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Thursday-Friday, April 9-10, 2026

## From Kamangu to Charlton: The rise of a national champion & nursing powerhouse

CHARLTON — The journey of a thousand miles began in the classrooms of Moi Girls Kamangu High School in Kenya. For Loise Ngigi, LPN, of South Grafton, her recent success in passing the NCLEX-PN is not just a local achievement; it is the culmination of a dream that crossed oceans and decades. Passing the NCLEX-PN is a spectacular peak and is the final jewel in a crown already heavy with academic and clinical honors.

The foundation of excellence

Long before she was a standout student at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, Ngigi was a student at the prestigious Moi Girls Kamangu High School. It

was there, during her 2009–2012 tenure, that the seeds of her "three pillars"—discipline, sacrifice, and consistency—were first planted. The rigorous academic environment of one of Kenya's notable girls' schools provided the grit necessary for her to later navigate the American healthcare system.

"The discipline I learned in Kenya stayed with me," Ngigi reflected. "It's what allowed me to keep going even when the road got difficult here in Massachusetts."

Bridging two worlds Ngigi's transition from a high school graduate in Kenya to a nationally-ranked nursing professional in the United States is a narrative of relentless ambition. After arriving in the U.S.,



Courtesy Photo

Loise Ngigi

she began her career from the ground up, starting as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) in 2017.

Her recent clinical success is a far cry from her early days in South Grafton, but it mirrors the high standards expected of a Moi Girls Kamangu alumna and success with the rigorous practical nursing program at Bay Path.

Ngigi's time at Bay Path will be remembered as one of the most decorated tenures in the program's history. Far from being a "typical" student, Ngigi emerged as a clinical leader, culminating in her being named the MVA Post-Secondary Student of the Year.

Her competitive spirit took her all the way to the national stage, where she served as a State Gold Medalist and eventually ranked 6th in

the Nation as a SkillsUSA National Champion in First Aid/CPR. These accolades, combined with her induction into the National Technical Honor Society, mark her as a premier talent in the next generation of American nurses.

While maintaining a grueling study schedule, Ngigi remained a constant force in the community. Whether she was coordinating Scrubs Donations, leading the UNICEF Club as an officer, or organizing Flower Bulb distributions via Achilles Agway, her impact was felt far beyond the classroom.

Her clinical footprint in the region is equally vast. Ngigi was a frequent face at the Charlton Senior Center Blood Pressure Clinic, provided on-site medical care for the Shepherd Hill Show Choir, and volunteered for

routine health screenings at local high schools. Even her festive side shone through as she coordinated the PN Class of 2025 Holiday Party, proving her ability to lead and organize in any environment.

The specialized clinician Ngigi didn't just meet the requirements for nursing; she exceeded them through a relentless pursuit of specialized certifications. During her time at Bay Path, she became:

- Certified in Dementia Care & Mental Health First Aid
- Trained in "Stop The Bleed" and Domestic Violence advocacy
- Certified in Generative AI Tools through the MA/

RI League for Nursing (MARILN)

This diverse toolkit was supported by prestigious grants, including the MassHire Grant and P.E.O. Chapter N Support, acknowledging her potential as a future leader in healthcare.

A triumphant return to study

The road to her LPN license was marked by moments of "silent" struggle. Following a previous setback that she admits led her to "shut off" for a period to regroup, she returned to her studies with a focus that would have made her former teachers in Kamangu and nursing instructors at Bay Path proud.

"I did a lot of case studies and their rationales," Ngigi shared. "At times, I would study with John (also a Bay Path grad LPN), whenever he was free for motivation." That motivation paid off when she received the news she had worked months to hear: NCLEX-PN Passed.

An inspiration for the next generation

While the NCLEX is a professional milestone, for Ngigi's family, it was a moment of pure inspiration. Her 10-year-old twins, Sean and Sheelah, watched their mother balance full-time work in Lancaster and Sturbridge with the intense demands of nursing school.

"They were so excited," Ngigi remarked. "They thought I was becoming a doctor."

As she weighs her future options—whether to continue her specialized work in rehabilitation or pursue further clinical leadership—Ngigi remains a shining example for international students and healthcare workers alike. From the green hills of Kamangu to the clinical corridors of Massachusetts, her story proves that with enough consistency, no goal is out of reach.

### Local veteran to share submarine tales of the '60s

BRIMFIELD — Hitchcock's Brown Bag Speaker Series continues on April 15 with local veteran Richard "Denny" Denniston who will share personal stories of his service on the USS George Washington.

The talk will begin at 12:30 p.m., following an optional lunch at noon. Reservations are required for the talk (\$10) as well as the lunch (an additional \$10 if ordering through Hitchcock; bagged lunches may also be brought in). The talk will run approximately one hour, with additional time reserved for questions and discussion.

The USS George Washington (SSBN-598), the third United States Navy ship to bear that name in honor of Founding Father George Washington, was the first to be purpose-built as a deterrent force. Starting with his path to enlisting, Denniston will share stories that touch on training, camaraderie, and Navy life above and below the surface, discussing how his service impacted his life and influenced his unwavering patriotism.

Originally from Michigan, Denniston joined the Navy at 19 and subsequently served on three submarines, including three 67-day patrols on the USS George Washington. He went on to earn a degree in education, serving as a grammar school principal for the majority of his 37-year career in Western Massachusetts, ultimately settling with his wife and children in Brimfield in 1976. Denny served as a Veterans Grave Officer for Brimfield Cemetery for twelve years, and enjoys weekly gatherings at the Apple Barn as a member of The Old Car Guys. He credits growing up near the Motor City as key to instilling his early love of cars.

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

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

### Spring into reading with Friends of JHPL Spring Book Sale!

STURBRIDGE — Spring into reading with the Friends of JHPL Spring Book Sale Saturday, April 11, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Discover an array of books at irresistible prices and help support local library programs. Whether you're on the hunt for beloved children's tales, delicious cookbooks, captivating mysteries, or unexpected treasures, you'll find something to spark your imagination.

Browse through a wide selection of gently used books, as well as special like-new titles. Every purchase goes beyond your bookshelf—proceeds benefit library programs, museum passes, and services that the town budget simply can't



cover. Your support makes a lasting impact on our community.

Get a head start for the best picks! Bring along a tote bag and fill it with literary gems. We gladly accept cash and Venmo, and our friendly volunteers are ready to help you.

Don't miss it! Invite friends, spread the word, and drop by to shop for a great cause. Every book you buy helps our library thrive.

Joshua Hyde Public Library welcomes you at 306 Main St., Sturbridge. The sale will be held in the Meeting Room and outdoors next to Sturbridge Common, weather permitting. Come join the excitement and celebrate the joy of reading!

### Charlton Fire Department responds to fatal motor vehicle crash on Route 20

CHARLTON — The Charlton Fire Department responded Tuesday morning to a crash on Route 20 that left one individual dead and another seriously injured.

On Tuesday, March 31, at approximately 7:45 a.m., the Charlton Fire Department was called to Route 20 near the Sturbridge town line for a report of a two-vehicle crash. Engine 1, Ambulance 1, Ambulance 2, Car 1 and Car 2 responded.

The driver of one of the vehicles was pronounced dead at the scene. The driver of the other vehicle was treated on scene for serious injuries by Charlton Fire Department Paramedics.

Paramedics requested assistance from a LifeFlight helicopter, and transport-

ed the driver by ambulance to the State Police Barracks in Charlton, where the driver was transferred to LifeFlight. That driver was then flown to UMass Memorial Hospital with injuries that are not believed to be life-threatening.

The crash remains under investigation by State Police Detectives assigned to the Worcester County District Attorney's Office, the Charlton Police Department, State Police Crime Scene Services, State Police Collision Analysis & Reconstruction Section (CARS), and the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

The Charlton Fire Department offers its heartfelt condolences to the family of the deceased individual.

# Friends of Sturbridge Trails announces spring events

STURBRIDGE — The Friends of Sturbridge Trails releases its list of free spring events for 2026, including:

Monday, April 13, there will be a table at the Host during Town elections to promote trails and projects. Stop by during your vote and ask your questions about the trail program and our future plans. Elections run from 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., and our table will be staffed from that period.

Saturday, April 18 is our annual Earth Day trail clean up event 8 a.m. to noon, any time you can help, meet at Riverlands, 52 Stallion Hill Rd. to start.

Saturday, April 25 is Celebrate Trails Day, sponsored by the National Rails to Trails Org. We are planning a hike on the GTT starting at 9 a.m. from 9 River Rd. Come join us to learn about the Grand Trunk Trails history, and the plans for trail completion. Handicapped accessible, and child friendly, dogs on six-foot leash OK.

Monday, April 27, 7 p.m.: Annual town meeting – Please attend and exercise your right to vote on town budget and more!

Saturday & Sunday, May 9 & 10, FrOST will have a information booth at OSV at their "move" weekend. This is part of a month-long event of OSV where they have invited area businesses & groups in the focus area of Eat, Move, Work & Play, each week a focus. Display will include trail construction tools, and a xxx bike. OSV entrance fee.

Saturday May 30, at 10 a.m., our "Yoga on the Trails" returns, Join Jen Songer for a short walk along the Arbutus trail to the field and enjoy an all-levels yoga session. 10 a.m., meet at the Leadmine trail parking lot, 10 Old Sturbridge Village rd. Bring your mat and a water bottle.

The Friends of Sturbridge trails can offer these events free of charge as we are a member supported 501(c)3 non-profit. Please consider joining us with your membership that start at just \$15. Please visit us at [www.treksturbridge.oeg](http://www.treksturbridge.oeg) click about, >Friends of Sturbridge trails. While you are there check out the rest of our web page and events. Email us at [Froststurbridge@gmail.com](mailto:Froststurbridge@gmail.com).

# Southbridge Community Center presents Magic by George

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Community Center; 153 Chestnut St., Southbridge, is excited to present Magic by George. This multi-generational presentation and parents and grandparents are encouraged to bring their children and grandchildren to enjoy this fun-filled afternoon. All are welcome to join.

With exciting magic, nonstop audience participation, and laugh-out-loud family-friendly humor, Magic by George will do the trick! George's fun-filled performances keep audiences of all ages on the edge of their seats. Whether young or old, everyone is

guaranteed to have an amazing time.

George travels across Massachusetts and throughout New England performing for audiences large and small, sharing his unique blend of astonishing illusions and upbeat comedic energy. His talent and showmanship have earned him widespread recognition, including appearances on the CBS Early Show, Sesame Street's "Fun to Be One" celebration, and recurring performances at Universal Studios' CityWalk. His reputation for excellence has also earned George some of the highest honors in the world of magic. In addition to receiving multiple awards, he has been voted "Boston's Favorite Family Entertainer" two years in a row by The Boston Parents' Paper.

