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Friday, February 7, 2020

Capital campaign underway for public safety building

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – The town of Charlton is taking a new approach to funding a new public safety facility with the launch of a capital campaign in 2020.

Charlton voters previously approved funding for a public safety building in 2019 but when the plans for the facility went to a ballot vote the project was voted down by taxpayers with many feeling the facility was too expensive or expansive. With the project considered an important initiative for the town a Capital Campaign Steering Committee was launched in December with the blessing of the Board of Selectmen and January 2020 served as the official kickoff for the capital campaign.

Selectmen welcomed committee co-chair Stephen Coleman to its meeting on Jan. 28, where Coleman revealed money has already started

to pour in to help bring the proposed \$28.5 million facility which would serve as a new headquarters for both the fire and police departments as well as hosting public meeting space.

“We have had a few thousand dollars pledged already. We haven’t been able to receive anything because the account is not set up yet, but we already have several thousand dollars pledged to the campaign,” said Coleman. “One of the things that we talked about was a series of family events to encourage the community to come out and not only donate but also be able to participate in some sort of community gathering. We have a lot of thoughts and ideas. We’re looking forward to getting everything kicked off.”

The Capital Campaign Steering Committee sent out a press release the day prior to the Board of Selectmen meeting announcing the official

launch of the campaign. The effort will include seeking corporate gifts, private donations, grants and other financial opportunities to fund the building. The committee will also be keeping the public involved in the process by chronicling their effort on social media.

“We’ll be working close with the Public Safety Building Committee. We made the decision that we’re going to share a media site. We’re not going to launching our own separate capital campaign. All of the information that the committee will be putting out will be funneled through the Public Safety Building Committee Facebook page so that way all the information is one-stop-shop,” said Coleman.

The public safety building plans include 40,800-square-foot of building space that would be built on a 19.3-acre plot on Masonic Home Road which the town had previously acquired from the Overlook.



CourtesyPhoto

An artist’s rendering of the proposed public safety facility in Charlton.

While the price tag remains approved by a public vote the failure of the ballot question in 2019 prevented the money from being raised by taxation. The capital campaign is hoping to raise funding to alleviate some of the cost with no specif-

ic set fundraising goal in mind. The idea is not the necessarily fund the entire building, but lower the tax burden enough where voters may be willing to approve the tax increase in the future.



Courtesy Photo

Sen. Anne Gobi and Charlton Building Inspector Curt Meskus discuss the possibility of foundation issues with selectmen

Charlton among towns concerned with building foundations

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – In early January, state leaders released their Crumbling Concrete Foundation Report, a document detailing the investigations into potential concerns for property owners connected to product originating from a quarry in neighboring Connecticut. Charlton has been designated as one town where property foundations could have been constructed using the faulting material.

Senator Anne Gobi visited with the Board of Selectmen on Tuesday, Jan. 28 to discuss the report and its implications for Charlton property owners. The report is connected to state investigations performed in Connecticut in 2016 which concluded that Becker’s Quarry of Willington supplied concrete containing pyrrhotite which has led to severe crumbling foundations in several homes known to have used supplies from the quarry. Connecticut has since banned the use of product from that quarry through 2021 and Massachusetts is looking to follow. Due to time limitations on using concrete from tis source any home within a 20-mile radi-

us could have utilized the product and Charlton falls in that range, according to Sen. Gobi.

“(Pyrrhotite) is a naturally occurring mineral and after a number of years when it’s exposed to air and water it expands. The effect on it if it’s in the foundation is the foundation starts to crack. It’s not just a crack that you’d see from settling foundations. It more like a spider-web,” said the Senator. “Unfortunately, the only thing that you can do is to somehow replace the foundation.”

Gobi said she wanted to discuss the matter with selectmen to make sure town officials and members of the public are aware of the possibilities. The potential for issues varies and any home building between 1983 and 2015 could be impacted by the mineral. Complicating things further, Sen. Gobi noted that the state can’t access information about which properties used material from the quarry as many records were lost in a fire. To help alleviate some of the stress the state has put together programs to help concerned property owners offset the costs of investigating possible issues with their foundations.

“We have a reimbursement program going on in

Massachusetts right now so people can be reimbursed for the visual testing as well as up to 75 percent of the actual testing that has to be sent out to a lab. We are finding homes in Massachusetts that have it. We’ve had about 25 people to this point that have come to us for testing,” said Gobi.

The senator said costs of the testing, which are reimbursed up to a hundred percent, have all been lower than \$400 while the testing itself could cost between \$1,500 and \$2,000, with up to 75 percent reimbursed.

Curt Meskus, Building Inspector for Charlton, said his office was aware of the issues originating from the quarry. Understanding the possibility of Charlton residents being impacted his office has offered to keep residents informed of resources to help give them peace of mind.

“I was sort of surprised because we’re right on the edge of that zone where this aggregate was being delivered,” Meskus said. “We’ll certainly put links up on the Building Commissioner’s section of the website because I think (prop-

Please Read **BUILDING FOUNDATIONS**, page **A6**

Charlton REAS Foundation offers annual Taste of the Towns!

CHARLTON — The Charlton Residential Energy Assistance for Seniors (REAS) is pleased to announce our annual Taste of the Towns to be held on Leap Day evening - Saturday Feb. 29 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at St. Joseph’s Church Hall, 10 H Putnam Rd. Ext., Charlton.

Some 300 guests will sample delicious food and beverages from local restaurants and vendors at this annual community event. Thanks to local sponsors, donors and businesses, the evening will also include a cash bar, silent auction, raffle items, door prizes, a money tree, and enjoy live music with Lori Brooks! Some of the participating vendors include Ronnie’s Seafood, Ted’s Package Store, Stearns Dressed Meats, Perry’s Deli, Francesco’s Italian Bakery, Sturbridge Coffee Roasters, Sugar, Power Nutrition, Uno

Pizzeria, Tree House Brewery, Karol’s Corner Takeout, Food Fit 4 U, Oliver Wight Tavern, Sturbridge Seafood, McDonalds, Suzy Q’s Ice Cream Truck and Bay Path Culinary program who is sponsored by Southbridge Credit Union.

Tickets are \$15 per person ahead of the event and \$20 at the door. Tickets are available at the Charlton Senior Center, Cornerstone Bank in Charlton and Savers Bank in Charlton.

The Charlton REAS Foundation, Inc. is a local 501c3 non-profit organization established by volunteers who care about the health and well-being of the senior population. Many senior citizens are on fixed incomes and with the fluctuating costs of heating oil, prescription medications, health insurance, food, and daily

Please Read **TASTE**, page **A6**

Selectmen hope to keep Traffic Commission active

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – The future of Charlton’s Civilian Traffic Commission is still inconclusive, but town selectmen look determined to keep the commission active in one form or another.

On Jan. 14, selectmen heard from the commission’s chairman Mike McGrath who expressed concerns shared by other members of his group that the commission has been found itself limited in its ability to communicate with officials about public concerns involving traffic. The commission was formed in 2017 in order to gain input from the public about issues on Route 20 or any other Charlton roadway and how to proceed with resolving traffic concerns. McGrath suggested the possibility of restricting the commission to involve more town officials including finance

Please Read **TRAFFIC**, page **A6**

Charlton Fire Department receives SAFE grants

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – The Charlton Fire Department has been named the recipient of a state grant that will help in educating local students on the importance of fire safety.

In a press release dated Jan. 22, it was announced that Charlton has received a total of \$6,313 worth of grants to assist with two Student Awareness of Fire Safety, of SAFE, programs. \$3,965 will be utilized for the Fiscal Year '20 SAFE

Program in town while \$2,348 will support the Senior SAFE Program which serves to educate senior citizens in fire safety. The funding is awarded through the state Department of Fire Services.

“Our Community Risk Reduction Division enjoys working closely with our school administration and teachers to help youngsters learn what they can do to prevent fires, to survive those that do occur, and how to respond correctly to fires and other emergencies,” Charlton Fire Chief Ed

Knopf said in the release.

He added that the resources for senior training will help the SAFE Program become an even bigger asset to Charlton.

“Seniors are an age group with considerable risk factors that we hope we can minimize with this program,” Knopf wrote. “This program educates seniors on fire prevention, general home safety and how to be better prepared in the event of a fire. We are partnering with the Charlton Council on Aging to provide fire safety information and distribute safety materials, install smoke alarms, install house numbers, conduct in-home fire safety checks, and provide some safety training.”

Through the SAFE programs Charlton will host trainer fire educators to deliver “age-appropriate” fire safety lessons and practices to both students and senior citizens in town. State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey, who joined Chief Knopf to make the grant announcement, said that the SAFE Program, now in its 25th year in Massachusetts, has been essential to ensuring

citizens young and old are prepared and educated should they ever need to respond during a fire emergency.

“Since consistent comprehensive fire education is the one thing we are doing for children that we are not doing for every other age group, I think it’s fair to say we are proving fire education works.” Said Ostroskey. “We hope to have the same success with the Senior SAFE Program in reducing deaths and injuries to older adults.”

CHARLTON MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

CHARLTON — Charlton Middle School has released its honor roll for the first term of the 2019-2020 school year.

SIXTH GRADE

High Honors: Alexa Andersen, Megan Andress, Christina Arthanayake, Zoe Avramidis, Kaleigh Bauks, Isabella Bitar, Arielle Cooper, Hannah Cooper, Madeleine Binh Minh Dowgiert, Aiden Dzik, Michael Eisnor, Tristan Ellis-Morris, Lucien Garry, Maya Girasuolo, Aliyah Gonyea, Anthony Graves, Annie Hast, Andrew Henault, Emily Hultgrens, Nicholas Jalbert, Nina Julian, Zackery Kelleher, Joseph Kustigian, Sadie Landrum, Zachary Landry, Phoebe Lawendowski, Sean MacGinnis, Ashelyn Menard, Louis Mikulecky, Kate Moran, Samantha Norberg, Landen Palacios, Ella Pinto, Kayleigh Ramm, Jacob Ramsey, Devin Rowden, Jordan Russell, Luke Smolski, Nathan Steen, Kaitlyn Sullivan and Madison Tessier

Honors: Sarah Appiah Kubi, Lea Astarjian, Alexander Audunsson, Emma Berry, Ryan Berthiaume, Noah Blais, Jarrod Borey, Andrew Borggaard, Kadey Breen, Emily Brodeur, Jacoby Buniowski, Cali Burke, Alissa Burlingame, Domenic Calcagni, Casey Caouette, Liam Carlson, Noah Ceppetelli, Chloe Chickering, Nicole Christian, Rhys Costa, Jacob Creeron, Matthew Crowley, Scarlet Davis, Olivia DiGregorio, Thomas Dolan, Cody Dombroski, Aedan Ellis-Morris, Madison Fenner, Sofia Finizza, Gabryelle Fontaine, Kayla Fortin,

Samantha Gasco, Bridgette Gaudreau, Kayla Germain, Rose Givner, Caden Green, Brycen Greenlees, Finnegan Hallen, Gavin Hennessey, Andrew Heywood, Lauren Hughes, Madison Kackley, Ayden Kennedy, Brenna Kinnes, Allison Klar, Savannah LaChance, Adam LaFortune, Andrew Lancette, Gabrielle LaPan, Myles LeBoeuf, Miranda Linde, Autumn-Lynn Loconto, Emmileah Lorditch, Mia Lussier, Danika Marcotte, Elizabeth McCloud, Madeline McDonald Trimby, Jacqueline McManus, Sarah Miller, Tyson Moriarty, Gianna Neri, Chase Newman, Aubrey O'Neill, Jack Orrell, Jacob Papineau, Maddox Parente, Elizabeth Ross, Adam Rydlak, Bree Simons, Sofia Soloperto, Kylie Somers, Katherine Totman, Ellie Vanvleck, Gavin Wenc, Bella White, Charlotte White, Tessa Wilber, Madison Williamson and Michael Woodson

SEVENTH GRADE

High Honors: Nicholas Adler, Kaelen Anderson, Anthony Avoglia, Claire Beaudreau, Ashtyn Bennett, Kyomi Black, Kendall Bond, Ryan Dawson, Jenna DeFosse, Andrew Desrochers, Bella DiGregorio, Carly Donohue, Fiona Duke, Donovan Ennis, Conor Gadbois, Aidan Hachey, Aniela Hardy, Collin Harrington, Daniel Harris, Sarah Jalbert, Ryan Jaworski, Julia Johnson, Rosalie Knowlton, Kathryn LeBlanc, Scott Lehmann, Alexis Leoni, Kyle Mazur, Nolan McGonagle, Isabel McLam, Calle Merchant, Chloe Monahan, Zachary Moody, Julia Osche,

Nicholas Ramsey, Colin Resener, Kaylie Richard, Madison Rizzo, Joseph Roman, Jillian Terlizzi, Cassandra Tinsley, Isabella Tolomio, Alison Welton, Sadie Wilber, Jacob Wojcicki and Sophina Zacek

Honors: Bryce Andre', Sawyer Ayotte, Harrison Balko, Brody Barsalou, Evan Beaudette, Connor Belanger, Chase Bourassa, Camden Bousquet, Cassidy Bousquet, Liam Burke, Mary Butler, Ennio Cartagena, Hannah Cavan, Rachael Ciani, Mikayla Crocker, Jaden Deauseault, Angelina Degon, Anthony Desto, Madison Dolan, Nina Falcone, Connor Fox, Jackson Fromm, Alexander Gessner, John Gordon, Matthew Guerin, Connor Harrington, Joshua Hemingway, Thomas Hennessey, Brianna Hicks, Brady Holden, Ava Iozzo, Alanna Kelly, Norah Larson, Nathan Lashua, Emma Leclair, Courtney Lolax, Benjamin Lombardi, Eva Lombardi, Garrett Lucht, Joseph Mancini, Brayden McCoy, Ayla McGrail, Paul McManus, Madison McNamara, Lillian Murillo, Ava Murray, Nathan Nguyen, Leo Pariseau, Catherine Pavone, Isabella Pettinelli, Jeffrey Popsuj, Gabriel Prado, Owen Reece, Aryanna Sheehan, Kalli Sheehan, Sara Shocik, Ed Simon, Raymond St. Francis, Leela Start, Benjamin Streeter, Dulse Sullivan, Reid Szela, Kathryn Szretter, Colleen Thomas, Lukas Trevarthan, Alexis Warren and Brady Wisniewski

Eighth grade
High Honors: Kelsy Brown, Caitlyn Burke, Rachel Carpenter, Jianna

Clouthier, David Cranney, Logan Daniels, Dylan DeJesus, Arlo Dzik, Jacob Fredette, Grace Garon, Chloe Graves, Patrick Harrington, Bridget Hast, Kyra Hennessey, Rebecca Joesten, Athena Karas, Harry Kennan, James Kokernak, Juliana Lancette, Sevin LaVoie, Emily LeBrun, Nicole Martinez Merino, Madelyn Parker, Adrien Roach, Ronan Shaw, Matthew Smolski, Victoria Tinsley, Gianna Verdolino, Akshat Viswanath, Gavin Wallace and Hailey Williamson

Honors: Kylie Berthiaume, Jovanna Bertrand, Jacob Bowser, Natalie Burdett, Owen Burlingame, Camron Dagnese, LeeAnn Dagnese, Hayden Davis, Nicholas Dell'Ovo, Dylan Dietlin, Kaelyn Donovan, Brynn Dwyer Sweeney, Kacey Flanagan, Jaiden Foskett, Giovanni Garcia, Jacob Goodspeed, Rachel Gormley, Makayla Graham, Hadley Heaphy, James Heywood, Emma Horner, Shay Howland, Luke Hurley, Olivia Kowalski, Jalynn Krasnecky, Matthew Lach, Julianna LaForce, Alexander Lanpher, Evan LeBlanc, Abigayle Linde, Samantha Lotter, Luke May, Cecilia McDonald, Emma Moodley, Conor Newman, Alix Norrman, Alyssa Palermo, James Palfreman, Peyton Parrettie, Kassandra Peloquin, Kayla Pospel, Natasha Ramirez, Jayden Remillard, Chase Rupert, Daniel Russell, Caterina Schiappa, Connor Sentance, Ashton Sirimongkhoun, Ava Sousa, Andrew Sullivan, Yasmin Tolomio, Jack Ugrinow, Christopher Verdolino, Agatha White and Thomas Wilk

Office of Public School Monitoring to conduct review at Bay Path

CHARLTON — During the week of March 16, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Office of Public-School Monitoring (PSM) will conduct a Tiered Focused Monitoring Review of Southern Worcester Regional Vocational High School, (Bay Path).

The Office of Public-School Monitoring visits each district and charter school every three years to monitor compliance with federal and state special education and civil rights regulations. Areas of review related to special education include student assessments, determination of eligibility, the Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team process, and IEP development and implementation. Areas of review related to civil rights include bullying, student discipline, physical restraint, and equal access to school programs for all students.

In addition to the onsite visit, parent

outreach is an important part of the review process. The review chairperson from the Office of Public-School Monitoring will send all parents of students with disabilities an online survey that focuses on key areas of their child's special education program. Survey results will contribute to the development of a report. During the onsite review, the Office of Public-School Monitoring will interview the chairperson(s) of the district's Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC). Other onsite activities may include interviews of district staff and administrators, reviews of student records, and onsite observations.

Parents and other individuals may call Deborah Conover, Public School Monitoring Chairperson, at (781) 338-3736 to request a telephone interview. If an individual requires an accommodation, such as translation, to participate

in an interview, the Department will make the necessary arrangements.

Within approximately 60 business days after the onsite visit, the review chairperson will provide the (district or charter school) with a report with information about areas in which the (district or charter school) meets or exceeds regulatory requirements and areas in which the (district or charter school) requires assistance to correct or improve practices. The public will be able to access the report at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/psm/tfm/reports/>.

CHARLTON ALMANAC

— REAL ESTATE —

CHARLTON

\$450,491, 48 Jennings Rd, Property Soltns Real Est, to Diaz, Candido, and Diaz, Hayley S. \$140,000, 38 Haggerty Rd, Selene Finance LP, to 38 Haggerty Rd LLC.

CHURCH LISTINGS

- **Charlton Federated Church**, 64 Main St., Pastor James Chase, 248-5550, Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. www.fedchurchcharlton.org
- **Charlton Baptist Church**, 50 Hammond Hill Road, 248-4488, www.charltonbaptist.org, Sunday worship 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.
- **Charlton City United Methodist**, 74 Stafford St. 248-7379, web site: CharltonCityUMC.com, Sunday worship 10:30 am, Sunday School 9 am.
- **St. Joseph's Church**, 10 H. Putnam Ext, 248-7862, www.stjosephscharlton.com, Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 p.m., Sunday Mass 8 a.m., Sunday Family Mass 10 a.m., Sunday LifeTEEN Mass 5 p.m., Weekday Mass Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30 a.m.
- **Hope Christian Fellowship**, 6 Haggerty Road, 248-5144
- **Assemblies of God Southern New England District Headquarters**, Route 20, 248-3771, snedag.org, Office hours Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- **Jehovah's Witnesses**, Route 169, 765-9519
- **Lamblight Christian Church**, 37 Main Street - Grange building 1st Floor, Charlton, Ma 01507, Rev. Stephen Wade, (774) 452-2393 - Pastor's Cell. Sunday Service 10:30am. www.visitlamblight.com
- **New Life Fellowship A/G, SNED Chapel**, 307 Sturbridge Road, Rt. 20, Charlton, MA, Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

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School nurse for two days: Delivering complex student care



Robin Peters

CHARLTON — Many may conjure up images of getting a note to be excused from gym class, applying a bandage to a scraped knee, or a temperature check visiting the school nurse.

