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Friday, February 7, 2020

Discover Winter Warmth and Cheer at Old Sturbridge Village



STURBRIDGE — Step back in time and escape the midwinter cold with some Winter Warmth and Cheer at Old Sturbridge Village this month.

Visitors to Old Sturbridge Village in February will be treated to a festive story experience in which residents of a 19th century New England town prepare for a seasonal celebration – a winter ball, filled with “warmth and cheer!”

Each trade shop, home, and business on the Village Common will be brought to life by costumed historians as they talk about how 19th- century folks would have prepared for such a lively event. While such occasions were relatively rare, rural balls most typically took place in winter when there was less pressing work on the farm. Visitors will gain insight into how people in early New England planned for an evening of dancing, socializing, and fun.

No detail will be overlooked as visitors watch a printer prepare invitations to the ball, play games, learn about the latest fashions, listen to 19th-century music, and enjoy popular libations of the time. Guests will also learn about early hairstyles and cooking for company on an open hearth.

Please Read OSV, page A4

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 at 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

Harrington negotiating to acquire UMass Memorial Health Care

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Members of Harrington HealthCare System voted last week in support of its Board and Strategic Executive Committee’s recommendation to formally enter into a Letter of Intent (LOI) with UMass Memorial Health Care to pursue an acquisition agreement.

Harrington formed a 10-member Strategic Executive Committee during 2018 to evaluate long-term options to maintain Harrington as a financially secure, high-quality local health provider. The committee identified as its priorities quality affordable care, health of the community, financial viability, investments in infrastructure and continued employment.

“There are significantly fewer independent hospitals in the Commonwealth, and the country, compared to 20 and 30 years ago,” said Harrington President and CEO, Ed Moore. “We are in a fortunate position in that we are a strong organization with an outstanding medical staff, talented employees and great community support; we wanted to take the reins to shape our own future.”

Among the positive benefits offered by the UMass Memorial relationship are:

- Shared charitable mission to improve the health of the communities we serve.
- Commitments to retain critical services in an affordable setting, including acute inpatient and outpatient services, consisting of surgical, emergency, radiology, oncology, behavioral health, substance abuse care and lab units.
- Capital support for routine and strategic capital needs, as well as for technology and infrastructure upgrades.
- Support for targeted provider recruitment, particularly in Primary Care and Psychiatry.
- Support for ‘place-based’ investments throughout the Harrington Health community. This charitable commitment will enhance Harrington’s existing funding of various community benefit programs and initiatives intended to improve overall health determinants of the residents of the service area.
- Commitment to be a positive employer in the local/regional

Please Read HARRINGTON, 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.

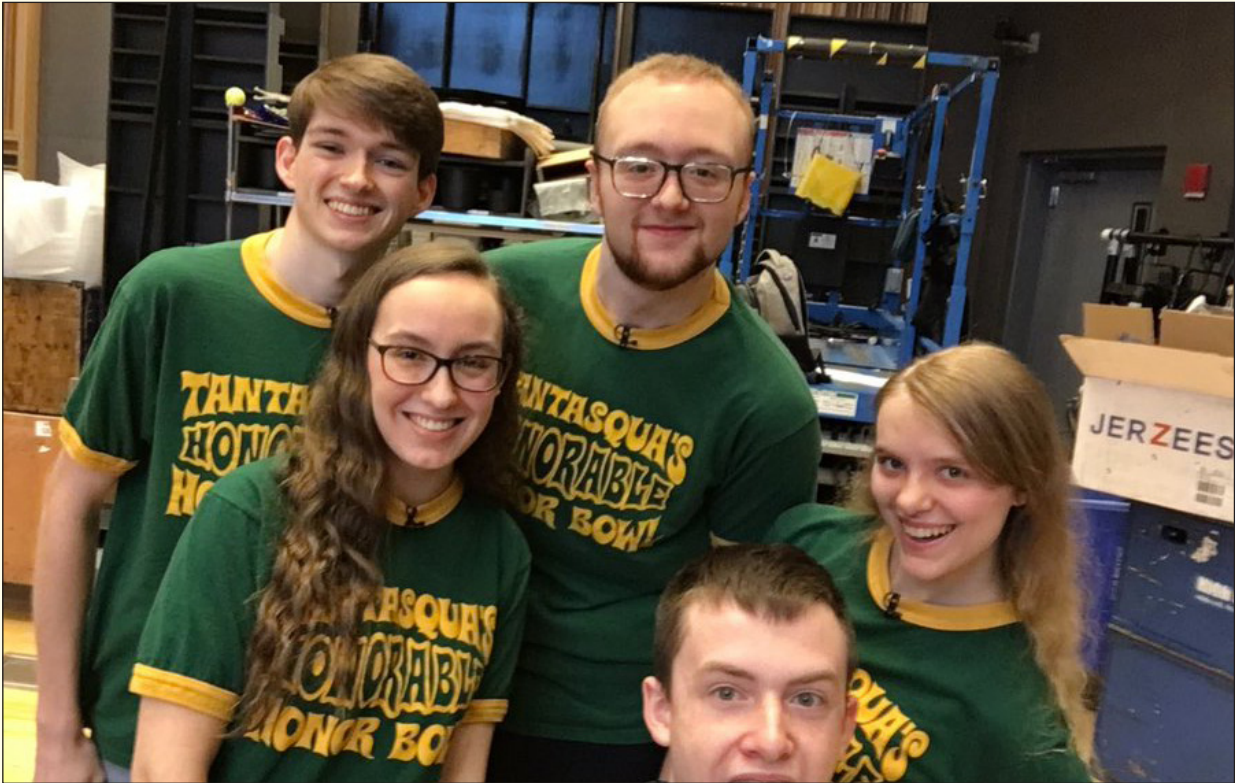
Some 300 guests will sample delicious food and beverages from local restaurants and vendors at this annual community event. Thanks to local sponsors,

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.

Please Read TASTE, page A5



Courtesy Photo

THE BIG DAY

The Tantasqua Regional High School team prepares to go head to head against Weston during the recent filming of their episode of WGBH’s “High School Quiz Show.” To see how they did, you’ll have to tune in when the episode airs this Saturday at 6 p.m.



Hitchcock Happenings

BRIMFIELD — Following is a listing of events and activities scheduled for next week at Hitchcock Academy.

