



©2026, Issue #37

Free by request to residents of Sturbridge and Holland

SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO NEWS@STONEBRIDGEPRESS.NEWS

Thursday-Friday, September 10-11, 2026

Shepherd Hill graduate carves his own path in Music City

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Since moving to Nashville, Tenn. in January 2022, Liam Coleman has been carving his own path in Music City.

Coleman, a 2021 graduate of Shepherd Hill Regional High School, has been busy in 2026 performing and writing original music and has a new song titled, “Oh Man” that released on Aug. 28 with co-writer and fel-

low musician Mac Hankins from East Texas. “Oh Man” had a strong debut week-end, with more than 12,000 Spotify streams alone.

Coleman has been touring the south and Midwest this year with his band playing original music. They have played ten states and some of the biggest colleges in the U.S. such as Ole Miss, University of Oklahoma,



Auburn Alabama and the University of Michigan as well as club shows in Texas and Florida.

In August 2025, Coleman sold out his first headlining show of all original music at Off The Rails in Worcester. With more than 300 tickets sold, Coleman put on an electrifying performance that showed of his mix of alternative rock with a 1990’s-style of alternative grunge and a hint of 2000’s pop-punk. The music features heavy guitar riffs and draws inspiration from some of his favorite red-dirt rooted bands like Whiskey Myers, Treaty Oak Revival and Dexter and The Moonrocks. Coleman is solidifying himself in the resurgence of rock music with many people taking note.

Coleman will be back at Off The Rails Worcester on Thursday, Sept. 24, opening for Texas rock musician Cole Barhill. Tickets can be purchased at offtherails-worcester.com.

With new music recorded and ready for release, you can find Coleman on all social media platforms at Liam Coleman Music and you can stream his music anywhere online. For more information and to keep up with his tour schedule visit liamcolemanmusic.com.

Open house spotlights Sturbridge historic photos exhibit

STURBRIDGE — The Sturbridge Senior Center, in collaboration with the Sturbridge Historical Society, invites you to an open house on Tuesday, Sept. 15, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Come explore the rich history and heritage of Sturbridge through a special showcase featuring approximately 40 historic photographs.

The exhibit includes a collection of early photographs, including several produced from glass plate negatives generously donated to the Historical Society by Jeff and Mary Lavergne. Visitors will also see captivating images of familiar landmarks captured by local photographer Bob Arnold during the 1970s and 1980s.

The featured photos were framed and arranged by Bob Arnold alongside local history researcher Wally Hersee. Both will be present throughout the evening to share their knowledge, insights, and stories about the collection.

St. Vincent de Paul Society to host Friends of the Poor Walk in Sturbridge



FISKDALE — The St. Vincent de Paul Society in Fiskdale will host its third annual Friends of the Poor Walk on Sunday, Oct. 18, at noon at the Sturbridge Common during the harvest fest. Proceeds from the fundraiser will support local individuals and families in need across Brimfield,

Brookfield, Holland, Sturbridge, Wales, and other nearby towns.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society in Fiskdale provides practical assistance throughout the year, including emergency housing, rental and utility help, food, clothing, and other essential needs—serving people of all back-

grounds and faiths.

The Fiskdale conference raises funds through parish poor boxes, public donations, and events such as this one. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul operates in 153 countries, with more than 4,000 local conferences, and is run entirely by volunteer members committed to

tackling poverty in all its forms. Residents are encouraged to come to the harvest fest and join us in our walk for our neighbors in need.

For more information, contact svdpfiskdalepr@gmail.com. To donate, visit our website: svdpfiskdale.org and click on the “Donate” button.

Boat America Safe Boating Certificate course offered at Bay Path Oct. 13 & 15

CHARLTON — The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Tri-State Flotilla, Massachusetts will be instructing the Boat America course that meets current state mandated educational requirements offered in a two-night format developed to provide the skills and confidence needed to explore the coast and inland waters by boat. Basic knowledge and skills are needed to have safe and enjoyable boating experiences. This course is perfect for families that have just purchased any type of boat or are planning to in the future, and for the boater keeping up with changes to boating regulations and laws.

The Hanson-Milone Boater Safety Act, signed into Mass. Law, now requires all Mass. motorboat operators over 12 years of age to complete an approved Safe Boating Certificate course before April 1, 2026 for anyone born after Jan. 1, 1998, and by April 1, 2028 for boaters born before Jan. 1, 1998. Enforcement of the new law began on Sept. 1. Personal Watercraft / Jet Ski operators are required to be at least 16 years of age also included. A certificate, required to be carried onboard, will be issued by the state to resident motorboaters.

Successful completion of this BA course offered meets this requirement and inclusion into the Mass. Environmental Police Boating Safety Database. Approved by National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) it will also cover the requirements to operate a vessel in most other states & many countries where boating safety education is mandatory including NH, RI and CT. You will receive the additional USCG Auxiliary certification and a possible discount on premiums for most boating insurance companies for successful completion of this course. Some basic marlinespike seamanship (knots etc.) will also be included as part of the course. Participants 16 years old and under must be accompanied, in person, by a registered parent/guardian. SPACE IS LIMITED so register soon.

Register online at via www.baypath.augusoft.net Personal Enrichment – Sports& Leisure – More recommendations - Class ID 43489 or by calling Sheri Dreitlein (508) 248-5971 email sdreitlein@baypath.net You can also contact our Flotilla Commander Kyle Cimochowski (860) 227-7274 or Marc French at (508) 318-7152 for additional information.

To locate these and other USCG Auxiliary courses go to: https://www.cgaux.org/boatinged/class_finder/index.php

The Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed civilian component of the U.S. Coast Guard and supports the Coast Guard in nearly all mission areas. The Auxiliary was created by Congress in 1939. For more information, please visit www.cgaux.org

Southbridge Public Schools offers meals at no cost for students

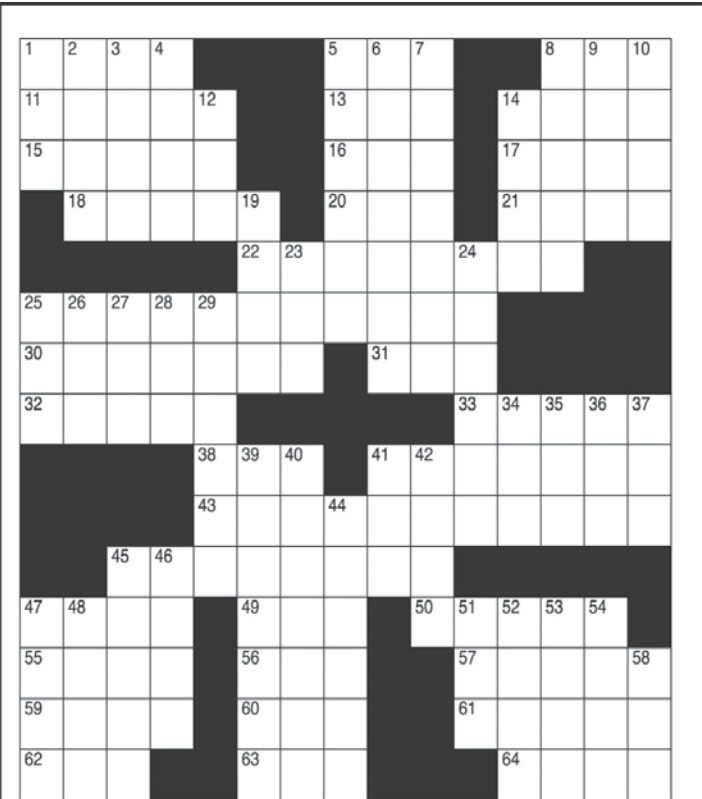
SOUTHBRIDGE School Lunch all schools offer — Southbridge Program and the healthy meals Public Schools School Breakfast every school participates in Program. As part day at no cost the National of this program, to the students



SAVE BIG THIS FALL
HEATING OIL
Limited-Time Pricing While Supplies Last!
Mention Code **M83** for your exclusive price.



860-779-3755
OR VISIT NEPROPANE.COM/SAVERS
Terms and Conditions May Apply | Offer Ends October 31, 2026



CLUES ACROSS

1. Egyptian bull god

5. A young canine

8. North Carolina university

11. “Oddbod” actor Tom

13. Midway between northeast and east

14. A place to shop

15. Mysterious “Severance” family

16. Single Lens Reflex

17. Malaria

18. Informal loan organizations

20. Twitching

21. Holm oak

22. Willing to consent

25. In an early way

30. Stuck it out

31. Language in Ghana

32. Obtain

33. Ancient Greek currency

38. One point east (clockwise) of due north
41. Popular baseball movie

43. Group of islands

45. Church building

47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea

49. Late AC/DC frontman Scott

50. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation

55. Thick piece of something

56. Breakfast food

57. One mole of solute per kilogram of solvent

59. Ancient Greek City

60. Bitterly regret

61. Don’t forget it

62. Dishonorable man

63. Affirmative

64. “__ and flows”

CLUES DOWN

1. Bridge-building degree

2. Expression of sorrow or pity

3. Lizard species

4. Turkish leader title

5. A way to bother

6. Blank

7. A fine, closely woven cotton fabric

8. Sports broadcaster Ian

9. Popular whodunit board game

10. Alkali flats mineral

12. Large African antelope

14. It’s delivered most days

19. Satisfy

23. Water soaked soil

24. Of a past era

25. Chest muscle (slang)

26. Ribonucleic acid

27. Doctor of Education

28. Coffee receptacle
29. Where rockstars work

34. International airport in Connecticut

35. Russian river

36. It’s used to make cabins

37. OJ trial judge Lance

39. A means to persuade

40. Short poem

41. A way to begin hostilities with

42. Multi-function radar (abbr.)

44. Joints

45. Blatted

46. Swedish rock group

47. Millisecond

48. __ podrida: Spanish stew

51. Doctors’ group

52. Trunk of a tree

53. Tattle

54. Metrical foot

58. __ Angeles

PUZZLE SOLUTION



due to the imple- mentation of the Community Eligibility Provision for school year 2026-2027. Students receive break- fast and lunch at school without having to pay a fee or submit a household appli- cation.

N o n - Discrimination Statement:

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is pro- hibited from dis- criminating on the basis of race, color, nation- al origin, sex (including gender identity and sex- ual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retal- iation for prior civil rights activ- ity.

Program infor- mation may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alterna- tive means of communication to obtain pro- gram information (e.g., Braille, large print, audio- tape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agen- cy that admin- isters the pro- gram or USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720- 2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a pro- gram discrimina- tion complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: [https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/docu- ments/USDA- OASCR%20P- Complain- F o r m - 0 5 0 8 - 0 0 0 2 - 5 0 8 - 1 1 - 2 8 - 1 7 F a x 2 M a i l . p d f](https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf), from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The let- ter must contain the complainant’s name, address, telephone num- ber, and a written description of the alleged discrim- inatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. mail: U . S . Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1 4 0 0 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or

2. fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

3. email: [pro- gram.i n t a k e @ usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

This institution is an equal oppor- tunity provider.

Town of Charlton accepting applications for Opioid Settlement Funds Grant Program

CHARLTON — The Town of Charlton is accepting applications for funding through the Town's Opioid Settlement Funds Grant Program.

The purpose of this pro- gram is to support initiatives that prevent opioid mis- use, expand access to treat- ment and recovery services, reduce the harms associated with substance use disor- ders, and improve the health and well-being of Charlton residents. Funding is made available through the Town's allocation of national opioid settlement funds and must be used for eligible purpos- es consistent with applicable settlement agreements and guidance. Funding may be requested to a maximum of \$2,500 per applicant. Final awards will be distributed based on available funding as well as demonstrated need and community impact.