But for Robin Peters of Douglas, a practical nursing student at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, the school nurse’s office provides vital access for students to a nurse, assisting them through the day and helping with acute injury, unexpected illness or a chronic condition.

Peters recently spent two days at the School Nurse’s Office at Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School as part of her Clinical Observation for Term 2, Medical Surgical Nursing. In the two days, Peters worked with Lynn Coleman, RN and Deborah Grenier, RN.

In Peters’ words, “When the First Bell echoed throughout the halls at 7:40 a.m. and we were there, doors open, ready for action. Students trickled in and we

were ready for the snuffle ridden halls.”

School nursing is a position she now knows well. As she saw first-hand students in need of medical attention. School nursing is another calling for special set of nursing skills when treating students as a school nurse.

According to Peters, “Nursing in this atmosphere is a whole different animal, so to speak. You are caring for individuals who may not know how to fully communicate what is going on with them, you must really look at the big picture unbiasedly with high school kids. Not only do you have acute illness walk through your door, you also have students with diabetes, social phobias and eating disorders.”

The typical ratio of one nurse to about 750 students does not change the plan of caring. Caring for the students knows no boundaries.

Peters concludes by saying, “I respect the role of



ACCURACY WATCH

The Charlton Villager is committed to accuracy in all its news reports. Although numerous safeguards are in place to ensure accurate reporting, mistakes can occur.

Confirmed fact errors will be corrected at the top right hand corner of page 3 in a timely manner.

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the school nurse. They create a haven for these kids. School nurses provide anxious kids a sanctuary in a professional and respectful manner. They are so much more than a box of tissues and a baggie of bandages for the mishaps at the shops. I value the role of the School Nurse.”

Opening night approaching for Gateway’s “Barefoot in the Park”



Courtesy Photo

Left to right: Patrick Bracken, Jason Iannone, Hadley Crane, and Gail Riva White.

SOUTHBRIDGE — Opening night approaches!

Gateway Players Theatre, Inc. will kick off Season 45 with the classic Neil Simon comedy, “Barefoot in the Park.” Performances will be held at Fellowship Hall of Elm St. Congregational Church, 61 Elm St. in Southbridge, on Feb. 7, 8, 14, 15, and 16. Friday and Saturday shows are at 7:30 p.m., and the Sunday matinee is at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15, \$13 for seniors and youth and are available by calling 508-764-4531. Online sales are at [www.brown-](http://www.brown-papertickets.com)

[papertickets.com](http://www.brown-papertickets.com).

Mary Gahagan is directing, with Barbara Day as producer, Erin Morin as stage manager and Cynthia Keane as set builder. The cast includes Hadley Crane, Jason Iannone, Patrick Bracken, Gail Riva White, Sean Nault and Dennis Gahagan.

The lead characters, Paul and Corie Bratter, are newlyweds in every sense of the word. After a six day honeymoon, they get a surprise visit from Corie’s loopy mother and decide to play matchmaker during a dinner with their neighbor-in-the-attic

Velasco, where everything that can go wrong, does.

This classic Neil Simon comedy will delight and entertain and is a great way to celebrate February Valentine’s Day.

This production is presented with permission of Samuel French Inc. Gateway Players had been located at the Arts Barn of Ruth Wells Center for the Arts, until structural damage required a change in venue. We are very appreciative of Elm St. Congregational Church for the use of their hall.

Emerson College announces Local Dean’s List honorees

BOSTON — The following students have been named to Emerson College’s Dean’s List for the Fall 2019 semester. The requirement to make the Dean’s List is a grade point average of 3.7 or higher that semester.

Michelle Gaudet of Charlton, majoring in Communication Disorders, and a member of the class of 2020.

Sophie Lynch of Uxbridge, majoring in Writing, Lit and Publishing, and a member of the class of 2020.

About Emerson College

Based in Boston, Massachusetts, opposite the historic Boston Common and in the heart of the city’s Theatre District, Emerson College educates individuals who will solve problems and change the world through engaged leadership in communication and the arts, a mission informed by liberal learning. The College has 3,780 undergraduates and 670 graduate students from across the United States and 50 countries. Supported by state-of-the-art facilities and a renowned faculty, students participate in more than 90 student organizations and performance groups. Emerson is known for its experiential learning programs in Los Angeles, Washington, DC, the Netherlands, London, China, and the Czech Republic as well as its new Global Portals, with the first pro-

gram launching this fall in Paris and the second next year in Switzerland. The College has an active network of 39,000 alumni who hold leadership positions in communication and the arts. For more information, visit emerson.edu.

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Cornerstone Bank donates \$10,000 to Worcester County Food Bank

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank is pleased to announce its recent donation of \$10,000 to the Worcester County Food Bank (WCFB). This financial contribution will go toward expenses associated with their Food Sourcing and Distribution Program.

The Worcester County Food Bank provides donated food to a network of partner agencies that serve neighbors struggling with hunger throughout Worcester County. In addition to providing food to those in need, the WCFB also advocates to create a hunger-free and healthy community by supporting policies and programs that work to decrease hunger by improving access to healthy food.

“The Worcester County About Cornerstone Bank

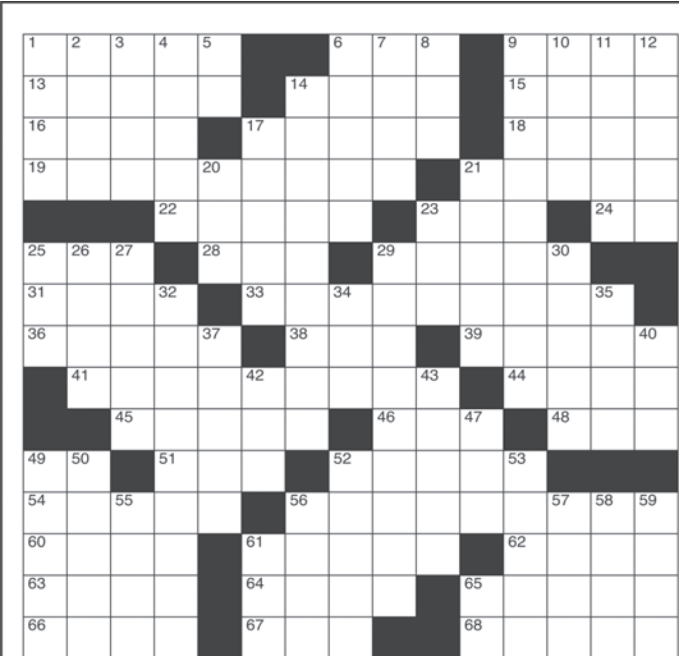
Food Bank plays an important role in providing food to our neighbors in need,” stated Cornerstone Bank President & Treasurer Todd M. Tallman. “We’re pleased to support their mission in creating a hunger-free community.”

The Worcester County Food Bank is the largest hunger relief organization in Worcester County. In 2018, the WCFB and their network of 118 partner agencies donated over 6.5 million pounds of food and assisted over 81,000 people, with 33 percent of that food provided to children. For more information about the WCFB, please visit them online at www.foodbank.org or by calling 508-842-3663.



Courtesy Photo
Worcester County Food Bank Director of Communications & Development Joni Kusminsky with Cornerstone Bank President & Treasurer Todd M. Tallman.

Cornerstone Bank is an independent, mutual savings bank serving the residents, businesses, and communities throughout Central Massachusetts from offices in Charlton, Holden, Leicester, Rutland, Southbridge, Spencer, Sturbridge, Warren, Webster, and Worcester. Deposits are insured in full by a combination of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Depositors Insurance Fund. The Bank is an Equal Opportunity Employer, Equal Housing Lender, and SBA Preferred Lender. For more information, visit online at cornerstonebank.com, on Facebook or call 800-939-9103.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Indicates number of days
6. When you hope to get there
9. Hairstyle
13. Black (Spanish)
14. Expresses pleasure
15. Away from wind
16. Tech pros organization
17. Wile E. Coyote is familiar with it
18. Clean
19. Saints' signal caller
21. A way to hunt
22. Poetries
23. Automobile
24. Secondary school (abbr.)
25. Indicates before
28. Male parent
29. Short-billed rails
31. It pays to keep yours
33. On occasion
36. David __, US playwright
38. Slang for cigarette
39. Vaccine developer
41. Returned to health
44. Toni Morrison novel
45. Period between eclipses
46. Veterans battleground
48. Gang
49. A radio band
51. Jaws of a voracious animal
52. Elaborate garments
54. Chinese province
56. Checks
60. Horizontal passage
61. Steep hillsides
62. Fertility god
63. Dried-up
64. Signs a name
65. __ Winger, actress
66. German river
67. Gov't lawyers
68. Take something somewhere

CLUES DOWN

1. __ Blyton, children's author
2. Colleague
3. "The African Queen" writer
4. Crater on the moon
5. Toward
6. Overhang
7. Identifies something close at hand
8. Sign language
9. Unbroken views
10. Ancient Greek City
11. Stretch out to grasp
12. Alcohols that are unfit for drinking
14. Humorous stories
17. Long song for a solo
20. Barrels per day (abbr.)
21. City of Lights
23. A place to sleep
25. Advanced degree (abbr.)
26. The back
27. Furniture-makers Charles and "Ray"
29. Songs to a lover
30. Gland secretion
32. 10 meters
34. Disfigure
35. Stores grain
37. Sacred book of Judaism
40. Catch
42. Promise
43. Challenges
47. Russian space station
49. Banking giant
50. Served as an omen
52. Drenches
53. Type of sword
55. Minor planet
56. Messenger ribonucleic acid
57. Japanese ankle sock
58. Obtain in return for services
59. Waste matter
61. A proposal to buy at a specified price
65. Unit of loudness



“Every Town Deserves a Good Local Newspaper”

Sarah Manske named to Dean’s List at Grove City College

GROVE CITY, Pa. — Sarah Manske, a freshman Elementary Education major at Grove City College, has been named to the Dean’s List with Distinction for the Fall 2019 semester. Sarah is a 2019 graduate of Shepherd Hill Regional High School and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Manske (Nancy) from Charlton.

Students eligible for the Dean’s List have a GPA of 3.40 to 3.59; for the Dean’s List with Distinction a GPA of 3.60 to 3.84

and for the Dean’s List with High Distinction a GPA of 3.85 to 4.0. Grove City College (www.gcc.edu) is a highly ranked, national Christian liberal arts and sciences college that equips students to pursue their unique callings through an academically excellent and Christ-centered learning and living experience distinguished by a commitment to affordability and promotion of the Christian worldview, the foundations of a free society and the love of neighbor. Established

in 1876, the College is a pioneer in independent private education and accepts no federal funds. It offers students degrees in more than 60 majors on a picturesque 180-acre campus north of Pittsburgh, Pa. Accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, Grove City College is routinely ranked as one of the country’s top colleges by U.S. News & World Report, The Princeton Review and others based on academic quality and superior outcomes.

Seton Hall names Anna Alves to Dean’s List

SOUTH ORANGE, N.J. — Seton Hall University is pleased to announce Anna Alves of Uxbridge has qualified for the Fall 2019 Dean’s List.

After the close of every semester, undergraduate students completing all courses with a GPA of 3.4, with no grades lower than “C”, qualify for the Dean’s List.

As one of the nation’s leading Catholic universities, Seton Hall has been showing the world what great minds can do since 1856. Home to over 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students and offering more than 90 rigorous majors, Seton Hall’s academic excellence has been singled out for distinction by The Princeton Review, U.S. News & World Report and Bloomberg Businessweek.

One of the country’s leading Catholic universities, Seton Hall University has been a catalyst for

leadership - developing students in mind, heart and spirit - since 1856. Home to nearly 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students and offering more than 80 rigorous majors, Seton Hall’s academic excellence has been singled out for distinction by The Princeton Review, US News & World Report and Bloomberg BusinessWeek. Seton Hall, which embraces students of all religions, prepares its graduates to be exemplary servant leaders and caring global citizens. Its attractive main campus is located in suburban South Orange, New Jersey, and is only 14 miles by train, bus or car to New York City, offering a wealth of employment, internship, cultural and entertainment opportunities. The university’s nationally recognized School of Law is prominently located in downtown Newark. For more information, visit www.shu.edu.

Students named to University of Hartford Dean’s List

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. — The University of Hartford is pleased to announce the following students have been named to the Dean’s List for Fall 2019.

Evan Coulson of Charlton
Tracy Murray of Charlton
Sarah Vangel of Charlton

Spread across seven dynamic schools and colleges, the University of Hartford has been guiding the purpose and passion of students for over six decades. On our 350-acre campus alongside Connecticut’s capital city, approximately 4,800 undergraduate and 2,000 graduate students representing all 50 states and 51 countries come together for a common purpose: to collaborate across different disciplines, diversify perspectives, and broaden worldviews. We’re a four-year private university focused on advancing the public good through meaningful connections within our communities. Our unique approach to comprehensive education gives us the critical perspectives that lead to impactful change, regionally and beyond. With degree programs spanning the arts, humanities, business, engineering and technology, education, and health professions, we focus on doing the work that matters.

Office of Sen. Anne Gobi announces February office hours

REGION — Lucas McDiarmid, aide to Sen. Anne Gobi (D-Spencer), will be holding office hours throughout the district during the month of February. Constituents and town officials are invited to meet to express any concerns, ideas and issues they have. Attendants should RSVP to Lucas.McDiarmid@MASenate.gov or by phone at (413) 324-3082. Town attendance is not restricted to residents of those towns, and Lucas is additionally available by appointment if you are unable to make any of the times listed.

Tuesday, Feb. 4
10-11 a.m. Warren Senior Center
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Brimfield Senior Center
1-2 p.m. Wales Senior Center

Wednesday Feb. 5
11 a.m.-noon West Brookfield Senior Center
12:30-1:30 p.m. New Braintree Town Hall
2-3 p.m. Brookfield Town Hall
6-7 p.m. Ashby Town Hall

Monday Feb. 10
10:30 a.m.-11:30 p.m. Paxton Senior Center
Noon-1 p.m. Spencer Howe Village
1:30-2:30 p.m. East Brookfield Municipal Offices

Tuesday Feb. 11
10:30-11:30 a.m. Sturbridge Senior Center
Noon-1 p.m. Rutland Senior Center

Wednesday Feb. 12
9:30-10:30 a.m. Oakham Senior Center
11 a.m.-noon North Brookfield Senior Center
1-2 p.m. Holland Town Hall

Monday, Feb. 24
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Charlton Senior Center
2-3 p.m. Monson Town Hall

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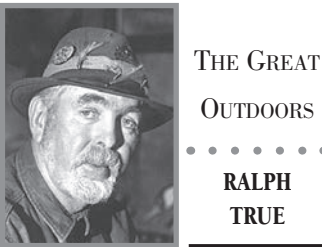
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Global warming is for real



THE GREAT OUTDOORS
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RALPH TRUE

Global warming is sure showing the non-believers that it is for real. The unbelievable weather conditions that we are now experiencing are sure nice to see, but the overall picture is not good for our planet. Ocean water temperatures continue to rise, which have some species of fish migrating into new England waters that we rarely see. On the positive side, seabass numbers are increasing annually as well as their size

in our coastal waters, but at the same time fish that are native to our waters are moving out. Lobsters are also heading out to cooler waters. The effects of climate change are staggering, and are sure to change the planet in a negative way for many years to come. We depend on our elected politicians to make sensible changes in the laws that will slow down the threat of global warming. Emissions from cars and factories are the largest polluter. The way we dispose of our waste is another big problem. Hazardous waste is a serious threat to our planet. Plastic bottles and bags need to be phased out and replaced with reusable bags. All plastic bottles need to have a nickel

deposit on them including water bottles, detergent bottles, etc.! Tons of plastic end up in the ocean every year. Our fresh water lakes and ponds are becoming so polluted that eating fish from them could cause serious health risks. Lead in our drinking water supply in many states is unacceptable. I sure hope that we start cleaning up the mess that previous generations left behind, as well as our own continued dumping of waste today. With all of the warm weather we are experiencing, ice fishing has been put on hold by most anglers. There are a few anglers taking the risk to fish on unsafe ice, but most sensible anglers are playing it safe. This past week, an 11 year old girl fell through thin ice local-

ly, and was fortunate enough to be pulled from the icy waters by rescue teams. Most fishing derby's have been canceled in the valley until further notice. Inviting anglers and their family's onto unsafe ice would be foolish and dangerous. If you want to go ice fishing bad enough, head North. Maine has plenty of ice. Start getting the fishing rods and reels ready! It is going to be an early spring ,no matter what the groundhog predicts. The Big "E" Sportsmen's show (OSEG) will open their doors on Feb. 21-23, and is the largest show in the Northeast. Doors open at noon on Thursday. Hunting and fishing guides from all over the United States will be on hand to take reservations

for their upcoming seasons. Numerous seminars by hunting and fishing professionals will be held all three days. For a complete list of seminars and other activities, go to their Web site at oseg-sportsmen.com! Striper fishermen are anxious to hear the final regulations on the 2020 striper season in Mass. & Rhode Island, which should be finalized by March. Big changes are expected to include a slot size limit this year, with a one fish per day limit. Taking the big trophy size stripers could be off limits this year. The circle hook regulation required to fish for stripers with chunk or live bait, will not take effect until 2021. This is the time of year for Rod & Gun Club membership renewals. Every

year, members at some clubs forget to pay their annual dues. Do not let it happen to you! Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club started taking renewal memberships this past Sunday. The next three Sundays will be the last chance for renewals at Uxbridge starting at noon to 4 p.m. After that date, the club will start to take in members on the waiting list. This week's picture shows Earnie Lavallee of Uxbridge in front of a huge mount at the Springfield show last year. The second picture shows another huge bear mount at the show. There is a lot to see and the kids will also enjoy the show, so take them along. *Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!*

Keep houseplants healthy while keeping pets safe

You love them both – your pets and houseplants – but it can be challenging to safely raise them together in the same house. Reduce the risk by selecting pet-safe plants and safely managing houseplant pest problems. Avoid problems by selecting plants suited to your home's growing conditions and gardening style. Then narrow the list further to plants that are non-toxic specifically to the type of pets you own. Consult with your veterinarian and visit the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) website for a list of pet-safe and toxic plants. Create a list of all the plants you are growing. Include both common and

botanical names for accurate identification. Do a bit of research on the care they need and their toxicity to your pets. If you suspect your pet has ingested a toxic plant, you'll have the proper plant name when contacting your veterinarian. Match the pet-friendly plants you select to their preferred light conditions. An east- or west-facing window provides enough light for most indoor plants. Keep those that need brighter light within two feet of the window. Those that prefer lower light can be grown near a north-facing window or up to six feet back or off to the side of an east- or west-facing window. For low light situations, consider cast iron plant, Lady palm, and parlor palm or add artificial lights when growing



GARDEN MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA MYERS

other pet-friendly plants in lower light situations. Grow grape ivy, spider plants, baby tears (Soleirolia), peperomias, prayer plants, Boston ferns, ponytail palm, and hoyas in brighter locations. Save the brightest locations for Norfolk Island Pine, lipstick plant and haworthia. Add some color to your indoor garden with popular flowering plants like African violet, Christmas cactus and moth orchid. These are also listed as non-toxic on the ASPCA Web site. Water plants thoroughly as needed. Tropical plants prefer slightly moist soil, while cacti and succulents like it drier. Always pour off any excess water that collects in the saucer. Allowing plants to sit in water can increase the risk of disease and lead to root rot. Regularly groom and wipe dust off the leaves of your indoor plants to help reduce the risk of insect dam-

age. Remove spotted leaves when they appear and adjust watering. This is often enough to correct fungal disease problems. When pest problems require control, always select pet-friendly options. Start with a strong blast of water to dislodge pests like aphids and mites. Follow with an application of a lightweight horticulture oil such as Summit Year-Round Spray Oil (SummitResponsibleSolutions.com). This organic spray controls aphids, mites, immature whiteflies and all stages of scale and mealybugs. And if those tiny fruit-fly-like gnats are too annoying to tolerate, consider treating the potting mix with a Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis product such as Summit Mosquito Bits labeled for controlling fungus gnat larvae. Just sprinkle it on the soil surface and this naturally occurring soil bacterium kills the fungus gnat larvae in the soil. It's an

Turn To **GARDENING** page **A10**



Melinda Myers Photo
Baby tears plant (Soleirolia) is safe for pets and should be grown in brighter light conditions.