Monday, February 10
REMINDER: You can sign up for all classes and find more information regarding classes on our website: hitchcockacademy.org. Please remember to like us on Facebook.
FAMILY FOUNDATION 5: Free preschooler programs sponsored by a Union 61 Family Foundation 5 Grant. Monday: Playgroup 9-11 AM; bring a snack. Questions? Contact Cheryl Cameron at union61@tantasqua.org
WEIGHT WATCHERS: Traditional Weight Watchers meetings. Weigh-in/ Registrations: 5:30PM Meeting: 6:00 PM Leader: Angela Kramer. Visit www.weightwatchers.com to become a member or to learn more about Weight Watchers.
SEN-I JUDO CLUB: 4:30 – 6 PM Develop discipline, confidence, fitness, a sense of team work and have fun. For details and registration call Sensei Israel Lopez 413 279-4330.
YOGA: 7:15-8:45 PM This 90 minute Hatha Yoga practice will relax and rejuvenate you with guided meditations. Wear comfortable clothes and bring a mat. Instructor: Sharon Palmer

M.Ed. Certified 500 hour Kripalu Yoga Teacher
Tuesday, February 11
ART GROUP: 9 – 11:30 AM Bring your own art and enjoy the company of other artists as they explore and encourage each other in creative adventures.
PILATES: 5:15 – 6:15 PM A perfect class for those who wish to unwind right after work. A mat floor exercise targeting the core muscles, Pilates improves flexibility, posture, balance and strength. Instructor: Karen Larsen
PILATES: 6:15 – 7:15 PM A great way to start your evening. A mat floor exercise targeting the core muscles, Pilates improves flexibility, posture, balance and strength. Instructor: Karen Larsen
LET’S CAKE DECORATE – ROSETTE CAKE: 6 – 8 PM Ages 8 and up are welcome. Come, have fun and leave with a decorated cake while learning or practicing detailed decorating skills. All supplies included. Instructor: Sue Gaulin. Fee: \$57
Wednesday, February 12
WATERCOLOR: 9:30 – Noon For all levels – ongoing watercolor classes with new paintings every three weeks. Instructor: Beth Parys. For more information and to register call: 413.245.3295
FAMILY FOUNDATION 5: Free preschooler programs sponsored by a

Union 61 Family Foundation 5 Grant. Music and Movement: 9 – 10 AM
MOVING MUSCLE: 5:15 – 6:15 PM. Muscle conditioning exercises using light hand weights. This class will use a series of squats, lunges, and varying arm exercises for an overall body workout. All levels are welcome. Instructor: Karen Larsen; Fee: \$50 for 8 classes.
BUDDIES DOG TRAINING: 6:30 – 7:30 PM (6 classes) A dog training basics class for canines of all ages (puppies are welcome.) It provides positive training methods, good management practices and problem-solving strategies. Vaccinations must be up to date. Fee: \$130 per dog. Instructor: Laurie Merritt, MEd, CPDT-KA, CNWI; Certified Professional Dog Trainer-Knowledge Assessed; Certified K9 NoseWork® Instructor- National Association of Canine Scent Work
YOGA FOR BEGINNERS: 6:30 – 7:45 PM If you’ve been waiting to try yoga, this is the class for you. Explore foundational postures, breathing practices, and easy meditation techniques as well as posture modifications if you need more/less challenge. Instructor: Sharon Palmer, M. Ed. Certified 500 hour Kripalu Yoga Instructor
POP (Plenty of Possibilities Series) WHICH WAY IS UP? 6:30-7:30 PM We all have times that we are so stressed we don’t know which way is up. This session focuses on different tools and skills to help you manage your stress. Fee: \$15
Thursday, February 13
FAMILY FOUNDATION 5: Free preschooler programs sponsored by a Union 61 Family Foundation 5 Grant. Thursday: STEAM Experiments 9-10:30

AM. Bring a snack. Questions? Contact Cheryl Cameron at union61@tanta-squa.org
VIOLIN LESSONS: 2-5 p.m. Instructor: Linda Day Newland, violinist in the Austin Symphony Orchestra for 22 years. Lessons available for all ages and all levels
SEN-I JUDO CLUB: 4:30 – 6 PM Develop discipline, confidence, fitness, a sense of team work and have fun. For details and registration call Sensei Israel Lopez 413 279-4330.
FENCING: 6:15-7:15 Youth and adult classes with Andy Bloch.
K9 NOSEWORK® 7 – 8:30 PM. This is a sport open to all breeds of dogs and their people. Progressive training levels offered. Offered at 3 levels. (6 classes) Fee: \$145 Instructor: Laurie Merritt, MEd, CPDT-KA, CNWI; Certified Professional Dog Trainer-Knowledge Assessed; Certified K9 NoseWork® Instructor- National Association of Canine Scent Work
Friday, February 14

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: Traditional open AA meetings in a friendly setting. Come early to chat and share in refreshments. Time: 7:30 PM
Saturday, February 15
K9 NOSEWORK® 9 – 1:30 PM This is a sport open to all breeds of dogs and their people. Progressive training levels offered. Offered at 3 levels. (6 classes) Fee: \$145 Instructor: Laurie Merritt, MEd, CPDT-KA, CNWI; Certified Professional Dog Trainer-Knowledge Assessed; Certified K9 NoseWork® Instructor- National Association of Canine Scent Work

Charlton Fire Department receives SAFE grants


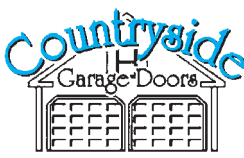
BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT
CHARLTON – The Charlton Fire Department has been named the recipient of a state grant that will help in educating local students on the importance of fire safety.
In a press release dated Jan. 22, it was announced that Charlton has received a total of \$6,313 worth of grants to assist with two Student Awareness of Fire Safety, of SAFE, pro-

grams. \$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 correct-

ly 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 safe-

ty 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.”



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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/>.

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\$280,000, 80 Old Farm Rd, Korman, James M, and Korman, Beatrice M, to Korman, Grace E, and Valcour, Nicholas K.
\$270,000, 96 Westwood Dr, Minardi FT, and Minardi, Joseph P, to Scioletti, Neil J, and Scioletti, Jessica.
\$210,900, 83 New Boston Rd, Lizotte, Jillian M, to Piehl, Bonnie A.

DON'T MISS A BEAT
CHECK OUT THE SPORTS ACTION!



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



ACCURACY WATCH

The Sturbridge 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.

If you find a mistake, call (508) 909-4106 or email news@stonebridgepress.com. news during normal business hours. During non-business hours, leave a message in the editor's voice mailbox. The editor will return your phone call.

the role of 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."

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 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.

Eastern student Madison Flandreau of Fiskdale makes Fall 2019 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 Madison Flandreau '23 of Fiskdale, who majors in Communication.

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 stu-

dents 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.

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Local 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.

Emily Kievra of Holland
Grace Ahlstrand of Sturbridge

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 togeth-

er 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.

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

W O R C E S T E R — 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

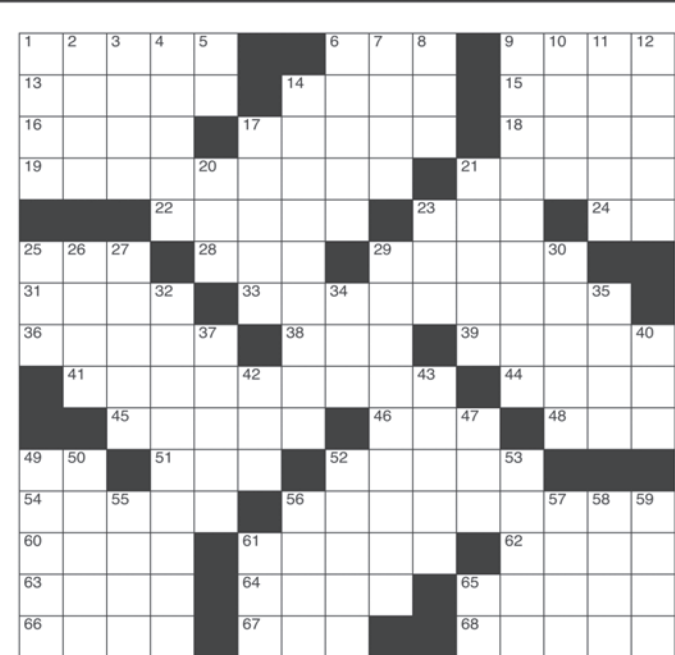
Food Bank plays an important role in providing food to our neighbors in need,” stated Cornerstone Bank President & Treasurer Todd M. Tallman. “We’re pleased to support their mission in creating a hunger-free community.”

