

Charlton Villager

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Thursday-Friday, November 7-8, 2024

Gathering celebrates Puerto Rican heritage

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE — About 30 people from across the region gathered on the Common last Saturday evening to celebrate Puerto Rico with poetry, flags and music.

Organized by Councilor Jasmin Rivas and School Committee members Carla Davila and Brittany Davison, the event was aimed at showing unity in the face of what Rivas described as “racist and hateful rhetoric” coming out of the recent election campaign.

“Our island isn’t trash. It is the home of our ancestors,” she said. “... Puerto Ricans are the future of Southbridge. We’re a permanent part of this Honest Town.”

She noted South-



Gus Steeves

Event organizers Brittany Davison, Carla de la Cruz Davila and Jasmin Rivas introduce things in front of a huge Puerto Rican flag. A fourth organizer, Jasmine Quinones, couldn't attend.

bridge’s population is (at least) 30 percent Latino, and a majority of the students are, and urged people to celebrate the community’s accomplishments, help each other, and support other marginalized groups, among other things. In both English and Spanish, she started chants of “Puerto Rico se respeta” and “Yo soy Boricua.” (The latter is a reference to the Taino name for the island, which many Puerto Ricans prefer over the Spanish colonial name.)

The island has been an American colony since 1898, when the US took it from Spain. It has a non-voting member in Congress, just like D.C., American Samoa and a few other places. It’s also

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Schools looking at \$225 million in construction needs

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE — According to the recent facility needs analysis, Southbridge schools need a total of around \$225 million in repairs and reconstruction over the next 14 years.

That figure includes one of three proposed options for reorganizing the elementary school system, which some participants thought might actually reduce longer-term repair costs. One would have all students stay where they are and renovate each building. Option two would consolidate everything under grade 5 into one site and use Eastford for the Academy and administration, selling the rest. Option three would consolidate grades 2-5, probably at Charlton, move the younger kids to West, and have administration and Academy at Eastford, selling

Cole Ave.

Presenters Jeff Shaw and Mina Abdelmasih of Context Architecture and Kristen Hill of Vaysen Studio noted they actually looked at seven total options. But they generally agreed that those three were the best, describing option 2 as the “most efficient” in that it reduces bus routes, staff needs, program duplication, and various other things. But they termed option 3 “the most feasible option.”

Later, however, Shaw noted the team “didn’t want to put our preferences in place of others.”

Whichever option the town selects – or some variant it devises itself – they noted the buildings will need significant repairs even to fit state standards for education needs, and some options will need por-

Turn To **SCHOOLS** page 14

Sturbridge officials update fiscal policy

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

STURBRIDGE — The Select Board approved revisions to its standard fiscal policy in various areas Oct 21 after hearing it explained by Finance Director Barbara Barry.

One of the more detailed changes came to how the town handles capital. Barry said she wanted to “fine-tune” and “streamline” it by increasing the value of what’s considered a “capital” item to \$15,000 from \$5,000; she noted she’d considered making it \$25,000. But there will still be flexibility for items “that are not capital under the policy, but have a longer life [and are] not just disposable.”

As an example of that, she pointed to a project that recently replaced fire alarms in several buildings; technically, each was a separate project that cost less than \$15,000, but collectively they exceeded that and will last years.

State law requires getting three quotes for any expenses of \$10,000 to \$50,000, and formal bids above that, with some exceptions.

Town Administrator Robin Grimm said codifying such things has been necessary, particularly defining it so that “we’re not using it for what should be operating funds.”

Barry also changed the reserve policy, increasing the minimum amount of free cash and stabilization the town should hold on to annually from 10-12 percent to 10-15 percent, plus 35 percent in the water and sewer reserves. Those jumped to \$750,000 and \$1 million, respectively. Additionally, she hiked the Other Post-Employment Benefits contribution minimum from \$50,000 to \$100,000, which is what Sturbridge has used for a few years now.

Another area of policy being rephrased to reflect current practice involved the fact Sturbridge includes statements of how borrowing will affect the tax rate. She also said she more clearly defined “what debt is and how decisions are made ... to borrow money long term.”

Mary Dowling praised Barry for “an excellent job of making it a lot easier to understand.” But she queried whether the reserve changes would violate state law, which states “the cumulative reserve balances cannot exceed 5 percent of the prior year’s tax levy.” She wasn’t able to specifically cite where in the law that came from.

Barry said she didn’t think Sturbridge would exceed that, but promised to look up the law. She also noted the state and the Government Finance Officers Association have two different standards for this issue. The state sets it as 5-7.5 percent of the annual budget, but GFOA calls for “two months of operations.” For Sturbridge, the latter would be about \$3.6 million, while the former would be \$2.1-3.2 million.

