
return day (or within such other time as  
the Court upon motion may order), you  
must file a written affidavit of objections  
stating the specific facts and grounds  
upon which each objection is based  
and a copy shall be served upon the  
Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the  
Supplemental Rules of the Probate &  
Family Court

You have the right to send to the  
Con-servator, by registered or certified  
mail, a written request to receive a copy  
of the Petition and account(s) at no cost  
to you

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

**The outcome of this proceeding may  
limit or completely take away the  
above-named person's right to make  
decisions about personal af-fairs or  
financial affairs or both. The above-  
named person has the right to ask  
for a lawyer. Anyone may make this  
request on behalf of the above-  
named person. If the above-named  
person cannot afford a lawyer, one  
may be appointed at State expense.**  
WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey,  
First Justice of this Court.Date:  
June 15, 2026

Stephanie K. Fattman

July 2, 2026

## Town of Brimfield Conservation Commission Public Hearing Notice

In accordance with the Massachusetts  
Wetlands Protection Act, Chapter 131,  
Section 40, the Brimfield Conservation  
Commission will hold a public meeting  
on Wednesday, July 08, 2026, at 5:30  
PM to review a Notice of Intent (NOI)  
submitted by Green Hill Engineering,  
c/o Dana L. Manning. The NOI propos-  
es to construct a single-family home,  
deck, septic and well.

**Project Location:** 33 Seventh Street,  
Brimfield, MA 01010, (Assessor's Map  
(5A-B-11)

**Meeting Location:** Public Participation  
will be In-Person at Hitchcock Academy  
at 2 Brookfield Road, Brimfield, MA  
01010 on July 08, 2026, at 5:30 PM.

Any person(s) interested or wishing to  
be heard on this request should appear  
at the time and place designated. A  
copy of the permit application and plan  
may be inspected at the Brimfield Town  
Annex in the Conservation Commission  
Office, Salisbury Annex Building, 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Floor, 23 Main Street, Brimfield, MA  
01010 or contact the office at 413-245-  
4100 ext. 1101.

Roger deBruyn & Joseph Venezia  
Co-Chairs  
June 17, 2026  
July 2, 2026

## CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland  
Protection Act of the General Laws of  
the Commonwealth of Massachusetts,  
Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton  
Conservation Commission will hold a  
public hearing on July 15, at 7PM on  
the application of David Cantwell.

The applicant has filed a Notice of  
Intent for the construction of a deck  
with a swim spa, a permeable paver  
patio, fence, and retaining wall within  
the 100-ft buffer zone to Glen Echo  
Lake. The project location is: 11  
Sunset Drive, Charlton, MA 01507.  
Parcel ID: 12A-D-59

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts  
of 2021, this meeting of the Charlton  
Conservation Commission will be  
conducted in person and via remote  
means. Members of the public who  
wish to participate can access the  
meeting remotely by request.

Copies of the NOI may be examined  
at the Conservation Office by appoint-  
ment during business hours.  
Thomas O'Malley  
Chair, Charlton Conservation  
Commission  
July 2, 2026

**(SEAL)  
COMMONWEALTH OF  
MASSACHUSETTS  
LAND COURT  
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL  
COURT  
26 SM 002011  
ORDER OF NOTICE**

TO:  
Heirs, Devisees, and Legal  
Representatives of the Estate of  
Jacqueline Baldina; Mathew Koslowski;  
Travis Koslowski; Jessica Koslowski  
and to all persons entitled to the benefit  
of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act:  
50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (et seq):  
Rocket Mortgage, LLC  
claiming to have an interest in a  
Mortgage covering real property in  
Southbridge, numbered 423 Morris  
Street, given by Jacqueline Baldina  
to Mortgage Electronic Registration

Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nom-  
inee for Quicken Loans Inc., dated  
September 28, 2017, and record-  
ed at Worcester County (Worcester  
District) Registry of Deeds in Book  
57845, Page 366, and now held by the  
plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed  
with this court a complaint for deter-  
mination 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 August 10,  
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 June 25, 2026.  
Attest:

Deborah J. Patterson  
Recorder  
July 2, 2026

## CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland  
Protection Act of the General Laws of  
the Commonwealth of Massachusetts,  
Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton  
Conservation Commission will hold a  
public hearing on July 15, at 7PM on  
the application of New England Power  
Company.