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.



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



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



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-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.

OSV
continued from page 1

On Friday, Feb. 21 beginning at 6 p.m., you are cordially invited join in the culminating event of the Winter Warmth and Cheer program as Old Sturbridge Village presents a brand new one-of-a-kind event: the Midwinter Revel at the Oliver Wright Tavern.

Guests will enjoy fine fare and cheer, listen to period music, and can have their silhouettes cut. After a buffet dinner, the evening culminates with guests joining the Commonwealth Vintage Dancers for fun dancing in the ballroom of the Oliver Wight Tavern. Historic costumes are encouraged, but not required. If wearing modern clothing, please dress up at least

a little, since this is an elegant occasion. Don’t miss this unique opportunity, as tickets are sure to go fast.

Please note that tickets for the Midwinter Revel must be purchased no later than Monday, Feb. 17, and are available at osv.org.

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CHECK OUT THE SPORTS ACTION!

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 this source any home within a 20-mile radius 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



Courtesy Photo

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

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 (property 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.

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-feet 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. While the



Courtesy Photo

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

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 specific 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.

TASTE

continued from page 1

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 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!

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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; Remonda Mankarios, 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 Rabor, 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; Haipai 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, Bading, 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; Tinh 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; AlexanderLitke, 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.

HARRINGTON

continued from page 1

market. UMass Memorial does not expect any changes to the Harrington HealthCare system status quo for the foreseeable future.

The agreement would allow Harrington HealthCare System and Harrington Memorial Hospital to maintain their local community boards with reserved powers held by a UMass Memorial subsidiary, which will become the sole member of HHCS. Further, HHCS Board will have representation on both the parent and community hospital boards of UMass Memorial.

“The UMMHC mission and vision strongly mirrors that of Harrington’s. Their geographic location is an obvious match for our current footprint; their advanced technology would be an asset to our infrastructure; and the investments they can offer will provide our community a stable, long-term plan for keeping healthcare local to south central Massachusetts and northeastern Connecticut,” Moore said. “We want our patients, their family members and the more than 200,000 individuals we care for to know

how invested we are in protecting their access to high quality, affordable healthcare.”

If accepted, Harrington would become a member hospital within UMass Memorial Health Care, joining UMass Memorial HealthAlliance-Clinton, UMass Memorial Marlborough Hospital and UMass Memorial Medical Center.

“UMass Memorial Health Care is thrilled to have an opportunity to partner with this well-respected, iconic and essential South-Central Massachusetts institution,” said Doug Brown, President of Community Hospitals and Chief Administrative Officer for UMass Memorial Health Care. “Harrington Healthcare shares our commitment to the cause of patient-centric care. This partnership can strengthen both organization’s efforts to improve population health initiatives and address social determinants of health factors impacting our communities. We look forward to continuing the process with Harrington and reaching an agreement that maintains the important healthcare resources the hospital offers the community.”

Final approval is expected to take six to nine months. The

acquisition would allow the Harrington community greater access to capital for service improvements, better access to community-based care and advanced health information technology to utilize health data for accountable care and other risk-based, population-based management to improve quality of care and lower costs.

“This proposed strategic partnership recognizes the enormous potential to expand and strengthen the care for patients in our region,” said Eric W. Dickson, MD, president and CEO of UMass Memorial Health Care. “Harrington Healthcare is not a stranger - we have worked with them on several levels over the course of the past two decades. This proposed stronger relationship is possible because both organizations recognize that to better serve patient needs now and, in the future, hospital organizations have to work in closer collaboration. I am excited about the prospects of what can be accomplished by a stronger Harrington Healthcare and UMass Memorial.”

The vote does not impact patient care services currently offered within Harrington’s system. All sites remain open

and patients should continue to use Harrington campus locations and physician offices for routine appointments, emergency care and diagnostic testing, including imaging, labs, cancer care, inpatient admissions, surgical procedures and behavioral health.

“This is just the first step in the process,” assures Harrington President and CEO Ed Moore. “We want our patients to know that services remain open and accessible, now and in the future.”

About Harrington HealthCare System Harrington HealthCare System is a comprehensive regional healthcare system serving more than 25 communities across south central Massachusetts and northeastern Connecticut. The system includes Harrington Hospital in Southbridge, Harrington HealthCare at Webster and three additional major medical office buildings: Harrington HealthCare at Charlton, Harrington HealthCare at 169, also in Charlton, and Harrington HealthCare at Spencer; Harrington Physician Services, our primary care and multi-specialty physician group; UrgentCare Express at Harrington in Charlton and

Oxford; The Cancer Center at Harrington in Southbridge, and the region’s largest Behavioral Health programs for mental health and substance use. For more information, please visit www.harringtonhospital.org.

UMass Memorial Health Care UMass Memorial Health Care is the largest not-for-profit health care system in Central Massachusetts with more than 14,000 employees and 1,700 physicians, many of whom are members of UMass Memorial Medical Group. Our member hospitals and entities include UMass Memorial HealthAlliance-Clinton Hospital, UMass Memorial – Marlborough Hospital, UMass Memorial Medical Center and UMass Memorial – Community Healthlink, our behavioral health agency. With our teaching and research partner, the University of Massachusetts Medical School, our extensive primary care network and our cancer, diabetes, heart and vascular, orthopedic and surgery programs, UMass Memorial delivers safe, high-quality and compassionate care. Visit to www.umassmemorialhealthcare.org.

LEARNING

BAY PATH HONOR ROLL

CHARLTON — Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School has released its honor roll for the second quarter of the 2019-2020 school year.

