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# Old Home Day award winners announced

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – The winners of the annual service and business awards in Charlton have been announced at the town excitedly prepares for the return of Old Home Day on Labor Day, Sept. 6.

Members of the Old Home Day Committee attended the Aug. 10 meeting of the Board of Selectmen to announce the names. Committee Chair Kathleen Walker started off with some insight into what these awards mean for those being honored.

“Each year, the Charlton Old Home Day Committee seeks nominations for community service awards for Charlton businesses or residents. The awards are intended to recognize volunteer work in the community schools and service to fellow citizens. The awards are not intended for those who during their traditional occupation complete their tasks, but for those who perform the good deeds purely out of volunteerism and civic duty. Whatever the endeavor, these people deserve to be recognized and applauded for

their efforts,” said Walker.

The first announcement was the Youth Community Service Award which was established in 2011 to honor a young member of the local community for their contributions to Charlton. The 2021 recipient is Kelly Devlin, a 2020 Bay Path Regional Vocational High School graduate who has spent the past nine years supporting the Chip-In Food Pantry. She has also donated time to Blessings Farms heling with the horses and goats on the property.

Three individual community service awards were also announced. Aviya Singer is being honored for her support of Child Life Services during her high school and college years collecting towns to help give children a bit of normalcy during the holiday season. The second honoree is Frank Morrill, a 45-year resident of Charlton, former history teacher and longtime members of several committees including the Planning Board, Finance Committee and Historic District Committee as well a co-author of several books on Charlton history. Finally, Darlene Emco-Rollins

will receive the third community service award for her long-time service as the Executive Director of the Chip-In Food Pantry in Charlton and as a member of the Charlton Firefighters Ladies Auxiliary.

Chip-In will also be honored as one of two recipients of the 2021 Business Award. Normally given to only one local business, the 2021 honorees both played a role in helping the community through the 2020 pandemic. Chip-In, established in 1993, worked with the USDA to distribution 61,740 pounds of food through the Farmers to Families program during the pandemic as well as opening its doors for Dudley residents and launching their first Back to School distribution initiative in 2021. The second business honoree is the Charlton Sewer Center whose members worked together to create masks for local schools, the town hall and Board of Health asking for no financial compensation. Their also supported the Charlton Senior Center and presented masks to veterans on Veterans Day 2020.

Turn To **WINNERS** page **A9**

# Ivascyn family endows scholarship for local students at Nichols College

DUDLEY — The family of Daniel W. Ivascyn, former superintendent of Oxford Public Schools, has created a new scholarship at Nichols College. The Ivascyn Family Endowed Scholarship will aid students who reside in southern Worcester County and plan to graduate from Nichols.

A resident of Charlton, Ivascyn has strong ties to the region’s educational and business communities. He began his tenure with the Oxford school system as business manager in 1969, after earning his Bachelor’s degree at Nichols. He became a certified teacher and administrator, was promoted to assistant superintendent for business affairs and served as superintendent from 1996 until his retirement in 2003. Along the way, he earned an MBA from Clark University and an EdD from UMass Amherst.

Ivascyn was a founding member of the French River Education Center, a regional private nonprofit organization providing educational services to school districts throughout Worcester County. He served on the board for several years. He was associate professor



Daniel Ivascyn

Dan and his family are creating opportunities for local students to discover their leadership potential with a Nichols education and securing a legacy that recognizes service and commitment to the community,” said Glenn M. Sulmasy, JD, LL.M, president of Nichols College. “We are grateful for their generosity and the example they are setting for future leaders.”

About Nichols College

Nichols College is a college of choice for business and leadership education as a result of its distinctive career-focused and leadership-based approaches to learning, both in and out of the classroom, and through impactful research and professional education. Students thrive in a learning and living environment that is supported by an experiential business curriculum and a strong liberal arts foundation aimed at transforming them into tomorrow’s leaders. Nichols offers master’s degrees in business, leadership, accounting, and counterterrorism, as well as a range of certificate programs, to promote career advancement for today’s professionals.

of education and chair of the Educator Preparation Program at Nichols from 2004 to 2007. He is also a recipient of the college’s Alumni Achievement Award.

While attending evening classes as an undergraduate at Nichols in the 1960s, Ivascyn worked as a teller for Webster Five, beginning a 46-year affiliation with the bank. He became a corporator in 1980, was elected to the board in 1984 and served as its chair for 14 years, retiring in 2020.

“Through this scholarship,



Courtesy Photo

Charlton Police Sgt. Keith Cloutier, who experienced concrete foundation issues with his own home, provided this photo on social media as an example of a concrete foundation crumbling at a home in Rutland

# Selectmen solidify support for crumbling foundations movement

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – Crumbling foundations continue to be a concern in Charlton and other surrounding communities. The Massachusetts Residents Against Crumbling Concrete Group has been working for the past few years to help raise awareness of a growing concern releasing a report in late 2019 and now seeking support from leaders of impacted communities to help push legislation in Boston that would be a step towards compensation for those effected.

The foundation issues are caused by a mineral called pyrrhotite, which has been detected in concrete used on foundations in Connecticut and, more recently, in

Massachusetts. The mineral is known to rust causing cracks in foundations that could cost homeowners upwards of \$300,000 or more to repair with no compensation in site for those experiencing the problem. In January of 2020, Sen. Anne Gobi discussed the issue with the Charlton Board of Selectmen following the release of the Crumbling Concrete Foundations Reports at the end of 2019. The investigation was performed in 2016 and the finding of the report concluded that Becker’s Quarry in Willington has supplied concerned containing pyrrhotite that contributed to crumbling foundations in the commonwealth. The state currently has programs to reimburse home-

Turn To **CRUMBLING** page **A9**

# Bay Path LPN awarded scholarship

CHARLTON — Fitchburg State University (FSU) awarded Elizabeth Mirekuua Lartey, LPN of Worcester its Burnham Scholarship.

The scholarship was awarded to a full-time undergraduate, nursing major who has completed at least one semester at Fitchburg State University who are working to support their education. Receipt of the scholarship is also based on an essay that demonstrates relevant examples of service-oriented leadership, active support for the social and academic welfare of peers, and active civic engagement in the community as well as demonstrated academic achievement and financial need.

Lartey is an alumna of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy in Charlton

with the Practical Nursing Class of 2018. While at Bay Path Lartey was inducted to the National Technical Honor Society and was a district competitor for SkillsUSA for CPR/First Aid. Lartey was an Officer for the UNICEF Club and was certified in Infusion Therapy/Central Line Care and Dementia Care. She volunteered for multiple Blood Pressure Clinics and represented Bay Path at educational events at Framingham State University. Lartey continues to volunteer at Bay Path as a mentor and inspirational speaker to current Practical Nursing Students.

During the spring 2021 semester, Lartey, has been named to the Fitchburg State University dean’s list for academic achievement. The design-

nation is awarded to full-time students who have earned at least a 3.2-grade point average on a 4.0 scale, achieved no grade below a B, and received no failing grades in enrolled, credit/no credit, or pass/fail courses. Lartey’s FSU transcript indicates “Dean’s List” status for the semester.

Lartey is completing the LPN to BS in Nursing Bridge Program. The LPN to BS in Nursing Bridge Program is designed to transition the traditional or military trained Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) to the role of baccalaureate-prepared Registered Nurse. The LPN to BS in Nursing Bridge Program is a unique and accelerated curriculum.



