

# Charlton Villager

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Thursday-Friday, April 2-3, 2026

## Kids enjoy free April admission at Old Sturbridge Village

STURBRIDGE — As spring arrives in New England, Old Sturbridge Village invites families to celebrate the season with a special offer: kids receive free general daytime admission throughout April (April 1–30). During this month-long offer, up to two children, age 17 or younger, will be admitted free with each adult full-price general daytime admission ticket.

With warmer weather, children eager to get outside, and the nation approaching its 250th anniversary, it's the perfect time to step into New England's largest living history museum.

Visitors will experience life in early New England through hands-on activities, outdoor games,



Visitors in the Cabinetmaking Shop watch a costumed historian at work.

masterful storytelling, and encounters with heri-

itage-breed farm animals, including playful lambs, cows, and the hardworking oxen that once pow-

ered local farms.

The Village will also feature farmers preparing fields for planting, pot-

ters shaping clay, blacksmiths forging tools, households cooking over open hearths, and costumed interpreters sharing stories from the Revolutionary era and the nation's early years.

During April vacation weeks (April 15–19 and April 22–26, 2026), families can take part in Family Field Days, a series of 19th-century-inspired games, competitions, and feats of skill, including tug-of-war, jump rope challenges, scavenger hunts, and “trap, bat, and ball” (baseball, 1830s style).

“It’s been an especially long winter, and I think families are ready to get outside again,” said Jim Donahue, President and CEO of Old Sturbridge Village. “With kids visiting free in April, it’s a

great chance for families to come out, enjoy the fresh air, and spend a day exploring the Village.”

Ticket details

- The offer applies to general daytime admission only and does not include field trips or special ticketed events.

- To maximize savings, visitors are encouraged to purchase tickets online in advance for an additional \$3 discount compared to door prices.

- Visitors must use code: KID26 at check out. Full details and tickets are available at [osv.org/event/kids-free-april](http://osv.org/event/kids-free-april).

- Old Sturbridge Village is open Wednesday–Sunday, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., April 1–30.

- See the full schedule of upcoming events on Old Sturbridge Village’s calendar.

## SCHOTT supports Southbridge scholars

SOUTHBRIDGE — Whoever said it is never too early to start thinking about your future wasn’t lying. This is the second year that a local Southbridge business, SCHOTT, has sponsored our eighth-grade students to explore beyond the walls of Southbridge Middle School. This year, the company has generously donated funding so that our students can experience Boston and begin thinking about their futures!

In a time that budgets are tight across the Commonwealth and beyond, gas prices are rising, and life seems like it’s a bill, Schott’s generosity allows Southbridge Middle School’s oldest students to have a unique, fun, long, and adventurous trip into the city that otherwise would not be possible.

On our first stop, the eighth graders will be dipping their toes in an immersive tour of the Boston Museum of Science. As groups travel through the museum, they will practice the skills they have learned from their STEM-based classes in a hands-on approach. Students have the opportunity to look at water systems in Boston, space exploration, and discover scientific innovations over time. Not only will students use their scientific minds, but they will also travel across Boston to become historians. The next stop on the trip brings us to a tour of the State House. Scholars will bring their knowledge of civics to life as they witness the important work of our state representatives, and have a Q & A session with one of our own representatives. To end our Boston experience, students are invited to Boston University, where they will prepare for and see themselves on a real-life college campus. They will rotate through four engaging sessions that help them feel like they are already college students.

This year’s trip builds on last year’s foundation. The team at Southbridge is partnering with Senator Fattman and Representative Marsi’s office to make the tour of the State House more tailored to a Middle School audience from Southbridge, instead of having the students do the normal tourist statehouse tour. Similarly, through networked connections, the college campus trip will build on last year’s self-guided tour of a different state university.

Last year’s students reported the best part of the experience was running in between the rain drops on the common to see the Martin Luther King Jr. statue.

Looking ahead to this year’s trip, eighth grade student Destiny said “I am excited to explore new things and learn more about the history of my state. We are able to experience something other middle school students can’t always do,” and her friend Steven added, “I can’t wait to see how a real college runs! We will see what our futures could look like.”

