

STURBRIDGE VILLAGER

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Thursday-Friday, January 16-17, 2025

Bay Path Academy Director recognized with two citations

CHARLTON — Massachusetts State Sen. Ryan Fattman and State Rep. John J. Marsi, Jr., through Amanda Galonek Hellyar, MPA, Deputy District Director and Special Projects Coordinator from the Office of Senator Ryan Fattman, Worcester & Hampden presented a citation to Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Director, Gretheline Bolandrina DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN of Athol, formerly of Dudley and Douglas. The citations were an acknowledgement for Bolandrina's accomplishments and award as a Champion of Health Care creating partnerships to enhance community health as recognized by the Worcester Business Journal. Citations are awarded to constituents who have reached a significant personal or professional milestone.

Ryan C. Fattman currently serves in the Massachusetts State Senate. Previously, he represented the 18th Worcester district in the Massachusetts House of Represent-



Courtesy

Turn To CITATIONS page 5 Amanda Galonek Hellyar and Gretheline Bolandrina.

Sturbridge selectmen renew fire chief's contract

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

STURBRIDGE — The first Select Board meeting of the year Jan. 6 primarily focused on the fire department.

The chief element of that was approving a new contract for Chief John Grasso unanimously.

"I look forward to a continuing relationship with the chief," Town Administrator Robin Grimm said, crediting Grasso with improving department morale and other things that have led to "generally just a positive feel from the department."

Mary Dowling agreed, saying they'd seen various issues under the prior chief. She said she was "thrilled the chief, firefighters and union was able to come together to make a stronger department."

So did Jamie Goodwin, saying that although Sturbridge is "a small town, but a busy department" because of the proximity of the state line and heavy highway traffic.

Grimm summarized the changes, saying Grasso's salary is only increasing by the standard cost of living allowance the unions are getting. But he'll be getting an education stipend his first contract didn't have — "the biggest adjustment from a financial situation" — plus vacation time that equals the police chief. In general, she said, it "puts our fire chief on par financially with other fire chiefs. It brings him to the median level of other fire chiefs in several surrounding [towns]."

Prior to that, Grasso brought forward six new people to rebuild the town's call fire department: Matt Phillips, Nick Colangione, Chris Tyler, David Tetreault, Joe Roderick and Chris Tinker. Some of them already have firefighter training, some are Eagle Scouts, one is an EMT in paramedic school, one a physicians assistant, and one came from Tantasqua's Fire Science program. Two of them (Phillips and Tetreault) have already had years of experience serving other departments.

He said the newcomers went through an interview with three area fire captains, then one with him and the deputy chief. They'll "go through an extended in-house orientation period" and, if satisfactory, will be sent to the call fire academy, he added.

Grasso also did his periodic department report, noting 2024 saw a total of 2389 calls, of which 1554 were for EMS, 12 were structure fires, 23 brush fires and 13 vehicle fires.

After that, Police Chief Earl Dessert gave his,

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Planning Board concerned about new ADU law

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE — Ever since the state passed a new law requiring "accessory dwelling units" (ADUs) to be a by-right use in single-family homes, town have been struggling to make their zoning codes mesh with the law.

The Jan. 8 Planning Board highlighted why that may be a difficult task.

"They [state officials] know everybody's trying to control it, so they're going a step further so you can't control it, which is, to me, overstepping their bounds," said Building Commissioner Ted Tetreault.

Turn To ADU page 12

DCRSD officials present Superintendent and Principal Awards



Jason Bleau



Jason Bleau

Superintendent Steven Lamarche presents the winner of this year's Superintendent's Award, Donovan Ennis.

Shepherd Hill Principal Darren Elwell presented the Principal's Award to Mekhi Blanc.

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON — The Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee celebrated the annual recognition of two outstanding students in the graduating class to kick

off the new year. The honorees for the Superintendent's Award and Shepherd Hill Regional High School Principal's Award were presented on Jan. 8 with both students receiving certificates for their educational success and com-

mitment to the school community.

The first honor was the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Certificate of Academic Excellence presented by Superintendent Steven Lamarche to senior Donovan Ennis.

Lamarche praised Ennis as a fine example of a student who not only strives to accomplish personal excellence but also fully embraces his responsibility as a student leader.

"Having had the privilege of observing his

academic journey and personal growth, I can confidently say that Donovan exemplifies the qualities of outstanding scholarship and demonstrates immense promise for future success," said Lamarche. "Academically, Donovan

stands in a class of his own. Throughout his high school career, he has maintained an unweighted 4.0 GPA while excelling in rigorous coursework such as AP seminar, AP research, and AP Calculus BC.

Turn To DCRSD page 5

Officials offer ice safety tips

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — Public safety officials remind outdoor enthusiasts of several tips for staying safe on the ice this winter.

In recent winter seasons, wildly fluctuating temperatures have made it a challenge to know which frozen bodies of water are safe for recreation. Depending on how high temperatures rise during a thaw, ice could thin to dangerous levels in a matter of days.

“New ice is usually stronger than old ice. Clear ice is also stronger than white, cloudy ice,” said Leicester Fire Chief Michael Dupuis. “Ice that is formed over open water containing a large number of natural springs is even more dangerous and should be avoided.”

If ice thickness is two inches or less, you should stay off the ice, according to officials with the state’s Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. Ice must be at

least four inches thick to support ice fishing, skating, and other activities on foot.

Six-inch ice is required to support snowmobiles, while cars and small pickup trucks need over a foot of ice thickness to safely cross, officials said.

“Ice formed over flowing water and currents is often more dangerous. Avoid traveling onto ice-bound rivers and streams, as the currents make ice thickness unpredictable,” read a statement released by the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

Before stepping onto the ice, be prepared with the following items: a cell phone, rope, ice picks, warm clothing, and a life jacket. You should also tell someone about your travel plans and when you expect to return, experts recommend.

If you fall through the ice, place your hands and arms on an unbroken surface and kick your legs. Use ice

picks to pull yourself up onto the ice while kicking.

“Once your torso is on firm ice, roll toward thicker ice to distribute your weight,” read the statement released by the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

Public safety officials also urge enthusiasts to frequently check ice conditions as they pass into new areas of a water body. Conditions can often vary as you progress from shallow coves or shorelines to ice covering deeper waters.

“You can’t judge ice conditions by appearance or thickness alone. Many other factors like water depth, size of water body, water chemistry, currents, snow cover, age of ice, and local weather conditions impact ice strength,” read a statement released by Mass Wildlife.

Residents should also be aware of changing conditions throughout the winter. In February and March, high-

er sun angles can impact ice thickness even on cloudy days. Also, a single day with temperatures surpassing 50 degrees can significantly weaken previously solid ice.

For additional tips to keep your group safe on the ice this winter, visit www.mass.gov.

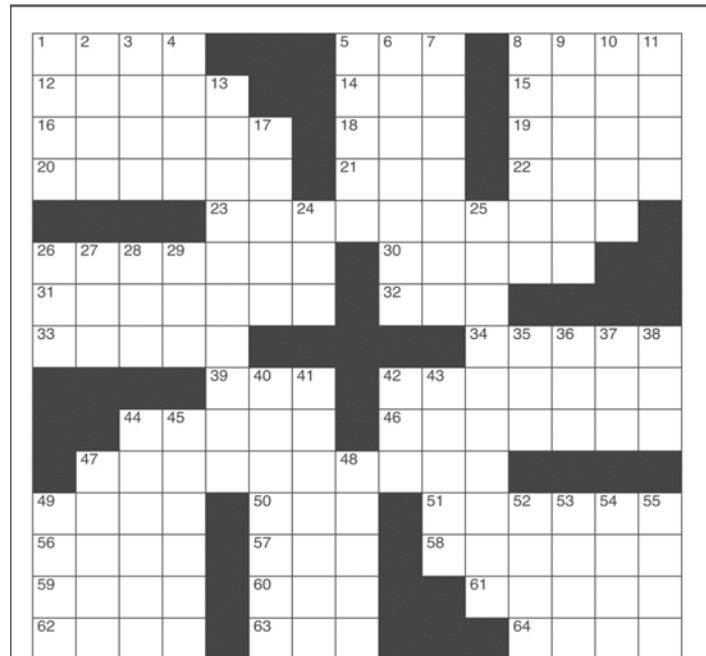
Gateway Players hosting auditions for “On Golden Pond”

SOUTHBRIDGE — Gateway Players Theatre in Southbridge is hosting auditions for “On Golden Pond,” part of our 50th Anniversary Season. This drama is written by Ernest Thompson. They will be held on Sunday, Feb. 2 at 4 p.m.

and Monday, Feb. 3 at 6:30 p.m. at Elm Street Congregational Church, 61 Elm St.

Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script. Performance dates are May 2, 3, 4, 9, and 10. Rehearsals will be on Monday and Thursday nights. Presented by permission through special arrangement with Dramatist Play Services. The adult cast consists of three men, two women and one teen boy. Directed by Patrick Bracken and produced by Lou-Ellen Corkum. For more information, please contact Gateway at 508-764-4531.

This is the love story of Ethel and Norman Thayer, who are returning to their summer home on Golden Pond for the 48th year. He is a retired professor, nearing eighty, with heart palpitations and a failing memory – but still as tart-tongued, observant, and eager for life as ever. Ethel, ten years younger, and the perfect foil for Norman, delights in all the small things that have enriched and continue to enrich their long life together. They are visited by their divorced, middle-aged daughter and her dentist fiancé, who then go off to Europe, leaving his teenage son behind for the summer. The boy quickly becomes the “grandchild” the elderly couple have longed for; and as Norman revels in taking his ward fishing and thrusting good books at him, he also learns some lessons about modern teenage awareness and slang in return.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. This regulates cortisol production (abbr.)
- 5. People of northern Vietnam
- 8. Employee stock ownership plan
- 12. Regions
- 14. The center of a city
- 15. Hindu serpentine deity
- 16. Roared
- 18. Sun up in New York
- 19. “Sir” in Malaysian
- 20. Shrimp dish
- 21. Muckraker Tarbell
- 22. Apex
- 23. Harmonic effects
- 26. One of Babe Ruth’s nicknames
- 30. Groups in organic chemistry
- 31. More pleasant-tasting
- 32. Spring forward
- 33. Noted writer
- 34. Building occupied by monks
- 39. “The world’s most famous arena”
- 42. Colorless liquid hydrocarbon
- 44. Long or fast speech
- 46. Things you can eat
- 47. Substance in which magnetic moments are not aligned
- 49. Actor Idris
- 50. I (German)
- 51. Taxes
- 56. Indonesian island
- 57. Nuisance (slang)
- 58. Shawl
- 59. Digits
- 60. Moved on foot quickly
- 61. “For goodness ___”
- 62. Facial body part
- 63. Russian river
- 64. Urinates

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Partner to “oohs”
- 2. Scaly water dweller
- 3. Pueblo people of New Mexico
- 4. Music producer Teo
- 5. Greek mythological goddess
- 6. Got together to discuss
- 7. Acquires
- 8. Involve
- 9. Some are tomato-based
- 10. Old Irish alphabets
- 11. A sheet of glass in a window or door
- 13. Blood poisoning
- 17. A moon of Saturn
- 24. Neither
- 25. Sums
- 26. They follow “A”
- 27. Satisfaction
- 28. People of southeastern Burma
- 29. Small amount
- 35. Guy (slang)
- 36. Sound unit
- 37. Midway between northeast and east
- 38. Affirmative
- 40. Almost at the top
- 41. Extremely slow
- 42. Pearl Jam’s debut album
- 43. Influential mid-century playwright
- 44. Martens
- 45. Approval
- 47. Dallas-adjacent Texas city
- 48. African nation
- 49. Dark brown or black
- 52. A place to get caught
- 53. Large-headed, elongated fish
- 54. Type of sword
- 55. Scottish tax or levy



Cornerstone Bank honored by Newsweek as one of America’s best regional banks

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with locations throughout Central Massachusetts, has been named to Newsweek magazine’s annual list of America’s Best Regional Banks and Credit Unions 2025.

“We are so proud to be recognized in this way,” said Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman. “We strive to be more than just a financial institution; we want to be an actively supportive partner, strengthening our community and neighborhoods.”