Elizabeth Mirekuua Lartey



# Dick Hoyt Memorial Golf Tournament raises awareness for ID/DD community

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Center of Hope Foundation, Inc. (CoHF) is a non-profit agency serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Many of the programs and services offered by the CoHF are funded by the state. However, many programs are unfunded.

The Center offers year-round Special Olympics which allows individuals the opportunity to participate in unified sporting events. Volunteers run practices and take teams to games and tournaments. These teams are provided with uniforms and any other equipment necessary to participate in the sport. Seeing the joy as participants walk onto the field at Gillette Stadium is spectacular!

“People are happy, smiling and having so much fun,” said Ryan Chauvin, Recreation Director at the CoHF. “Without additional funding, this program and the joy that comes from it would not be possible.”

The CoHF also runs the Holiday Giving Program each year. Around the holidays, gifts and other necessities are given to over 500 individuals and families who struggle financially.

“We know that some of our program members or others in the community may not get the chance to experience the holidays like most,” said Erika Travinski, COO at the CoHF. “It is truly magical to see how the community comes together and helps us provide this amazing support. We see smiles on family member’s faces knowing that their loved ones will wake up on Christmas morning beaming with happiness. There is no better feeling.”

Changing lives and providing opportunities is not only what we do at the Center of Hope, but it is also who we are. We invite you to join us in making the Special Olympics program and the holiday giving program what they are. Join us on Saturday, Sept. 11 for the 15th Annual Golf Tournament, now known as the Dick Hoyt Memorial Golf Tournament, held at the Heritage Country Club, in Charlton. Help the CoHF continue on with its mission, offering the most opportunities possible for individuals with disabilities. Not only will you be playing for a good cause, but you will also be surrounded by fun and great company.

This event is sponsored by The Hoyt Foundation, Team Hoyt, US Tool and Fastener, Joe Cleans, Cornerstone Bank, Abacus Distributors, Fletcher Tilton PC, Helgerson’s Excavating and Septic, IBEW Local 2324, IBEW Local 2222, Southbridge Tire, OFS Fitel, and Excel Advertising. To learn more visit [www.thecenterofhope.org/golf](http://www.thecenterofhope.org/golf) or call (508) 764-4085.

## Local IT company celebrates 20th anniversary with prestigious Inc. 5000 and MSP501 rankings

STURBRIDGE — After facing one of the most challenging economic setbacks in their 20-year history, ClearCom IT Solutions, Inc. has proven they can come out on top, recognized as such with two prestigious business awards.

Out of more than seven million businesses in the U.S., ClearCom IT is proud to be named No. 3662 on the Inc. 5000 list of the most successful, independently-owned businesses in the United States. With 92 percent three-year growth, ClearCom IT has expanded to manage the IT of over 100 organizations up and down the East Coast.

ClearCom IT Solutions has been named by the editors at Channel Futures, as one of the technology industry’s top-performing providers of managed services, for the fifth year in a row. The Channel Futures MSP 501 survey examines organizational performance based on annual sales, recurring revenue, profit margins, revenue mix, growth opportunities, innovation, technology solutions supported, and company and customer demographics.

“To be included on these two prestigious lists is a testament to the amazing team we have and the wonderful clients we partner with,” says Rob Cleary, President/CEO of ClearCom IT Solutions.

“The landscape regarding cybersecurity has shifted immensely in the past year. In response, we have expanded our cybersecurity services to keep our partners safe and secure. We are now protecting against threats that didn’t exist 10, 5, or even two years ago. Educating our clients on safe email practices and data protection with ongoing training has been key in keeping everyone protected. ClearCom IT is focused on delivering ongoing, exceptional service and support; responding to our clients’ evolving IT needs and demands quickly and effectively.”

The Inc. 5000 is a list of the fastest-growing private companies in the nation. Started in 1982, this prestigious list has become the hallmark of entrepreneurial success. To qualify, companies must have been founded and generating revenue by March 31, 2017. They have to be U.S.-based, privately held, for-profit, and independent—not subsidiaries or divisions of other companies. The minimum revenue required for 2017 is \$100,000; the minimum for 2020 is \$2 million.

The 2021 MSP 501 list is based on confidential data collected and analyzed by the Channel Futures editorial and research teams. Data was collected online from March 1-May 24. The MSP 501 list recognizes top managed service providers based on metrics, including recurring revenue, profit margin, and other factors.

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## Worcester Academy proudly announces Semester 2 Honor Roll And Headmaster’s List

WORCESTER — Worcester Academy proudly announces its final Honor Roll and Headmaster’s List for the 2020-2021 School Year. The honors represent the achievements that each of these Worcester Academy students has earned through academic excellence, challenge, and personal growth.

Jefferson Upton of Charlton, Grade 9, Headmaster’s List.

Camden Blum of Charlton, Grade 10, Headmaster’s List.

Avery List of Charlton, Grade 11, First Honors.

Colin Hughes of Charlton, Grade 11, Headmaster’s List.

Lauren Potvin of Charlton, Grade 11, Headmaster’s List.

Isabella Nascimento of Charlton, Grade 12, First Honors.

Owen Hughes of Charlton, Grade 12, Headmaster’s List.

About Worcester Academy

Worcester Academy, founded in 1834, is an independent day and boarding school for boys and girls in grades 6 to 12 (and postgraduates). Located in the thriving city of Worcester, the Academy provides an exceptional educational experience that fosters personal growth, nurtures a sense of belonging and well-being, and develops intellect and understanding through authentic community engagement and real-world experiences. Students define what it means to “Achieve the Honorable” and are equipped to honorably impact the world wherever they go.

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# “I want to know my landscape is thriving”

## FAVORING NATIVE PLANTS ON LOTS OF ALL SIZES

BY GUS STEEVES  
CORRESPONDENT

BRIMFIELD — Dan Jaffe-Wilder is a huge advocate of helping land go wild. Whether it’s a garden, an acre, the 19 acres he recently bought in Brimfield, or the 8,000 acres he helps manage for Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary in Wales, the difference is often in approach, not objective.

A garden, he notes, is easy to manage; an acre is barely possible, and “the big places” are well beyond that.

“Even a lazy gardener is doing a whole lot more than we can do on 8000 acres at Norcross,” he told a few dozen conservation commissioners during an online Mass Association of Conservation Commissioners “Lunch and Learn” talk last week.

“In some cases, the management is next to nothing, or is nothing.” It can be as simple as clearing a space around an uncommon plant or tree to give it a better chance against very common ones; on his land, for example, he’s trying to promote wild blueberry in thickets of laurel and shagbark hickory in copses of black birch. (It’s not coincidental the promoted plants are edible.)

“I want to know my landscape is thriving,” he said, noting he favors “plants that are bringing in habitat and feeding us,” as well as other species.

The key is working with what’s there, not trying to force it into something it’s not. Where possible, Wilder recommends starting with a soil test; it’s “one of the best things you could possibly do” to avoid planting failures, but he suggests ignoring the amendment recommendations such tests usually provide.

Instead, select plants that thrive in that kinds of soil.

Case in point – thin soil, which is common around here. He dubs that “your friend” because “things grow more slowly in thin soil,” including the invasives and weeds. Native plants have adapted to such soil and will out-compete the weeds; some natives, such as goldenrod and bee balm, are also very important habitat plants for a large number of insects and birds.

