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Thursday-Friday, June 5-6, 2025

Council candidates lay out positions at forum

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBIDGE — The town got its chance to see what this year's Town Council candidates think about a wide range of local issues as Jasmin Rivas, Mike Montigny, Dave Adams and Gil Provost sparred off a little on May 20.

Voters will choose three of the four next Tuesday, June 10. Polls are at the Community Center and will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

They're all basically known entities, since the first three are now or have recently been on the council, while the fourth is on the Board of Health

and a council subcommittee. Right off the bat, they

talked about a recently hot issue – costs hitting seniors. Rivas started by

noting people are being priced out of their apartments, while others can't

afford rising property taxes. To address that, she advocated creating some kind of “relief for rent” and other costs, especially health care. In a more general sense, she argued housing needs to meet Southbridge's needs “rather than having it be luck of the draw.”

Adams agreed. Regarding health care, he noted, “if I can't afford something like that, I'm pretty sure seniors on fixed incomes can't as well.”

To fix that, he cited various local services (as did Rivas), suggested setting up a revolving fund for grants to seniors, and researching what other places have tried.

Montigny said he'd “stop all the extra housing projects coming to our town” to focus on building for seniors and veterans.

Provost said he'd work with the state legislators to get grant money for more housing.

The second question was more generally about housing, with Montigny arguing new projects need “incredible oversight on them.” While the council usually has no real say on what developers do, the community has to work together to determine the builders' intentions, he said. To him, that means looking at the bylaws to

Turn To **CANDIDATES** page 13

Singer continues call for action by School Committee

BY JASON BLEAU

COR1wwRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — Charlton Selectman David Singer has continued his pursuit of a public statement against hate from the Dudley Charlton Regional School Committee months after addressing controversial material promoted by the Massachusetts Teachers Association to educate students about the Israel-Hamas War.

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Police, fire weigh in on 39 Elm plans

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBIDGE — The fire and police departments are raising some concerns about a proposal to put around 40 apartments into 39 Elm St., according to memos read into the Planning Board's record late last month.

In one, Fire Chief Paul Normandin noted ongoing residential development is causing a “marked increase in call volumes” for both police and fire, with a lot of false alarms and EMS calls at the last two apartment complexes that opened (5 Case St. and the Wells School). That's becoming an “unsustainable burden” on the departments, and future development needs to include how emergency services can be supported.

Regarding this site specifically, he wrote that emergency access to the back of the building for fire trucks “is critical” in light of the plan to have a lot of parking there. Trucks have to be able to “safely navigate and turn around the rear of the structure,” he noted.

Councilor and retired firefighter George Chenier agreed, describing it as “a life safety issue.” He said the department needs to be able to get their tower truck and/or 100-foot ladder truck both back there and to the back of Town Hall. That can be an issue especially when larger trucks are delivering to the Elm Center Cafe and/or Town Hall, because they “block the road.”

In a different memo, Police Chief Shane Woodson said the police have sometimes had to visit some of the same apartments in recent developments multiple times a week, dealing with mental health and other issues. Opening apartments at 39 Elm will require more patrols downtown and “greatly impact our ability to provide community policing” elsewhere without additional officers, he wrote.

Vice Chair Mike Loin agreed that extra housing might require budgeting for more emergency staff, but the board “can't stop

a project for that” as long as it's allowed by zoning. Later, he said he feels it

Turn To **39 ELM** page 13



Courtesy

Hazy McNally and Eleanor Leland are the first two recipients of the Ann Manning Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship is newly established in honor of Mrs. Manning who taught seventh grade English at Tantasqua from 1968-2002. Mrs. Manning stayed in touch with many of her students well into her retirement. This lifelong connection is what made the family want to form a scholarship in Ann's name to help individuals from Tantasqua who wish to pursue a career in education. From left to right: Kendra Salviuolo (presenter/granddaughter), Hazy McNally, Eleanor Leland, Michaela Salviuolo (presenter/granddaughter), and Dana Manning (presenter/daughter). Mrs. Manning passed away unexpectedly in August 2024, just 20 days after being diagnosed with a very aggressive form of lymphoma.



Charlton Legion to host flag retirement ceremony

CHARLTON — On Saturday, June 14 at 5 p.m., please join American Legion Post 391 on the Charlton Town Common for an official flag retirement ceremony.

The proper disposal of American Flags is outlined in the U.S. Flag Code, Title 4, Section 8k which states, “The flag when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem of display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.”

The American Legion established a formal ceremony for the disposal of flags deemed no longer serviceable in 1937. The ceremony was created to ensure that flags, particularly those used on Memorial Day that have become worn and faded, are retired in a dignified manner that honors their service to the nation. It was recommended that the ceremony be held annually on Flag Day: June 14. In Charlton, this tradition has been held annually in accordance with proper flag retirement etiquette dictated by the American Legion and typically assisted by the Charlton Scouts BSA Troop 165 that is sponsored by American Legion Post 391.

This year, the Troop will not be joining the American Legion Post 391 due to the annual American Legion camporee hosted by the Massachusetts American Legion at Camp Collier in Gardner. This camp out includes a flag retirement ceremony as well that all attendees participate in.

Flags in need of retirement can be dropped off in the bin by the front door of the town hall.

We hope you will join Post 391 in the solemn ceremony and learn more about the history surrounding our Flag and the proper etiquette involved in retiring a flag.

Did you know that the American Flag can be retired in other ways besides burning? Starsforourtroops.org is a non-profit organization of volunteers who takes old flags and takes the embroidered stars and sends them to those who defend them. Stars can be ordered and sent to members of all armed forces including active duty personnel and veterans. You can donate your flags to their organization following the guidelines listed on their web page.

Adams: “Forge our own generational path that’s successful”



Dave Adams

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE — For Dave Adams, going out of town has given him ideas to bring back to Southbridge. “I have more in the tank,” he said. “I work in a couple towns and have learned

about various things Southbridge can do. I’ve already started planting the seeds, [asking] what do you think about this?”

He’s referring to the fact he’s one of four people seeking three Town Council seats on June 10, where he served three years previously. This week, we’re also profiling Gil Provost (see other story); last week, we ran the two incumbents, Mike Montigny and Jasmin Rivas.

“A year ago, I was done,” he admitted. “It wasn’t like I hated it, but I needed a breather.”

Now he’s taking up some things he advocated for while on the council, plus a few new things. Several of them seek to help seniors and/or veterans, but he’s also looking at schools, development, taxes, housing, trash and even making a couple changes to town government.

Take the schools, for starters. While he agrees with wanting the town to take them over again, Adams points to a key factor — the fact the state’s receivership has brought in a lot of money, both for high-needs kids and other changes.

“How do we maintain that after they leave?” he asks, later noting, “The town knows better than the state, we hope. We can argue how it was 10 years ago,

but can also argue how it’s gone for the last 10 years. ... We have to work together; the state has to be a partner with the whole thing.”

Among the changes he’d like to see are adding agricultural education and trade schools back into the public system. As he put it, the systems need to balance academics and “street education” to “forge our own generational path that’s successful.”

to him, that would also apply to the economy. Over the next 10-15 years, Adams wants to see Southbridge get back “to being a vibrant town with job opportunities for all levels,” roads that are being repaired on a “proper maintenance

plan,” and a cultural understanding that “accepts all involved that’s positive.” Main Street, he argues, “should be nothing but retail,” with local shops and artists, and with the storefront churches and services elsewhere in town.

“We need to be progressive, but don’t forget where the town comes from,” he said. “Looking at this town and where it wants to be, it’s really about making it a better place to live.”

That, naturally, ties into housing. Adams noted he’s particularly concerned about some concepts of “veteran” housing he’s heard about — ones that miss a key need for clinicians and counselors to address common veteran needs. He said he’s spoken to the state veterans’ office about that and “will go to bat if it’s the right type and overseen well.”

Similarly, in his role as Veterans Agent in Oxford, he saw that town adopt sections of state law that allow veterans and seniors to get double the property tax abatements they’d normally get. (He brought those to the council recently, and they were on the agenda for Monday, after this paper’s deadline.)

He also noted he’d like to look into ways seniors can get aid via CDBG and other grants, free cash, revolving accounts and other means. “Can we freeze property taxes on seniors?” he wondered, noting such a thing needs to be flexible enough to handle recession. It would probably have to get state approval.

“You’ve got to do all your work first. You can’t just say it’ll happen,” he said.

In some areas, some of that work has already begun, often behind the scenes. Adams is still advocating for a transfer station he and others brought up as an option a couple years ago. He also notes he’ll ensure the town manager’s “evaluation will happen this year,” while admitting he should have pushed more for that previously. “It’s nothing against Jack. It’s about the position.”

Downstairs from the manager’s office, Adams sees an opportunity for a change also partly inspired by other towns. He’d like to see the town clerk become appointed. (Oxford started doing that a year or so ago, but Webster’s town meeting just rejected such an idea.)

“We’ve been blessed with our clerks, but there are so many laws we have to abide by there that we can’t just take our chances,” he said. He noted such a change would definitely have to go to the ballot and he said he’ll “do exactly what the people want us to do.”

“By bringing me back in, a lot of things that haven’t been talked about this past year will be brought up again,” he pledged. “... As a taxpayer, I want my

town to be in the best position it can be.”

Gus Steeves can be reached at gus.steeves2@gmail.com.

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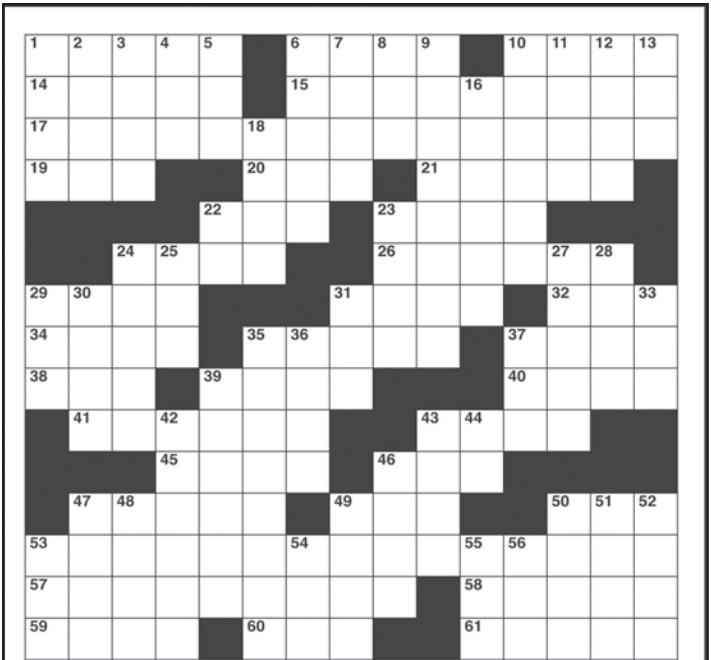
- **Central Baptist Church**
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Tel 508/764-6365; Worship 10:00 A.M.
- **Charlton Federated Church**, 64 Main St., 508- 248-5550, Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. Summer worship is 9:30 a.m. www.charltonfedchurch.org
- **Charlton Baptist Church**, 50 Hammond 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
- **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 Life/TEEN Mass 5 p.m., Weekday Mass Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30 a.m.
- **Wayside Church**, 6 Haggerty Road, 248-5144
- **Assemblies of God Southern New England District Headquarters**, Route 20, 248-3771, snedag.org, Office hours Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- **Living Word Church of Charlton**, 10 Main Street - Grange building 1st Floor, Charlton, MA 01507, Pastor Craig Bellisario, (508) 233-8349 Sunday Service 10:00am. www.livingwordcharlton.com info@livingwordcharlton.com
- **New Life Fellowship A/G, SNED Chapel**, 307 Sturbridge Road, Rt. 20, Charlton, MA, Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
- **Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale-** 8 Maple St. Sturbridge, 774-304-1021 www.sturfed.org
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
- **Bethlehem Lutheran Church-** 345 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566
Phone 508-347-7297
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Services - Sunday 9:00 am
Pastor Dan Purtell
- **Holland Congregation Church**
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Hollandchurch.org
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Pastor Dan Maketansky
- Holy Trinity Episcopal Church**
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Web: www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org
Sunday Service 11:00 am
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Marsh plant

