

Country Bank announces promotions

REGION — Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving central and western Massachusetts, is pleased to announce recent staff promotions.

Julie Yi has been promoted to Senior Vice President, Controller and Operations. She has extensive experience in finance and operations and serves on Country Bank's senior management team. Yi holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting from the University of Nevada Las Vegas and is a Certified Public Accountant.

Justin Calheno has been promoted to Assistant Vice President, Retail Lending. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business

Management from Westfield State University and is a graduate of The New England School for Financial Studies. Calheno serves as a Board Member for the Ludlow Boys and Girls Club.

Lisa Saletnik has been promoted to Assistant Vice President, Business Systems. She holds an Associate's Degree from Baypath University in Health Science and is a graduate of The New England School for Financial Studies.

Mackenna Hogan has been promoted to Commercial Banking Administration Officer. She holds a Bachelor of Finance Degree from UMass Amherst.

Antonio Palano has been promoted

to Assistant Vice President, Retail Lending. He holds an Associate's Degree in Business Administration from Springfield Technical Community College.

Newly appointed officers include Sam Pursey, Erin Skoczylas, Ashley Swett and Sarah Yurkunas.

Sam Pursey has been promoted to Relationship Management Officer. Pursey holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Finance from UMass Amherst.

Erin Skoczylas has been promoted to Assistant Controller. She holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from Western New England University, an Associate's degree in Business Administration from Springfield Technical Community College, and is a graduate of The New England School for Financial Studies.

Ashley Swett has been promoted to Customer Care Center Officer. She is a graduate of The New England School for Financial Studies.

Sarah Yurkunas has been promoted to Relationship Management Officer. Sarah holds a Bachelor of Science in Business from Baypath University, a certificate from the Massachusetts Bankers Association in Fundamentals of Credit Analysis:

Intro to Commercial Lending, and is currently enrolled in the New England School for Financial Studies Program.

"I am thrilled to congratulate Julie, Justin, Tony, Lisa, Mackenna, Sam, Erin, Ashley and Sarah on their promotions and all of the accomplishments that got them here; they are a key part of our success. We're pleased to provide the opportunities for our people to develop not only within their roles today, but into new opportunities tomorrow. These team members embody our corporate values of iSTEP - Integrity, Service, Teamwork, Excellence and Prosperity," stated Miriam Siegel, First Senior Vice President of Human Resources.

About Country Bank

Country Bank is a full-service mutual community bank serving central and western Massachusetts with 14 offices in Ware, Palmer, West Brookfield, Brimfield, Belchertown, Wilbraham, Ludlow, Leicester, Paxton, Charlton, and Worcester. Country Bank is a member of FDIC, DIF, and the SUM network. Country Bank can be reached at 800-322-8233 or online at countrybank.com.

QCC at Southbridge offers broad support services

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College at Southbridge is gearing up for a new fall semester with a comprehensive set of classes and support services at its new Southbridge location.

"Students can obtain all the services they need right in their community. This is vital to our students who may not have the ability to easily get to Worcester," said Southbridge Site Leader, Geraldo Maldonado.

Students will have access to support services that include:

- Advising
- Admissions
- Accessibility services
- Financial aid
- Testing

"Offering a full array of support services to complement our programming at the Southbridge location is just one of the ways we are working to remove barriers that prevent students from attaining a high-

er education," said QCC President Luis G. Pedraja, Ph.D. "QCC's dedication to Southbridge and the surrounding communities, coupled with our unwavering commitment to 100 percent student success is paramount."

QCC at Southbridge is located at 132 Torry Road (Southbridge High School), enabling easier access to higher education for high school students through early college programs. The well-known location makes it possible for people in Southbridge and the South County region to take college classes for credit, non-credit, or workforce development classes for job retraining or reskilling.

To learn more visit www.QCC.edu/southbridge.

For more information about QCC, contact Josh Martin, Director of Institutional Communications at 508-854-7513 orjmartin@qcc.mass.edu.

QCC at Southbridge offers broad support services

BOSTON — The following local residents were named to the 2021 spring semester dean's list at Simmons University in Boston.

- Katarina Senckowski, Brimfield
- Alyssa Cameron, Brimfield
- Lindsay Albright, Charlton
- Olivia Panagiotou, Webster
- Victoria Lavelle, Webster

To qualify for dean's list status, undergraduate students must obtain a grade point average of 3.5 or higher, based on 12 or more credit hours of work in classes using the letter grade system.