One thing the team at Southbridge believes is that you never know if you don’t ask, and that’s how this annual field trip and the partnership between the school and Schott came to be. Reaching out and asking for money isn’t easy, but you never know if you don’t ask. The worst that happens is someone says no. The best that could happen – in the case of Schott Manufacturing – is they said yes and made this experience possible for the Class of 2030!

## 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.

## Masonic Lodge of Instruction class has huge turnout

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE  
MAJOR GENERAL SALEM  
TOWNE LODGE  
SOUTHBRIDGE

SOUTHBRIDGE — On Thursday March 26, the 24th Masonic District Lodge of Instruction (L.O.I.) class was held at the Major General Salem Towne Lodge (MGSTL), Webster apartments (the Webster Lodge building).

Brother Paul Hanson spoke about the Scouters Lodge as the evening's guest speaker. The lodge currently consists of both former and current Boy Scout members. To join this exclusive Masonic Lodge, you must have met specific criteria and achievements as a Boy Scout. You must be a recipient of the Eagle Scout, or a recipient of the Daniel Carter Bearded Masonic Scouters Award, a Silver Beaver, Silver Antelope or Silver Buffalo Award recipient. Currently, most of their meetings and degree work are conducted outdoors weather permitting, and the Lodge officers have been granted permanent dispensation (permission) to wear their Scout uniforms during these Lodge meetings. When permitted following these outdoor meetings, gathering by the firepit to share camaraderie, toast marshmallows, and eat smores the reminiscing about experiences as a Boy Scout is genuinely rewarding.

The L.O.I. classes are given every month at one



Courtesy

Pictured, left to right: District Deputy Grand Master of the 24th Masonic District Brother Gordon Forsberg, Bro. Paul Davidson holding the L.O.I. Traveling Chainmail Armor Attendance Apron for MGSTL and Bro. Bill Belanger.

of the six lodges in the 24th Masonic District. This is where new candidates are provided with information about Freemasonry, accompanied by a guest speaker who discusses topics related to fraternity and other relevant subjects. Major General Salem Towne Masonic Lodge had the highest attendance of

the six District Lodges. These brethren wanted the Traveling Chainmail Armor Attendance Apron that travels within the 24th District monthly L.O.I. classes. The Traveling Chainmail Armor Attendance Apron is a tradition that began in 2010. The lodge with the most brethren in attendance gets to bring this

beautiful Chainmail Armor Attendance Apron back to their lodge home and the bragging rights until the next L.O.I. monthly class. For further details about the fraternity of Freemasonry, please visit our website at [www.massfreemasonry.org](http://www.massfreemasonry.org). There, you can learn more about our organization and locate a lodge near you.



# 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 commu-

nity 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.

## 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 par-

ticipation, 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.

## 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. 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. 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.

## 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 pur-

suit 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 appli-

cation 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.

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# OPINION

## Four stages of raising confident, money-smart kids

### Opening doors beyond the classroom

For many eighth-grade students, the future still feels far away. High school is on the horizon, college can seem abstract, and careers are often little more than ideas. That is why experiences outside the classroom can matter so much at exactly this age. When students are given the chance to see what lies ahead, the future begins to feel real.

This spring, Southbridge Middle School students will once again have that opportunity thanks to the continued support of SCHOTT. The company's sponsorship of a Boston field trip is more than a generous gesture. It is an investment in young people at a moment when encouragement and exposure can shape the direction of their lives.

The itinerary itself speaks volumes about what thoughtful partnerships between schools and local employers can accomplish. A visit to the Museum of Science connects classroom learning with real-world discovery. A stop at the State House turns civics lessons into something students can see and experience firsthand. Time on a college campus offers something perhaps even more powerful: the chance for students to picture themselves there someday.

Experiences like these do not always happen on their own. Transportation costs rise. School budgets are tight. Families face competing financial pressures. Without outside support, opportunities that broaden horizons can quietly disappear. That reality makes community partnerships especially meaningful in towns like Southbridge, where educators are always looking for ways to expand what is possible for their students.

Equally important is the message such support sends. When a local employer steps forward to help students explore science, government, and higher education, it tells young people that their futures matter right now. It shows them that businesses in their own community believe in their potential.