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LEARNING

MARIANAPOLIS PREP SCHOOL ANNOUNCES QUARTER 2 AND SEMESTER 1 HONOR ROLLS

THOMPSON, Conn. — Below are the students who have earned their place on the Quarter 2 and Semester 1 Honor Rolls.

Q2 HEAD OF SCHOOL LIST

Ali Abdel-Jalil, Bayan, Kuwait; Olivia-Mae Acquaah-Harrison, Charlton, MA; Lily Alessandro, Pomfret Center, CT; Owen Alicandro, North Oxford, MA; James Alves, Uxbridge, MA; John Barnwell, Danielson, CT; Cassandra Belsito, Millbury, MA; Abigail Boria, Charlton, MA; Benjamin Bouchard, Douglas, MA; Vincent Bourgeois, Thompson, CT; Campbell Braun, South Grafton, MA; Stephen Canavan, Ashford, CT; Hansen Cao, Shenzhen, China; Francesca Capalbo, Worcester, MA; Marielle Caparso, Worcester, MA; Shaylan Cashman, Charlton, MA; Panachai Chauychoo, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; Pannawat Chauychoo, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; Dominika Chmielewski, Webster, MA; Spencer Courville, Charlton, MA; Anna Czechowski, Webster, MA; Anh Dao, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; Alexandra Delano, Charlton, MA; Joseph DiPietro, Worcester, MA; Danielle Doiron, Charlton, MA; Fiona Doiron, Charlton, MA; Sydney Duby, Worcester, MA; Sophie Elustondo, Burwood, Australia; Ava Fabiano, Killingly, CT; Chiara Faiola, Auburn, MA; Yifei Fang, Shanghai, China; Alexandra Giorgio, Millbury, MA; Ashley Giorgio, Millbury, MA; Serena Godin, Glendale, RI; Juliette Golden, Millville, MA; Isabella Gonzalez, Plainfield, CT; Madelyn Grundstrom, Moosup, CT; Zachary Hall, Plainfield, CT; B Hannon, Putnam, CT; Angelina Hargrave, Charlton, MA; Sofia Hargrave, Charlton, MA; Mai Hasegawa, Osaka-shi, Japan; Sophie Hendrick, Willimantic, CT; Philip Heney, Douglas, MA; Thu Hoang, Hai Phong, Vietnam; James Hoban, Millbury, MA; Maura Hoban, Millbury, MA; Patrick Hoban, Millbury, MA; Kaylynn Horan, Putnam, CT; Katelyn Jacoboski, Willington, CT; Mackenzie Jutras, Greenville, RI; Claire Kelleher, Auburn, MA; Julia Kilroy, Upton, MA; Zachary King, Plainfield, CT; Kate Landis, Brooklyn, CT; Molly Landis, Brooklyn, CT; Abigail Leahy, Leicester, MA; Juhyoung Lee, Seoul, South Korea; Syhyoung Lee, Seoul, South Korea; Chenxi Liu, Changzhou, China; Ian MacKenzie, Woodstock, CT; Lauren Makie, Webster, MA; Szymon Mamro, Webster, MA; Riley Martin, Moosup, CT; Benjamin McGarry, Thompson, CT; Keegan McLeod, Foster, RI; Emma McQuiston, Webster, MA; Kate Melnick, North Grosvenordale, CT; Sara Michailides, Chepachet, RI; Ayame Mizuno, Nagoya, Japan; Lily Mueller, Webster, MA; Linh Nguyen, Hanoi, Vietnam; Nhi Nguyen, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; Abbie O'Brien, Plainfield, CT; Collin O'Connor, Sutton, MA; Declan O'Connor, West Boylston, MA; Jenna Olivieri, Douglas, MA; Linh Pham, Hanoi, Vietnam; Long Pham, Hanoi, Vietnam; Brendan Phaneuf,

Danielson, CT; Olivia Pisegna, Oxford, MA; Morgan Polinski, Webster, MA; Bronagh Power-Cassidy, Dublin, Ireland; Sara Powers, Grafton, MA; Sophia Raborer, Dayville, CT; Jill Reardon, Fiskdale, MA; Grace Rhoads, Stafford Springs, CT; Lucas Rhoads, Stafford Springs, CT; Thomas Santos Soares, Porto Alegre, Brazil; Elizabeth Schoemer, Oxford, MA; Trinity Semo, Dudley, MA; Ashley Smith, Holden, MA; Alex Stawiecki, Thompson, CT; Zachary Stoddard, Pomfret Center, CT; Maya Summiel, Dayville, CT; Thang Tran, Da Nang, Vietnam; Daniel Twohig, Douglas, MA; Rachel Ullstrom, Auburn, MA; John Vigliotti, Worcester, MA; Caroline Villa, Auburn, MA; Tram Vo, Phan Thiet, Vietnam; Mary Wall, Northborough, MA; Emily Walsh, Thompson, CT; Mary Walsh, Thompson, CT; Yungpeng Wang, Shenzhen, China; Zhenlin Wei, Shenzhen, China; Kyle Woodruff, Southbridge, MA; Haipei Yang, Nanjing Jiangsu, China; Wenyang Yuan, Beijing, China; Jianghan Zhang, Beijing, China; Zihan Zhang, Jinan, China; Xingyu Zhu, Wenzhou, China.

Q2 DEAN'S LIST

Michael Acquaah-Harrison, Charlton, MA; Kaitlin Baca, Webster, MA; Morgan Beaudreault, Dayville, CT; Callista Bibeau, Danielson, CT; Nicholas Boligan, Thompson, CT; Rayliana Bonnell, Oxford, MA; Payton Booth, Webster, MA; Samuel Bouchard, Douglas, MA; Amiah Brown, Willimantic, CT; Hayden Buzzell, East Brookfield, MA; Jessie Calkins, Charlton, MA; Kara Corriveau, Brimfield, MA; Paul Davey, Oxford, MA; Brendan Donegan, Charlton, MA; Xianzhou Du, Shenyang, China; Benjamin Duquette, Webster, MA; Olivia Duquette, North Grosvenordale, CT; William Engle, Plainfield, CT; Nicholas Fennelly, Charlton, MA; Gilbert Fournier, Putnam, CT; Gabriela Fung, Colchester, CT; Zichen Gan, Kunming, China; Ruiyi Gao, Hohhot, China; Lily Givner, Oxford, MA; Ethan Gosper, Danielson, CT; Timothy Hall, Plainfield, CT; Audrey Hammond, Sutton, MA; Emily Hammond, Sutton, MA; Alyson Hartman, Douglas, MA; Kiersten Haviland, Plainfield, CT; Lily Hayes, Danielson, CT; Donovan Hendrick, Willimantic, CT; Garret Hippert, Brooklyn, CT; Madeline Hollett, Charlton, MA; Ge Jia, Baoding, China; Kualim Johnson, Auburn, MA; Thomas Joiner, North Grosvenordale, CT; Doyoon Kim, Seoul, South Korea; Ayana Kobayashi, Nagoya, Japan; Haruna Kobayashi, Nagoya, Japan; Avery Kurzontkowski, Shrewsbury, MA; Ava LaRoche, Stafford Springs, CT; Andie Lee, Charlton, MA; Lauren Lemire, Southbridge, MA; Alyssa Leveille, Thompson, CT; Alana Lorusso, North Oxford, MA; Evan Lundt, Woodstock, CT; Yihui Luo, Lian Yun Gang, China; Ian Martin, Moosup, CT; Ryan Martin, Douglas, MA; Salvatore Masciarelli, Northbridge, MA; Sydney Masciarelli, Northbridge, MA; Laurelyn Mayen, Dudley, MA; Conner McLeod,

Foster, RI; Joshua Mobley, Webster, MA; Daniel Moors, Uxbridge, MA; Colleen Murphy, Charlton, MA; Connor Murray, Southbridge, MA; Kaylynn Nolan, Oxford, MA; Hayley O'Connell, Webster, MA; Jared O'Connor, Sutton, MA; James Olivieri, Douglas, MA; Yasmeen Osborne, Brooklyn, CT; Dominic Penny, Charlton, MA; John Perveiler, Oxford, MA; Colby Pion, Danielson, CT; Elena Polsky, Thompson, CT; Shunnan Qi, Shanghai, China; Emma Raps, Webster, MA; Jonathan Reardon, Fiskdale, MA; Brianne Rett, Uxbridge, MA; Morgan Royston, Oxford, MA; Emma Russell, Brooklyn, CT; Patrick Sabourin, Uxbridge, MA; Hannah Schoemer, Oxford, MA; Ivana Smyckova, Horni Sucha, Czech Republic; Alex Spetseris, Webster, MA; Kaeleigh Sullivan, Douglas, MA; Christian Terwilliger, Lebanon, CT; Lily Tessmer, Lancaster, MA; Alison Tourtellotte, Putnam, CT; Thinh Tran, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; Ashley Vandenbrouck, Oxford, MA; Caroline Vigneault, Southbridge, MA; Elizabeth Walker, Thompson, CT; Tyler Whiteley, Foster, RI; Yukun Wu, Taiyuan, China; Lucas Yash, Webster, MA; Yi Nok Yeung, Hong Kong, Hong Kong; Boning Zhu, Shanghai, China; Yutian Zhu, Hangzhou, China.

Q2 HONOR ROLL

Grace Booth, Webster, MA; Patrick Brooks, Worcester, MA; Nicholas Buoniconti, Dudley, MA; Jasmine Creighton, Webster, MA; Anthony DeFusco, Worcester, MA; Courtney Fleming, Douglas, MA; Elan Johnson, Auburn, MA; Caroline King, Rochester, MA; Camille Larson, Charlton, MA; Michael Levesque, Narragansett, RI; Alexander Litke, Brooklyn, CT; Katerina Looney, Dudley, MA; Sophia Maloney, Sutton, MA; Valentina Mena Munch, Merida, Mexico; Olivia Montione, Dudley, MA; Hugo Ndizeye, Kigali, Rwanda; Niamh Raftery, Thompson, CT; Ashley Robert, Plainfield, CT; John Sarantopoulos, Pomfret Center, CT; Sara Soares, Putnam, CT; Maggie Vo, Worcester, MA.

S1 HEAD OF SCHOOL LIST

Ali Abdel-Jalil, Bayan, Kuwait; Olivia-Mae Acquaah-Harrison, Charlton, MA; Lily Alessandro, Pomfret Center, CT; Owen Alicandro, North Oxford, MA; John Barnwell, Danielson, CT; Cassandra Belsito, Millbury, MA; Benjamin Bouchard, Douglas, MA; Vincent Bourgeois, Thompson, CT; Campbell Braun, South Grafton, MA; Marielle Caparso, Worcester, MA; Shaylan Cashman, Charlton, MA; Panachai Chauychoo, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; Pannawat Chauychoo, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; Spencer Courville, Charlton, MA; Anna Czechowski, Webster, MA; Anh Dao, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; Paul Davey, Oxford, MA; Joseph DiPietro, Worcester, MA; Danielle Doiron, Charlton, MA;

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S1 DEAN'S LIST

Nicholas Boligan, Thompson, CT; Stephen Canavan, Ashford, CT; Alexandra Delano, Charlton, MA; Ava Fabiano, Killingly, CT; Gilbert Fournier, Putnam, CT; Lily Givner, Oxford, MA; Donovan Hendrick, Willimantic, CT; Madeline Hollett, Charlton, MA; Avery Kurzontkowski, Shrewsbury, MA; Ava LaRoche, Stafford Springs, CT; Andie Lee, Charlton, MA; Lauren Lemire, Southbridge, MA; Alana Lorusso, North Oxford, MA; Riley Martin, Moosup, CT; Ryan Martin, Douglas, MA; Joshua Mobley, Webster, MA; Olivia Pisegna, Oxford, MA; Emma Raps, Webster, MA; Jonathan Reardon, Fiskdale, MA; Hannah Schoemer, Oxford, MA; Kaeleigh Sullivan, Douglas, MA; Christian Terwilliger, Lebanon, CT; Lucas Yash, Webster, MA; Yutian Zhu, Hangzhou, China; Xingyu Zhu, Wenzhou, China.

Eastern student Elizabeth Simonds makes Dean's List

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. — Eastern Connecticut State University recently released its fall 2019 Dean's List for full-time and part-time students. Among the students named to the list is full-time student Elizabeth Simonds '20 of Uxbridge, who majors in Early Childhood Education. Recognition for the Dean's List is given at the end of each semester to matriculated students in good academic standing with a GPA of 3.50 or higher. Eastern Connecticut State University is the state of Connecticut's public liberal arts university, serving 5,000 students annually at its Willimantic campus and satellite locations. In addition to attracting students from 162 of Connecticut's 169 towns, Eastern also draws students from 34 other states and 19 countries. A residential campus offering 41 majors and 65 minors, Eastern offers students a strong liberal art foundation grounded in an array of applied learning opportunities. Ranked among the top 30 public universities in the North Region by U.S. News and World Report in its 2019 Best Colleges ratings, Eastern has also been awarded "Green Campus" status by the Princeton Review 10 years in a row. For more information, visit www.easternct.edu.

TRAFFIC

continued from page A1

authorities.

On Jan. 28, the Board of Selectmen didn't provide any concrete answers for the commission's future with several options on the table: keeping the commission as is, dissolving the commission or rebuilding the commission with new members including town hall personnel. The consensus was that the commission does serve an important role in town and needs to remain and

be reconstructed.

"I don't think the issue is that citizens aren't coming to the with concerns. I think the issue is more of we need a way to be more proactive when they do come to us with concerns," Selectman Deborah Noble said. "They'd like to have a different makeup of the committee so that they can have people there who are actually decision and policy makers."

Selectman Bill Borowski also touched on the significant of the group calling it a voice for the people especially for a contentious issue that plagued

Charlton throughout the latter half of the 2010s.

"The commission itself may be helpful to act as a sounding board for concerned residents to say, 'I'd like you to look at X, Y, or Z'. Perhaps one recommendation is to have the (Town Administrator) to put this on a to-do list to see how best we can illicit and solicit resident concerns and feedback and how we can funnel that to the appropriate folks to take action," Borowski said.

Selectman agreed to discuss the matter further in a month's time putting the discussion on hold until Feb. 25.

TASTE

continued from page A1

necessities choices can become very difficult. Proceeds from this event will supply qualifying senior citizens of Charlton with energy assistance.

Thanks to your contributions in 2019 the Charlton REAS Foundation awarded 45 seniors with assistance for a total of \$17,400. This fundraiser along with the lottery calendar is the REAS Foundation's most important event. We would not be able to give this assistance without your attendance, monetary donations, in-kind donations and volunteer time.

The Taste of the Towns event is a great way for our community to have a fun, inexpensive night out and to help our neighbors at the same time.

Contact info: Charlton REAS Foundation, Inc, P.O. Box 793, Charlton, MA 01507. Web site: www.reascharlton.org. Phone: 508-868-5289.

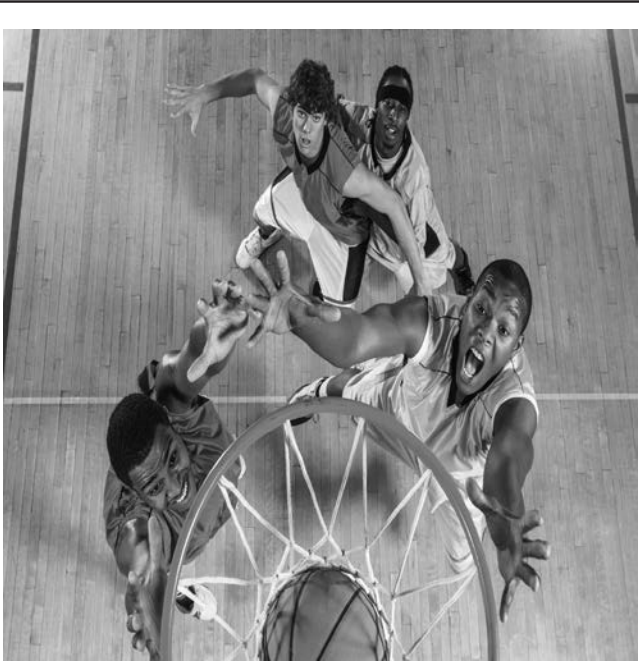
Thank you for your support – we hope to see you there!

BUILDING FOUNDATIONS

continued from page A1

erty owners) are going to start looking to my office for help if they have any suspicions."

The Board of Selectmen were also given a hard copy of the Crumbling Concrete Foundations report which can be viewed at the town hall. The state estimated that it could cost \$350 million to fully restore the crumbling foundations of effected homes. It's estimated at least 2,000 homes in the commonwealth could be affected by the contaminated concrete.



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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Keeping the coronavirus in perspective

With the recent headlines surrounding the coronavirus outbreak, many Americans are petrified that they will somehow contract this disease that originated in China. Despite all the press being given to this new threat, however, the fact remains that many more Americans are likely to contract and die of the regular flu.

To date, the coronavirus has infected eight people in the country. Just this year alone, there have been roughly 19 million cases of the flu reported, resulting in 10,000 deaths. Across the globe, the flu takes roughly 650,000 lives per year, according to the World Health Organization. Compare that with the roughly 400 confirmed coronavirus fatalities to date, and it certainly puts the situation in perspective.


Doctors are telling those with concerns that if you have not traveled to Wuhan, China, or have not come into contact with an individual who has come from there, your chances of contracting the disease are extremely low.

So far this year, 68 children have passed away from complications stemming from standard influenza, including eight in the state of Tennessee. Many schools across the country have had to shut down, sterilize the facilities and give students time to recover.

Confirmed cases of the coronavirus in China number just over 14,000, resulting in 360 deaths as of our press deadline for this week's edition. Of the eight cases confirmed in the U.S., none have proved fatal. A 35 year old from Washington with a confirmed case of coronavirus did develop pneumonia, but has improved and is left with a mild cough.

Flu season is at its peak between December and February, and can take the lives of roughly 61,000 Americans each year. Medical professionals are quite rightly reminding people to be more concerned with flu prevention than the coronavirus — again, not to diminish its seriousness, but to be realistic about the magnitude of the threat it currently poses. While even one death is one too many, it is vital to avoid panic, and to remember that the overwhelming majority of those diagnosed with coronavirus, both in China and elsewhere, have been able to beat it back.

Vulnerable citizens are advised to get the flu shot; however, there are other ways to prevent the flu. Washing your hands regularly, avoiding those who are sick, covering your mouth when you cough, avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth as germs are spread easier this way and to clean and disinfect surfaces.



THE 411

CHECK OUT ALL THE LATEST IN LOCAL SPORTS!

OPINION

VIEWS AND COMMENTARY FROM CHARLTON, CHARLTON CITY, CHARLTON DEPOT AND BEYOND

Be still and know ...