Newsweek and Plant-A Insights Group put out the list every year to recognize banks and credit unions positively impacting their communities, and help people identify the most trusted financial institutions. The methodology is based on the bank’s credit quality, as well as profitability, net loans and leases, press coverage and a customer survey of more than 71,000 U.S. citizens, 1.9 million social media reviews and 129 million app store reviews. The list includes the top 500 regional banks and top 500 credit unions.

Cornerstone Bank is committed to uplifting communities throughout Central Massachusetts, regularly donating to charity organizations, contributing to fundraising events and granting scholarships to local students.

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CHURCH LISTINGS

- **Central Baptist Church**
256 Main St., Southbridge, MA 01550
Tel 508/764-6365; Worship 10:00 A.M.
- **Charlton Federated Church**, 64 Main St.,
508-248-5550, Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. Summer
worship is 9:30 a.m.
www.charltonfedchurch.org
- **Charlton Baptist Church**, 50 Hammond Hill
Road, 248-4488, www.charltonbaptist.org, Sunday
worship 10 a.m.
- **Charlton City United Methodist**, 74 Stafford
St. 248-7379, web site: CharltonCityUMC.org
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- **St. Anne St. Patrick Church**, 16 Church St.,
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www.stannestpatparish.com
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and Sat 7:30 am
- **St. Joseph’s Church**, 10 H. Putnam Ext, 248-
7862, www.stjosephscharlton.com, Saturday
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Mass 5 p.m., Weekday Mass Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday, Friday 8:30 a.m.
- **Wayside Church**, 6 Haggerty Road, 248-5144
- **Assemblies of God Southern New England
District Headquarters**, Route 20, 248-
3771, snedag.org, Office hours Monday-Friday
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- **Living Word Church of Charlton**, 10 Main
Street - Grange building 1st Floor, Charlton,
MA 01507, Pastor Craig Bellisario, (508) 233-8349
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www.livingwordcharlton.com
info@livingwordcharlton.com
- **New Life Fellowship A/G, SNED Chapel**,
307 Sturbridge Road, Rt. 20, Charlton, MA,
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- **Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale** -
8 Maple St. Sturbridge, 774-304-1021
www.sturfed.org
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
- **Bethlehem Lutheran Church**- 345 Main
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Web:www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org
Sunday Service 11:00 am
Pastor Dan Purtell

Bay Path Nursing students train on use of Narcan

CHARLTON — Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy students through the collaboration of Donna Pope, LPN, executive assistant to the Academy Director and Captain Daniel Sheehan of the Dudley Fire Department offered training to the PN Class of 2025 who may encounter opioids.

“The collaborative partnership offered training in the use of Narcan to the practical nursing students,” stated Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, Academy Director.

“Our nursing students are aware of the incidents across the state and around the country of healthcare workers who have come into contact with illicit drugs during the course of their duties,” she said.

The Narcan training included information on exposure to opioids, including fentanyl and heroin which usually occurs through ingestion but also can result from absorption through the skin



Courtesy Captain Sheehan with Emily Bamberger of Wales and Johanna Marrero of Southbridge.

and inhalation. If substance abuse disorder exists, the risk of encountering those substances will also exist. The purpose of the program is to equip the community with life-saving naloxone, also known as Narcan. Narcan is safe and reverses the effects of opioid overdoses so that having it on scene is important and provides an extra layer of protection. Narcan saves lives but it can also be the bridge to recovery and treatment. Captain Sheehan emphasized

how seconds matter in such incidents. The Narcan training is a training that everyone can use. Captain Sheehan allowed for hands-on participation from the class of 2025.

Dr. Bolandrina was attending an advisory meeting for the nursing programs at Anna Maria College when the subject of Narcan training was brought up.

“I immediately recognized the value that it presented for our practical nursing students. It is wonderful that Donna was able to coordinate the training with the Dudley Fire Department. We are grateful to have Captain Sheehan,” she said.

Members of the PN Class of 2025 were grateful to have participated in the Narcan training.

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Marlborough Fly Fishing Show offers \$100,000 in door prizes

MARLBOROUGH — Some \$100,000 in door prizes – a show record – will be up for grabs along with the year’s first view of every fly-fishing tool from the newest rods and reels to boots, waders, clothing and accessories at the 2025 Marlborough Fly Fishing Show® this weekend (Jan. 17-19) in the Royal Plaza Trade Center, 181 Boston Post Road West.

Show hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday; 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.,

Saturday; and 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$18 for one day, \$28 for two days and \$38 for three days. Children under age five are free as are Boy and Girl Scouts under age 16 in uniform. Children 6-12 are \$5. Active military with an ID is \$10. Parking is free.

Trade Center exhibitor display booths are filled. There will be 26 classes with Experts, nine free seminars daily along with continuous Destination

Theater presentations, authors, fly tying and fly casting.

The world premiere of the 2025 International Fly Fishing Film Festival is Fri. (1/17) at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door.

Visit <https://flyfishingshow.com/marlborough-ma/> for a full list of door prizes, demonstrations, seminars, films and classes.

Charlton Federated Church offers Faith in Film series

CHARLTON — The Federated Church of Charlton (FCC) is presenting the Faith in Film series where on the third Friday of each month at 6:30 p.m. members of the congregation and the public can view and discuss movies. All are invited to join in the Faith in Film series at no charge. A handout with pertinent and interesting information, key concepts and discussion questions about each film is distributed at each movie night. Refreshments are also served.

The movies explore religion and theology broadly and may include films that explore various denominations and faiths. The films also explore Christianity, and the ethics and morals found in the teachings of Jesus Christ. While some films may showcase historical and Biblical characters and events, others may take a more abstract approach to faith and how people respond to and interact with God and the teachings of Christ.

Whenever possible the series

showcases a variety of genres, tones and periods. Thus, it explores silent films, foreign cinema, classic films, well-known and obscure works all with the aim to entertain, enjoy and enlighten.

The upcoming season of Faith in Film explores the theme of character, beginning on Jan. 17 with the 1967 comedy “The Producers.” In this film, Zero Mostel’s character, Max Bialystock, is a despicable person who along with Gene Wilder as Leopold “Leo” Bloom do despicable things and attempt to honor Adolf Hitler; perhaps the most despicable person in the 20th century, all to hilarious results. Before he created the Broadway musical, Mel Brooks created this Academy Award-winning comedy, which is listed as number 11 on the American Film Institute’s 100 Years...100 Laughs list of the top 100 funny movies in American cinema.

Additional films in the series include “To Kill a Mock-

ingbird” (1962), “Fiddler on the Roof” (1971), “Sergeant York” (1941), and “The Music Man” (1962).

Faith in Film screenings take place in the Fellowship Hall of the Church at 64 Main St. in Charlton. For further information please call the Church at 508-248-5550 or email Pastor Shannan Hudgins at pastorshannan@charltonfedchurch.org.

The Federated Church of Charlton is a federation of the United Church of Christ and the Unitarian Universalist Association in Christian worship together. The Church descends from several churches active in the Charlton community over the centuries starting in 1761. Worship services are held on Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. The church also has an active Sunday School and youth program.

AKC REGISTERED ENGLISH LAB PUPPIES

AKC registered english lab puppies available for their new homes end of January. Male and females. Vet checked, first shots and wormed.

Mom and Dad on site.

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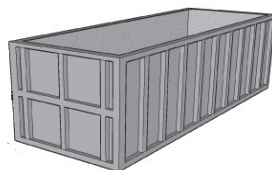
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SOUTHBRIDGE POLICE LOG

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Dec. 30 to Jan. 6.

A 29-year-old male from Southbridge received a summons in lieu of arrest on Dec. 30 for Leaving the Scene of Property Damage and operating a motor vehicle after suspension of license.

A 37-year-old male from Southbridge received a summons in lieu of arrest on Dec. 30 for Wanton Destruction of Property valued at more than \$1,200.

Tyrone James Dudley, age 25, of Southbridge was arrested on Dec. 30 for Violation of an Abuse Prevention Order.

A 60-year-old female from Southbridge received a summons in lieu of arrest on Dec. 30 for operating an unregis-

tered and uninsured motor vehicle.

Edwin G. Marquez, age 46, of Southbridge was arrested on Dec. 30 in connection with a warrant.

Kyle P. Blouin, age 25, of Charlton was arrested on Dec. 31 for a Marked Lines Violation, Operating Under the Influence (liquor), Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, Leaving the Scene of Property Damage, and Possession of an Open Container of Alcohol in a Motor Vehicle.

A 28-year-old male from Southbridge received a summons in lieu of arrest on Dec. 31 for Violation of an Abuse Prevention Order.

A 51-year-old female from Southbridge received a summons in lieu of arrest on Dec. 31 for Operating a motor vehicle after suspension of license and refusing

to identify herself to law enforcement.

A 21-year-old male from Southbridge was taken into protective custody on Dec. 31 for Destruction of Real Property (an apartment door), Resisting Arrest, Disorderly Conduct, Misdemeanor Breaking & Entering into a motor vehicle, Disturbing the Peace, and Domestic Assault & Battery.

A 58-year-old male from Southbridge was taken into protective custody on Jan. 1 for Assault & Battery.

Sasha Isabel Alvarado, age 28, of Southbridge was arrested on Jan. 1 for Disturbing the Peace, Disorderly Conduct, Resisting Arrest, Malicious Damage to a Motor Vehicle, and Assault & Battery. Madelyn Alvarado, age 54, of Vernon Rockville, Conn. was arrested during the same

incident for Disorderly Conduct and Disturbing the Peace.

A 42-year-old male from Dudley was taken into protective custody on Jan. 1 for Disturbing the Peace.

A 62-year-old male from Southbridge was taken into protective custody on Jan. 1.

A 26-year-old male from Southbridge received a summons in lieu of arrest on Jan. 2 for failing to attach a license plate and operating an unregistered motor vehicle.

A 51-year-old male from Southbridge re-

ceived a summons in lieu of arrest on Jan. 2 for a motor vehicle lights violation and operating a motor vehicle after suspension of license.

A 45-year-old female from Southbridge received a summons in lieu of arrest on Jan. 4 for Violation of an Abuse Prevention Order.

A 46-year-old female from Southbridge was taken into protective custody on Jan. 4.

Wilson Jose Mena, age 22, of Providence, R.I. was arrested on Jan. 5 for Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle, a Number Plate Violation,

and multiple counts of drug possession.

Michael Diaz-Torres, age 21, of Worcester was arrested on Jan. 5 in connection with a warrant.

Lily B. Rodriguez, age 44, of Southbridge was arrested on Jan. 5 for Operating Under the Influence (liquor), not being in possession of license, Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, Possession of an Open Container of Alcohol in a Motor Vehicle, Failure to Stop or Yield, and traveling at a rate of speed greater than was reasonable and proper.

Board of Health receives PFAS update to start new year

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — The Charlton Board of Health started off their new year with an update regarding PFAS in the town, specifically around the landfills on Flint Road.

The board's Jan. 7 meeting featured a lengthy discussion of several PFAS-related items with Gary Magnuson of CMG Environmental including surface water sampling near the landfills which are still required by Mass DEP. The results have shown an interesting scenario where the landfills may contribute to PFAS, but there appears to be another contributor as the surface water flowing downhill into the landfills already contains PFAS contamination.

"The most interesting thing we've learned is the most upgradient monitoring point (of both landfills) has the highest concentration of PFAS in the surface water. We collected, I want to say, 14 samples. We looked at how that stream flows, how those wetlands flow. We started at the bottom, and we worked our way backwards and collected PFAS stream samples. The data is not in yet, but we're trying to find out where the PFAS is coming from," said Magnuson, who deemed the results "a little weird."

The data collected may help determine any other potential contamination sources contributing to PFAS issues in the area.

Magnuson said they are also examining properties on Old Town Road near the stream used for their uphill sampling where a sample well may be dug on town property to determine if a nearby Mass DEP disposal site might be contributing to the problem. This would be part of a Phase 2 process for their sampling.

Meanwhile the town is looking at ways to reduce its testing in residential homes, especially as negative tests

are becoming more abundant. Charlton is required to continue tests at the landfill but as tests for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and 1,4-dioxane have yielded more negative results and remediation methods have proven effective in properties with PFAS contamination Magnuson is working with MassDEP to determine if the town can scale back its testing schedule.

"Some of these have already been reduced to semi-annual. We're going to try to get them reduced to annual or completely reduced," said Magnuson. "On the PFAS testing, we've spoken to DEP. Once we get four quarters of non-detect we can put a request in to try to go to semi-annual."