Eligible applicants may include:

- o Nonprofit organizations
- o Educational institutions
- o Healthcare providers
- o Community-based orga- nizations
- o Other organizations serv- ing Charlton residents

Projects may include, but are not limited to:

- o Prevention and educa- tion programs
- o Treatment and recovery support services
- o Harm reduction initia- tives
- o First responder or public safety initiatives related to opioid response
- o Behavioral health and mental health services
- o Community outreach and support programs
- o Data collection, eval- uation, and other evi- dence-based strategies that address opioid use disorder

Applications will be eval- uated based on demonst- rated community need, align- ment with eligible opioid settlement uses, measurable outcomes, organizational capacity, and the anticipat- ed impact on Charlton resi- dents.

Completed applications and all required supporting documentation for the first round of this grant program must be submitted by Aug. 31. Late or incomplete appli- cations may not be consid- ered.

VILLAGER ALMANAC

OPEN TO CLOSE

SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN HALL
Monday-Wednesday:
8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Thursday: 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
Friday: 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

JACOB EDWARDS PUBLIC LIBRARY
Monday: 9 a.m.-8 p.m.
Tuesday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Wednesday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Thursday: 9 a.m.-8 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (May 25 will be our last open Saturday until Labor Day) Sunday: Closed

CHARLTON TOWN HALL (508) 248-2200
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.

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

SCHOOLS
Dudley-Charlton Regional School District
..... (508) 943-6888
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

WALES PUBLIC LIBRARY
Mon, Tu & Th 2-6, W 12-6, Sat 9-12
closed Fri & Sun

CHURCH LISTINGS

- **Central Baptist Church**
256 Main St., Southbridge, MA 01550
Tel 508/764-6365; Worship 10:00 A.M.
- **Charlton Federated Church**, 64 Main St., 508- 248- 5550, Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. Summer worship is 9:30 a.m. www.fed-church.org
- **Charlton Baptist Church**, 50 Hammond Hill Road, 248-4488, www.charltonbaptist.org, Sunday worship 10 a.m.
- **Charlton City United Methodist**, 74 Stafford St. 248- 7379, web site: CharltonCityUMC.org Sunday worship and Children’s church 10am
- **St. Anne St. Patrick Church**, 16 Church St., Fiskdale (508) 347-7338 www.stannestpatparish.com Saturday Vigil Mass at 4 pm, Sunday 8 am, 10 am, 12 noon, Youth Mass (September to May) 5 pm. Daily Mass Mon - Thurs 7:30 and 10 am, Fri and Sat 7:30 am
- **Elm Street Congregational Church**, 61 Elm Street, Southbridge, Ma 01550 Phone: 508-764-8085 • Sunday service 10:00 am Pastor Kathryn Light
- **Faith Baptist Church**, 515 Dennison Drive, Southbridge Phone number 508-764-6132, Worship Service: Sunday 10:00 a.m.
- **St. Joseph’s Church**, 10 H. Putnam Ext, 248-7862. www.stjosephscharlton.com, Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 p.m., Sunday Mass 8 a.m., Sunday Family Mass 10 a.m., Sunday LifeTEEN Mass 5 p.m., Weekday Mass Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30 a.m.
- **Wayside Church**, 6 Haggerty Road, 248-5144
- **Assemblies of God Southern New England District Headquarters**, Route 20, 248-3771, snedag.org, Office hours Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- **Living Word Church of Charlton**, 10 Main Street - Grange building 1st Floor, Charlton, Ma 01507, Pastor Craig Bellisario, (508) 233-8349 Sunday Service 10:00am. www.livingwordcharlton.com info@livingwordcharlton.com
- **New Life Fellowship A/G, SNED Chapel**, 307 Sturbridge Road, Rt. 20, Charlton, MA, Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
- **Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale-** 8 Maple St. Sturbridge, 774-304-1021 www.sturfed.org Sunday Service 9:30 a.m.
- **Bethlehem Lutheran Church-** 345 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566 Phone 508-347-7297 Web: www.bethlehemsturbridge.org Services - Sunday 9:00 am Pastor Dan Purtell
- **Holland Congregation Church “Where the Bible is preached.”** 11 Sturbridge Road, Holland, 413-245-9926 Hollandchurch.org Sunday Service @ 10:00 am Pastor Dan Maketansky
- **Holy Trinity Episcopal Church** 446 Hamilton St., Southbridge, MA 01550 Phone: 508-765-9559 Web: www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org Sunday Service 11:00 am Pastor Dan Purtell
- **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

Charlton Police to host ‘Barks, Badges & Boots’ community event

CHARLTON — The Charlton Police Department will give residents an opportunity to meet local first responders and learn more about several specialized police units during its upcoming Barks, Badges & Boots community event.

The free, family-oriented event will be held Saturday, Sept. 12, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at St. Joseph’s Church, 10 H Putnam Rd. in Charlton.

Members of several Charlton Police Department units will be on hand to meet residents and provide a closer look at the equipment and services they use while serving the community.

Among those scheduled to participate are members of the department’s K9 unit, drone team, detective unit, motorcycle unit and 911 communications team.

The event is designed to give children and adults an informal opportunity to meet local first responders while learning more about the different responsibilities within the Police Department.

Residents will be able to meet members of the K9 unit and learn more about the role police dogs play in law enforcement. The department’s drone team will also be represented, giving visitors a chance to learn about the technology available to officers during police and public safety operations.

Detectives, motorcycle officers and members of the 911 communications team will also participate, offering residents a broader look at the people and specialized services involved in local public safety.

In addition to the public safety displays and activities, free ice cream will be available from Suzy Qu’s ice cream truck.

The Charlton Police Department is encouraging families and other community members to stop by, meet their first responders and enjoy the afternoon.

The event runs from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12, at St. Joseph’s Church, 10 H Putnam Rd., Charlton.

ASPHALT PAVING

"Quality counts when no one is looking."

Asphalt paving for over 50 years!

BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS

A MEMBER FOR 25+ YEARS

Bill Keyes

SPENCER, MA.

774-261-5181

ESTABLISHED 1963

KeyesPaving.com | 508-347-7499

Fully Insured • Owner/Operator

Driveways

Parking Lots

Pipe Work, Drains

Seal Coating

Free Estimates

UAlbany welcomes Eben Mazeika of Sturbridge as part of largest incoming class in school’s history

ALBANY, N.Y. — The University at Albany is welcoming Eben Mazeika of Sturbridge for the start of the Fall 2026 semester.

Mazeika, who is majoring in Economics, is among more than 3,500 students to make up the Class of 2030, making Mazeika part of the largest first-year class in UAlbany's history. Approximately 18,000 students are enrolled at the University this year.

The incoming class with Mazeika was selected from more than 36,000 applications and represents a 20% increase in first-year enrollment compared with last year. Students in the Class of 2030 come from 40 states and 35 countries, bringing a wide range of backgrounds and experiences to UAlbany.

Among this year's incoming class:

- More than 1,280 students are from New York City.
- 558 students are from the Capital District.
- 512 students are from Long Island.
- 451 students joined the University's Honors College.

In addition to the new freshmen, UAlbany is welcoming more than 1,000 transfer students this fall.

"I am delighted to welcome these first-year and transfer students to the University at Albany, and I look forward to all they will accomplish at our university. With innovative new academic programs that are tied to career paths, a holistic approach to student wellbeing, and a commitment to affordability and accessibility, UAlbany is a place where all students can thrive. Our world-class faculty and dedicated staff will nurture this newest class of Great Danes, ensuring they have the resources, opportunities, and support they need to succeed in college and in their careers," said Havidan Rodriguez, President of the University at Albany.

After moving into their residence halls, these new Great Danes attended the University's traditional Welcome Week events, introducing new students to the campus community. The week was highlighted by the annual class photo, followed by the University's Convocation by Candlelight Ceremony.

The large incoming class reflects strong interest in UAlbany's continued investment in student success. That investment includes an expanding portfolio of academic programs, stronger educational partnerships and enhancements to the student experience.

About the University at Albany

The University at Albany is one of the most diverse public research institutions in the nation and a national leader in educational equity and social mobility. As a Carnegie-classified R1 institution, UAlbany faculty and students are advancing our understanding of the world in fields like artificial intelligence, atmospheric and environmental sciences, business, education, public health, social sciences, criminal justice, humanities, emergency preparedness, engineering, public administration, and social wel-

fare. Our courses are taught by an accomplished roster of faculty experts with student success at the center of everything we do. Through our parallel commitments to academic excellence, scientific discovery, and service to community, UAlbany molds bright, curious, and engaged leaders and launches great careers.

CHARLIE'S

Diner • Bar • Grill • Functions

BREAKFAST • LUNCH • DINNER

FRIDAY 9/11 & SATURDAY 9/12

SWORDFISH

AFTER 5PM

HOURS: Wed-Sat 8-9; Sunday 8-8
Closed Mon & Tue

5 Meadow Rd., Spencer, MA 01562

Gift Cards 508-885-4033
www.charliesdiner.com

MULTIPLE LISTING SERVICE

MLS

Aucoin Ryan Realty

Your Neighborhood Realtor

201 South Street
Southbridge, MA 01550
508-765-9155 1-800-784-0445
FAX 508-765-2698
www.AucoinRyanRealty.com
SpiroThomo@gmail.com

Spiro Thomo

Broker

Licensed 35+ years
508.765.0465
774.200.8043

Gateway Players present Paul Slade Smith’s “The Outsider”

SOUTHBRIDGE — Gateway Players Theatre in Southbridge presents "The Outsider," written by Paul Slade Smith. Performance dates are Oct. 9, 10, 16, and 18 at 7:30 p.m. and Oct. 18 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 Patrick Bracken, Produced by Ed Humphries. Presented by permission through special arrangement with Concord Theatricals, A Dramatists Play Service Title.

Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$15 for seniors and youth under 18. Tickets may be reserved by calling Gateway at 508-764-4531. Online credit card ticket sales are available at <https://events.ticketleap.com/tickets/gateway-players/the-outsider>

The Cast features Jordan Miller, Billy Bolster, Eric Hart, Elyssa Miller, Nicole Rawdon, and Peter Amaral.

Ned Newley doesn't even want to be governor. He's terrified of public speaking; his poll numbers are impressively bad. To his ever-supportive Chief of Staff, Ned seems destined to fail. But political consultant Arthur Vance sees things differently: Ned might be the worst candidate to ever run for office. Unless the public is looking for the worst candidate to ever run for office... A timely and hilarious comedy that skewers politics and celebrates democracy.

WANTED TO BUY

Antiques & Old Stuff

•Bottles •Crocks •Jugs •Costume Jewelry •Pottery •Toys
• Pewter •Glassware •Sterling Silver •Coins •Gold
• Silver Plated Items •Watches •Typewriters •Sewing Machines
• Tools •Radios •Clocks •Lanterns •Lamps •Kitchenware
•Cookware •Knives •Hunting •Fishing •Military •Masonic
• Video Games •Advertising Signs & Much More

CALL DONALD ROY 860-874-8396

Todd A. Ethier

BUILDER

•REMODELING
EXPERT
•PROFESSIONAL
INSTALLED
•WINDOWS AND SIDING

774-230-3967

Quality Building Since 1985

HARVEY
WINDOWS

◆ FINISHED BASEMENTS ◆ ADDITIONS ◆ KITCHENS ◆ BATHS ◆ GARAGES ◆ SIDING
◆ ROOFING ◆ DECKS ◆ WINDOWS ◆ DOORS ◆ AUTHORIZED HARVEY DEALER
◆ LICENSED & INSURED ◆ HONEST, CLEAN & DEPENDABLE

Spoken Word Poetry and Music return this fall to The Vanilla Bean Café in Pomfret when **POETS AT LARGE** continues its 2026 series.