There is also something encouraging about the way this trip continues to grow. The collaboration with Sen. Ryan Fattman's office and Rep. John Marsi's office to tailor a State House experience specifically for Southbridge students reflects careful attention to making the visit meaningful rather than routine. Building on last year's success with a more structured college campus experience shows that the program is not standing still. It is improving each year.

Students themselves understand what is at stake. Their excitement about seeing a working college campus or learning more about the history of Massachusetts reminds us how powerful these moments can be. For some, it may be the first time they imagine a path that leads beyond familiar surroundings. For others, it may strengthen interests already taking shape.

Small communities have always depended on partnerships like this. Schools prepare young people. Businesses help support opportunities. Local leaders open doors to civic life. When those efforts come together, students benefit in ways that extend well beyond a single day's trip.

Sometimes, the most important step is simply asking. In this case, that request led to a lasting connection between a school and a local employer that continues to benefit each new class of students. That is something worth recognizing and celebrating.

Opportunities do not always arrive on their own. But when communities work together to create them, they can change how young people see themselves and the paths ahead. And that is an investment that pays dividends for everyone.

Good financial habits are a little like brushing your teeth. When you learn them early, they become second nature, and you carry them with you for life. And while money can feel complicated, especially today, the foundation starts simply.

Parents can begin the conversation with very young children, and young adults can build on those basics as they take on more responsibility. Step by step, these habits create confidence that helps build long term financial security and a more fulfilling life.

The following are the four key stages of financial growth.

Stage 1: For very young children, the goal is to make money feel simple and manageable. A great place to start is with three jars labeled "Spend," "Save" and "Share." When kids can see their money grow or shrink, the idea starts to make sense. Saving also introduces them to goal setting, and working toward paying for a small toy or outing teaches patience. Most important, you're helping your children see money as a tool they can understand easily and use with confidence.

Stage 2: If you have tweens (children roughly nine to 12 years old), they're usually ready for slightly bigger financial ideas. This is a great time for them to earn money through chores or small jobs, helping them see the connection between effort and reward and building a sense of ownership. Conversations about needs versus wants also to become more meaningful, because kids are now making real choices with money, they earned themselves. Your tween may be ready for a simple savings account to watch their savings grow, or a reloadable cash card for spending.

Stage 3: By the time teens reach high school or young adulthood, budgeting becomes essential. This doesn't need



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to be overly strict or complicated. A simple system that helps them track deposits and withdrawals can make all the difference. Whether they use an app, a paper notebook or a spreadsheet, the real goal is awareness. Teenagers also benefit from learning how credit works. Understanding how to build a healthy credit score and how to use credit wisely protects them from costly mistakes in later life.

Stage 4: Then come the early working years, when habits shift from learning to building. One of the smartest steps at this stage is paying yourself first. Automatic transfers to savings or retirement accounts help establish stability without extra effort. Even small retirement contributions matter more than most people realize, because time allows compounding to do the heavy lifting. This is also when young adults can start organizing their money into different buckets for rent, automobile payments, emergencies, retirement, and everyday spending. These habits help lay the groundwork for financial freedom down the road.

Throughout every stage, the theme is confidence. Each small success creates a sense of control, and each good habit makes the next one easier. Over time, these habits turn into a lifetime of financial security and fulfillment. When you start strong and stay consistent, money becomes a tool that helps your children support the lives they want.

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

## Easter morning on Main Street

Easter has always felt a little different from the other holidays that come around each year. It does not arrive with the deep certainty of Christmas, when the calendar and the weather seem to agree with each other. Easter comes when it is ready, sometimes in snow flurries, sometimes in warm sunshine, and often right in the middle of that muddy, hopeful stretch we call early spring here in Massachusetts.

When I was younger, I used to think Easter was mostly about new shoes and stiff collars. My mother believed strongly that everyone ought to look their best that morning, and she was not alone. If you stood outside almost any church in town back then, you would see a line of families stepping carefully across damp grass, children holding woven baskets and fathers brushing lint from jackets they had not worn since the year before.