The applicant has filed a Notice of Intent  
for the construction of a new substation  
to provide power to an Amazon  
warehouse within the 100-ft buffer zone  
a to Bordering Vegetated Wetland. The  
project location is: 29 Snake Hill Road,  
Charlton, MA 01507. Parcel ID: 44-B-9  
Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts  
of 2021, this meeting of the Charlton  
Conservation Commission will be  
conducted in person and via remote  
means. Members of the public who  
wish to participate can access the  
meeting remotely by request.

Copies of the NOI may be examined  
at the Conservation Office by appoint-  
ment during business hours.

Thomas O'Malley  
Chair, Charlton Conservation  
Commission

## CHARLTON z CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland  
Protection Act of the General Laws of  
the Commonwealth of Massachusetts,  
Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton  
Conservation Commission will hold a  
public hearing on July 15, at 7PM on  
the application of Johnny Hatem.

The applicant has filed a Notice of  
Intent for the construction of five  
fuel pumps, two diesel stations, two  
20,000-gallon underground tanks  
associated with a gas station and drive-  
thru. Also proposed is a convenience  
store with five residential units above  
it. All proposed work is within the 100-  
ft buffer zone to a Bordering Vegetated  
Wetland. The project location is:  
Worcester Road, Charlton, MA 01507.  
Parcel ID: 36-C-15

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts  
of 2021, this meeting of the Charlton  
Conservation Commission will be  
conducted in person and via remote  
means. Members of the public who  
wish to participate can access the  
meeting remotely by request.

Copies of the NOI may be examined  
at the Conservation Office by appoint-  
ment during business hours.

Thomas O'Malley  
Chair, Charlton Conservation  
Commission  
July 2, 2026

## Town of Holland Zoning Board of Appeals Notice of Public Hearing

In accordance with M.G. L Chapter 40A  
Section 9, the Holland Zoning Board of  
Appeals will hold a public hearing on  
**Wednesday, July 15, 2026 at 7:15  
P.M.** at the Holland Town Hall, 27  
Sturbridge Rd, 1st Floor Community  
Room, Holland, MA 01521.

If dial in access is needed, please  
contact the Town Hall at 413-245-7108  
x101.

The purpose of the hearing is to con-  
sider a request for a **Variance** accord-  
ing to Holland Bylaw **section: 240-5.0.**  
**Relief requested:** Alleged inadequate  
frontage for split lot, regarding Dover  
Amendment protected use.

The property located at: **Mashapaug  
Rd.** Parcel ID # **10/A /5**  
Don Beal, Chairperson  
Zoning Board of Appeals  
Date: 6/23/2026  
July 2, 2026  
July 9, 2026

# Joshua Hyde Public Library

306 Main St., giver.  
Sturbridge  
508-347-2512  
mayent@cwmar.org

## STORY TIMES

**SUMMER BABY TIME** - Join us for rhymes, songs, and lap bounces.

Mondays at 10:45am - 7/6, 7/13, 7/20, 7/27 & 8/3

**SUMMER TODDLER TIME** - Join us for stories, songs, rhymes, and a craft.

Tuesdays at 10:45am - 7/7, 7/14, 7/21, 7/28 & 8/4

**FRONT LAWN FRIDAYS** - Join us for stories and outdoor play.

Fridays at 10:45am - 7/10, 7/17, 7/24 & 7/31

## CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Registration is required. All children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult care-

**DINO DIG PLAYTIME**  
Thursday, July 9 at 2:00pm. For ages 4 to 12.

**PUPPET SERIES**  
Monday, July 6 at 3:30pm - DIY Marionettes for ages 5 to 12

**SCAVENGER HUNTS**  
- In the Children's Room  
Dinosaurs - June 24 through July 7  
Archaeology - July 8 through July 21

## SUMMER COLORING CONTEST

Pick up a coloring page at the library and return it by August 5. Entries will be displayed in the stairwell and one winner from each age group (3-5yrs; 6-9yrs; 10-12yrs) will be chosen by the staff.