• 9/26 Frederick Douglass Knowles II
Aeroelastic Flutter

• 10/24 Sharon Arsego
John L. Stanizzi

• 11/21 Tommy Twilite
Scott Laudati

All events begin at 7 p.m. \$10 donation suggested
contact karen.warinsky@gmail.com for open mic
Supported in part by bankHometown, CharterOak FCU,
Putnam Area Foundation and WHZ Financial

Poets at Large

PEPIN

WASTE SERVICE

Your Local Roll-Off Specialist

FALL SPECIAL

10 yd. Rental 1 Ton

3 sizes available. Call for pricing.

\$375

Roll Off Containers

Weekend Dumpsters for the Homeowner

Houses • Attics • Cellars

Construction Sites

10-15-20 Yd.

508-892-4193 • Leicester, MA

Fully Insured

MasterCard VISA

NEWUS

LOCAL FOLKS

Locally owned businesses here to serve you!

STONEBRIDGE
PRESS



25 Elm St., Southbridge, MA 01550
Telephone (800) 367-9898
Fax (508) 764-8015
www.StonebridgePress.com

FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER
BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Local roots can travel a long way

Success rarely arrives all at once. More often, it is built quietly, one opportunity at a time, through long hours of work that most people never see. A song is written. A show is booked. A small audience becomes a larger one. Another town gets added to the tour schedule. Eventually, what once looked like an ambition begins to resemble a career.

That makes the progress of Shepherd Hill Regional High School graduate Liam Coleman worth watching.

Coleman graduated from Shepherd Hill in 2021 and moved to Nashville, Tenn., in January 2022. Since then, he has been doing what generations of young musicians have done before him: trying to find a distinctive sound and build an audience in one of the most competitive music cities in America.

There are no guarantees in that business. Talent matters, certainly, but so do persistence, professionalism and the willingness to perform wherever an opportunity presents itself.

Coleman appears to be putting in that work. During 2026, he and his band have traveled through 10 states, performing original music at colleges and clubs across the South and Midwest. His new song, “Oh Man,” co-written with musician Mac Hankins, drew more than 12,000 Spotify streams during its debut weekend following its Aug. 28 release.

Those numbers do not guarantee what comes next. The music business is far too unpredictable for that. They do, however, demonstrate something important. An artist who grew up and attended school in this area is finding listeners well beyond his hometown.

There is something particularly satisfying about seeing a local graduate pursue an unconventional career and make measurable progress.

Communities spend considerable time talking about preparing young people for the future, and understandably so. Usually that conversation centers on college, the trades, public service, health care, business or other established career paths.

The arts belong in that conversation, too. Music, theater, writing and the visual arts can be extraordinarily difficult ways to make a living. Young people who pursue them often encounter uncertainty that comes with no clear ladder to climb. Success depends upon developing a craft while simultaneously learning how to promote it, make professional connections, manage the business side and keep going through inevitable disappointments. That is why milestones matter.

Coleman's sold-out headlining appearance at Off The Rails in Worcester last year put more than 300 people in the room for a performance built around original music. On Sept. 24, he will return to the Worcester venue as an opening act for Texas musician Cole Barhill. There is a lesson in that progression that extends well beyond music.

Young people from towns such as Charlton and Dudley do not have to begin their lives in New York, Los Angeles, Nashville or another major city to eventually find themselves on bigger stages. They can grow up here, learn here and carry those beginnings with them wherever their ambitions lead.

Some will eventually return. Some will build lives elsewhere. Either way, their accomplishments remain points of connection to the communities that helped shape them.

And occasionally, after traveling hundreds or thousands of miles pursuing an ambition, they get to come home and show everyone how far they have come.

For Coleman, the Sept. 24 Worcester performance is another stop on what remains a developing career. Where that road ultimately leads is impossible to know. But there is something worth celebrating about a young person being willing to take it.

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

Stay one step ahead of cybercriminals

Your financial security is only as strong as your digital security. A single stolen password, convincing scam or fraudulent investment offer can lead to lost savings, damaged credit or hours spent recovering compromised accounts.

As our financial lives move increasingly online, protecting your personal information is part of protecting your financial future.

Cybercriminals are getting smarter, and technology like AI is making their job easier. But fortunately, some consistent habits can help protect you from many of today's common threats.

Watch out for phishing. Phishing is a common way criminals break into accounts and steal money. These attacks often arrive as emails, texts or phone calls that appear to come from your bank, employer, or another trusted organization. Fake websites can trick you into typing in your password or financial details.

To protect yourself, verify unexpected requests through a separate channel, such as calling a company directly using a number from its official website rather than one provided in a suspicious message. Avoid clicking unexpected links and consider using a password manager which auto-fills your login information only on legitimate websites.

Strengthen your accounts. Stolen passwords give criminals easy access to your email, banking, and social media accounts. Try using a unique password for every account and enable multifactor authentication whenever it's offered. When possible, choose phishing-resistant options like passkeys or security keys; they're harder for scammers to bypass than basic text message codes.

Be skeptical of urgency. Scammers increasingly use deepfakes, which leverage AI-generated voices, videos, and images to convincingly impersonate trusted people, including company executives, advisors and even family members. These messages often create pressure to send money



FINANCIAL
FOCUS

TREVOR
NIELSEN

or share sensitive information immediately. If you receive an urgent request that feels off, slow down. Hang up and try calling back to the person or organization using a known phone number. Many successful scams rely on emotional pressure rather than technical tricks, so a moment of skepticism can go a long way.

Protect your money and identity. Fraudulent investment platforms and cryptocurrency schemes continue to cost Americans billions of dollars each year. Be cautious of investment opportunities promoted through unsolicited messages or social media contacts and always verify a platform independently before sending money. If you're unsure whether an opportunity is legitimate, a financial advisor can help evaluate it before you invest.

Data breaches can also put your information at risk, even when you've done everything right. It's smart to check your bank and credit card statements regularly for unfamiliar charges, and to freeze your credit if you suspect your information has been compromised. You may also choose to freeze your credit preemptively.

Keep your devices updated. Software updates often fix security weaknesses that criminals could otherwise exploit. Backing up important files, whether to the cloud or an external drive, also protects you if ransomware ever locks you out of your own data.

Small habits matter. Unique passwords, multifactor authentication, and skepticism help stop many scams before they start. Take steps to help safeguard your money, identity, and long-term financial goals.

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

The windows are open again

LANTERNS ALONG MAIN STREET

By CHARLES

There is a particular day every September when I realize the windows are open. Nobody announces it.

There is no family meeting where we agree that summer humidity has officially ended and authorize the reopening of the house. One day, the air conditioner is humming away, doing its best to keep the living room from feeling like the inside of a baked potato, and a few days later there is a breeze coming through the kitchen window. That first open-window day is one of my favorite days of the year.

I noticed it the other morning when I came downstairs. The house was quiet, and somewhere outside I could hear a truck backing up. Farther away, somebody was running a lawn mower. There were birds making whatever announcements birds feel compelled to make at 6:30 in the morning. And I could hear all of it because the windows were open.

Summer tends to seal us inside. When it gets hot enough, we close the windows, turn on the air conditioning and create our own little climate-controlled worlds. The houses along the street might be only 30 feet apart, but everybody is tucked inside behind closed windows.

September changes that. Suddenly, the neighborhood comes back. You hear someone calling the dog. You hear a screen door slam. You hear a kid bouncing a basketball in a driveway.

Somebody is doing something involving a power tool that apparently needs to begin before breakfast. You smell somebody's coffee in the morning and somebody else's dinner at night. And every once in a while, you hear a conversation you weren't supposed to hear.

That is when you quietly move away from the window and remind yourself that good neighbors occasionally need to pretend they are deaf.

Open windows were simply part of life when I was growing up. We didn't think of fresh air as an amenity. It was the cooling system.

You opened every window you could, and if the house was still hot, you found a fan. The fan was usually about

40 years old, weighed as much as a lawn mower and had metal blades capable of propelling a small aircraft.

Safety standards were apparently more of a suggestion back then.

At night, an open bedroom window brought in all the sounds of the neighborhood. Cars passing. Crickets. A dog barking three streets over. Sometimes, you could hear a radio playing somewhere. Eventually, those sounds faded into the background and you fell asleep. I hadn't thought much about that until recently.

Modern life has become remarkably good at separating us from our surroundings. Cars have climate control. Houses have climate control. Offices have climate control. We put earbuds in when we walk. We can travel from our garage to a parking lot to a building and barely experience the outdoors at all.

Then September arrives in Massachusetts and gives us a brief stretch when the best temperature-control system is a wooden frame, a screen and a little cooperation from Mother Nature. It doesn't last long.

Soon enough, one of those chilly mornings will arrive when somebody says, "Why is it freezing in here?" The windows will come down. Then the heat will go on.

And before long we'll be standing beside the thermostat having the annual household debate over what temperature constitutes "perfectly comfortable" and what temperature constitutes "Do you think we're made of money?"

For now, though, the windows are open. The curtains move a little when the breeze comes through. The house smells different. The neighborhood sounds closer. It is a small thing, certainly. But the older I get, the more convinced I become that the calendar doesn't really tell us when the seasons change.

The little things do. The first morning, you need a sweatshirt. The first leaf you notice in the driveway. The first time you see apples stacked outside a farm stand.

And that September morning when you walk into the kitchen, hear the neighborhood outside and realize somebody has opened the windows again.

That is when you know fall is on its way.

Wales Community Pantry announces first-ever fundraising golf tournament

FISKDALE — The Wales Community Pantry today announced its first annual fundraising golf tournament, inviting the community to swing for a cause that hits close to home. The event will take place on Saturday, Oct. 3, with a 9 a.m. start at Hemlock Ridge Golf Course in Fiskdale.

This is more than a day on the course. It is a chance to stand with neighbors and families who face the stress of not knowing whether there will be enough food for dinner. Or breakfast. In just the past two years, the number of people the pantry serves has roughly tripled. Hundreds of families across Brimfield, Holland, Wales, and more than 20 surrounding communities now rely on the pantry for nutritious food provided with dignity. The pantry also sends weekend food home with 85 elementary students through its Backpack Program and delivers to more than 40 homebound neighbors.

In the immediate area there are no grocery stores and limited public transportation, making the pantry a critical lifeline. Rising costs of food, housing, and healthcare continue to push more

households to seek help. The tournament will feature food, prizes, and the chance to make a tangible difference.

“Golf is fun, but this day is about something bigger,” said Dave Sweeney, Executive Director of the Wales Community Pantry. “Every player, sponsor, and volunteer helps us keep food on the shelves for families who need it. We’re grateful for the community’s support and excited to grow this event into an annual tradition.”

Event Details

- Date & Time: Saturday, Oct. 3, 9 a.m. start
- Location: Hemlock Ridge Golf Course, Fiskdale
- Includes: Golf, food, and prizes
- Registration: <https://bit.ly/WalesGolfFundraiser>
- Sponsorships: Available at multiple levels. Contact WalesCommunityFoodPantry@gmail.com or visit the golf tournament registration page for more details.

Players, sponsors, and volunteers are encouraged to sign up early.

Sponsorship opportunities offer visibility while directly supporting the pantry’s mission. For more information or to discuss sponsorship, email WalesCommunityFoodPantry@gmail.com or visit the golf tournament registration page for more details.