GRADE 12

High Honors
Julia Antocci, Jared Aucoin, Mia Bohanan, Anthony Colacchio, Lauryn Dawson
Braden Doney, Gavyn Floury, Anna Israelian, Mathew Langlois, Samantha LePage
Erica MacGrory, Andrew Makowiecki, Amber Melanson, Justin Orrell, Austin Rebello
Colin Richardson, Carla Rodriguez, Sadie Smith, Cady Stevens, Alexandar Vesovski, Kaylyn Violette

Honors
Riane Anderson, Tiffany Arnold, Alicia Ayala, McKayla Baldwin, Meghan Barry
Trinity Battista, Lillian Berry, Heath Bigelow, Lauren Bigelow, Ayva Borelli
William Carlson, Elizabeth, Cormier Eleana, DaSilva, Andrew DeCelle, Kelsey Durant
Kaley Eaton, Daysia Forbis, Ariana Gelardi, Max Ginsburg, Kyle Greenwood, Kenzie Heck, Jacob Hinman, Michael Houghton, Victoria Jackman, Emily Johnson
Edward Knopf, Nalin Koo, Samantha Lackey, Brian Lavoie, Thomas Lombardi,
Madison Marois, Patrick McManus, Kiyiana Minton, Teagan Morrissey, Kimberly Ngo, Mackenzie O'Neill, Melissa, Owusu Maeve, Perreault, Abigail Rambelje
Janeli Rivera, Tatianna Robles, Karen Rocha, Mary Rutter, Angeley Santa, Elijah Santos-LaBarge, Todd Sauter, Jr., Luke Snow, Girard, Jaclyn Tretheway, Riley White,
Sarah Wisniewski, Isabella Yaede, Michael Zanca, Allison Zopatti

Principal's List
Kendra Aucoin, Laura Banach, Mackenzie Blomquist, Rachel Bourgault, Matteo Capuano, Daniel Cleary, Colton Cowher, Louis Daniels, Jr., Jack Davis, Thadius Dubsky, Carly Dumas, Nathan Fontaine, Dylan Greamo, Allison Hamel, Geoffrey Harris, Jr.
Kaley Hibbert, Jaden Jarmulowicz, Curtis Koebke, Patrick Lange, Benjamin LaPointe
Jared Lavigne, Hailey Lawrence, Jake Lizotte, Adam Mancini, Danielle Mandella, Carina Miller, Elizabeth Molina, Makenzie O'Connor, Kyle Paquette, Spencer Peck
Cody Prince, Benjamin Schultz, Lauryn Sey, Matthew Shedd, Nathan Shoemaker
Luke Snay, Conner St. Cyr, Georgi Weagle, Zachary Whittemore
Tyler Young

GRADE 11

High Honors
Ivy Ballou, Nathaniel Beauchesne, Dylan Bellerive, Skyler Bond, Victoria Bonneau
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Friday's Child



Ashlynn
Age 11

Hi! My name is Ashlynn and I love to draw!

Ashlynn is a kind girl of Caucasian descent who likes to please and make others happy. She can start off shy with new people but warms up quickly. Ashlynn enjoys music, drawing, spending time with her friends, and swimming. She loves to spend time with her siblings and is very protective of her younger brothers. Ashlynn is in the 5th grade and has friends at school. She does well in class with extra supports.

Legally freed for adoption, Ashlynn will thrive in a home that can provide her with her own space and individualized attention. Her social worker is open to exploring homes

with a mother and a father or two mothers. Ashlynn will do best as the youngest or only child in a family. Ashlynn has four brothers and two sisters in Massachusetts, and it is extremely important that she maintains a relationship with them.

Who Can Adopt?

Can you provide the guidance, love and stability that a child needs? If you're at least 18 years old, have a stable source of income, and room in your heart, you may be a perfect match to adopt a waiting child. Adoptive parents can be single, married, or partnered; experienced or not; renters or homeowners; LGBTQ singles and couples.

The process to adopt a child from foster care requires training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you, and if so, to help connect you with a child or sibling group that your family will be a good match for.

To learn more about adoption from foster care, call the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) at 617-964-6273 or visit www.mare-inc.org. The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have "a permanent place to call HOME."



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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

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OPINION

IEWS AND COMMENTARY FROM STURBRIDGE, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND AND WALES

Be still and know ...

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.

POSITIVELY SPEAKING

BY GARY W. MOORE

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.

Once again, I'll say that there are some medical realities that optimism cannot overcome. And in the case of almost every illness, optimism alone will have little positive impact. The power of optimism comes into play in partnership with modern medicine. You don't have to really do any research other than asking your doctor. Optimism will always give you greater chances for success than pessimism.

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 @GaryWMoore721 and at www.garywmoore.com.

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.

- Myth 1: Always take Social Security early. You can file for Social Security benefits as early as 62, but you could get 25 to 30 percent more if you wait until your "full" retirement age (likely between 66 and 67). You can receive even more if you wait until 70, at which point your benefits will "max out." However, there's no right time to file for everyone – it depends on your situation, including factors such as your life expectancy, employment, financial need and spousal considerations.
- Myth 2: When you claim Social Security won't affect your spouse's benefits. This is not true. How much you receive in Social Security can affect your spouse's benefits while you are alive (spousal benefits) and after you've passed away (survivor's benefits). Your spouse could receive up to half of your retirement benefit, offset by his or her own benefit, so the longer you work before collecting Social Security, the greater the potential spousal benefits. For survivor benefits, your spouse would receive 100 percent of your benefit or his or her own, whichever is larger, so when you file affects how much your spouse would receive if you pass away early. In any case, you'll want to consult with the Social Security Administration about how much your spouse can receive, as his or her own benefits can also affect your decision-making.
- Myth 3: You can't work during retirement and collect Social Security. Yes, you can. But if you start receiving Social Security before your full retirement age (likely between 66 and 67), you can only earn up to \$18,240 in 2020 and still get your full benefits. Once you earn more than this, Social Security deducts \$1 from your benefits for every \$2 you earn. But during the year you reach full retirement age, you can earn up to \$48,600 without your benefits being withheld. If you exceed this amount, \$1 will be deducted for every \$3 you earn during the months before you attain your full retirement age. Social Security will increase your benefits when you do reach full retirement age to adjust for the previous work-related withholdings. So, if you plan on working and receiving Social Security, it may not make sense to file if most of your benefits will be withheld. Once you reach full retirement age, you can earn any amount without losing your monthly benefits, although your benefits could still be taxed.
- Myth #4: Social Security will provide for all my needs in retirement. Social Security will provide about a third of pre-retirement income, on average, according to the Social Security Administration. Consequently, you'll probably still need other sources of retirement income because Social Security alone most likely won't be enough to meet your needs. So, throughout your working years, contribute as much as you can to your IRA and your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. Combining these income sources with Social Security can help improve your chances of enjoying the retirement lifestyle you've envisioned.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Jeff Burdick, your local Edward Jones Advisor in Sturbridge at 508-347-1420 or jeff.burdick@edwardjones.com.