Even now, I still notice those small details on Easter Sunday. The parking lots fill earlier than usual. The bells seem to ring a little longer. People who have not seen one another since winter's first snowfall stop to talk in the sunshine as if they had been waiting all season for that chance.

There is something comforting about that rhythm. In many of our towns, Easter also means the return of activity on the common. Before long, there will be egg hunts organized by local volunteers, bright plastic eggs scattered across grass that only weeks ago was hidden under snowbanks. Parents stand along the edges with coffee cups in their hands, calling out reminders not to run too fast, while the youngest children move carefully as if each egg might be a small treasure.

Those moments matter more than we sometimes admit. They remind us that spring is not only a change in temperature. It is a change in spirit. After months of early sunsets and quiet evenings, people begin opening their doors

## LANTERNS ALONG MAIN STREET By CHARLES

again. Neighbors wave from across driveways. Someone starts raking leaves that should have been gone last November. Someone else sets a chair on the porch for the first time in months.

Easter seems to arrive right when we need that reminder most.

Over the years, I have also come to appreciate the quieter side of the holiday. Not every Easter is crowded or busy. Some are spent around a kitchen table with only a few voices. Some pass with a short walk after church and a long conversation later in the afternoon. And some are marked simply by noticing the first real warmth in the air and being thankful for it.

There is a steadiness in that kind of celebration.

In small towns like ours, holidays have a way of carrying memories forward. The same churches still open their doors. The same streets lead to the same town halls. The same families return to the same pews, sometimes with new generations sitting where their grandparents once did. Even when things change, there is a sense that the day itself still knows its way around town.

I think that is why Easter continues to feel important, even for people who mark it quietly. It is not only a religious observance or a children's holiday with colored eggs and chocolate rabbits. It is a signal that winter is finally loosening its grip and that our communities are waking up again together.

By the time evening settles in on Easter Sunday, the sun usually lingers a little longer than it did the week before. That extra light feels like a promise of what is ahead. Gardens will soon be planted. Ball fields will fill again. Windows will stay open later into the evening.

And just like that, another New England spring has begun along Main Street.

### 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.

# Got Space?

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Contact Mikaela Today

774-200-7308

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# Eastern student Cristal Hernandez of Southbridge performs in "Three Sisters"

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. — Eastern's Department of Communication, Film, and Theatre captivated audiences with its production of "Three Sisters," written by Russian playwright Anton Chekhov and directed by Rachel Jett, from March 5-8 in the Delmonte Bernstein Studio Theatre. The production followed the story of four siblings at a war-torn military outpost.

Among the production's contributors was Cristal Hernandez of Southbridge, a junior majoring in Communication, Film, & Theatre. Hernandez served as hair and makeup designer in the play.

Olga Prorozov (Kylie Nigretti '28) navigates the trials of managing her family amidst the turbulent love lives of her younger sisters, Irina (Shyaina Poole '29), and Masha (Zolei Burgos '26), the latter of whom is cheating on her husband Kulygin (Isaiah Gaspard '29).

The lives of the titular sisters inspired their actresses to be introspective through the lens of their characters.

The sisters' weak-willed brother Andrei (Isaiah Longmire '29) fares no

better in his shallow marriage to the cruel Natasha (Jessie Dupont '29) who among other petty deeds attempts to throw out the siblings' loyal servant Anfisa (Samantha Mallory '29).

The play connects the lives of the sisters with those of several hapless

members of the Russian Army, including Masha's illicit lover Lieutenant Colonel Vershinin (Colby Groves '27), hot-headed Solyony (Colin Gilligan '29), and easy-going sub-lieutenants Rode (Declan Harris '29) and Fedotik (Allison Thebeau '27). Additional tur-

moil comes from the drunken exploits of army doctor Chebutykin (Sean Jolly '28) and lovelorn lieutenant Tuzenbach (Lucas Poole '28).

The play proved to be a welcoming first-time theatre experience for much of the cast.