When promoting natives in such areas, Wilder encourages planting them in blocks, with many of a few species together, because “we don’t have time to do the whole meadow.” To help them along, Norcross mows a third of the meadow each spring, although their goal is to eventually be able to have a controlled burn every five to eight years.

You can’t do that with a rich-soiled, moist meadow; such places have a lot more nutrients and plants of all kinds (welcome or not) grow faster. Invasives tend to get started before the natives there, as they seep in by air and water; controlling them and “pushy” natives requires fall mowing and some brush-cutting. For Wilder, the goal there is to favor uncommon natives while keeping other species “in amounts that are happy and thriving.” In one field at Norcross, they found 12 gentians two years ago and have since increased that to 125. If you can establish “thick, healthy patches of native species,” invasive seeds won’t have soil in which to root, he observed.

For really big places, Wilder’s goal is to “look at the larger picture,” to see what kinds of habitat the region as a whole needs. One that’s uncommon in southern New England is what’s termed “early successional” meadow and woodland. Many in our area know what that looks like: the strip of “tornado alley” from West Springfield to Southbridge, where bushes and young trees are now

taking over from the mature ones the tornado of 2011 wiped out.

Although dangerous to hikers, the tangled masses of downed trees in that strip are ideal, even necessary, habitat for some species. Wilder urges people to maintain smaller examples of such woodpiles on their land.

Creating the earlier, meadow stage can take some work. Wilder said Norcross removed all the trees in a few selected sites and mowed the grasses very low to give “native annuals and short-lived perennials” a chance to get started. Such succession takes years. In three or four, the first species “get out competed,” and long-lived perennials like goldenrod start to take over. Eventually, those give way to low bushes, then trees of various species.

At the end, Wilder took a few questions. One sought suggestions for challenging the common attitude that favors well-mowed “postage stamp” lawns.

Often, he said, people do favor habitat; they just need education. One way to do that can be to put up signs indicating the parcel is habitat, while mowing paths to show it’s “a purposeful thing,” he said.

“Leading by example is so important,” he added, noting people need to “see value in this kind of landscape.”

Similarly, ecology advocates can plant native wildflowers in visible public places with signs saying why they matter.

Regarding another question, Wilder noted they sometimes have to use herbicides to control invasives. One effective organic type on plants (but not roots) is horticultural vinegar, but he said that’s very caustic, requiring safety gear and a pesticide license to use. It’s far stronger than household vinegar, at 30 percent acid vs 5 percent, but has no long-term ecological impact.

Gus Steeves can be reached at gus.steeves2@gmail.com.

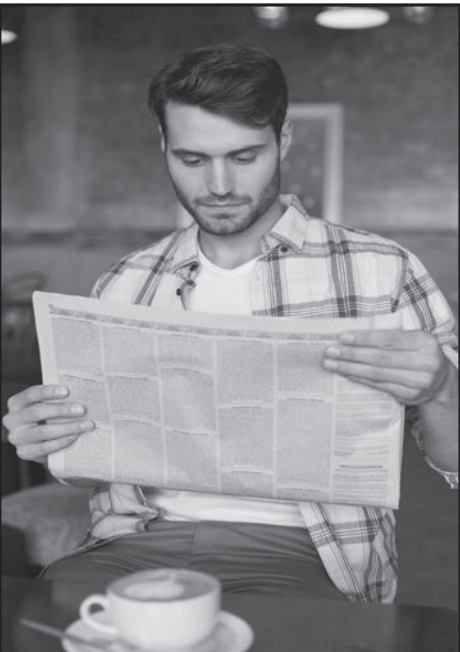


### ACCURACY WATCH

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

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

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



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## Summer ends with Disney and music at Hitchcock Academy



BRIMFIELD — Saturday, Aug. 21 promises an evening of wild adventures at Hitchcock Academy in Brimfield with the showing of the Disney animated classic, “Zootopia” presented free on the outdoor screen at dusk. Pack a picnic supper or enjoy dinner from the Maddie’s Dogs food truck. This free animated adventure features the exploits of bunny Officer, Judy Hopps, and her

fox sidekick, Nick Wilde as they work to solve the case of the disappearing mammals in the mythical metropolis of Zootopia.

“Zootopia” and the Sept. 1 concert on the common by the James Paul Band mark the end of Hitchcock Academy’s summer programming. However, HFA looks to September with a full schedule of classes and events to welcome fall. Starting on Sept. 9 HFA will offer ages seven and up beginner to advanced guitar lessons. The lessons will include acoustic or electric guitar, introduction to music theory and instruction in how to read tablature. On Sept. 18, Hitchcock presents its inaugural Fore a Good Cause golf tournaments at Heritage Country Club in Charlton. Registration includes 18 holes of golf at central Massachusetts’ premier public course, cart, prizes, and a steak dinner.

On Sept. 15 and continuing weekly through Oct. 6 on Wednesdays from 6 to 9 p.m., Hitchcock offers lessons in painting through ArtSong, an arts enrichment program that provides a framework for creativity and self-expression. The four week workshop teaches the essential of how to draw and paint using acrylic paint. Through demonstration and application each student will create their own original artwork. Registration information for this and all Hitchcock Academy courses can be found on their website under Current Classes.

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Jayven is an inquisitive boy of African-American and Hispanic descent. He loves board games and is always happy to play one, either with his friends or with an adult. Jayven also likes to be outside, and his favorite outdoor activity is playing football, which he is currently doing with Pop Warner Football. Jayven likes playing football so much that when he grows up, he would like to play for the NFL. Just in case he isn’t drafted, though, he is also considering careers as a detective or as a piano teacher. Jayven is currently doing well in school.  
  
Legally freed for adoption, Jayven is looking for a loving and patient family of any constellation, with or without other children in the home. Jayven is very close with his younger brother and has expressed a desire to be a role model for him. An ideal family for Jayven will be open to helping him maintain this relationship.

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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.ma-reinc.org. The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have a permanent place to call home.

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# Cornerstone Bank donates \$3,000 to Nativity School of Worcester

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with 12 locations throughout Central Massachusetts, has donated \$3,000 to the Nativity School of Worcester, an independent, Jesuit middle school providing all-scholarship education to underserved boys of all faiths. The funds will be used to help low- and moderate-income families of current students as well as students who have graduated, through the school's Graduate Support Program.

"Not only does the Nativity School foster the growth and learning of students currently enrolled with them, but they ensure that their graduates are prepared for the upcoming year in high

school or college," said Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman. "The school's work inspires responsibility, a love of service and a dedication to learning that many of these students may have never experienced otherwise. Cornerstone Bank is happy to make this donation, which has helped to fund the Nativity School's all-important summer program."

The Nativity School of Worcester's summer program runs for three weeks during the summer and focuses on core academics, including language arts and math, as well as community services. Students and faculty spend every afternoon volunteering at local organizations to empower them to recognize the

ways they can improve their community. The Graduate Support Team coordinates with alumni to provide school supplies to high school and college-aged graduates of the Nativity School, helping them to continue their education.

"We are proud to play a small part in creating a long-lasting love of learning for these students," continued Tallman. "We understand how important quality education is for all, and we are honored to assist in everything the Nativity School of Worcester is doing for its students and alumni."

About Cornerstone Bank

Cornerstone Bank is an independent, mutual savings bank serving residents, businesses and communities through-

out Central Massachusetts. Our customer promise, Built on Trust, is not just a brand, but also a corporate focus. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone Bank rests on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. 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. To learn about Cornerstone Bank's personal and business banking offerings, please visit [cornerstonebank.com](http://cornerstonebank.com) or call 800-939-9103.