6. Southern constellation (“The Peacock”)

10. Fogginess

14. Home to Fools’ Day

15. Absence of the sense of pain

17. Popular November holiday

19. Consume food

20. Buddy

21. Long-haired goat-antelope

22. Japanese honorific

23. Actor Malek

24. One point south of southeast

26. Illegal acts

29. As fast as can be done

31. Prevents harm to young

32. Exclamation of satisfaction

34. African nation
35. Slow-moving animal

37. Oh, goodness!

38. A team’s best pitcher

39. Cleanser

40. Radioactivity units

41. Expectorated matter

43. Cover a wide range

45. The central area of a church

46. California capital (abbr.)

47. Dutch painter Klaver

49. 007’s creator

50. Impression of dishonesty

53. Northeastern sports rivalry

57. Cloths

58. Stalin’s police chief

59. Hostleries

60. Bitterly regret

61. Anwar __, Egyptian statesman

CLUES DOWN

1. Satisfy

2. European health advocate

3. Expression of annoyance

4. Strong liquor

5. Large red deer

6. Holder of less common religious beliefs

7. West Indian shrub

8. Family of proteins

9. Wealthy, influential business leader

10. Low spirits

11. Approves food

12. Monetary unit of Iran and Oman

13. Mary __, cosmetics

16. Expressed in pithy maxims

18. Relaxing spaces

22. The NFL’s big game

23. Proof of payment (abbr.)

24. Starchy preparation of dried orchid tubers

25. Indicates near
27. Minneapolis suburb

28. Herring-like fish

29. Doctors’ group

30. Pouches

31. Bread dipping in sauce

33. Commercials

35. A reminder of past events

36. Affected by injury

37. Geological time

39. Stationary part of a motor

42. Brings together

43. Of sound mind

44. Personal computer

46. Without (French)

47. A bank might give you one

48. Agricultural testing organization

49. A small island

50. Type of gene

51. Murres

52. Card game

53. A measure of human health

54. Australian airline (abbr.)

55. One point south of due west

56. Affirmative

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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Southbridge Water Department to perform hydrant flow test

SOUTHBRIDGE — Southbridge Water Department will perform a hydrant flow test on their hydrant on Wednesday, June 11 at approximately 9 p.m. The location tested will be on Commercial Dr. in Southbridge. The procedure will include testing the operation and capacity of the hydrant on the property.

The Department requests that during this period customers check their water before washing clothes. Customers may also get accumulated sediments in their house laterals the next morning. This will clear after a brief run of water at the tap.

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Provost: “I’m being my own man 100 percent”



Gil Provost

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE — To Gil Provost, business is partially a magic word. He invoked it often during the Council Candidates’ Forum (see related story), but when you sit with him, he gets into some more detail. Generally, Provost wants to see “tons and tons of things we can do to bring people to town.” Among them are “mom and pop shops,” restaurants, antique stores like Putnam, weekend activity places and clubs – places that can make downtown “be more of a destination,” he said. He’s running against Mike Montigny, David Adams and Jasmin Rivas for one of three seats on the June 10 ballot. This week, we feature Provost and Adams (see other story); last week, we profiled Rivas and Montigny. Regarding the people who are helping him, he said, “I’m being my own man 100 percent. I want to do what’s best

for Southbridge, Southbridge First, and ask the voters what they like. Don’t make any hasty decisions.” Funding such development is a key issue. He said he likes the idea of the town advertising the available spaces and seeking grants to fix the various vacant storefronts, but is also willing to use a bit of a stick – “maybe force [owners] to do something. You can’t have a building vacant.” That said, though, Provost said he wants to favor owner-occupied places over the investor-owned ones, and that’s also true of residential properties. He said he wants to “make it worthwhile for people to stay in town and live in their homes.” Part of that would be to limit rent hikes to keep things affordable, but he admits he’s not sure how to do that legally. “I don’t know how you’re going to word it – that’s not me,” he adds. One alternative could be to build more public housing, lobbying the state for funding. If that can happen, he’d make them 55+ only, noting “elderly people need places to live because they can’t afford to stay where they’re living. ...If we own it, it’s probably the only way we can protect them.” By contrast, though, he said he’s “totally against” turning more of the AO complex into housing because it’s “awesome industrial and commercial land.” To him, the apartments “overload our police, fire and infrastructure,” and he’d rather see the place be retail, maybe a strip mall. He said he could’ve seen Hamilton Mill become something like the mill in Sturbridge, but expects “to rip it down” now. Regarding town government, Provost said the big issue is getting the schools back. He’d have a “townwide teachers’ meeting” to see what they want, and create a committee to look at the schools’ repair needs. He noted he

doesn’t believe the recently released report saying they need \$133 million in work. Beyond that, he’d like to “figure out how we can save money and cut waste ... I don’t think we need 17 million secretaries for the superintendent.” Within town hall itself, he’s pretty happy with Jack Jovan as manager, and supports the ballot question requiring managers to live here. But when it comes to reviewing his performance, Provost sees the council chair and vice chair as “pretty much in charge of that, in my eyes.” “How does Jack fix 10 things when there’s 100 things he’s got to fix?” he added. Elsewhere in town hall, Provost said he’d like to “get rid of all those fees taxpayers are paying. ... We’ve got to find a better way to do credit cards.” That’s a reference to the fact paying town bills on cards carries a fairly high processing fee, although they do accept checks and sometimes cash for such bills. He said he’d also like to create a town office that can connect people to rental and other housing programs, repair funding, fuel assistance and various other needs. As a veteran, he said he gets good health care, but he didn’t know what was available until someone told him, and he assumes many people are in the same situation with other programs. “If elected, my phone will always be on, and I’ll answer people’s questions in a timely manner,” he pledged.

Gus Steeves can be reached at gus.steeves2@gmail.com.

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Dementia Friendly Charlton presents Author Talk with Colleen Kelly Mellor

CHARLTON — Join us Tuesday, June 10, at 6 p.m. for a presentation by Colleen Kelly Mellor, author of “Az and Me: A Partner’s Journey with Alzheimer’s.” Kelly Mellor speaks to audiences and demonstrates how to survive—and even thrive—in life’s demanding situations when caring for a loved one with dementia. The discussion will focus on her book which reflects on her more than 10 years as sole caregiver to her husband diagnosed with this cognitive disease. Despite the challenging topics, she injects humor and grace into her stories. This presentation is sponsored by Dementia Friendly Charlton. It is free and open to the public. Registration is encouraged but not required and can be done at www.charltonlibrary.org. Charlton Public Library is located at 40 Main St. in Charlton. Additional parking is available across Main Street at Town Hall. For more events, visit our event calendar at www.charltonlibrary.org.



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REAL ESTATE

CHARLTON

\$410,000, 37 Carpenter Hill Rd, McCall, Ian M, and McCall, Emily N, to Drake, Gregory P.
\$370,000, 22 Highfield Rd #B, Dutton, Gary L, and Dutton, Monica S, to Fontaine, Jeanmarie, and Fontaine, Michael C.
\$125,000, Hiland Rd #2, Charlton Woods Const LLC, to Gomes, Stella.

HOLLAND

None

SOUTHBRIDGE

\$1,152,000, 197 Everett St, Brook Street Partners LLC, to Everett Street Sb LLC.
\$470,000, 79 Dresser St, Anctil Theresa M Est, and Anctil, Deborah A, to Steele, Kyle.
\$410,000, 48 Crestview Dr, Edward W Dziura Lt, and Dziura, William, to Gallo, John E, and Nguyen, Thuyen T.
\$395,000, 27 Maple Ter, Prism Origin Dev LLC, to Moore, Paige.
\$350,000, 79 Eastford Rd, Hogue, Kaitlyn A, to Santos-Anes, Charlotte J, and Otero, Jan.
\$275,000, 3 Blanchard Dr, Genereux

Mark R Est, and Genereux, Michelle A, to Lahaina Corp.

STURBRIDGE

\$1,800,000, 365 Main St, 365 Main Sturbridge LLC, to Sturbridge Crossing LLC.
\$615,000, 5 Woodside Cir, McCleary, Kevin, and McCleary, Jennifer, to Blais, Wylie.
\$590,000, 226 Charlton Rd, Saletnik, Theresa L, and Saletnik, Steven J, to Charlton Rd Acquis LLC.
\$570,000, 15 Glenridge Rd, Girouard, Lynne T, to Stone, Cody J, and Stone, Jessica M.
\$570,000, 43 Ridge Way, Girouard, Lynne T, to Stone, Cody J, and Stone, Jessica M.
\$490,000, 216 Charlton Rd, Lena, Christine E, to Charlton Rd Acquis LLC.
\$469,420, 69 Cricket Dr, Kathryn A Ashton T-2006, and Ashton, Kathryn A, to Williams, Alexis.
\$450,000, 10 School St, Bedard, John A, and Bedard, Madison, to 10 School Street LLC.
\$194,000, 328 New Boston Rd, Rhea, Brian N, and Rocket Mortgage LLC, to De La Cruz, Carmen.

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Chamber of Central Mass South remains open, ready to serve local businesses

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Chamber of Central Mass South Chamber (CMS) would like to assure its members, and local businesses that we have not closed and remain fully operational. Despite any confusion or rumors to the contrary, the Chamber is actively working to support economic growth and provide valuable resources to the businesses and organizations in our region.

"We want our members and the wider community to know that we are here, we are open, and we are committed to helping our region thrive," said Erika Burrows, chair of CMS Board of Directors. "From networking events to advocacy and business support services, we are continuing to do what we do best—strengthening the business community."

The Chamber encourages local business owners and entrepreneurs to reach out with questions or needs. Whether it's navigating resources, connecting with fellow professionals, or finding ways to grow, CMS remains a steadfast partner.

We are coming off of a very successful May Fun at Five at Rapscaillon, and looking forward to our next Fun at Five at

Scoops of Hope on June 17. Head to the CMS website to register and check out our other upcoming events scheduled for 2025.

Please visit <https://www.cmschamber.org/> or contact us at 508-753-2924 or info@cmschamber.org.

About the Central Mass South Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber of Central Massachusetts South (CMS) is com-

the Chamber staff and Board will work to provide a robust schedule of programs and events for our members that is relevant to their needs. Additionally, the Chamber will be proactive in advocating for our members' interests, both individually and collectively, whenever possible, in the spirit of expanding the region's economic vitality.

Area residents graduate from Wilbraham & Monson Academy



The Wilbraham & Monson Academy Class of 2025.