Magic by George will be demonstrating his skills on Monday, April 23 at noon at the Southbridge Community Center. All ages are welcome. This fun and exciting program is supported by a grant from the Southbridge Cultural Council, a local agency funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

The Southbridge Community Center and Senior Center is a multi-functional facility providing social and recreational opportunities for all citizens of Southbridge and the local area. We hope to see you soon.

# Troop 163 to host fundraising waffle dinner

STURBRIDGE — Troop 163 will hold a fundraiser waffle dinner on Saturday, April 11 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 345 Main St. in Sturbridge. Waffles, toppings, and sausages will be served, and gluten-free waffles will be available. No tickets are required—pay what you can. There will also be a silent auction with themed baskets, and Bluey and Bingo will be there for photos.

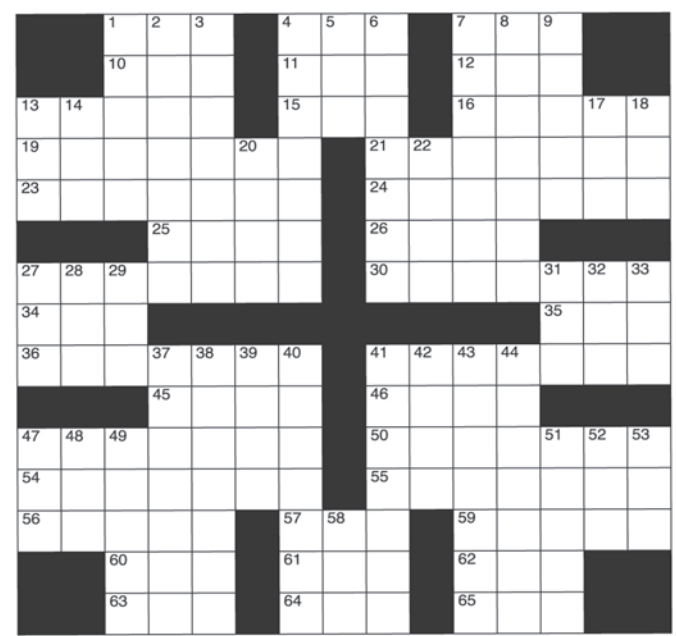
Troop 163 is a Scouting America troop for girls ages 11-17. The troop is based in Sturbridge but has members across southern Worcester County. Please email [troop163sturbridge@gmail.com](mailto:troop163sturbridge@gmail.com) with any questions.

# Sturbridge Affordable Housing Trust seeks input through survey

STURBRIDGE — The Sturbridge Affordable Housing Trust (SAHT) is leading the development of a new Housing Production Plan (HPP) to update its 2021–2026 Housing Production Plan and guide the Town's future housing strategy. The updated HPP will include current data and analysis on demographic trends and housing conditions, identify priority housing needs, and recommend strategies to address them.

Community engagement is a central part of this process. The SAHT will offer multiple opportunities for residents to share input on local housing challenges, goals, and priorities. As part of this effort, the SAHT is conducting a Community Housing Survey to gather additional feedback. The survey is designed to be brief and easy to complete, taking only a few minutes of your time.

To participate in the survey, visit the town Web site, [sturbridge.gov](http://sturbridge.gov), and click the link under the News tab on the main page.

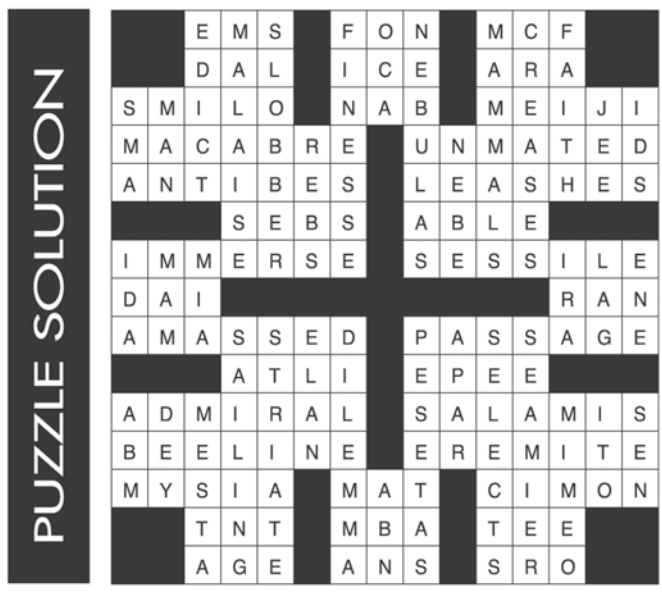


### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Health care pros
- 4. A person inhabiting Benin
- 7. One thousand cubic feet (abbr.)
- 10. Split pulses
- 11. Frozen water
- 12. Small constellation
- 13. Perennial mountain rice
- 15. Pick up
- 16. Japanese historical period
- 19. Suggesting the horror of death and decay
- 21. Unattached
- 23. Fishing port in SE France
- 24. Products for dogs
- 25. One point south of southeast
- 26. Having the skill or resources to do something
- 27. Involve oneself deeply
- 30. Immobile
- 34. \_\_\_ pai dong: Hong Kong food stall
- 35. Move quickly on foot
- 36. Gathered
- 41. A way through
- 45. Another name for Thor
- 46. Sharp dueling sword
- 47. The supreme commander of a fleet
- 50. Seasoned sausages
- 54. Path
- 55. Christian hermit
- 56. Ancient region of Asia Minor
- 57. Where wrestlers go to work
- 59. Roman statesman
- 60. Explosive
- 61. Licensed for Wall Street
- 62. Where golfers start
- 63. Grow old
- 64. Autonomic nervous system
- 65. No seats available

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. A legally binding command
- 2. General feeling of discomfort
- 3. Dribble
- 4. Soft touch
- 5. South American plant
- 6. Clouds of gas and dust in space
- 7. Warm-blooded vertebrates
- 8. Lines created by folding
- 9. Strong belief
- 13. Senior officer
- 14. Adult
- 17. Joint entrance examination in India
- 18. Passports and drivers' licenses are two
- 20. Those who go against an accepted authority
- 22. One point east of northeast
- 27. Journalist Tarbell
- 28. One's mother (British)
- 29. Nowhere to be found
- 31. A way to save for old age
- 32. Fall behind
- 33. Midway between northeast and east
- 37. The work of a sailor
- 38. Mark with striae
- 39. Energy, style and enthusiasm
- 40. Sticky situation
- 41. Monetary units of Spain
- 42. Three-banded armadillo
- 43. Chooses
- 44. More disreputable
- 47. Defensive nuclear weapon
- 48. "The Partridge Family" actress Susan
- 49. Livestock owners assn. in Spain
- 51. Duplicating machine (abbr.)
- 52. OJ trial judge
- 53. Politician
- 58. Airborne (abbr.)



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

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visit [www.townofcharlton.net](http://www.townofcharlton.net) or more information.  
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For emergencies, dial 911  
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Heritage School ..... (508) 248-4884  
Charlton Middle School..... (508) 248-1423  
Shepherd Hill Regional High School  
..... (508) 943-6700  
Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School  
..... (508) 248-5971 or (508) 987-0326

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**FISKDALE: 508-347-6486**  
Weekdays 9:00-4:30 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00

**STURBRIDGE 508-347-6463**  
Weekdays 8:30 – 5:00 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00

**BRIMFIELD: 413-245-3451**  
Weekdays: 9:00 – 4:30 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00

**WALES: 413-245-9808**  
Weekdays 8:30 – 12:30 and 2:00 – 4:30 and  
Sat. 9:00 – 12:00

### CHURCH LISTINGS

- **Central Baptist Church**  
 256 Main St., Southbridge, MA 01550  
 Tel 508/764-6365; Worship 10:00 A.M.
- **Charlton Federated Church**, 64 Main St., 508- 248-5550, Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. Summer worship is 9:30 a.m. [www.fed-church.org](http://www.fed-church.org)
- **Charlton Baptist Church**, 50 Hammond Hill Road, 248-4488, [www.charltonbaptist.org](http://www.charltonbaptist.org), Sunday worship 10 a.m.
- **Charlton City United Methodist**, 74 Stafford St. 248-7379, web site: [CharltonCityUMC.org](http://CharltonCityUMC.org) Sunday worship and Children's church 10am
- **St. Anne St. Patrick Church**, 16 Church St., Fiskdale (508) 347-7338 [www.stannestpatparish.com](http://www.stannestpatparish.com) Saturday Vigil Mass at 4 pm, Sunday 8 am, 10 am, 12 noon, Youth Mass (September to May) 5 pm. Daily Mass Mon - Thurs 7:30 and 10 am, Fri and Sat 7:30 am
- **Elm Street Congregational Church**, 61 Elm Street, Southbridge, Ma 01550 Phone: 508-764-8085 • Sunday service 10:00 am Pastor Kathryn Light
- **Faith Baptist Church**, 515 Dennison Drive, Southbridge Phone number 508-764-6132, Worship Service: Sunday 10:00 a.m.
- **St. Joseph's Church**, 10 H. Putnam Ext, 248-7862, [www.stjosephscharlton.com](http://www.stjosephscharlton.com), Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 p.m., Sunday Mass 8 a.m., Sunday Family Mass 10 a.m., Sunday LifeTEEN Mass 5 p.m., Weekday Mass Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30 a.m.
- **Wayside Church**, 6 Haggerty Road, 248-5144
- **Assemblies of God Southern New England District Headquarters**, Route 20, 248-3771, [snedag.org](http://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](http://www.livingwordcharlton.com) [info@livingwordcharlton.com](mailto: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](http://www.sturfed.org) Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
- **Bethlehem Lutheran Church**- 345 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566 Phone 508-347-7297 Web: [www.bethlehemsturbridge.org](http://www.bethlehemsturbridge.org) Services - Sunday 9:00 am Pastor Dan Purtell
- **Holland Congregation Church "Where the Bible is preached."** 11 Sturbridge Road, Holland, 413-245-9926 [Hollandchurch.org](http://Hollandchurch.org) Sunday Service @ 10:00 am Pastor Dan Maketansky
- **Holy Trinity Episcopal Church** 446 Hamilton St., Southbridge, MA 01550 Phone: 508-765-9559 Web: [www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org](http://www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org) Sunday Service 11:00 am Pastor Dan Purtell
- **St. John Paul II Parish** 279 Hamilton St., Southbridge Rev. Carlos Ardila, Pastor Weekend services Saturday 4 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m., 10 a.m., and noon Weekday masses 8:30 & 8:45 a.m., St. Mary's Church (508) 765-3701

# Gateway Players brings "Charlotte's Web" to life with youth production

SOUTHBRIDGE — Gateway Players Theatre in Southbridge presents the children's production of "Charlotte's Web." Adapted by Joseph Robinette. Based on the book by E.B. White. Performance dates are May 1 and 2 at 7 p.m., May 3 at 2 p.m., and May 8 and 9 at 7 p.m. The performances are held at Fellowship Hall of Elm Street Congregational Church, 61 Elm St. in Southbridge. Entrance is on Park Street (around the corner). Directed by Lou-Ellen Corkum, Produced by

Stephanie Ruggiere. Presented by permission through special arrangement with Dramatic Publishing. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$15 for seniors and youth under 18. Tickets may be reserved by calling Gateway at 508-764-4531. Online credit card ticket sales are available at The Children's Literature Association named this "the best American children's book of the past two hundred years," and Joseph Robinette, working with the advice

of E.B. White, has created a play that captures this work in a thrilling and utterly practical theatrical presentation. The costumes and unit set may be simple or as colorful and elaborate as you wish; it's the story and relationships that make the show. All the enchanting characters are here: Wilbur, the irresistible young pig who desperately wants to avoid the butcher; Fern, a girl who understands what animals say to each other; Templeton, the gluttonous rat who can occasion-

ally be talked into a good deed; the Zuckerman family; the Arables; and, most of all, the extraordinary spider, Charlotte, who proves to be "a true friend and a good writer." Determined to save Wilbur, Charlotte begins her campaign with the "miracle" of her web in which she writes, "Some pig." It's the beginning of a victorious campaign which ultimately ends with the now-safe Wilbur doing what is most important to Charlotte.