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\$501,500, 61 Potter Village Rd, T Reardon Builders Inc, to Jewett, Eric E, and McLaughlin, Amy L.

\$411,000, 19 Whitby Rd, Blanchard, Darlene M, and Blanchard, Geraldine A, to Merly, Jose L, and Merly, Esther.

\$405,000, 112 Bond Rd, Cederberg, Scott A, and Cederberg, Jennifer G, to Collado, Elvis, and Peterson, Rossy.

\$50,000, McIntyre Rd #7, Tiny House Realty NT, and Camosse, Henry J, to Laba, Richard S, and Laba, Amy M.

## Final Federated Church auction breaks all prior records

STURBRIDGE — Bidding was hot and heavy at the 71st and Final Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale Antique Auction on the Sturbridge Common with the Sturbridge Chairs (#27 and #28 in the series) and The Publick House Chairs (#50 and #51 in the series) breaking all previous records, according to auction co-chairs Tim Bardsley and Bob Cordell.

"We had an outstanding day," said Cordell. "The auction attracted a wonderful crowd that was ready to bid, the weather held out, and a number of items brought record prices!"

The enthusiastic audience hollered and cheered as auctioneer Gwen Carbone,

of Robert E. Glass Auctioneers, deftly negotiated the price on both chairs to new heights with obvious emotion in her voice. When the dust settled, the two Sturbridge chairs sold for a new record for this series of \$5,000 apiece, more than doubling the previous record of \$1,900 set in 2019. The Publick House Chairs set another new record, selling for \$3,000 apiece, beating the previous record price of \$2,500, also set in 2019.

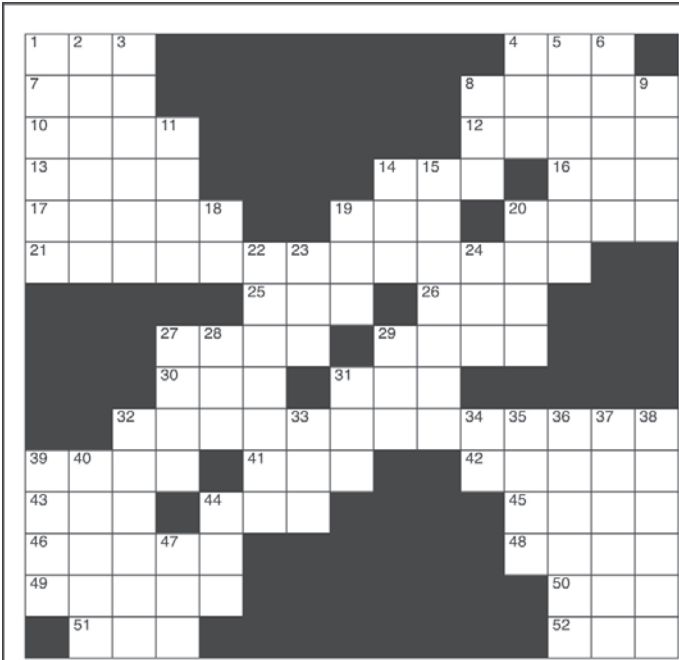
These highly prized chairs, artfully restored and decorated in bronze and gold powder stenciling with a lovely Sturbridge or Publick House scene by auction artisans Tim Bardsley and Brian Rhea, are part of a limited series with only one of each produced each year and they are only available at the Federated Church annual auction. Due to the pandemic-related cancellation of

last year's auction, two chairs were up for sale during this final auction.

Total sales for the final auction also set a new record, according to Bardsley. Previously, the top three revenue-producing auctions were the 70th, the 60th, and the 50th.

"We are extremely grateful to everyone who contributed in any way to our 71st and final auction," he said. "Everybody had a part to play, and every part is important. Volunteers, donors, bidders, local businesses. God blessed us richly and we will be forever grateful."

To watch a video of the exciting bidding online, visit the Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/FederatedChurchSturbridgeFiskdale>.



- CLUES ACROSS
1. Midway between east and southeast
4. Sun up in New York
7. Japanese honorific
8. Czech name for Prague
10. Ochocinco's first name
12. Steep cliffs (Hawaiian)
13. Scots word for "home"
14. Upper class young woman (abbr.)
16. Monetary unit of Albania
17. Raise
19. Drain of resources
20. Uncultured, clumsy persons
21. Hikers use them
25. Retrospective analysis (military)
26. Tibetan form of chanting
27. Influential European statesman
29. Soluble ribonucleic acid
30. Monetary unit of Romania
31. Round green vegetable
32. Well acquainted with
39. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
41. Basics
42. "The Godfather" actress Keaton
43. Snakelike fish
44. Tall deciduous tree
45. Russian river
46. Long Balkans river
48. Ancient Greek coin
49. Senegal's capital
50. Unwell
51. Snout
52. Low bank or reef of coral
- CLUES DOWN
1. Abstain from
2. Vast desert in North Africa
3. Cover the crown of a tooth
4. A major division of geological time
5. Urban center
6. Crook
8. Parts per billion (abbr.)
9. Questions
11. A pack of 52 playing cards
14. Recording of sound
15. Pithy saying
18. Atomic #22
19. Soviet Socialist Republic
20. Plant with ridged seedpods
22. Innate
23. Investigative body for Congress (abbr.)
24. Soda receptacle
27. Spanish stew: \_\_ podrida
28. Viet Cong offensive
29. Large body of water
31. Beginning military rank
32. Dissimilar
33. Counteroffensive system (abbr.)
34. Shows who you are
35. Chinese dynasty
36. Type of verse
37. African nation
38. Quite
39. Former Bucks star Michael
40. Showed again
44. Body part
47. Steal

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• Charlton Baptist Church, 50 Hammond Hill Road, 248-4488, [www.charltonbaptist.org](http://www.charltonbaptist.org), Sunday worship 10 a.m.

• Charlton City United Methodist, 74 Stafford St. 248-7379, web site: [CharltonCityUMC.org](http://CharltonCityUMC.org) Sunday worship and Children's church 10am

• St. Joseph's Church, 10 H. Putnam Ext, 248-7862, [www.stjosephscharlton.com](http://www.stjosephscharlton.com), Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 p.m., Sunday Mass 8 a.m., Sunday Family Mass 10 a.m., Sunday LifeTEEN Mass 5 p.m., Weekday Mass Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30 a.m.

• Hope Christian Fellowship, 6 Haggerty Road, 248-5144

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• Living Word Church of Charlton, 10 Main Street - Grange building 1st Floor, Charlton, MA 01507, Pastor Craig Bellisario, (508) 233-8349 Sunday Service 10:00am. [www.livingwordcharlton.com](http://www.livingwordcharlton.com) [info@livingwordcharlton.com](mailto:info@livingwordcharlton.com)

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# Taking advantage of QCC’s presence in the South County Region

WORCESTER — A local Southbridge family has found a way to higher education thanks to Quinsigamond Community College’s presence in the Southbridge community.

QCC 2021 nursing graduates Cassara Casey and Kirstianna Ferschke are part of a large family who found their local community college to be just the resource they needed to obtain a higher education. Ms. Casey was the first to head to college in 2008, choosing QCC for its affordability and accessibility. Her sister Kaitlynn Ferschke followed suit, graduating in May 2016 with her associate degree in Early Childhood Education (ECE).