POSITIVELY SPEAKING

By GARY W. MOORE

As regular readers of my column know, I'm being challenged in my life by a life-threatening health problem. A Neuroendocrine tumor is a rare affliction that is hard to diagnose by the average unexposed physician and medical facility. It is often identified with the late Apple founder and CEO, Steve Jobs, as this is the disease that took his life.

700 words available to me in this space, I won't take the time to list or footnote the studies, but if you go to the search engine of your choice, you will see countless studies by many of the most revered institutions in the world, showing the power of optimism on successful outcomes.

Be aware of Social Security myths



FINANCIAL FOCUS

JEFF BURDICK

Social Security can be one source of retirement income for you and your spouse. To maximize your benefits, you'll need to make some key decisions and be aware of some common myths.

Luckily, my diagnosis was made and I'm hard at work with my insurance provider and family doctor to find the medical team/facility with expertise and experience to help me beat this affliction ... and beat it, I will.

I'll confess, that this health crisis challenges everything I've written and spoke of regarding the power of optimism. Yet it is my optimism, when I clear my mind, that helps me focus on the positive outcome that I believe I will achieve. My plan isn't to survive but to thrive.

I'll give you an occasional and short update now and then, but this health-obstacle will not dominate my column moving forward. I'll go into some detail today because of the overwhelming response and well-wishes from readers, friends and family since my diagnosis. Make no mistake about this ... I will die some day because of something, but it's not going to be this.

Of all the incredibly supportive communications I've received, there was one short and negative response to last week's column. The reader said ...

"I am a three-time cancer survivor and the premise you can will it away is insulting. It doesn't just take your life away: it takes everything."

I responded that she should read the column rather than just reacting to the headline. I don't believe you can 'will away' cancer or really anything. My point is always that optimism gives you a better chance of overcoming obstacles because an optimistic view gives you the encourage to fight. If you pessimistically believe you cannot overcome, why would you go to the trouble of fighting?

There are more studies that I can count, verifying the powers of a positive mind in the treatment of disease. Believing in a positive outcome gives you the drive to have an increased focus on being part of the solution. With only

Vince Lombardi was often quoted as saying, "Fatigue makes cowards of us all." I've learned over the last few weeks how true this is, as my mind works overtime with my diagnosis. When I'm rested, optimism is easy, but as fatigue sets in, my resistance to pessimism weakens. I'm finding two solutions. The first and obvious remedy is to get lots of rest. The second isn't as easy but even more powerful and that is to quiet your mind.

Depending upon your belief system or faith, you may look at this from different points of view. I've heard some say that only in silence your soul or inner self will speak to you. Others say that through a quiet mind you can only create the solutions you seek. All good and I believe true. My experience in life takes me to Psalm 46:10. "Be still and know that I am God." It is those moments where I can force all the thoughts and words that I allow into my head back out, that I hear the voice that provides direction, comfort and healing.

So enough on cancer. Next week we'll return to my mission of helping others lead a more optimistic life. I'll keep you posted, and prayers are appreciated, but again, I'm not focused on just surviving, I plan to overcome this and thrive.

Gary W. Moore is a freelance columnist, speaker and author of three books including the award-winning, critically acclaimed, "Playing with the Enemy." Follow Gary on Twitter @ GaryW Moore721 and at www.garyw-moore.com.

Flower Power: Legends and Lore of Blooms

With Valentine's Day around the corner, this week's column will focus on the symbolism of flowers. From romance to luck, flowers have long played a role in our everyday lives and according to folklore, perhaps even our futures. Read on for a review of the old fashioned legends and lore of beautiful blooms!

**

The "magical" power of blooms is legendary, as the following superstitions suggest:

Romance:

Daisies: Perhaps the most familiar floral "predictor" of love is the daisy. Plucking off petals one by one while reciting "He (or she) loves me, he loves me not," has long served as an amusing indicator of requited love.

Bachelor Buttons: Folklore may explain how these bright blue and purple cornflowers earned their name. Legend has it that young suitors would place freshly picked flowers in their pocket while courting. If the "bachelor buttons" remained fresh and unwilted for the duration, it was a sure sign the relationship is on a steady course of success!

Roses: Romantic lore claims rose petals helped young ladies of earlier eras choose between two or more suitors. Writing the name of each prospective husband the petals and tossing them to the wind, it is said the last petal to hit the ground holds the name of the one she shall marry.

Luck:

Primrose Etc.: Superstition has it that bouquets of flowers should always

contain an odd number of blooms, lest bad luck be lured. This belief especially applies to primroses, as the English believed the flowers should be only be brought into the house in groups of 13 to ensure good fortune.

Daffies: Perky yellow daffodils can be an instant mood booster, but according to Welsh folklore the flower can also bring wealth. It is said the first person who spots a spring daffodil will be rewarded with prosperity throughout the year!

Roses: To bring good luck into a home in days of yore, rose leaves were tossed into the fireplace flame.

Health and Well Being:

White Flowers: White blooms are beautiful, but they can carry a melancholy message, according to age old folklore. Think twice before you send a bouquet of white flowers to a sick friend in the hospital as legend claims whites with a strong fragrance can worsen a sickness or even bring on death! Ditto for white flowers that show signs of wilting. And never pair white and red flowers in a bouquet for a sick person, as the combination is said to bring bad luck.

Day Lilies: These bright orange flowers, common to the New England landscape, were considered a lucky health charm when worn. It was believed wearing a lily would lighten one's worries and lessen distress.

Poppies: While wearing a poppy in the lapel on Veteran's day has long been a tradition to honor those who



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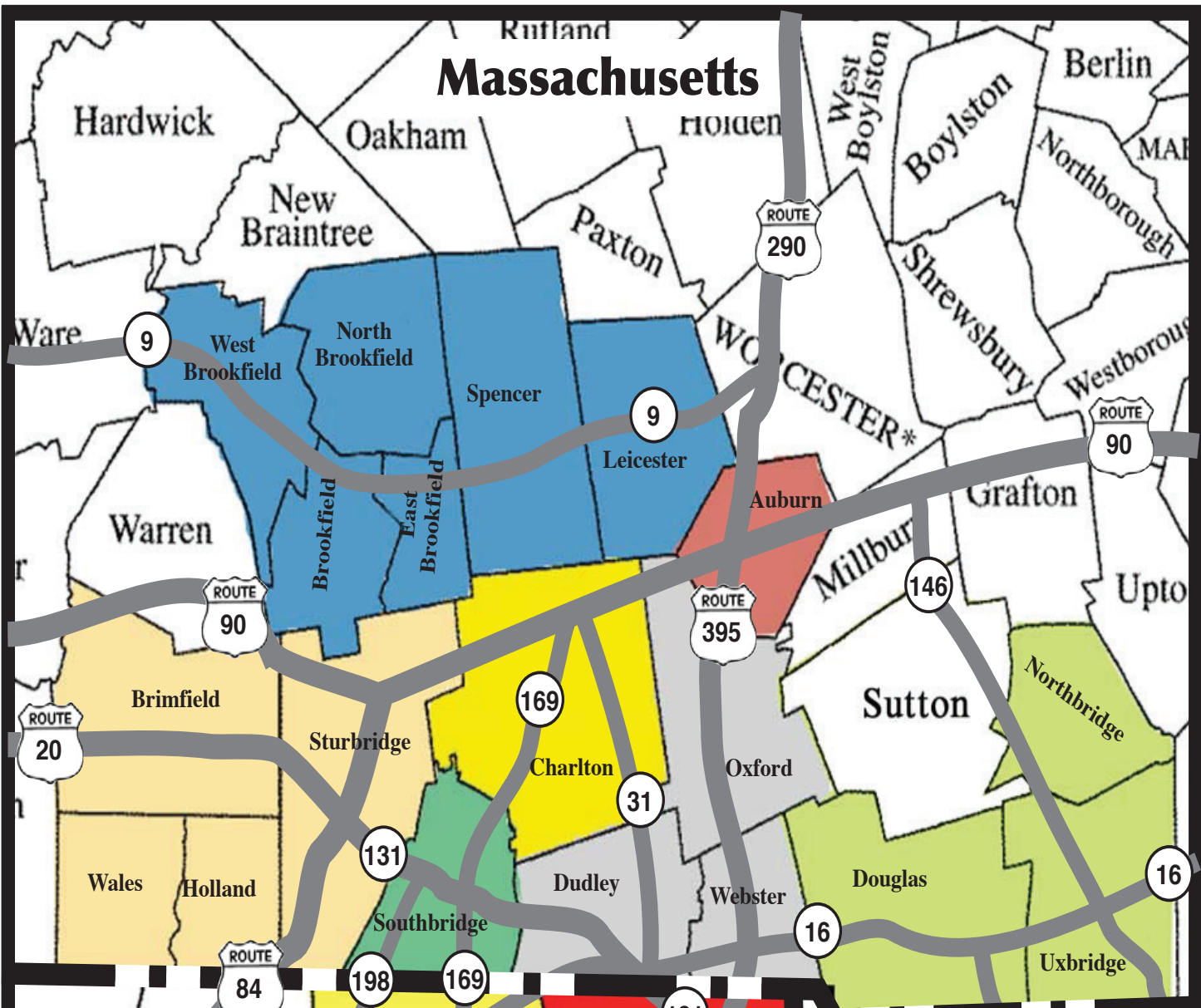
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CHARLTON SENIOR CENTER

Trip Coordinator Dotti Murphy - Please call 978-424-7010
Sign up sheets & flyers available at the Senior Center / Flyers also available on our web page www.townofcharlton.net Click on Departments then click on Council on Aging/Senior Center
Pick up is from St. Joseph's Church 10 H Putnam Rd. Ext., Charlton

Please call Dotti Murphy at 978-424-7010 for details if interested in any trips.

DAUGHTERS OF ISABELLA

For reservations contact Jan Caouette at (508) 887-2215. Make checks payable to Bernadette Circle #709 and mail to Bernadette Circle #709, PO Box 201, Webster MA 01570. The Daughters of Isabella is a nonprofit and charitable Catholic women's organization

DOUGLAS SUNSHINE CLUB

Sunny Portugal next April. The Douglas Sunshine Club is planning a trip to sunny Portugal April 21-30, 2020. This trip is with Collette Travel. An informational meeting is planned for Wed. June 12th at the Douglas Senior Center, 331 Main St., Douglas, at 6:30 p.m. If you are interested in the trip, this is a great opportunity to get a description of the travel arrangements and itinerary with a representative from Collette Travel who will also answer any questions you have about the trip. For more info call 508-476-4474.

DUDLEY SENIORS

Dudley Seniors present a Pigeon Forge and the Smoky Mountains Show Trip. It will be 7 days and 6 nights from Sept. 20, 2020 through Sept. 26, 2020. The price per person/ double occupancy is \$689 and will include motorcoach transportation from Dudley, 6 nights lodging, 10 meals, admission to Titanic: the world's largest museum attraction, 2 dinner shows, 2 evening shows, one morning show, free time in downtown Gatlinburg and a guided tour of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

For more information, please call Evelyn at (508) 764-8254.

FRIENDS OF THE STURBRIDGE SENIORS

The Friends of the Sturbridge Seniors are happy to offer the following 2020 Trips to the General Public. Beginning on Thursday March 12th, join us as we travel by Deluxe Motorcoach on an approximately 60 minute ride to the Fabulous Venus DeMilo in Swansea, Ma. To see Ireland's Most Exciting Young Tenor, Emmet Cahill. Emmet is the Star of PBS Phenomenon Celtic Thunder. Hear Emmet perform many of the Irish Classics as well as some of your Favorite Broadway Hits. He will be joined by the Emerald String Quartet, who are four young Ladies creating the Sweetest Sounds from their String Instruments. And let's add the All Male

Dublin City Dancers who will shake up the Audience with their high stepping dance numbers. For 92.00 everyone will have a Plated Lunch of Corned Beef and Cabbage or Baked Haddock, Venus DeMilo's Famous Minstrone Soup, Vegetables, Breads, Dessert, Coffee and Tea, Bus Transportation and this Fabulous Show.

On Wednesday July 15th come with us for a Lobster Bake at Foster's Clambake in York, Me. For 99.00 enjoy a 1 1/4 Boiled Lobster, Clam Chowder, Steamed Mussels, Fresh Steamed Maine Clams, Corn on the Cob, Potatoes and Onions, Blueberry Cake and a Beverage. Also available is 1/2 Barbecued Chicken in place of the Lobster. Now let us add the Ultimate Jimmy Buffett Tribute Show featuring Jimmy and the Parrots. They are the most requested Jimmy Buffett Tribute Band in the Country and they were also nominated as Band of the Year by Trop Rock Entertainer. Hear them play the favorite songs of Jimmy Buffett as well as songs by The Beach Boys, Paul Simon, Harry Belafonte, Bob Marley and many others. Included is Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation, Lunch and the Show.

On Tuesday August 18 to Friday August 21st, have your Passport ready for a Spectacular 4 Day/3 Night Motor Coach Roundtrip visit to Beautiful Montreal and Quebec Canada. For 849.00 pp Double or 1159.00 pp Single Occupancy. Included are 3 Nights Hotel Lodgings, 4 Meals, touring as described in your travel Brochure, Best of Times Travel Tour Director and all gratuities except Motorcoach Driver. gratuity are included. In Montreal take in a guided visit of Norte-Dame Basilica, the Botanical Gardens, the Biodome, enjoy time at Montreal Casino plus even more. In Quebec, visit the Basilica of Saint-Anne de Beaupre, Montgomery Falls, guided Tour of the beautiful Citadelle featuring the Changing of the Guard, the Royal Regimemnt Museum plus some Free Time to enjoy Quebec on your own.

On Thursday August 20th, get ready for the 10th Anniversary Tour of The Texas Tenors. These 3 very Handsome, Classically Trained Men have performed over 1300 Concerts with Headliner Shows in Las Vegas, China, the United Kingdom and accumulated 3 EMMY AWARDS. The Texas Tenors will sing many of the Broadway Show Classics as well as many of your favorite Pop Songs. They were honored to be included among the Top 50 Acts in the World. This could be the Best Concert that you will see this year. We are traveling approximately 60 minutes to the Venus DeMilo in Swansea, Ma.. For 99.00 included is Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation, Plated Lunch of either Chicken Parmesan or Baked Scrod, Venus DeMilo's Famous Minnestrone Soup, Vegetables, Breads, Dessert, Coffee and Tea.

We had 34 people travel to the Pennsylvania Dutch Country 3 Day/2Night Trip this past December and they had such a Great Time that many of them asked to go back again this September 23-25th. We will see the New Show “Queen Esther”. One of the very most riveting Bible Stories of the Old Testament that comes to life in the Magnificent Sight and Sound Theater which incorporates Live Animals, Secial Effects and Jaw Opening Stage Sets. Ask anyone who has seen a Show at the Millenium Sight and Sound Theater and they will tell you this is a Must See. in your lifetime. Now let's add a 2nd Show called “Saturday Nigh Fever” at the Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre, a Backcountry Tour of the Dutch County Farmlands, enjoy your luck at the Sands Casino and more. Prices are 499.00 pp Double and 599.00 Single Occupancy and include 2 Nights Lodging, 4 Meals, Tickets to the 2 Shows,

Touring as Described and Tour Director Gratutites. Last years Trip sold out early so don't get left behind

Have you ever thought about visiting Nashville? Come along on a 4 Day/3 Night Trip December 4th -7th. Included are Roundtrip transportation to Logan Airport, Roundtrip Airfare to Nashville, 3 Nights of Premium Lodging, 7 Meals including a Sunday Brunch, An Exclusive Dinner Show featuring the Oak Ridge Boys, Ticket and Show at the Grand Ole Opry, plus a Tour of the Grand Ole Opry, Admission to Country Music Hall of Fame, a River Cruise aboard the General Jackson Showboat, Tickets for a Holiday Show at the Opry House, Admission to ICE at Gaylord Opryland, a visit to Historic Studio B and a Guided Tour Of Nashville. WOW!! Prices are 1949 pp Double and 2349 pp Single Occupancy which includes Tour Guides and Bus Drivers Gratuities as well.

For additional information on these Wonderful Trips, please contact Linda Fortier at 508 347 1452 or by email at bestoftimes2020@aol.com

LEICESTER SENIOR CENTER

For trip information and reservations, please call Joan Wall at (508) 892-3967.

Friday, Feb. 14, 2020: Foxwood Casino. Free lunch buffet or \$20 food voucher and \$10 casino slot play. Cost is \$30.

Friday, March 20, 2020: Foxwood Casino. Free lunch buffet or \$10 food voucher and \$10 casino slot play. Cost is \$30.

MARY QUEEN OF THE ROSARY PARISH

SPENCER — Mary Queen of the Rosary Parish, 60 Maple St., Spencer, is offering the following trips. For more information, call Bernard Dube at (508) 885-3098.

*Japan: March 26 to April 9, 2020 *Japan with China extension: March 26 to April 22, 2020

*USA: Wonders of Northern California Redwoods, Oregon & Washington: August 3-15, 2020 *Spain & Portugal: Sept.9-23, 2020

*Galapagos Islands: Jan 4-13, 2021 *Galapagos with extension to Peru (Machu Picchu): Jan 4-19, 2021

*Botswana, Zimbabwe and Victoria Falls: May 5-16, 2021

*Alaska (land and cruise): early August, 2021

PAXTON SENIORS

Area Seniors are Planning Another Wonderful Trip

Our adventure will be an 11 day trip: River cruise on the Danube River plus couple of days on land. The trip begins on Thursday, Oct 8, when we will fly out of Boston.

Some details: 11 days- 24 meals, 7 day cruise on the Danube and 2 nights in Fussen(near Munich) Oner local tour from the Ship are included in each port.

We fly into Budapest, Hungary and fly home from Munich.

Transportation from Paxton to and from Logan is included.

Four countries – Hungary, Slovakia, Austria and Germany

Cruise from Budapest to Passau, then coach to Munich/Fussen.

This is a wonderful trip and we sincerely hope that you can join us on December 3 and especially next October.

Bob Wilby, 508-792-4662 or rwilby@charter.net

Please call or email me if you plan to come to the December 3 informational meeting.

SOUTHBRIDGE SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Contact Jim Julian at the Casaubon Senior Center Monday, Wednesday, or Friday 9-10 a.m. or call (774) 922-4049 or e-mail jimtrips@yahoo.com.

Trips are open to the public! Make checks payable to the Southbridge Senior Citizens Association, payment due at sign up:

SOUTHBRIDGE SENIOR CITIZENS TRIP SCHEDULE FOR 2020

March 24, 2020 – Tuesday – Mohegan Sun \$30 - 10 - AM bus.

You will have a deluxe motor coach ride to the casino. You will have 5 hours at the casino to gamble and shop. The bus will leave Mohegan Sun at 4 PM.

You will receive \$10 for gaming and a buffet meal voucher.

May 19, 2020 – Tuesday – Foxwoods \$30 – 8 a.m. bus.

This one is for the bingo players and all others that want to go. You will have a deluxe motor coach ride to the casino. You will have 5 hours at the casino to gamble and shop. The bus will leave Foxwoods at 2 PM.

You will receive \$10 for gaming and a buffet meal voucher.

September 15, 2020 – Tuesday – Mohegan Sun \$30 - 10 - AM bus.

You will have a deluxe motor coach ride to the casino. You will have 5 hours at the casino to gamble and shop. The bus will leave Mohegan Sun at 4 PM.

You will receive \$10 for gaming and a buffet meal voucher.