About Simmons University

Located in the heart of Boston, Simmons is a respected private university offering more than 50 majors and programs for undergraduate women and graduate programs open to all on campus, in blended for-

mats, or entirely online in nursing and health sciences, liberal arts, business, communications, social work, public health, and library and information science. Founded in 1899, Simmons has established a model of higher education that other colleges and universities are only recently beginning to adapt: the combination of education for leadership in high-demand professional fields with the intellectual foundation of the liberal arts. The result is a Simmons graduate prepared not only to work, but to lead in professional, civic, and personal life - a vision of empowerment that Simmons calls preparation for life's work. Follow Simmons on Twitter at @SimmonsUniv, and on LinkedIn at <https://www.linkedin.com/school/simmons-university/>.

ROTARY

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School families in need. Sturbridge Rotary partners with Lisa especially at Christmas where food, clothing, toys, gift vouchers, etc. are provided to the Burgess families in need. Lisa is also involved with Rotary's connection to the Comfort Zone Camp which helps children overcome trauma of losing someone close to them. Beyond Rotary, Lisa is well known for the many other ways in which she helps the local community. The name of the award, Service Above Self, is Rotary's motto and we can think of no one who demonstrates this more than Lisa by volunteering her time and talents to help others.

This special event was the first post-pandemic in-person meeting of the Sturbridge Rotary Club. Among those attending was Sturbridge Town Administrator Jeff Bridges, Selectman Mary

Dowling, Police Chief Earl Dessert, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Jodi Bourassa, Director of Special Education Brenda Looney, Burgess Elementary School Principal Kathy Pelley, plus many Burgess teaching and nursing staff, Lisa's proud parents Doris and Bill Brown and many Rotarians from both the Sturbridge Rotary Club and the Brookfields Rotary Club and their guests.

About Rotary

The Sturbridge Rotary Club has been providing humanitarian service to the local and international community for nearly 50 years. Club members develop community service projects that address many of today's most critical issues including hunger, as well as support programs and educational opportunities for youth. For additional information on the Club, please visit www.sturbridgerotary.org or visit www.facebook.com/sturbridgerotary.

OUR ANGEL

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"I always thought it would be so difficult to have a pet that needed wheels or diapers. People often say that they can't believe we do that and how they couldn't - and I thought the same thing," Haslam said. "But then once we started taking care of them, the benefits outweighed the extra work. Once you get into a routine, it really isn't that much extra. And the love they give is so worth it. Plus, it is impossible to feel bad for whatever struggles I have when they are so joyful every

day. They don't complain or think, why me? They just look forward to every day."

Extensive planning went into the Sept. 25 event, and organizers are hoping residents have a fun time after countless beloved fairs and festivals were canceled last fall.

"This event is one that we have been planning for some time, and we really want people to have fun - from the scavenger hunt to the silent auction to the cookout," Haslam said. "The pandemic has kept us all apart, and for one day we want to come together."

To learn more about the event, visit www.ourangelfoundation.com.

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SENIORS FRIENDS

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one aware of the Friends' mission to help enrich the lives of older adults by assisting the Sturbridge Council on Aging in providing services."

A "Welcome Back Seniors" event, sponsored by the Sturbridge Dunkin Donuts, will be held at the Senior Center on Tuesday, Sept. 14 from 3 to 7 p.m. The event will include entertainment, a tour of the Sturbridge Senior Center, and refreshments.

The first Friends meeting of the new season will follow on Wednesday,

Sept. 15, at the Senior Center, starting at 1 p.m. This will be an opportunity for the group to get acquainted and discuss ideas for the coming year.

Later in the fall, the Friends will offer a free luncheon to Friends members on Wednesday, Oct. 20 at the Sturbridge Senior Center, and will celebrate Veterans Day on Saturday, Nov. 13 by collaborating with the COA and the Sturbridge Special Events Committee on the Third Annual Home of the Brave 5K Run & Walk. The race will honor veterans, those currently serving, and those who previously completed military service. Proceeds from the race will benefit the Sturbridge Veteran's Assistance Fund.

The Friends of the Sturbridge/Fiskdale Seniors, Inc. is a 501c3 non-profit organization created in 1985 to initiate, sponsor, and encourage programs and services for older adults in Sturbridge and Fiskdale, to promote greater interest in the senior community, and to enhance the dignity and well-being of older adults. In addition, the Friends initiate and manage fundraising projects to supplement programs and activities that may not be provided for by the Town of Sturbridge or the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Membership is open any interested citizen in Massachusetts; members do not have to reside in Sturbridge or Fiskdale.

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