About the Wales Community Pantry

The Wales Community Pantry provides nutritious food with dignity to families, seniors, veterans, people

with disabilities, working households, and children in Brimfield, Holland, Wales, and surrounding communities in western Massachusetts. Through open pantry hours, home delivery, and a Weekend Backpack Program, the pantry serves as a vital resource in an area with limited access to grocery stores. For more information, visit the pantry’s Facebook page or email WalesCommunityFoodPantry@gmail.com.

Shepherd Hill students hosting Tackle the Stigma 5K to promote mental health awareness

CHARLTON — The Shepherd Hill Regional High School cheerleading program, in partnership with the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District community, is inviting residents to lace up their running shoes and help break down barriers surrounding mental health during the annual Tackle the Stigma 5K and 2.5K Walk/Run on Saturday, Sept. 27.

The event will begin at 10 a.m. at the Shepherd Hill football field and is designed to raise awareness about mental health and mental wellness while encouraging open conversations throughout the local community.

Organizers hope participants of all ages will come together to demonstrate support for those facing mental health challenges and reinforce the message that no one has to struggle alone.

"This event is very important to us as we work to raise awareness about mental health and mental wellness throughout our local community," organizers said in announcing the event.

The walk and run carries the theme, "Run toward awareness, stand up for support, and tackle the stigma one mile at a time," reflecting its focus on education, compassion and community involvement.

Mental health advocates continue to emphasize the importance of reducing the stigma surrounding anxiety, depression and other mental health conditions, which can often prevent individuals from seeking help. Community

events such as Tackle the Stigma aim to create a welcoming environment where conversations about mental wellness are encouraged and support resources are highlighted.

In addition to providing an opportunity for exercise and community engagement, the event serves as a reminder that mental health is an important part of overall well-being. Organizers hope the day will inspire participants to check in with friends, family members and neighbors while promoting a culture of understanding and acceptance.

The Shepherd Hill cheerleaders have made mental health awareness a priority, using the event to unite students, families, educators and community members around a common cause. By bringing together participants from across Dudley, Charlton and surrounding communities, they hope to build momentum for ongoing conversations that extend well beyond race day.

Whether participants choose the full 5-kilometer course or the shorter 2.5-kilometer walk/run, organizers say every step represents a commitment to supporting mental wellness and reminding those who may be struggling that help is available.

Registration information and additional event details are expected to be available through Shepherd Hill Regional High School and the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District as the event approaches.

Gateway Players offer new take on “A Christmas Carol”

SOUTHBRIDGE — Gateway Players Theatre in Southbridge is hosting auditions for “The Spirit of Christmas, or The Story of Ernestina Scrooge” written by Tom Fuller. Audition will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 15 and Thursday, Sept. 17 at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall at Elm Street Congregational Church, 61 Elm St., Southbridge.

Auditions will consist of cold-readings from the script. Each auditioner should come prepared to sing one of their favorite Christmas carols as well. Show dates are Dec. 4, 5, and 6. Rehearsals will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays in September, then Monday and Wednesdays in October and November. All rehearsals will begin at 6:30 p.m. This is an adult and youth production. Directed by Lou-Ellen Corkum and Alex Gardner, and produced by Stephanie Ruggiere. For more information, please contact Gateway at 508-765-4531, or Lou-Ellen Corkum at lcorkum14@gmail.com. Presented by permission from Dramatic Publishing.

This adaptation of Dickens' “A Christmas Carol” was selected by the Playwrights' Center of Minneapolis. It is especially suited to the needs of high schools and community theatres, since

it has an assortment of fine roles for women. What happened to Ebenezer Scrooge after the immortal Christmas Day? It seems he married and had a son, who had a son, who moved to America and had a daughter, Ernestina, who is the leading lady of this play.

Cast:

Principle roles:

Ernestina Scrooge – the great-granddaughter of Ebenezer, 40 years old

Bob Kravachic – Ernestina’s clerk, father of 3, 30 – 40 years old

Bill McDougal -Ernestina’s former boyfriend, 40 years old

Young Ernestina – 15-17 year old girl, appears in Christmas past as a high school student, she also has a solo that she sings

Little Bob – 6-8 year old boy, appears in Christmas present similar to the Tiny Tim character from A Christmas Carol

Ensemble: will have multiple roles including carolers, narrators, Spirit of Christmas Past, Present and Future, students, Kravachic family members, party guests, etc.

6 women - age range of 25-60ish

6 Men - age range of 25-60ish

6 Teens – age range of 12-17

Massasoit Art Guild to hold 23rd annual Art Show and Sale

SPENCER — The Massasoit Art Guild will showcase the work of area artists when its 23rd annual Art Show and Sale returns to Spencer Town Hall in October.

The show will be held Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 10 and 11, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Spencer Town Hall, 157 Main St. Admission is open to the public.

In addition to giving visitors an opportunity to view original artwork, the event will feature works available for purchase, including original pieces, fine art prints and cards.

A public reception and awards ceremony will be held Saturday, Oct. 10, from 1 to 3 p.m. Cash prizes will be presented in each category.

This year's special challenge category is "Fantasy," with organizers specifying that entries in the category must be family friendly.

Massasoit Art Guild members interested in participating may submit up to three pieces of original artwork. The entry fee is \$8

per piece, and the deadline to submit entries is Sunday, Sept. 27.

Artwork entered in the show should be dropped off at Spencer Town Hall on Friday, Oct. 9, from 5 to 7 p.m. Following the conclusion of the show, artwork may be picked up Sunday, Oct. 11, from 4:30 to 5:15 p.m.

The event will also include a raffle table, with donations encouraged. Raffle winners will be announced Sunday afternoon.

The guild's 2025 Best in Show honor went to artist Doug Caves for his oil painting "Intersection No. 1."

Complete show guidelines, registration information and other details are available at the Massasoit Art Guild's website. Questions may also be directed to massasoitartguild@gmail.com.

The 23rd annual Art Show and Sale is supported in part by a grant from the Spencer Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

St. Anne-St. Patrick Parish announces grief support group

STURBRIDGE — St. Anne-St. Patrick Parish is holding a faith-based grief support workshop this fall to help those who have experienced a loss. “Grieving with Great Hope,” a bereavement resource from Good Mourning Ministry, is dedicated to accompanying those who are grieving on their healing journey through prayerful, practical and personal grief support.

Each session includes viewing a video followed by small group discussions for those who wish to share. Prayer guides participants through the seven intentions of mourning. The program offers tools to help those who are grieving find comfort, support, and healing.

The workshop is open to those grieving a loss of any type, regardless of faith, age, or when the loss occurred. However, it is recommended that the loss has taken place at least three months previously. The program has helped thousands of people find hope and healing.

The next series of workshops is scheduled for Sept. 12, 19, and

26, and October 3 and 10. Meetings take place on Saturdays at 9 a.m. in the Rendezvous inside St. Joachim’s Chapel at St. Anne-St. Patrick church.

Space is limited and registration is necessary. For more information or to register, please call the parish office at 508-347-7338 or email Chris.Williams@charter.net at cwkiki@charter.net.

Visit www.goodmourningministry.net to learn more about this grief resource.

St. Anne-St. Patrick Parish is an active parish community. It offers daily Mass for worship, religious education, and community ministries. It welcomes visitors to St. Anne Shrine, the new Memorial for the Unborn, the Hall of Saints, the Russian Icon Exhibit, the Votive Chapel, the

Generations Statue, and the Angel of Hope Monument. The Daily Rosary is recited at 3 p.m. in the St. Patrick Chapel, and weekend Masses are celebrated in its outdoor pavilion in the summer. Its religious gift shop is open every day from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

ALL WE KNOW IS LOCAL ~ StonebridgePress.com



Charlton Garden Club meets Sept. 14

CHARLTON — Come and join us! The Charlton Garden Club's Monday, Sept. 14 meeting will feature Kate Donovan, owner and consultant of Blackstone Valley Veggie Gardens, who will be speaking on 'Canning, Freezing and Dehydrating.'

Do you have an abun-

dant harvest this year? Come find out the easiest and best ways to preserve your bounty. Donovan is a Master Gardener and organic gardener who assists clients on growing food sustainably through lectures, garden planning and development. She continues to experiment each year with new vari-

Tantasqua Class of '76 to hold 50th reunion

STURBRIDGE — Tantasqua class of 1976 is celebrating its 50th reunion this year. We want to reach out to all former students.

The big event happens on Sept. 26 at 5 p.m. at Rapsallion Pub, 3 Arnold Rd., Sturbridge.

Fifty years have passed since we walked the halls of Tantasqua Regional HS. We hope to reunite and reconnect with as many fellow classmates/

friends as possible.

Please help us spread the word. If you were a member of the THS Class of '76 or if you know how to reach a classmate, please get in touch.

You can visit our THS Class of '76 Facebook page for more details and to buy tickets. If you are not a Facebook member, you can reach out to Kathy Thompson at katherinethmp@aol.com.



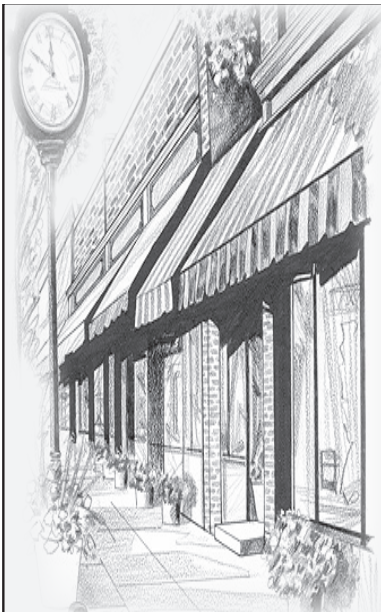
eties and preservation techniques.

Charlton Garden Club meetings are free and open to all interested in gardening and related

themes. 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. Meetings are held at 7 p.m. at the Charlton Public Library.

For more program or for Charlton Garden Club information, email us at charltongardenclub@gmail.com.



Community Connection

Edward Jones

Member SIPC

Finding solutions for your financial needs. We're just around the corner.



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

MKT-58940-A AECSPAD

> edwardjones.com

PLUMBING

JOHN DALY PLUMBING

The Homeowners Plumber, SINCE 1988
Faucets, Toilets, Pipe Repair, Garbage Disposals, Sinks, Vanities, Shower Valves, Outside Hose Connections, New Kitchen Sink Strainers and Undersink Re-Pipes, Sump Pumps, Sink Drain Cleaning.
Buy What You Like And I Will Install.
Fully Licensed And Insured, License Number MPL-21763-J
Call 508 304 7816 • jdrainman714@aol.com

Cormier JEWELERS

WE BUY GOLD

Trusted with Appraisals, Custom Design, Repairs, and more since 1947!

42 Central St, Southbridge MA
(508) 764-7415 | www.Cormiers.com

www.StonebridgePress.com

Morse Lumber Co., Inc.

Building Materials & Supplies

Lumber • Insulation • Mouldings
Drywall • Ceilings • Flooring
Hardware • Cements • Siding • Roofing
Windows • Doors • Concrete Block

Sawmill Products

Rough Sawn • Dimension Lumber
Boards • Timbers • Industrial Lumber

994 North Woodstock Road
(Rt. 169) - 1/2 mile from CT line
Southbridge, MA 01550
www.morse-lumber.com

Toll Free 1-800-764-3231 or 508-764-3231

"Quality Materials and Service Since 1951"



570 MAIN STREET • RT. 20 • FISKDALE, MA
TEL: 508-347-0116 • FAX: 508-347-6985

VISIT OUR STORE FOR WEEKLY SPECIALS!



Crooked Creek Farm

East Brookfield, Massachusetts

Stock up now!



Retail Cuts, Quarter, & Half sides of Beef Available!