“Calissa is the second youngest and she starts this fall for ECE at QCC,” Ms. Casey said, adding, “My mom has also taken classes at QCC.”

Today, QCC at Southbridge is

even closer to the communities it serves with its move in the summer of 2020 to a well-known and recognized central location, Southbridge High School.

“Broadening the footprint of QCC makes it more accessible not only Southbridge, but also to the surrounding communities. Also, by virtue of our location, Southbridge High School students can easily take part in QCC’s Early College Program,” said QCC President Luis G. Pedraja, Ph.D.

Currently QCC is registering students for the fall semester. Students can set up appointments with a variety of offices through the QCC’s new Easy Queue (EZQ) system ([www.QCC.edu/EZQ](http://www.QCC.edu/EZQ)). This new system enables students to save time by joining virtual waiting rooms for the offices they need to meet with such offices as Admissions, Advising and

Financial Aid. Through a text messaging system, students will receive reminders and wait time updates as their appointment gets closer, saving them time from waiting in a physical line. When a student’s appointment time is ready, they will receive notification and can then proceed to the designed office.

In addition to this new support service, QCC will continue to offer remote support services and online courses, as well as in-person services and courses beginning this fall.

“There are so many resources going to a community college. Ms. Casey said. “I like that QCC is more of a community.”

For more information about QCC, contact Josh Martin, Director of Institutional Communications at 508-854-7513 or [jmartin@qcc.mass.edu](mailto:jmartin@qcc.mass.edu).

# Bay Path LPN named member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

WORCESTER — In a recent announcement, Kiana McDonald, LPN of Worcester (formerly of Southbridge) joined the esteemed Phi Theta Kappa. The recognition included a membership packet containing a certificate, pin, and other benefits. Membership to Phi Theta Kappa allows McDonald to build job skills, challenging academic programs, scholarships, transfer support, and more. The mission of Phi Theta Kappa is to recognize academic achievement of college students and to provide opportunities for them to grow as scholars and leaders.

In a message to McDonald, Dr. Lynn Tincher-Ladner, President and CEO of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society stated, “congratulations on the accomplishments that brought you here. I look forward to seeing where Phi Theta Kappa takes you next.”

McDonald is working on academic progression towards her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree at Quinsigamond Community College where she has been named in the dean’s list due to her excellent academic performance. McDonald is a 2013 Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High



Kiana McDonald

School graduate. She is an alumna of Bay Path RVTHS Practical Nursing Academy, class of 2017 where she was inducted into the National Technical Honor Society. She is a State Bronze Medalist and District Gold Medalist for SkillsUSA both for Medical Terminology. She was a recipient of \$500 Bay Path RVTHS Health Occupations Graduate Award and was an officer of the UNICEF Club. McDonald is Mental Health First Aid Certified. After her role as a charge nurse at the Webster Manor Rehabilitation and Health Care Center from 2017-2020, McDonald is currently with Maxim Healthcare as a staff nurse.

God I’m Filipino (TGIF) in Boston, Rita helped promote world class Filipino talents and raise funds for survivors of natural disasters. She is well noted in the Boston community for her contributions to charity and volunteerism.

Rita was born and raised in Isabela, Basilan province in Mindanao. She and David Thorne are celebrating 29 years of married bliss. She is the mother of two handsome gentlemen, Masaki and Zachariah. A living proof, Mrs. Thorne is a cancer warrior, bravely fighting cholangiocarcinoma (bile duct cancer) and Chronic Myeloid Leukemia (CML).



Emelita Thorne

CHARLTON — Emelita “Rita” Thorne of Acton, a Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy volunteer for Nurse

Nostalgia portraits, will be among the models for fashion designer Chona Bacaco of MM Milano, the brand from Milan, Italy.

In celebration of the Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Filipino American Cancer Care of Falls Church, Va. presents “Couture Courage for a Cure” on Saturday, Oct. 23, 5 p.m. at the Westin Tysons Corner Hotel, 7801 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, Va. The charity gala will benefit cancer patients in the Philippines and United States (<https://www.facebook.com/FilipinoAmericanCancerCare/>).

Mrs. Thorne has a background of more than 20 years in the beauty and cosmetic industry as well as in philanthropy. She holds many pageant titles nationally, Mrs. Friends Indeed USA 2015, and internationally, Mrs. Philippines International also in 2015, she bested 65 other contestants in Jacksonville, Fla. She became Mrs. ServeCare Queen

International in 2017, Mrs. June Calendar in 2018, and Mrs. Pearl World in 2021.

In her career as a professional beauty consultant, she has advised practical nursing students and graduates, Filipino-American youth and community leaders on matters of skin care and cosmetics. For several years she has glammed-up graduating nursing students at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy for nurse nostalgia portraits gratis. As a performer, Rita performed the Yakan Cultural Dance at multiple events before audiences in many states. She advocates for literacy, regularly contributing and participating in Bagong Kulturang Pinoy, Inc. ([www.BKP.org](http://www.BKP.org)) to promote the love of reading. As one of the founders of Thank



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# OPINION

Views and commentary from Charlton, Charlton City, Charlton Depot and beyond

## TO THE EDITOR

### Amplify our voices

To the Editor:

We, the students, want to be heard. The recent public forum on July 12 centered around the allegations of teachings of critical race theory and the role of equity in the districts’ approach to instruction again overshadows the most crucial facet of the debate: the students.

Frankly, the forum resembled a standoff representing a national conservative movement rather than a discussion centered around pertinent issues that face our specific district. As much as citizens accused the district of high crimes for attempting to impose critical race theory, the commonly referenced college-graduate level course was never the goal of Superintendent Lamarche or Dr. Ackerman. Equity is not a new nor pernicious term in our district; already, the implementation of equitable policies has altered the districts’ approach to special education, single-parent households, and familial deaths, all areas that demand a degree of attention that mere “equality” could not deliver. As much as parents attacked the usage of arbitrary hashtags in Dr. Sheldon Eakins’ Instagram Posts as one of an absolute endorsement, his optional teachings on implicit bias and other topics surrounding diversity, equity, and inclusion represent an approach to address salient issues that the epistemic structure of our community could not see for ourselves. It was never about altering the “hearts and minds,” but rather, presenting a crucial perspective to our staff so they could continue to build bridges with our student populace.

We, the students, do not want to be the after-thought of the debate, but the debate itself. As much as parents can battle the district over what, how, and when material is taught, we are ultimately impacted by these decisions.

The reality that you create for us is the one that we endure the first 18 years of our lives. The longer that we debate transient issues politicized in such a manner that the forum is more of a television drama than a productive meeting, the longer that students like Rhiannon Mansur spend those years unheard. And credit to her. Rhiannon’s account of transphobia, racism, and bullying experienced by herself and her friends is a reality that many of us, the students, face. Without change, it will

not stop anytime soon.

So let’s shift the focus. Please do not simply speak for us as children, but let us speak for ourselves as students. You might be surprised by what you hear.

We, the students, need a renewed focus on wellness and the tools to succeed both physically and mentally in our lives. The health curriculum is terribly outdated and poorly implemented. While our school preaches the virtues of the food pyramid and consumer health, we struggle from a lack of support for teachings on depression, anxiety, sexual education, and consent. In one of his responses, Dr. Ackerman stated that there is a “0% chance” that any element of our health curriculum would be altered while neglecting the mention of students in the formation of the new equity committee. Are you really listening to us?