## 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 hous-

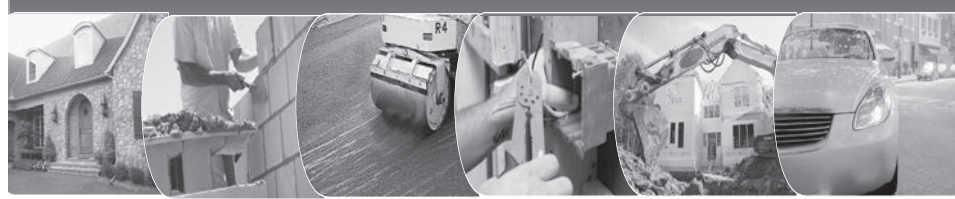
ing conditions, identify priority housing needs, and recommend strategies to address them.

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, and click the link under the News tab on the main page.

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# P.E.O. Chapters R and AA join forces to revive beloved "Chocolate Sunday" fundraiser



CHARLTON — After a hiatus of several years, a cherished local tradition is making a decadent return. Sheila Ansley of P.E.O. Chapter R recently announced that the organization's signature "Chocolate Sunday" is officially back on the calendar, thanks to a dynamic new partnership with Chapter AA.

The fundraiser—an afternoon dedicated to sampling gourmet chocolate treats, coffee, and tea—was previously sidelined due to the intensive labor

required for a single small group to manage. However, after Chapter R reached out to their sisters in Chapter AA, the two groups agreed to a joint venture. By splitting the workload, the chapters have found a sustainable way to bring the sweetness back to Charlton.

Event details  
 • Date: Sunday, May 17  
 • Time: 2 p.m.  
 • Location: The Performing Arts Center at The Overlook, Charlton

• Mission: All proceeds support the P.E.O. Sisterhood's mission of providing life-changing educational opportunities and scholarships for women.

• Contacts: Sheila Ansley 508-434-2649 or Elizabeth Pacek 508-829-4504  
 A season of sisterhood: Chapter R's Active Winter

The revival of Chocolate Sunday comes on the heels of a busy winter for Chapter R. Despite a string of "historically biting" temperatures, members remained dedicated to their cultural and social calendar.

In December, members braved one of the coldest nights of the year to tour the "Winter Reimagined" display at Tower Hill Botanic Garden. While the air was frigid, the spectacular light installations proved well worth the chill.

The momentum continued into January with two standout events:

• Musical excellence: Members attended a moving organ concert per-

formed by Amanda Mole, daughter of Jackie Mole. The performance offered a warm, soaring reprieve from the January frost.

• Founders Day: The group honored the P.E.O. Sisterhood's 1869 roots at the Founders Day Program. Members "toughed out" the New England cold to enjoy a commemorative meal and program honoring the seven women who started the organization over 150 years ago.

Looking ahead to spring  
 As the frost thaws, Chapter R is looking forward to milder weather and continued community engagement.

For over a century and a half, the P.E.O. Sisterhood has focused on the intersection of friendship and philanthropy. Through various grants and STAR scholarships, they continue to help women reach their educational goals, one "Chocolate Sunday" at a time.

## Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service at Old Sturbridge Village

STURBRIDGE — The annual Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service will be held at Old Sturbridge Village on April 5 at 6 a.m. The service is open to the public.

According to The Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale's pastor, the Rev. David W. Cote, seven local faith communities will gather at the original Baptist Meetinghouse located at the end of the Common at Old Sturbridge Village.

Also participating in this year's service are the faith communities from Bethlehem Lutheran Church (Sturbridge), St. Anne/St. Patrick Catholic Church (Fiskdale), Brookfield Congregational Church (Brookfield), Elm Street Congregational Church (Southbridge), Holy Trinity Church (Southbridge), and St. Joseph Church (Charlton).

"The sunrise service is a simple but meaningful way to begin Easter," said Cote. "I believe that this Sunrise Service is a representation of Christ's love for us all. We come together as one body, as the sun rises to celebrate the hope that Easter brings. All are welcome to join us."

Those planning to attend should enter the Village through the security gate at the top of the parking lot and proceed to the Meetinghouse on the Common. Attendees are encouraged to dress appropriately for the weather.

Food and drink are not permitted, except for bottled water. Old Sturbridge Village will not be open for touring during the event and restrooms will not be available. Guests are asked to leave the Village directly following the service.