October 13th - 20th 2020 – ALL INCLUSIVE ARUBA Happily Full - I am taking names for standby on this trip. This is an all-inclusive trip – all flights, transfers, meals plus snacks, nightly entertainment, and alcohol included.

November 12, 2020 – Thursday – Foxwoods \$30 - 10 - AM bus.

You will have a deluxe motor coach ride to the casino. You will have 5 hours at the casino to gamble and shop. The bus will leave Foxwoods at 4 PM.

You will receive \$10 for gaming and a buffet meal voucher.

PAYMENTS DUE AT SIGN UP

Trips are open to the public! Make checks payable to the Southbridge Senior Citizens Association.

Contact Jim Julian at the Casaubon senior center Monday, Wednesday or Friday mornings from 9:00 to 10:00 AM or call 774 922 4049, or e-mail me jim-trips@yahoo.com

UNION SAINT-JEAN-BAPTISTE CHAPTER 12

Union Saint-Jean-Baptiste, Chapter #12, Southbridge, is sponsoring a variety of excursions for all to enjoy in 2019. We are a non-profit family oriented Franco-American fraternal society since 1900. As always, you do not have to be a member to participate in any of the scheduled events. All are welcome. Gift certificates purchased in any amount can be used by the recipient to any event at face value. For information or reservations contact Ted at (508) 764-7909.

UXBRIDGE SENIOR CENTER

All trips leave from the Whitinsville Walmart and the Stop & Shop at 32 Lyman St, Westboro. Make sure to include entree choice, phone # (esp. cell) and an emergency # when sending payment. “Like” us on FacebookThe Silver Club and The Uxbridge Senior Center. Please call Sue at (508) 476-5820 for more information.

The Silver Club BUS TRIPS for 2020 Please call Sue at 508-476-5820 for more information.

The Uxbridge Senior Center is offering the following bus trips for 2020.

April 16, 2020 - Magic Wings Butterfly Gardens and Yankee Candle with lunch at the Golden Corral w/Fox Tours - \$71.
April 27-29 Penn Dutch w/the new show Queen Esther at Sight and Sound - (trip is full, sign up for the waiting list)- \$459.
May 4 -- Granite State Chocolate and Wine Tour with lunch at Warren's Lobster House - Fox Tours - \$91.
May 9 - Albany Tulip Festival w/Conway Tours -\$115.
June 1 - Plymouth cruise on Pilgrim Belle with sightseeing tour and lunch at Hearth and Kettle - Fox Tours - \$91
June 26 - July 3 -- Atlantic Canada w/Conway Tours -- International Tattoo, ferry crossing, Hopewell Rocks, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, St. John, New Brunswick - 3 seats left - \$1899.
Aug. 30 - 31 - Saratoga Racetrack w/Conway Tours - enjoy a race at Saratoga, a tour of the town, a tour of Haven Oaks Horse Farm, and drive up Prospect Mountain - \$329.
Sept. 16 -18 - The Hamptons w/Conway. Three day trip w/4 meals, guided tour of the “Rich and Famous,” winery, ferry crossing, Old Westbury Estate & Gardens, Montauk Point Lighthouse, Sag harbor, etc. - \$579.
Oct. 6 -- Green Mt. Railroad w/Fox Tours -- \$101.
Nov. 19 -- Newport Playhouse w/Fox Tours - \$101.
Dec. 7 & 8 -- Equinox Resort and Hildene, VT w/Conway Tours. Two day trip with elegant dinner & piano entertainment, breakfast, tour of Hildene, chocolate tasting, etc. \$379.

Please call Sue at 508-476-5820 for more information or to be put on the emailing list.

GARDENING

continued from page A5

organic insecticide safe for people, pets and plants. No matter the product you select – organic, natural or synthetic – be sure to read and follow label directions.

Proper plant selection and maintenance can help keep your indoor plants healthy and pets safe from harm.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses “How to Grow Anything” DVD series and the nationally-syndicated Melinda’s Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Summit for her expertise to write this article. Myers’ Web site is www.melindamyers.com.

TRAINOR

continued from page A8

served and died for their country. poppies were also worn in the belief they help dispel worries and anxiety.

**

Valentine's Day: What does your gift of roses mean?

Roses, which are steeped in sentimental tradition, are the top choice for Valentine's Day bouquets. The "language of flowers" can be traced back to the Victorian Era when the number and color of flowers were used to express love and to signify a romantic message.

Number of Roses:

*A single rose means "I love you" and symbolizes unwavering devotion

*Two roses intertwined can act as a marriage proposal."

*A half dozen roses in a bouquet mean "to love and cherish."Six Roses signify a need to be

*Eleven roses confirm the recipient is truly and deeply loved. Thirteen roses indicate a secret admirer

*One dozen roses is a declaration of true love.

Color of Roses:

Red: Passion, Desire, love

Dark Red: Beauty and perfection

Pink: Romance and happiness

White: Innocence and purity

Yellow: Friendship and joy

Coral/Salmon: Desire

Purple: Devotion and enchantment

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*Lilies: Need an energy boost? The scent of Lily has been proven to increase wakefulness and help you stay alert.

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*Lavender: Want to relax? Plant lavender. The scent of lavender prompts calmness. It's well known that studies report that the smell of lavender triggers alpha waves in the part of the brain associated with a relaxed state.

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Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

Your tips can win you a great dinner

for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renown restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I'm in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I'm counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

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



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3RD ANNUAL John Paire "BE BETTER" BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Register by March 1, 2020

Location: Shepherd Hill Regional High School
64 Dudley-Oxford Rd.
Dudley, MA 01571

Time: Registration starts at 8:30am
Games begin at 9am

Format: Seeded tournament
w/double elimination 3 game minimum

Fee: \$150 per team and
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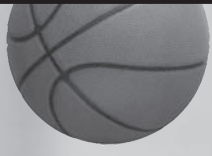
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SPORTS

Fast-paced action favors Beavers, who outlast Bay Path



Bay Path's Ben LaPointe searches for an open player on the court.

Jason McKay photos



Anthony Barbalet of Bay Path lets go of a 3-pointer versus Blackstone Valley Tech.



Bay Path's Matteo Capuano looks to make a pass while being double-teamed by Blackstone Valley Tech's defense.

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS STAFF WRITER

CHARLTON — The Blackstone Valley Tech (BVT) boys' varsity basketball team may have lost the 3-point shooting contest in its game with Bay Path Regional on Tuesday, Jan. 28, but the Beavers still managed to defeat the Minutemen 91-75 in a game where the teams combined to make 23 shots from beyond the arc.

Bay Path, by the way, easily captured the three-point contest, hitting 17 long-range

jumpers while BVT was "only" able to connect on six of its attempts from distance.

The Beavers, who improved to 6-5 overall and 5-1 in Colonial Athletic League play, were led by the three-headed monster that is junior Shea Finnegan and sophomores Josh Mateo and John Furno. Mateo finished with a game-high 27 points (one 3-pointer), while Finnegan checked in with 26 points and three 3s. Furno added nine points to the winning cause to go along with a game-high 23 rebounds.

In a game that, at times,

looked more like an indoor track meet, BVT started quickly, opening leads of 11-6 and 22-17 before finishing the first quarter with a 27-22 advantage. Just when one thought the pace of the game couldn't get any faster, Valley Tech slammed its offense into another gear, the result of which was a 46-36 halftime lead.

"In the first quarter we did shoot well, however we did not defend well," explained Brew Cupid, BVT's second-year head coach. "The message going into the second quarter was to increase our pace of



Cam Hafner of Bay Path is wide open and eyes the basket before launching a 3-pointer.



Bay Path's Dylan Cotton sizes up a shot from the left corner of the court.

play because we knew coming into this game that Bay Path is a team that enjoys shooting 3-pointers; that's how they want to play.

"But, as is the case with any shooter, if you're having to defend speed on the other end of the floor, speed kills," Cupid added. "If you have to defend speed it doesn't matter how great a shooter you are, when your mind tells you you're fatigued, your body slows down and you start to miss shots. So, our defensive approach after the first quarter was to play faster on offense."

That concept was fine with Mateo, who scored 20 points in the first half, and Finnegan, who scored 21 points in the second half.

"We played a little sloppy in our last few games, so we came into this game wanting to get back to playing basketball the way it's supposed to be played — fast, strong and physical," Mateo said. "That's the way we've been playing for most of the year."

Finnegan credited Mateo for his offensive pyrotechnics in the second half.

"The first half started a little slow for me, but in the second half Josh found me for some open shots and that helped me get back in my groove," Finnegan said. "Basketball is really all about mental toughness. If you miss a shot, you can't get down on yourself. That's where my teammates really help my game; they're always bringing me up and keeping me up."

When either team missed shots, it seemed like Furno was there to snatch the ball out of the air. He was simply a rebounding machine, grabbing seemingly every uncontested rebound as well as several contested ones.

"Rebounding is all about

effort, and I'm all about effort," the 6-foot-4, 240-pound Furno said. "I like crashing the boards and being as tough as I can be underneath the basket. I've played that way my whole life and it's worked, so why change it?"

The Beavers continued to push the tempo of the game in the third quarter and led 68-53 as play headed to the final period. BVT led by as many as 24 points, 90-66, with three minutes remaining in the game, which is when both teams liberally subbed in their reserves.

Cam Hafner led Bay Path, pouring in a team-high 26 points and hitting four 3-pointers. Dylan Cotton added 17 points and Jomar Torres 16 points. Cotton and Torres each drained five treys.

"We're very young, but these kids can play," Bay Path head coach Al Greenough said. "I know our record is 2-10 but every single game that we've had this year — except the first one, at Bartlett where we just weren't ready to play — we've been right there, in the game. We've lost a lot of games in the fourth quarter that have been tied with a minute to go or two minutes to go."

"But being young and inexperienced, sometimes what comes with that is not being able to make that big play to win the game and get your team to the next level. That's what my team is learning right now, the hard way, with losses," Greenough added. "The development this team has shown through the course of this year is actually ahead of where I thought they'd be. I'm excited about this team going forward, but we need to play better defense as a team. We're giving up too many points. We're scoring a lot, but we're giving up too many."

SPORTS

Shepherd Hill gives good fight against undefeated Wachusett

DUDLEY — At halftime against the undefeated Wachusett Regional girls' varsity basketball team on Friday, Jan. 31, two-win Shepherd Hill Regional may have trailed by 16 points (28-12), but head coach Maura Hackenson called that a solid performance.

"It felt like 28-20," she explained. "We had a game plan in place and played well defensively. It was a moral victory."

The Mountaineers pulled away in the second half, however, outscoring The Hill in the third quarter 22-6 and in the final frame 11-9 to win a 61-27 decision.

Belle Lanpher (18) and Cate King (11) were double-digit point producers for Wachusett.

Shepherd Hill (12-2) picked up points from Grace Nellis (9), Triniti Sughrue (6), Paula Barbale (5), Emma Lanpher (3), Emery Mullen (2) and Sydney Fitzgerald (2).



Grace Nellis of Shepherd Hill looks to make a pass while being defended by Cate King of Wachusett.



Shepherd Hill's Megan Burdett fights to get off her shot against Wachusett's Cat Davis.



Shepherd Hill's Emery Mullen catches a pass through a bunch of traffic.



Shepherd Hill's Amanda Adamuska leaps up to catch an inbound pass.



From left, Shepherd Hill's Emery Mullen and Maeve Clements fight for possession of the ball against Wachusett's Lizzy Majersky.



Triniti Sughrue of Shepherd Hill gets underneath the basket while Wachusett's Lindsay Isaacs defends.

SPORTS BRIEF

Dudley Charlton Women's Basketball to hold pickup games

On Monday evenings at the Heritage School from 7-9 p.m., you will find women playing pickup basketball. We play every Monday from September to June based on the school schedule. There are no set teams or fees. Ages 18 and older are welcome. Come for some fun exercise. Contact Deb at (508) 248-3600 for more information.

OBITUARIES

Diane J. Jalbert, 52



CHARLTON – Diane J. Jalbert, 52, passed away on Thursday January 23, 2020 after a long battle with Marfan Syndrome.

Diane was born in Salem, MA on October 11, 1967, daughter of the late George A. and Normande (Laine) Jalbert; she graduated from the Masconomet Regional High School in Boxford, MA, class of 1985 and earned her Bachelor's in graphic design from the prestigious Carnegie Mellon University. Diane was very fond of traveling and enjoying the beauty of nature. Despite her struggle with Marfan Syndrome, and other ailments, Diane was fortunate enough to be able to travel to far off places, such as China and France; for a time, she lived in

California and in Georgia before returning to Massachusetts. Diane was also a lover of animals.

Diane will be deeply missed by her sister Nancy Sherman and her husband Earl of Charlton; her nieces Jacquelyn and Amanda Sherman of Charlton, as well as by all the countless lives she has touched during her lifetime.

Please consider sending memorial contributions to your local animal shelter or to the Marfan Foundation in memory of Diane.

Private funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School Street Webster, MA. A guest book is available at www.shaw-majercik.com where you may post a message of comfort or light a candle in remembrance of Diane.

Marcia Rae (Whitten) Tripp, 72



SOUTHBRIDGE – Marcia Rae (Whitten) Tripp, 72, of Southbridge, passed away quietly after a series of health issues on Sunday, January 26, 2020 at St. Vincent's Hospital. Marcia was born in Presque

Isle, Maine on November 29, 1947. She was the daughter of Iola (Merrithew) Whitten and Carl A. Whitten. She was an avid crafter and a great cook, but she was known throughout the neighborhood for her exceptional baking. Marcia loved helping others, she was a caretaker, working with residents of Matulaitis Nursing Home for 17 years as a Nurse's Aide and she was known to all as "the neighborhood mom", always making room at her table for whoever showed up. She was a devoted volunteer lending a hand to many organizations and causes. While living in North Grosvenordale, she was a regular volunteer at TEEG, helping in the food pantry, crafting with clients in Parent Education classes, and driving clients to their various appointments. Her dedication to important causes and spirit of volunteerism instilled a sense of community service in all of her children.

Marcia is survived by her husband Robert Tripp, Sr. and her four sons Daniel Bennett, Carl and Elizabeth (LaPorte) Bennett, Robert Tripp, Jr. and Timothy Tripp. She also leaves three sisters, Melinda (Whitten) Albert and Roberta (Whitten) Judd, both of Sherman, Connecticut, Rachel (Whitten) Hughes of Hastings, Florida, five nieces and nephews, Shawn, Bryan, Melanie, Krystal and Coralynne and five grandchildren, Austin, Aubree Jean and August Bennett and Timothy and Braiden Tripp. She was predeceased by her brother Carl J. Whitten, her Mother and Father, Mr. and Mrs. Carl A. Whitten, and son, Damien Tripp.

A memorial service will be held at TEEG, 15 Thatcher Road, North Grosvenor Dale, Connecticut on Sunday, February 9th 2020, from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to TEEG, 15 Thatcher Road, North Grosvenor Dale, Connecticut 06255.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School Street Webster, MA. A guest book is available at www.shaw-majercik.com where you may post a message of comfort or light a candle in remembrance of Marcia

William E. Jones, Jr., 60



CHARLTON – William E. Jones, Jr., 60, a longtime resident of Charlton, died Friday, January 31, 2020. He is survived by his son William E. Jones, III of Gardner, Sherri A. Jones of Lawrence, and Emily

Jones of Brookfield, and 7 grandchildren. He also leaves a sister Linda Jones of Mashpee, a brother Michael Jones of Ogunquit, Maine, and several nieces and nephews including Brian McGee of Mashpee, and Sean McGee of New York. He was predeceased by his sister Christine Dumas.

He was born in Worcester, son of the late William E. Jones, Sr. and Catherine (Moore) Jones, and lived many years in Worcester before moving to Charlton. He graduated from Worcester Vocational Technical High School. He was employed at A. J. Letourneau as a machine operator. He enjoyed fishing, mostly salt water fishing.

There are no calling hours, and services will be held at a time to be announced. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the charity of one's choice. Sansoucy Funeral Home, 40 Marcy Street, Southbridge, MA 01550 is directing the arrangements. www.sansoucyfuneral.com

*Send all obituary notices to
Stonebridge Press, PO Box 90,
Southbridge, MA 01550, or by e-mail
to Obits@stonebridgepress.news*



CALENDAR

Saturday, February 8

MOMS Club SOAR FAIR: The MOMS Club of Charlton Area will host SOAR (School, Organization, Activity and Recreation) Fair on Saturday, Feb. 8, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Dexter Hall at Charlton Public Library, 40 Main St., Charlton. Come meet all the people and groups you need to help your kids SOAR, at this vendor-style fair, which will feature preschools, camps, extracurricular activities, nonprofit organizations and resources from the surrounding communities. This free family event will also feature Princess Rita, face painting, performances, snacks and more. The MOMS Club, a chapter of the International MOMS Club, is a nonprofit group that provides support for stay-at-home and working mothers. Membership is open to moms in Charlton, Dudley, Webster and Southbridge. For additional information about the SOAR Fair or the club, please email charltonmomsclub@gmail.com.

Tuesday & Thursday, February 11 & 13

BEGINNERS FLY TYING CLASS: 7-9 p.m. each night, Buffumville Dam Field Office, 48 Old Oxford Rd., Charlton. Learn the basic skills of tying your own flies during this free, hands-on, two-session course. All tools and tying materials provided. This event is being held in cooperation with the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. Open to the public, for beginning fly tiers

only; minimum age is 15, and pre-registration is mandatory. Please contact Jim Lagacy at jim.lagacy@mass.gov or (508) 389-6309 to register.

Saturday, Febraury 29

TASTE OF THE TOWNS: 6-8 p.m., St. Joseph's Church Hall, 10 H Putnam Road Ext., Charlton. An opportunity to sample the delicious food and beverages offered at local restaurants with your friends and neighbors presented by the Charlton REAS Foundation. For more information or tickets, please call (508) 868-5289 or visit reascharlton.org.

Sunday, March 8

EASY FULL MOON WALK ON BUFFUMVILLE DAM: 6:30 p.m., Buffumville Lake, 48 Old Oxford Rd., Charlton. Bring the whole family for a leisurely one-mile roundtrip walking tour of Buffumville Dam. If the weather is 75 percent or more cloudy, snowing or raining, we'll do a tour inside the dam instead. Dress for the weather.

Saturday, April 4

"ROARING '20S MOM PROM: The MOMS Club of Charlton Area will host "A Roaring '20s" Mom Prom on Saturday, April 4, from 6 to 11 p.m. at the Auburn South County Worcester Elks #2118, 754 Southbridge St. (Route 12), Auburn. This evening of dinner and dancing will benefit two organizations, the John Paire Student Support Fund, which helps kids in the Dudley-

Charlton Regional School District have access to a well-rounded educational experience, and the Kennedy-Donovan Center of Southbridge, a nonprofit organization in Southbridge that supports people with developmental delays, disabilities or family challenges. Grab your spouse, friends and family members, and join the MOMS Club for the second annual Mom Prom. It's not just for moms, but all guests must be 21-plus. Early-bird tickets are \$45 per person until Feb. 14 and \$50 per person after that date. The MOMS Club, a chapter of the International MOMS Club, is a nonprofit group

that provides support for stay-at-home and working mothers. Membership is open to moms in Charlton, Dudley, Webster and Southbridge. For additional information about the Mom Prom or the club, please email charltonmomsclub@gmail.com, or purchase tickets at <http://bit.ly/MOMPROM2020>. The Mom Prom name and logo are registered trademarks of founder Elizabeth Crapps and used under license.

ONGOING

THE STURBRIDGE FARMER'S MARKET is held every Sunday through Oct. 6 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the Town Common.