To purchase your meat packages
CALL/TEXT: (774) 200-7308
www.crookedcreekfarmma.org

FREE LOCAL DELIVERY!

Charlton Oil Company Propane

508-248-9797

Don't Pay Too Much for Propane

PROPANE	PRICE PER GAL.	PROPANE	PRICE PER GAL.
0-50	\$4.99	301-500	\$2.25
50-75	\$3.49	500 PLUS	\$2.10
76-150	\$2.95	Duel Fuel	\$3.75
151-300	\$2.55	Drop off Tanks	\$3.00

Tanks Filled to 80%
Driver Discretion

DON'T PAY TOO MUCH FOR OIL!

Thursday price 9/3/26 was \$5.05 per gallon*
100 gallon minimum
ONLINE ORDERING NOW AVAILABLE AT
www.charltonoil.com

"Call Us First!"

*prices subject to change



Morin JEWELERS

Fine Jewelry & Gifts

The Jewelry store where you buy with confidence

WE BUY GOLD

Specializing in Custom Designs
All types of Jewelry Repairs
MASTER JEWELERS™
BRILLIANCE YOU DESERVE®

409 Main St. Southbridge, MA
morinjewelers.com • 508-764-7250
Located at CVS Plaza

LEGALS

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES
Under G.L. c.255 Sec.39A
Notice is hereby given by
Cruise Control Transportation Inc.
Pursuant to the provisions of G.L.
c. 255, Section 39A. that on or after
September 12th, 2026 at Cruise
Control Transportation Inc. the fol-
lowing motor vehicle/s will be sold at
private sale to satisfy our garage keep-
er's lien thereon for storage, towing
charges, care and expenses of notices
and sale of said vehicle:

Vehicle: 2009 Chevrolet Express
Vin: 1GCGG25C691132180
Last Registered Owner:
Andreia Soaresdos S
708 W Fourth St
Plamyra Nj 08065

Vehicle: 2007 Honda Civic
Vin: 1HGFA16527L057715
Last Registered Owner:
Enver Jose Pauline Brito
27 Vernon St
Worcester MA 01608

Vehicle: 2015 Nissan Altima
Vin: 1N4AL3AP1FN906362
Last Registered Owner:
Thomas Steidinger
5 Brackett Terr
Plympton MA 02367

Vehicle: 2007 Honda Accord
Vin: 1HGCM56777A114313
Last Registered Owner:
Hector Manuel Rodriguez
76 Old Southbridge Rd
Oxford MA 01540

Vehicle: 2007 Infiniti G35
Vin: JNKBV61F47M823869
Last Registered Owner:
Brayan J Crisanto Soza
237 W 167th St #8A
Bronx NY 10452

Vehicle: 2013 Ford Focus
Vin: 1FADP3F29DL258521
Last Registered Owner:
Maddalena Murray
40 Carriage Path
North Milford CT 06460

Vehicle: 2000 GMC Yukon
Vin: 1GKEK63R7YR206036
Last Registered Owner:
Mark E Meleski
19 Rt 197
Woodstock CT 06281

Vehicle: 2004 Toyota Camry
Vin: 4T1BE32K14U810337
Last Registered Owner:
Adauto Jose De Sousa Filho
94 Hunthill Rd
Waterbury CT 06705-3454

Vehicle: 2001 Suzuki Katana 600
Vin: JS1GN79AX12100269
Last Registered Owner:
Gabriel Colon
23 Wilson St Apt 2
Worcester MA

Vehicle: 2002 Honda CR-V
Vin: SHSRD684X2U001286
Last Registered Owner:
Natscha Ojeda
3845 Bay Shore Cir
Tavares FL 32778

Vehicle: 2000 Chevrolet Suburban
Vin: 3GNFK16T5YG108978
Last Registered Owner:
Tomas A Henriquez
53 Chase Ave 2E
Yonkers NY 10703
August 28, 2026
September 4, 2026
September 11, 2026

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF STURBRIDGE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
The Sturbridge Conservation
Commission will hold a public hear-
ing on **Thursday, September 10,**
2026 at 6:00pm on the 2nd Floor of
the Center Office Building, 301 Main
Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566 and via
GoTo Meeting, to consider a **Request**
for Determination of Applicability
filed by Daniel White of Massachusetts
Electric Company, pursuant to the
Massachusetts Wetlands Protection
Act (M.G.L. c. 131, §40) and the Town
of Sturbridge Wetlands Protection
Bylaw.
The applicant seeks approval for a
project involving reconductoring of an
existing electric distribution feeder at
Warren Road, Pine Meadow Lane,
and Brookfield Road, Sturbridge,
MA.
Remote participation information and
application materials will be posted at
least 48 hours prior to the hearing on
the Conservation Commission web-
page at www.sturbridge.gov/conservation-commission.
Ed Goodwin
Conservation Commission Chairman
September 11, 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, September 23, 2026,
at 5:30 PM to review a Request for
Determination of Applicability (RDA)
submitted by Jacob Murray/co Remi
Fournier. The RDA proposes to widen
and extend a dirt gravel road.
Project Location: 32 Hall Place Road,
Brimfield, MA 01010, (Assessor's Map
(4-H-3)
Meeting Location: Public Participation
will be In-Person at Hitchcock Academy
at 2 Brookfield Road, Brimfield, MA
01010 on September 23, 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, 2nd
Floor, 23 Main Street, Brimfield, MA
01010 or contact the office at 413-245-
4100 ext. 1101.
Roger deBruyn & Joseph Venezia
Co-Chairs
August 29, 2026
September 10, 2026

Sturbridge Planning Board
Public Hearing
Proposed Zoning Amendments
In accordance with the provisions of
M.G.L. Ch. 40A, §11, the Sturbridge
Planning Board will hold a Public
Hearing in the **Center Office Building**
2nd floor, located at 301 Main Street,
Sturbridge, MA 01566 and/or by vir-
tual means if circumstances warrant,
in accordance with applicable law, on
Monday, September 28, 2026 at 6:50
PM to consider amendments to the
Town's Zoning Bylaw.
The proposed amendments will:
1. Amend §300-2.2 Terms defined.
By inserting a new definition for Site
Footprint, Solar Energy Facility, Solar
Energy Facility Building Mounted,
and Solar Energy Facility Canopy,
and remove the outdated definition of
Large Solar Energy Facility, consistent
with recent changes to Massachusetts
General Law.
2. Amend §300-5.6 Use regulations.
By inserting a new allowed by Special
Permit use into the Groundwater
Protection District regulations for Solar
and BESS.
3. Amend Article X Solar Energy
Facilities. By updating §300-10.1
through §300-10.12 and to establish
a new §300-10.13 and §300-10.14
to insert language to accommodate
Battery Energy Storage Systems
(BESS) and the consolidated local
permit guidelines per recent changes
to Massachusetts General Laws.
A copy of the zoning bylaw proposal
can be viewed on the Sturbridge Town
Website or arrangements can be made
to view the zoning bylaw proposal
by contacting the Sturbridge Planning
Department.
Any person interested or wishing to be
heard on this proposal should appear
at the time and place designated.
Members of the public may watch
the meeting online via the Town's on
demand video broadcast or via cable
television on Channel 191.
It is the intent to have this Public
Hearing in person. However, if cir-
cumstances warrant, the Board may
choose to hold this Hearing via virtual
or hybrid (in person and virtual) means.
In the event of a virtual of hybrid meet-
ing, please follow this link:
<https://meet.goto.com/619527397>
Please note that the meeting/hearing
will not be suspended or terminated
if technological problems interrupt the
virtual broadcast. Unless otherwise
required by law.
Charles Blanchard
Chairperson
September 10, 2026
September 17, 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 September 23, at
6:30 PM on the application of PMZ
Development LLC.
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 5 Gould Road,
Charlton, MA 01507. Parcel ID: 10-B-
2.5
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 remotely can access
the meeting 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
September 10, 2026

Sturbridge Planning Board
Public Hearing
Application for Modification of Site
Plan
Old Road Realty, LLC
In accordance with the provisions of
M.G.L. Ch. 40A, §11, the Sturbridge
Planning Board will hold a Public
Hearing in the **Center Office Building**
2nd floor, located at 301 Main Street,
Sturbridge, MA 01566 and/or by vir-
tual means if circumstances warrant,
in accordance with applicable law, on
Monday, September 28, 2026 at 6:35
PM on the application of Old Road
Realty, LLC, 1 West Boylston Street,
Worcester, MA 01605. The applicant
requests Modification of an approved
Site Plan for the property located at
660 Main Street.
The applicant seeks modifications to
the Site Plan Approval granted on
August 11, 2025, for the creation of a
40,150 sq. ft. building for a manufac-
turing facility. The applicant requests
to revise the site plan to increase the
office space/dispatch use for Coastal
Medical Transportation as shown in the
plans and application submitted.
A copy of the site plan and application
can be inspected on the Sturbridge
Town Website or arrangements can be
made to view the application packet
by contacting the Sturbridge Planning
Department.
Any person interested or wishing to be
heard on this proposal should appear
at the time and place designated.
Members of the public may watch
the meeting online via the Town's on
demand video broadcast or via cable
television on Channel 191.
It is the intent to have this Public
Hearing in person. However, if cir-
cumstances warrant, the Board may
choose to hold this Hearing via virtual
or hybrid (in person and virtual) means.
In the event of a virtual of hybrid meet-
ing, please follow this link:
<https://meet.goto.com/619527397>
Please note that the meeting/hearing
will not be suspended or terminated
if technological problems interrupt the
virtual broadcast. Unless otherwise
required by law.
Charles Blanchard
Chairperson
September 10, 2026
September 17, 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, September 23, 2026,
at 5:30 PM to review a Request for
Determination of Applicability (RDA)
submitted by Brian Carlisle/co Hollow
Brook Farms Holdings, LLC. The RDA
proposes to remove the existing bridge
and replace with a new bridge.
Project Location: 47 Hollow Road,
Brimfield, MA 01010, (Assessor's Map
(18-B-20.1 & B-21)
Meeting Location: Public Participation
will be In-Person at Hitchcock Academy
at 2 Brookfield Road, Brimfield, MA
01010 on September 23, 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 appli-
cation and plan may be inspected
at the Brimfield Town Annex in the
Conservation Commission Office,
Salisbury Annex Building, 2nd Floor,
23 Main Street, Brimfield, MA 01010
or contact the office at 413-245-4100
ext. 1101.
Roger deBruyn & Joseph Venezia
Co-Chairs
August 24, 2026
September 10, 2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE
OF REAL ESTATE
By virtue of and in execution of
the Power of Sale contained in a cer-
tain mortgage given by Christine Diane
MacDonald, Deilya Nap to Mortgage
Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.,
as nominee for Geneva Financial, LLC,
dated July 31, 2023 and recorded
in the Worcester County (Worcester
District) Registry of Deeds in Book
69461, Page 191, of which mortgage
the undersigned is the present holder,
by assignment from:
Mortgage Electronic Registration
Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nom-
inee for Geneva Financial, LLC, its
successors and assigns to JPMorgan
Chase Bank, National Association,
recorded on March 8, 2024, in Book
No. 70264, at Page 198
JPMorgan Chase Bank, National
Association to Wilmington Savings
Fund Society, FSB, as Owner Trustee
of the Residential Credit Opportunities
Trust IX-B, recorded on November 28,
2025, in Book No. 72896, at Page 34