**TEEN PROGRAMS**  
Registration is required.

## SCIENCE HEROES:

## EXPERIMENT LAB FOR TEENS

Saturday, July 11 at 1:00pm. For ages 13 to 18.

**TEEN & ADULT PROGRAMS**  
Registration is

required.

Celebrating America's 250th: **IRON IN THE WATER** with Adventurer in History Kiersten Marcil. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Ashland Public

Library.  
Virtual - Monday, July 6 at 7:00pm

**SUMMER TAKE & MAKE CRAFTS**  
Week of July 6 - Mini Adirondack Chairs

All programs are sponsored by the Friends of the JHPL.

To register for programs and for more information go to sturbridgelibrary.org.

# Brimfield resident serves as 2026 Commencement Student Speaker at Saint Anselm

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — Saint Anselm College student Caraline Stewart from Brimfield, a Mathematics, Music major and Spanish for Nurses minor in the class of 2026 was the commencement speaker at Saint Anselm College's 2026 graduation. Stewart reflected on

her time at Saint Anselm College explaining how the liberal arts changed her life. Pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics, she connected the liberal arts to the quadrivium, the seven liberal arts of ancient Greece. Her four years at Saint Anselm learning about the quadrivium

shaped her perspective on life and will impact her next chapter after Saint Anselm.

Founded in 1889, Saint Anselm College is a nationally-ranked four-year liberal arts college providing a 21st century education in the Catholic, Benedictine tradition. Located in the greater Boston region in

southern New Hampshire, Saint Anselm is well known for its strong liberal arts curriculum, the New Hampshire Institute of Politics, commitment to inclusiveness, a highly successful nursing program, and a legacy of community service.



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mikaela@stonebridgepress.news

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# OBITUARIES

## Susan Reilly, 74

It is with profound sadness that the family announces her passing on June 26, 2026, at the age of 74. A devoted mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and godmother, she was an accomplished artist and music-lover whose legacy of love will forever echo in our hearts. Born in Woonsocket, RI, on November 3, 1951, she navigated the world with a remarkably fun-loving spirit and an inexhaustible zest for life. Whether she was blending vibrant colors on a canvas or filling her home with the melodies of her favorite songs, she possessed a unique gift for turning everyday moments into extraordinary memories. She will be deeply missed by her daughter and son-in-



law, Melissa and Rob Labelle and her cherished grandchildren, Tristan and Logan, of Holland, MA; her siblings, Marc Comtois, Oxford, MA, and Carol Childress, Sturbridge, MA, and the many nieces, nephews, and godchildren whose lives she profoundly touched. Susan was predeceased by her parents, Maurice Comtois and Claire (Bourdon) Comtois, and two siblings, Steven Comtois and David Comtois. A Celebration of Life will be held at a future date. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you consider a donation in her memory to the Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration, at: <https://www.theaftd.org>.

## Andrew T. Truax, 62

Brimfield - Andrew "Andy" T. Truax, 62, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, June 24. He was a loving father, friend, business owner, neighbor, and new grandfather. Born in Harrisburg, PA, Andy moved to Massachusetts as a young boy. He graduated from Tantasqua Regional High School in 1982, where he met many of his life-long friends and his future wife, Cindy (Forkey) Truax. He was awarded two superlatives—Class Flirt and Talks Most, Says Least—both of which perfectly summarized his charm, charisma, and gift of gab. Andy was the life of any party and the last person you should share a secret with if you wanted it kept.



smokers to make enough barbecue for a small army. The pride and joy of Andy's life was his three daughters: Emily K. Truax and her husband, Nick Joseph, of San Francisco, CA; Olivia J. Truax of San Francisco, CA; and Natalie P. Truax of Brimfield. Whether he was coaching them in youth soccer, building their dream bedrooms, or traveling with them, his favorite memories came from both the big and small moments they shared as a family. He told them constantly that his greatest goal as a father was to make their lives better than his own, a goal he can rest easy knowing he accomplished, far beyond even what he had ever dreamed possible.