CHARLTON AMERICAN LEGION POST 391 meets every fourth Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Charlton Grange Hall. All veterans are welcome. We'd love to see you. We sponsor Boy Scout Troop 165, as well as three Boys Staters & assist young men interested in attending the State Police summer school. We also assist the Charlton Little League financially, as well as other things such as veteran's wakes & funerals. There's plenty we can still do to help our community.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: Please come join us for a fun evening of exercise and basketball at the Heritage School gym in Charlton. We play pickup basketball from 7-9 PM every Monday evening from September to June based on the school schedule. There are no set teams and participation is free for women 18 years and older. Please contact Deb at 508-248-3600 for more information.

Pilgrimage to Italy, Holy Land, and Medjugorje

St. Joseph's Church in Charlton is sponsoring a Pilgrimage Sept. 29- Oct. 9, 2019 to Italy, Holy Land, and Medjugorje with Fr. Robert Grattatori. The cost is \$4,599; 11 days includes 4-5 star hotels, airfare, luxury transportation, and breakfast/dinner daily. A \$500 deposit is due at the time of registration. Please contact parishioner Dr. Karen Zaleski for trip details at karenzaleski42@gmail.com or you may call Proximo Travel directly for information and to register at 1-855-842-8001, or 508-340-9370.

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP: First and third Thursday of each month, 2:30-3:30 p.m. at the Overlook Independent Living Building, fourth floor Solarium, 88 Masonic Home Road, Charlton. The intent is to build a support system, exchange practical information, talk through issues and ways of coping, share feelings, needs and concerns and to learn about community resources. Contact Kathy Walker at (508) 434-2551 or kawalker@overlook-mass.org for more information. Presented by Alzheimer's Association MA/NH Chapter, visit (800) 272-3900 or alz.org.

Grief Support Group: at Overlook

Hospice, Charlton: Have you recently experienced the loss of a parent, child, sibling, friend or spouse? We are here to help. Join a safe, supportive and caring group to share your stories and support others who are learning to live again after the death of a loved one. Drop-in group for adults meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month, 1-2:30 p.m. Contact Susan Fuller at (508) 434-2200.

NUMISMATICS: Southbridge Coin Club meets on the third Friday of the month (except July and August). The doors open by 7 p.m. and the meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Collectors of all ages are welcome. The meetings include raffle, auction, and show and tell. Light refreshments are served. The meetings are held in the community room at the Southbridge Savings Bank at 200 Charlton Rd. (Route 20), Sturbridge.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: Traditional open AA meetings in a friendly setting. Come early to chat and share in refreshments. Friday evenings at 7:30 p.m., Hitchcock Academy, Brimfield.

K9 NOSE WORK: A sport open to all breeds of dog and their people Saturday mornings over six weeks at Hitchcock Academy in Brimfield starting Jan. 19. Progressive training levels offered. Fee: \$145 per dog, per session. Instructor: Laurie Merritt, M.Ed., CPDT-KA, CNWI, Certified K9 NoseWork Instructor – National Association of Canine Scent Work.

SEN-I JUDO CLUB: This course runs all year long on Sundays, Mondays and Thursdays at Hitchcock Academy in Brimfield, and is well suited for all levels of practitioners, including beginners! Call Sensei Israel Lopez at (413) 279-4330 for more information.

WEIGHT WATCHERS: Traditional Weight Watchers Meetings Monday evenings at Hitchcock Academy in Brimfield. Times: WeighIn/Registration 5:30 p.m., meeting 6 p.m. Leader: Angela Kramer. Visit www.weightwatchers.com to become a member or to learn more about Weight Watchers.

YOGA: Hatha Yoga benefits are stress-relieving. Relax & rejuvenate with postures & guided meditation to restore the body. Bring a mat and wear comfortable clothing. All levels welcome. Six weekly classes held on Monday nights at Hitchcock Academy in Brimfield from 7:15-8:45 p.m., beginning Jan. 21.

FENCING: Fencing is a sport of combat that originally started as practice for dueling with swords. Since that time, it has grown into a modern sport while maintaining those virtues that made it great: honor, valor, and grace. Bring a water bottle, sneakers and comfortable clothing. Youth and adult classes with Andy Bloch at Hitchcock Academy. Fee: \$99.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS: Is food a problem for you? Have you been worried about the way you eat? Do you resolve to go on a diet tomorrow, only to fail again and again? Is your weight affecting the way you live your life?

Turn To **CALENDAR** page **A15**



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CALENDAR
continued from page A14

You are not alone. Overeaters Anonymous can help. No dues, no fees, no weigh-ins. Meetings are held Sundays in Worcester (St. Michael's On-The-Heights, 340 Burncoat Street) at 7 p.m., Mondays in Auburn (Bethel Lutheran Church, 90 Bryn Mawr Ave.) at 7

p.m. and Wednesdays in Putnam, Conn. (Day Kimball Hospital, 320 Pomfret Strett) at 6 p.m. Want more information? Call or text Bruce P. (508) 864-0593, email him at brucep.oea@charter.net or visit oea.org.

MASSASSOIT ART GUILD OPEN STUDIO: The Massasoit Art Guild would like to announce the addition of new Open Studio hours. Starting on Saturday, Jan. 11, we will be holding Open Studio time from 9:30

a.m. to noon each Saturday. The Current Wednesday morning Open Studio will continue to meet. Open Studio is a time to bring your current work in progress, start a new project, receive critiques if desired, pick up new skills and techniques and be with other artists for support and encouragement in an open and friendly environment. Membership is required. Please visit our Web site at massasoitartguild.com for more information!



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260 West Main Street, West Brookfield, MA 01585

Reserve Now for Valentines Day!

SPECIALS ALL WEEKEND LONG
2/14, 2/15, & 2/16 Friday, Saturday & Sunday

FIREPLACE FEASTS Now-April

1700's Style Feasts, Prime Rib prepared on the open hearth
of a great fieldstone fireplace

Horse drawn wagon or sleigh ride (weather permitting)
Casual dress is a must for this event
View & reserve dates on website or call

Advanced
Ticket Sales
Required

Winter Hours Jan & Feb: Fri (Lunch & Dinner) 11:30am-9pm
• Sat (dinner) 5pm-9pm • Sun (dinner) Noon-8pm • Hexmark Tavern Fri 4-9pm

www.salemcrossinn.com  **(508)867-2345**

\$22 Complete Dinner Special

Sundays

Prime Rib
Every Friday Night
(While it lasts)

Hexmark Tavern
Serving great food
in a casual atmosphere
Live Music Friday Nights

YOUR AD HERE

To advertise on this page
call June at
508-909-4062
or email
jsima@stonebridgepress.news
by Friday Noon





Love is in the Air



Sat., Feb. 8 • 9pm-12am
PETTY LARGENY



**Free Valet Parking
Friday & Saturday
Nights**

Canal Waterfront Dining on Lake Lashaway
308 East Main Street, East Brookfield
774-449-8333 308lakeside.com

**6 Days / 11-Close
Closed Mondays**

Celebrate



Valentine's Day

DINNER FOR TWO SPECIALS

February 14 & 15

five Loaves

bakery & cafe



Reserve now for Valentine's Day Weekend Feb. 14 & 15

4 COURSE DINNER

for \$55 pp
Make Sweet Memories at Five Loaves!

By Reservation Only
Friday & Saturday: 5-8pm

**FRESH BAKED BREAD • PARTY PLATTERS
PASTRIES, COOKIES & BARS
SPECIALTY CUPCAKES & CAKE ORDERS**



13 Mechanic St., Spencer, MA 01562
508-885-3760 • fiveloavesbakery.com
Lunch: Tues - Sat 10-3 | Dinner: Fri & Sat Reservations Only

**WE MAKE
OUR OWN
BREAD!**

DINE OUT & SEE A SHOW!



Renewal by Andersen®

FEBRUARY

is National Replacement Window Month at Renewal by Andersen*

Why did we declare February **National Replacement Window Month**? Because you've just about *had it* with your drafty rooms that are almost too cold to use! Get this project done and get relief with this special February-only offer!

Call before February 29th!

Get \$325 OFF every window¹

Get \$700 OFF every patio door¹

plus

Save an EXTRA 3% on your entire order¹

\$0 Down

Monthly Payments

0% Interest for 1 year¹

Minimum purchase of four. Interest accrues from the purchase date but is waived if paid in full within 12 months.

Why Renewal by Andersen?

- Renewal by Andersen is the full-service replacement window division of Andersen, a 117-year-old family-owned company with a **reputation for excellence in window and patio door craftsmanship.**
- Our exclusive composite **Fibrex®** windows are not only beautiful, they're remarkably strong, offer superior energy efficiency and require minimal maintenance.**
- Our factory-trained **Certified Master Installers** have years of experience installing only windows and patio doors, and they'll treat you and your home with the utmost respect.



THE FULL-SERVICE REPLACEMENT WINDOW DIVISION OF Andersen®

Renewal by Andersen®

The Better Way to a Better Window™

MILITARY DISCOUNT

CERTIFIED MASTER INSTALLER

Renewal by Andersen of MA and Southern NH has an amazing reputation. With 5,846 reviews, we have earned a rating of 4.6 ★s.

Customer Review ★★★★★



The entire experience was great. The installation crew was fantastic. They arrived on time and worked efficiently. They were all master craftsmen who were extremely knowledgeable about the product they were installing and the end-to-end installation process. They were courteous, professional and left our house very clean after each day of work.

— Heather S., Renewal by Andersen customer, Holliston, MA

Call to schedule your FREE Window and Patio Door Diagnosis

1-800-209-2746

¹DETAILS OF OFFER: Offer expires 3/7/2020. You must set your appointment by 2/29/2020 and purchase by 3/7/2020. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Get \$325 off each window and \$700 off each patio door and 12 months \$0 down, 0 monthly payments, 0% interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or patio doors between 2/1/2020 and 3/7/2020. 3% off your entire order, minimum purchase of four (4) required, if you purchase by 3/7/2020. 3% savings offer applied after initial discount. Military discount applies to all active duty, veterans and retired military personnel. Military discount equals \$300 off your entire purchase and applies after all other discounts, no minimum purchase required. Subject to credit approval. Interest is billed during the promotional period, but all interest is waived if the purchase amount is paid before the expiration of the promotional period. Financing for GreenSky® consumer loan programs is provided by federally insured, federal and state chartered financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender or familial status. Savings comparison based on purchase of a single unit at list price. Available at participating locations and offer applies throughout the service area. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. License number available upon request. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of Andersen Corporation. ©2020 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. ©2020 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved. *National Replacement Window Month is not a Congressionally-approved designation. **See limited warranty for details.

STURBRIDGE VILLAGER

Serving
Sturbridge, Brimfield,
Holland and Wales

CHARLTON VILLAGER

Serving Charlton,
Charlton City
and Charlton Depot

The VILLAGER

Mailed free to requesting homes

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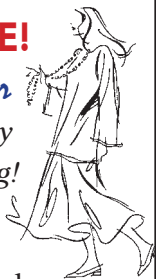
Section

Friday,
February 7, 2020

Paradise Found
Petite-Missy-Plus

SALE • SALE • SALE!

*We're known for our
Great selection of lovely
casual to dressy clothing!*



Sturbridge Marketplace
Rt. 20 • 559 Main Street
Sturbridge, MA | 508-347-7384

WED-SUN 10AM-4PM



Say it in living color!

The world isn't black and white.
So, why is your ad?

Soper
CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC.



508-765-9003
hiresoper.com

Beginning with your ideas, Soper Construction is able to deliver your unique building project through the design, permitting, construction and finish phases, on schedule and on budget.

Sargent's Barn

QUALITY DISCOUNT FURNITURE SINCE 1984

PRESIDENT'S WEEKEND

4 - DAY SALE!

**ADDITIONAL 10% OFF
ALL STORE MERCHANDISE**

**Friday, Feb. 14 through Monday, Feb. 17
10AM-4PM**



**Check out
our One-Of-A Kind
BARGAIN
BASEMENT**

Bedrooms • Sofas • Tables • Entertainment • Cabinets
Chairs • Beds • Mirrors • Dressers... and More!



508-892-4077 • 18 Sargent St., Leicester, MA
1/4 mile from Worcester line, just off Rt. 9 West



You're Invited to



**Grand Opening
Event**

**Entertainment
& Appetizers
Provided!**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH @ 9AM

10 Meadow Road, Spencer MA 01562

508-745-8366

Take 10% Off Your Purchase

With This Coupon

—Sat., Feb. 8th Only—

HERE & THERE

Local Events, Arts, and
Entertainment Listings

"THE LAKE IN WINTER" EVENT.

2:30: Ken Ethier: Presentation on Ice harvesting
East Brookfield Town Hall
3:30: Bonfire, Music, Skating
and S'mores with DJ and concessions. Lake Lashaway Town Beach
FREE -snacks for sale

PETTY LARCENY

9pm-12am
308 Lakeside
308 East Main Street
East Brookfield, MA 01515 774-449-8333

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 9

6AM - 2PM FISHING
DERBY -
Details to come! See
Facebook
@EB100th or tinyurl.com/
EB100th!

**SATURDAY,
MARCH 14**

OPEN HOUSE
at Hodgkins Building (Museum/RR/Art Guild/
Boy Scouts) 108 School Street FREE 1:00-3:00

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

RE-ENACTMENT of signing of town bill and
unveiling of Anniversary Quilt
Senior Center, Pleasant Street. 6:30pm FREE

SATURDAY, APRIL 4,

ROARIN' TWENTIES DANCE
at Sturbridge Host Hotel \$35, 5:00pm
Tickets @EventBrite.com or at the library

SATURDAY, APRIL 11,

OPEN HOUSE
at Hodgkins Building (Museum/ RR)
108 School Street, East Brookfield 1:00-3:00.
FREE

SATURDAY, APRIL 18,

HISTORICAL TALK - Ed Londergan -
The First and Second Settlements
East Brookfield Town Hall 9:30 FREE

TOWN WIDE CLEAN-UP DAY

Meet at East Brookfield Town Hall 9:00

SATURDAY, MAY 2,

EAST BROOKFIELD NATURE WALKS
at Pelletier Woods
Howe Street, East Brookfield 2:00. FREE



SATURDAY, MAY 9,

OPEN HOUSE
at Hodgkins Building (Museum/ RR).
108 School Street, East Brookfield. 1-2:00 FREE

SATURDAY, MAY 16,

7K RUN AND FUN WALK
Timberyard Brewery, East Brookfield
10:0am. \$30.00 adults, \$15.00 kids

SATURDAY, MAY 30

HISTORICAL TALK -
Ed Londergan - Murder in the Brookfields
(Spooner / Newton Murders)
East Brookfield Town Hall, 9:30. FREE

SATURDAY, JUNE 6

HISTORY & DESSERT
at Podunk Chapel, East Brookfield
2:00 & 3:30 seatings. \$5.00 pp

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

COAST GUARD BAND
East Brookfield Elementary School, 7:00 FREE

SATURDAY, JUNE 13

OPEN HOUSE
at Hodgkins Building (Museum/ RR)
108 School Street, East Brookfield 1:00-3:00.
FREE

SATURDAY, JUNE 20,

OPEN HOUSE
at Camp Frank A. Day (archery, boating, basketball,
mini golf, lunch) Rain Date: June 21. 125 South

MONDAY, JULY 6

SUMMER READING KICK OFF -
EB Library - continues for five weeks.
East Brookfield Town Hall. FREE

SATURDAY JULY 25

HISTORICAL TALK - Heather Gablaski -
East Brookfield: 100 Years a Town
East Brookfield Town Hall, 9:30. FREE

SATURDAY, JULY 11

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION
Parade & Fireworks
Connie Mack Field East Brookfield

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

OPEN HOUSE
at Hodgkins Building (Museum/ RR)
108 School Street, East Brookfield,
1:00-3:00. FREE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

PARADE AND FAMILY FUN EVENT!
Route 9, East Brookfield,
9:30 -7:00. FREE. Rain date Sept 13

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

OPEN HOUSE
at Hodgkins Building (Museum/ RR)
108 School Street, East Brookfield, 1:00-3:00.
FREE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 3:30

BUS AND CEMETERY TOUR,
ending in dinner at Podunk Chapel.
Meet at East Brookfield Town Hall.
\$15-\$20.00 pp

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

HISTORICAL TALK - Guy Morin- Central
Massachusetts during the Revolution
East Brookfield Town Hall, 9:30 FREE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14

OPEN HOUSE
at Hodgkins Building (Museum/ RR)
108 School Street, East Brookfield, 1:00-3:00.
FREE

HISTORICAL TALK -

Ken and Tina Ethier - "Trolley Talk"
East Brookfield Town Hall, 9:30. FREE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

OPEN HOUSE
at Hodgkins Building (Museum/ RR)
108 School Street, East Brookfield, 1:00-3:00.
FREE

ONGOING

MARIACHI BAND

First Thursday of the month
5-8 p.m.
MEXICALI MEXICAN
GRILL
Webster location
41 Worcester Rd., Webster,
MA
508-461-5070

TRIVIA SATURDAY

NIGHTS
7:00 p.m. register 7:30 p.m. start up
HILLCREST COUNTRY CLUB
325 Pleasant St., Leicester, MA
508-892-9822

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT FRIDAY NIGHT

HEXMARK TAVERN
AT SALEM CROSS INN
260 West Main St., W. Brookfield, MA 508-867-
2345 salemcrossinn.com

THE CENTRAL MA CHAPTER OF TROUT
UNLIMITED
meets the first Monday of every month from
September through May. We discuss a variety of
conservation programs to improve the local cold
water fisheries, local fishing opportunities. Our
annual High School Fly Fishing Championship
(open to all MA high school students) And our
annual fund raising banquet.
Auburn Sportsman's Club
50 Elm St., Auburn, MA

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES
July/August every Thursday 6:00-8:00
Connie Mack Field East Brookfield. FREE - Food
and Drinks for sale.

www.StonebridgePress.com



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MILLBURY – WATERFRONT! Ramshorn Lake! 51 Davis Rd! Beautifully Landscaped & Private 1.22 Acres w/500' on the Water! One of Ramshorn's Premier Properties "Royledge"! Sprawling 3,117' French Country Villa w/Panoramic Water Views from this Perfect Peninsula! Ideal for Entertaining! Stonewalled Gated Entry, Long Private Drive to its Stately Appearance! Sprawling Stone & Slate 6+ Rm Masterpiece! Light Abounds! Cathedral & Tray Ceilings w/Skylights! Unique Country Kitchen! Formal Dining Rm! Frpld Great Rm! Lake Facing Spacious Master Suite w/Everything You'd Expect! 3 Comfortable Bdrms! 3 Full Bathrooms! 4/Cir! Garages – 1 & 2 Car Detached Garages! Reward Yourself! **\$999,000.00**



AUBURN – 16 Lorna Dr! 7 Rm Split Entry Ready for the Next Owner! Located on a Cul-de-sac! Many Recent Updates! Windows 2006! Roof 2010! Siding 2016! Water Heater, Garage Door & Opener 2017! Driveway & Deck 2018! Applianced Oak Cabinet Kit w/Tile Floor! Dining Rm! Spacious Liv Rm! Master Bdrm w/Hrdwds! 3 Comfortable Bdrms Total! Full Bath! Finished Lower Level Fireplace Fam Rm w/Custom Bar, Recessed Lighting & 2nd Bath! Screened-in Porch to a Private Yard w/New Pressure Treated Deck is Ready for Entertaining! Nicely Landscaped! 1 Car Garage! Shed! Ideal Commuter Location! **\$325,000.00**