for breach of the conditions of said
mortgage and for the purpose of fore-
closing, the same will be sold at Public
Auction at 1:00 PM on October 2,
2026, on the mortgaged premises
located at 46 and 48 New Boston
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 on the east-
erly side of the New Boston Road,
bounded and described as follows:
BEGINNING at the southwesterly cor-
ner thereof, at an iron pipe in the
ground at the northwesterly corner of
land of Walter L. Szolusha et ux.;
THENCE N 0° 20' W. along the easterly
line of New Boston Road 76.01 feet
to an iron pipe in the ground;
THENCE N. 80° 16' E. by land of
grantor 101.27 feet to an iron pipe in
the ground by fence at land of Clifford
F. Chamberlain;
THENCE Southeasterly along fence by
said Chamberlain land about 112.23
feet to an iron pipe in the ground at
said Szolusha land;
THENCE S. 80° 16' W. by said
Szolusha land 197.17 feet to the point
of beginning.
ALONG WITH;
The land in Sturbridge, situated on the
easterly side of New Boston Road,
bounded and described as follows:
BEGINNING at the southwesterly cor-
ner thereof, at an iron pipe in the
ground on the easterly side of the New
Boston Road at land of grantees;
THENCE N. 0° 20' W. along the east-
erly line of New Boston Road about
83 feet to the line of a fence at land of
Clifford G. Chamberlain;
THENCE Southeasterly along the
fence of said Chamberlain land about
119. 74 feet to an iron pipe in the
ground by fence at land of grantees
THENCE S. 80° 16' W. by land of
grantees 101.27 feet to the point of
beginning.
For mortgagor's(s') title see
deed recorded with Worcester County
(Worcester District) Registry of Deeds
in Book 69461, Page 187.
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 applica-
ble, having priority over said mort-
gage, whether or not reference to
such restrictions, easements, improve-
ments, 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 descrip-
tion 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.
WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND
SOCIETY, FSB, AS OWNER
TRUSTEE OF THE RESIDENTIAL
CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES TRUST
IX-B
Present holder of said mortgage
By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.
150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500
27691
September 3, 2026
September 10, 2026
September 17, 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, September 23, 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 **Special Permit**
according to Holland Bylaw section
240.7. **Relief requested: New build**
on a pre-existing non-conforming
lot.
The property located at: **10 Cove Rd.**
Parcel ID # **R16/A / 6.**
Don Beal, Chairperson
Zoning Board of Appeals
Date: 8/31/2026
September 10, 2026
September 17, 2026

Plant with Purpose, design with nature: Native plant garden design with Southbridge Garden Club

SOUTHBIDGE — The Southbridge Garden Club is delighted to host Nikki Howell of Lady Fern Farm for a special presentation on Tuesday, Sept. 15, at 1:30 p.m. at the Jacob Edwards Library in Southbridge.

In her talk, "Plant with Purpose, Design with Nature," Howell will explore how to cultivate beautiful, resilient landscapes that support local pollinators and restore vital ecosystems. Attendees will be introduced to the core principles of ecological garden design, including native plant selection, structural layering, and site-specific planning—skills applicable to home gardens, community spaces, and large-scale restoration projects alike.

Lady Fern Farm is a woman-owned nursery dedicated to cultivating Northeast native plants and offering enriching educational workshops. Howell, the owner and founder, brings a wealth of experience to the field with a degree in Sustainable Agriculture and years spent farming in the landscapes of

Tuscany and Long Island. After returning to Worcester, she turned her passion for organic gardening into a mission to preserve biodiversity. Her work at Lady Fern Farm champions the ecological resilience of native species, emphasizing their co-evolution with local wildlife and their essential role in our environment.

The Southbridge Garden Club is a regional organization that welcomes members from across the local community. The Club meets monthly for horticultural programs, garden tours, and seasonal events, including its popular annual Plant Sale in May and Holiday Greens Sale in December. Their mission is "to share an interest in horticulture and to expand our knowledge of gardening for our mutual benefit and that of our local communities."

This program is free and open to the public, though registration is required. To reserve your spot, please visit jacobedwardslibrary.org or call the library at 508-764-5426.

OBITUARIES

Patricia A. Gaumond, 71

Sturbridge: Patricia A. Gaumond, 71, of Shepard Rd., passed away on Wednesday, Sept. 2nd, in the Rose Monahan Hospice Home, Worcester, after a long illness.

She leaves her brother, Richard F. Gaumond of Sturbridge, and her close friend, Patricia Hemingway and her husband George of Holland. She was predeceased by her brother, Robert R. Gaumond. She was also predeceased by her beloved dog, Teddy. Patricia was born in Southbridge, the daughter of the late Francios A. and Rejane G. (LeBoeuf) Gaumond. She received her bachelor's degree from the former Annhurst College in Woodstock, CT.

Pat worked for Savers Bank for 40 years. She started as a teller and retired as VP and Treasurer of the bank. She also worked as a bookkeeper for her brother Richard's business, Dick's Hardware, in Southbridge. Pat was a longtime member of Notre Dame Parish (now St. John Paul



II Parish) and was a member of the parish's Ladies of St. Anne Sodality and the Associates of the Sisters of Assumption. She ran the 120 club for Notre Dame Parish before the merger. She was in recent years a member of St. Anne and St. Patrick Parish in Sturbridge and was a member of the St. Anne's Fund-Raising Committee. Pat loved taking trips to Ogunquit, ME.

Her funeral was held on Tuesday, Sept. 8th, from the Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, with a Mass at 10:00am in St. Anne Church, 16 Church St., Sturbridge. Burial was in St. Anne's Cemetery, Sturbridge. Calling hours in the funeral home were held on Monday, Sept. 7th, from 5:00 to 7:00pm.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to St. Anne and St. Patrick Parish, 16 Church St., Fiskdale, MA 01518 or to the Second Chance Animal Shelter, 111 Young Rd., East Brookfield, MA 01515. www.morrillfuneralhome.com

Got Space?

we do.

Contact Mikaela Today

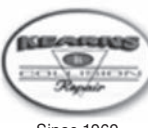
774-200-7308 • mikaela@astonebridgepress.news



Home Fall Auto

For Advertising Information, Call 774-200-7308
email:mikaela@stonebridgepress.news

AUTO BODY / REPAIRS



KEARNS COLLISION REPAIR

Since 1969
Always Going The Extra Mile For Our Customers

Free Written Estimates • Damage Appraisal
Color Matching Specialists • Rental Car Services
Warrantied Work & Repairs
Diagnostics • A/C Repair
Tune Ups & Engine Repair
Brakes • Alternators • Starters • ABS
Alignments • Tires...and more

Major Insurance Referral Shop
Honoring All Insurance Estimates

1734 Providence Road (Rt 122)
Northbridge, MA 01534
Ph: 508-234-5211 • Fax: 508-234-2231
www.kearnscollision.com
Fully Certified • RS# 2678

Advertise on this page
for one low price! Get 7 papers.
Call 774-200-7308

LAWNMOWERS



WORCESTER COUNTY LAWMOWER

ALWAYS THE BEST SERVICE



Snowblower & Generator Repair
Tractor Service
Tune-Ups & Repairs
Pickup & Delivery

508-987-2775
492 Main St Oxford
WORCESTERCOUNTYLAWMOWER.COM

Painting

FRESH COLOR PAINTING

YOUR VISION IN COLOR

Brighten Your Curb Appeal With a Power Wash

Locally Owned, Operated And Insured.
Ask About Senior And Veteran Discounts
Call Today For A Free Estimate

Over 15 Years Experience

Call Today: 774-241-6399

Stump Grinding



MILLER STUMP GRINDING

Asian Longhorn Beetle Certified

Fully Insured • Free Quotes
REASONABLE RATES
PROMPT SERVICE
ROD MILLER • NICK MILLER
OWNERS / OPERATORS
508-688-2159

CHIMNEYS/MASONRY CHIMNEY CLEANINGS Starting at \$99 ALL KINDS OF MASONRY & CONCRETE WORK New & Repairs, Repointing, Rebuilding, Re-lining, Waterproofing, Foundation & Chimney Repair, New & Stair Repair, Concrete Walkways, Stonewalls, New Roofs, Construction & Carpentry. Need to get it done? Call me! -FREE Estimates- Quality Chimney (508)752-1003	Home Improvement BONETTI'S Home Improvement Roofing Siding Decks Remodeling Windows Doors Basement Finishing Gutters Cleaning Pressure Washing Painting Landscaping Over 25 Years Experience Residential Specialist Licensed and Insured 128231 508-347-4906 Cell 508-688-0072	GJ LEDUC PAINTING Interior and Exterior Power Washing Wallpapering General Repair Fully Insured Over 40+ Years Experience 508-764-8548 774-230-8373	MASONRY  C & J MASONRY HARDSCAPE RETAINING WALLS OUTDOOR LIVING CONSTRUCTION Chimney Repair Foundation Repair Steps, Patios Water Proofing Walkways Stone Veneer Brick and Block Work Cord Wood Brian French (413)222-5542 cjmasonryhardscape@gmail.com	Roofing SAUNDERS & SONS ROOFING Read our reviews at the Better Business Bureau. A+ rating and accredited member since 2009. Call Bill Toll-Free 1-866-961-Roof 508-765-0100 Lifetime material warranty & 25 yr. labor warranty available MA Reg #153955 CSL #095459 CT-HIC #0638641 Fully Insured, Free Estimates Family Owned and Operated Now Accepting All Major Credit Cards ACCREDITED BUSINESS A+	ROOFING David Barbale ROOFING Roofing/Gutters Repair Work Fully Licensed and Insured MA LIC #CS069127 MA HIC. LIC #1079721 INS. # CAC032585 C: 508-397-6709 O: 508-248-6709 davidbarbale.com	GUTTERS  GUTTER CLEANINGS 30+ years exp Licensed & Insured 508-867-2877 508-754-9054 A. Eagle Gutters aeaglegutters.com ACCREDITED BUSINESS A+	Plumbing  MIKE LAMBERT'S PLUMBING & HEATING INC. Commercial, Residential, New Construction 369 Main St, Ste 4 Spencer, MA 1-833-969-4330 Fully Insured MIKELAMBERTSPANDH @GMAIL.COM
--	---	---	--	--	---	--	--

Sheriff’s Office Safekeep Program delivers public safety support, significant cost savings

REGION — After decades of requests from local law enforcement agencies to house individuals arrested by municipal and state police departments, the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office officially opened the first cells dedicated to its Safekeep Program in 2021. The Worcester County Sheriff’s Office (WCSO) Safekeep Program has since delivered measurable public safety improvements and meaningful cost savings to communities across Worcester County and throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The program operates from the Sheriff’s Office Intake and Medical Unit in West Boylston, a modern, purpose-built facility designed to centralize intake, medical



WCSO Intake/Medical Build, built in 2021, where the Safekeep program is facilitated out of.

Courtesy Photo

number of successful safekeeps include:

- Shrewsbury (202), Westborough (180), Milford (104), Auburn (99), Rutland (94), Barre (85), Lunenburg (83), Leominster (75), Fitchburg (58), and Blackstone (52)
- The Massachusetts State Police represents the largest single user of the program

These figures highlight both the strong demand for the safekeep Program and the Sheriff’s Office’s commitment to maintaining careful screening and responsible custody decisions.

Chief Ryan Malatos of the Leominster Police Department explained that the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office Safekeep Program has been an invaluable resource for his department, particularly when a detainee is unlikely to make bail or when call volume and community needs require him to reassign officers quickly.

Malatos went on to explain that, “by providing a secure option for continued detention, the program allows us to return a uniformed officer back to the road rather than requiring that officer to assist with a detainee. This helps us maintain patrol coverage and respond more effectively to calls for service.”