After attending Framingham State and working briefly overseas in London, he eventually settled in Brimfield, where he built both his dream home with Cindy and his business, Building Blocks Construction. He was incredibly proud of his career and loved showing off his hard work, always with a slightly unbelievable story to accompany it. He had a love of reading and likely left behind a substantial late-fee balance at the Brimfield Public Library (punctuality was always a weakness). He also loved stand-up comedy, '80s movies, music of all kinds (especially jazz on Sundays), and cooking—particularly using one of his many grills and

In addition to his children, he is survived by his mother, Sandra (Neyman) Cole; his former wife and the mother of his children, Cynthia T. (Forkey) Truax; two brothers, Chris Truax of Brookfield and Dan Truax and his wife, Jennifer, of Sturbridge; his beloved grandson, Jack Joseph; as well as many nieces and nephews. Andy was predeceased by his brother, Scott Truax. A memorial gathering for Andy will be held on Wednesday, July 8th, at 1:00 p.m. at Hyland Orchards, 199 Arnold Rd., in Sturbridge. The Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, is directing arrangements.

## Margaret "Peggy" St. Jean, 80

North Woodstock, CT: Margaret A. "Peggy" (Mellen) St. Jean, 80, passed away on Thursday, June 25th, after several years of declining health.



Peggy was the epitome of grace and kindness. She married the love of her life, Ernest St. Jean, when she was just 20 years old. The following year, her first child, Michael, was born. Mark followed, then Karen, and then Pamela.

Peggy stayed home and raised her children and several of her grandchildren. She enjoyed teaching them and watching their eyes light up with every new thing learned. She was always happy to see her family coming, but even happier with each grandchild and great grandchild. She could whip out a meal and set a beautiful table in a moment's notice.

Peggy enjoyed being outdoors. She kept the home meticulously. She canned and froze most of the fruit and vegetables the family and friends enjoyed over the years. She made blueberry muffins, pies, cookies, jams, jelly and so much more. She was known for her strawberry pies. Ernie did not go a day without a blueberry muffin until recently.

Peggy is survived by her loving, faithful husband of 60 years, Ernie; her children, Michael St. Jean and his wife Patty, Mark

St. Jean and his wife Jaime, Karen Cooper and her husband Ben, and Pamela Morse and her husband Marshall; her grandchildren, Ashley, Amanda and Andrea St. Jean, Jenna and Stephanie St. Jean, Julia and Nathaniel Cooper, and Selena, Eric, Macey and Anna Morse; her great grandchildren, Brayden St. Jean and Maevelynne Morse; her brother, Richard Mellen and his wife Pat; and her cousin and best friend since childhood, Florence Zona. Peggy was predeceased by her parents, Richard and Anna (Petersen) Mellen, and her grandchildren, Christopher St. Jean and H. Molly Morse.

A graveside service for Peggy will be held on Wednesday, July 1st, at 11:00am in the Central Cemetery, North Woodstock, CT. There are no calling hours. A memorial service in Crossroads Christian Church will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation payable to Westview Residents Recreation Activity Fund, c/o Louise Taylor, Westview Health Care Center, PO Box 428, Dayville CT 06241.

The Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, is directing arrangements. [www.morrillfuneralhome.com](http://www.morrillfuneralhome.com)

grant from the Brimfield Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council.

Hitchcock Summer Concert Series At-a-Glance:

- July 1 Woodshed Acoustic Folk, Country & Americana | BT's
- July 8 The Island Castaways Tropical Rock | Flippin' the Bird BBQ
- July 15 No concert (Flea Market Parking Fundraiser)
- July 22 NE Digital Accordion Orchestra Big Band, Broadway, Ethnic, Country & Rock | BT's
- July 29 Eddie Forman Orchestra Polka Band | Off the Hook
- Aug. 5 The Willies '50s, '60s, '70s & more! | Flippin' the Bird BBQ
- Aug 12 CobbleStone Road Country | Smashing Patties
- Aug. 19 Hard Knox Classic sounds of the '70s, '80s, & '90s | BT's

For more information, visit [www.hitchcockacademy.org](http://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.