Currently, the town is sampling 74 homes for PFAS, 25 of which are non-detect homes according to Magnuson.

The town has also conducted some downhill testing to determine if delivery networks may be a contributing source for PFAS contamination. While the first test indicated these systems are not a contributing factor, the data was considered inconclusive with at least one more test yet to be conducted to determine consistency in the results.




Charlton Public Library presents Beekeeping for Beginners

CHARLTON — Are you interested in becoming a beekeeper? You can learn how on Thursday, Jan. 30, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in Dexter Hall when Scott Hebert, owner of Charlton Bee Company will present on the basics of beekeeping.


He will discuss the time commitment needed to start this hobby, what equipment is needed and where you can get it, and all the dynamics of the hive throughout the seasons. Come learn all about the honeybee and all of the fascinating things they do as individuals and as a colony. You will leave this presentation armed with the knowledge to start your very own hive. This program is free and open to all. Registration is requested by visiting our event calendar at charltonlibrary.org. This helps us know how many to expect, but feel free to stop in even if you have not registered.


Scott Herbert is the owner of Charlton Bee Company, created in 2019 after several years of being a hobby beekeeper. He owns and manages approximately 85 colonies throughout Central Massachusetts and provides bees and northern bred queens to local beekeepers. Scott earned his Master Beekeeper Certification through Cornell University in 2010. He is an active member of EPIQ, a program at Penn State focused on improving northern queen genetics through selective drone rearing and Instrumental Insemination, as well as a Massachusetts Delegate for the American Beekeeping Federation. In 2022, Scott was named "Beekeeper of the Year" by Worcester County Beekeepers Association. Scott has taught at the Worcester County Beekeepers Association Bee School since 2021.

Charlton Public Library is located at 40 Main St. Additional parking available across Main Street at Town Hall.



Friday's Child





Hi! My name is Bella and love dancing and gymnastics!

Bella is an outgoing, vibrant, young girl. She loves to engage in gymnastics and dance. She takes pride in her dancing and loves to put on shows. Bella likes to engage in social settings such as play dates, gymnastics, and dance classes with her peers that have similar interests. Bella has a great sense of humor and loves to show off her "sassy" side with some hair flips and other age-appropriate actions. Those that know her, say that "she is a joy to be around."


<https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/8578>

Can I Adopt?

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

The process to adopt a child from foster care includes training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you. These steps will help match you with a child or sibling group that your family will fit well with.

To learn more about adoption from foster care visit www.mareinc.org. Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) can give you guidance and information on the adoption process. Reach out today to find out all the ways you can help children and teens in foster



Employment Opportunity
Town of Brimfield
Public Access Television Coordinator, Part-time

The Town of Brimfield is seeking a community-oriented individual to lead a local access television operation that includes a studio, staff assistant and videographers. Public and Government Access channels plus liaison with our Educational Access channel are included in the scope of work. Reporting to the Select Board, this individual will promote an informed and closer community through production and scheduling of cable programming by and for the residents of Brimfield. The Local Access Coordinator is the primary town employee responsible for government and local access channel operations as well as cooperating to provide local educational access programming when possible. The coordinator will be responsible for:

- Working in concert with the Select Board to set and meet local access television goals, plans and budgets.
- Coordinating public, government and educational access productions.
- Scheduling and coordinating staff videographers and the work of an office assistant.
- Coordinate with a clerk/assistant to assure updating of televised announcements.
- Schedule programs.
- Update and revise the Public Access WordPress website at www.brimfield.tv
- Maintaining the studio and video facilities;
- Seeing to proper functioning, repair or upgrading of equipment as needed.
- Encouraging public participation in creating local video productions by training and assisting them to utilize town-owned equipment and facilities.
- Oversee lending of town equipment to the public for such productions;
- Working within and suggest revisions to public access TV policies;
- Assisting in any negotiations or matters of liaison with Cable TV providers, currently Charter/Spectrum.
- Planning future spending and equipment needs.
- Related tasks as specified by the Select Board.

Knowledge and experience with videography, video editing and interest in a public-civic environment are required. Overall communications skills and the ability to accommodate various town departments and the public's need for televised communication are essential. The successful applicant should be or become comfortable working with Castus Cablecasting and TriCaster studio systems. Hours are generally flexible; some evening availability is required.

The position is up to 12 hours weekly at a salary of \$21.65 per hour. Please forward résumé with references and a letter of interest to the Select Board either by email at selectboard@brimfieldma.org, or by mail to the Brimfield Select Board, 23 Main St., Brimfield, MA 01010.

The Town of Brimfield is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate against any applicant because of race, color, religion, sex, marital status, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or any other class protected by federal, state, or local law. Resumes will be accepted until the positions have been filled.

Citations

continued from page 1

tatives as a Republican. John J. Marsi, Jr. is currently serving as a Republican member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives from the 6th Worcester district.

Originally from Isabela, Philippines, Bolandrina had an interesting path that eventually led her to Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy. She attended high school

in Novaliches, Quezon City, and obtained her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree at the University of Santo Tomas (UST) College of Nursing. UST, officially the Pontifical and Royal University of Santo Tomas, is a private, Catholic research university in Manila, Philippines. Founded in 1611, UST has an autonomous status with Centres of Excellence in the fields of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Medical Technology, Biology,

Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, Teacher Education, Philosophy, Psychology, Tourism & Hospitality Management and Music.

She worked at the Philippine General Hospital for a year prior to moving to Boston. The move to the US was prompted by Bolandrina's mother and father who knew she needed a safer environment.

Bolandrina stated, "My father has been an enormous influence in my life. He would tell me,

become a nurse, and go to America. Never forget the Philippines. He always offered great advice, having traveled the world as a journalist."

At 22, Bolandrina was an entry level nurse at St. John of God Hospital in Boston with a specialty in rehabilitation nursing. She became a CRRN (Certified Rehabilitation Registered Nurse) in 1994.

After moving to Boston, Bolandrina became more focused on her nursing career. That fo-

cus led her to nursing education.

Bolandrina stated, "I believe in serendipity as well as God's plan to bring me where I am today. As I have worked to care for patients and influence lives, nursing education changed me for the better. I see myself in many of the nursing students. I can share my experience and nursing journey with the students I mentor. I enjoy seeing them succeed."

Bolandrina obtained her Master of Science

in Nursing education in 2013 at University of Phoenix and her Doctor of Health Administration degree also from University of Phoenix in 2021. She was inducted to the Iota Phi-at-Large Chapter; Chapter of the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau (STTI), the Upsilon Phi Delta Society University of Phoenix-Phoenix Chapter Sigma Alpha Pi, and The National Society of Leadership and Success.

STURBRIDGE

continued from page 1

which included more calls per month than the fire department had all year. Breaking that down, he said they arrested 71 people in September, 59 in October and 50 in November; dealt with 23, 29 and 37 car accidents, respectively; plus a long list of other things. Some of them were at the schools, including an assault on a bus, fight between students, finding drug paraphernalia near Burgess, investigating a threat

to a school (it turned out false), and a missing student who turned out to be with their other parent.

In other town business, the Town Clerk now has election petitions available for those who seek to run for local office in 2025. All candidates need to collect at least 43 valid voter signatures and return them by Feb. 28 at 5 p.m. to qualify. The following three-year seats are open: one each on the Select Board, Assessors, Sturbridge School Committee, Constable, Board of Health, Recreation Committee and the

Town Clerk, plus two seats on the Tantasqua School Committee and Zoning Board, and three Library Trustee seats. Additionally, one-year slots are available on the Library Trustees and Recreation Committee.

Election Day is Monday, April 14, and Town Meeting is April 29.

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

DCRSD

continued from page 1

traditional classrooms, as evidenced by his success in dual-enrollment college courses and virtual biotechnology studies, where he also earned top marks. As a Rensselaer Medalist, recognized for his excellence in math and science, Donovan's intellectual capacity and dedication to learning are undeniable. What truly distinguishes Donovan, however, is not just his stellar academic performance, but his remarkable ability to apply knowledge and lead by example."

Ennis was instrumental in helping revive the Shepherd Hill Regional High School Robotics Club, founded STEMLink which promotes STEM education in his local community, and has been active member of the Dudley-Charlton Leadership Council helping inform Superintendent Lamarche to help promote district-wide initiatives. He has also worked on the state level with Senator Ryan Fattman to promote STEM initiatives and mental health awareness. In December, he was selected by the Acting Com-

missioner and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education as one of the U.S. Presidential Scholar nominees to represent Massachusetts. He plans to continue his education seeking a career in the biomedical field or chemical engineering.

The second honor, the Principal's Award, was presented by Shepherd Hill Principal Darren Elwell to senior Mekhi Blanc for his contributions and success at the high school. Blanc, who transferred to Shepherd Hill as a sophomore in 2022, was praised for his intellectual curiosity, work ethics, and his extracurricular involvement in the district.

"Prior to making my selection for this award, I spoke to several of Mekhi's teachers, all of whom offered high praise for Mekhi's character and contributions," Elwell said, sharing a few excerpts from some of Blanc's teachers.

Elwell later expanding on Mekhi's merits for the award including his embrace of Honors, AP courses, and college credit courses, involvement in show choir, dance, Drama Club, Student Government and Student Council, the Shepherd Hill Cooking Club,

and as a Member of the National Honor Society and the Guidance Advisory Council which Elwell said makes Blanc an "important part of the social fabric of the school."

"Under the best of circumstances this level of student involvement and achievement would be very difficult, and I would be remiss if I didn't mention that Mekhi has also demonstrated incredible perseverance throughout his education journey. Especially noteworthy is the fact that between sixth and tenth grade, Mekhi attended seven different schools. In light of the understandable academic and social challenges that resulted from attending so many different schools, I have an even greater appreciation for the excellence that Mekhi has achieved since arriving at Shepherd Hill," Elwell concluded.

Blanc intends to pursue a degree in chemical engineering and possibly genetic engineering as he hopes to be a part of reversing the effects of climate change and its impact on wildlife.

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

The ties that really matter

You never really think about how much a good friend means until life throws you a curveball or a moment of joy, and you look around for someone to share it with. A true friend isn't just a person who's around when it's convenient; they're the ones who stick with you through life's messier moments, offering support when you need it and calling you out when you need that too. But as the years pass, it's easy to let these relationships fade into the background, overshadowed by work, family, and the endless demands of daily life.

Friendship isn't just a nice thing to have; it's a cornerstone of what makes life meaningful. Studies show that strong relationships can boost mental health, reduce stress, and even help us live longer. But this isn't about science. It's about the people who make you laugh until your ribs hurt, who know your embarrassing stories and love you anyway. These bonds are rare, and they deserve more care than we often give them.

Think about your own life, your moments of celebration, your hardest days. Who was there with you, either physically or in spirit? A good friend is the one who shows up, even when it's inconvenient, and listens without judgment. They're the person you call when you need advice but also when you just need someone to laugh with. That kind of bond doesn't come along every day, and when it does, it deserves to be nurtured.

But here's the thing: friendships don't maintain themselves. Life's busy pace often makes us assume that the people who matter will always be there, even if we don't put in the effort. Days turn into months, and before we know it, the people who once meant everything become distant memories. It's not intentional, it's just what happens when life gets in the way. Yet the cost of losing those connections can be profound, leaving us feeling isolated or unmoored when we need them most.

The good news? It doesn't take much to rebuild or maintain those bonds. A quick phone call, a handwritten note, or even a spontaneous "How are you?" text can remind someone they matter to you. Showing up doesn't always have to mean grand gestures; often, it's the little acts of consistency that count. It's not about having dozens of close friends; one or two truly meaningful relationships are enough to make a world of difference.

As life keeps moving forward, take a moment to think about the friends who've been there through thick and thin. Reach out to the ones you haven't spoken to in a while, even if it feels awkward at first. Friendship, like anything worth having, takes effort, but the rewards are immeasurable. A good friend isn't just someone who walks into your life, they're someone who stays. Make sure you do your part to keep them there.

In the end, life's most valuable currency isn't money or success; it's the people who stand by us through all of it. Good friends remind us of who we are when we forget, and they make even the hardest days a little easier to bear. Don't let the busyness of life rob you of one of its greatest gifts. Stay in touch. Stay connected. Because the best friendships are worth holding onto, no matter how far life pulls you apart.