WILBRAHAM — Wilbraham & Monson Academy graduated 83 seniors and postgraduates on May 24 at its 221st Commencement Exercises.

The Class of 2025 hailed from seven states (Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Virginia) and 22 countries (Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Czech Republic, India,

Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Nigeria, United Kingdom, Angola, Russian Federation, Spain, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United States, Vietnam and Zimbabwe).

Ashley M. Valchuis, age 33, of Berlin was arrested on May 26 for Shoplifting by Concealing Merchandise, multiple counts of drug possession, and in connection with multiple warrants.

A 31-year-old female and 41-year-old male from Southbridge received summonses in lieu of arrest on May 27 for Assault & Battery (simple).

A 23-year-old from Southbridge was taken into protective custody on May 27 for Failure to Stop or Yield, Operating Under the Influence (Liquor), Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle.

A 28-year-old male from Southbridge received a summons in lieu of arrest on May 30 for Threatening to Commit a Crime.

Reneldine Plymouthe, age 24, of Southbridge was arrested on May 30 in connection with a warrant for operating a motor vehicle after suspension of license.

Stephen T. Cormier, age 52, of Southbridge was arrested on May 31 for Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle. A 41-year-old female from Charlton received a summons in lieu of arrest during the same incident for operating an Uninsured and Unregistered Motor Vehicle.

Shawnie L. Boyce, age 32, of Southbridge was arrested on May 31 in connection with a warrant for operating an Uninsured Motor Vehicle.

Jorge Armando
 Cortegana
 Rosales, age 37, of
 Southbridge was
 arrested on May
 31 for Operating
 a Motor Vehicle
 after suspension
 of license for OUI
 and operating an
 Unregistered and
 Uninsured Motor
 Vehicle.

SOUTHBRIDGE
POLICE LOG

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Police Department reported the following arrests from May 19 to June 2.

Darilys M. Maldonado, age 40, of Southbridge was arrested on May 19 for Possession of a Class B Drug and in connection with multiple warrants.

Michael Diaz-Torres, age 21, of Southbridge was arrested on May 20 in connection with a warrant for Interfering with a Police Officer.

Jose Torres, age 44, of Southbridge was arrested on May 21 for Domestic Assault and Battery.

Pedro Juan Ayala Nieves, age 46, of Southbridge was arrested on May 22 in connection with a warrant.

A 31-year-old male from Southbridge received a summons in lieu of arrest on May 22 for Distribution of a Class B Drug (subsequent offense). Dylan McCaughey, age 21, of Putnam, Conn. was arrested during the same incident for Possession of a Class B Drug, Resisting Arrest, and Disorderly Conduct.

Jahir Shammar Lawrence, age 23, of Southbridge was arrested on May 23 in connection with multiple warrants.

Karl Kendricks, age 31, of Southbridge was arrested on May 23 for Trafficking in 200 Grams or More of Cocaine, Possession of a Class B Drug (subsequent offense), and in connection with a warrant for Distribution of a Class B Drug (subsequent offense).

Isaias Velasco, Jr., age 24, of Southbridge was arrested on May 24 in connection with a warrant for acting as an Accessory After the Fact.

Deven Joseph Dodge, age 25, of Southbridge was arrested on May 24 for Violation of a Harassment Prevention Order.

Monica Marie Wardle, age 27, of Southbridge was arrested on May 24 in connection with a warrant for acting as an Accessory After the Fact.

A 27-year-old from Southbridge was taken into protective custody for undisclosed reasons on May 24.

Franyavier Sierra Rivera, age 21, of Southbridge was arrested on May 25 in connection with a warrant for Conspiracy to Violate Drug Law. A 22-year-old male also from Southbridge received a summons in lieu of arrest during the same incident for Possession of a Class E Drug.

A 23-year-old male from Southbridge received a summons in lieu of arrest on May 26 for Assault with a Dangerous Weapon, Disorderly Conduct, Leaving the Scene of Property Damage, and Malicious Damage to a Motor Vehicle.




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

A 23-year-old from Southbridge was taken into protective custody on May 27 for Failure to Stop or Yield, Operating Under the Influence (Liquor), Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle.


A 28-year-old male from Southbridge received a summons in lieu of arrest on May 30 for Threatening to Commit a Crime.

Reneldine Plymouthe, age 24, of Southbridge was arrested on May 30 in connection with a warrant for

Friday's Child



Emily
Age 10
Registration #8787







Emily is a warm, empathetic, and outgoing child who shines in the spotlight and enjoys connecting with those around her. Often described as a “girly girl,” Emily embraces her playful and stylish side. She’s adventurous and open-minded, always willing to try something new. Emily loves staying active—whether she’s playing soccer, spending time outdoors, or imagining stories with her dolls. She also enjoys reading, listening to music, and is enthusiastic about school, where her love for learning really shines through.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/21185047586>

Can I Adopt?

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

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



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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER
BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Pride Month —
a celebration of
freedom, love,
and basic human
respect

Pride Month isn't about parades for the sake of spectacle, or some imagined political agenda. It's about something much deeper and far more American: the right to live freely, love openly, and exist without fear.

At its core, Pride is a celebration of freedom of expression, a reminder that all people are created equal, and a protest against the idea that anyone should feel ashamed of who they are or who they love.

It's wild, honestly, that in 2025 we still have to say this out loud: LGBTQ+ people have every right to exist, to love, and to thrive just like anyone else. But the hate, the violence, the bullying is still happening. Most of it comes from people who seem to be bothered by lives that have absolutely nothing to do with them.

What makes someone furious about two women holding hands? Or two men building a life together? Why do some people fixate on other people's relationships as if they were their business to approve or condemn? It's strange, and it's telling.

A big part of it comes down to representation. For so long, gay couples and anyone who isn't straight were invisible in media, ignored in history, and left out of the everyday story society tells about itself. And when something seems different or unfamiliar, some folks decide it's wrong. But different doesn't mean wrong. It just means different.

Pride Month is about countering that invisibility. It's about creating a world where LGBTQ+ people don't have to wonder if they'll be safe in public, or if their identity will cost them their job, their family, or their lives. It's about telling the kid in the small town, or the adult who's finally coming out later in life: you are not alone, and there is nothing wrong with you.

Pride isn't about sex. That's a tired excuse opponents use when they don't want to confront their own discomfort. Pride is about love, the right to love without shame, without silence, and without asking permission.

LGBTQ+ people are more than who they love. They are teachers, veterans, parents, artists, first responders, elected officials, neighbors, and friends. They contribute to society in every way imaginable. The idea that some people's lives matter less because of their identity is not just wrong, it's un-American.

Pride Month is a time to honor courage, community, and the hard-won right to live authentically. It's also a time to remind ourselves that no one's existence is more important than anyone else's. We're all just trying to live.

And for those who still feel the need to tear others down because of who they love, perhaps it is time to ask what that says about yourselves, not 'them.' Because live and let live isn't just good advice — it's one of the bedrock principles of a civil society.

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

EARTHBORN

Deep time and the message of civilization

BY GUS STEEVES

Let me take you on a mind journey – not through space, but through time. Picture yourself walking along a path beside a rocky river; hearing that flow, feeling the wind through huge cycad trees, watching a six-inch-long dragonfly buzz you and fly away, feeling the heat. Around the next bend, the trail becomes a stone causeway, and the trees open to a large marsh dotted with many mounds connected by similar causeways. Most of them have buildings on them, low-slung structures with triangular, point-up doorways and activity buzzing around them.

But none of it is human. Instead, you see groups of sail-backed lizards carrying things, sunning themselves, talking, playing whatever games intelligent lizards play.

Welcome to the world of the Dimetrodons, roughly 270 million years ago.

Might that have happened? We'll never know for sure.

Personally, I like the idea Earth might have been home to other intelligent species over the 400 million years complex life's been here, and could host such species after us. If our own tenure here is a valid comparison point, the vast majority of them were and probably will be hunter-gatherer cultures, some practice agriculture, and a tiny few have enough technology to be global in impact.

In fact, we share Earth with several smart beings – chimps, dolphins, octopi, elephants and crows, to name a few. They deserve the chance to become advanced species like we did; but for that to happen, we have to let them live.

Even if Dimetrodons numbered in the billions, we have only a few physical fossils. Even if they had an advanced culture 10 or 100 times longer than human civilization so far (roughly 10,000 years) and had a global impact like ours (roughly 500 years old), the timespan since their era has been so incredibly long essentially all of the evidence is gone. In our mind journey, the massive CO2 spike associated with the Permian Extinction that followed their era could have been caused in part by them, but there's no way to actually distinguish it

from natural causes now.

That's a version of the claim made by a 2019 paper called "The Silurian Hypothesis" by Gavin Schmidt and Adam Frank. They weren't trying to argue for the existence of other species' civilizations eons ago, just trying to lay out the kinds of evidence we might want to look for if we suspect one, and what future species might find from our civilization.

Their list is pretty short, for two main reasons. The most obvious is the short duration of our high-energy-use culture. They note, "the Anthropocene will likely only appear as a section a few cm thick, and appear almost instantaneously in the record." The less obvious is that "the longer a civilization lasts, the more sustainable its practices would need to have become in order to survive. The more sustainable a society (e.g. in energy generation, manufacturing or agriculture), the smaller the footprint on the rest of the planet," they write.

As some have suggested, a truly long-term civilization might have no detectable impact at all.

Some of our footprint is physical. Giant open-pit mines and canyons blasted through rock for highways will be detectable for a long time, but will future species be able to tell they're of artificial origin after some erosion has happened?

A more widespread part our footprint is a pretty bizarre mix of chemicals – PCBs, PFAS, some CFCs, pesticides and other "persistent organic pollutants;" plastics; unusual concentrations of metals; manmade variations of proteins and the like; various metabolites of drugs, and more. But how long any of them actually last is unknown. We're already seeing the evolution of bacteria that can consume various plastics and possibly PFAS chemicals. Being made from petroleum, plastics are both biological and energy dense, so nature is almost certain to evolve something that will take advantage of that energy source.

Although Schmidt and Frank note "steroids, leaf waxes, alkenones and lipids can be preserved in sediment for

Turn To **EARTHBORN** page **A7**

TO THE EDITOR

Not all superheroes wear capes

To the Editor:

Many people work because they have to and some work because they like the social aspect and then there is the rare person who genuinely loves their job and it shows! Michelle Drumm, the Charlton Council on Aging Director who manages the Senior Center, is one of those people. You could not find someone better matched for what they were meant to do. Charlton was lucky enough to have hired Michelle almost a year ago exactly from this date. In that time, she has worked tirelessly, sustaining long hours in service to others and for the betterment of a rapidly growing population of seniors in our town. And she exudes a continuously upbeat, positive attitude, uplifting all those around her. She has improved the center in a myriad of ways from the programming to the food to the health and wellbeing of the many who visit.