Maintaining safety and professional standards

All detainees must meet established medical, mental health, and classification standards before being accepted into the program, in accordance with formal agreements between the Sheriff’s Office and participating agencies. These requirements ensure the safety of staff and detainees while upholding professional standards of care, custody, and oversight

The Worcester County Sheriff’s Office Safekeep Program demonstrates how regional collaboration and modern infrastructure can enhance public safety, improve operational efficiency, and provide meaningful cost savings to the taxpayers of the Commonwealth.

For more information on the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office, visit www.WorcesterCountySheriff.com or follow the Sheriff’s Office on social media for updates.

Award-winning Puerto Rican film “Esta Isla” coming to Worcester

WORCESTER — “Esta Isla” (This Island), the award-winning feature film by Puerto Rican filmmakers Lorraine Jones Molina and Cristian Carretero, will screen in Worcester on Sept. 26, bringing the acclaimed Puerto Rican film to audiences across Central Massachusetts.

BoriCorridor, in collaboration with Experimento Lúdico and Vejigantes Restaurant, presents the screening as part of the BoriCorridor Screening Tour, an initiative that brings Puerto Rican artists and cultural productions to communities across the United States.

“Esta Isla” premiered at the 2025 Tribeca Film Festival, where it won Best New Director and Best Cinematography and received a Special Jury Mention for Best U.S. Narrative Feature. In 2026, the film received the John Cassavetes Award at the Film Independent Spirit Awards, further establishing “Esta Isla” as one of the most recognized Puerto Rican films in recent years.

Set against the backdrop of Puerto Rico’s coastlines and mountains, the film follows Bebo, a teenager trying to survive amid economic hardship. After a violent incident alters his life, he flees with Lola, a young woman determined to escape her circumstances.



Their journey explores identity, belonging, and redemption in a Puerto Rico that is as beautiful as it is complex.

More than a chase thriller, “Esta Isla” offers a deeply human and contemporary portrait of Puerto Rican life, exploring inequality, resilience, and the island’s historical legacy.

“This film was born in Puerto Rico—from its landscapes, its contradictions, and its people. Being able to share it now with Puerto Rican communities across the United States is a very special opportunity for us,” said Lorraine Jones Molina, who, along with Cristian Carretero, directed and produced the film. The screening in Worcester will include a post-screening discussion, giving audiences an opportunity to engage directly with the filmmakers and explore the film’s themes and creative process.

“‘Esta Isla’ represents the kind of stories that BoriCorridor seeks to

bring to our communities: deeply Puerto Rican, honest, and contemporary narratives that invite us to reflect on who we are and how we relate to our country, our history, and our diaspora,” said Elsa Mosquera, founder of BoriCorridor.

The Worcester screening is part of a broader nine-city BoriCorridor Screening Tour that will bring “Esta Isla” to communities in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Colorado, and Texas, as well as New York City.

The tour marks the first time BoriCorridor has incorporated film into its programming, expanding the range of Puerto Rican artistic and cultural productions it brings to the diaspora. Supported by the Mellon Foundation, the BoriCorridor Tour has spent the past three years connecting Puerto Rican artists and cultural productions with communities throughout the United States.

Tickets and additional information are available at boricorridor.com.

screening, and short-term housing for individuals in custody. The facility operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and provides a secure environment for pre-arraignment detainees transferred from municipal police departments and the Massachusetts State Police.

By allowing local and state agencies to transfer custody of eligible detainees to the Sheriff’s Office, the program enables officers to return more quickly to patrol, investigations, and emergency response duties instead of remaining assigned to station-based detainee supervision, a major resource draw for local and state police departments.

“The Worcester County Sheriff’s Office specializes in the care, custody, and control of detainees,” commented Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis. “I’m grateful that the Baker-Polito administration believed in this project and the potential it had to benefit the hardworking police departments of Massachusetts.”

Estimated \$1 million in taxpayer savings

The Safekeep Program is estimated to have saved approximately \$1 million in personnel and operational costs for Worcester County municipal police departments and the Massachusetts State Police. These savings are achieved through:

- Reduced overtime expenses
- Fewer officers assigned to extended detainee watch
- Decreased need for local holding capacity
- Consolidated and efficient court transport procedures
- Cost-cutting through avoiding providing meals, medical resources, etc.

By centralizing short-term custody operations at the Intake and Medical Unit, the Sheriff’s Office helps law enforcement agencies operate more efficiently while reducing the financial burden on Massachusetts taxpayers.

Webster Police Chief Michael Shaw stated that the Safekeep program takes the burden off the officers and dispatchers. It allows these individuals to focus on more relevant tasks as opposed to monitoring, feeding, and ensuring the overall safety of arrestees.

Shaw stated that, “Having this program in place is a huge relief to our agency, which, like many others, is facing staffing difficulties. We are grateful for our partnership with the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office, not just for its Safekeep program, but the commitment to helping police departments across Worcester County.”

Program activity (July 2021 – June 2026)

- 2,720 successful Safekeeps placements
- 178 denials based on medical, safety, or eligibility criteria
- Municipal departments with the highest

Home Town Service,
BIG TIME RESULTS

Town-to-Town

CLASSIFIEDS

774-200-7308

Place your ad today!

VISA MasterCard DISCOVER

BOY SCOUT
TROOP 273

YARD SALE

SATURDAY, SEPT 19TH

Universal Tag Parking Lot,
36 Hall Road, Dudley

Early Birds (8am to 9am) • \$10.00 per person fee
9am until 3pm FREE

24,000 sq.ft. of yard sale items **ONE DAY ONLY**
Pick your items and Make an offer!
CREDIT CARD ACCEPTED!

Grouped Items: **Electronics** - stereos, speakers, etc. (no TV's) **Tools** - hand tools, lights, flooring etc.. **Furniture** - Tables, chairs, bed frames, cabinets, hutches, etc.. **Housewares** - glassware, dishes, pictures, mirrors, bowls, cups, small appliances **Sporting goods** - Bikes, skis, baseball equipment, golf, exercise equipment **Clothes** - shirts, pants, jackets, shoes, bags **Kids toys and baby items** - high chairs, bouncy games, **Antiques**

HAMBURGERS, HOT DOGS, FRIES AND DRINKS WILL BE AVAILABLE

2011
Lincoln
Town Car

205,000 miles
Leather seats, airbags,
recent michilan tires.
Very dependable.
New manifold.

\$2,900 OBO

774-635-9056

WAR RELICS &
WAR SOUVENIERS
WANTED:
WWII & EARLIER
CASH WAITING!
Helmets, Swords,
Daggers, Bayonets,
Medals, Badges,
Flags, Uniforms, etc.
Over 40 years'
experience.
Call David
(508) 688-0847.
I'LL COME TO YOU!

Advertise
Here

FOSTER
PARENTS
WANTED:

Seeking Quality
Homes Throughout
Central MA To
Provide Foster Care
To Children In Need.
24/7 Support
Generous
Reimbursement,
\$1000 Sign-On
Bonus.
Call For Details.

Devereux Therapeutic
Foster Care.
(508)829-6769

Devereux
ADVANCED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH



REAL ESTATE



HOPE
REAL ESTATE GROUP
43 East Main Street Webster, MA 01570
Finest Realtor Associates to Serve You!

hope2own.com
508.943.4333

Sharon Pelletier - Owner Broker
Licensed in MA, CT & RI

We Want Your Listings!

Webster - 106 East Main St (Rte 12)
Commercial Opportunity!



Corner Lot, 275' +/- Road Frontage, Extremely High Traffic Count, 6,200 SF (75x80) Commercial Building, Currently 2 Units -> Potential for More. Economical, Efficient Natural Gas FHA Heat & Cooling. Its close proximity to Successful National Franchised Businesses generates Significant Commerce at this Location. Convenient Access.
MLS #73512426 \$ 615,000

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

Webster- 3 Oakwood Dr



ON DEPOSIT

Presenting a meticulously maintained Colonial! This inviting home, spans 2,042 sf +/-, 4 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths. Offers a refined living experience designed for comfort & convenience. The kitchen is a culinary enthusiast's delight, featuring a dining area w/picturesque views! Sleek stainless steel appliances, elegant maple wood cabinets & stone counters that provide both functionality & aesthetic appeal. The living room offers a sophisticated ambiance, enhanced by hardwood floors, crown moldings & custom built in shelves. For special occasions enjoy the formal dining rm & a cozy everyday fireplace family rm w/sliders to a very private deck. Also provides a 2 car att'd garage for secure parking & storage. Discover the exceptional lifestyle afforded by this distinguished residence! We invite your inquiry & a private viewing! **MLS#73523347 \$589,900**

Featured New Listing!
24 Laurelwood Dr
Webster Lake Waterfront



On the shores of prestigious Webster Lake! Experience ultra-luxury lakefront living with direct water access. This young modern craftsman lake home is masterly designed to maximize panoramic Western views through a two-story architectural tower. The home boasts 3,790 +/- square feet of sophisticated, three-story living space, complete with multilevel waterside decks, a radius stone faced patio, and a tiered landscape with its own waterfall. From morning coffee to sunset gatherings, you will enjoy every minute overlooking your waterfront. The 1,735 +/- square feet main level features a spacious open floor plan, welcoming you flows seamlessly onto an expansive open deck and into an exquisite sun-drenched sitting room. A magnificent primary bedroom suite offers a private full bath, double sink vanity, walk-in closet and dressing room. The purposely designed lower level delivers effortless, large-volume entertainment, featuring a full second kitchen and a sprawling recreation room that opens to a substantial lakeside patio. With 2 additional bedrooms and bath, this level easily serves as a private guest floor. This Lake property is designed to create long-lasting memories! **MLS#73563767 \$1,750,000**

Webster ~ 33 Slater Street



Open House Sunday 11:30-1

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

Webster - 86 Bates Point Rd
Webster Lake Waterfront



This Beautifully Maintained Two-Level Waterfront Panoramic WATER VIEWS from almost every Single Window!! 50 Ft of Sandy Shoreline!! Front-row Northwest-facing Sunsets !!...The House Lay out is Designed for a Seamless Indoor-Outdoor Lifestyle... Weather-Protected Patio! The Gem of the House is the Living/Dining room Combination !! Offering a sweeping Wall of Windows to enjoy watching Mother Nature at her Finest!! Granite Countertops, Stainless-steel Appliances, White "Soft-close" Cabinets and Solid Wood Flooring!!... This Main Level has an Effortless Layout adding a Roomy Convenient Bedroom & Large Closet, Full bath, 1/2 Bath & Laundry!!... Downstairs, the Walk-out Lower Level Transitions into a phenomenal Guest Retreat with 2 Bedrooms, Living space, and Full Bath!!...2 Car Garage!
\$1,050,000.

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg



Webster Lake Waterfront
22 Union Point Snug Harbor Villa
Open House Saturday & Sunday 12-2
Waterfront Lake Snug Harbor Villa End Unit!
Most Luxurious & Largest on the Lake!

Presenting a distinguished condo residence that will provide an exceptional waterfront lifestyle! Offers an expansive 4600 sf+/- featuring 4BRs, 4-1/2 baths, 3 frpics & more, all designed for relaxation & convenience! Nothing quite compares! Priced to Sell.
VIEW REALTOR MLS # 73507605 FOR MORE DETAILS\$999,900.

Featured New Listing!
60 WAKEFIELD AVE



RARE WEBSTER LAKE DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY ~ Two (2) Strategic Building Lots with Direct Waterfront Ownership. Discover an unmatched real estate package combining the financial benefits of off-water property taxes with the luxury of premium, direct Webster Lake access. This rare offer features two cleared, build-ready contiguous lots paired with a commanding 2/3 fractional ownership interest in a prime waterfront parcel, complete with a private beach and boat dock. **MLS# 73564208 \$525,000**

WHERE WILL RETIREMENT TAKE YOU?