Letter submission policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author's name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author's name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted.

It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.

OPINION

Reader's Share Favorite Tips and Tricks

It's time again to peek into the email box and snail mail bag for another round of reader tips. From preventing waste to curing a common malady, the following tips and tricks are geared to make everyday life a little easier. Read on for the first Reader Hint column of 2025.

And remember readers, send in your tried and true tips and you too could win a three course Dinner for Two at the Publick House!

This frugal reader's tip is a twofor: It ensures every last drop of detergent is utilized, while self-cleaning the bottle for the recycling bin!

I would like to share a hint: I do not like to waste anything and try to recycle as much as I can so I find it frustrating at how difficult it is to get the last bit of soap/detergent out of bottles.

To solve this, I save the almost empty bottles and use the residual soap to clean outdoor items like the furniture, gardening tools, trash bins etc. I just add water to the container, shake it up and use. It uses up the last of the soap and cleans the container for recycling.

Chris Manyak
Oxford, MA 01540

Did you know old time legend has it that when you hiccup, it means someone is thinking of you, or missing you? According to the lore, once your mind comes up with that person, the hiccups stop!

While you're mentally going through your list of friends and enemies, you might want to try this reader's roster of hiccup cures:

Here are some helpful hints for getting rid of hiccups.

One effective remedy for getting rid of hiccups is to swallow a heaping teaspoon of sugar, dry without water.

Many people cure hiccups by drinking 1 teaspoon of apple cider vinegar, stirred into 1 cup of warm water.

For many people, eating one heaping, spoonful of peanut butter is a definite cure for hiccups.

A little known cure for the hiccups is to quickly swallow, a jigger of lemon juice. The sour taste of lemon may shock the diaphragm's nerves out of spasm.

Donna Lewandowski
Charlton, MA

Cabbage lovers take heed: This reader has discovered a quick and easy way to core even the most stubborn



TAKE
THE
HINT

KAREN
TRAINOR

cabbage:

This is my tip: When you have to core a cabbage to make stuffed rolls or whatever, use an apple corer. The kind that is a cylinder with serrated edges on a wooden handle works

best.

Jackie Celko
Webster, MA

**

A hubby's out-of-the-box method to prevent stale donuts, puts them back in the box!

This tip was mostly my husband's idea. Donuts are usually sold in a box. Unfortunately when you open the box, the remaining donuts get stale.

My husband's idea is to put each donut into a lunch size zip-lock bag then back in the box. They will stay fresher way longer this way.

Sharon Conlon
Whitinsville MA

**

Prize Winner

Congratulations to Chris Manyak of Oxford, MA, whose name was drawn for Dinner for Two at the Publick House. Chris shared the tip above to prevent detergent waste.

**

Win a Three Course 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 (or whenever I receive enough tips for a column) will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renowned 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.

Coral Castle

POSITIVELY
SPEAKING
TOBY MOORE

I've always been a person who loves to travel. Over the years, I've taken dozens of road trips, spanning almost every state. My dad used to take us on road trips in the motorhome, and he would stop for every historical marker, every boulder that seemed out of place, and every national park. If we saw a strange-looking animal, we'd stop to stare. One place I learned about recently that I'd love to visit is the Coral Castle in Florida. The pictures are stunning, but what truly captivates me is the impossibility of how it was built. Spanning over 1,100 square feet, the Coral Castle is made up of massive coral blocks, some weighing up to 30 tons—equivalent to the weight of six elephants. These stones form walls, furniture, and intricate

carvings, all seamlessly aligned. Altogether, the structure contains over 1,000 tons of coral rock—a feat so astonishing that it defies explanation. What makes the Coral Castle even more incredible is that it was built entirely by one man, Edward Leedskalnin. From 1923 to 1951, Edward quarried, transported, and positioned these enormous stones, often working at night to protect his methods from prying eyes. Using only rudimentary tools like pulleys, levers, and wedges, he accomplished what modern engineers with advanced machinery would find daunting.

To this day, experts are baffled by how Edward achieved such precision and scale without heavy equipment. Perhaps what drove Edward to create the Coral Castle is even more remarkable than the structure itself. As the story goes, Edward was set to marry the love of his life, Agnes Scuffs, in his native Latvia. He called her his "Sweet Sixteen" because she was just 16 years old. On the eve of their wedding, however, she broke off the engagement, leaving Edward heartbroken. Consumed by grief, he emigrated to America and began work on what many believe was a monument to his unfulfilled love. Each stone, carved and placed with meticulous care, seemed to carry the weight of his devotion, a tangible expression

Turn To **POSITIVE** page 7

When is a good time for Roth conversion?



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TREVOR
NIELSEN

In life, you often get second chances—and the same is true with investing. To illustrate: You might not have been able to contribute to a Roth IRA during your working years due to your income level, but you may get that opportunity as you near retirement, or even when you are retired—through a Roth conversion.

Why is a Roth IRA desirable for some people? Here are the key benefits:

Tax-free withdrawals— You put in after-tax dollars to a Roth IRA, so you can withdraw your contributions at any time, free of taxes and penalties. And if you've had your account for at least five years and you're at least 59 and a half, you can also withdraw your earnings free of taxes.

No RMDs— With a traditional IRA, you'll have to start taking withdrawals—called required minimum distributions, or RMDs—when you turn 73, or 75 if you were born in 1960 or later. But there's no RMD requirement with a Roth IRA—you can essentially leave the money intact as long as you like.

Tax-free legacy for your heirs— When your heirs inherit your Roth IRA, they can withdraw the contributions without paying taxes or penalties, and if the account has been open at least five years, they can also withdraw earnings tax free.

But even if you were aware of these advantages, you might not have been able to invest in a Roth IRA for much of your life. For one thing, you might have earned too much money—a Roth IRA, unlike a traditional IRA, has income limits. Also, a Roth IRA has only been around since 1998, so, in the previous years, you were limited to a traditional IRA.

As you approach retirement, though, you might start thinking of just how much you'd like to benefit from a Roth IRA. And you can do so by converting your traditional IRA to a Roth. While this sounds simple, there's a major caveat: taxes. You'll be taxed on the amount in pre-tax dollars you contributed to a traditional IRA and then converted to a Roth IRA. (If you have both pre- and after-tax dollars in your traditional IRA, the taxable amount is based on the percentage of pre-tax dollars.)

If you have large amounts in a traditional IRA, the tax bill on conversion can be significant. The key to potentially lowering this tax bill is timing. Generally speaking, the lower your income in a given year, the more favorable it is for you to convert to a Roth IRA. So, for example, if you have already retired, but have not started collecting RMDs, your income may be down.

Timing also comes into play with the financial markets. When the market is going through a decline, and the value of your traditional IRA drops, you could convert the same number of shares of the underlying investments and receive a lower tax bill or convert more shares of these investments for what would have been the same tax bill.

Finally, you could lower your tax bill in any given year by stretching out your Roth IRA conversions over several years, rather than doing it all at once.

You'll want to consult with your tax advisor before embarking on this conversion—but if it's appropriate for your situation, you could find that owning a Roth IRA can benefit you and your family for years to come.

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

Maximize seed starting success with a seed starting chart



GARDEN MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA MYERS

Now is the time when many of us are busy ordering seeds. We often end up with many seeds, some new ones we needed or wanted and perhaps a few duplicates of those we have left from past seasons. It is easy to overlook some of these as the indoor and outdoor planting season begins.

Save money by inventorying your current seed collection, reducing the risk of ordering seeds you don't need. Decide what seeds you want to keep and grow this season and those you want to pass along to or swap with gardening friends. You may choose to make seed art with older or improperly stored seeds and invest in fresh seeds that are sure to germinate.

If in doubt, check the seed viability of older stored seeds with a simple germination test. Wrap ten seeds in a damp paper towel and place them inside a plastic bag. Check the seeds in a week or so to see how many sprout. If all the seeds sprout, follow the planting guidelines on the seed packets. When only half the seeds sprout, you will need to plant the seeds twice as

thick and so on.

Check catalogs and your favorite garden center for any seeds you need to purchase. Place your order early for the best selection.

Once the seeds arrive, look at the back of the packet to determine when to start the seeds indoors or out. Many seed companies now provide this information on their website instead of the seed packet. Check with your local University Extension website for recommended planting dates in your area.

Record the start date on your calendar, garden chart, or spreadsheet to make the process easier. Consider organizing your seeds to make it easier to find and plant them at the proper time. You may want to organize the seeds in alphabetical order or by the month for planting. Design a system that works best for you.

You can create your own seed storage organizer or purchase one. Store the seeds in a cool dark location in an airtight container to help maintain their viability and keep them safe from mice.

Once your seed starting schedule is created and seeds are organized, prepare the space for starting seeds indoors if needed. Make sure your grow lights are in working order and you have sufficient containers, flats, and seed starting mix for planting.



Melinda Myers

Save money on plants by starting seeds indoors with grow lights, containers, and seed starting mix.

Save money by repurposing yogurt, applesauce, and similar food containers into seed starting pots. Just clean and add drainage holes. Look for used cell packs, flats, and small pots that can be used again. Disinfect these by soaking them in a one-part bleach and nine-part water solution for ten minutes then rinse with clear water. Repurposing saves you money and helps reduce plastic waste and the risk of disease that could kill your seedlings.

Taking time to plan and organize now can save you money while

helping you maximize the productivity and beauty of your gardens.

Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, including *Midwest Gardener's Handbook*, *Revised Edition*, and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses* "How to Grow Anything" instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

Retirees may face HELOC challenges

FINANCIAL FOCUS

BY CHRISTOPHER MALLON
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT,
PROGRAM MANAGER
LPL REGISTERED PRINCIPAL, THE
CAPSTONE PLANNING GROUP

As a financial planning firm that specializes in retirement income planning, we often get questions from retirees about how and when to use a Home Equity Line of Credit (also known as a HELOC). While many retirees may understand how a HELOC functions, some retirees could face unexpected challenges when applying for one.

According to research, among U.S. homeowners overall, home equity accounts for nearly 45% of individual net worth¹. As a result, it is not surprising that many Americans may need to tap into this source of wealth at some point in their lives.

A HELOC is essentially a line of credit secured by the equity in your home. It allows you to borrow against the difference between your home's market value and the amount owed on your mortgage. Repayment options are often flexible and can be spread out over time. When used prudently, a HELOC can be a powerful financial planning tool to help manage unexpected expenses.

Would it be prudent to use a HELOC to fund a luxury vacation? Not likely. But if you're facing a critical expense (i.e. home repair, medical issue, etc.) HELOCs can be a valuable last line of defense during a liquidity crunch.

At many banks, there is little to no cost to open this line of credit. In general, you will only incur fees and interest if/when you access funds (or close the HELOC)². And because home values are still near record highs, your total approved line of credit may also be near record highs.

Perhaps you don't "need" a HELOC right now (and perhaps you never will). But is it not "better to have one and not need it -- than need one and not have it"? You don't want to be left scrambling should the need arise.

Pro tip: If you are looking to establish a HELOC, don't wait until you're retired. Once you no longer have regular earned income, it can be harder for banks to approve your request. Even if you have substantial cash, a large investment portfolio, and zero debt, all banks still have income requirements for HELOCs. We have seen retirees with \$1,000,000 of assets get surprised when their HELOC application was initially denied.

Fortunately, if you are retired and want to establish a HELOC, there are steps you can take to help meet eligibility requirements. For example, if you work with a financial planner, they might structure portfolio withdrawals in a manner that would satisfy the regular income requirements.

Because The Capstone Planning Group is conveniently located at Cornerstone Bank, our planners can work closely with lenders to help address these situations.

Remember, everyone's financial circumstances are different and may change over time. Evaluating strategies such as a HELOC is just one aspect of financial planning. A comprehensive financial plan is not just about investment management -- it evaluates a variety of tools to help mitigate potential risks. As always, we recommend working closely with a qualified Financial Planner, Lender, and Tax Advisor to receive personalized retirement guidance.

About The Capstone Planning Group

The Capstone Planning Group is an experienced wealth management team conveniently located at Cornerstone Bank. The team offers comprehensive financial planning, asset management, and insurance. To learn more about the team and schedule a courtesy consultation please visit www.thecapstone.group.

This information is not intended to be a substitute for specific individualized tax, lending, or investment advice.