## 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>.

# Family Dining & Gift Guide

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# George & Davis welcomes new attorney

STURBRIDGE — George & Davis, a general practice law firm in Sturbridge, welcomes Kaylee Olander as associate attorney focusing on family law and divorce.

“Kaylee is a strong negotiator who can obtain positive outcomes for clients looking to settle case and a powerful advocate for cases that go to trial,” said Attorney Karen Davis, who oversees the firm’s family law division. “She is smart, hardworking and a very good listener.”

A Sturbridge native, Olander graduated magna cum laude from the Norwich University Corps of Cadets in Vermont before earning a law degree at Campbell Law School in North Carolina.

Attorney Olander understands firsthand the issues families face. During her time at Campbell Law School, she served as an intern at a family law firm and was President of Law Students Against Domestic Violence. She was also a student attorney with the Richardson Family Education Law Clinic, where she represented special education students through the IEP processes.

“I am drawn to the opportunity to make a difference in people’s lives, helping them to find clarity and support through some of their most stressful



Kaylee Olander

Courtesy Photo

and uncertain days,” she said.

At Norwich University, she trained and supervised hundreds of fellow students. She was Vice President of the Pre-Law society, the 2021 Criminal Justice Presidential Fellow, and co-captain of the field hockey team.

She joins a firm that has served the local community for more than fifty years. In addition to family law, George & Davis offers mediation, bankruptcy, estate planning, probate, real estate and business law.

## 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  
LEONDR & 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.

### 21 Thompson Pond Road Spencer MA \$709,000 OPEN HOUSE APRIL 12TH FROM 1-3PM

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UPDATES TOO NUMEROUS TO LIST. THE REAR DECK HAS A RETRACTABLE AWNING & THERE IS ANOTHER GRANITE PATIO AREA GREAT FOR ENTERTAINING. THIS PROPERTY IS LOCATED NEAR THE PAXTON LINE, & IS 2.3 MILES AWAY FROM MOORE STATE PARK. THIS WILL NOT LAST LONG

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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. WO26P0892EA  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR  
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
Estate Of:  
**Charles Alexander Rice Jr  
Date of Death: 01/05/2016**

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Barbara H Rice of Baltimore MD** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that:

**Barbara H Rice of Baltimore MD** 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 04/21/2026**.

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: March 20 2026

Stephanie Fattman,

Register of Probate

April 2, 2026

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

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

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

The purpose of the hearing is to consider a request for a **Special Permit** according to Holland Bylaw section 8. **Relief requested: New build on a pre-existing non-conforming lot.**

The property located at: **83 Sandy Beach Rd Parcel ID # R38/E / 15.**

Don Beal, Chairperson

Zoning Board of Appeals

Date: 3/12/2026

March 19, 2026

March 26, 2026

April 2, 2026

#### Town of Charlton Request for Proposal Full Service Contract Operations and Maintenance Charlton Wastewater Treatment Facilities

The Town of Charlton, Massachusetts is seeking proposals from qualified firms capable of providing full-service operation and maintenance of the Town's Wastewater Treatment Facilities. Operation and Maintenance services shall be provided in a safe, secure, effective and efficient manner and shall be in full compliance with NPDES Permit requirements of the USEPA, the Safe Drinking Water Act, applicable laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and regulations of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. To request bid documents please contact [mary.devlin@townofcharlton.net](mailto:mary.devlin@townofcharlton.net), 508-248-2206. Hard copies available in the Selectmen's Office, Town Hall, 37 Main Street, Charlton, MA 01507. **Bid due date: Tuesday, July 7, 2026@ 12:00 p.m.** Mandatory plant tour Weds., April 22, 2026 @ 9:00 a.m. April 2, 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. WO26P0891EA  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR  
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
Estate Of:  
**Frances S Rice  
Date of Death: 03/21/2003**

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Barbara H Rice of Baltimore MD** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that:

**Barbara H Rice of Baltimore MD** 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 04/21/2026**.

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

Date: March 20 2026

Stephanie Fattman,

Register of Probate

April 2, 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, Steven Houghton, has submitted a Land Disturbance/Stormwater Management Application on March 24, 2026, for land disturbance associated with the construction of a single-family home.