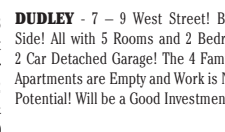
WEBSTER LAKE – 9 Pebble Beach Rd! Middle Pond – Winter Cove! Private Peninsula Protected from the Storm – Safe Harbor! Custom 3,179' 8 Rm Contemp Ready for Your Immediate Enjoyment! Grand Entry Foyer! Ideal Open Fir Plan w/Sky Lighted Cathedral Ceilings, Tall Windows & Hrdwd Flrs! Beautiful Applianced Custom Granite Kit w/Center Isl! Formal Din, Fireplace Liv Rm w/Water/Estuary Views! 1st Fir Laundry! Second Floor Master Suite, Ideal Full Bath, Huge Walk-in Closet! 3 Bdrms Total! 2 Full & 2 Half Baths! Walk-out Lower Level Fireplace Fam Rm! Buderus Oil Heat! C/Air! Oversized 2 Car Garage! **\$779,900.00**



OXFORD – 27 Rocky Hill Rd! Move Right Into this 6 Rm Ranch! Bright, Fresh Kitchen! Dining Rm! 20' Living Rm! 3 Comfortable Bdrms! Nice Bathrm! Deck w/Awning! All the Work has been Done! Roof, Siding, Windows, Insulation, Gas Furnace, Gas Hot Water Heater, AC, Front Porch Windows, Door, Living Rm Floor, Skylights, Kitchen, Bath & Dining Rm Floors! 2 Bdrms' Wall to Wall Carpeting & the Interior Freshly Painted 10/2019! Quick Closing Possible! **\$269,900.00**



WEBSTER – 27 N. Main St! 3 Family! 55/9 Rms! 3/3/4 Bedrooms! 1st Fir w/Eat-in! Liv Rm! 3 Bdrms! Updated Bathrm! 2nd Fir w/Kit w/Din Area! Liv Rm! 3 Bdrms! Updated Bath! 3rd Fir w/Eat-in! Kit! Liv Rm! Bdrml! Full Bath! Long Term Tenants! Sep Utilities! Vinyl Sided! Laundry Hook Ups! Freshly Painted Hallways! **\$249,900.00**



DUDLEY – 9 Nellies Way! TOBIN FARM ESTATES! 10 Rm Colonial Set on 1.2 Acres! Applianced Dine-in Granite Kit! 3 Season Sun Rm off Kit! Din Rm, 2 Story Fam Rm w/Pellet Stove, Bdrm, Full Bath w/Laundry & Gleaming Hrdwds Round Out 1st Fir! 2nd Fir Features an Open Balcony to the Liv Rm! Plenty of Space for an Office, Playroom or Reading Area, Use Your Imagination! Master w/Tray Ceiling & 3 Closets! Master Bath w/Dual Sinks, Shower, Whirlpool Tub & Makeup Counter! 2 Additional Bdrms & Full Bath! Huge Finished Walk-out Lower Level Perfect for Entertaining! Wet Bar w/Wine Cooler & Fridge! Half Bath w/Tile Flr! Irrigation! Shed! JD Riding Mower! Don't Miss Out! **\$469,900.00**



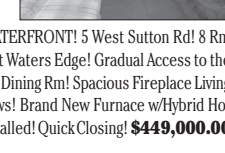
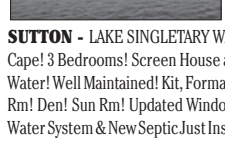
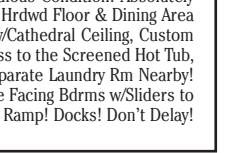
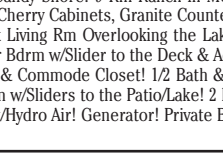
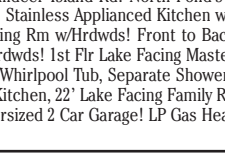
WEBSTER – 9 Lake Parkway! Extremely Conveniently Located just off Exit 1 of 385! Loads of Potential! 6 Rm Cape! Applianced Kit! Din & Liv Rms w/Walk-in to Wall over Hrdwds! 3 Bdrms w/Hrdwds! 1st Fir Bdrm w/Commode Closet! Recent Furnace! Recent Roof! **\$169,900.00**



THOMPSON – 299 Quaddick Rd! Custom Cedar Log Home! 5.47 Acres! Stone Wall Entry! 700' Driveway! Nestled in the Woods! 6 Rms of Cedar! Granite Kit! Cathedral Ceilings w/Skylights! Hrdwds! Stone Flr! 1st Fir Master w/Full Bath & Walk-in Closet! 3 Bdrms & 2.5 Baths Total! Oil Heat! 2 Car Garage! **\$399,900.00**



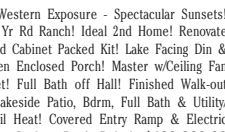
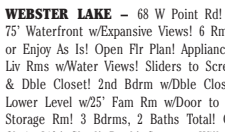
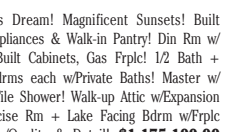
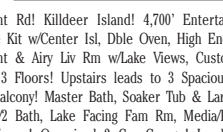
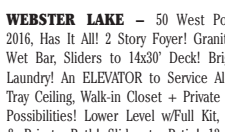
DUDLEY – 94 Tracy Road! 7 Rm 4 Bdrn Colonial On 1.24 Acres! Privacy! Many Upgrades! Hrdwds Throughout! Frplce Liv Rm w/Recessed Lights! Formal Din Rm! Eat-in Kit! Updated in 2015! Cherry Cabinets, Granite Counters, Center Isl & SS Appliances! Sunroom w/Skylights, Hrdwd Flrs & Slider to Deck! 1st Fir 1/2 Bath w/Laundry! Master Bdrm w/Dble Closet & Full Bath w/Linen Closet! 2nd Fir Full Bath! Lower Level Game Rm/Office! Utility/Storage Rm! 16x21 Deck! Garage Under! Save on Your Electric Your Bills, 2015 Solar Panels! Level yard w/Shed! Call now! **\$349,000.00**



WEBSTER LAKE – 250 Killdeer Island Rd! North Pond's Sandy Shore! 9 Rm Ranch in Meticulous Condition! Absolutely Beautiful 100' Waterfront Lot! Stainless Applianced Kitchen w/Cherry Cabinets, Granite Counters, Hrdwd Floor & Dining Area w/Slider to Deck! Formal Dining Rm w/Hrdwds! Front to Back Living Rm Overlooking the Lake w/Cathedral Ceiling, Custom Built Cabinets, Gas Frplce & Hrdwds! 1st Fir Lake Facing Master Bdrm w/Slider to the Deck & Access to the Screened Hot Tub, w/Walk-in Closet, Full Bath w/Whirlpool Tub, Separate Shower & Commode Closet! 1/2 Bath & Separate Laundry Rm Nearby! Walk-out Lower Level w/Full Kitchen, 22' Lake Facing Family Rm w/Sliders to the Patio/Lake! 2 Lake Facing Bdrms w/Sliders to the Patio/Lake! Full Bath! Oversized 2 Car Garage! LP Gas Heat/Hydro Air! Generator! Private Boat Ramp! Docks! Don't Delay! **\$910,000.00**



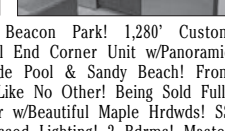
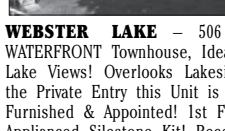
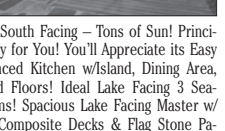
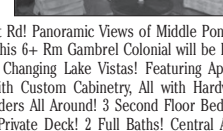
CHARLTON – GLEN ECHO LAKE! 3 Sunset Dr! Western Exposure = Beautiful Sunsets! Fantastic 105' Waterfront! Ideal 15,941' Gently Sloping Lot! Comfortable 9 Rm Ranch! Stainless Appliance Eat-in Granite Kit! Din Rm w/Hrdwd Flr! Lake Facing Liv Rm w/Panoramic Water Views! 4 Bdrms, 3' Lake Facing including the Spacious Master! Full Hall Bath! Enjoy the Sun Rm w/Lake Views! 32' Walk-out Lower Level Frplce Fam Rm w/Wet Bar & Convenient Half Bath! Nicely Landscaped Front & Back! Lake Level Deck, Dock & Rear Shed! Benefitted by Town Sewer! Start Packing! **\$499,900.00**



CHARLTON – 105' WATERFRONT! Baker Pond! 63 Lincoln Pt Rd! East Facing = Fantastic Sunrises! Custom 9 Rm Colonial! Beautiful 1/2 Acre Lot w/Lawn to Water's Edge! 2 Story Foyer! Natural Woodwork! Open Fir Plan! Applianced Granite Kit w/Is, Recessed Lights, Tile Flr & Water View! Din Area w/Slider to Deck! Sunken Frplce Liv Rm w/Hrdwd Flr & Water Views! Din Rm w/Hrdwd! 1/2 Bath w/Pedestal Sink! 2nd Fir w/4 Bdrms, 3 w/Water Views! Master w/Cathedrals, French Dr to Balcony, Bath w/Separate Tub/Shower, Walk-in Closet & Laundry! Hall Bath! 3.5 Baths Total! Finished Walk-out Lower Level w/31' Fam Rm! Full Kit! Full Bath & Laundry! Includes NEW A/C SPLIT SYSTEM! Enjoy Outside from the Farmer's Porch, Deck, Patio, Screened Porch or Dock! 2 Car Garage! Full Recreational Use! **\$524,900.00**



WEBSTER LAKE – 50 Union Point Rd! Panoramic Views of Middle Pond – South Facing – Tons of Sun! Principal Residence or as a Second Home! This 6+ Rm Gambrel Colonial will be Ready for You! You'll Appreciate its Easy Access and Taken Back by the Ever Changing Lake Vistas! Featuring Applianced Kitchen w/Island, Dining Area, Lake Facing Fireplace Living Rm with Custom Cabinetry, All with Hardwood Floors! Ideal Lake Facing 3 Seasons Rm w/Tile Floor & Anderson Sliders All Around! 3 Second Floor Bedrooms! Spacious Lake Facing Master w/Cathedral Ceiling & 2 Sliders to its Private Deck! 2 Full Baths! Central Air! Composite Decks & Flag Stone Patio for Your Enjoyment! 7,405' Lot with 50' on the Water! Sorry, Closing not before 9/10/2019! **\$624,900.00**



WEBSTER LAKE – 506 Beacon Park! 1,280' Custom WATERFRONT Townhouse, Ideal End Corner Unit w/Panoramic Lake Views! Overlooks Lakeside Pool & Sandy Beach! From the Private Entry this Unit is Like No Other! Being Sold Fully Furnished & Appointed! 1st Fir w/Beautiful Maple Hrdwds! SS Applianced Silstone Kit! Recessed Lighting! 2 Bdrms! Master Bath! 2.5 Tile Baths! Recent A/C & Heat! Garage! **\$369,900.00**



43 East Main Street Webster, MA 01570

Fine Realtor Associates to Serve You!

June Cazeault * Laurie Sullivan * Diane Strzelecki * Matthew Ross * Lori Johnson-Chausse * William Gilmore II * Brian Bohenko

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Sharon Pelletier - Broker
Licensed in MA, CT & RI

We Want
Your Listings!

Featured New Listing! - OPEN HOUSE



OPEN HOUSE • SAT., NOON-2

WEBSTER - 68 POLAND ST

4 BEDROOM COLONIAL! 2600 SQ FT., 2 FULL BATHS, 2 FIREPLACES, 2 CAR GARAGE, ABOVE GROUND POOL, 1ST FLOOR BEDROOM, UPDATES INCLUDE - RECENT WINDOWS, ROOF, UPSTAIRS BATH, FHW GAS HEATING SYSTEM!!!!

\$339,000.

SEE YOU ON SATURDAY!

WEBSTER - 5 SURREY LN



BRAND NEW TO MARKET! Welcome Home! RARE FIND!! Gently Used 5 Bdrn Colonial, or 4 Bdrms & Game Room! This 24 x 28 x 3 Car Garage HAS HEAT! Radiant Heat in Floor, 8' High Garage Doors, Open Concept Kitchen, Dining & Living Room, Full bath, Beautiful Granite Counters w/Breakfast Bar, Newer SS Appliances – Slider off Din Rm to Deck & Patio – Second Floor – 5 Over-sized Bdrms! Bath & Laundry Rm! Walk up Attic for storage! **\$499,000.**

WEBSTER - 8 MAPLE ST



Updated 2 Family – Vinyl Siding – **1st Floor:** 6 Rooms, 3 bedrooms, 1 Full Bath, open kitchen, Fully Applianced, Washer & Dryer Included, New Carpeting, Hardwood Floors. **2nd Floor:** Open Kitchen with Gorgeous Kitchen Cabinets – 6 Rooms, 3 Bed, 1 Full Bath Hardwood Floors, New carpeting, Each Apartment has 1,200+ sq ft plus, Oil Heat – 2 New Oil Tanks, Circuit Breakers, Off street parking, Town Water & Sewer, 3rd Story Unfinished, Great Commuter Location. **\$237,500**

POMFRET, CT - 280 RIVER RD



Motivated Seller! Cape that has been completely re-modelled!, 3 Br, 1 bath, 1.7 acres. New kitchen cabinets w/granite counters and center island. New electrical/plumbing. Large Gambrel Post & Beam. 2 bay garage w/loft. New septic. **NEW PRICE \$244,900**

WEBSTER - 14 HIGHCREST #4



Ready to move in! 2 bedroom 1 1/2 bath condo. Large bedrooms with large full bath master bedroom private access. Skylight Hallway, extra large living area with separate dining! Access to private deck via sliders, fully applianced kitchen, loads of counter space, tons of storage. Full finished basement, brand new heat and a/c system. **\$134,900.**

WEBSTER - 212 SCHOOL ST



Large 4 Family! 3 car garage! Off street parking. 2 bedrooms each unit! Walk-up attic with a lot of potential! Solar panels!! Fully Rented. **\$369,900.**

WEBSTER - 3 STEFANIAK AVE.



Cute 2 Bedroom Ranch! All hardwood floors, gas fireplace living room! 2 baths. Appliances included. 2 zone heat. Large deck! Young asphalt roof. Walk out lower living level. Town Water & Sewer, City Gas **\$219,900.**

WOODSTOCK, CT - 64 LYON HILL RD



Estate like long paved driveway! 3158 Sq Ft Colonial! Geothermal built. Open floor plan, ash flooring throughout! Granite and s/s applianced kitchen! Large master bedroom, coffered ceiling, master bath, W/Jetted tub! Walk in closets. Two car garage. Radiused walkout on upper level! A walk up attic. Walk out lower level! The third garage is accessed from the lower level. Generator hookup. One beautiful property! assisted sale **\$499,900.**

WEBSTER/OXFORD/DUDLEY/DOUGLAS



Dudley - Marshall Terrace 12,000 +/- Sq. Ft. Possible potential for a 2 family to be built! Town Water, Sewer, City Gas! Nice level lot. **\$70,000**
Douglas-Mount Daniels Lot #2-2.5 Acres of flat land that abuts Douglas State Forest **\$132,900**
Webster - 3 Lots Cooper Rd. **Attention Developers!** 3 abutting house lots, potential to divide into 5-6 Buildable lots! w/water/sewer access **\$129,400**
Webster - 85 Upper Gore! View of the Lake. 1+ acre,artesian well, Septic Design, Etc. **\$130,000.**
Oxford - 4 Leicester St. approx. 8.47 acres! River frontage! Highly possible to be subdivided. **\$99,900**

HOLLAND - 6 MAIDEN LN



A nice place to call home! Houses situated perfectly on the lot to promote privacy on this .44 acre Lott 6 room 2 bedroom 1-1/2 Bath. 2 brick fireplaces! Furnace and roof approximately 6 years old. Plus a guest house! assisted sale **\$229,000.**

WEBSTER LAND - COOPER RD



Available 10,000+ sq. ft. of Land. Zoned Lake Residential. Potential to divide into 2 Buildable Lots. Town Water & Sewer Available. **\$49,000.**

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg



SORRY, SOLD!

WEBSTER LAKE - 118 POINT BREEZE RD

Excellent Opportunity to Finally Own Your Own Webster Lake Waterfront Property! Prime Location, 5,697+/- SF Lot, 50' Rd & Water Frontage at a Great Price! Contemporary Ranch offers 996+/- SF of living area w/2 BRs & 2 full baths. Plus, convenient, indoor access to Walkout Lower Level w/tremendous potential for additional living area. Main level features Open Floor Plan w/sliders to full front deck! Spectacular Westerly views across Middle Pond! Additional land & shore frontage available. **NEW PRICE \$299,900**



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WEBSTER LAKE – 32 JACKSON RD

AN INTRIGUING OPPORTUNITY TO OWN AN EXTREMELY UNIQUE 3.32 ACRE WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT PROPERTY! Charming, year-round, 2 BR, 2 bath Ranch, located at the Southern most end of Webster Lake's South Pond beyond Cedar Island! Extremely private w/direct Lake access. The home offers a full finished LL w/walkout access, a screened-in 18x20 patio, 18x26 det'd garage & 8x8 storage shed. Park like grounds! **New Price \$375,000**



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SOUTHBRIDGE: Spacious 8 room 4 bedroom 2 bath home for under \$200K! Updated kitchen with stainless steel appliances! Front to back family room with wood stove, bay window & sliders to deck. First floor bedroom and bath. Second floor has two big bedrooms plus sitting area. Replacement windows. New HW. **\$189,900**

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STURBRIDGE: Desirable Double Wide Mobile Home in Sturbridge Retirement Co-op Park! 5 rooms 2 bedrooms 2 baths! EXCELLENT LOCATION being the last home on dead end! Privacy! Large master bedroom with master bath! Vaulted ceilings in living room/dining room combo. Eat in kitchen. Large enclosed porch too! Shed. **\$70,000** plus park share!

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SOUTHBRIDGE: STOP RENTING and buy this Inexpensive but move in ready home! 5 room 2 bedroom 1 bath! Open Porch. Vinyl sided. Full basement. No work needed. Off street parking. A little yard. **\$114,900.**

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WARREN			
59 Mechanic St.	S	Noon-1	\$269,900 Coldwell Banker/ Nathan Stewart 413-387-8608
WEBSTER			
56 Chase Ave. Apt. #2	A	Noon-2	\$1100/Mo Re/Max Professional Associates/ Patrick Sweeney 774-452-3578
68 Poland St	S	Noon-2	\$339,000 Hope Real Estate/ June Czeault 860-377-2077
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DUDLEY			
71 Mason Rd	S	11-1	\$319,900 ReMax Advantage 1 / Joanne Szymczak 508-230-5044
SOUTHBRIDGE			
20 Hartwell Ter.	S	Noon-2	\$219,900 Aucoin Ryan Realty/ 508-765-9155
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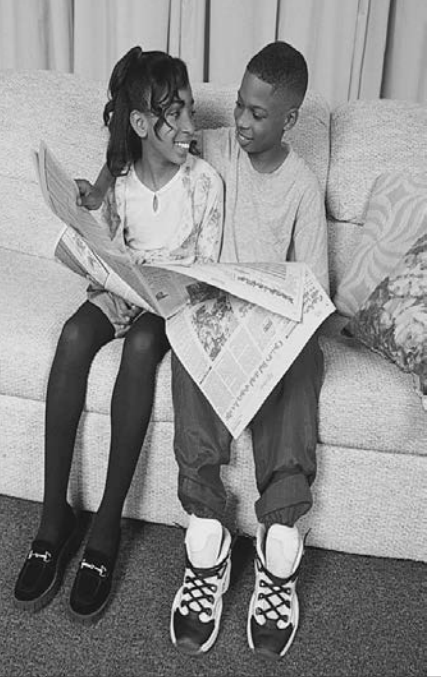
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Responsibilities and Duties:
• Development and facilitation of after-school and summer programming
• Reporting to and abiding by the NBYC Board of Directors
• Establishing and maintaining a positive relationship with school administration and personnel
• Attending relevant trainings in order to gain competency and new techniques for success
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VALENTINE’S DAY

Tips for buying jewelry this Valentine’s Day

Valentine’s Day is rife with tradition. Couples may have their own unique traditions, but others, like Valentine’s Day date nights, are widely popular.