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POSITIVE

continued from page 6

of the loss he could never overcome. The Coral Castle isn't just a feat of engineering—it's a mystery. I often write about how anything is possible, but have you ever considered that it might be possible for one man to move and position stones weighing 30 tons—all by himself? And not just move them, but do so in the dead of night, shrouded in secrecy? Edward's work remains one of the most astonishing accomplishments in history. Witnesses tell stories that only deepen the intrigue. Flatbed trucks loaded with enormous coral stones would arrive at Edward's property, yet no one ever saw how he got the stones onto the trucks

or offloaded them once they arrived. Drivers would return in the morning to find their cargo unloaded and perfectly positioned, as if by magic. One neighbor claimed to have seen Edward late one night, standing near an enormous stone that seemed to "float" into place. The neighbor described the block as if it defied gravity, though this account has often been dismissed as the product of awe and exaggeration. Another story comes from a truck driver who left a delivery of coral stones overnight. By morning, the stones had been removed and arranged

within the Coral Castle with no visible equipment or assistance. Edward himself only added to the mystery with cryptic statements like, "I understand the secrets of weight and leverage," and, "I've discovered the secrets of the pyramids." These remarks fueled speculation that Edward had tapped into lost knowledge or harnessed forces beyond modern understanding. The Coral Castle features towering monoliths, a perfectly balanced gate that pivots with a finger's touch, and spiral staircases carved from single blocks of coral. Each piece showcases

a level of craftsmanship and ingenuity that seems impossible for one man to achieve. Edward's ability to transform raw coral into this intricate masterpiece leaves us marveling at both the structure and the enduring allure of mystery. Edward Leedskalnin's methods may forever remain a secret, locked away with him, but his creation continues to captivate visitors and defy explanation. So, the next time you laugh when someone says, "Anything is possible," remember the Coral Castle and the man who made the impossible real.



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Quabbin photos tell unexpected stories

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — As Dale Monette has found, photos can tell you lots of interesting things about the past when you don't expect them to.

One Jan. 11 at the library, he showed many such photos of the

drowned towns of the Quabbin Reservoir. The older ones were taken by state engineers between 1928 and 1946 to document the buildings they intended to demolish to make way for the reservoir, while Monette tried to duplicate many of them to show what

things look like now.

In many cases, focusing in on the old ones reveals many details of life at the time, thanks to the fact they were digitized about 15 years ago. (Most of the new ones are nature scenes.)

"I couldn't wait to see it be done because I want-

ed to see what the [photo] quality was," Monette recalled. He admitted he was "pretty amazed" at that. "There's a whole lot of life going on in the valley. Those photographers didn't care; they just set up their signs, took the picture and off they went."

In some cases, Monette knew the people the engineers photographed, kin of them, or later heard from relatives of them.

For example, he showed Nellie Duran of what was then Dana stepping out the door of her home with a son peering out the window. In other cases, he'd focus in on people picnicking, a guy possibly delivering milk, men using a horse cart to hide from the camera, people in windows, and more. Several scenes show kids playing, including multiple shots of the same teens in striped shirts in dif-

ferent places and several in which different kids have their hands crossed above their heads.

Over the years he worked at Quabbin, he showed some of these images publicly and often had people come in to ask about them. At the time, relatives of residents could go there and get day passes to picnic on their former properties.

In one case, he re-

Turn To QUABBIN page 9

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Dale Monette talks with an aerial photo of Quabbin Reservoir behind him.



One of the engineers' photo ID signs shows where the Howard Cotton home and store once was in Dana.



A closeup of one of the Quabbin photos shows Nellie Duran at her Dana home and her son in the window.



Dale Monette and Library Director Karen Wall.

QUABBIN

continued from page 8

called a family seeing one of the photos up on his computer screen "and they freaked out." They didn't know the photo existed, and it included their brother Jacky when he was very young. He gave them a copy, and they returned the next year with Jacky.

Like many long-term projects, this one developed its own urban legends. Most notable was the idea there's a church steeple sticking out of the reservoir. Monette said he'd occasionally get people asking where they could see that, and he'd have to tell them "it's not so. It looked like the moon" when the engineers were done.

(An intern later photoshopped an image to show just that, which Monette stuck to his desk.)

In fact, he said, the

state removed more than 2000 buildings in the four towns of Dana, Enfield, Greenwich and Prescott. About 1100 of them were moved elsewhere, but the rest were demolished on site and burned. The state also moved 7613 graves, most to a large cemetery on Route 9, but some to various other towns; bought 80,440 acres of land at the cost of \$108 an acre; cut tons of trees; and displaced more than 2,000 people. The project was funded by the 1927 Swift River Act's \$65 million, which also ripped up hundreds of miles of roads, bridges and railways, built dams, dikes and the gravity-fed aqueduct that runs to Wachusett Reservoir and Boston.

Monettes said the residents "could take anything they wanted; they could take the house if they wanted to." Some of the photos show fami-

lies moving those homes – one of them by horse. "But whatever was left would be bulldozed into the foundation and burned," he said. "Most people just took their belongings and left."

Some fought the orders, and some held onto resentment against the state for many years thereafter. On the other hand, he said he knew one man who'd moved to Springfield who credited it with give him prosperity. Monette said he went to tech school and the military, becoming a well-paid electrician, when he probably would've just stayed a farmer if he'd stayed in the valley.

In one case, Vermont-er Charlie Wade went to people selling their homes "and he'd make

them a better offer than the state did, but he'd still get them for peanuts." Wade took apart and moved 11 homes to Tunbridge, Vt., where he rebuilt and sold them. Most of them still exist there, although in one case two have been combined.

On the other hand, quite a few of the buildings in the valley succumbed to fire before the state could demolish them. Many were homes, and some were probably accidental, but the most famous was the Enfield Congregational Church, which was torched just before demolition. Another fire claimed what had been the Dana Poor Farm, by then a privately owned farm that raised pheasants for hunters.

Monette had numerous stories of the peo-

ple in his images. Grace Dunn, for example, "had a lot of money and didn't trust banks" so she kept it all in "a very large safe." The safe is still in the foundation of her home. In another case – a photo of a guy with a sheep – he joked there was "a little known law in the Quabbin that no one seemed to know about except one guy. ... You couldn't have animals in what would be the reservoir unless you looked just like them."

A couple were sad. In one case, a couple guys decided to build a \$250,000 golf course just before the state came around to buy the land and "lost their shirt." He later noted "the state claimed it paid fair market value," but that only covered the buildings and land; the residents "weren't compensated

for any business" they were running.

In another, a local blacksmith had gone out of the area for "a mental breakdown." When he returned, he had a fight with his wife and shot them both; he died, but she lived another 25 years, Monette said. He related his own odd tale, too – one day, he was visiting sites along the reservoir when he saw what he thought was a corpse hanging from one of the towers. Binoculars proved it to just be a store mannequin, though.

One story came from one of the men in attendance. He didn't identify himself, but recalled that Mt Elm (now an island) was used for military target practice by both artillery and B-17 bombers, who dropped flour-filled "bombs" that left still-detectable small craters years later.

Today, the reservoir holds 412 billion gallons and serves 2.5 million people. He noted the Swift River Historical Society conducts summer tours of the accessible areas of the four towns occasionally.

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



CCUMC to hold Dynamic Cards, Collectibles and Craft Show Feb. 1

CHARLTON — Charlton City United Methodist Church is excited to host its first, Dynamic Cards, Collectibles, and Craft Show, show of 2025 on Saturday, Feb. 1, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at 74 Stafford St. in Charlton. Each show will be jam-packed with vendors and will also feature lunch, baked goods, and other goodies.

Looking to make your favorite sports fan or collector feel good? Two floors are filled with vendors offering sport cards, trading game cards like Pokémon The Magic and Yu-Gi-Oh, homemade jewelry, body lotions and oils, action and mini-figures, and sports memorabilia. You can't go wrong giving Dynamic Cards, Collectibles & Craft Show a try!

Admission is free, but we are taking door donations for Target ALS, an organization helping research and providing resources for individuals to fight and navigate ALS. Partial proceeds from the event also support local ministries. You win with all the vendors, and the world wins when you come to support the show.

Plus, the more successful the shows, the more likely we are to set up weekly or monthly trading card and game nights, or craft workshops, in between the quarterly shows to build these shows into an ongoing community and family of peace. If that's something you're interested in, come and show your support for such groups by attending the show and chatting with us.

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OBITUARIES

Carol S. Julian, 77

Southbridge: Carol S. (Lapointe) Julian, 77 of Chartier Lane, passed away on Saturday, Jan 11th, in UMass Memorial Hospital-Harrington, Southbridge, after an illness.

She leaves her husband of 58 years, James L. Julian; her two sons, James L. Julian II and his wife Sandra of Leominster and Thomas N. Julian and his wife Melissa of Coventry, RI; four grandchildren, Thomas J. Julian of Coventry, RI, Jake R. Julian of Coventry, RI, James L. Julian III of Leominster and Jack A. Julian of Leominster; a stepsister, Joan Berry of Sturbridge; several nieces, nephews and cousins. Carol was predeceased by a sister, Ann Ceppetelli of Rochester, NH and her stepmother, Louise Hall Lapointe of Sturbridge. She was born in Southbridge on



March 25, 1947, the daughter of the late Nelson A. and Dorothy (Keenan) Lapointe. Carol graduated from Southbridge High School and won typing and shorthand awards. She worked as a legal secretary for 30 years for a local Law office. Carol loved the night life. She enjoyed to boogie, her house, game shows, the ocean, the beach, and trips to Aruba. Carol was an active member of St. John Paul II Parish in Southbridge.

Calling hour for Carol will be held on Friday, Jan. 17th, from 4:00pm to 6:00pm in the Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, with a funeral service to follow in the funeral home at 6:00pm. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Shriners Hospital, 516 Carew St. Springfield, MA 01104.

Marjolaine Slade Currier, 90

POMFRET, CT – Marjolaine Slade (Hewson) Currier, 90, died Sunday, January 12, 2025, at Lanessa Extended Care in Webster. She was predeceased by her husband of 50 years, Walter Andrew Currier Sr. of Pomfret, CT, who died in 2003; and her brother, Glenn Hewson.

She is survived by three children, Marjolaine Townsend of Lakewood Ranch, FL, Walter Andrew Currier Jr. of Norwich, CT, and John Frank Currier of St. Petersburg, FL; five grandchildren, Maggie, Sara, Jennifer, Lisa, and John; and many great-great grandchildren.

She was born in Manchester, CT, daughter of the late Warren and



Marjolaine May (Slade) Hewson, and lived in East Hartford, CT, before moving to Pomfret, CT.

Mrs. Currier worked at Glass Containers Corporation in Dayville, CT, for 38 years prior to retirement. She loved horses and was a member of the L&G Riding Club in Pomfret, CT. Mrs. Currier was also a member of the Civil Air Patrol in East Hartford. She enjoyed knitting, ceramics, and spending time with her family. She will be remembered for her wonderful sense of humor.

Services will be private. Paradis-Givner Funeral Home in Oxford is directing the arrangements.

Pamela J. Outland, 65

Sturbridge - Pamela J. Stewart, 64, of Paradise Lane, passed away on January 3, 2025 in Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston. Pam was a loving and caring mother and grandmother.

She is survived by her daughter, Heather Turner of Virginia; her sons, John D. Outland and Kevin C. Outland, of Sturbridge; her son-in-law and daughters-in-law, Jason Turner, Armanda Outland and Rebekah Outland; grandchildren, Jude, Sophia, Emma, Alex, and Johnny. She is also survived by her three brothers, Thomas, Dean, and Scott; along with her three sisters, Lynn, Gail, and Sandra. She was predeceased by her parents, Thomas and Elaine (Forkins) Stewart, and two sisters, Beth and Clancy.

Pam was born on October 12, 1960 in Cleveland, OH and was a lifelong Cleveland sports fan. Early in her life, Pam's family moved from Ohio to Westborough, MA where they lived briefly. Eventually, her family would settle down in Basking Ridge, NJ where she spent most of her childhood.

Pam was a star athlete and track star. She would be the first to tell you she was one of the fastest girls in her school and could outrun most of the boys. After graduating high school, Pam attended Boca Raton College where she earned her BSBM. Pam enjoyed playing basketball, tennis, and especially skiing. She enjoyed skiing so much that she and her late ex-husband John eloped at Loon Mtn. on a Valentine's Day weekend in Lincoln, NH where they were joined by close friends and family for a long weekend of celebration and skiing.