## Burgess third graders kick off

## Sturbridge celebration of America 250

STURBRIDGE — One-hundred and twenty "Happy Birthday America" cards created by Burgess Elementary School third graders are now hanging in the Senior Center. This project was developed in collaboration with the Sturbridge America 250th Anniversary Committee, established in January 2025. In the coming months, residents and visitors will enjoy a number of community programs created by and coordinated with this Committee.

Expect to see special commemorative banners featuring an historical flag posted on poles along Routes 20 and 131. Look for programs focusing on the history of America at the Joshua Hyde Public Library, and from the Sturbridge Historical Society. Old Sturbridge Village is hosting Revolutionary Game Nights at the Ox & Yoke Café. Participants will have the chance to win prizes such as special event tickets, Village crafts, and more! Check out "Revolutionary Bingo" March 27

and May 29 and "Revolutionary Trivia" Feb. 27, April 24, and June 26. For more information about these events and the many other new 250th events that the Village will be hosting, go to: osv.org.

Additional events sponsored by the Committee include an essay program for Grade 5 students titled "What Does America Mean to You?" with an option for students to voluntarily submit essays to a Town-wide recognition contest. Local restaurants will participate in a "Taste of Sturbridge" event during March and April featuring patriotic-themed offerings. Opacum Land Trust will incorporate Sturbridge historical landmarks into its April 2026 Vacation Scavenger Hunt. Also planned for May at the Senior Center are a tree planting and the burying of a time capsule

Events will culminate in May and June. A Family Fun Day on May 16 features a Children's Bike Decorating and Parade, followed

with activities on the Common including: a Mini Big-Top Circus, face painting, T-shirt decorating, yard games, potato sack and 3-legged races, music and more. A hot dog cart will also be available. The Committee's signature event will be held on June 27, 2026 and will feature a parade along Route 20 and Route 131, followed by a community festival on the Town Common. More information on these events will be forthcoming.

Volunteer recruitment and community engagement have been central to the Committee's work. The Committee extends its appreciation to all residents, volunteers, nonprofit organizations, and local businesses supporting the America 250th Anniversary celebration. If you are interested in participating in either/both the Family Fun Day and the Parade, or simply wish to find more information, please contact the Sturbridge250 Committee by email at Sturbridge250@gmail.com.

## St. Michael Romanian Orthodox Church benefit turkey dinner coming May 18

STURBRIDGE — The Publick House Historic Inn and Restaurant will host another of its community dinners on Monday, May 18, this time benefiting St. Michael Romanian Orthodox Church in Southbridge.

These dinners are part of the Publick House's ongoing effort to support local organizations. A portion of each ticket

sold will go directly to the church.

"We're grateful to be included in this program," said event organizer Spiro Thomo. "It's a simple way for people to come together, enjoy a good meal, and support the church at the same time."

Two seatings are available: 4:30-6 p.m. and 6:30-8 p.m. The buffet menu includes oven-roasted turkey,

cornbread-sausage stuffing, mashed potatoes, butternut squash, and cranberry sauce.

Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$5 for children ages four to 11. All tickets must be purchased in advance—no sales at the door. The deadline is Friday,

May 15.

For tickets or information, contact Spiro Thomo at 774-200-8043, or by email to spirothomo@gmail.com. Payment is by cash or check made payable to The Publick House.

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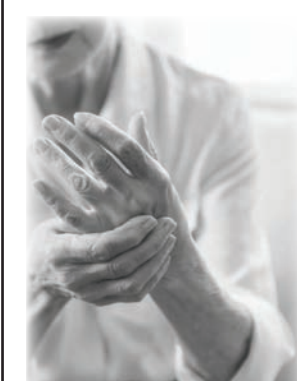
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### Bring your favorite book to life with Wales Library

WALES — Wales Library patrons of all ages are welcome to join the library friends in the USA 250 anniversary parade on June 13 in Brimfield.

Bring your favorite book, by an American author, to life!

Costume creation sessions will take place at the Wales Library 77 Main St., Wales, on April 21, 22 & 23, 2:30-4 p.m. Please register to join us by calling 413 245-9072.

Anyone wanting to dress up as a favorite character or decorate a stroller... are also welcome to do so on your own and join the parade with us.

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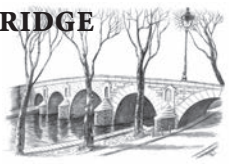
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BRENDAN BERUBE  
EDITOR

## A local achievement that speaks to something larger

Every community benefits from stories that remind us what determination looks like in real life. The recent success of South Grafton resident Loise Ngigi in passing the NCLEX-PN exam is one of those stories. It is personal, certainly. But it also reflects something broader about the strength of our local schools, the importance of healthcare training, and the quiet persistence that shapes many lives in our region.

Becoming a licensed practical nurse is not a simple milestone. It requires discipline, long hours of study, clinical preparation, and the ability to balance work and family responsibilities. For many adult learners, it also means rebuilding confidence after setbacks. That journey is rarely visible to the public, yet it is one that deserves recognition.

Ngigi's path began thousands of miles away in Kenya, and continued through years of work in Massachusetts as a certified nursing assistant before entering the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy. Stories like hers remind us how often the healthcare system depends on people who bring experience, resilience, and global perspective into local practice.

Communities such as Southbridge, Charlton, and Sturbridge rely heavily on nurses at every level of care. Licensed practical nurses are often the professionals patients see most frequently. They monitor recovery, provide daily support, and serve as steady presences in rehabilitation centers, clinics, and long-term care facilities. Their work is essential, especially as the region continues to face ongoing staffing challenges across healthcare settings.

Training programs like Bay Path's practical nursing academy play a critical role in meeting those needs. They create pathways into stable careers while strengthening the local workforce at the same time. When graduates succeed, the benefits ripple outward. Patients receive better care. Employers gain skilled professionals. Families gain stability.

What stands out especially in this story is not only academic achievement but community involvement. Volunteer work at blood pressure clinics, school health screenings, and student activities reflects a commitment to service that extends beyond coursework. Those efforts strengthen the very communities where future nurses will practice.

There is also something meaningful about the example set for young people watching at home. Balancing employment, education, and family responsibilities requires persistence that children notice, even if they do not fully understand it at the time. Seeing a parent continue learning sends a powerful message about what is possible through effort and patience.

In a region where many residents are pursuing second careers or returning to school later in life, stories like this one resonate widely. They reflect a shared reality. Education does not always follow a straight timeline. Progress often comes step by step, sometimes after setbacks, sometimes after years of preparation.

Healthcare careers, in particular, depend on that kind of determination. They are built on steady learning and practical skill, but also on empathy and reliability. Communities benefit when individuals bring those qualities forward.

Local success stories are easy to overlook in a busy week. Yet they matter. They remind us that workforce development, community service, and education are not abstract ideas. They are lived experiences unfolding in classrooms, clinics, and households across our towns.

Achievements like this one are worth recognizing not only for what they represent individually, but for what they say about the strength and promise of the communities around us.

## 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

## TO THE EDITOR

### Sturbridge deserves a Selectman with a proven record

To the Editor:

Sturbridge deserves a Select Board member with a proven record of community service and a clear vision for what comes next — and I am humbly asking for the chance to be that person.

My approach is simple: service, transparency, and smart growth guided by fiscal discipline. My wife Michele, a proud Tantasqua graduate, and I chose Sturbridge to raise our three sons. That personal investment in future generations is exactly why I'm running.

As Chair of the Recreation Committee, and Vice Chair and Recreation Liaison on the Community Preservation Committee, I've been a consistent advocate for our fields and open spaces — always in a fiscally responsible way. I've also served on the Cable Advisory Committee and coached and volunteered with youth soccer, baseball, and basketball — always working to make sure every kid has a positive experience that keeps them coming back year after year.

For more than 20 years, my professional roles as a teacher, principal, and Director of Technology have instilled a deep commitment to efficiency, accountability, and making smart, data-driven investments — principles I will bring to every Select Board decision.

This isn't about politics — it's about making sure local government actually works for the people it serves. The question I hear

most from neighbors is: Where are my tax dollars going — and how do I find out what's happening in town? Residents deserve clear answers. That means a cleaner, more useful town website, plain-language budget summaries, and easier ways for residents to watch meetings, get involved, and stay informed.

I have spent years building relationships through town committees, youth programs, and community service — and what I've learned is that the best outcomes happen when we work together. With significant commercial development along Route 20 and critical water infrastructure upgrades on the horizon, now is exactly the time for steady, forward-thinking leadership focused on our long-term fiscal health and the kind of community we all want Sturbridge to be.

To learn more about my campaign, visit [www.kadion.org](http://www.kadion.org). I would be honored to earn your trust — and to help build a Sturbridge that truly works for everyone who calls it home.

Election Day is Monday, April 13. Polls are open from 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Sturbridge Host Hotel, 366 Main Street. Absentee and early voting is available now at the Town Clerk's Office, 308 Main St.

Kadion Phillips  
Sturbridge

## I'm proud to be running for re-election

To the Editor:

I'm proud to be running for re-election as your Selectperson.