One Valentine’s Day tradition many couples embrace is the exchange of gifts. Shoppers might not need much advice when purchasing heart-shaped boxes of chocolates or flowers for their sweethearts. However, when shopping for jewelry, Valentine’s Day celebrants may feel as though they’re in over their heads. The following tips, courtesy of the Better Business Bureau®, can help shoppers as they navigate the potentially confusing process of buying jewelry.

DIAMONDS

The BBB notes that diamonds’ value is based on color, cut, clarity, and carat. Often referred to as the “4 Cs,” this criteria refers to the grade of the color (color), the way the diamond is finished (cut), how flawless the diamond is (clarity), and its weight (carat). When shopping for diamonds, the BBB advises



asking jewelers if they have the most up-to-date testing equipment, which makes it easier for them to distinguish between diamonds and lab-created gemstones. That’s important, as lab-created gemstones resemble diamonds and may not be detectable if jewelers are

using testing equipment designed to identify cubic zirconia.

COLORED GEMSTONES

Colored gemstones are very popular, and the BBB notes that various new stone treatments have been developed to

improve their appearance and durability. However, the BBB also notes that such treatments may adversely affect the value of the gem and necessitate special care in order to maintain the gem’s appearance. When shopping for colored gemstones, ask the jeweler if

an item has been treated and if there’s any special maintenance required. Imitation or assembled stones may look like natural stones, so shoppers should ask if a stone is natural, synthetic or imitation before purchasing anything.

GOLD

When used alone, the word gold implies an item is all gold or 24 karat gold. But the BBB notes that gold is naturally soft and, as a result, is typically mixed with other metals to improve its hardness and durability. The karat-quality marking indicates what proportion of gold is mixed with other metals. For example, the most common mark for gold jewelry is 18K of 750, which signifies an item is 75 percent gold. Lower-karat gold jewelry may include copper, silver, zinc, or other metals. Consumers should ask about these alloys and determine if the item’s ultimate recipient is allergic to certain metals or if he or she has a high acid content in their bodies. People with high acid content in their bodies may have their jewelry turn black as a result.

Buying jewelry can be intimidating. However, jewelry buyers can work with their jewelers to find a beautiful piece their sweethearts will be proud to wear this Valentine’s Day. More information on buying jewelry can be found at www.bbb.org.

Red gemstones for your sweetheart

The world is awash in red come Valentine’s Day. Red is considered a passionate and warming color, which is why it often is tied to the emotions of love and desire. Red also symbolizes heat, longing and strength. In some cultures, red is viewed as good luck and used to ward off bad spirits.

Gift givers who want to embrace red hues even further during Valentine’s Day can dote on their sweethearts with red-colored precious and semi-precious gemstone jewelry. Rubies may come to mind, but there are quite a few stones that offer rosy appeal.

- Agate: Red and red-banded agate can be attractive stones. They are a translucent variety of microcrystalline quartz. These stones have a smooth sheen and are relatively durable.
- Garnet: Garnets tend to be a darker red

than rubies and are not very expensive stones. They’re easy to find and can be beautiful in jewelry. Garnets are somewhat soft, so they can be scratched or damaged easily, necessitating caution with their handling.

- Red topaz: Like other stones, topaz comes in different shades. Red is one of the hues. Durability, being plentiful and possessing a vibrant luster make red topaz ideal in all types of jewelry.
- Red zircon: Pure red zircon stones are unique. Zircon is one of the oldest known minerals on Earth, so zircon stones in varying colors have been around for quite some time. Zircon is quite hard, so it can be worn daily, making it an ideal stone for rings.
- Ruby: Rubies are often expensive and highly sought after gemstones. Natural, untreated rubies are very rare. They are made of corundum and

are the red versions of sapphires. Rubies are hard and durable and will hold up to daily wear.

- Spinel: Much like fool’s gold looks like gold, spinel resembles a ruby so much that it is often mistaken. This stone often has high levels of clarity and a high refractive index.
- Tourmaline: This is another stone that comes in all different colors of the rainbow, including red. It has a pinkish-red hue, and may be called rubellite. Rubellite is commonly cut into long shapes, but it can be made into many common jewelry styles and faceted to maximize the reflection of light.

Red gemstones may be the perfect fit for Valentine’s Day. Always work with trusted jewelers to find quality, authentic stones that will retain their value.

Jewelry buyers’ guide



Jewelry is a common gift for Valentine’s Day. Customers should know before they buy to get the best value.

You can’t buy love, but on Valentine’s Day those in love certainly like to treat the special people in their lives to some lavish tokens of affection. According to the National Retail Federation’s Valentine’s Day Consumer Spending Survey, Americans spend an estimated \$19 billion on gifts, flowers, dinners, and more come Valentine’s Day.

In addition to chocolates and flowers, jewelry is a popular Valentine’s Day gift. Since jewelry is often a personal taste, much like a fragrance, it can be challenging to find the perfect item. With so many different styles, colors and pieces, it’s no surprise that so many jewelry shoppers feel overwhelmed. Some expert advice can make the process go more smoothly and ensure you’re getting the best value for your money.

The Federal Trade Commission suggests thinking before you shop. Since jewelry is a major purchase, shop-

pers should first establish a budget. Consider the gift recipient’s style and look at other jewelry he or she wears. The more informed you are before visiting the jewelry stores, the easier it will be to find a piece he or she will like and one that you can afford.

Take the time to become educated about diamonds and other gemstones. Diamonds’ value is based on four criteria: color, cut, clarity, and carat (often referred to as “The 4 Cs”). Color ranges from the diamond being nearly white to graded down to yellow. The cut is the way the stone is fashioned. Clarity informs consumers if the stone is flawless or has specs or scratches inside of it. Carat refers to the weight of the diamond.

Diamonds and gemstones can form naturally or be manufactured in laboratories. Lab-created gemstones may look like natural gemstones but be of lesser value.

Shop around and get referrals for reputa-

ble jewelry stores. You can consult the Better Business Bureau to see if any complaints have been lodged about a particular store. Many consumers are most comfortable purchasing jewelry made in-store so they can verify the merchandise and retailer.

Check for the appropriate markings on gold, silver and platinum jewelry that indicate their authenticity. Make sure the jeweler will include certification or a grading report with the jewelry and your receipt.

No matter how much research you do, realize that there’s a chance the jewelry you purchase will not prove the perfect fit. So make sure you understand the store’s return policy and if there is a charge to have rings or other items resized.

Jewelry is a classic Valentine’s Day gift. With the right approach, shoppers can make the process of buying jewelry a lot less intimidating.



“Every Town Deserves a Good Local Newspaper”

VALENTINE’S DAY

Top gifts for your valentine

Valentine’s Day is an opportunity to show the ones you love just how much you care about them. This is achieved through various gestures, including giving heartfelt gifts.

Research from Business Insider found that 51 percent of Americans now celebrate Valentine’s Day. While a recent poll from Insights West found that although many Canadians view Valentine’s Day as overly commercial, 75 percent still plan on celebrating it. People are still spending big bucks on making Valentine’s Day special. The National Retail Federation indicates Americans spent more than \$20.7 billion on the holiday in 2019 and forecasters predict similar spending in 2020.

Every Valentine’s Day, certain gifts emerge as the most popular. While certain gifts are common, there are ways to make them seem fresh and exciting. Here are some ideas for Valentine’s Day gifting.

FLOWERS

The National Retail Federation estimates that people spend around \$2 billion on flowers for



gifts. While roses are much sought after, thinking outside the bouquet can produce unique results. Choose different blooms, perhaps a loved one’s favorite flower or something regional. Potted plants also will last longer than cut flowers, giving them more staying power. Skip bouquets in favor of table

centerpieces, which can be eye-catching.

JEWELRY

Gifting jewelry can be tricky because it is such a personal gift that must tie into a sweetheart’s style. It may be tempting to go with something large and flashy or full

of diamonds, but a better option is to take inventory of what your loved one wears on a daily basis and try to mimic the size and scope in your gift. Other thoughtful jewelry gifts include understated pendant necklaces or bracelets engraved with key dates or the names of their children. Colored gemstones in lieu of dia-

monds also may be a striking choice.

ENTERTAINMENT

Dinner and a movie is a classic date night, but on Valentine’s Day restaurants and theaters may be overcrowded and only offer limited menus. An alternative can be to

arrange for a gourmet meal to be delivered and wrap up a new streaming movie/TV device already primed with a subscription to his or her favorite streaming service. Then all you need to do is snuggle on the sofa for a romantic night in.

CHOCOLATES AND CANDY

Roughly \$1.8 billion is spent on candy each Valentine’s Day, says the National Retail Federation. A box of chocolates certainly can fit the bill, but other options abound. Perhaps a sweetheart has a favorite candy that recalls his or her childhood or prefers a chocolate maker from his or her hometown. Purchase those items to add a bit of nostalgia. Make the holiday magical by setting up a candy bar right at home, where your sweetheart can pick and choose from candies displayed in eye-catching bowls and canisters. Another novel idea is to use candy molds to make your own sweet treats.

Thoughtful Valentine’s Day gifts can make the day even more special for sweethearts.

How did “XO” come to symbolize kisses and hugs?



Love letters are a great way for couples to express their affection and devotion to each other. The sentiments expressed in love letters are as unique as the couples who write them. However, love let-

ters often contain one particular turn of phrase regardless of their authors.

When signing a love letter, it’s customary for writers to include at least one “XO” near their names. “XO” is widely

recognized as symbolic of wishing “hugs and kisses” to a letter’s intended recipient. This tradition is such an ingrained part of romantic letter writing that few may stop to pause and wonder just how the letters

“XO” came to symbolize hugs and kisses.

The origins of “XO” are not definitively known, though many historians note that signing letters with “X” dates back to the Middle Ages. Few people could read and write in the Middle Ages, but signing “X” did not require either of those abilities. Christianity played a big part in many people’s lives during the Middle Ages, and “X” was seen as a representation of the Christian cross. So when people signed “X” on legal documents, they were essentially stating the contents of the document were true in the name of Jesus Christ.

While Jesus Christ’s teachings are rooted in showing compassion for one’s fellow man, signing a letter with “X” did not symbolize love in the Middle Ages. In fact, that development did not come about until much later. The Oxford English Dictionary attributes the first use of “X” to symbolize love and/or kisses in a letter to English naturalist Gilbert White. However, some historians debate the accuracy of that attribution, saying White’s use of the letter “X” in

his letter was likely meant to convey blessings on the letter’s recipient.

Researcher Stephen Goranson found many uses of the letter “X” to convey love and/or kisses in or after the 1880s, so it’s very likely that this was the first time that including the letter “X” at the end of a letter took on the meaning so many people give it now.

As for “O” symbolizing hugs, even less is known about how that came about. The late American writer Leo Rosten, whose writings included 1968’s “The Joys of Yiddish,” suggested that including “O” at the end of a letter might have a similar origin story to “X.” Rosten theorized that “O” was used by Jewish immigrants who did not want to sign a document with “X,” which they, like the people in the Middle Ages, interpreted as symbolic of the Christian cross.

Exactly when “O” was paired with “X” and came to symbolize hugs is unknown, though various historians suggest the two were not paired until the latter half of the 20th century.

8 sweets for your sweetheart

Few things can elicit “oohs and aahs” on Valentine’s Day as much as decadent desserts. Sweets and romance seem tailor-made for each other. That’s why heart-shaped boxes of chocolate and other sweets are snatched up in droves and handed out like, well, candies, come February 14.

According to Nielsen Product Insider, Valentine’s Day chocolate sales reached nearly \$11 billion in 2018, and candy generated \$695 billion in sales. In terms of baked goods, the top-selling items sold during Valentine’s Day included dipped/covered treats, message cookies, iced cookies, cupcakes, and two- to five-count doughnuts. Wine, chocolate and strawberries also are very popular Valentine’s treats.

Those pondering giving something sweet this year can consider the following desserts.

1. Bananas Foster: This treat is made from bananas and vanilla ice cream. A sauce made from butter, brown sugar, cinnamon, dark rum, and banana liqueur is placed over the cooked bananas and ignited like a flambé to create a caramelized dessert.

2. Black forest cake: This chocolate cake marries layers of chocolate sponge cake with a rich cherry filling. It is based on the German dessert, schwarzwälder kirschtorte. Whipped cream often tops off this rich cake.

3. Cannoli: These Italian pastries orig-



Dessert can be the way to that special someone’s heart this Valentine’s Day.

inated on the island of Sicily. They consist of tube-shaped fried pastry dough filled with a ricotta cheese-based cream.

4. Cheesecake: Cheesecake often is made with a crust of crushed cookies, graham crackers or sponge cake. A thick layer of batter made from sour cream, cream cheese, eggs, and sugar is cooked into a semi-soft consistency. Some cheesecakes are light and fluffy, while others are dense and decadent.

5. Chocolate truffles: Not to be mistaken for their fungi cousins, chocolate truffles are made by forming balls out of chocolate ganache (made from heavy cream and melted chocolate), and rolling them in cocoa powder.

6. Cream puffs: These tasty morsels are made from a French choux pastry dough filled with a moist filling of sweet cream or custard.

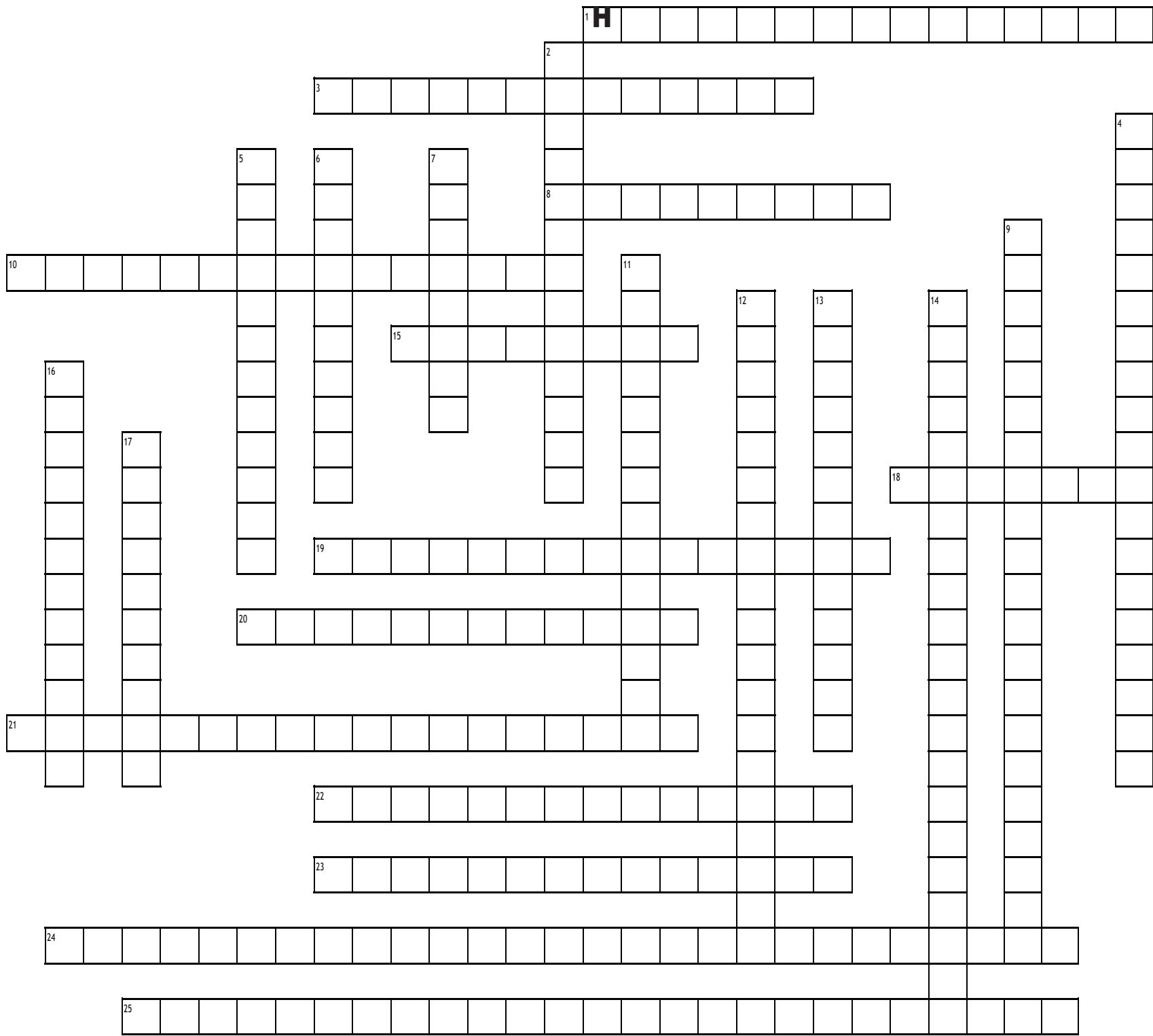
7. Napoleon: The French offer a layered dessert, and it comes by way of mille feuille, also known as a Napoleon pastry. Puff pastry dough sandwiches vanilla custard or cream in various layers.

8. Tiramisu: Meaning “pick me up,” tiramisu is the Italian take on a layered dessert made from ladyfingers cookies dipped in coffee and a whipped mixture of mascarpone cheese and cream, topped with cocoa.

Dessert and other sweets are often a part of Valentine’s Day celebrations.

2nd Annual ABC's of the Seasons

WINTER EDITION



Across

- 1. Winter clothing to cover you from head to foot
- 3. Best vehicle lineup!
- 8. Buyer and seller representation
- 10. 2nd item 50% off of equal or lower price with this ad
- 15. Book your ski clubs & proms now!
- 18. Winter service
- 19. Large selection of wall coverings and window treatments
- 20. I'll beat any of my competitor's prices
- 21. Home is not a place, it's a feeling.
- 22. Complete line of new appliances
- 23. Expert collision repair
- 24. Homecare at its best!
- 25. 508-892-8150

Down

- 2. 13 Central St., Southbridge
- 2. 25% off your entire purchase
- 4. One time treatments starting at \$125
- 5. Discover natural relief
- 6. 4 Course Dinner \$55
- 7. Wishing you a great morning
- 9. Experience, education, enthusiasm
- 11. Brand new facility in Brookfield
- 12. 20 cents off per gallon
- 13. Never be cold again
- 14. Warm up to a new career
- 16. Hair, nails, lashes, waxing, skincare, facials, massage
- 17. Call us today 508-868-4291

ABC'S OF THE SEASONS, WINTER EDITION

Hint... answers don't always include entire business name.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Circle which paper you found this in:

Spencer New Leader, Webster Times, Charlton Villager, Sturbridge Villager, Auburn News, Blackstone Valley Tribune, Southbridge News

Daytime Phone: _____

Email address (optional) _____

Comments: _____

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Random-drawing for winner of all correct entries to be announced in the February 28th issue of the Express. One entry per person.
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