We, the students, can and should be allowed to form opinions from the material given to us. We do not want to be indoctrinated in any way, but provided with the power of perspective to expose us as citizens to the world outside of our small community. The high school history curriculum is overly Eurocentric with the lens of our past centered through Europeans and Anglo-Americans, including one misguided freshman world history course with two sets of American history. Let’s expand our view to the world of pre-colonization while talking about the uncomfortable sects of our country’s past. This does not impose guilt on us, but understanding of how we can do better in the future. Couple that with a renewed focus on civics, and you will find us more apt and informed citizens, the ultimate goal of an education. Does this change our “hearts and minds” as students or make us more human?

As much as critical race theory and equity can stir a greater political battle, never neglect us, the students. We are young, but the reverberations of the decisions you make for us will carry on for the rest of our lives. So listen to us, understand us, and empathize with our perspective on our collective experiences as people and of members of the school community. Ultimately, that is what education is all about.

HENRY WEILAND  
CHARLTON

### Don’t listen to the naysayers

Most people who want to achieve big dreams will encounter naysayers.

They’ll say, “It’s already been done; the competition is too fierce. They’ll tell you, “you can’t have a career in that business; you have to know somebody; you have to be an insider,” others might be more mean-spirited, “You’re not talented enough, you’re not smart enough, you’re not good looking enough.”

It takes great courage and faith to follow your dreams. If you listen to the negative voices, you’ll never find that courage and faith.

I’ve always dreamed big dreams and gone after goals that seemed impossible. It’s who I am; my father encouraged me to think big.

In that sense, it was easy for me to go after my dreams because I never had anyone in my own family tell me I shouldn’t or that I couldn’t. The naysayers in my life came from outside the family.

As a high school athlete, I grew passionate about competitive swimming. I became enamored with the idea that I could be an Olympic swimmer! Some said I couldn’t do it. I paid them no attention.

I swam four hours a day and did a lot of cross-training. I got much faster. After graduating high school, four of my closest friends and I swam from Macinac Island to Chicago in Lake Michigan, a 375-mile journey. We did it as a relay, and we made it in fifteen days.

Out of that experience, I met the fastest swimmer in the world at the time. His name was Tom Jager. Tom was amazing. He coached me through a few workouts, and I even raced him a couple of times. He was way faster than me. There was no comparison. I knew I just had to work harder if I wanted to be as fast as him.

I was determined. I barely made it onto a division one swim team. By my junior year, I was much faster than in

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high school, but I was also one of the slowest swimmers on the team, nowhere near the Olympic level. I was crushed as I realized I didn’t have what it took to make it to the Olympics.

That experience created an even stronger desire inside of me to accomplish my dreams.

If I’d have listened to the naysayers, I wouldn’t have learned the lessons that I needed to take with me to the next phase of my life.

I turned my attention towards a different dream, one that I had since childhood. It wasn’t long till I had a few big successes in my belt. It’s an up and down industry, and I’ve had many tell me through the years that I should give it up, forget about my past successes and hang up the towel.

What I’ve discovered is that if you keep going and don’t give up, doors will open that can lead you on a path of accomplishing your dreams in unusual ways.

Your destiny isn’t up to the naysayers; it’s up to you. It doesn’t matter what they think about you; it does matter what you think about yourself.

Abraham Lincoln had many successes in his life; he also had many failures. He failed in business, was defeated for the state legislature, lost for Illinois speaker twice, didn’t get the nomination for Congress, finally won a congressional seat but lost renomination, was rejected for land officer, defeated for the U.S. Senate, defeated for the nomination for Vice President, and then again was defeated for U.S. Senate.

I’m sure many negative voices were telling him to give up and quit through the years.

Instead, he was finally elected president of the United States. He became one of the most important presidents in United States history. He held the country together and helped win a war that resulted in the end of slavery.

What would’ve happened if Abe Lincoln listened to the naysayers?

### Ranking your goals: A smart move

Like most people, you may have several financial goals. But can you reach them all?

It would be simple if you had great wealth. But you’ll likely need to rank your goals in terms of their importance to your life and then follow appropriate strategies to achieve them. By doing so, you may end up getting pretty close to covering each of your objectives, in one way or another.

When prioritizing your goals, consider following this process:

Identify goals as “must have” or “nice to have.” Making sure you don’t outlive your resources is a must-have goal, so you need to be as certain as possible of achieving it. On the other hand, a nice-to-have goal might be something like buying a vacation home. If you don’t attain the money needed for this goal, you do have room to compromise, perhaps by scaling down to a smaller home in a different area or just renting a place for a few weeks a year. Having this flexibility can provide a psychological benefit, too. Since this goal doesn’t have an either-or outcome, you won’t have to feel that you failed if you don’t get the big vacation home – instead, you can still enjoy the results of your investment efforts, even at a more modest scale.

Put “price tags” on your goals. You need to know what your goals will cost. Even if you can only make an estimate, it’s essential to have some figure in mind. As time goes by, you can always revise your projected costs. To arrive at these price tags, you may want to work with a financial professional who has the tools and technology to create hypothetical illustrations and scenarios.

Follow an appropriate strategy. The nature of your goals and their estimated cost will drive your investment strategy. So, for example, using the must-have goal mentioned above – the need to avoid outliving your money – you’ll want to balance your growth objectives with your comfort with risk, as well as maintain an appropriate withdrawal strategy when you’re retired. However, for a nice-to-have goal, such as your large vacation home, perhaps you don’t need the same urgency – consequently, with part of your portfolio, you might be able to take more risk in hopes of greater returns. And if you fall short, you can always go with Plan B – i.e., the smaller home or the rental experience. But if your «nice to have» is closer to a «must have» in this area as well, you might want to focus less on achieving greater returns and instead look at ways of adjusting your budget to save more.

Monitor your results. As you pursue your goals, whether must have or nice to have, you’ll want to check your results regularly. If you think you’re not making enough progress toward your desired goal, you may need to make adjustments. But don’t overreact to short-term swings in the financial markets or in the value of your portfolio, or take on an inappropriate amount of risk. When trying to reach your goals, you can alter your path, but it’s usually not a good idea to change directions altogether.

The decisions involved in identifying, prioritizing and achieving your goals can be somewhat involved. But by following a well-designed process, you can help yourself get to where you want to go.

*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.*

## LETTERS

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

We think you’re important enough to tell all our readers to turn to the Opinion pages and read your Letters to the Editor.

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Or e-mail your letters to the editor at news@stonebridgepress.news

You’ll need to provide your name and place of residence, along with a phone number, so we can verify the letter is yours.

We don’t have a set limit, but if you keep it around 600 words or so, you’re going to have a better chance at seeing all your words in print.

If you want to write a bit longer about a particular issue, maybe a guest Your Turn column is your cup of tea. If you do that, try to keep it between 700-800 words.

Remember, libelous remarks and/or personal attacks are a no-no and could lead to your letter not being published.

So, what are you waiting for? Start writing!



# Local anglers brave the heat

Now that the nasty heat of this past week is behind us, fishing should get back to normal for some anglers, although many anglers did brave the heat and did very well, especially on the canal. Numerous 30- & 40-pound stripers were caught by anglers that braved the heat last week, and released the big fish, but they were still able to retain a striper that fell into the legal slot size.