The project site is located at 0 King Road, Charlton, MA 01507, and is also known as: Parcel ID: 78-B-16.82

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 2, 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

#### 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

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NEWS

# Trinity Catholic Academy announces honor roll

SOUTHBRIDGE — Trinity Catholic Academy has released its honor roll for the second trimester of the 2025-2026 school year.

**Grade 4**  
 Honors: John Nadeau, Joseph Nellenback, Owen Quigley, Vincent VLK

**Grade 5**  
 Honors: Lucius Bath, Victoria LaBonte, Elizabeth Nellenback

**Grade 6**  
 Honors: Vera Abud Fuentes, Jaime Cruz, Mason Gonzalez, Jameson Howard-Donlin, Emma LaBarge, Matthew Olson

**Grade 7**  
 Honors: Charlotte Heckendorf, Connor Kreidemaker, Elinor Matzelle

**Grade 8**  
 Honors: Emiliana Boswell, Karieliz Colon-Martinez, Juliana Dintino, Theodore Frazier, Elizabeth Gordon, Sachi Swadia, Jaydin Wales

**High Honors:** Tesslynn Cahill, Cameron Clifford, Alerix Gonzalez, Kaleigh Haglund, Carson Lazo, Jake Simanski, Benjamin Zuziak

**Grade 7**  
 Honors: Jaliany Cruz, Angel Delgado, Ainsley Heckendorf,

Evelyn Howard-Donlin, Jayden Zarzycki-Kotarba

**Grade 8**  
 Honors: Sophia Gauthier, Celia Ladd, Carilynne Norris, Ayden Rodriguez, Alexio Yacavaca

**High Honors:** Abigail Frazier, Heer Swadia

## 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.



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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  
 Docket No. WO26P0671GD

**CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G. L.c. 1908, § 5-304 & § 5-405**

In the matter of:  
**Alexander Spets**  
 Of: Charlton, MA  
 RESPONDENT  
 Alleged Incapacitated Person

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **UMass Memorial Health-Harrington of Southbridge, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that **Alexander Spets** is in need of a **Stephen Michael Fournier of Leominster, MA** (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.

**You have the right to object to this proceeding.** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **04/07/2026**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

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

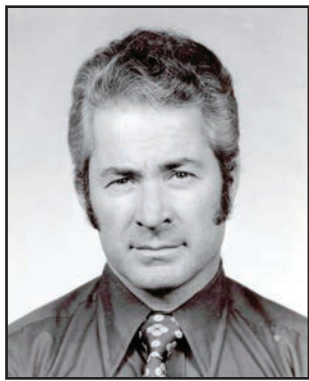
WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.  
 Date: March 09, 2026  
 Stephanie K. Fattman  
 Register of Probate  
 April 2, 2026

# OBITUARIES

## Croce Rodolfo DiGregorio, 93

Southbridge: Croce Rodolfo 'Rudi' DiGregorio, 93, passed away on Saturday, March 28th, in the Life Care Center of Auburn after an illness.

He leaves his beloved wife of 64 years, Mimina (DiCarlo) DiGregorio; his two sons, Dante DiGregorio of Southbridge and Giancarlo DiGregorio of Southbridge; his daughter, Sandra Mercurio and her husband Domenic of Sturbridge; his grandson, Fabio Mercurio of Sturbridge; his two sisters-in-law, Maria DiGregorio of Southbridge and Marisa DiCarlo of Bussi (Pescara), Italy; and several beloved nieces, nephews, and friends. He was predeceased by his three brothers, Francesco DiGregorio, Fernando



DiGregorio, and Gianni DiGregorio, and his sister, Maria DiCarlo.

Rodolfo was born in Bolognano (Pescara) Italy the son of Giuseppe and Pasqualina (DiFlorio) DiGregorio and moved to Southbridge in 1960.

A funeral mass for Rodolfo will be held on Monday, April 6th, at 11:00am in St. Mary's Church of the St. John

Paul II Parish, 263 Hamilton St., Southbridge. Entombment will follow in New Notre Dame Cemetery, Southbridge. There are no calling hours.