For nearly 40 years, Sturbridge has been my home, and serving this community has been one of the greatest honors of my life. From my time as a firefighter, EMT and SAFE Coordinator, to my 20 years with the Park & Recreation Committee, and now as your Selectperson since 2023, I've been committed to showing up, working hard, and doing what is best for our town.

I've experienced Sturbridge as a resident, parent, and a town employee. Those perspectives continue to guide the decisions I make on your behalf every day.

This past January brought the unexpected loss of my husband,

Rich, who shared that same commitment to Sturbridge. He served on several town boards and as chair of the 250th Anniversary Committee. I know how much it meant to him for me to serve this community, and I carry that with me every day. Continuing this work is not only an honor, it's a way to carry forward the commitment we both shared to this town we love.

I'm proud of what I've accomplished, and I would be grateful for your vote so I can continue serving Sturbridge with dedication, experience, and heart.

With gratitude,

MaryLou Volpe  
Sturbridge

## Bruce Menin has my vote for Charlton Select Board

To the Editor:

In the two years I have known Bruce Menin, I find myself simply wanting to spend more time in conversation with him. In every interaction, he is thoughtful, kind, openminded, and has this desire to listen to every word you're saying and engage in deep conversations. He enjoys talking about writing and theatre yet really enjoys digging into ways to give back to his community and how groups can come together to make improvements.

Bruce has a wealth of experience in public service, sitting on various committees and commissions in previous towns and now in our town. He does not shy away from engaging in conversations from different points of view and his goal is solely focused on finding solutions.

I strongly endorse Bruce Menin for Select Board.

Laurel Hemmer  
Charlton

## I'll be for Aube

To the Editor:

I have known Anthony Aube for a couple of years now, and I can honestly say I have never met anyone who works harder. His guiding principle is, if you are going to take a job, then do it right and that's how he operates for everything in his life. I could not have been more thrilled when he won the one-year DCRSD School Committee seat last year. And after seeing the dedication and hard work he has put into that position, my expectations for him have been exceeded. I am delighted to give him my full support in his run for

the three-year DCRSD School Committee seat in our May 2 Charlton town election.

His philosophy about learning, his experience in municipal government, his leadership skills, and now his proven abilities at problem solving, saving money and school improvement combine to make a very strong candidate. Please join me in voting for Anthony Aube for the three-year DCRSD School Committee seat.

Pat Stockwell  
Charlton

# Risks threatening Gen Z's retirement — and how to tackle them

While older generations worry about having enough money for retirement, many Gen Z workers aren't even starting to save. Research in 2025 by Edward Jones and Morning Consult shows that nearly half haven't begun setting money aside for their golden years, and only 22 percent are contributing to a workplace retirement plan.

The culprit is a perfect storm of financial pressures that can make saving for the future feel impossible.

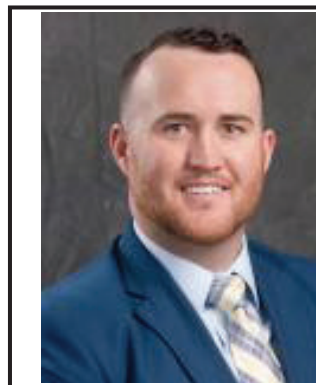
One of the biggest challenges this generation faces is debt. High-interest credit card balances and persistent student loan payments leave many feeling they're just trying to stay afloat, rather than planning decades ahead.

The cost of living doesn't help either. Nearly 60 percent of Gen Z renters are considered "rent-burdened," spending more than 30 percent of their pre-tax income on rent, according to a StreetEasy analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data. Rising prices driven by inflation and tariffs squeeze budgets further, moving retirement savings down the priority list.

The nature of work has also changed. Gen Z is more likely than previous generations to hold gig jobs, contract positions or other flexible work arrangements that often don't include employer retirement plans, according to Pew Research. Even when plans are available, only 22 percent participate. Feeling overwhelmed by jargon, confused by investment choices or focusing only on today's experiences and technology can all delay participation. These early gaps may lead to catch-up needs later in life.

Unfortunately, Gen Z has little faith in the retirement safety net. Only about a third of Gen Z-ers say they believe Social Security will still exist when they retire, according to the latest information from the CATO Institute.

Fortunately, there are steps Gen Z can take now to get their retirement savings off to a good start:



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- Start small: Even a few dollars per paycheck builds a savings habit and gets compounding interest working in their favor. Early momentum matters more than starting big.
- Let compounding do its work: Small, consistent contributions can grow dramatically over time, especially when they have decades to accumulate.
- Use a workplace retirement account: For anyone with access to a plan, enroll and contribute to receive any employer match.

It's one of the few forms of "free money" available.

- Open an IRA: If no plan is available through work, take charge by opening an individual retirement account (IRA).
- Simplify investing: If the choices feel confusing, consider options such as a target date fund, which reduces complexity and helps keep you properly invested without needing expert advice.

• Use found money: Direct tax refunds, bonuses, or gig income into retirement savings to boost progress without straining the monthly budget.

• Automate contributions: Automatic transfers make saving effortless. Review this annually and increase contributions as income grows.

• Build confidence: If investing feels overwhelming, look for quick financial education resources from an employer, plan provider, or reputable nonprofit organization. Even a little knowledge can make decisions easier.

The path to retirement doesn't require perfection — just progress. Building consistency early helps create choices, security, and financial breathing room later in life.

*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](mailto:trevor.nielsen@edwardjones.com). Edward Jones, Member SIPC*

# The comfort of a familiar hardware store

There are some places in a Massachusetts town that do more than sell things.

A hardware store is one of them.

I stopped into ours the other afternoon looking for a replacement washer for a leaky outdoor spigot. It was not a complicated job. At least I hoped it was not. I stood in the aisle longer than I care to admit, holding two nearly identical little packages and trying to decide which one looked more trustworthy.

Before I could make the wrong choice, someone I recognized from town stepped around the corner and asked what I was working on. Not a clerk. Not someone wearing a name tag. Just another neighbor who had clearly solved the same problem once or twice.

That is how these places work.

You go in for a small repair and come out with advice, conversation, and sometimes a better understanding of how many other people in town are fixing the very same thing you are fixing that week. A loose hinge. A storm door closer. A stubborn lawn mower bolt that refuses to cooperate.

When I was growing up, hardware stores were part classroom, part meeting place, and part supply depot. The shelves were tall. The floors creaked. Somewhere near the counter there was always a bulletin board with handwritten notices about yard sales, lost cats, and community suppers.

Nobody hurried you.

If you asked where something was, the answer was rarely just a direction. It was usually a short story about how to install it correctly and what mistake to avoid the first time around.

## LANTERNS ALONG MAIN STREET

By CHARLES

Sometimes you left knowing more than you planned to learn that day.

That still happens.

There is something reassuring about walking into a place where the people behind the counter understand not only what you need, but where you live and what kind of house you probably have. Older colonial. Mid century ranch. Cape with a drafty back hallway that always seems colder than the rest of the house in February.

Advice changes depending on those things.

In larger stores, everything is bigger. Brighter lights. Wider aisles. More choices than anyone really needs. There is nothing wrong with that. Sometimes you need those places. Still, there is a different feeling when someone hands you exactly the right size screw without checking a computer.

It feels like being known.

I noticed something else that afternoon while I waited at the counter. Two teenagers came in looking for sandpaper for a school project. An older couple asked about furnace filters. Someone else needed a length of rope and could not remember how thick it should be.

Nobody seemed out of place.

A hardware store welcomes beginners and experts the same way. It assumes you are trying to fix something and that trying counts

for a lot. That is a generous attitude for any place to have.

Communities depend on locations like that more than we realize. Not because of what they sell, but because of how they connect people who might

not otherwise speak to each other on an ordinary weekday afternoon.

You go in for a washer and leave with a short conversation about the weather, the garden, or whether it is finally time to put

the snow shovels away for good.

I am never entirely sure how long I have been standing there when that happens.

But I always leave feeling like the town is still working the way it is supposed to.



The Town Committee invites you to celebrate the **Nation's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** at the many eateries in the Town of Sturbridge during **March and April!**

Call for a reservation for lunch or dinner at the following restaurants:

Avellino's	Cedar Street Grille	Publick House
Sturbridge Seafood	Porterhouse Steak	Angelina's
Kaizen Sushi Bar	Condesa	Applebee's
Gido's	Teddy G's	Kahula
BT Smokehouse	Thai Place	Uno's

Early Riser? Have breakfast at:

Annie's	Churchill's	Table 3 Café
Cracker Barrel	Panera	Little Rest Stop

Love buffets? Stop at:

Isha Bhabu	Empire Village
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For wonderful coffees & lunch or snacks be sure to visit:

Sturbridge Coffee House	Sawdust Coffee House
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Feel like pizza? Plan to go to:

Enrico's Pizza	Napoli's	Sturbridge Pizza	Village Pizza
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# Smola announces firefighter safety equipment grants for local departments

BOSTON — State Representative Todd M. Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Ways & Means Committee) is pleased to announce that several communities within his district have been awarded funding through the FY26 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant Program, a statewide initiative supported by State Fire Marshall Jon M. Davine, the Healey-Driscoll Administration, Secretary of Public Safety and Security Gina Kwon, and the Legislature.

The following fire departments in Representative Smola's district applied and received funding:

Fire Department	Award Amount
Town of Brimfield	\$12,500
Palmer Fire District No. 1	\$15,500
Bondsville Fire District	\$12,500
Town of Sturbridge	\$12,742.11
Town of Wales	\$7,453.52
Town of Ware	\$18,953.99
Town of Warren	\$12,438.81

Fire departments will use this funding to purchase a wide variety of equipment

that will improve firefighter safety and emergency response capabilities, including protective gear, thermal imaging cameras, hazardous gas detectors, and personnel accountability systems.

"This funding represents a meaningful investment in the safety and effectiveness of our local fire departments,"

said Representative Smola. "Our firefighters put their lives on the line every day to protect our communities, and it is essential that they have access to modern, reliable equipment. These grants will not only help safeguard first responders but will also improve outcomes for the residents they serve."

The Firefighter Safety Equipment

Grant Program is a key component of the Commonwealth's broader efforts to enhance emergency response capabilities and promote the health and safety of firefighters across Massachusetts.

For additional information please contact Smola at Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov or (617) 722-2100.

## Applications welcome for Ronald J. Denault Memorial Law Enforcement Scholarship

CHARLTON CITY — A \$1,500 scholarship, honoring the memory of Ronald J. Denault, a highly respected police officer at both the state and local levels, will be awarded again this June to a student in the Class of 2026.

To be eligible for consideration for this award, preferably, a student must be a Charlton resident who is planning to further his/her education in pursuit of a career in law enforcement or criminal justice. Applicants may be graduating from a public or private high school or from a home schooling program that has been approved

formally by the School Committee. Ideally, applicants will show evidence of scholarship, leadership, and community service.