Upstate New York fishing has been relatively slow on the lake, but is improving every day. The annual salmon run on the Salmon River is relatively quiet and the water is running a bit high, but it is expected to improve also in the coming weeks. Hundreds if not thousands of anglers make the trip to upstate New York annually to fish the yearly Salmon run on the famous Salmon River. For up-to-date information contact Fat Nancy's Tackle Shop in Pulaski for daily information. Check them out on their Web site at [www.fatnancy.com](http://www.fatnancy.com).

If you are looking for some of the best largemouth bass fishing and small-mouth bass fishing in Massachusetts, you need to check out fishing at the Quabbin Reservoir! Both Gate 8 and Gate 43 rent out boats and motors for an extremely low rate, and are readily

available on weekdays, but weekends require an early morning trip to acquire a boat rental. They go fast. The scenery on the reservoir is great, which makes you feel like you are in Northern Maine. Sightings of eagles are reported daily.

This past week, this writer enjoyed a great meal of pan-fried fluke from a fish that I caught while fishing the Westport River with my brother Ken. It is hard to find good bait (squid) to fish for these prized eating fish. Last week at a local tackle shop, I purchased a small bottle of imitation squid strip, manufactured by "Fat Cow" out of long Island New York. They are not cheap by any means, but will hopefully do the trick, replacing real squid. The old brand that was around for a long time called" Uncle Josh " strips, has been out of business for a number of years, now but worked very well back in the day.

The soaring seafood prices at supermarkets and eating establishments has gone through the roof, with many restaurants taking clams off of their menu. Oysters, clams, Quahaugs and



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lobster prices continue to climb with no end in sight. The reason for the price increases are many including price gouging. Saltwater fish prices on Haddock, Cod, and bluefish are reasonable, but they too could become expensive. Many fish markets are buying their fish from foreign markets ,which I try to stay away from .for many reasons. Be sure to check the seafood origin before you buy. Beef prices are also extremely high.

Purchasing real squid from a market to do some fishing does not work very well because it is soft, and easy for fish to remove it from the hook, resulting in missed fish. It is a great squid for eating calamari, but not great for fishing. Squid from most bait shops is also soft and easy for fish to remove also. Using fluke skin for bait worked very well, but has been made illegal to use because of reports of anglers cutting up undersize fluke for bait. Hopefully, these new Jig strips I purchased this past week will work better. They are scented and should work. They also work on fresh water for bass, and

numerous other species of freshwater fish.

More reports of dead birds in the valley are not good. One local sportsman reported a dead red tail hawk in the Uxbridge area this week. The young eagle that was found dead, was examined by Mass. Fish & Wildlife and found it to have died from some type of poison. It could have ingested the poison from eating a dead animal that was legally or illegally poisoned. Reporting dead birds in your area should be made to MFW.

A youth pheasant hunt will be held for all hunter graduates ages 12-17 this year. The registration deadline was Aug. 17, but may allow for late registrations if the classes are not full. Space is limited, so register today. Call Mass. Fish & Wildlife at 508-389-6300 for more information and where the clubs are that are sponsoring the events. It is a great time for first time sportsmen to realize the great time in the outdoors they will have during the event. Trap shooting , firearms safety ,and hunting pheasant over well-trained bird dogs, are just a few of the things the young shooter will enjoy .

*Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!*

## Tips for drying flowers

Enjoy and share the beauty of your flower garden all year long. Pick and dry a few flowers to use in flower arrangements, craft projects or as gifts for friends and family.

Pick the flowers when they are at peak bloom and blossoms are dry. Cut flowers for drying mid-day when they contain less moisture to reduce the dry time.

Use a bypass pruner or garden scissors to cut the stems above a set of healthy leaves. Remove the foliage and gather them into small bundles. Secure the stems with rubber bands that contract as the stems shrink and continue holding them tight. Use a spring-loaded clothespin to hang the bundles from a hanger, clothes line or nail. Allow the flowers to dry in a warm, dark, dust-free location.

Flat-faced flowers like daisies tend to close a bit when dried upside down. Try laying them face down on a flat surface. Simply cut off the stem and place the flowers face down on newspaper in



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a warm, dry location. Once dried, you can glue them in place or use florist wire to create stems for arranging.

And don't forget to pick a few seedpods from perennials and ornamental grasses. These have dried, for the most part, on the plants and make great additions to your dried flower arrangements and projects.

Consider taking a trip to your local florist or craft store for more ideas and materials for drying delicate flowers. Silica sand works well for delicate blossoms like iris as well as roses, mums and more. Simply fill the bottom inch of a container with silica sand. Remove all but an inch of the flower stem. Place the flower, stem side up or on its side, on the surface of the silica sand. Gently pour silica sand over the flowers until completely covered. Follow label directions. Most flowers dried this way maintain their beauty when dried in silica sand. Just use a small paint brush to gently remove any remaining sand.

Photo Melinda Myers

**Lavender dries relatively quickly and retains the best color when dried in a low humidity, dark location.**

Test flowers for dryness before putting them in an arrangement or storing for future use. Carefully rub a piece of the flower between your fingers. If it feels dry, it is ready to use. If it still feels moist, continue letting them dry.

Store extra dried flowers in a location with low humidity and away from direct sunlight. Consider loosely wrapping with newspaper or kraft paper to prevent crushing and place in a box until needed.

Whichever drying method you choose, the result is the same – year-round enjoyment of your garden's beauty.



and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Her Web site is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).

### CRUMBLING

continued from page A1

owners for testing but when it comes to resolving the issues neither the state nor insurance companies have a plan in place to compensate homeowners for their troubles.

That's where the Massachusetts Residents Against Crumbling Concrete comes in. The group's leader and spokesperson Michelle Loglisci spoke with Charlton Selectmen on Aug. 10 where she asked selectmen to write a letter to lawmakers Becca Rausch and Carolyn Dykema, chairs of the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture, asking them to support a bill, hold a hearing and vote favor-

ably on Senate Bill s548 which would put in place recommendations for remediation including paving the way for compensation for homeowners who have to rebuild their foundations as a result of pyrrhotite.

"We have been really pushing to try to get legislators to pay attention to this and do something. If you look around, Canada has replaced foundations for this issue. There were 3,000 homes in one town that had to be done in Canada and they came up with a remediation plan. Ireland has done it and Connecticut has done it, so here we are in Massachusetts, and we just don't feel right that we're left out," Loglisci said.

Giving the matter a more localized perspective, Loglisci was joined at the table by Charlton Police Sgt. Keith

Cloutier speaking as a citizen whose home is currently facing the dangers of a crumbling foundation. Cloutier started to learn about his own issues around the same time Gobi spoke with town officials last year and said the problem is very real.

"There seem to be this misnomer that this is a Connecticut issue. When I started with my problem the radius that they were looking out from Connecticut was about 20 miles. Charlton was on the fringes of those 20 miles including my own house. Since that time, we have found more houses in Charlton, Holden, Rutland, Barre, so right now the area we're looking at has been as far west as Southwick and as far east as Grafton, as far north as Holden," said

Cloutier.

Loglisci and Cloutier presented photos and data collected by the Massachusetts Residents Against Crumbling Concrete showing the damage done to homes, detailing some of the recorded costs of repairs and acknowledging that none of these costs are being reimbursed by insurance companies. Loglisci spoke from experience after revealing she has also fallen victim to the issues even though her home is many years away from facing major setbacks from the crumbling concrete.