Music was a big part of Pam's life. Whether it was attending rock concerts or listening to rock 'n roll, she always had music playing in the background and passed that passion for music on to her children and grandchildren. Pam also loved watching her sons and grandchildren play sports. Even in the last years of her life, she was in the freezing, cold hockey rinks to see her grandson, Johnny,

play hockey.

Pam was a very hard-working woman who often held multiple jobs during her working years. She believed in a very strong work ethic and was a fan of tradition. Whether it was having the family over on Christmas Eve with Nat King Cole playing in the background or cooking a pork loin with sauerkraut on New Year's, she always kept family tradition alive through her entire life.

In her later years, Pam loved being in her cozy lake house on Big Alum Lake in Sturbridge and spending time with her "grandbabies". Pam had a great sense of humor and looked forward to every holiday and opportunity to give gifts to friends and family. She was also very charitable and donated regularly to Shriners Children's.

In lieu of a funeral, there will be a memorial to celebrate Pam's life. For details regarding the memorial, please contact her sons John and Kevin.

Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge is directing the arrangements.

www.morrillfuneralhome.com



Ronald R. Welch, 80

Charlton: Ronald R. Welch, 80, of Carpenter Hill Rd., passed away peacefully at his home on Monday, Jan. 6th, after a brief illness.

He leaves his sister, Mary Wojciechowski of Quinebaug, CT. He was predeceased by his three brothers, Michael Welch, John Welch and Joseph Welch and his two sisters, Ellen Brunell and Cynthia Welch. He was born in Southbridge the son of Joseph F. and Stephanie (Czyzewski) Welch. He was a US Army Veteran of the Vietnam War.

Ron worked for over 30 years at Hyde Manufacturing in Southbridge, retiring many years ago. He previously worked at the American Optical Co. in Southbridge. Ron enjoyed playing golf and played in local golf leagues.



He was a good carpenter and loved his gardens and was known to grow the best tomatoes. Ron loved the great outdoors. He loved his family and extended family and his beloved dog, 'Good Girl'.

A funeral Mass for Ron will be held at a later date. There are no calling hours.

The Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, is directing arrangements.

www.morrillfuneralhome.com



Richard R. Lamoureux, 76

Brookfield: Richard R. Lamoureux, 76, of School House Cross Rd., passed away peacefully at his daughter's home on Thursday, Jan. 9th, after a brief illness.

He leaves his son, Steven C. Lamoureux and his wife Kirsten of Brookfield; his two daughters, Robin E. Hauser and her husband Michael of Cornelius, NC and Jill L. Demers and her husband Steven of Charlton; his longtime companion, Cheryl Legere of Tennessee and Cheryl's daughter, Chelsey Pelletier; his four brothers, Leo Lamoureux and his wife Linda of Brookfield, Mark Lamoureux and his wife Sami of Hanahan, SC, Ronald Lamoureux of Florida and Jamie Lamoureux and his wife Michelle of Sturbridge; his sister, Michelle Palmer and her husband Dan of Brimfield; his former wife Elizabeth M. (Del Rossi) Lamoureux of Southbridge; his 5 grandchildren; a great grandchild; and nieces and nephews. He was born in Southbridge the son of Leo Paul and Lorraine D. (Fontaine) Lamoureux. Richard was a US Army Veteran of the Vietnam war.

Richard was the founder of Lamoureux Greenhouses in Brookfield, a business he started in 1978.

In 1978 Dick purchased the property where he started Lamoureux Greenhouses. It all started with one greenhouse and over the next 42 years would grow to 12 greenhouses. He truly loved what he did, growing and nurturing beauty all around us. He spent many years as a volunteer firefighter for the Brookfield fire



department and was also a member of the FD muster team. In 2020 he passed the business on to his son and retired to Sea Level, NC, where he quickly grew his circle of friends he considered family. While in North Carolina he loved spending time at the beach and on the water. From fishing, to boating, kayaking, bird watching and collecting shells, he loved to be outside and in nature. He enjoyed taking

pictures and captured many beautiful sunrises and sunsets from his RV in Atlantic, NC. When he wasn't outside he loved to paint and you could find him painting happy trees with Bob Ross. Other interests included Red Sox games, making wine, and epic trips to Alaska. He also adored his little companions, his Jack Russell Terriers. He had a strong faith in God and loved his church community at Quaboag Valley Baptist Church. If you knew Dick well, you probably have at least one funny saying that reminds you of him because there were a lot of them. So many great memories with family and friends, he lived such a wonderful life and he was happy to be surrounded by so many in his final days. The story is too long to tell, but when you're eating a piece of watermelon think of him.

A funeral service for Dick will be held on Friday, Jan. 17th, at 10:00am in the Quaboag Valley Baptist Church, 175 Fiskdale Rd., Brookfield. Burial will be private. There are no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Quaboag Valley Baptist Church, 175 Fiskdale Rd., Brookfield, MA 01506.

The Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, is directing arrangements.

www.morrillfuneralhome.com

Country Bank announces promotions in Customer Experience and Marketing

REGION — Mary McGovern, President and CEO of Country Bank, is delighted to announce Melissa Mann's promotion to Vice President of Customer Experience and Michael Dias to Product Marketing & Business Insights Officer.

Mann offers a unique blend of skills, including completing New England School for Financial Studies through Massachusetts Bankers in 2019. She is currently working on completing her Project Management Certification through the Project Management Institute which shows her ongoing commitment to professional development and has prepared her well for this role. She will continue to lead and manage the Bank's Sales and Customer Experience programs and strategies, showcasing her dedication and leadership.

Michael Dias has been promoted to Product Marketing & Business Insights Officer. Michael has been a driving force in integrating data analytics into the Bank's marketing strategies. With an MBA in Data Analytics from Western New England University and his recent certification as a Certified Financial Marketing Professional (CFMP) from the American Bankers Association, Michael's strategic mindset and forward-thinking approach have been key in integrating data analytics into the Bank's marketing strategies.

"We are excited to announce the well-deserved promotions of Melissa and Michael," said Miriam Siegel, Chief Culture and Development Officer at Country Bank. "Their hard work, dedication, and contributions have been instrumental to the Bank's success. We take great pride in supporting our team members' commitment to continuous professional and personal growth, empowering them to explore the many rewarding career paths in community banking."

These promotions are a testament to the dedication, innovation, and leadership that drive Country Bank forward. They underscore the significant impact that Melissa and Michael have had on their teams, colleagues, and the Bank, demonstrating their ability to inspire and lead.

WE ❤️ OUR CUSTOMERS

REAL ESTATE

CHARLTON
\$300,000, 175 Old Worcester Rd, Miller Robert J Est, and Jacob, Christine M, to Heritage Country Club Inc.
\$255,000, 193 Nugget Dr, Auger, Nancy A, to Souza, Neide.

HOLLAND
\$185,000, 64 S Cottage Rd, Reith Jr, James A, to Veteran Stan LLC.

SOUTHBRIDGE
\$520,000, 11 Randolph St, Normandin, Jonathan J, and Normandin, Wendy A, to Kane, Tyler, and Hoxhallari, Anjeza.
\$520,000, 9 Randolph St, Normandin, Jonathan J, and Normandin, Wendy A, to Kane, Tyler, and Hoxhallari, Anjeza.
\$485,000, 101 Dennison Hill Rd, Billis, Nicholas S, and Billis, Deborah A, to Dure, Yamileh R, and Corey, Ryder.

\$405,000, 12 Lebanon Hill Rd, Rivera, Manuel, and Ocasio, Tanisha, to Rivera, Abraham.
\$385,000, 41 Morris St, Webb, Kelley, and Webb, Lynn, to Whitman, Judith E.
\$350,000, 79 Fairlawn Ave, Manthorne, Mark, to C & J Fairlawn LLC.
\$250,000, 104 River-view Pl #B, Durocher, John G, and Durocher, Patricia A, to Scully, Alison.

\$185,000, 313 Dennison Dr, Alvarado, Sonia I, to Devon P LLC.
\$50,000, 67 Fairlawn Ave, Manthorne, Mark W, to C & J Fairlawn LLC.

STURBRIDGE
\$490,000, 19 North Dr, Oconnor, Paul J, and Oconnor, Sue M, to Walker, Christopher E.
\$357,000, 60 Goodrich

Rd, Miller, Michael P, and Noyes-Miller, Sheila, to Gibson, Chad D, and Gibson, Michelle D.

Charlton native Jack Albright named to Marquette University Dean's List

MILWAUKEE, Wisc. — Jack Albright of Charlton has been named to the Dean's List for the fall 2024 semester at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Albright is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism.

To make the Dean's List, students must have earned at least 12 credits for the fall 2024 semester and have no disqualifying grades. The GPA threshold varies by college - for the College of Education and the Klingler College of Arts and Sciences, undergraduate students must have at least a 3.7 to be named to the Dean's List.

The undergraduate GPA requirement is 3.5 for the following colleges: the Diederich College of Communication, the College of Business Administration, the College of Health Sciences, the Opus College of Engineering and the College of Nursing. All other programs have a 3.75 GPA minimum.

Marquette University is a Catholic, Jesuit university that draws over 8,000 undergraduate and 3,700 graduate and professional students from nearly all states and more than 60 countries. In addition to its nationally recognized academic programs, Marquette is known for its service learning programs and internships as students are challenged to use what they learn to make a difference in the world. Find out more about Marquette at marquette.edu.

Let the holidays continue!

DUDLEY — The First Congregational Church of Dudley (a.k.a. Dudley Hill Church, 135 Center Rd.) will host a turkey supper on Saturday, Jan. 18. There are two seatings, one at 4:30 p.m. and the other at 6 p.m.

The meal is served family style with a menu which includes turkey, stuffing, mashed potato, turnip, squash, gravy, cranberry sauce, bread & butter, and golden gingerbread with homemade whipped cream. The price is \$18 for ages 13 and up, \$10 for children ages six to 13, and free for those ages five and under. Reservations are recommended, as there is limited seating. make a reservation, please call 508-943-7320 (there will be no callbacks). Leave your name, telephone number, time of seating (4:30 or 6 p.m.), and the number of adults/children you are reserving for.



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ADU

continued from page 1

He said he attended a forum for building officials late last year where the person who wrote the law said that was the goal, using the analogy “Can you stop a church from going anywhere? No. Then you can’t stop an ADU.”

Later, he added, “the theory [that we need more housing] is correct. The way they’re doing it is wrong.”

To him and board members, though, that creates problems, because it doesn’t take into account impact on local infrastructure – water, sewer, roads, schools and services – and, in Mike Loin’s words, “defeats the whole purpose of zoning.”

“[This is] typical bureaucracy,” Loin said. “They wrote the statute and now they interpret what they want it to be, as opposed to what it is.”

They’re both referring to the fact the new law regards ADUs the same way

it regards churches and schools when it comes to zoning. By sliding ADUs into the “Dover Amendment,” they are exempt from the normal planning board public hearing process.

Exactly what that means is up in the air. Loin said he feels its reference to “single family” homes means the town can restrict it to a single-family zone, but he’d be willing to allow single-family homes in other zones to also use it. Tetreault, however, said the forum speakers seemed to want it to mean anywhere “single-family homes are allowed,” which would open ADUs up to virtually any residential building.

Regardless of the legal details, Attorney Mike Colognesi noted, “I don’t know how financially feasible it’s going to be” for homeowners to do this for a couple reasons. One is the fact many single-family homes would have to extend their water and sewer, since the bylaw requires tie-ins wherever

the services are available within a certain distance of the property line.

Tetreault also noted that adding an ADU to a three-family would trigger the building code’s sprinkler requirements; those cost about \$15,000. The state fire marshal is trying to require all ADUs to be sprinklered anyway out of concern for restricted emergency access, and the building code wants them in all single-family homes, he added later.

Additionally, Tetreault said the law’s size maximum – 900 square feet with up to three bedrooms and a basement – would cost around \$300,000 to build as a stand alone structure. (The law allows that behind or beside, but not in front, of existing homes, in barns, garages, and the like. Many ADUs, however, are suites within existing homes; that’s still allowed, but it can also be expensive to meet building code.)