Any interested person should complete and submit an application packet no later than April 30, 2026. The application packet will include the following: an application form; a one-page essay summarizing why the applicant is interested in a career in law enforcement; two letters of reference; and documentation of academic scholarship. Details regarding all requirements will be included with the application form.

Application forms can be obtained at the Charlton Public Library, at the Charlton Police Station, or through the guidance offices at either Bay Path Regional or Shepherd Hill Regional High School. Further questions may be directed to Dr. Linda E. Denault, who can be reached via email at ledenault@aol.com or by calling 508-248-7711.

Completed application packets should be mailed to the Ronald J. Denault Law Enforcement Scholarship Committee c/o P.O. Box 352, Charlton City, MA 01508.

### Upcoming fundraiser will support Relay For Life

FISKDALE — The Relay For Life of Southern Worcester County is having a fundraiser on Saturday, April 18 at 2 p.m. at Brush It Off Art & Pottery Studio, 559 Main St., Suite 103-104, Fiskdale. Please sign up in advance on the Brush It Off website, <https://brush-it-off.com>

No painting experience needed, just a sense of humor. Come join us and see how differently a group interprets art, all while raising funds to fight cancer. A portion of the money from every painting goes to the American Cancer Society.

The Relay For Life of Southern Worcester County will be held Saturday, June 20, 9 a.m.- 9:30 p.m. at McMahon Field, 25 Cole Ave., Southbridge.

If interested in participating, please check out our Web site at [secure.acsevents.org](https://secure.acsevents.org) and search for Relay For Life of Southern Worcester County.

## A night of harmony and hope

### JAK-L Foundation to host Dueling Pianos in Auburn



The members of the JAK-L Foundation. Front row, from left: David Boucher, Christine Afful, Joy Kochinkas, Devon Renfro, Steve Kochinkas. Second Row, from left: Karen Sisko, Kathy Konkol-Saad, Kim Sterczala, Shirley Shepardson, Kerry Bielicki, Ruth Cahill, Laurie Boucher

AUBURN — Get ready to sing, dance, and make a difference. On Saturday, May 2, the local community will gather at J. Anthony's Italian Grill for a high-energy "Dueling Pianos" event presented by the JAK-L Foundation.

The evening promises a vibrant blend of music and laughter, but the mission behind the melodies is deeply personal. Proceeds from the event will directly support youth mental health and suicide prevention programs within the local community.

Turning pain into purpose  
The JAK-L Foundation was established in 2023 by President Joy Kochinkas. For Kochinkas, a local salon owner and stylist for more than 25 years, the cause is an intimate one. After losing her sister to suicide in 2017, she became a dedicated

advocate, participating in the "Out of the Darkness" walks for years before founding the JAK-L Foundation to create a more direct impact on mental health awareness.

"I'm hoping to make more of an impact on the mental health society," Kochinkas said regarding the foundation's mission. Alongside an active event committee, the foundation is working to transform how the community discusses and supports mental wellness.

Event details  
The event kicks off at 8:00 PM, though supporters are encouraged to arrive early.

- When: Saturday, May 2
- Time: 8 – 10 p.m. (doors open at 7:30 p.m.)
- Where: J. Anthony's Italian Grill, 917 Southbridge St., Auburn

- Admission: \$35 per person (plus fees)

Pro-Tip: Guests who enjoy dinner at J. Anthony's prior to the show will receive priority seating for the performance.

Community support

The success of the JAK-L Foundation is driven by a dedicated team of volunteers. The event committee includes David Boucher, Christine Afful, Joy Kochinkas, Devon Renfro, and Steve Kochinkas. Supporting the front lines are team members Karen Sisko, Kathy Konkol-Saad, Kim Sterczala, Shirley Shepardson, Kerry Bielicki, Ruth Cahill, and Laurie Boucher.

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# Charlton Lions Club offers scholarships

CHARLTON — The Charlton Lions Club invites 12th-grade students (in high school, technical school, private or a home school) who plan to continue their education beyond high school to apply for a \$1,000 scholarship offered by the Club.

Applicants must be Charlton residents who are accepted at an accredited college or other post-secondary program. They must submit a completed application form along with two letters of reference and a transcript of their academic achievement from their school. The application form asks

for family and financial information, extracurricular activities, career goals, and community service/volunteerism.

The application form is available online. For a link to the form, visit thecharltonlions.com or email thecharltonlions@gmail.com. If you prefer to fill out a paper form and submit the completed form by mail, please contact your guidance counselor for a copy of The Charlton Lions Club scholarship application. All applications must be received by April 30.

Three applicants will be selected from the pool of candidates; applica-

tions that do not include all required material or are received after the deadline will not be considered. Winners will be notified by May 31. To receive the scholarship, winners must then complete their first semester of study in a post-secondary program, submit a transcript of that work, and be enrolled in their second semester (or the equivalent in a non-academic program).

In addition to its annual scholarship program, The Charlton Lions Club raises funds for holiday gifts for needy families, youth activities, disaster relief, diabetes programs and

assistance dog organizations. They also help install handicap ramps and conduct vision and hearing testing at local events. For more information about the club, its projects, and how to become a member, please visit: thecharltonlions.com.

## All invited to Feast of Divine Mercy at St. Joseph's

CHARLTON — All are invited to attend the Feast of Divine Mercy at St. Joseph's Church, 10 H. Putnam Ext., Charlton, on Sunday, April 12, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Celebrate all or part of the day with us! (Please note that Confession will not be available that day.)

- 11 a.m.
- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass
- Adoration with music and silence
- Noon
- Image Explanation & Reflection from St. Faustina's Diary
- Divine Mercy Chaplet (Sri Lankan, Polish, Italian, Spanish, English)
- Adoration with music and silence
- 1 p.m.
- Rosary: Glorious Mysteries (various ministries)
- Guided Meditation: Jesus speaks to St. Faustina
- Adoration with music and silence
- 2 p.m.
- Reflection from St. Faustina's Diary
- Songs with words from St. Faustina's Diary
- St. Faustina's Way of the Cross
- 3 p.m. Hour of Mercy
- Bell rings three times
- Divine Mercy Chaplet in song
- St. Faustina's Litany of the Divine Mercy
- Litany of Trust
- 4 p.m.
- Benediction & Repose of the Blessed Sacrament (Deacon Peter)

The Live Streaming YouTube link for the Divine Mercy Sunday at St. Joseph's Church services: [https://youtube.com/live/JOCasR4M\\_PU?feature=share](https://youtube.com/live/JOCasR4M_PU?feature=share).

# Southbridge Lions Club announces 15th Annual Al DiPetro Memorial Golf Tournament

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Lions Club is preparing to host its 15th Annual Al DiPetro Memorial Golf Tournament on Friday, May 15, at Heritage Country Club in Charlton. The annual event, known for combining friendly competition with community spirit, is expected to draw golfers of all skill levels for a day of recreation and fundraising.

Registration will begin at 7 a.m., with

a shotgun start scheduled for 8:30 a.m. The tournament will follow an A, B, C, D scramble format, making it accessible and enjoyable for both experienced golfers and casual participants.

The entry fee is \$150 per player, which includes greens fees, a golf cart, lunch and refreshments, tournament prizes, and a steak or chicken dinner. Prizes will be awarded to the top three finishing teams, and a variety of raffle prizes will also be

available.

Advance registration is required. Those interested in participating can contact Gary Fontaine at 774-230-1412 or Steve Stella at 508-989-1974, or reach out to any Southbridge Lions Club member.

Organizers say the tournament promises a full day of golf, camaraderie, and support for local initiatives, continuing a long-standing tradition of giving back to the Southbridge community.

# Brimfield to mark 250th anniversary of Independence

BRIMFIELD — Save the date! On Saturday, June 13, a community-wide celebration marking the 250th anniversary of our nation's freedom will take place in Brimfield.

In recognition of this year's historic milestone, a full day of remembrance and celebration is planned. All are welcome to attend the day's events, which include the following: Revolutionary War themed cemetery tours, a ceremony at the town common gazebo, a parade, and fun-filled festivities at the Brimfield Winery. The evening will close out with a spectacular fireworks

display.

Additional details and updates will be available through the Friends of Historic Brimfield event Web site, [www.fohbrimfield.org](http://www.fohbrimfield.org). Tax-deductible donations can also be made in support of this celebration through this website, and in gratitude, donors will be recognized in the event program. Donations can also be mailed to: Friends of Historic Brimfield, P.O. Box 52, Brimfield, MA 01010 with "Spirit of Brimfield" in the memo.

This event is currently being sponsored by the Massachusetts Army

National Guard and Classic Hits 97.7 FM. If you or your company are interested in any level of corporate or business sponsorship, please visit the event website at [www.fohbrimfield.org](http://www.fohbrimfield.org). Additional volunteers are needed for both planning and to help with activities during the event, or if you are interested in putting a float in the parade, contact Friends of Historic Brimfield at (413) 239-0288 for more information.

Be sure to save the date for this celebration of the founding of our country! More information will follow.

# Casaubon Senior Center announces upcoming trips

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Casaubon Senior Center is sponsoring these up and coming trips from And Away We Go Travels and Best of Times Travel. For more information contact Jeanne Dupuis at [jtd1154@yahoo.com](mailto:jtd1154@yahoo.com) or visit the senior center to pick up a flyer. A \$25. deposit is needed at sign up.

June 20 —Newport Flower Show-Visits the Rosecliff Mansions gardens and lunch the Wyndham Newport Hotel. Lunch choices are Chicken, scrod or pasta primavera \$129 at person.

July 19 —Day In Maine Clambake-Short stops along the way for shopping and a feast on Foster's New England Clambake. A chicken meal and vegetarian meal are offered. \$119. a person.

Aug. 29—Charles River Cruise-Great two-hour cruise, lunch at the Cheesecake Factory and a trip to Quincy Market.\$145 a person

Sept. 30 — Turkey Train-A turkey dinner with all the trimmings on the Winnepesaukee Scenic Railroad-\$149. a person and there are no meal substi-

tutions.

Nov. 29 — Holiday Jamboree at Ivoryton Playhouse-First stop is at the Scotch Plains Tavern for lunch. Your choice of chicken, scrod or vegetable primavera is offered. The Jamboree plays homage to the Grand Ole Opry holiday music. \$169 a person for a wonderful way to start the holidays.

We have one overnight trip to New

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Sept. 3 & 4. \$899 for double, \$1,099 for single and \$869 for triple or quad. This includes a Broadway Show, 911 Memorial and a trip to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island.