The funny thing is if you asked her, she would say it is all because of the thirty-odd volunteers she has that keep the place humming. And she wouldn't be wrong, because these people give selflessly doing everything from handyman repairs and washing dishes to helping people file taxes and recognizing and assisting with health issues. They encompass a wide range of skill sets and through Michelle's compelling example,

people want to do more because she recognizes, appreciates and encourages all of their talents and contributions. I was honored to be invited to a Thank You luncheon for all of these people, arranged by Michelle. It was a very nice event with a great meal and even a tour of a historic property. Michelle made a point of meeting everyone at the door with a friendly greeting and introducing those of us who did not know one another. She mixed and mingled, interacted with staff so everything moved along seamlessly and made sure everyone knew who everyone else was, and why they were there. She got people talking and joking, creating a great sense of camaraderie and everyone left feeling great pride. It struck me that this is her superpower, the same one she demonstrates daily at the Senior Center. I hope Michelle left feeling the same pride, because it was quite clear that all who were there felt the same way about her as she does them. Charlton is quite fortunate to have such a well run Senior Center offering the many services and events that allow our seniors to live happier, healthier lives. When you see Michelle, please join me in saying "Thank you!"

PAT STOCKWELL
CHARLTON

Support Rivas and Rivers

To the Editor:

Community. That is what I see and hear from Town Councilor Jasmin Rivas. Each council meeting, she points out or brings up community issues that no one else does: food insecurity, homelessness, schools, the arts, and social events and businesses in town. (To be fair, Councilors Marketti and Daniels do as well!) For the school committee candidates, all four (two on the ballot and two write-in) contribute community, intelligence, and the best interest of the schools. All would be great, but Stephanie Rivers stands out for me. She has shown her commitment to the schools through her actions, coming to town council with

issues and helping students stand up for themselves. She has a long history with the schools having been a student, a daughter of a teacher, and a parent of several students as well as administering the Facebook page for parents of children in Southbridge schools. That means she knows a lot about the schools and a lot of the participants. On June 10, I encourage you to support two long time Southbridge residents who care about their town, the schools, and the people in both. Please write in Stephanie Rivers for School Committee and vote for Jasmin Rivas.

MAUREEN DOYLE
SOUTHBRIDGE

Questions to ask your financial advisor



FINANCIAL
FOCUS

TREVOR
NIELSEN

You should always be able to ask as many questions as you'd like when working with your financial advisor. So, before you have your annual review, think carefully about what you'd like to ask.

Here are a few suggestions:

Are my goals still realistic? When you first began working with your financial advisor, you may well have articulated several financial goals. For example, you might have said that you wanted to pay for most of your children's college education, or that you'd like to retire at age 55, or that you hope to travel internationally every year during retirement. In fact, you could have many different goals for which you're saving and investing. When you meet with your financial advisor, you'll certainly want to ask whether you're still on track toward meeting these goals. If you are, you can continue with the financial strategies you've been following; but if you aren't, you may need to adjust them. The same is true if your goals have changed. You and your financial advisor will want to build a strategy to address any new or different goals such as emergency cash needs, having adequate insurance protection or estate planning.

Am I taking on too much — or too little — risk? Put market declines in perspective. The financial markets always fluctuate, and these movements will affect the value of your investment portfolio. Suppose you watch the markets closely every day and track their impact on your investments. You may find yourself fretting over their value and wondering whether you're taking on too much investment risk for your comfort level. Conversely, if during an extended period of market gains your own portfolio appears to be lagging, you might feel that you should be investing more aggressively, which entails greater risk. In any case, it's important to consult with your financial advisor to determine your risk tolerance and use it as a guideline for making investment choices.

How will changes in my life affect my investment strategy? Your life is not static. Over the years, you may experience any number of major events, such as marriage, remarriage, loss of a spouse, birth of children or grandchildren, changing jobs or illness leading to early retirement. When you meet with your financial advisor, you will want to discuss these types of changes, because they can affect your long-term goals and your investment decisions.

How are external forces affecting my investment portfolio? Generally speaking, you will want to create an investment strategy based on your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon. And, as mentioned, you may need to adjust your strategy based on changes in your life. But should you also make changes based on outside forces, such as interest rate movements, political events, inflation, new tax legislation or news affecting industries in which you have invested substantially? Try not to make long-term investment decisions based on short-term news. Yet, talk with your financial advisor to make sure your investment portfolio and spending strategy are not out of alignment with relevant external factors.

By making these and other inquiries, you can help yourself stay informed about your overall investment picture and what moves, if any, you should make to keep advancing toward your goals. A financial advisor is there to provide you with valuable guidance — so take full advantage of it.

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

Better for knowing

“His Master said,
“well done good and
faithful servant...”
Matthew 25:23

Not long ago, I was
at a funeral; a sad but
powerful reminder that
every day is a gift, and
tomorrow is promised to
no one.

During the service
as the various eulo-
gists shared stories
and insights about the
deceased, honoring
their lost loved one, my
thoughts ran the range
of the expected – recall-
ing happy memories, sad-
ness, the reality of loss,
joy in the friends remain-
ing, and so forth.

Then this thought
came into my head loud-
ly, clearly, and stayed for
a long while....

“A life well lived.”

Then I thought “How
do we define a life well

BEYOND
THE PEWS
.....
BY DR. RB MCFEE
CHARLTON CITY UMC

lived?”

Part of that powerful
notion is this question
– am I living a life well
lived?

The great Scottish poet
– Robert Burns shared a
powerful insight that I
will paraphrase

“Oh what a gift the
giver could give us, if we
could see us as others see
us.”

If we have led a life
well lived, chances are
the people we interacted
with will be able to share
stories of goodness and
light when they ‘see us.’
But we shouldn’t have to
wait to learn how others

see us or whether we
had positive effect on
others. We should be
mindful of who we are
to others, purposeful
in our interactions and
actions.

That said, as the vari-
ous eulogies were shared,
an important theme
emerged – eulogists said
they were “better for
knowing” the person who
died.

It is a lovely turn of
phrase and profound
notion...

“Better for knowing”

We can apply that
notion to our homework
and scholastic activities
– are we better, better off
for what we learned?

We can apply it to
coaches and teachers –
are we better off for their
efforts?

And most importantly

we can apply it to our-
selves – are people better
off for knowing us? Is the
world, the dinner table,
the family get together,
the party a better place
because we are in it, or
because we left? Is the
workplace, church, vol-
unteer organization,
team, or group better
because we are partici-
pants or not?

As a person of faith the
question comes down to
this – do you and I add
light or darkness where-
ver we go?

One of my friends lost a
mentor – someone of the
Quaker faith; a Christian
denomination that recog-
nizes the inner light, the
Divine Light in each of
us. My friend described
his mentor as someone
who not only could see
your inner light, but
always found a way to
make your light shine
brighter.

No doubt people were
better for knowing him.

Put differently, how
would your obituary or
mine be written right
now, or what would our
eulogists say at this
moment, not some neb-
ulous future but in this
moment?

As a physician, I’ve
seen firsthand how every
day is a gift, especially for
those struggling to have
one more, praying for just
a little more time.

How will we use our
time?

What will we do today,
right now that makes
someone better for know-
ing us?

All we need do is look
around for opportunities
to help others feel bet-
ter for knowing us. All
around us are people –
friends, family, strangers
who face chasm sized
challenges, who perhaps

face loneliness, illness,
or carry some burden,
and need to feel better for
knowing someone – may
that someone be you and
me.

For any person of faith,
the hope of hearing our
Lord say “well done good
and faithful servant,”
is a powerful reminder
how we should live what
remaining time we are
blessed to enjoy. But that
hope is based upon our
actions in the here and
now, not then and here-
after.

In a world that contin-
ues to struggle with light
and darkness, what if
each of us was a candle?
What if we turned up
our inner light just a bit
more? What if we focused
on making the world bet-
ter because we are part
of it, not because we left?

What if each person we
met was better for know-
ing us?

Garden Plants that Deter Mosquitos

When planting your
garden this season, why
not choose a few plants
that contain natural mos-
quito repellent proper-
ties? From catnip to lav-
ender; there are several
easy to grow flowers and
herbs that have proven
to repel the pesky insects
– with some proving to
be as effective as chemi-
cal commercial offerings!
Read on for a rundown of
the most common garden
favorites that keep the
bugs at bay!

Mint: Mint is an easy
to grow mosquito repel-
lent. Thanks to the
oils that the plant pro-
duce, mint does double
duty: Not only does mint
deter mosquitos, but dab-
bing the leaves it on a
fresh mosquito bite can
provide relief!

A popular mosqui-
to spray recipe: Mix in
a spray bottle, one cup
freshly picked mint
leaves with two cups of
distilled water. Add two
tablespoons of Witch
Hazel and shake.

FYI: Mint also deters
flies and ants!

Marigolds: Marigolds
are not only a bright spot
in the garden and easy
to grow, but their dis-
tinctive scent also repel
mosquitos. The pompom
flowers contain the natu-
ral chemical pyrethrum,
which is an ingredient in
some commercial mos-
quito sprays. (Last week,
this column highlighted
the health boosting prop-
erties of Marigolds.)

FYI: Plant marigolds
in the garden as compan-
ion plants to deter com-
mon garden pests such
as aphids and whiteflies.

Catnip: Catnip’s secret
weapon against mosqui-
toes is a natural com-
pound, Nepetalactone. In
fact, studies show that
catnip is at least as power-
ful as the chemical DEET
as deterring mosqui-
tos. One early study from
the American Chemical
Society revealed catnip is
ten times more effective
at deterring mosquitos as
DEET!

FYI: Pick leaves and
rub it between your



TAKE THE HINT

KAREN
TRAINOR

palms to release com-
pounds and wipe it on
exposed skin. The effects
last up to an hour at a
time.

Bee Balm: Bee Balm is
noted for its capacity to
lure bees, but a bonus to
planting this herb is that
the plants contain thymol
and carvacrol, and in
addition to its natu-
rally strong scent has the
power to deter mosquitos.

How to: You can simply
pick leaves and rub it on
exposed skin. Or, concoct
a simple infused oil by
soaking leaves into coco-
nut oil.

FYI: Native Americans
discovered Bee
Balm’s anti-inflamma-
tory and antimicrobial
properties could bring
down fevers, relieve

coughs and congestion
and fight infections.

Basil: Basil is not only
a favorite kitchen herb,
but the plant also repels
mosquitos (and flies)!

According to Metode.
org, basil contains sev-
eral volatile compounds,
including estragole (also
known as tarragon),
methyl-nonyl-ketone,
geraniol, citronellal, and
limonene.

Bentley Seed Company
published this natural
mosquito spray:

Pick six ounces of fresh
basil leaves, clean them
thoroughly and place
them in a container such
as a pitcher or glass jar.

Pour four ounces of
boiling water over the
leaves and let the mixture
steep for several hours.
Remove the leaves and
squeeze their remaining
juices into the liquid.
Pour the liquid into a
spray bottle. Add four
ounces of vodka (it func-
tions as a carrier) to the
liquid and shake the mix-
ture gently; your home-
made insect repellent is
ready to be sprayed on

skin and clothing.

Take care to keep this
“adult” DIY repellent out
of the reach of children
and don’t get the spray in
your eyes, nose or mouth.

FYI: As a bonus, basil
is toxic to mosquito lar-
vae too; plant basil where
freestanding water col-
lects.

Lavender: Lavender
has many virtues, not the
least of which is that it
serves as a natural mos-
quito deterrent. This is
due to the natural com-
pounds, such as linalool
and liminene, which have
proven repellent proper-
ties.

To use, simply crush
lavender (flowers and
leaves) in your hand and
rub on exposed skin.

FYI: Linalool is what
gives lavender its calm-
ing properties.