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

## 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 substitutions.

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 York City sponsored by Best of Times Travel

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.

## 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 sweet-gum 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 sweet-gum 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 well-being. 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.

## 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.

## 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 starring 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.

### Friday's Child

**Robert**  
Age 10  
Registration #9142

Robert is a creative and imaginative boy with a bright personality and a big heart. He loves exploring the world around him and has a special fascination with nature and animals. Robert enjoys learning fun facts about different creatures and can talk about them with excitement and curiosity. Always on the move, Robert loves to stay active. You can often find him riding his new bike, shooting hoops, or finding new outdoor adventures to dive into. When it's time to relax, Robert enjoys watching his favorite movie, The Lion King, and playing with his collection of Lion King stuffed animals—characters that spark his imagination and make him smile. Robert is a funny, kind, and sweet boy who gets along well with others and loves to make new friends. His friendly nature and sense of humor make him a joy to be around. Robert would thrive in a family that shares his love of the outdoors and encourages his creativity, helping him continue to grow into the bright and caring young person he's becoming.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/24212037266>

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

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

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

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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

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Webster Lake - 302 Killdeer Island



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!!



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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# St. Anne-St. Patrick Parish to commemorate Way of the Cross

FISKDALE — St. Anne – St. Patrick Parish in Fiskdale will commemorate the Way of the Cross (Stations of the Cross) on Good Friday, April 3 at the St. Anne Shrine at noon. Worshippers from the Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale and Bethlehem Lutheran Church will join the parishioners of St. Anne – St. Patrick for this annual service.

Fr. Salvator Musande, Pastor of Saint Anne – Saint Patrick Parish, said, "This is an opportunity for Christians from different denominations in our town to join together in prayer as disciples of Jesus Christ."

The Stations of the Cross, or Via Crucis, is a Catholic devotion that helps us remember and reflect on Jesus' passion and death. The devotion consists of 14 stations, each showing a specific moment from Jesus' journey to Calvary. Each station focuses on key



moments such as Jesus carrying the cross, meeting His mother, falling along the way, being crucified, and finally being laid in the tomb, helping participants follow Him in prayer and contemplation. Traditionally displayed in churches as images or sculptures, the Stations guide believers in prayer, meditation, and reflection.

and was later adapted so people could take the spiritual journey in their local church. Walking the Stations of the Cross allows Catholics to enter into Christ's suffering, deepen their faith, and grow in gratitude for God's love and mercy.

"The Way of the Cross invites us to walk with Jesus in His suffering and to reflect on His deep love for us," said Musande. "I encourage everyone to come and experience this time of prayer, reflection, and hope as we prepare our hearts for Easter."

St. Anne St. Patrick Parish is an active parish community. It offers daily Mass for worship, religious education, and community ministries. It welcomes visitors to St. Anne Shrine, the new Memorial for the Unborn, the Hall of Saints, the Russian Icon Exhibit, the Votive Chapel, the Generations Statue, and the Angel of Hope Monument. The Daily Rosary is recited at 3 p.m. in the St. Patrick Chapel, and weekend Masses are celebrated in its outdoor pavilion in the summer. Its religious gift shop is open every day from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

This practice began as a pilgrimage to the holy sites in Jerusalem

## Southbridge Historical Society to examine Publick House's role in WWII

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Historical Society will meet Wednesday, April 8 at 7 p.m. in the Ruth Wells Center for the Arts, 111 Main St.

Our program for the evening is "When War Came to the Public House."

Local historian and author Wally Hersee will present a fascinating illustrated talk on the little-known role the Publick House played during World War II. In 1941 — weeks before Pearl Harbor — the property became home to the Sturbridge Defense

Center, where soldiers and civilians were trained in guerrilla warfare and homeland defense. The presentation includes rare photographs, original documents, and a restored 1941 motion picture of the dedication ceremony, offering a remarkable glimpse into

this unique chapter of local history.

Hersee, a photographer and amateur historian, lives in Sturbridge with his wife, Mary. He writes for the Sturbridge Historical Society on their Facebook page.

This meeting is free and open to the public.

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