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# OBITUARIES

## Marie Jeanne Benoit, 88

SOUTHBRIDGE: Marie Jeanne Benoit (Mercier) passed away peacefully on March 12, 2026, at the age of 88. She was born on August 1, 1937, in Southbridge, Massachusetts, to Henri Joseph Mercier and Rose Belle (Gagnon). She was the youngest of seven children and was preceded in death by her siblings: Irene, Doris, Henry, Rita, Therese "Terry," and Cecile. She was also predeceased by her son, Brian Robert Benoit, in 2000, and her great-granddaughter, Janessa Marie Jimenez, in 2009.



PCA to many patients in the community.

Jeanne found her greatest joy in caring for her grandchildren. She also enjoyed her daily walks around town with her husband, Sunday drives, dining out, and spending time at Old Orchard Beach, Maine. There will never be a meal at Bill's Pizza with pier fries

in OOB, a Shirley Temple film, or a Josh Groban song enjoyed without thinking of Jeanne.

She will also be remembered for her tough exterior yet deeply caring heart, her words of wisdom which she shared whether you were willing to listen or not, and the many memories she made sure to create with those she loved most. And so, as we say goodbye, we remember the words Jeanne often shared through life's moments: "c'est la vie."

A private service will be held at Belanger-Bullard Funeral Home, 51 Marcy St. Southbridge.

Burial will be at Oak Ridge Cemetery in Southbridge, where she will rest alongside her husband, son, and great-granddaughter.

She will be deeply missed and remembered always.

An online guestbook is available at <http://www.BelangerFuneralHome.com>

Jeanne married Robert George Roger Benoit on August 18, 1956, at Sacred Heart Church in Southbridge. They shared 55 years of marriage before his passing in 2011.

She is survived by her daughter, Rebecca Ann McManus of Charlton, MA; her daughter-in-law, Doreen Ann Benoit of Southbridge, MA; her grandchildren, Malory Marie Jimenez (Benoit) and her husband Jonathan Jimenez of Templeton, MA, Andrew Robert Benoit of Southbridge, MA, and Heather Jean McManus; and her great-grandchildren, Jayden and Jordan Jimenez.

Jeanne attended Catholic school in Southbridge and later worked for many years locally at Providence House. She also provided compassionate care as a private

## Patricia A. Lawrie, 84

Charlton: Patricia A. (Frederick) Lawrie, 84, of Saundersdale Rd., passed away peacefully on Friday, April 3rd, at UMass Memorial Hospital, University Campus, Worcester, after a brief illness.



Her beloved husband of 57 years, Stanley G. Lawrie, passed away in 2014. She leaves her two sons, Scott E.P. Lawrie and his wife, Suzanne of Edgewater, FL, and Brian D. Lawrie of Sturbridge; her brother, Dennis Frederick; her son-in-law, John Markley, and her daughter-in-law, Laurie Lawrie; eight beloved grandchildren, Angela Fannon, Benjamin Markley, John Markley, Gina Monahan, Cassie Davis, Kayla Lawrie, Nicholas Benoit, and Lawrie Benoit; her cherished nine great-grandchildren, Deborah Parent, Jennifer Benoit, Makenzie Fannon, Owen Davis, Colin Monahan, Jack Monahan, Ivy Markley, Sawyer Markley, and Penelope Markley; her six great-great-grandchildren, Savannah Parent, Alexander Parent, Sahmya Parent, Iris Parent, Juniper Parent and Kora Dumais, as well as her two nieces, Katy Mayette and Karen Mayette.

Patricia was predeceased by her two daughters, Susan E. Markley in 2024 and Deborah K. Mann in 1998, as well as her sister, Christine Mayette in 2003.

Patricia was born in Dudley, the daughter of Raymond Robert Frederick and Helen (Hwalek) Frederick. A woman of deep and unwavering faith, Pat devoted her life to serving others through

her church and her love of Christ. For more than 30 years, she was a welcoming and compassionate presence at St. Joseph's Church in Charlton, where she served as a receptionist and grief specialist, offering comfort, guidance, and a listening ear to countless families in their most difficult moments. Her ministry extended far beyond her role, as she actively worked to bring others closer to Jesus, especially through her involvement in Cursillo, where she inspired many to deepen their faith and walk with Christ. Pat also shared her gifts through hospice care and her work at American Optical Company, always leading with kindness and grace. She was a devoted member of St. Joseph's Church and served on the Board of Directors at the Center of Hope, living out her faith through service. Above all, she treasured time with her family—joyfully playing board games, often winning with a smile, and making lasting memories. She also held dear her trips to Campobello Island, New Brunswick, Canada, with her beloved husband Stanley and family.

Her faith-filled legacy will live on in all who knew and loved her, and in the many lives she touched through her kindness, compassion, and devotion to Christ. Guests are warmly invited to wear colors in celebration of her joyful spirit, though traditional attire is also welcome.

A funeral Mass for Patricia will be held on Friday, April 10th, at 11:00 am in St. Joseph's Church, 10 H. Putnam Rd. Ext., Charlton. Calling hours will be held in St. Joseph's Church on Thursday, April 9th, from 5:00 am to 7:00 pm.

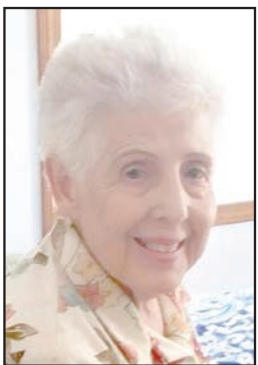
Burial at a later date will be private in Northside Cemetery, Charlton

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory in honor of the faith and community that meant so much to her to St. Joseph's Church, P.O. Box 338 Charlton City, MA 01508 [www.morrillfuneralhome.com](http://www.morrillfuneralhome.com)

## Therese Lena "Terri" Culliton, 95

Putnam: Mrs. Therese Lena "Terri" (Dignard) Culliton, 95, passed away peacefully on March 29, 2026, in Putnam, Connecticut.

Therese is survived by her sons Charles "Chuck" Culliton and his wife Margarita Torres of West Hartford, Dennis Culliton and his wife Linda of Waterford, CT, and Bernard Culliton and his wife Xuemei of Nashua, NH; her loving daughter Julie Culliton-Smith and her husband Michael Smith of Las Vegas, NV; She also leaves behind ten grandchildren, Kristin, Timothy, Ashley, Ross, Patrick, Brendan, Hope, Michael, Abigail, and Art and seven great grandchildren, as well as many nieces and nephews.



High School in Fitchburg in 1949. She was a long time resident of Guilford, CT. She pursued further education at the Western Telegraph Operator Training School as a teletypist. Therese worked at various

locations throughout New England. It was during her final assignment in Southbridge that she met Charles Pierce Culliton, who would become her husband and lifelong partner.

After marrying Charles and raising their family, Therese devoted herself to creating a warm and loving home. Once her children were in school, she returned to work as a teletype setter for the Southbridge News, where her precision and dedication were highly valued. Later, she worked at Cabot Safety Corporation, manufacturing safety glasses and goggles.

Therese's life was enriched by her many passions. A lifelong lover of music, she continued piano lessons into her eighties

and enjoyed playing pieces like Debussy's "Clair de Lune". She was an accomplished cook, preparing dishes such as tourtières and golumkis that reflected her French-Canadian heritage (and her Polish neighbors). She also found joy in bird watching, particularly cardinals and bluebirds.

Her faith was central to her life. A devoted Catholic, she served in numerous roles at parishes across New England, including catechism teacher, Eucharistic Minister, and prayer group leader. Even in her later years at Matulaitis Rehabilitation Center, she remained committed to daily Mass.

Calling hours will be held on April 7, 2026, from 5:00pm to 7:00pm at Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton Street, Southbridge. A Funeral Mass will be held on April 8, 2026, at 10:00am at St. Mary's Church, 247 Hamilton Street, Southbridge. Burial will follow in St. Mary's Cemetery, Southbridge.

Therese lived a life of faith and service. May her memory bring comfort to all who knew her as they celebrate a life well-lived.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Alzheimer's Association MA Chapter, 309 Waverly Oaks Rd., Waltham, MA 02452 or online at [alzfdn.org](http://alzfdn.org)

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## Friday's Child

Jayden is a sweet, funny, and bright young boy with a joyful and engaging personality. He enjoys playing educational games on his iPad and even looks forward to everyday activities like grocery shopping. Jayden has a special interest in construction and loves pretending to work at Home Depot—proudly wearing his Home Depot robe as he imagines himself on the job. Jayden is full of energy and enjoys running, dancing, and celebrating the birthdays of others. His playful and social nature shines through in the way he includes others in whatever he is doing. One of his favorite treats is Oreo cookies, which always bring a smile to his face.

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

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# Traveling petting zoo coming to Southbridge Community Senior Center

SOUTHBRIDGE — Records and Burpee will be presenting a Traveling Petting Zoo at the Southbridge Community Center, 153 Chestnut St., Southbridge, on Tuesday, April 21 at 2 p.m.

Records and Burpee offers a variety of first-class educational programs and attractions. Their animals appear at fairs, parks, schools, libraries, museums, special events, promotions, television programs, and in advertising. Their animal family is seen live by more than a million people annually.

Husband and wife team of Lawrence Records and Alexandra Burpee founded Records and Burpee animal shows in 1987. Their experience in animal care, exhibition and training goes back to 1971. Today, along with sons, Ben and Harrison, they are based at their private 28 acre farm in Dudley.

The Records and Burpee Traveling Petting Zoo is supported by a grant from the Southbridge Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. All are welcome to enjoy this fun filled event.

The Southbridge Community Center is a multi-functional facility including the Casabon Senior Center, Recreation & Veterans Departments providing social and

recreational opportunities and services for all citizens of Southbridge and the local

area. The Senior Center is very active and publishes the Casabon Chronicle which

details all the happenings each month. We hope to see you soon.

## Auction Acres to host Seventh Annual Pioneer Valley Wine Festival

BRIMFIELD — Brimfield Auction Acres, birthplace of the world-famous Brimfield Antique Shows, will host the sixth annual Pioneer Valley Wine Festival Saturday and Sunday, June 6 & 7, from noon to 5 p.m.

2026 Marks the 7th year of the Pioneer Valley Wine and Food festival. This exciting event brings together New England Wineries, Cideries, Distilleries, and Meaderies from across the Pioneer Valley and Farmers of many sorts selling their wares.

The event started in 2018 by the collaboration with farm wineries throughout New England and local farmers to create a festival to highlight the magnificent products Massachusetts provides all in unison and support of Massachusetts Agricultural Department.

The Festival will feature local vintners and craft brewers ready to spill their secrets, Live Art demonstrations, sizzling chef panel star-

ring culinary celebs - to be announced soon. Last year celebrity guests include; Brynn Gibson, the youngest Black Jacket finalist from Fox's Hell's Kitchen with Gordon

Ramsay. We also have Jared Forman, the culinary mastermind behind Deadhorse Hill, who brought the heat on Food Network's Beat Bobby Flay.