Win Dinner for Two at
the Publick House
Your tips can win you
a great dinner for two
at the historic Publick
House Historic Inn in
Sturbridge! Simply send
in a hint to be entered

into a random drawing.
One winner per month
will win a fabulous three
course dinner for two
at the renowned restau-
rant, located on Route
131 across the town
common in historic
Sturbridge. Because I’m
in the business of dis-
pensing tips, not invent-
ing them (although I can
take credit for some), I’m
counting on you readers
out there to share your
best helpful hints!

Do you have a helpful
hint or handy tip that
has worked for you? Do
you have a question
regarding household or
garden matters? If so,
why not share them with
readers of Stonebridge
Press newspapers? Send
questions and/or hints
to: Take the Hint!, C/o
the Southbridge Evening
News, PO Box 90,
Southbridge, MA 01550.
Or email KDRR@aol.
com. Hints are entered
into a drawing for din-
ner for two at the historic
Publick House Inn.

Venting!

We’ve all done it.
Something goes wrong—a
bad day at work, a fight
with a friend—and the
words come pouring out.
Complaining can feel like
a relief. But what if sci-
ence says it’s not helping
at all?

Your brain is like a
hiking trail. Every time
you walk the same path,
it gets easier to find—and
harder to avoid. Venting
carves that path deeper.
The more you fixate on
what went wrong, the
more your brain learns
to return to that place.

Your brain can learn
both positive and nega-

tive habits. And the more
you replay either one,
the more your mind is
trained to stay in that
state. So when you con-
stantly focus on the neg-
ative—by venting, com-
plaining, or reliving what
went wrong—you’re
teaching your brain to
live there. To expect it.
To look for it. Constantly
hiking that trail, so to
speak.

When you vent with-
out seeking a solution,
your brain starts to
believe the problem is
bigger—and that you’re
smaller. Over time, you’re
not just describing the

would be detectable for a
large fraction of the rele-
vant time period if they
were deposited in suffi-
cient quantities, say, as a
result of a nuclear weap-
on exchange.”

Let’s hope that’s not
our message to future
species!

By contrast, what long-
term signature DO we
want to leave behind? Our
global impact has mostly
been very haphazard for
centuries now, to the det-
riment of humanity and
many other species. How
do we consciously craft
our civilization to ensure
not only humanity’s long-
term well-being, but also
that of the other species
sharing Earth? How do
we create space for future
intelligence to evolve
alongside and after us?

Gus Steeves can be
reached at gus.steeves2@
gmail.com.

struggle; you’re training
your mind to feel pow-
erless in the face of it.
Complaining becomes
less about release and
more about rehearsal.
Conditioning yourself
for failure.

Contrary to popu-
lar belief, expressing
anger without resolu-
tion doesn’t release emo-
tion—it amplifies it. It’s
like turning up the vol-
ume without changing
the song. Each time you
vent, your brain thinks
the threat is still happen-
ing, flooding your body
with stress and keeping
your nervous system in
a state of fight-or-flight.
The more you relive the
stress, the more your sys-
tem stays on high alert.
Not because of what hap-
pened but because you
won’t stop replaying it.

It’s hurting your rela-
tionships. It turns con-
versations into dumping
grounds, leaving listeners
feeling drained or help-
less—especially when
they feel unable to make
a difference. In trying to
release stress, we end up
spreading it. When grum-
bling becomes the main
event, connection takes
a back seat. Instead of a
conversation, it’s a mono-
logue. The listener can’t
help, and you both walk
away less happy.

Conventional wisdom
taught us that voicing our
struggles helps us “get it
all out,” but research sug-
gests otherwise. Studies
show that it doesn’t create
clarity—it creates confu-
sion. Instead of moving
toward resolution, we cir-

cle around blame, frus-
tration, and helplessness.
This kind of repetitive
negativity dampens our
brain’s ability to plan,
prioritize, and think
creatively. Complaining
aimlessly doesn’t unlock
solutions—it shuts them
down. The mind can’t
design solutions while
it’s stuck in survival
mode.

Emotions are conta-
gious! When we grumble,
we’re not just express-
ing—we’re transmitting.
Cortisol (your body’s
stress hormone) doesn’t
just stay in your blood-
stream; it causes others to
produce stress hormones,
too! Dysregulating not
just your nervous sys-
tem but everyone else’s
as well. What feels like
a release at the moment
can leave others feeling
anxious, irritable, or
exhausted—and you even
more out of sync.

Sadly, every time you
vent, voice your pain,

your wounds, your
“stuckness”—you
strengthen the story
that you are those
things. Instead of
helping your brain
process the expe-
rience and move
forward, constantly ven-
ting blends your identity
with the version of you
that’s still hurting. Over
time, that repeated focus
doesn’t lead to healing—
it leads to entanglement.
You stop being someone
who had a challenging
experience and starts
becoming someone who
is the experience.

Sure, complaining
can feel good—for a sec-
ond, like a steam valve
hissing open. But long-
term relief doesn’t come
from circling the same
complaints. It comes
from breaking the loop.
From reflection. From
pattern interruption.
From choosing to move
forward, even when your
feelings are still catching

POSITIVELY
SPEAKING
TOBY
MOORE

up. So, the next
time you feel
the urge to vent,
pause. Breathe.
Ask yourself what
you want—relief
or repetition. The

answer might change
everything. The truth is
that your brain is always
listening.

Every word you speak
shapes the path ahead. So
talk like someone who’s
going somewhere. Use
words that push you for-
ward, not hold you back.
You’re not powerless—
you’re learning, growing,
becoming. You don’t need
more drama. You need
direction. You don’t need
everything figured out—
you need to stop looking
back and start moving
forward.

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



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Rachel Gormley named to Western Carolina University’s Spring Chancellor’s List

CULLOWHEE, N.C. — Congratulations to Rachel Gormley of Charlton for being named to the Western Carolina University Spring 2025 Chancellor’s List.

Gormley was among more than 2,900 students to achieve this honor. To qualify for the Chancellor’s List, students must earn a GPA of 3.8 or higher. Students named to the Chancellor’s List are also named to the Dean’s List.

As the westernmost institution in the University of North Carolina System, WCU attracts students from around the globe for its nationally ranked programs, affordability through NC Promise and exceptional student support. Recognized as a top adventure college and surrounded by the Blue Ridge and Great Smoky Mountains, students can explore the region’s vast natural diversity through unrivaled experiential learning and recreational activities. Offering residential, hybrid and online programs for undergraduate and graduate degrees at our main campus in Cullowhee, WCU in Asheville located at Biltmore Park, and wherever students are through distance learning.

Nazareth University student Dakota Schantz earns Dean’s List honors

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — Nazareth University is proud to announce that Dakota Schantz of Sturbridge, MA has been named to the dean’s list for the spring 2025 semester.

A student’s grade point average must be at least 3.5 or above, and they must complete 12 credit hours of graded work that semester in order to be included on the dean’s list at Nazareth.

Nazareth University is an inclusive community of inspired learners, educators, and changemakers who for 100 years have been driven by a bold commitment to action, empathy, equity, and leading innovation for the common good. Impact experiences are at the heart of a Nazareth education, preparing each student to discover within themselves the potential to cultivate positive change in their life’s work, in any career field, and in a world that is constantly evolving and infinitely interconnected.

Our broad academic offerings present a range of study options typical of big universities, yet achieved in our supportive campus culture. Nearly 2,100 undergrad and 600 graduate students enroll in degree and certificate programs and engage in collaborative, transformative learning experiences, preparing them for the professions and society of today and tomorrow. In a learning community that purposefully integrates liberal arts and professional programs, Nazareth graduates launch lifetimes of changemaking leadership in communities and workplaces near and far.



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Farmers' markets resume



Facepainting was one of the available services at Big Bunny.



A couple vendors chat during down time in Southbridge.



The Wildberry Farm team chats early in Charlton's market.



One of the visitors hams it up a bit on the way out of the Southbridge market.



A young Charlton marketer rides her father's shoulders.



No, these are not bread. They're mushrooms.

The Farmers' Market season has returned to our region, with Southbridge, Charlton and Sturbridge reopening over the past week. As is common at this time of year, the vendors were mostly crafters and those who made things from farm produce; there were only a few with fresh vegetables or fruit. Southbridge's market runs every Saturday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Big Bunny. Charlton's is Thursday from 4-7 p.m. on the Common (or in the Grange Hall if rain). Sturbridge's is Sunday from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on the Common.

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One of Charlton's regular vendors brings his handmade bird houses.

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OBITUARIES

Francis B. Fennessey, Jr., 81



Charlton: Atty. Francis B. Fennessey, Jr., 81, of Main St., passed away peacefully at home on Thursday, May 29th, after a long illness. He leaves his beloved wife of 50 years, Rosalind C. (Mildner) Fennessey; his son, Timothy F. Fennessey of Charlton; his daughter, Sian F. Fennessey of Winterthur, Switzerland and his two cherished grandchildren, Madeleine Morf and Annalise Morf. Francis was predeceased by his sister, Bernadette Cusson. He was born in Southbridge, the son of Francis B. Fennessey Sr. and Gertrude (Prosperoni) Fennessey.

Francis graduated from Southbridge high school, earned a B.A. in Political Science at Michigan State University, and went on to receive his Juris Doctorate at American University in Washington, DC. He worked as a banker, practiced law for over 50 years eventually setting up a private practice in Charlton, and served on the Charlton Board of Selectmen. He enjoyed woodworking, politics, skiing, international travel, and weekend trips to Vermont. A funeral Mass for Francis will be held on Thursday, June 5th, at 10:00 am in St. Joseph's Church, 10 H. Putnam Rd. Ext., Charlton. Burial in West Ridge Cemetery, Charlton will be private at a later date. There are no calling hours. www.morrillfuneralhome.com

Rebecca Gould Mimeault, 74



Rebecca Gould Mimeault, 74, of Sturbridge, MA, passed away at home surrounded by family on May 26, 2025, after a courageous battle with cancer. Her life was marked by enduring faith, deep compassion, and unwavering love for her family and community. Born in Laconia, NH, to Douglas and Mildred (Davis) Gould, and raised in Massachusetts, Rebecca graduated from Hudson High School in 1969 and earned a degree in Business Administration from Emmanuel College in Boston. She was the beloved wife of Peter Mimeault and loving mother of Amy Sampson and her husband, Michael, of Woodstock, CT, and the late Brent David Mimeault. She was a devoted grandmother to Noah and Ellary Sampson of Woodstock and Darwin Brown-Waters of Amherst, NH. She also leaves her daughter-in-law, Maggie Brown Mimeault. Rebecca is survived by her siblings: Ronald (Judy) Gould of Wilmington, MA; Roland (Sarah) Gould of Shrewsbury, MA; Michael (Joan) Gould of Canton, CT; William (Cindy) Gould of Hudson, MA; and Brenda (David) Thatcher of Colebrook, NH. She deeply loved her nieces and nephews: Jeff, Scott, Bryan, Glenn, Jessica, Zachary, Joshua, Jonathan, Ashlee, Samantha, and Mitchell. She was predeceased by

her nephew Jason Gould. Professionally, Rebecca spent over 30 years at Digital Equipment Corporation, Intel Corporation, and Digital Credit Union. In retirement, she was active with the Sturbridge Council on Aging and served on the committee for the expansion of the Sturbridge Senior Center. Rebecca's Christian faith was central to her life. She was a founding member of Grace Baptist Church in Shrewsbury, MA, and later a devoted member of Faith Baptist Church in Southbridge, MA. Even in her final days, Rebecca remained a source of light, offering comfort and love while facing her journey with courage and grace. Her legacy of faith, kindness, and resilience lives on in all who knew her. The family thanks the UMASS Oncology Group and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute for their exceptional care. Calling hours will be held on Friday, June 6th, from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Varnum Funeral Home, 43 East Main St., in West Brookfield. Funeral services will be held on Saturday, June 7th, at 10 a.m. in the First Congregational Church of North Brookfield followed by burial. Everyone should meet directly at the church. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Faith Baptist Church, 515 Dennison Dr., Southbridge, MA 01550. An online tribute page is available at varnumfuneralhome.com