Flower Power: Legends and Lore of Blooms



TAKE THE HINT

KAREN TRAINOR

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 on 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 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 senti-

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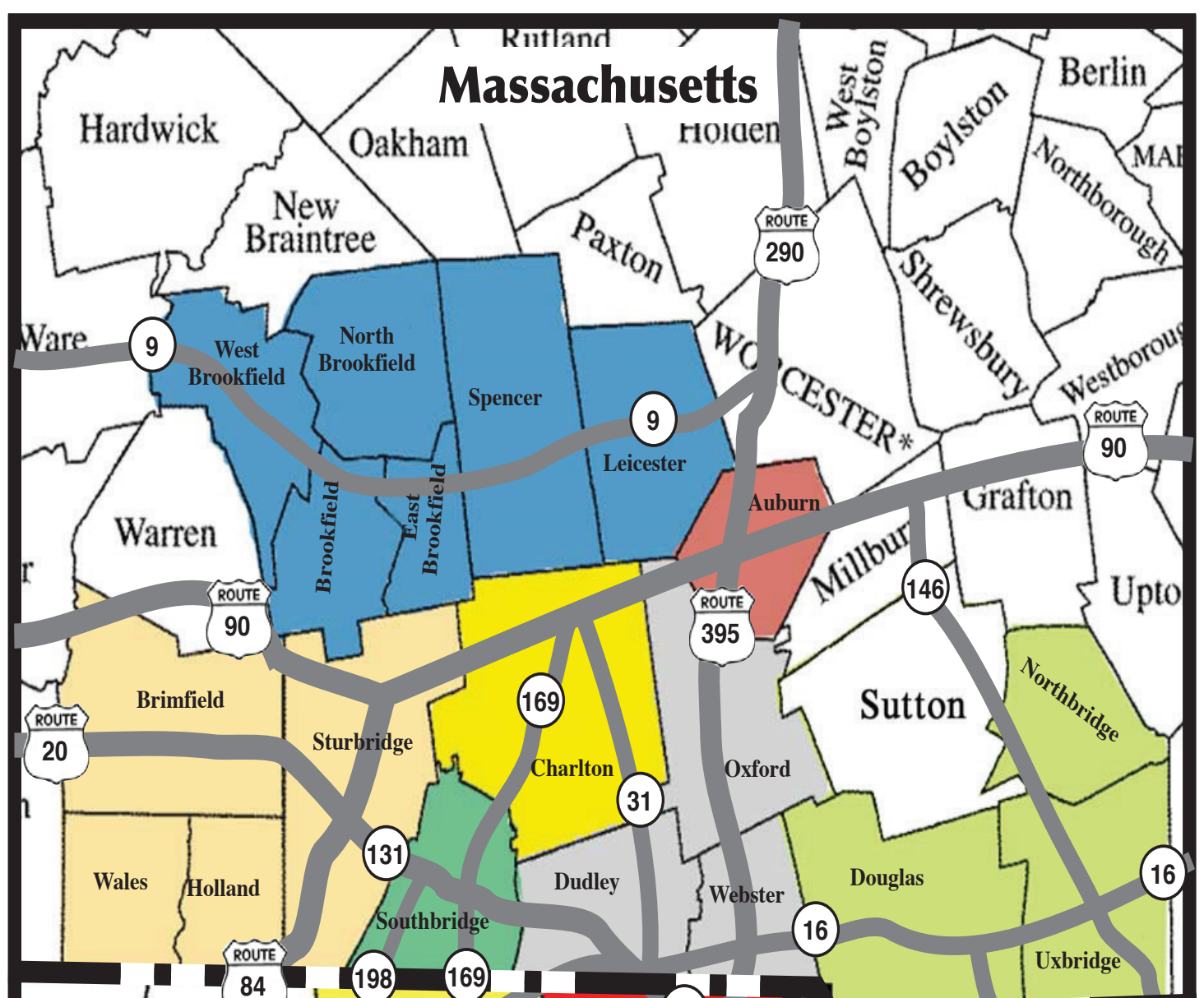
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Global warming is for real



Global warming is sure showing the nonbelievers 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 large-



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est 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 locally, 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 osegsportsmen.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



GARDEN
MOMENTS
• • • • •
MELINDA
MYERS

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



Melinda Myers Photo

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

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 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 damage. 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 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.

TRIPS OFFERED

The "Trips Offered" section is for non-profit organizations and will run as space allows. Mail your information to Trips Offered, c/o Brendan Berube, PO Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550; fax to (508) 764-8015 or e-mail to news@stone-bridgepress.news.

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Prices starting at \$2,499pp double occupancy (plus tax, transfers & government fees)

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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 Regiment 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 Minestrone 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, Social 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,

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SPORTS

Warriors clamp down on defense to defeat Leicester



Nick Ethier photos
Tantasqua's Madi Varney drives the ball down the court versus Leicester.



Tantasqua's Sophie Law wrestles the ball away from Leicester's Abigail Johnson.

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS STAFF WRITER

STURBRIDGE — After a quarter of play, it appeared as if the Tantasqua Regional and Leicester High girls' varsity basketball teams were in store for a tight, back-and-forth affair on Tuesday, Jan. 28. The score was knotted up at 10-10, but from there on out the Warriors' defense picked it up a notch.

Tantasqua allowed just 14 points the rest of the way — 4 in the second quarter, 2 in the third and 8 in the fourth — and the offense accumulated 55 points in the latter three quarters as the Warriors won a 65-24 decision.

"Leicester's a good team and they came out with a strategy. It caused some problems for us at first, but then we overcame that," said Tantasqua head coach Tom Goyette. "We started doing the right things and started to execute a lot better. We picked up the intensity a little bit and worked on the boards a little bit. We started attacking on offense, for sure, and started attacking the hoop.

"Our defensive intensity picked up, too," Goyette continued. "We got in some passing lanes, got some steals and created a lot of turnovers, and that turned into some offense. We're ball-hawks on defense and they anticipated really well."

Leicester head coach Dave Padavano cited his team's turnovers as reason for not being able to keep up with the Warriors.

"Turnovers, too many; enough for the whole season," he said. "I think I lost 40 percent of my hair. That's a well-coached team, [Goyette] just won his 300th game, and we just didn't handle the ball well enough to compete with them for a whole game."

With the Wolverines holding a 12-11 lead early in the second quarter, Tantasqua then went to work. They picked their

spots perfectly to double-team Leicester's ball-handler, turned those possessions into steals and then transitioned into offense for easy baskets. As the halftime buzzer sounded, the Warriors found themselves ahead 22-14.

Then, in the first two minutes of the third quarter, Tantasqua let it be known that the scoring would continue when Lydia Boland scored five quick points and Ainsley Way added a basket as the Warriors surged ahead 29-14.

In all, Tantasqua won the third quarter 24-2. Then, with subs playing the final frame, they won that by a 19-8 count.

Boland and Way led the Warriors with 12 points apiece, while Haley Courtney and Erin Jensen each added 9 points. Ten Tantasqua players scored, and the team totaled 41 rebounds to Leicester's 27.

"We're in the Districts, so now we want to keep going and improve our District ranking," said Goyette of the now 12-1 Warriors as they prepare themselves for the Western Mass. Division 2 Tournament. "We're working toward the SWCL A title as well.

"We've got a lot of competitive games down the stretch. There will be a lot of competition the rest of the season," Goyette concluded, which includes the playoff-readying Westborough Invitational Tournament.

The Wolverines, who haven't been consistent this season, are still a strong 8-3 as they are nearing a berth to their post-season inside the Central Mass. Division 3 Tournament.

"We've been like that all season," Padavano said of having strong games followed by weaker performances.

Alexa Dufries led Leicester with 8 points, while Jenna Soden pulled down 10 rebounds.



Lydia Boland of Tantasqua flings a pass over toward a teammate.



Tantasqua's Ainsley Way lofts a floater in the lane.



Emmy Cherry of Tantasqua sends a pass to the corner and to teammate Madi Varney.