## Build a house, build a garage, build an addition with help from Tantasqua students

FISKDALE — The Tantasqua Regional School Committee will be accepting applications for projects to be built during the 2026-2027 school year. The purpose of these projects is to provide practical work experiences for the carpentry students of Tantasqua's Technical Division. Since there is no charge for student labor, qualified applicants realize substantial savings. Additional savings can result if Tantasqua's electrical students install any necessary wiring.

Applications and design plans will be accepted for the construction of a single story house, garage, addition, or similar project. One or more projects may be selected. Applicant must reside in the Tantasqua School District.

All applications should be submitted directly to the Superintendent's Office by May 15.

For further information please call the Technical Division at 508-347-3045, ext. 0915 or access our Web site at <http://www.tantasqua.org/technical/forms.htm>.



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# LEGALS

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. WO26P0653EA  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR  
FORMAL ADJUDICATION  
Estate Of:  
Ralph A Warrington  
Date of Death: 05/02/2007

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Debra Warrington of Leominster MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that:

**Debra Warrington of Leominster MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the estate in **unsupervised administration**.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/28/2026**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

## UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

**WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.**

Date: April 03, 2026

Stephanie Fattman,

Register of Probate

April 9, 2026

## Public Notice

Notice is hereby given under Chapter 138, Section 12 of Massachusetts General Laws of a public hearing to be held in the Laurent McDonald Veterans Conference Room, first floor of the Town Hall, 41 Elm Street, Southbridge, MA, on Thursday, April 23, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.. during the regular scheduled Liquor Licensing Board Meeting in regard to a Violation of Massachusetts General Law and the Southbridge Massachusetts Liquor Licensing Board License Regulations

This hearing pertains to Maqui Inc. d/b/a Maqui's, 61 Chestnut St., Southbridge, MA. This violation occurred on February 26, 2026 at 1:55 a.m. Anyone wishing to speak will be given the opportunity to be heard.

This notice is also published electronically on www.stonebridgepress.com and on www.masspublicnotice.org

Town of Southbridge

Liquor Licensing Board

April 9, 2026

## NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 37 Breakneck Road, Sturbridge, MA 01566

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Stephanie Anne St. Germain and Ryan Lucas Goff to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Home Point Financial Corporation, and now held by **Freedom Mortgage Corporation**, said mortgage dated October 22, 2020 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 63565, Page 41, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Home Point Financial Corporation, its successors and assigns to Freedom Mortgage Corporation by assignment dated October 15, 2025 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 72674, Page 258; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on April 27, 2026 at 01:00 PM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

*The land located on the easterly side of Breakneck Road in Sturbridge, Worcester County, Massachusetts, and being shown as "Lot B-2" on page 1 of 3 pages, plan entitled "Plan of Property surveyed for Oliver L. Howlett located in Sturbridge, Worcester County, Massachusetts" by Sturbridge*

*Abstract Co., Jalbert Engineering, dated March 6, 1985 and recorded in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 532 Plan 10. Said Lot B-2 contains 4.29 acres, more or less. For our title see deed recorded herewith.*

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated October 22, 2020 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 63565, Page 39.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC  
23 Messenger Street  
2nd Floor  
Plainville, MA 02762  
Attorney for Freedom Mortgage Corporation  
Present Holder of the Mortgage  
(401) 217-8701  
March 26, 2026  
April 2, 2026  
April 9, 2026

## NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 111 Plimpton Street, Southbridge, MA 01550

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Hicham Elkhazbi to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for ARC Home LLC, and now held by **Freedom Mortgage Corporation**, said mortgage dated July 22, 2021 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 65676, Page 230, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for ARC Home LLC, its successors and assigns to Freedom Mortgage Corporation by assignment dated October 17, 2025 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 72693, Page 252; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on April 27, 2026 at 10:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

*THE LAND IN SOUTHBRIDGE, WORCESTER COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS, WITH THE BUILDINGS THEREON AND ALL PRIVILEGES AND APPURTENANCES THERETO BELONGING SITUATED ON PLIMPTON STREET, BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT AN IRON PIN IN THE GROUND ON THE WESTERLY SIDE OF PLIMPTON STREET, AT THE NORTHEASTERLY CORNER OF LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF LIONEL BEAUDRY ET UX; THENCE N. 28 DEG. 28' E., ALONG THE WESTERLY LINE OF PLIMPTON STREET, 21.1 FEET TO A TOWN BOUND; THENCE N. 15 DEG. 39' W., 47.8 FEET ALONG PLIMPTON STREET EXTENSION TO AN IRON PIPE IN THE GROUND AT LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF FRANCIS OHOP ET UX; THENCE N. 78 DEG. 59' W., 79.43 FEET TO A DRILL HOLE IN THE WALL AT LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF E. DESMARAIS;*

*THENCE SOUTHERLY 41.0 FEET ALONG SAID DESMARAIS LAND TO A STAKE AT THE NORTHWESTERLY CORNER OF LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF SAID BEAUDRY; THENCE S. 66 DEG. 32' E., 108.5 FEET ALONG SAID BEAUDRY LAND TO THE IRON PIN IN THE GROUND AT THE POINT OF BEGINNING. BEING PARCEL 2 AS SHOWN ON PLAN ENTITLED "PLAN OF LAND OWNED BY NOE AND YVONNE FRENIER, SOUTHBRIDGE, MASS, AUGUST 23, 1958, W. MORSE, C.E."*

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated July 22, 2021 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 65676, Page 227.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC  
23 Messenger Street  
2nd Floor  
Plainville, MA 02762  
Attorney for Freedom Mortgage Corporation  
Present Holder of the Mortgage  
(401) 217-8701

March 26, 2026

April 2, 2026

April 9, 2026

## CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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

The applicant has filed a Notice of Intent for the construction of an addition to the existing house, wall repair, and associated landscaping within the 100-ft buffer zone to South Charlton Reservoir. The project location is: 27 Robert Blvd, Charlton, MA 01507. Parcel ID: 73B-H-4

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

April 9, 2026

## 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, Property Solutions, has submitted a Land Disturbance/Stormwater Management Application on March 31, 2026, for land disturbance associated with the construction of a single-family home and associated site work.

The project site is located at Lot 5 Brookfield Road, Charlton, MA 01507, and is also known as: Parcel ID: 15-B-4.3

Copies of the Land Disturbance Application are available at the Charlton Conservation Commission office during business hours.

Thomas O'Malley

Chair, Charlton Conservation

Commission

April 9, 2026

## CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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

The applicant has filed a Notice of Intent for the construction of a telecommunications facility within the 100-ft buffer zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands. The project location is: 103 Bond Road, Charlton, MA 01507. Parcel ID: 58-B-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

April 9, 2026

## Town of Holland

In accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act, Chapter 131, Sec 40, a public hearing by the Conservation Commission will be held on Tuesday 04/28/2026 at 6:30 p.m. in the Conservation Commission Room, second floor, in the Holland Town Hall, 27 Sturbridge Rd, Holland, MA. This meeting is to review a Notice of Intent (NOI) filed by John Gousy for installing a wall at 8 Sandy Beach Road (Map R35-C-23) Holland, MA 01521. To comply with the Open Meeting Law, all public hearings are scheduled for 6:30 PM and, barring unforeseen circumstances, will be taken in the order in which they appear on the agenda. This meeting will be held in person. The application is available for review by at the Conservation Commission Office, Town

Office Building on Mondays (12:30 PM – 4:00 PM) and Tuesdays (9:00 AM – 4:00 PM).

Conservation Commission

Town of Holland

April 9, 2026

## MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by **174 HAMILTON STREET LLC to Alpha Real Estate Lending LLC**, dated April 11, 2024 and recorded with the Worcester South District Registry of Deeds in Book 70392, Page 189 of which mortgage **Alpha Real Estate Lending LLC** is the present holder for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 174 Hamilton Street, Southbridge, MA will be sold at a Public Auction at 1:00 PM on April 27, 2026, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

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

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

BEGINNING at the northwesterly corner thereof, at a drill hole in the stone curbing on the easterly line of Hamilton Street at land of Southbridge & Webster Plumbing Co., Inc., formerly of Elizabeth A. Bourdelais; THENCE easterly by land of said Southbridge & Webster Plumbing Cop., Inc., about 193 feet to an iron pin in the ground at the westerly line of the locate in of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad; THENCE southerly by said Railroad location about 80 feet to land of Tetreault, formerly of John J. O'Shaughnessy; THENCE westerly by said Tetreault land 200 feet more or less to the easterly line of Hamilton Street; THENCE northerly by the easterly line of Hamilton Street 80 feet to the point of beginning. The premises will be sold subject to and with the benefit of all outstanding real estate taxes, municipal liens, assessments, rights, easements, restrictions, and other encumbrances of record, if any, which are in force and applicable.

Terms of the Sale: Cash, cashier's or certified check in the sum of \$10,000.00 as a deposit must be shown at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify as a bidder (the mortgage holder and its designee(s) are exempt from this requirement); high bidder to sign written Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid; balance of purchase price payable in cash or current funds in thirty (30) days from the date of the sale at the offices of mortgagee's attorney, Taft & McSally, LLP, 21 Garden City Drive, Cranston, RI 02920 or such other time as may be designated by mortgagee. Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Alpha Real Estate Lending LLC

Present holder of said mortgage, by its attorney

John V. McGreen

Taft & McSally, LLP

21 Garden City Drive

Cranston, RI 02920

(401) 946-3800

April 2, 2026

April 9, 2026

April 16, 2026

## Commonwealth of Massachusetts

The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Worcester Probate  
and Family Court  
225 Main Street  
Worcester, MA 01608  
(508) 831-2200  
Docket No. WO25P3774A

CITATION ON PETITION FOR SALE OF REAL ESTATE BY A PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Estate Of:

**Lynette Frances McDonagh**

Date of Death: 07/20/2025

To all interested persons:

A Petition for Sale of Real Estate has been filed by: **Elizabeth L Bograd of Westborough MA**

requesting that the court authorize the Personal Representative to sell the decedent's real estate at a private sale.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/28/2026**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.**

Date: March 31, 2026

Stephanie Fattman,

Register of Probate

April 9, 2026

# Charlton Lions Club & Overlook Tree Advisory Committee join forces

CHARLTON — The Charlton Lions Club and The Overlook Independent Living Tree Advisory Committee will join forces in April to improve their town. The two groups will host a booth at Charlton's Earth Fest, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., on Saturday, April 25 on the Charlton Town Common where they'll give away 100 sweetgum trees. As they do each year, the Lions will also participate in the town's roadside cleanup effort, which starts at 8 a.m. and the trees will be available at that time.