SINGER

continued from page A1

Singer has called for an official statement from the School Committee on two prior occasions appearing as a private citizen before both the School Committee itself and the Board of Selectmen respectively. He once again spoke as a citizen during the public comment segment of the Board of Selectmen's May 27 meeting renewing his request for the board to seek an official statement from the School Committee which he feels is justified due to specific incidents of hate among the student body. "It is needed. While I cannot give you names, I can tell you personally that I do know of an instance in the Charlton Middle School where students were goose-stepping behind a Jewish student," Singer revealed. "I do know an instance in Shepard Hill where a penny was thrown down the hallway at a Jewish student, and I do know of an instance on our Dudley Charlton Regional School System busses where threats were made against a Jewish resident's home. I'm sorry if I'm not going to sit here and take it, that we don't need to stand up to this. I expect more from every leader, not only on this board but the School Committee." In the past, Singer had also expressed concerns

about content posted on School Committee members' personal social media accounts without mentioning specific individuals by name. On May 27, he made a direct accusation against School Committee Vice Chair Jeanne Costello sharing printouts of posts from her personal Facebook page that Singer called "hate speech" and "propaganda lies." Singer submitted copies of the posts to the Town Administrator hoping they will be sent to the School Committee and that the town will ask them to act and respond. Our correspondent reached out to Jeanne Costello, who issued an emailed statement calling Singer's accusations defamatory, "untrue" and "hurtful," portraying her as promoting hate an antisemitism. "I want to be clear: I do not promote hate of any kind, nor do I support antisemitism. I fully condemn all forms of hate, violence, and discrimination," Costello wrote. "Mr. Singer's comments appear to conflate my personal beliefs and online activity with my role as an elected official. While I serve on the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee, I did not, and do not, speak on behalf of the committee or the school district on my personal social media. Like any private citizen, I have the right to express myself personally and thoughtfully, and I do so

responsibly." In her capacity as School Committee Vice Chair, Costello did acknowledge that the district includes policies in the staff handbook and student handbook regarding nondiscrimination, civil rights grievance procedures, and bully prevention. These policies have been made available on the district's website. Singer's demands stem from a controversy involving material posted on a members-only page on the MTA's website meant to help educators teach their students about the Israel-Hamas War, also colloquially referred to as the Gaza War. The content received widespread criticism and spurred Singer to approach the local School Committee in March who ensured that no educator had begun utilizing the material but stopped short of issuing any official written statement despite Singer's repeated requests. Singer also said he was "discouraged" after selectmen had voted down a prior request to send a letter to the school committee asking that they consider issuing an official statement. The Board of Selectmen provided few comments on the matter as it was not an official item on the May 27 agenda. Board Chair Karen Spiewak asked that any future discussion be saved for another Board of Selectmen meeting.

The why and how of deadheading



Corona Tools – Courtesy

A gardener using an Ergocut dead header in the garden.

Keep your flowers blooming longer and your garden a bit tidier with deadheading. Removing faded flowers can promote repeat bloom on some plants, encourage fuller, more compact growth, and tidy up the garden. Use a bypass hand pruner, garden snips or other dead-heading tool to remove faded flowers. Bypass tools have two sharp blades like scissors, resulting in a clean cut that closes quickly, leaving your plant looking its best. Corona Tool's Ergocut dead header (coronatools.com) has a finger loop that provides better control and an ergonomic design for less stress on your hands and wrist. The type of flower will influence how and where to make the cut. In general, remove the stem of faded blooms back to the first set of healthy leaves or nearby flower buds. Remove the flower stem of salvias, speedwells (Veronicas), and snapdragons as the blooms begin to fade. Cut below the spike of flowers just above the first set of leaves or the side shoots where the new flower buds are forming. Encourage additional blossoms and improve Shasta daisy's appearance by removing faded flowers. Prune back just above a set of healthy leaves. Cut the flowers of plants like Armeria and coral bells back to the base of the flower stems that arise from the foliage. This improves the appearance and encourages more blooms on some of this type of flowering perennial. Plants like daylilies and balloon flowers require a bit different care. Remove the individual blooms as they fade if you don't like looking at the faded flowers. Once all the individual flowers have bloomed out, you can cut the flower stem back at the base. Removing fading flowers of fuch-

sia and lantana will prevent the plants from going to seed and encourage more blooms. Remove any berries that do form to keep these plants flowering throughout the growing season. Deadheading peonies is strictly for aesthetics and won't extend the bloom time. Remove the faded flowers or seedpods as they form. Cut just above a healthy set of leaves to keep the stems more upright and create a tidier appearance in your garden. Prevent some flowers, like columbine, Amsonia, and Alliums from reseeding and spreading throughout the garden by removing the faded flowers. Even though it won't promote additional blooms, it will help eliminate unwanted seedlings in next year's garden. Remove flowers as they appear on coleus, grown for its colorful foliage, to promote more compact growth. Late blooming, flowerless varieties and self-branching coleus hybrids reduce or eliminate time spent on this task. Reduce time spent deadheading by including some self-cleaning, also called free-flowering plants, like impatiens, fibrous begonias, Calibrachoa, and moss rose. Lobelia, many of the newer petunias, and verbenas are also self-cleaning but may benefit from a bit of grooming. Prune back heat-stressed lobelia and verbenas that get leggy and petunia stems that need to be kept in bounds. Allow seedheads to develop on cone-flowers, rudbeckias, and other plants that provide winter interest and food for the birds. And consider skipping the deadheading of late blooming perennials. This allows them to prepare for winter and form seedpods for additional winter interest. And while you are out in the garden deadheading, pick a few flowers at their peak to enjoy in a summer bouquet indoors.

Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, including the recently released *Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition* and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* instant video series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by Corona Tools for her expertise to write this article. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

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Local residents receive degrees at WPI’s 156th Undergraduate Commencement

WORCESTER — Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) celebrated its 2025 Commencement with a series of ceremonies honoring the achievements of graduates across all degree levels. For the second year, commencement exercises were held at the DCU Center, where WPI conferred 1,298 bachelor’s degrees representing a diverse range of disciplines in science, engineering, technology, business, and the humanities. President Grace J. Wang, PhD, and Board of Trustees Chair William Fitzgerald presided over the 156th Commencement exercises on Friday, May 16.

Wang told members of the Class of 2025 they are entering a changing world filled with competing visions for how to solve challenges and advance society. But, she said, along with knowledge and technical competence in their chosen fields of study, WPI graduates have been equipped with the ability to think critically, to be resilient, to work in teams,

and to do it all with a sense of ethics and global responsibility.

“Outside these walls today is a world that needs you,” Wang said. “Not just because of what you have learned to do in your chosen field, but because of who you are, and also because of the leadership qualities you built at WPI.”

Delivering the undergraduate Commencement address, Michelle Gass ‘90, president and chief executive officer of Levi Strauss & Co., reflected on her journey from student to global business leader to inspire the Class of 2025. Gass said she’s often asked how a chemical engineering graduate from WPI became CEO of one of the most iconic apparel companies in the world. The answer, she told the graduates, lies in a handful of guiding principles she started refining in her years on the WPI campus.

“I’ve realized that to the extent I’ve been successful and able to engineer the kind of life I wanted for myself

and my family, it’s largely because I learned how to approach problems and moments intentionally and productively, while keeping real people in mind at all times,” Gass said.

Gass and Mark Fuller, chair and treasurer of the George F. and Sybil H. Fuller Foundation, a significant supporter of WPI, received honorary degrees as part of the ceremony.

Student speaker Dhespina Zhidro, a biomedical engineering and mechanical engineering double major, reminded fellow graduates about the community they formed for themselves, shaped by a collective experience that included struggle, doubt, and, ultimately, achievement.

“WPI has given us more than an education,” Zhidro said. “It has given us a blueprint for how to live, how to lead, create meaningful change, and leave every place we enter better than we found it.”

The following graduates earned BS degrees:

Ryan Malone from Brimfield majored in Mechanical Engineering

Alissa Cloutier from Charlton majored in Architectural Engineering

Cutter Beck from Charlton majored in Computer Science

Ethan Lilley from Charlton majored in Electrical and Computer Engineering

Michael Alicea from Charlton majored in Computer Science

Michaela Cluett from Charlton majored in Business

Anjum Soofi from Southbridge majored in Biomedical Engineering

Jeremy Peters from Southbridge majored in Mechanical Engineering

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute

WPI is a top-tier STEM-focused research university and a recognized pioneer and global leader in project-based learning. Founded in 1865 on the principle that students learn most effectively by applying the theory learned in the classroom to the practice of solving real-world problems, WPI’s continued mission is to transform lives, turn knowledge into action to confront global challenges, and revolutionize STEM through distinctive and inclusive education, projects, and research. WPI’s project-based curriculum engages undergraduates in solving important scientific, technological, and societal problems throughout their education and at more than 50 project centers around the world. Today WPI offers more than 70 Bachelor’s, Master’s, and doctoral degree programs across 18 academic departments in science, engineering, technology, business, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts. To help address ongoing challenges, improve lives, and help create a more sustainable world, WPI faculty and students pursue groundbreaking research in such areas as the life sciences, smart technologies, materials and manufacturing, and global initiatives.

Charlton Garden Club meets Monday

CHARLTON —The Charlton Garden Club’s Monday, June 9 meeting welcomes all to a free program on Outside Landscaping. Speaker Mary Jo Maffei of Garden Path Design will be speaking on Outside Landscaping.

A gardener for more than 30 years, she will offer advice on evaluating your landscape, elements to think about when designing workable garden plans and suggestions of what might be practical to implement.

Whether you’re a novice or accomplished gardener, the Charlton Garden Club is a great place to meet other gardening enthusiasts, learn about plants and planting, and to share your gardening tips and experiences.

This meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Charlton Public Library. For more information, please email charltongardenclub@gmail.com.