SPORTS

Tantasqua knocks off another Division 1 opponent, this time St. Peter-Marian

STURBRIDGE — In a game that was close throughout, the Tantasqua Regional boys' varsity basketball team couldn't find the lead at any of the first three stops versus St. Peter-Marian High on Friday, Jan. 31. The Warriors trailed 15-11 after the first quarter, 23-19 at halftime and 30-29 through three. But Tantasqua won the all-important fourth

quarter by a 14-8 margin to produce a come-from-behind 43-38 victory. The Warriors' defense, which forced the Guardians into just 30 percent shooting, forced 18 SPM turnovers. On the offensive end, Cam Varney led Tantasqua's charge with 14 points. Other scorers for the Warriors included Tyler Hall (8 points), Will Pieczynski (5), Griffin Polga (4), Troy Lee (4),

Mikey Lucas (3), Joe Groccia (3), and Deshean Hutchinson (2). The victory, Tantasqua's second versus a Division 1 opponent — they have defeated North High and St. Peter-Marian, and lost by a point to Doherty High — improved their record to 10-3. The Warriors have no qualified for the upcoming Western Mass. Division 2 Tournament.



Troy Lee of Tantasqua works the baseline on a drive against St. Peter-Marian defender Hunter Johnson.



Joe Groccia of Tantasqua sends an inbound pass to teammate Hunter Hill.



Tantasqua's Ben Doros runs the fast break versus St. Peter-Marian.



Nick Ethier photos

Tantasqua's Troy Lee competes with a St. Peter-Marian player during the game-opening tip.



Tantasqua's Mikey Lucas drives on St. Peter-Marian's Jackson Burden.

HIGH SCHOOL NOTEBOOK

Tantasqua swim competes in Midland-Wachusett League Invitational

Thursday, Jan. 30

Hosting league championships, Warriors perform well — The Tantasqua boys' and girls' swim teams competed hard and performed well. The boys took sixth place out of 12 teams, while the girls placed fourth out of 12, defeating Wachusett Regional by a point. Both teams produced a lot of sectional qualifiers.

The biggest highlight was Jonah Green placing first in the Diving event. The Girls' 200 Medley relay placed sixth (Kira Dambly, Erika Madden, Katie Wade, Sarah Kersting-Mumm), Kersting-Mumm took third in the 100 Freestyle, Daniel Sickenberger was fifth in the 100 Freestyle, the girls placed third in the 200 Freestyle relay (Katie Wade, Emily Owens, Zoey Zhu, Kersting-Mumm), and the boys were fourth in the 200 Freestyle relay (Green, Sickenberger, Adon Osimo, Andrew Wade).

OBITUARIES

Ellen Frances McGarty Flynn, 96



Ellen Frances McGarty Flynn, 96, of La Crosse, formerly a resident of Sturbridge, MA, died on Saturday, February 1, 2020 in her home. She was born November 13, 1923, in La Crosse, WI.

Ellen was baptized at St. Mary's Catholic Church by Msgr. Robert Condon. She attended St. Mary's Grade School and graduated from Aquinas High School in June 1941. Ellen graduated from Marymount college in Tarrytown, New York in 1945 with a degree in English. She did post graduate work at Columbia University in New York City. Upon graduation, Ellen worked as a retail buyer for a La Crosse women's clothing store. An invitation to a wedding in Albia, Iowa resulted in Ellen McGarty and Richard Flynn meeting, and they were married in May 1952 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in La Crosse, witnessed by her brother Fr. Bernard McGarty.

Ellen was devoted to her family. Her warm home welcomed many. She was an elegant hostess, a great conversationalist, had a wonderful sense of humor, and a sense of style and decorum that was uniquely hers. She was deeply involved and actively supportive of Catholic education throughout her life.

She is survived by brother Msgr. Bernard McGarty; her children Bernard (Nanette) Flynn, in Kingwood

TX, Elizabeth Flynn of St. Paul, MN, Mark (Diane) Flynn, of Menlo Park, CA, Mary (John) Worley, of Minneapolis, MN, Richard (Gail) Flynn, of Killington, VT, Patricia Curran, of Montpelier, VT, Matthew Flynn, of Sacramento CA.; 14 grandchildren Sarah (George) Mayhall, Michael (Lia) Flynn, Laura (Rumeal) Standifer, Lisa (Christian Rice) Flynn, Christine Flynn, Matthew Flynn, Kathryn Worley, Virginia (Tyler) Brenton, John Avery Worley, Jessica Flynn, Shannon Flynn, Patrick Curran, Julie Curran and Mary Curran, and 6 great-grandchildren.

Ellen's family would like to offer a special thank you to the caregivers who made her so comfortable in her final years.

She was preceded in death by her parents Dr. Matthew McGarty and Mary O'Connell McGarty; her sister Mary Rita McGarty; husband Richard; her son in law John F. Curran.

A Funeral Mass will be held at 10:30 on Saturday, February 8, 2020, in the Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman, 530 Main St., La Crosse, WI. Rev. John Parr will officiate with burial to be held in the Catholic Cemetery, La Crosse. Visitation will be held from 5:00 to 7:00 on Friday, February 7, 2020, in Blaschke & Schneider Funeral Home, 1501 West Ave. South, La Crosse, with a Rosary starting at 5:00, and from 9:30 AM until the time of Mass at Church on Saturday.

Contributions may be made to the Aquinas Foundation.

Online Condolences may be made at www.blaschkeschneider.com

Armond Levesque, 78

SOUTHBRIDGE- Armond Levesque 78, of Vista Lane, died Thursday, Jan.30, 2019, at home.

He leaves his wife of 53 years Carol (Wetherbee) Levesque. He was predeceased by a son Michael A. Levesque who died March 23, 1916.

He was born in Southbridge, the son of the late Roland and Agnes (Roberts) Levesque and lived in the area all his life. He is survived by siblings: Paul Levesque of East Long Meadow and brother Albert and wife Linda Levesque of Sturbridge, and his sister, Jackie and Leonard Boudriault of Brimfield, Florence Duquette of Southbridge and Alphonse Levesque of Quinebaug. Predeceased by Edward Levesque, Madilyn Settle and Pauline

Gaumond.


Armand worked in the shipping department, at United Lens for 34 years. He was an avid sports fan, bowler and enjoyed golfing.

His funeral Mass will be held at 10:00AM, Friday, February 7, at St. Anne's Church, 1 Church St. Fiskdale, section of Sturbridge. Burial will follow in St. Anne's Cemetery.

There are no calling hours. Memorial contributions to Harrington Cancer Center, 55 Sayles St., 2nd Floor, Southbridge, MA 01550

Belanger-Bullard Funeral Home, 51 Marcy ST. Southbridge is directing arrangements.

An online guestbook is available at www.BelangerFuneralHome.com



*Send all obituary notices to
Stonebridge Press, PO Box 90,
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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.

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? 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.oa@charter.net or visit oa.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!



**To place a Card of Thanks
In-Memoriam, Birthday
or Anniversary Greeting,**

**the deadline is Friday noon
for the following week.**

(Memoriams will run on the Obituary pages)

Ad prices are \$15 for a 2x3 (actual size 2.4" x 3")
or \$25 for a 3x4 (3.7" X 4") or 4x3 (5" x 3").
You can add a photo at no additional cost.