"There's no recourse. It's been proven in Connecticut that insurance companies aren't going to cover it and they can't be sued to do so," said Loglisci. "Personally, my policy was changed six months

before we found out we had this problem. They changed it to only cover an abrupt collapse and that if you knew of the reason that the abrupt collapse happened and you didn't mitigate it then that's still not covered. They made sure they weren't going to be held responsible for this."

Selectmen voted to support sending a letter of support for the Bill but also chose to include State Representatives Paul Frost and Peter Durant as recipients to ensure their concerns are heard beyond the Senate floor. Charlton joins Wales, Munson, and East Longmeadow among other communities in joining the effort.

### WINNERS

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The 2021 parade marshal who will lead the march through town on Old Home Day is Reverend Jim Chase. Rev. Chase joined the Federated Church in Charlton in 1987 and held the position for 33 years. He was also the Chaplain of the Charlton Fire Department and comforted first responders following the 9/11 terrorist attacks. He has also been a long-time supporter of Charlton Helping Hands leading mission trips to areas of great need.

The 2020 posthumous award will be presented in honor of Dennis Patrick Tully, a Shepherd Hill Graduate and engineer who purchased his father's business, Miniature Tool & Dye, in 2008 and evolved it into MTD Micromolding which because one of the plastic industries leading producers of miniature parts for medical devices and other needs. He was also a 12-year member of

the Charlton Finance Committee and a supporter of numerous causes including support for cystic fibrosis patients.

Finally, the biggest award of the afternoon sll be the Citizen of the Year honor, the highest award presented by the town of Charlton. Clarence A. Bachand will be recognized for his long-time service to the Bay Path Regional School Committee which he retired

from in 2021 after 33 years of service. He has also been a member of the Charlton Memorial Day Committee, Council on Aging, served as Gas Inspector, served on the Industrial Development Commission, Recreation Commission, Municipal Builsing Committee, Sewer Commission, and as a Zoning Enforcement Officer. A World War II Army veteran, Bachand also earned the

Massachusetts Association of School Committee Lifetime Membership Award in 2013 and in 2018 became the first person inducted into the Bay Path Regional Vocational High School Hall of Fame.

All the honorees or their representatives will be presented their awards at 2 p.m. during Old Home Day on Monday, Sept. 6.

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# Tips for making the switch from public to private school

Parents have many different reasons for sending their children to private schools. Switching from public schools to private schools can require a significant emotional and social adjustment on the part of students and their families. Transitioning to private school also may require adjusting to an entirely new educational philosophy and curriculum. These tips can help make the transition from public school to private school go smoothly.

**Class size**  
Class size plays a significant role when parents decide to send their children to private school. According to Noodle, an online education search and rating resource, public school classes may include 20 students or more, with some even as large as 34 students at full capacity. Private schools tend to have much smaller class sizes and a smaller teach-

er-to-student ratio. This can translate into more individualized attention for each student. It also may mean heightened scrutiny, which is something students may quickly discover and not be accustomed to from their public school days. Students who thrive with more frequent teacher feedback may like the change to private school. Others who prefer not being in the spotlight may need more time to adjust. Take a tour and get involved. Familiarizing oneself with the school can make the first day of school that much easier. Most schools will offer tours for prospective new families; otherwise, parents can reach out to the administration to schedule private walk-throughs. Some private schools also pair up potential new students with current student ambassadors to provide a students' perspective, which can be very helpful. Families also can attend

school-sanctioned functions, volunteer for parent-teacher association committees or encourage students join sports teams or extracurricular clubs early on to help with making friends. Be open to change. Many private schools do not have to conform to state- or province-sanctioned curriculums. This can come as a shock to students who were working on a certain math or language arts program at their previous schools. Other changes to expect may be uniforms, religious-based foundations and classes, and less leniency when rules are broken. Some schools also may be male-only or female-only. These issues can be discussed before the first day of school. Keeping an open mind and getting the support of parents can help students navigate the transition from public to private school.



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# OBITUARIES

## Mary Florence Davis, 92

Mary Florence Davis, age 92, went to be with the Lord on Tuesday July 6, 2021 surrounded by her loving family at Novant Health Medical Center in Charlotte. Mary was born on Monday, April 22, 1929 in Auburn, MA to Joseph and Rose (LeBlanc) Clouatre. She was married to Irving Davis on Saturday, June 24, 1950 in Worcester, MA. Mary was a loving and caring wife,



Mother, grandmother, great grandmother and soon to be great grandmother. Mary was predeceased by her mother and father as well as her three brothers Alexander, Edmund and George. Left to cherish her memory are her son William Davis, her daughter Linda Frenier and her husband Lyman, her daughter Gail Kaelin and her husband James and her son Daniel Davis and his wife Carmen, 7 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren and a great great grandchild who is due in August.

# A chicken dish fit for a crowd

Now that lively celebrations have found their way back onto millions of people's social schedules, party hosts and hostesses who like to cook and entertain can brighten up their recipe repertoires with dishes that are easily expanded for a crowd. Feeding a houseful of people isn't difficult when simple and tasty recipes are chosen for large gatherings.

This recipe for "Sweet and Salty Chicken" courtesy of "Throw a Great Party: Inspired by Evenings in Paris With Jim Haynes" (iUniverse) by Mary Bartlett, Antonia Hoogewerf and Catherine Monnet, is ideal for hosts. Select white or dark meat chicken depending on your preference, and enjoy the Mediterranean flavor that the capers, olives and oregano offer. Apricots or prunes provide a sweet bite that's balanced by the wine and vinegar in the recipe. This dish will fill guests up, especially when paired with rice or potatoes.



- 8 ounces apricots or pitted prunes
- 4 ounces green olives, pitted
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 2 cups white wine

In a large 3-gallon bowl, combine the garlic, oregano, vinegar, bay leaves, caper juice, olive oil, and vinegar. Add the chicken, apricots or prunes, olives, capers, and stir. Cover with plastic wrap and let marinate for 24 hours in the refrigerator. About 2 hours before serving, divide the chicken and the marinade between 2 9x13-inch baking pans or a large roasting pan. Sprinkle 1/2 cup brown sugar over each pan, followed by 1 cup of the white wine over each pan. Bake in a moderately hot oven (350 F) for 1 hour. Serve with rice or parsley potatoes. Wine pairing suggestion: Choose a dry white wine, either Pino Blanc or Pinot Grigio. Ask a wine specialist to recommend dry white Spanish and Italian wines.

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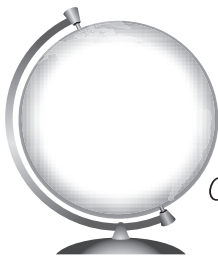
**Answers:**

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9. Science  
Down  
1. Teachers 3. Classes 4. Our 6. Ochre

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## GERMAN: Schüler



Clue: Close eyelids

**Answers:** A. sight B. checkup C. tears D. blink

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ON DEPOSIT

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ON DEPOSIT

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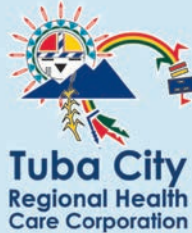


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—Nicole F. (CNA)

*"I am Definitely glad to be a part of the team as well. I feel like I'm home and everyone has been wonderful."* — Nicole V. (LPN)

*"In the time that I have been working at Quaboag I have witnessed the well-being and comfort of the residents as the main priority of the facility. The facility is centered around patient care and is designed in the best interest of the residents."*

— Lynnea T. (CNA)



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