Discover how a HECM can help you enjoy a more secure retirement!



Call Today for a FREE Consultation
Ruta Convent NMLS#484339
Reverse Mortgage Specialist
(508)641-1464



Corporate NMLS #1025894, CT Mortgage Lender License ML-1025894, FL Mortgage Lender Servicer License MLD1827, ME Supervised Lender License 1025894, MA Mortgage Broker and Lender License MC1025894, www.nmlsconsumeraffairs.org
4513957078 Expires 07/2029 Equal Housing Lender

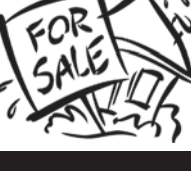
FOR SALE



FOR SALE



FOR SALE



Got Space?

we do.

Contact Mikaela Today
774-200-7308
mikaela@stonebridgepress.news

PUT YOUR TRUST IN US TEAMWORK AND EXPERIENCE
Jo-Ann Szymczak 774-230-5044
Diane Luong 774-239-2937
Maria Reed 508-873-9254
Bob Berk 508-367-9226
Deb Listewnik 508-847-0872



ReMax Vision • 25 Union St., Worcester MA 01608
CALL FOR A MARKET ANALYSIS Licensed in MA & CT

CHARLTON-30X4- SPLIT ENTRY



*1.5 Acres
*3 Full Baths
*Main Bedroom with Tray Ceiling
*Central Air
*Office
*Completely Finished Lower Level

95 A.F. Putnam Rd \$687,500

CHARLTON-"STONEBROOK GARDENS"



OPN HOUSE 9/13 11AM-1PM

*4 Bedrooms *3rd Level Au Pair Suite *24'x24' Great Room
*2 Fireplaces *Koi Pond with Waterfall
*Underground Sprinkler System *MLS #73536242
30 Knollwood \$849,900

SUTTON-NEW PRICE!



\$545,000

*7 Rooms *1.5 Baths *Skylight
*1st Floor Familyroom
*MLS #73555830
9 Colonial Rd \$545,000

HOLDEN- 1500 sq. ft. RANCH



*2 Baths *1/2 Acre Lot
*Family Room *3 Bedroom
*MLS #73546247
1994 Main St. \$519,000

GRAFTON- Charming Antique Cape



*3 Bedroom *Country Kitchen
*Wide Pine Floors*FANTASTIC
1/2 Acre Lot with Botanical Like Grounds
*MLS # 73543247
41 Worcester St. \$449,500



MEET YOUR LOCAL REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS

Perfect for Realtors, Mortgage Companies, Banks, Real Estate Attorneys, Home Inspectors, Chimney Inspectors, Lead Removal businesses, Insurance Companies, etc... any business involved in the buying or selling of real estate.

To join this section, please contact your local sales rep, 774-200-7308 or email mikaela@stonebridgepress.news



When Experience and Commitment Matter

Mary Vigliatura Stolarczyk
ABR, GRI, CRS, C2EX RE/MAX Hall of Fame
508.612.1382
MESRealty.com
Mary@WillSellIt.com





ERA Key Realty
REAL ESTATE SERVICES
Donna Flannery Realtor®
508-612-6771
Donnaflanneryrealtor.com
Donnaflannery@erakey.net

OVER 30 YEARS SELLING LOCAL REAL ESTATE
NATIONAL ERA FINALIST TWICE FOR CUSTOMER SERVICE

TOP AGENT YEAR AFTER YEAR FOR # OF UNITS SOLD & SOLD DOLLAR VOLUME
ERA HALL OF FAME

415B Main Street Spencer, MA 01562



Call for a Reservation!!!
Real Estate Coffee Hour
9/12/2026 11am to 12 noon
Buying or selling a Condominium What You Need to Know!
*What are Condo Reserves?
*Are there Restrictions?
*What Do My Fees Cover?

ReMax Vision
25 Union St., Worcester MA 01608
CALL JO-ANN FOR A MARKET ANALYSIS Licensed in MA & CT



Annual members show on display at Ruth Wells Center

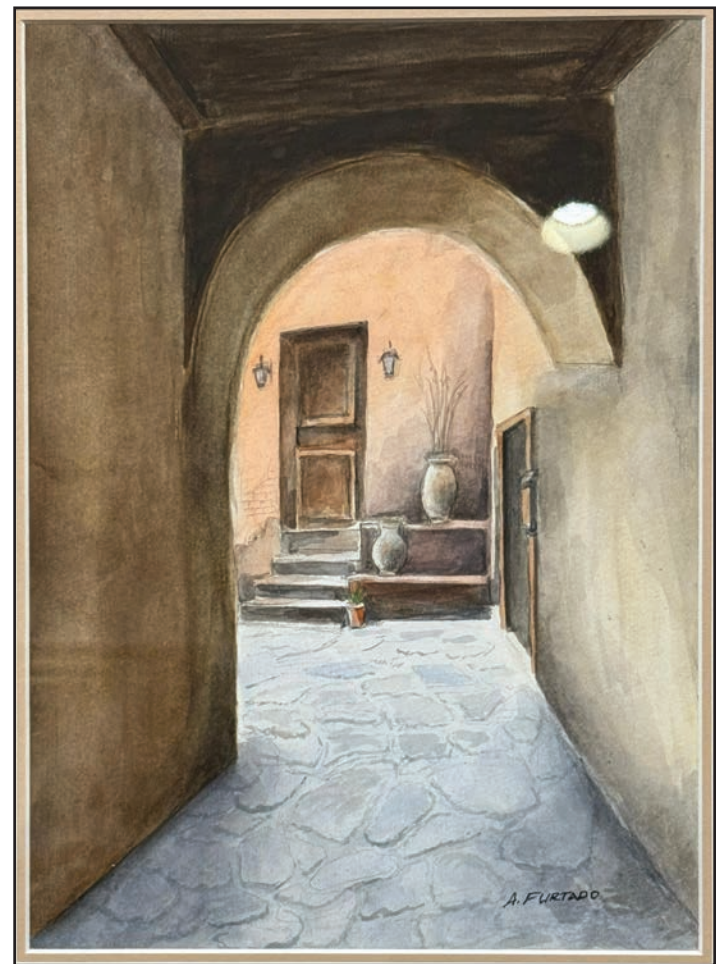


SOUTHBRIDGE

— We are very excited to present our annual members show in September at the Ruth Wells Center for the Arts, 111 Main St. in Southbridge.

The Ruth Wells Center has been promoting the arts since 1997 as the Quinebaug Valley Council for the Arts and Humanities.

Opening reception with refreshments is Saturday, Sept. 5 from noon to 4 p.m. This



is free and open to the public. The exhibit will run through the month of September. This is an all-media show, featuring fabrics, textiles, collage, sculpture, mobiles.

We are very fortunate to have so many talented artists in the area. The exhibit

will feature many styles and mediums. Be sure to stop in.

Artists participating include Helen Boyle, Joshua Boyle, Liz Carroll, Laura Cenedella, Heather Croteau, Niko Day, Barbara Day, Michele Fontaine, Art Furtado, Charlie

Gaulin, Corey Klein, Tiffany LaMothe, Barbara O'Brien, Kevin Provost, Robert Siciliano, Lauria Tiberi, Clay Tull, Jim Wilton and Laurel Wolfe.

The Ruth Wells Center has changing monthly exhibits- all free and open to the public.

Applications welcome for Southbridge Cultural Council grants

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Cultural Council announces that applications for the 2027 grant funding cycle will become available only online to www.massculturalcouncil.org.

The official submission cycle for 2027 begins on Sept. 1, and ends on Oct. 15 at 11:59 p.m. No applications are accepted after the official deadline established by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, Boston. Officially required is that all 2027 applicants review and understand the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the Southbridge Cultural Council specific criteria online before submission of the grant application.

The Southbridge Cultural Council (SCC), a local agency, is part of the overall grant program of the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC), a state agency, providing grant allocations to each of the 351 cities and towns of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in support of cultural activities in their respective areas. The Massachusetts Cultural Council is funded by the Massachusetts Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts.

For questions of the 2027 grant cycle, please call Michelle LeBoeuf, SCC Chairperson at 508-764-4803 or Ted Bartlett, SCC Treasurer at 508-764-7909.

FIND YOUR BEST NIGHT'S SLEEP TODAY

FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

SPECIAL SAVINGS!

Crown Jewel by Sealy® Jewel Nile
Queen Mattress Only

\$399*

Crown Jewel by Sealy® Opal House
Firm or Plush Queen Mattress Only

\$649*

Upgrade to an
Adjustable Base

Crown Jewel by Sealy® Royal Cove
Firm or Plush Queen Mattress Only

\$799*

CARRYING THE
TOP BRANDS



TEMPUR-PEDIC

STEARNS
& FOSTER

LAYAWAY* • FREE DELIVERY & REMOVAL* • FREE FINANCING AVAILABLE*

**SUNDEEN
FURNITURE**

241 Providence Rd.
Whitinsville, MA 01588
(508) 234-8777

Mon.-Wed. 9:30 AM-6 PM
Thurs.-Fri. 9:30 AM-7 PM
Sat. 9:30 AM-6 PM/Sun. 11 AM-5 PM

*Terms and conditions apply. See store for details. Copyright 2023 Sealy, Inc. All rights reserved.

ROSS TAVERN

BAR • GRILL

AT COHASSETT GOLF CLUB

PUBLIC WELCOME

Casual Attire

Hours

MONDAY - THURSDAY	FRIDAY & SATURDAY
11AM - 8PM	11AM - 9PM

50% OFF

AN APPETIZER

Present this coupon.
One coupon per table.
Not valid with any other offer.

393 EASTFORD RD
SOUTHBRIDGE, MA

END OF SUMMER

End of Summer

SALE!

DEALS BETTER THAN the BIG BOX STORES!

FRIGIDAIRE DISHWASHER

REG. \$449.99
\$329.99

G.E. STOVE w/AIR FRY

REG. \$899.99
\$699.99

SMOOTH-TOP STOVE

REG. \$699.99
\$599.99

21 CU. FT. FREEZER

REG. \$999.99
\$799.99

G.E. 27 CU. FT. FRENCH DOOR REFRIGERATOR

REG. \$1999.99
\$1699.99

5 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER

REG. \$239.99
\$189.99

AMANA WASHER OR DRYER

REG. \$599.99
\$489.99

ENERGY STAR 18 CU. FT. REFRIGERATOR

REG. \$699.99
\$599.99

FAMOUS-MAKER OVER-THE-STOVE MICROWAVE

REG. \$249.99
\$229.99

LG WASHER OR DRYER

Front Load - REG. \$1599.99
\$1,399.99

MAYTAG DELUXE WASHER OR DRYER

REG. \$699.99
\$529.99

FRIGIDAIRE SIDE BY SIDE

REG. \$1,499.00
\$1199.99

END-OF-SEASON BIKE SALE!

WE REPAIR BIKES!

GREAT SELECTION OF E-BIKES

WHITCO

140 MAIN STREET, SPENCER, MA
508.885.9343

WE INSTALL MICROWAVES, DISHWASHERS, and TVs!

Store Hours: Mon. thru Fri: 10am-8:30pm • Sat: 9am-8pm • Sun: 12 Noon-7pm

NOW OPEN

APPLES

The Harvest Is In!

Visit The Farm For:

- Just Baked Pies
- Cider Donuts • Cheese

FREE

with this coupon and \$8 purchase

Tues. thru Thurs. Only

1/2 Dozen Cider Donuts

Southbridge Rd., Warren, MA • 413-436-7122

Open 10am, - 6pm

5 min. from Sturbridge - 148 N. Follow signs

REMEMBER TO RECYCLE