To send by mail, please mail or drop off to
**June Simakauskas, P. O. Box 90, 25 Elm St.,
Southbridge, MA 01550.**

Personal checks, Visa, Master Card, Discover and AMEX are accepted.

**For more information,
please call June at 508-909-4062
or email jsima@stonebridgepress.news
and she'll be happy to help!**



TRAINOR

continued from page A8

mental 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
 - Red and Yellow mix: Falling in love
 - White and Red: Unity, endless love
- Beneficial Blossoms
 - "Flower Power" takes on new meaning when you understand fresh flowers have the capacity to alter our energy and emotions. Why not take the benefits of the flower garden one step further and plant specifically to improve both body and soul?

*Roses: No flower is more sentimental than the romantic rose. And

it's no wonder. The scent of roses evokes nostalgia, which can recall happy memories from the past.

*Violets: Research shows violets enhance learning speed by 17%, and also improve concentration when used in study rooms.

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

*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.

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.



Valentine's Day & Every Day GIFTS & DINING GUIDE

Visit these fine local establishments for great gifts, food, beverages & entertainment

To advertise on this page, contact June at jsima@stonebridgepress.news or 508-909-4062





RESERVE NOW FOR VALENTINE'S DAY

Spencer Country Inn

Buy 1 Entree Get 1 1/2 price
(dine-in only) Cannot be used on holidays or private parties With this ad. Exp 3/31/20

SUNDAY BRUNCH 10am-1pm
All You Can Eat \$14.95 (plus tax & gratuity)

Fish N' Chips To-Go - Fridays Only \$10.95

500 Main St., Spencer, MA 508-885-9036
www.spencercountryinn.com

HOURS
Lunch: Thur, Fri, Sat 11:30-2:00
Dinner: Thur, Fri, Sat 5:00-Close
Sun. Brunch: 10am-1pm

~ Function Rooms 10-250 Guests ~



Valentine's Day

SPECIALS MENU FEB. 14 & 15

APPS
Deep Fried Brussel Sprouts
Pork Tenderloin Salad

MAINS
Chicken Marsala
Heart Shaped Cheese Stuffed Ravioli
Stuffed Flounder
Beef Wellington
Stuffed Pork Loin

All dinners come with salad, rolls and dessert

E.B. Flatts
Rt. 9 E. Brookfield 508.867.6643
Breakfast & Lunch Daily | Dinners Thurs, Fri, Sat



Come in! WE'RE LOCAL!



A Special Treat for Your Valentine

\$3.00 OFF ICE CREAM CAKE
Any 8" or Larger

Limit One coupon per customer Not valid with any other offer. Exp. 2/29/20

DQ Grill & Chill

order online at DQCakes.com

Accepting Debit & Credit Cards Route 9, Spencer 508-885-2748



Mexicali MEXICAN GRILL

TACO Tuesdays

Join us in our bar area, every Tuesday after 3pm, to enjoy hard or soft shell

Tacos for \$1.00

(with purchase of a beverage)

117 Main Street, Spencer, MA • 774-745-8200
41 Worcester Road, Webster, MA • 508-461-5070

Facebook.com/MexicaliMexicanGrill
MexicaliGrillRestaurant.com

DINE OUT & SEE A SHOW!



Salem Cross INN

RESTAURANT & TAVERN
260 West Main Street, West Brookfield, MA 01585

Over 50 Years of New England Hospitality!

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





five Loaves

bakery & cafe

Reserve now for Valentine's Day Weekend

Feb. 14 & 15





308 LAKESIDE

Sat., Feb. 8 • 9pm-12am

PETTY LARCENY





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

Love is in the Air

Celebrate

Valentine's Day

DINNER FOR TWO SPECIALS

February 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!



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

with

\$0
Down

0
Monthly
Payments

0%
Interest
for 1 year¹

Save an **EXTRA 3%**
on your entire order¹

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 Andersen
REPLACEMENT WINDOW DIVISION OF WINDOWS+DOORS

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.

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Serving
Sturbridge, Brimfield,
Holland and Wales

CHARLTON VILLAGER
Serving Charlton,
Charlton City
and Charlton Depot

The VILLAGER

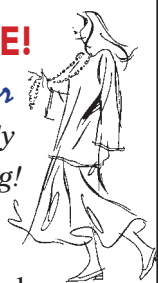
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B
Section
Friday,
February 7, 2020

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

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.

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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**

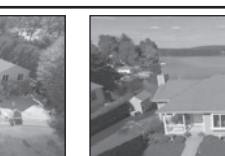


OXFORD – 27 Rocky Hill Rd! Move Right Into this 6 Rm Ranch! Bright, Fresh Kitchen! Dining Rm! 20' Living Rm! 3 Comfortable Bdrms! Nice Bathrm! Deck w/Awning! All the Work has been Done! Roof, Siding, Windows, Insulation, Gas Furnace, Gas Hot Water Heater, AC, Front Porch Windows, Door, Living Rm Floor, 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! 3/4 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**

DUDLEY – 7 – 9 West Street! Brick 4 Family plus a 2 Family! Side by Side! All with 5 Rooms and 2 Bedrooms! Gas Heat! All Separate Utilities! 2 Car Detached Garage! The 4 Family with Beautiful Natural Woodwork! All Apartments are Empty and Work is Needed in Several Apartments! Excellent Potential! Will be a Good Investment for the Right One! **\$399,900.00**



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**

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 Frplc & 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**

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**



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**

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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**

WEBSTER LAKE – 50 West Point Rd! Killdeer Island! 4,700' Entertainers Dream! Magnificent Sunsets! Built 2016, Has It All! 2 Story Foyer! Granite Kit w/Center Isl, Dble Oven, High End Appliances & Walk-in Pantry! Din Rm w/Wet Bar, Sliders to 14x30' Deck! Bright & Airy Liv Rm w/Lake Views, Custom Built Cabinets, Gas Frplc! 1/2 Bath w/Laundry! An ELEVATOR to Service All 3 Floors! Upstairs leads to 3 Spacious Bdrms each w/Private Baths! Master w/Tray Ceiling, Walk-in Closet & Private Balcony! Master Bath, Soaker Tub & Large Tile Shower! Walk-up Attic w/Expansion Possibilities! Lower Level w/Full Kit, 1/2 Bath, Lake Facing Fam Rm, Media/Exercise Rm + Lake Facing Bdrm w/Frplc & Private Bath! Slider to Patio! 13 Zones! Oversized 2 Car Garage! Loaded w/Quality & Detail! **\$1,175,100.00**

WEBSTER LAKE – 68 W Point Rd! Western Exposure - Spectacular Sunsets! 75' Waterfront w/Expansive Views! 6 Rm 1 Rm Rd Ranch! Ideal 2nd Home! Renovate or Enjoy As Is! Open Fir Plan! Applianced Cabinet Packed Kit! Lake Facing Din & Liv Rms w/Water Views! Sliders to Screen Enclosed Porch! Master w/Ceiling Fan & Dble Closet! 2nd Bdrm w/Dble Closet! Full Bath off Hall! Finished Walk-out Lower Level w/25' Fam Rm w/Door to Lakeside Patio, Bdrm, Full Bath & Utility/Storage Rm! 3 Bdrms, 2 Baths Total! Oil Heat! Covered Entry Ramp & Electric Chair Lift! Shed! Dock! Summer Will Be Back – Don't Delay! **\$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**



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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



ON DEPOSIT

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



SORRY, SOLD!