### PMC

continued from page A1

Mary Langevin of Sturbridge  
Brandi Linden of Sturbridge  
Marty Maketansky of Holland  
Mitchell Leo of Fiskdale  
Melissa Nemet of Fiskdale  
Westley Nemet of Fiskdale  
Kristen Leo of Fiskdale  
Richard Kaufman of Fiskdale  
Vanessa Azua of Fiskdale  
Tommy Azua of Fiskdale  
Brian Fitzgerald of Fiskdale  
Michael Leo of Fiskdale  
Susan Skowrya of Fiskdale  
Brian Nemet of Fiskdale  
Kayla Dighton of Wales  
Cynthia Schermerhorn of Brimfield  
Louise Majewski of Southbridge  
Jenna Maguire of Southbridge  
Carley Ceppetelli of Southbridge  
Charice Kalis of Southbridge  
Steven Stella of Southbridge  
Kristina Garratt of Southbridge  
Steven Norbeck of Charlton City  
Alan Turner of Charlton  
Paul Camara of Charlton  
Martha Cyr of Charlton  
Nathan Carty of Charlton  
Bob Martin of Charlton  
Philip Cyr of Charlton  
Ivy Dowdle of Charlton  
The PMC, which raises more money for charity than any other single athletic fundraiser in the world, is aiming to raise more than ever this year, with a fundraising goal of \$79 million.

This year's PMC comes at an especially critical time, with federal research support shrinking, grant approval rates reaching historic lows, and cancer cases continuing to rise. For the 20th consecutive year, 100 percent of every rider-raised dollar will go directly to Dana-Farber, one of the

nation's top three hospitals for cancer research and care.

"The theme for this year's PMC, which is 'now, more than ever,' underscores the paramount importance of every single dollar raised in fueling the search for a cure," said Billy Starr, founder and chairman of the PMC. "We are endlessly grateful to every rider, volunteer, donor, and sponsor who makes the PMC possible. Because of their training miles, long hours of volunteering, generous support, and unwavering commitment, we are moving ever closer to a world without cancer."

Since its inception in 1980, the PMC has raised \$1.125 billion for Dana-Farber, making it the organization's largest single contributor and accounting for 67 percent of the annual revenue of The Jimmy Fund, Dana-Farber's community-driven fundraising arm. This unrestricted annual funding has empowered and accelerated advancements in cancer research, deeply benefiting patients across the world.

During each annual PMC weekend, thousands of cyclists and volunteers come together from across the world, hailing from 47 US states and 12 countries, with a shared purpose of raising as much money as possible for Dana-Farber. Cyclists ride routes ranging from 25 to 177 miles. Included among these participants is the PMC Living Proof community, riders and volunteers who were previously treated or are currently undergoing cancer treatment and serve as Living Proof of the progress made through raising funds for cancer research and treatment.

There is still time to participate in this year's Pan-Mass Challenge. Folks interested in getting involved can learn more and register at [PMC.org](http://PMC.org).

About the Pan-Mass Challenge  
The Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC) is a bike-a-thon that today raises more money for charity than any other single athletic fundraising event in the world. Founded in 1980 by Billy Starr - who remains the event's founder & chairman, an annual cyclist, and a fundraiser - the PMC has raised \$1.125 billion for Dana-Farber Cancer Institute through the Jimmy Fund. As Dana-Farber's single largest contributor, the organization generates 67 percent of the Jimmy Fund's annual revenue. 100 percent of every rider-raised dollar goes directly to fueling cancer research and treatment at Dana-Farber. In addition to its two-day bike-a-thon across Massachusetts, the PMC is powered by further "spokes in the wheel," with initiatives including the PMC Winter Cycle, an indoor spin event; PMC Unpaved, a gravel bike ride; and PMC Kids Rides, mini bike-a-thons for children ages 2 to 15. The PMC attracts riders and volunteers from 47 states and 12 countries and over 300,000 individual donors. Across events, the PMC has successfully melded support from committed cyclists, volunteers, corporate sponsors, and individual donors, all of whom are essential to the PMC's goal and model: to attain maximum fundraising efficiency while increasing its annual gift. The PMC's aspiration is to provide Dana-Farber's doctors and researchers with the necessary resources to discover cures for all cancers. For more information, visit [www.pmc.org](http://www.pmc.org).