Combined, they generally agreed that such

ADUs will not in fact be “starter homes,” despite the law’s intent. (Chair Dave Payeur, participating remotely, said New Hampshire has had a similar ADU law, but it hasn’t been used very often.) They’ll also be an enforcement problem, they argued.

Tetreault said the town has a hard time now preventing owners from using such ADUs as “short-term rentals” (which violate the town’s bylaws), and expects to see many more of them if this becomes common. Likewise, the law includes “tiny houses” under its definition of ADUs; with those often being built on trailers, they are not currently regulated by the building code, he said.

Attorney Mike Colognesi said he thinks the town should write its bylaw “to comply with the statute” as it’s written, and let someone sue over it if they want to. Tetreault, however, noted the statute includes a clause requiring towns to

put up \$250,000 bonds for each “frivolous” lawsuit their bylaws spark.

For that reason and others, Colognesi later noted he expects one of the wealthier town to be the first one to sue over the law.

To make this issue more confusing, Tetreault said the law also states that “combined” lots will be treated as if they were “unjoined” in determining how many ADUs they can hold, and such a determination may require researching property deeds back decades. It also allows lots that were usable before zoning to be treated as “buildable,” even if they’re now too small. All such lots would allowed one ADU by right.

Loin said Southbridge zoning began in 1941, but many of the existing plans are older than that.

The board and Tetreault also had some discussion of another new aspect of the “Dover amendment” – the fact that battery storage facilities are now covered by

it, too. The town has one now (off Tillyer Ave.), but Tetreault said he’s gotten two expressions of interest recently. To several participants, such facilities are a danger because lithium fires cannot be extinguished by normal means. Because lithium reacts with water to liberate oxygen, they can burn underwater (as some electric vehicle drivers in hurricanes have learned); they can only be isolated and allowed to burn themselves out.

Tetreault said he’ll provide the text of the law and video of the recent forum, and the board can take the law apart at its next meeting. He said he wants the Building Department and Planning Board to be on the same page when it goes before the Town Council with a new bylaw “so we can come up with something that’s logical and we’re not going to get ... sued every other week.”

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

LEGALS

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO24P4227EA
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**
Estate Of:
**Michael J. Morrill
Also Known As:
Michael John Morrill
Date of Death: 06/27/2024**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of :
Petitioner **Mary Ellen F. Blake of Southbridge MA**
Mary Ellen F. Blake of Southbridge MA
has been informally appointed as Personal Representative of said estate to serve **without** Surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

January 16, 2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO23P2829EA
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**
Estate Of:
**Robert William Arthur
Date of Death: March 9, 2023**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of :
Petitioner **James A. Arthur of Sturbridge MA**
James A. Arthur of Sturbridge MA
has been informally appointed as Personal Representative of said estate to serve **without** Surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal

procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
January 16, 2024

**CHARLTON CONSERVATION
COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on January 22, 2025, at 7PM on the application of Old Growth Properties, LLC.

The applicant has submitted a Request for Determination of Applicability to confirm whether the area within the property below is subject to the jurisdiction of the Wetlands Protection Act. Address: 0 Old Worcester Road Extension, Charlton, MA, 01507. Parcel ID 40 A1.1
Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Charlton Conservation Commission will be conducted in person and via remote means. Members of the public who wish to participate can access the meeting remotely by request. Copies of the RDA may be examined at the Conservation Office by appointment during business hours.

Thomas O’Malley
Chair, Charlton Conservation
Commission
January 16, 2025

**COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Department
WORCESTER, Division
Docket No. 23D1554DR
Summons By Publication,
Certified Mail and Text Message**
Melissa M. Greeson Plaintiff
V.

Matthew DW. Greeson Defendant
To the above-named Defendant:
Matthew DW. Greeson
A Complaint has been presented to this Court by the Plaintiff, seeking the Complaint for Contempt
You are required to serve upon Melissa M. Greeson, Plaintiff, whose address is 79 1/2 E. Main Street, Apt. 2 Massachusetts your answer on or before February 24, 2025, and appear for said hearing in this date. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer in the office of the Register of this Court at WORCESTER.
Witness, Leilah A. Kearny, Esquire, First Justice of said Court at Worcester, this 27th day of December 2024
January 16, 2025

**TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE
PUBLIC NOTICE
FLOOR COATING WTP**

The Town of Southbridge invites qualified contractors to submit sealed bids for Floor Coating of the Water Treatment Plant. Sealed bids will be received by the Town of Southbridge Town Hall, 41 Elm Street, Southbridge, Massachusetts until 10:00 AM on Wednesday February 12, 2025, for Floor Coating WTP and at that time opened and publicly read. Bid documents are available on the Town Website.
Bidding is per MGL Chapter 30 s39M.

Prevailing wage rates per MGL c149 s26 to 27D inclusive issued by Dept. of Labor Standards.

A walk-through of plant will be held beginning at the Water Treatment Plant, 511 Breakneck Road, Southbridge, MA 01550 on Wednesday January 29, at 10:00 AM. A representative of the Town will be available to address questions.

Envelopes must be clearly marked “Bid – Floor Coating WTP”. A 5% bid deposit shall be included with sealed bids. The successful Bidder will be required to provide a 50% payment bond.

The Town shall award a contract to the lowest responsible and eligible bidder. The Town reserves the right to reject any or all bids if in the public interest to do so, and to waive any informalities in the bids. Late bids will not be accepted.

Town of Southbridge
Jack Jovan
Town Manager
January 16, 2025
January 23, 2025

**MORTGAGEE’S SALE OF
REAL ESTATE**

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Joseph M. Sena and Rebecca J. Racine to First Franklin A Division of Nat. City Bank of IN dated September 23, 2005 and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 37385, Page 365, as assigned by Assignment of Mortgage dated November 7, 2005; recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, Book 37850, Page 87, and by Assignment dated June 1, 2008; recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, Book 43128, Page 139, and by Assignment dated August 18, 2017; recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, Book 57770, Page 79, and by Corrective Assignment dated October 6, 2017; recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, Book 57875, Page 375, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction at 12:00 PM, on February 6, 2025**, on the premises known as **345 New Boston Road, Sturbridge, Massachusetts**, the premises described in said mortgage, together with all the rights, easements, and appurtenances thereto, to wit: The land with the buildings thereon, situated on New Boston Road, Sturbridge, Worcester County, Massachusetts as “Lot 101 on a Plan entitled “Plan of Lots in Sturbridge, Massachusetts surveyed for Frederick E. LaVergne and Gail P. LaVergne dated March 3, 2004, and recorded in the Worcester Registry of deeds in Plan Book 807, Plan 98, more particularly bounded and described as follows:
Lot #101
Beginning at an iron pin in a corner of walls at the southeast corner of tract herein described on the northerly side of New Boston Road at the southwest corner of land, now or formerly of Susan J. Hawkins;
Thence South 47 degrees 42’ 51” along a stone wall on the northerly side of said New Boston Road a distance

of 150.00 feet to a re-rod in said stone wall;

Thence North 57 degrees 08’ 26” West along Lot 102 a distance of 32.52 feet to re-rod;

Thence North 44 degrees 29; 27” West along said Lot 102 a distance of 359.86 feet to a re-rod at Lot 345R;

Thence North 23 degrees 16’ 06” East, along 345 R a distance of 60.63 feet to a re-rod at said Hawkins land;

Thence South 57 degrees 59’ 18” East along said Hawkins land a distance of 432.25 feet to the point of beginning. The above described lot 101 contains 1.0000 acres.

This conveyance is subject to and with the benefit of easements, restrictions, rights of way and other matters of record insofar as now in force and applicable.

*Due to typographical error, the Lot was inadvertently referred as being Lot 103 in one line of the description attached to the mortgage.

Terms of Sale: These premises are being sold subject to any and all unpaid real estate taxes, water rates, municipal charges and assessments, condominium charges, expenses, costs, and assessments, if applicable, federal tax liens, partition wall rights, statutes, regulations, zoning, subdivision control, or other municipal ordinances or bylaws respecting land use, configuration, building or approval, or bylaws, statutes or ordinances regarding the presence of lead paint, asbestos or other toxic substances, sanitary codes, housing codes, tenancy, and , to the extent that they are recorded prior to the above mortgage, any easements, rights of way, restrictions, confirmation or other matters of record.

Purchaser shall also bear all state and county deeds excise tax. The deposit of \$10,000.00 is to be paid in cash or bank or certified check at the time and place of the sale, with the balance of the purchase price to be paid by bank or certified check within forty-five (45) days after the date of the sale, to be deposited in escrow with Guaetta and Benson, LLC, at 73 Princeton Street, Suite 208, North Chelmsford, Massachusetts.

In the event that the successful bidder at the foreclosure sale shall default in purchasing the within described property according to the terms of this Notice of Sale and/or the terms of the Memorandum of Sale executed at the time of the foreclosure, the Mortgagee reserves the right to sell the property by foreclosure deed to the second highest bidder or, thereafter, to the next highest bidders, providing that said bidder shall deposit with said attorney, the amount of the required deposit as set forth herein within five (5) business days after written notice of the default of the previous highest bidder.

Other terms, if any, are to be announced at the sale.

Dated: January 9th, 2025
Present holder of said mortgage, Wilmington Trust, National Association, as Successor Trustee to Citibank, N.A., as Trustee for First Franklin Mortgage Loan Trust, Mortgage Loan Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2005-FF12 by its Attorneys, Guaetta and Benson, LLC, Peter V. Guaetta, Esquire, P.O. Box 519, Chelmsford, MA 01824
January 16, 2025
January 23, 2025
January 30, 2025

WPI students complete intensive research projects

WORCESTER — A total of 356 undergraduate students at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) completed research-driven, professional-level projects that apply science and technology to address an important so-

cial need or issue.

Known as the Interactive Qualifying Project (IQP), this project is a core part of the innovative undergraduate experience at WPI. Centered around project-based learning,

this hands-on approach offers students opportunities to help develop thoughtful solutions to open-ended problems. These real-world problems affect the quality of life for people in the communities where students

work, giving students a chance to make a difference in the world before they graduate. About two-thirds of WPI students complete their IQPs at one of the university's 50+ off-campus project centers located in more than 30 countries around the world.

"The WPI project-based curriculum's focus on global studies brings students out of the classroom and their comfort zones and into the global community to apply their knowledge and to solve problems," said Professor Kent Rissmiller, professor of International & Global Studies and associate dean of The Global School. "Students are immersed in all aspects of a different culture-from the way people live and work to the values they hold to the foods they eat, all valuable perspectives for surviving and thriving in today's global marketplace. They also learn the meaning and magic of teamwork; make a real and meaningful difference in their host community; and gain a competitive edge for any resume, or graduate or professional school application."

The following students were part of a team that completed an intensive project:

Joseph Dumas from Charlton, class of 2026, majoring in Architectural Engineering, completed a project titled EDEN Center IQP: Eco-Anxiety among Youth in Albania.

Thomas Benoit from Southbridge, class of 2026, majoring in Electrical and Computer Engineering, completed a project titled Evaluating Nordural's School of Heavy Industry.

Joshua Martin from Southbridge, class of 2026, majoring in Civil Engineering, completed a project titled Evaluating UNOPS's Restoration of Albanian Cultural Heritage.

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute

WPI is a top-tier STEM-focused research university and a recognized pioneer and global leader in project-based learning. Founded in 1865 on the principle that students learn most effectively by applying the theory learned in the classroom to the practice of solving real-world problems, WPI's continued mission is to transform lives, turn knowledge into action to confront global challenges, and revolutionize STEM through distinctive and inclusive education, projects, and research. WPI's project-based curriculum engages undergraduates in solving important scientific, technological, and societal problems throughout their education and at more than 50 project centers around the world. Today WPI offers more than 70 bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs across 18 academic departments in science, engineering, technology, business, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts. To help address ongoing challenges, improve lives, and help create a more sustainable world, WPI faculty and students pursue groundbreaking research in such areas as the life sciences, smart technologies, materials and manufacturing, and global initiatives.