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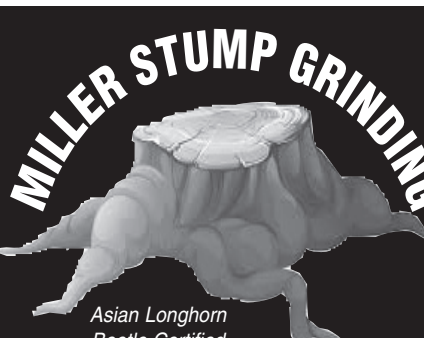


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LEGALS

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 JUNE 20,2025 at Cruise Control Transportation Inc. the following motor vehicle/s will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle
VEHICLE MAKE:2020 Infiniti QX60
VIN: 5N1DL0MM1LC502956
LAST REGISTERED OWNER: Anuj Vohra
77 LOFGREN RD
AVON CT, 06001

VEHICLE MAKE: 2017 CHEVEROLET EQUINOX
VIN: 2GNFLGE36H6136074
LAST REGISTERED OWNER : ROBERT DUBE
471A MILL ST
WORCESTER MA,01602

VEHICLE MAKE :2005 ACURA TL
VIN: 19UUA66235A081640
LAST REGISTERED OWNER: Winder A Moronta
157 CHANDLER ST APT 1
Worcester MA ,01609

VEHICLE MAKE: 2007 GMC YUKON
VIN:1GKFK63807J385321
LAST REGISTERED OWNER : Claudio Alessandro Vitiello
349 Braeside Ave Apt 108
East Stroudsbu PA 18301

VEHICLE MAKE : 2013 Audi allroad
VIN: WA1UFAFL6DA063024
LAST REGISTERED OWNER : Joseph Mickarweil
RANDOLPH 02368

VEHICLE MAKE : 2003 GMC Sonoma
VIN: 1GTCS19X638149015
LAST REGISTERED OWNER : Quezada Velez Arturo Jr
118 Morris St
New Haven CT 06519

VEHICLE MAKE : 2012 CHEVROELT CRUZ
VIN: 1G1PK5SC7C7110352
LAST REGISTERED OWNER : Carolina Castillo
388 Prairie Ave
Providence RI 02905

VEHICLE MAKE : 2006 ACURAL TL
VIN: 19UUA66266A028268
LAST REGISTERED OWNER : Omar Garcia
54 Esther ST # 2
Worcester MA 01607

VEHICLE MAKE : 2010 Honda Civic
VIN: 2HGFG1B6XAH535221
LAST REGISTERED OWNER : Glenda Colon
249 Thomaston Ave
Waterbury CT 06704

VEHICLE MAKE : 2008 ACURA MDX
VIN: 2HNYD28278H541931
LAST REGISTERED OWNER: Carlos Manuel Santiago Medina
94 Vine St ,APT 3B
Hartford CT 06112

VEHICLE MAKE : 2014 CHEVROLET SONIC
VIN:1G1JC5SH3E4241653
LAST REGISTERED OWNER:J OHN J HANLON
5638 ELEUTHERA WAY
NAPLES FL 34119

VEHICLE MAKE: 2005 ACURA TL
VIN:19UUA66245A002718
LAST REGISTERED OWNER : Kelley Williams
410 SHELTON ST FL 2
BRIDGEPORT CT 06608

VEHICLE MAKE: 2006 MAZDA MAZDA6
VIN:JM1GJ1V5XG1415434
LAST REGISTERED OWNER: Progressive Casualty Insurnace
PO Box 1388
Windham MA 04062
June 6, 2025
June 13, 2025
June 20, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. WO25P1799GD
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF
PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF
GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED
PERSON PURSUANT TO**

**G.L. c. 190B, §5-304
In the matter of:
Kevin Armstrong
Of: Charlton MA
RESPONDENT**
Alleged Incapacitated Person
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by
Department of Developmental Serv of Worcester, MA
in the above captioned matter alleging that Kevin Armstrong is in need of a Guardian and requesting that
TLC Trust by Gayle Greene of Fitchburg, MA
(or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.
You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **06/17/2025**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: May 21, 2025
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate
June 5, 2025

**Town of Brimfield
Conservation Commission
Public Hearing Notice**
In accordance with the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Brimfield Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at 6:00 PM to review a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) submitted by Fabio Xavier Da Costa. The RDA requests the demolition of existing single-family home and to build a new two-family on same footprint.
Project Location: 38 Sturbridge Road (Assessor's Map (13-C-1)
Meeting Location: Public Participation will be In-Person at Hitchcock Academy at 2 Brookfield Road, Brimfield, MA 01010 on June 25, 2025, at 6:00 PM. Any person(s) interested or wishing to be heard on this request should appear at the time and place designated. A copy of the permit application and plan may be inspected at the Brimfield Town Annex in the Conservation Commission Office, Salisbury Annex Building, 2nd Floor, 23 Main Street, Brimfield, MA 01010 or contact the office at 413-245-4100 ext. 1101.
Roger deBruyn & Joseph Venezia
Co-Chairs
May 28, 2025
June 5, 2025

**CHARLTON CONSERVATION
COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**
In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on June 18, 2025, at 7PM on the application of Richard and Ann Burns.
The applicant has filed for a Notice of Intent for the proposed extension and widening of an existing farmer's wall and fill within 15-feet of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland. The project location is: 80 Richardson Corner Road, Charlton, MA 01507. Parcel ID: 54-A-15.1.
Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts

of 2021, this meeting of the Charlton Conservation Commission will be conducted in person and via remote means. Members of the public who wish to participate can access the meeting remotely by request. Copies of the NOI may be examined at the Conservation Office by appointment during business hours.
Thomas O'Malley
Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission
June 5, 2025

**PUBLIC NOTICE
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
WATERWAYS REGULATION
PROGRAM
Notice of Simplified License
Application pursuant to M.G.L.
Chapter 91
24-WW-PRE-0075-APP
NOTIFICATION DATE: June 5th, 2025
PERMITTEE: Jamie Skowrya
PROJECT SITE ADDRESS: 312 The Trail, Sturbridge MA. 01518**

Public notice is hereby given of the application for a Chapter 91 Simplified License by Jamie Skowrya to construct/maintain a Cantilevered dock in the waters of Big Alum at 312 The Trail Sturbridge MA. Worcester County
The Department will consider all written comments on this Waterways application received by within 30 days of the "Notification Date". Failure of any aggrieved person or group of ten citizens or more to submit written comments to the Waterways Regulation Program will result in the waiver of any right to an adjudicatory hearing in accordance with 310 CMR 9.13(4)(c). The group of citizens must include at least five citizens who are residents of the municipality in which the proposed project is located. Project plans for this Waterways application are on file for public viewing electronically, by request to dep. waterways@mass.gov. If you do not have access to email, please leave a voicemail at (617) 292-5929 and you will be contacted with infonnation on alternative options.
It is recommended that public comments be filed electronically with [dep. waterways@mass.gov](mailto:dep.waterways@mass.gov) when possible. Alternatively, comments may be mailed to the Waterways Regulation Program at: 1 Winter Street, 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02108.
June 5, 2025

**PUBLIC NOTICE
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
WATERWAYS REGULATION
PROGRAM
Notice of Simplified License
Application pursuant to
M.G.L. Chapter 91
25-WW-PRE-0032-APP
NOTIFICATION DATE: June 5th, 2025
PERMITTEE: Glenn Gart
PROJECT SITE ADDRESS: 124 Lake Road, Sturbridge MA. 01518**

Public notice is hereby given of the application for a Chapter 91 Simplified License by Glenn Gart to construct/ maintain a Cantilevered dock in the waters of Big Alum at 124 Lake Road Sturbridge MA. Worcester County
The Department will consider all written comments on this Waterways application received by within 30 days of the "Notification Date". Failure of any aggrieved person or group of ten citizens or more to submit written comments to the Waterways Regulation Program will result in the waiver of any right to an adjudicatory hearing in accordance with 310 CMR 9.13(4)(c). The group of citizens must include at least five citizens who are residents of the municipality in which the proposed project is located. Project plans for this Waterways application are on file for public viewing electronically, by request to dep. waterways@mass.gov. If you do not have access to email, please leave a voicemail at (617) 292-5929 and you will be contacted with infonnation on alternative options.
It is recommended that public comments be filed electronically with [dep. waterways@mass.gov](mailto:dep.waterways@mass.gov) when possible. Alternatively, comments may be mailed to the Waterways Regulation Program at: 1 Winter Street, 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02108.
June 5, 2025

**CHARLTON CONSERVATION
COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**
In accordance with the Town of Charlton Stormwater Management Rules & Regulations, the Charlton Conservation Commission will be accepting comments on the following application:
The applicant, Ronald Gauthier, has submitted a Land Disturbance/ Stormwater Management Permit on May 27, 2025, for stormwater infrastructure associated with the construction of a single-family home. The project site is located at Lot 1-1 E Baylies Road, Charlton, MA 01507, and is also known as: Parcel ID 77-C-4.10.
Copies of the Land Disturbance Application are available at the Charlton Conservation Commission office during business hours.
Thomas O'Malley
Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission
June 5, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. WO25D0407DR
DIVORCE SUMMONS BY
PUBLICATION AND MAILING
Heather Marinelli
vs.
Jonathan Marinelli**
To the Defendant:
The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce forcruel and abusive The Complaint is on file at the Court. An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. **SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.**
You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon:
**Heather Marinell
176 South St.
Southbridge, MA 01550**
your answer, if any, on or before **07/16/2025**. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: April 17, 2025
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate
June 5, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No.**
**INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**
Estate Of:
**Robert J. Patterson
Date of Death: 10/26/24**
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of :
Petitioner
Cynthia Ann Patterson of Sturbridge MA
a Will has been admitted to informal probate.
Cynthia Ann Patterson of Sturbridge MA has been informally appointed as Personal Representative of said estate to serve **without** Surety on the bond.
The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
June 5, 2025

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Brimfield awarded grant to restore historic Civil War memorial

BRIMFIELD — The Town of Brimfield has been awarded a \$10,000 Veterans' Heritage Grant from the Massachusetts State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB) to fund the restoration of the town's historic Civil War Memorial fence and cannons, located in the center of town.

The Civil War memorial in Brimfield holds significant historical importance, having been unveiled on July 4, 1866. This early dedication makes Brimfield one of the first towns in Massachusetts to formally honor its soldiers who served in the Civil War. The memorial's creation was spearheaded by Captain Francis D. Lincoln, a respected local farmer, education advocate, and staunch abolitionist. Captain Lincoln also led a contingent of soldiers from Brimfield who bravely served in the 46th Massachusetts Infantry. His powerful speech at the unveiling ceremony eloquently articulated the principles and sacrifices of the war.

Local business Trafford's Painting, a company with expertise in historic restoration, has been selected to undertake the crucial restoration work on the

Join the Relay for Life June 14

SOUTHBIDGE — Saturday, June 14 from 9 a.m.-9 p.m., the Relay For Life of Southern Worcester County will hold its 28th annual event at McMahon Field, 25 Cole Ave. in Southbridge. Our theme is "Pirates of the CURE-ibbean."

The Relay For Life is the American Cancer Society's signature fundraising event. Relay For Life is celebrating 40 years this year!

Opening ceremony is at 9 a.m., our survivor lap follows that. At 1 p.m., we hold our 1lb.auction

Flea market mecca to host annual Town-Wide Tag Sale

BRIMFIELD — Hitchcock Academy will host Brimfield's annual Town-Wide Tag Sale on Saturday, June 7 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., with some sales also running Sunday. The antiques mecca is a great place to hunt for oddities and treasures that may have been claimed over the years at the town's thrice annual flea market, or items otherwise accumulated for your perusing pleasure.

More than 50 sites are anticipated to participate. Maps are sold at Hitchcock for \$2 each. They include a full list of participating addresses, and detailed listings of what will be sold at each as well as a physical map marked with sale locations to help you plan your route. The map will also indicate which sales will run on Sunday.