### CONCERTS

continued from page A1

Willies - a popular, community-focused classic rock and Americana band based out of Belchertown. The band performs across the Western Mass region, playing high-energy hits from the 1950s through the 1980s, modern country, and rock standards. Flippin' the Bird BBQ returns for this concert.

Long-time series favorite CobbleStone Road of Connecticut returns on August 12th with high-energy country. Well-known throughout the region for playing modern and classic country hits from the 1990s to today, their energetic style mixes classic country with rock and blues. Smashing Patties will have their concert series debut this evening.

The series closes out on August 19th with Hard Knox, a Westfield, Massachusetts-based party rock and cover band known for their high-energy shows and "forgotten classics" setlist. Instead of regular cover tunes, they play unique, underappreciated gems from the '70s and '80s, making them a fixture in the Western Mass and Northern Connecticut music scenes. BT's Smokehouse will return to bookend this year's food truck lineup.

In addition to Presenting Sponsor Country Bank, this program is supported in part by a

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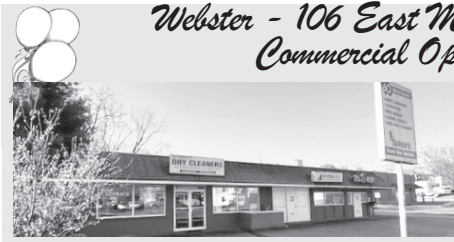
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MLS#73542689 \$1,650,000.

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# Local students earn Dean's List honors at Nichols College

DUDLEY — Nichols College is proud to recognize the academic accomplishments of students on the spring 2026 Dean's List.

Dean's List recognizes those students who achieve high grades during a single semester. To be included on the Dean's List, a student must have a minimum grade point average of 3.5 for at least 12 undergraduate credit-hours and must have

received no grades below B- during the semester.

The following local students have achieved Dean's List honors for the spring 2026 semester:

Fajr Ahmad of Charlton  
Matthew Smolski of Charlton  
Max Cohen of Sturbridge

About Nichols College  
Nichols College has earned business accreditation from the prestigious Association to Advance

Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International), the longest serving global accrediting body for business schools and the largest business education network connecting learners, educators, and businesses worldwide. Founded in 1815, Nichols transforms today's students into tomorrow's leaders through a dynamic, career-focused business and professional education. Nichols offers real-

world learning focused on professional depth - combined with vibrant liv-

ing, competitive athletics, and an unmatched alumni advantage - equipping

students to exceed their own expectations. www.nichols.edu

## Free lunches continue at Elm Street Congregational

SOUTHBRIDGE — Elm Street Congregational Church continues to offer the community a free lunch on Wednesday, July 15 from

11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The menu will include soup, salad, sandwich, dessert and beverage. Lunch will be served in Fellowship Hall,

61 Park St. in Southbridge. All are welcome for food and fellowship. For more information, call 508-764-8058.

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Courtesy Photo

Come and join us! The Charlton Garden Club's Monday, July 13 meeting welcomes all to a free program featuring Lucy Smith, VP of Sales and Design from Reimagined Roots. She will be discussing a Practical Introduction to Permaculture Design. Learn how to read your landscape, build healthy soils and create plant systems that support themselves over time. Whether you're a novice or accomplished gardener, the Charlton Garden Club is a great place to meet other gardening enthusiasts, learn about plants and planting, and to share your gardening tips and experiences. This meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Charlton Public Library. We are planning to continue providing programs, education and beautification efforts for our town. For more information about the Charlton Garden Club, please email charltongardenclub@gmail.com.

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