Each small sweetgum tree will come with instructions for planting and caring for it as it grows. Sweetgums (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) are large, decorative deciduous trees native to eastern North America. Their star-shaped leaves turn red and gold in the fall. The baby trees will be given to the first 100 Charlton residents who commit to planting and caring for the trees on their property. The trees will be donated by Bartlett Tree Experts.

The Overlook Tree Advisory Committee is comprised of residents and staff of the Independent Living community as well as representatives of

Bartlett Tree Experts and Babe's Landscape & Construction. The Committee's mission is to advise on ways to protect and maintain the trees on The Overlook Campus and to educate the community about trees and the importance of trees to our environment and wellbeing. Through the work of the Committee, The Overlook was recently named a Tree Healthcare Campus by the Arbor Day

Foundation.

One focus of Lions Clubs International is protecting the environment to create healthier communities and a more sustainable world. The worldwide service organization encourages planting and caring for trees to contribute to cleaner air as part of their mission.

# Charlton Garden Club meets April 13

CHARLTON — Come and join the Charlton Garden Club's Monday, April 13 meeting, when we will welcome all to a free program on Fancy Leaved Begonias with Betsy Szymczak.

Ms. Szymczak, an avid gardener and begonia grower, is a member of the American Begonia Society and a certified ABS judge. Her passions extend to dahlias, and she also is a member of the American Dahlia Society (ADS) and ADS candidate judge.

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 about the Charlton Garden Club, please email charltongardenclub@gmail.com.



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

*Featured Listing ~ New To Market!*  
*Webster ~ 33 Slater Street*



Sprawling 62'x30' fieldstone faced 1 Level Ranch, located on a +/- 0.5-acre level, w/24'x24' 2 car att'd garage. Offers: 1,860 sf main level plus 1,000 sf +/- finished lower level, 3 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, 2 stone fireplaces w/pellet stove inserts, FHW BB heat by oil. Open floor plan w/15'x13' kitchen, 15'x22' living rm, 13'x11' dining rm, 10'x28' breezeway w/sliders to rear deck, and 3 season sunroom, hardwood & c-tile floors, replacement windows/doors & more, more, more! How do you like it? **Call today to schedule a showing!** \$525,000

*Webster - 24 Cooper Rd*  
*New Construction - Craftsman Style home*



Tucked away on Cooper Rd. Webster Lake with access at Lakeside beach/boat ramp. 3rd of 4 homes being built at this site. Offers 2,155 sq. ft +/- of living area, 7 rms, 4 brs, 2 1/2 baths, 9ft ceiling, wood flooring throughout with ceramic tile baths. Spacious main BR Suite w/ walk-in closet, and private full bathr, double sink vanity, finished lower level walk-out w/ slider. Central AC, garage \$649,900.00

**On the shores of Lake Chargoggagogmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg**

*Webster Lake Waterfront Listing!!*  
*On Indian Point # 10 "Private Rd"*



**ON DEPOSIT**

Astounding Panoramic Views across mid-section of Webster Lake! Sun drenched from early morning sunrise till sunset! View the lake from all windows. Located on a peninsula providing 2 Shorelines. Fireplaced Living Room! Recent Kitchen & Bath! Primary Bedroom w/walk-in closet. Hardwood Floors. 2 Baths. FHW Oil Heat! Central Air. Garage. \$ 900,000.

*Webster Lake - 302 Killdeer Island*



**SORRY, SOLD!**

Renovated + move-in ready lakefront home w/1,700+/- sq ft. Open kitchen/dining/living w/cathedral ceilings + wall of windows. Primary suite w/private bath! 2 add'l bedrooms, 2nd Full bath. Lower level family room w/walkout to water. Wraparound deck, new vinyl railings, terraced yard, sandy beach, professional landscaping. Many updates \$775,000

**Webster Lake Waterfront - 31 Bayview!!**



**SORRY, SOLD!**

Panoramic View, from this absolutely lovely home. 2600 +/- SF, 3+ Beds, 2 full baths, 2 car detached garage! 63' +/- waterfront. .37 Acres! Sandy Waterfront! \$1,100,000



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Diane Luong 774-239-2937  
Maria Reed 508-873-9254  
Bob Berk 508-367-9226  
Vicki Bennett, Client Coordinator

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\*Privacy and Outdoor Space  
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**MILLVILLE- CONDO**



\*2 Baths  
\*3 Bedroom  
\*End Unit at Heritage Hill  
29 Cork Circle \$339,900

**DUDLEY- 1.15 ACRE LOT**



\*Perc Test  
\* Land Survey Available  
Old Southbridge Rd. \$124,900

**Southbridge- Dudley**

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Potential for  
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**CHARLTON- 5.2 Acres**



\*Well on Property  
\*Private Setting  
\$100,000



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Jo-Ann (Nedoroscik) Szymczak  
CRS, GRI, SRES  
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**TWO FREE CLASSES, Saturday, April 11th**  
**Historic Black Tavern, Dudley**  
11-12 Learn About 55+ Community, Condos  
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# Charlton celebrates Earth Day April 25

CHARLTON — clean-up and fest in celebration of Earth Day on Saturday, April 25 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Residents may sign up online at <https://www.townofcharlton.net/238/Earth-Day-Committee> to

*Gateway Players presents staged reading of new comedy*



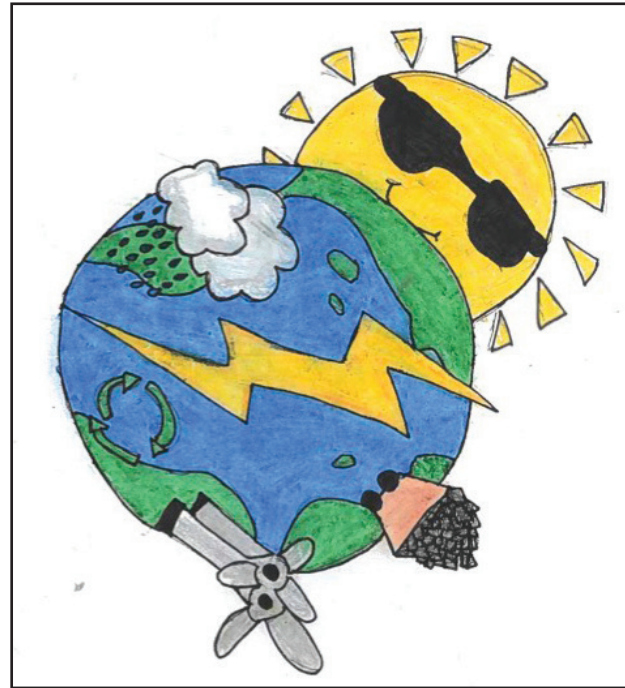
SOUTHBRIDGE — On April 11 at 7 p.m., Gateway Players Theater presents a staged reading of "A Pink Sponge in the Shape of a Flamingo Named Lucille," a new comedy written by Kelly Dearn and directed by Mikey Dearn. It will be held in the Fellowship Hall at Elm Street Congregational Church, 61 Elm St. in Southbridge.

This will be a pay what you can performance.

Cast  
MICHELLE- Erin Simpson  
JEREMY- John Golden  
DUANNE & SALLY 1- Stephen Jean  
JULIA & SALLY 2- Cole Gawron

OFFICER NELSON & KEN- Sean Nault  
CAT & DIERDRE- Krissi Forges  
LEONDRA & JENNA- Tey Ferron  
"A Pink Sponge in the Shape of a Flamingo Named Lucille" starts off as an oddly specific answer to a game of 20 questions on a very awkward blind date that only gets crazier by the minute when Michelle decides to drive Jeremy half way across the country to get married. There's only one problem: Jeremy doesn't want to. Can he escape his date from hell or will everyone they come across be on Michelle's side?

Please note that this performance contains adult language and mature themes.



Courtesy

The winning entry for the Earth Day tee shirt contest created by Riley Boland.

claim a road, or portion of a road to clean. Online registration begins April 1; residents may also sign up in person at the event.

Residents who commit to a road will receive sturdy yellow plastic bags, protective gloves, grabbers, safety vests, tick prevention kits and tick removal kits. These items will be distributed on the Town Common beginning at 8 am the day of the event. Grabber supply is limited; please reuse grabbers from previous years if you have them. Collected trash should be brought to a dumpster, donated by Casella Waste, located behind Town Hall. The Charlton DPW is available to pick up bags for residents who are unable to deliver them to the dumpster; residents need to notify the Earth Day Planning group at [cjolicoeur64@yahoo.com](mailto:cjolicoeur64@yahoo.com) of the exact location of these bags.

Residents are urged to use gloves to protect themselves from sharp objects

and to wear bright clothing or a safety vest so drivers can see them easily. Residents are cautioned to never open containers of unknown substances. Contact the Police to dispose of any needles or syringes – do not touch or place them in bags with other refuse.

While most roads in town need cleaning, some of the worst are the most traveled and therefore more dangerous to address. If you are up for the task, but not for children, these roads are hot spots: Route 31, Brookfield Road, Route 20 traffic lights, and Saundersdale Road.

To encourage participation from children, Erin Anderson, fifth-grade science teacher at Charlton Middle School, held a contest for students to design a tee shirt based on this year's Earth Day theme: Our Power, Our Planet. The winning design was submitted by seventh-grader Riley Boland. Millenium Power Company has generously

donated tee shirts with the winning design, available on a first come, first serve basis, one per person.

In addition to a town-wide clean-up, Charlton will hold an Earth Fest on Saturday, April 25 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event will feature live music, food trucks, and vendors promoting environmentally sustainable lifestyle choices. The Earth Day Planning Group invites residents to enjoy the festivities, while learning ways to help the earth, its animals, and plants.

Earth Fest vendors include AnnieMike's Honey, Buffumville Army Corps of Engineers, Charlton Business Alliance, Charlton Conservation Commission, Charlton Garden Club, Charlton Heritage Preservation Trust, Charlton Public Library, Eric's Aviaries, Local 4 Life, Keep Charlton Beautiful Committee, The Last Green Valley, the Opacum Land Trust, Swampdog Native Plants, and more.

Cara Smick Photography, Charlton Heritage Preservation Trust, The Last Green Valley, and Millenium Power Company have generously agreed to sponsor the event.

The Wormtown Mugwumps, Worcester's premier purveyors of jug band music, and Acoustic Ruckus, formerly known as Grey Whisker Pickers, will provide entertainment. The event will also feature food trucks 3 Kings BBQ, Suzy Q's Ice Cream, and Toasted Roasters.

Funding for Charlton Earth Day is generously provided by The Last Green Valley.

For more information, email [pmhanlonwriting@gmail.com](mailto:pmhanlonwriting@gmail.com).

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