Bargain hunters are encouraged to kick off their day with the vendors set up on Hitchcock's lawn as they purchase their map. The Brimfield Farmers' Market will also be running from 9am to 1pm in the Hitchcock parking lot offering local staples such as eggs, veggies, and beef as well as some grab-and-go options for tag sale refueling such as baked goods, kombucha, and homemade ice cream.

From there, head to the sales all over town, promising antiques and

Charlton Arts & Activities Center to host teen bullying program

CHARLTON — The Charlton Arts & Activities Center is pleased to announce the presentation "The Theft of Dignity: What Adults Should Know About Teen Bullying." Join author Dennis Wise for an entertaining and eye-opening event on peer bullying.

Wise draws on examples from popular culture—including movies, TV shows, and novels, such as his own book, "On Your Side." The goal is

Griffin Smith named to Champlain College Dean's List.

BURLINGTON, Vt. — Griffin Smith of Fiskdale was named to the Champlain College Dean's List for the Spring 2025 semester.

Students on the Dean's List have achieved a grade point average of 3.5 or higher during the semester. Smith is currently majoring in Computer Science and Innovation.

Making the Dean's List is a tremendous achievement. Many of the high achievers balance their career-focused classes with jobs, internships, clubs, and volunteering. We congratulate them on this great accomplishment and honor.

Founded in 1878, Champlain College is a small, not-for-profit, private college in Burlington, Vermont, with additional campuses in Montreal, Canada, and Dublin, Ireland. Champlain offers a residential undergraduate experience from its beautiful campus overlooking Lake

Old Sturbridge Village announces June events

STURBRIDGE — Old Sturbridge Village is starting the summer off with an exciting lineup of events this month. Visitors to the Village this June will have the opportunity to participate in friendly competitions at Family Field Days, learn about Juneteenth, and meet colorful cows at CowParade.

Family Field Days is coming to Old Sturbridge Village. On select days in June, families are invited to the Village for some friendly competition! Games and competitions include stilts walks, jump rope challenges, baseball, egg and spoon races, and more. Family Field Days take place on June 14, 15, 21, 22, 25, 26, 27, 28, and 29. The Village will be open from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., but activity times will vary. Family Field

Southbridge resident Ethan Shanbaum completes intensive research project

WORCESTER — Ethan Shanbaum, a member of the class of 2026 majoring in Computer Science and Data Science at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), was a member of a student team that recently completed a professional-level research-driven project titled "The Feasibility of AI in Storytelling at Te Papa."

Known as the Interactive Qualifying Project (IQP), this project is a core part of the innovative undergraduate experience at WPI. Centered around project-based learning, this hands-on approach offers students opportunities to help develop thoughtful solutions to open-ended problems. These real-world problems affect the quality of life for people in the communities where students work, giving students a chance to make a difference in the world before they graduate. All WPI undergraduates are required to complete an IQP, usually in their junior year, through which they apply science and technology to address an important societal need or issue. About two-thirds of WPI students complete their IQP at one of the university's 50+ off-campus project centers located in more than 30 countries around the world.

"The WPI project-based curriculum's focus on global studies brings students out of the classroom and their comfort zones and into the global community to apply their knowledge and to solve problems," said Professor Kent Rissmiller, professor of International & Global Studies and associate dean of The Global School. "Students are immersed in all aspects of a different culture-from the way people live and

Sturbridge resident graduates from Campbell Law School

RALEIGH, N.C. — Kaylee A. Olander of Sturbridge has graduated from Campbell University's Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law.

Olander was among the 183 graduates the law school conferred Juris Doctor degrees on Friday, May 9, during its 47th hooding and graduation ceremony at the Martin Marietta Center in downtown Raleigh.

The Class of 2025 marks the largest graduating class in the law school's history, said Dean J. Rich Leonard.

"Standing here in my 12th year as your dean, I have enormous confidence in the superb quality of our legal education program," Leonard told the graduates. "In my final words to this class I love, we have taught you to analyze an issue thoroughly, write persuasively and stand on your feet and comfortably defend your position ... Hopefully we have taught you to follow your own moral compass. And we have put you out in this community, in externships, clinics, pro bono initiatives and mentorships to learn how the practice of law works. You are ready. And your skills are desperately needed."

Assumption students named to Spring Dean's List

WORCESTER — Assumption University has announced those who have been named to the University's Dean's List for the spring 2025 semester. Students named to the Dean's List must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 for a five-class, 15-credit semester to be included on this prestigious list, which is announced at the completion of the fall and spring semesters.

Mariam Ayoub of Charlton
Lillian Dolan of Charlton
Aryana Santo of Charlton
Kelsy Brown of Charlton
Haley Courtney of Sturbridge

Assumption University, founded in 1904 by the Augustinians of the Assumption, is a premier New England university for high-quality education, integrating career preparation and education of the whole person, drawing upon the best in the rich and centuries-long tradition of Catholic higher education. Assumption's graduates are known for their intellectual seriousness, thoughtful citizenship, and devotion to the common good. The University offers 37 majors and 49 minors in the liberal arts, sciences, business, nursing, professional studies, and other areas, as well as graduate degrees and professional credentials. For more information about Assumption University, please visit assumption.edu or follow us @AssumptionUMA.



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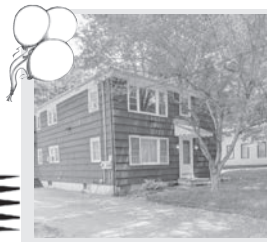


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Your Listings!**



DUDLEY - 9 NEW BOSTON RD New Featured Listing

Family in Desirable Dudley!! Featuring Each Unit - 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, large eat-in kitchens, bright and sunny living rooms, some hardwood floors & carpeting, economical & efficient gas heat, private decks, landlord meter, Bonus 4 bay garage!! OQ street parking. Appliances included, washer and dryer for each unit. Property is being sold with a failed Title 5, price reflects presumed cost for new system. Great opportunity for investors/contractors... **\$380,000**

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

Featured New Listing WEBSTER 4 PERRYVILLE RD



That Cozy "I'm so Happy to be Home" Vibe! Move In Ready, Updated Kitchen w/stainless appliances. Formal Dining Rm, Living Rm, (18x13) Great Rm. 3+ BRS & full updated Bath w/Tub. Great floor. Classic hardwood floors, rounded archways.. wood burning fireplace. Quality Owens-Corning finished basement system with 3 large LL rooms & 2nd Full Bath w/ Shower, kitchen area w/cabinets & refrigerator. Morton Barn Style Garage (24x24) w/open lean-to-roof. Property well kept & has loads of character. .39 acre +/- cleared lot w/179' Rd Front! **\$435,000**

Featured New Listing WEBSTER - 24 COOPER RD



NEW CONSTRUCTION Craftsman Style Home! Tucked away on Cooper Rd, Webster Lake w/ Access at Lakeside Beach/Boat Ramp. 3rd of 4 Homes being built at this Site. Offers 2,155 SF +/- of Living Area. 7 Rms, 4 BRS, 2-1/2 Baths, 9' Ceilings. Open Concept Plan. Wood Flooring Throughout w/Ceramic Tile Floors in the 2-1/2 Baths. Spacious Main BR Suite w/Walk-in Closet & Private Full Bath w/5' Tiled Shower, Double-Sink Vanity! Lower level walkout w/Slider. Basement-rough plumbed for future expansion. FHA Heat & Central AC! Garage. **\$649,900.**

Featured Listing Snug Harbor Villa! WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT LISTING!



WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT LIVING AT IT'S FINEST! THIS 4000+/- SF ** THE VILLA'S at SNUG HARBOR! ** END UNIT** IS TRULY A RARE FIND! ONE OF ONLY 6 UNITS > Custom Built w/Special Features & Upgrades. Offers 4 BRS - 3 are Primary BR Suites w/private baths, 4-1/2 Baths Total!! The Outstanding direct lakefront location provides exceptional Southern panoramic views across Middle Pond, a boat dock, & full recreation activities like swimming, fishing, kayaking, paddle boarding -- whatever Floats Your Boat :-) ! Perfect setup for entertaining family, friends & guests! Enjoy All 4 Spectacular Seasons! It's more than a home - it's a Life Style! **NEW PRICE \$1,150,000**

OXFORD - 30 BAILEY RD



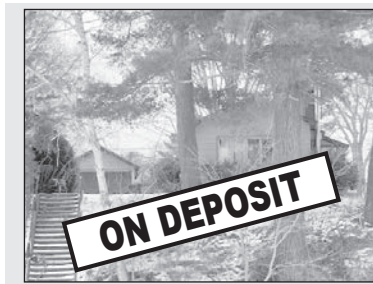
Don't Miss This One!
Absolutely Beautiful
Cape with
3 Bedrooms, & 2
Baths! 1 acre +/-
Nicely Landscaped,
Large deck!
\$399,900

WEBSTER - 22 COOPER RD.



New Construction! 2nd of 4
Homes to be built! Imagine
Yourself in a New Craftsman
Style home. 4 BRS., 2-1/2
Baths! Walkout slider from
Basement. 2 Car Garage!
\$649,900

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg



Featured Listing!!

Webster Lake Waterfront
88 Union Point
Excellent opportunity! Natural
Western Facing Shoreline-
Beautiful Sunsets - Views of
Middle to North Pond! 7,000
+/- Sq. Ft. Waterfront Lot! Winterized cottage Fireplaced living
room! 12 X 30 one car garage.
Beautiful Pine trees at the wa-
ter's edge! **\$660,000**




SORRY, SOLD! WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT!



15 CEDAR POINT RD
100+/- feet of Pristine,
Sandy Shoreline! Boasting
6 Large rooms, 2 Baths, 3
Bedrooms, Garage. All on a
Private road
\$1,000,000

Webster Lake Waterfront Lots Bates Point Rd

In Beautiful, Calm, *Winter Cove*
Lot# 1003R Natural Level Shore line
3800 +/- Sq Ft **\$180,000 SORRY SOLD!**
Lot# 1004R Natural Level Shore Line
5000+/- Sq Ft **\$350,000 SORRY SOLD!**
Lot# 1005R Natural Level Shore line
7800 +/- Sq Ft **\$380,000 SORRY SOLD!**



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8 New Spencer Road **\$825,000**



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Parade Marshal Larry Spinelli speaks at the Town Hall.



Gus Steeves

A little girl in the crowd catches some sun before the parade begins.



A child reacts to the sound of the 21-gun salute from across Elm Street.



AT RIGHT: At the Honor Roll, Rudshel Volcy, Celia Ladd and Sarj Patel join forces to lay the flag wreath.

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The Fire Department contingent marches down Main Street with their station in the background.



SOUTHBRIDGE — The sun shone down on Southbridge last Monday as a good-sized crowd truned out to watch and larch in the Memorial Day parade downtown.

As with every year, speakers honored departed soldiers of the various branches for their sacrifice, but also the families they left behind.

As Rudshel Volcy said at the Honor Roll Monument, we also need to remember “the children who grew up with a folded flag instead of a parent.” Going forward, she added, the nation needs to “carry their memory not as a burden but as a light,” that helps us answer the question, “What will we do with what remains?”

At the Rotary’s Gold Star Momument, John Daniel took up a similar theme, noting that mon-ument specifically honors those who faced “the ultimate cost of outliving their child, their brother, their sister,” because those loved ones died in wars. He estimated there are 87 Gold Star families in town, and they have their own day of memory, the last Sunday in September.

Paraders display banners of the St Hedwig's Holy Rosary Society.

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