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.



SORRY, SOLD!

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



SORRY, SOLD!

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! 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



SORRY, SOLD!

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



LAND FOR SALE

ATTENTION DEVELOPERS

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 Chargoggagoggmanchauggagogggchaubunagungamaugg



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**



SORRY, SOLD!

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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\$95,000

On Deposit
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Sold
Oxford
570 Main St.
\$310,000

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BROOKFIELD WATERFRONT PRISTINE PROPERTY on Quabog Pond 5 rooms 2 bedrooms 2 baths! First floor has updated kitchen, livingroom, bedroom & full bath. Master suite on second floor with wonderful water view! Loaded with windows. Bedroom, full bath, walk in closet plus another room-big enough for family room and office. Full basement. Level lot with plenty of parking, easy access to water. Full recreational lake! **\$329,900.**

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**

OPEN HOUSE 12-2PM SUN Weather Permitting 20 HARTWELL TER, SOUTHBRIDGE Impeccably maintained Cape Cod Style home! 6 rooms 4 bedrooms 2 baths. Beautiful kitchen with appliances. Wonderful heated sun room with deck for barbecuing. Hardwood floors. Central Air. Updated boiler and hot water. Professionally landscaped yard. Located at the end of a dead end street. **\$219,900.**

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!

SOUTHBRIDGE: Wonderful 2 family on corner Lot with Yard! Many updating was done in 2008 including roof, siding, 2nd egress, electrical, plumbing, plus numerous interior upgrades. Fully rented with good income! **\$179,900.**

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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SOUTHBRIDGE, STURBRIDGE, DUDLEY, CHARLTON, WEBSTER, HOLLAND. PLEASE CONTACT US!



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480 Route 197 - \$600's

Subdivision opportunity: 18 lots, build homes \$420,000 +, Town water & sewer available, A great community for low taxes and desirable schools, 25 min. to Worcester, 1 hr. to Hartford, Boston & Providence
Jesse Rd - \$575,000

Szymczak Sells WEBSTER
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30 Stoughton Ave - \$269,000

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16 Pattison Rd - \$735,500

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90-A Sutton Rd.
3 Bedroom, Raised Ranch.

PENDING
DUDLEY, MA - \$248,500
5 Fairview Ave
Under Priced, Needs Work



Open House Directory

(C) Condo (B) Business (P) Land	(X) Condo (U) Duplex (L) Mobile Home	(M) Multi-Family (S) Single Family (A) Apartment	(T) Townhouse (D) Adult Community (W) Waterfront	
ADDRESS	STYLE	TIME	PRICE	REALTOR/SELLER/PHONE
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8				
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
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9				
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
WEBSTER				
35 Lakeside Ave	S	1:15-3	\$269,900	Centerwood Realty/ Judy Colecchi 508-943-8844

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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.

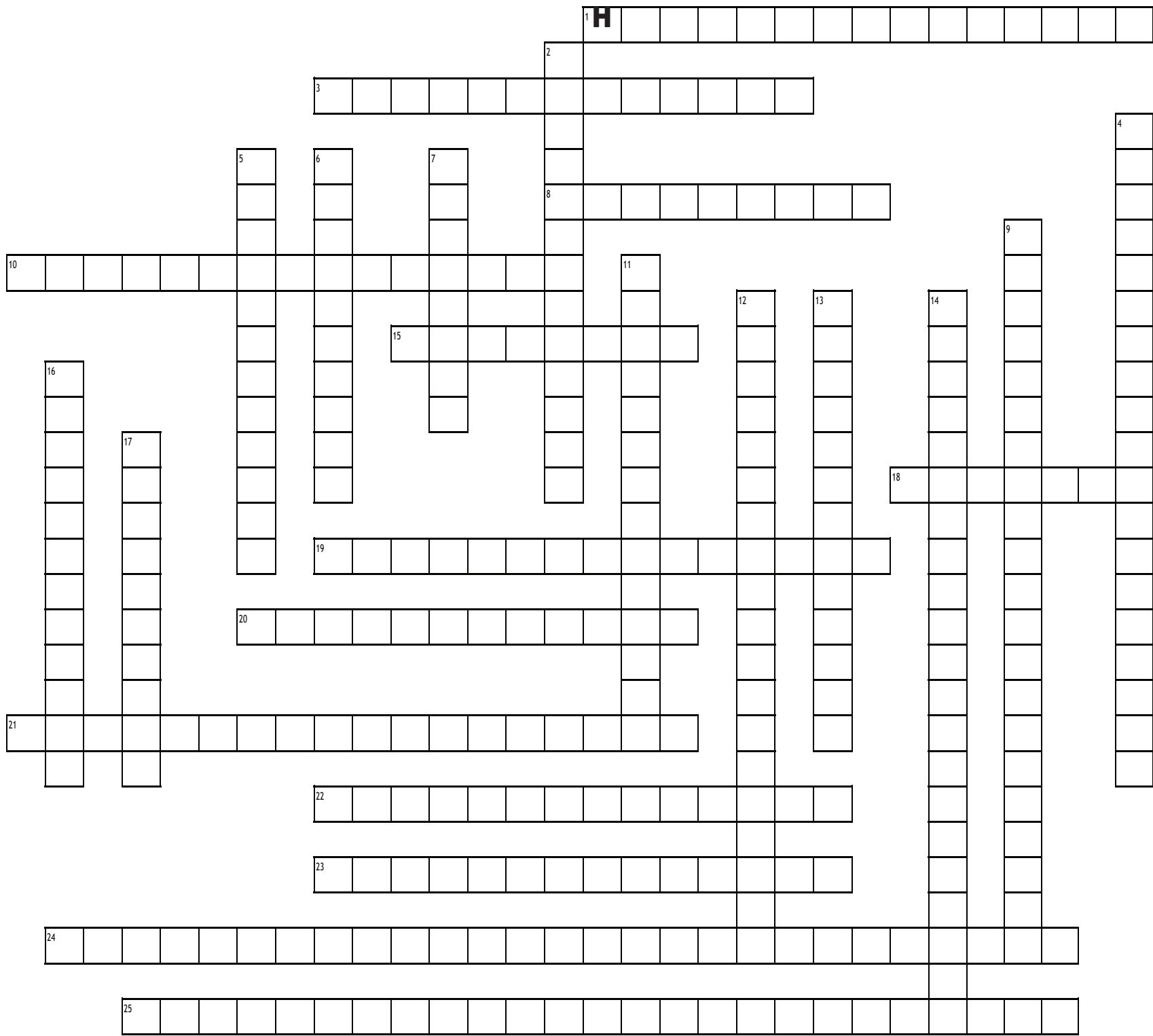
6. Cream puffs: These tasty morsels are made from a French choux pastry dough filled with a moist filling of sweet cream or custard.

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.

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