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Nine Day Novena to the Infant of Prague
O Infant Jesus, I run to You, begging You through Your Holy Mother to save me in this need (You may name it here), for I truly and firmly believe that Your Divinity can defend me. Full of trust I hope in You to obtain Your holy grace. I love You with all my heart, I am painfully sorry for my sins and on my knees I beg You, O Little Jesus, to free me from them. My resolution is to improve and never more to offend You. Therefore, I offer myself to You, ready to suffer everything for You and to serve You faithfully. I will love my neighbour as myself from my heart for the love of You. O Little Jesus, I adore You, O Mighty Child, I implore You, save me in this need (You can mention it here), that I may enjoy You eternally, see You with Mary and Joseph and adore You with all the angels.
Amen. **N.F.L.**

A Prayer to the Blessed Virgin
Oh most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of heaven. Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh star of the sea, help me show herein, you are my Mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of heaven and earth! I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity and restore my relationship with John to its full and complete love. Lead him away from another woman and me from anger and distrust. There are none that can withstand your power, Oh show me herein that you are my Mother. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee. Holy Mother, I place this course in your hands. (Say this portion of the prayer three times) Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all the roads so that I can attain my Goal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me, in all instances in my life, You are with me. I want, in this short prayer, to thank You for things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy towards me And mine. The person must say this prayer on 3 consecutive days After 3 days the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the prayer if granted.
N.F.L.

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THANKSGIVING NOVENA TO ST. JUDE
O Holy Saint Jude, Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles, near kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need, to you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given so great to come to my assistance. Help me in my present and urgent petition. In return I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. Say three Our Fathers, three Hail Mary's and Glorias. Publication must be promised. St. Jude pray for us and all who invoke your aid. Amen.
This Novena has never been known to fail. This Novena must be said for nine consecutive days.
N.F.L.

PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil (intention), Amen
If you pray three times a day, three consecutive days, you will receive your intention, no matter how impossible it may seem. Praise and Thanksgiving please the Heart of God.
BELIEVER. N.F.L.

Local residents named to UConn Dean's List

STORRS, Conn. — The University of Connecticut congratulates the following students who were named to the Dean's List for the fall semester of 2024:
Chloe Graves, Adeline Smith, and Akshat Viswanath of Charlton
Kathleen Cropley and Samuel Panek of Sturbridge

Owen O'Brien of Fiskdale named to Lasell University Dean's List

NEWTON — Owen O'Brien, a Lasell University student from Fiskdale, was named to the Dean's List for their academic performance in the Fall 2024 semester.
To be named to the Dean's List, Lasell students must complete at least 12 credits as a full-time student and achieve a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher.
For more information contact: Ian Meropol, Chief Communications Officer, at 617-243-2150, or imeropol@lasell.edu.





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WEBSTER - 10 GODDARD STREET



SORRY, SOLD!

This two family is centrally located, convenient access to major routes. Owner occupied with a first floor tenant lease. Roof replaced two years ago, basement windows are new and several new windows throughout the home. Rents are currently below market.
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On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

WATERFRONT
Webster Lake - 237 Thompson Rd.

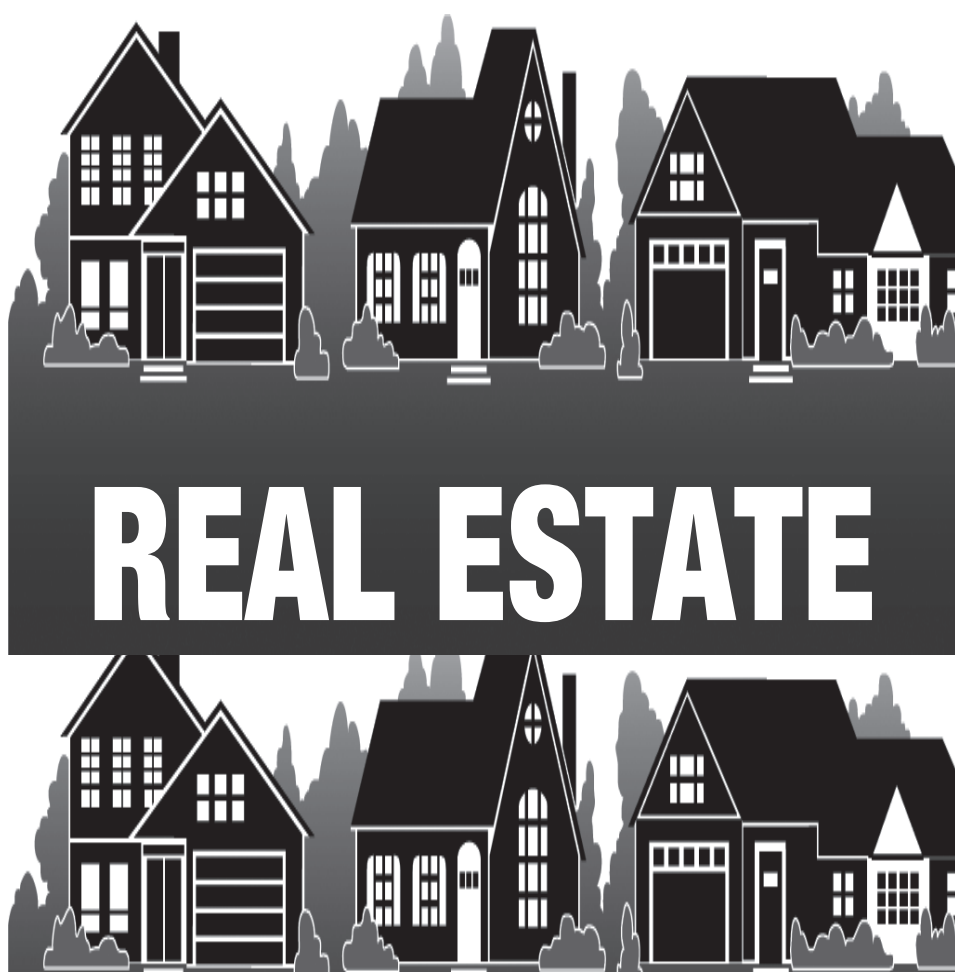
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Charlton Federated Church offers Faith in Film series

CHARLTON — The Federated Church of Charlton (FCC) is presenting the Faith in Film series where on the third Friday of each month at 6:30 p.m. members of the congregation and the public can view and discuss movies. All are invited to join in the Faith in Film series at no charge. A handout with pertinent and interesting information, key concepts and discussion questions about each film is distributed at each movie night. Refreshments are also served.

The movies explore religion and theology broadly and may include films that explore various denominations and faiths. The films also explore Christianity, and the ethics and morals found in the teachings of Jesus Christ. While some films may showcase historical and Biblical characters and events, others may take a more abstract approach to faith and how people respond to and interact with God and the teachings of Christ.

Whenever possible the series showcases a variety of genres, tones and periods. Thus, it explores silent films, foreign cinema, classic films, well-known and obscure works all with the aim to entertain, enjoy and enlighten.

The upcoming season of Faith in Film explores the theme of character, beginning on Jan. 17 with the 1967 comedy "The Producers." In this film, Zero Mostel's character, Max Bialystock, is a despicable person who along with Gene Wilder as Leopold "Leo" Bloom do despicable things and attempt to honor Adolf Hitler, perhaps the most despicable person in the 20th century, all to hilarious results. Before he created the Broadway musical, Mel Brooks created this Academy Award-winning comedy, which is listed as number 11 on the American Film Institute's 100 Years...100 Laughs list of the top 100 funny movies in American cinema.

Additional films in the series include "To Kill a Mockingbird" (1962), "Fiddler on the Roof" (1971), "Sergeant York" (1941), and "The Music Man" (1962).

Faith in Film screenings take place in the Fellowship Hall of the Church at 64 Main St. in Charlton. For further information please call the Church at 508-248-5550 or email Pastor Shannan Hudgins at pastorshannan@charltonfedchurch.org.

The Federated Church of Charlton is a federation of the United Church of Christ and the Unitarian Universalist Association in Christian worship together. The Church descends from several churches active in the Charlton community over the centuries starting in 1761. Worship services are held on Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. The church also has an active Sunday School and youth program.

Old Home Day Committee seeks additional funding

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — Charlton's Old Home Day Committee is hoping to procure increased financial backing from the town as costs of the annual celebration have increased to well beyond their annual budget.

Mike Lally, a representative of the Old Home Day Committee, appeared before the Finance and Appropriations Advisory Committee in December to begin the process of seeking additional monies in the town budget to support

the event. He explained that the costs have skyrocketed and while sponsorships and donations help offset the price tag the committee would like to see a more secure foundation from town funding to make sure the event can continue uninterrupted.

"This past year the total cost to get the bands and whatever else is required, the tents and all of that, came to about \$25,000. We start with a budget of about \$5,500. I would like to see that up to \$25,000 if possible because if we had a base

operation, it would take away a lot of pressure," said Lally.

Old Home Day is held every Labor Day weekend and has been a tradition in Charlton since 1897. The event brings numerous stakeholders and organizations to the town common to celebrate everything that makes Charlton unique and great. The celebration includes a road race, fireworks, and awards for standout citizens and businesses throughout the weekend. Lally said the fireworks alone can cost around \$10,000.

The request is one of the first for Charlton's budget season and must now go the Town Administrator and Finance Director for further consideration. The funding would need to be appropriated through the recreation budget. It's likely that Lally and other members of the committee will need to appear again before town officials to further justify the increase during the actual budget process. Charlton is expected to start official budget talks in February.

Carla Rodriguez named to Husson University President's List

BANGOR, Maine — Congratulations to Carla Rodriguez of Southbridge, who has been named to Husson University's President's List for the Spring 2024 semester of the 2023-2024 academic year.

Rodriguez is studying toward a degree in BS Pre-Medicine - Psychology at Husson.

Full-time students who earn President's List, Dean's List and Honors List recognition must be enrolled as an undergraduate, carry a full-time load of 12 credit hours over the course of 21 weeks, complete all attempted courses in the time allotted, and achieve a designated semester grade-point average. Credits from pass/fail classes do not qualify toward meeting the minimum credit hour requirement.

President's List: 3.80 to 4.0 semester grade-point average

Dean's List: 3.60 to 3.79 semester grade-point average

Honor's List: 3.40 to 3.59 semester grade-point average

For 125 years, Husson University has prepared future leaders to handle the challenges of tomorrow through innovative undergraduate and graduate degrees. With a commitment to delivering affordable classroom, online and experiential learning opportunities, Husson University has offered quality educational programs in business; health and education; pharmacy studies; science and humanities; and communication. For more information about educational opportunities that can lead to personal and professional success, visit Husson.edu.

Jess Ertsgard named to President's List at Miami University

OXFORD, Ohio — Jess Ertsgard from Sturbridge was named to the Miami University fall 2024 President's list.

Miami University students ranked in the top three percent of undergraduate students within each division for the fall 2024 semester have been named to the President's list recognizing academic excellence.

Nationally recognized as one of the most outstanding undergraduate institutions, Miami University is a public university located in Oxford, Ohio. With a student body of over 22,600 undergraduate and 2,200 graduate students, Miami effectively combines a wide range of strong academic programs with faculty who love to teach and the personal attention ordinarily found only at much smaller institutions.

Established in 1809, Miami University is consistently ranked among the top 50 national public universities by the U.S. News & World Report for providing students with an Ivy League-quality education at a public school price. Located in quintessential college town Oxford, Ohio-with regional campuses in Hamilton and Middletown, a learning center in West Chester, and a European study center in Luxembourg-Miami serves more than 22,600 undergraduates across more than 100 areas of study, and more than 2,200 graduate students through 78 master's and doctoral degree programs. At this comprehensive research university, students engage and conduct research with premiere teacher-scholars. Miami adds \$2.3 billion each year to Ohio's economy through innovative partnerships and job creation. Miami is an NCAA Division I school, serving more than 500 student-athletes across 19 varsity sports. For more information, visit MiamiOH.edu.

Madison Griffin named to Husson University Dean's List

BANGOR, Maine — Congratulations to Madison Griffin of Brimfield, who has been named to Husson University's Dean's List for the Spring 2024 semester of the 2023-2024 academic year.

Griffin is studying toward a degree in BS Nursing at Husson. Full-time students who earn President's List, Dean's List and Honors List recognition must be enrolled as an undergraduate, carry a full-time load of 12 credit hours over the course of 21 weeks, complete all attempted courses in the time allotted, and achieve a designated semester grade-point average. Credits from pass/fail classes do not qualify toward meeting the minimum credit hour requirement.

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