Grimm said her “litmus number” is the two month standard.

Barry noted this year’s free cash was \$6 million, and the town used about \$2 million of it for various

Turn To **STURBRIDGE** page 14

Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy offers free blood pressure testing

CHARLTON — Michelle Drumm, C.D.P., Council on Aging Director, Town of Charlton recently welcomed the Practical Nursing student volunteers from the Practical Nursing Class of 2025. Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is again offering free blood pressure assessing every last Wednesday of the month, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Charlton Senior Center, 37 Main St.

“It is wonderful for our Practical Nursing student volunteers to be welcomed back at the Charlton Senior Center under Michelle’s leadership! Hypertension is one of the most prevalent chronic conditions in the US,” stated Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, Academy Director, Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy.

“It is important for people to know their Blood Pressure numbers because there may not be symptoms that alert you to a potential problem,” said Bolandrina.

According to the American Heart Association, one in three adults has high blood pressure.



Sarsfield and Desrosiers at the Charlton Senior Center.

Courtesy

By offering free blood pressure testing, the hope is that the interaction with Practical Nurs-

ing student volunteers encourage more people to manage their overall health by making blood

pressure monitoring a part of it. American Heart Association sta-

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SOUTHBRIDGE POLICE LOG

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Oct. 28 to Nov. 4.

Ralph J. Besaw, Jr., age 56, of Southbridge was arrested on Oct. 28 in con-

nection with a warrant for Violation of an Abuse Prevention Order.

Jomar Alexander Miranda Morales, age 19, of Southbridge was arrested on Oct. 28 in connection with a warrant for Nighttime Breaking & Entering.

Joshua R. Cable, age 40, of Southbridge was arrested on Oct. 28 for Distribution of a Class B Drug and Conspiracy to Violate Drug Law. William J. Nazario-Colon, age 34, of Worcester was arrested during the same incident for Trafficking in more than 18 but less than 36 grams of Cocaine, Possession of a Class A and Class B Drug with Intent to Distribute, Possession of a Firearm with a Defaced Serial Number, Possession of a Large Capacity Feeding Device, Possession of Ammunition with a Federal ID, Improper Storage of a Large Capacity Firearm, Conspiracy to Violate Drug Law, Posses-

sion of a Firearm Without a License, and in connection with a warrant for Violation of an Abuse Prevention Order. Also arrested during this incident was Thomas J. Colon, age 41, of Southbridge for Trafficking in more than 18 but less than 36 grams of Cocaine, Possession of a Class A Drug with Intent to Distribute, Possession of a Class B Drug with Intent to Distribute (subsequent offense), Conspiracy to Violate Drug Law, Possession of a Firearm with a Defaced Serial Number, Possession of a Large Capacity Feeding Device, Improper Storage of a Large Capacity Feeding Device, a Firearm Violation with Three Prior Violent and/or Drug-related Convictions, and Possession of a Firearm Without a License.

Paul Savoie, age 64, of Union, Conn. was arrested on Oct. 30 for Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol, a Motor Vehicle Lights Violation, and Possession of an Open Container of Alcohol in a Motor Vehicle.

Matthew Owens, age 38, of Hickman, New Brunswick was arrested on Oct. 31 for Operating Under the Influence of alcohol.

Brandy Lee Boyce, age 52, of Charlton was arrested on Oct. 31 for Operating Under the Influence of alcohol (second offense), Operating Under the Influence of Drugs, Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, Possession of an Open Container of Alcohol in a Motor Vehicle, and a Marked Lanes Violation.

Hector Manuel Rojas, age 34, of Southbridge was arrested on Oct. 31 in connection with a warrant for Felony

Nighttime Breaking & Entering into a Building.

John M. Daigneault, age 34, of Southbridge was arrested on Nov. 1 in connection with a warrant for Operating a Motor Vehicle after Suspension of License.

Kevin Cardoza, age 38, of Southbridge was arrested on Nov. 1 in connection with a warrant for Shoplifting By Concealing Merchandise.

David Miranda Zayas, age 30, of Southbridge was arrested on Nov. 1 for Violation of an Abuse Prevention Order and in connection with a warrant for Leaving the Scene of Property Damage.

A 23-year-old female and 33-year-old male from Worcester were taken into protective custody on Nov. 2 for Disorderly Conduct and Possession of an Open Container of Alcohol in a Motor Vehicle.

Adar M. Ahmed, age 30, of Worcester was arrested on Nov. 2 for Operating Under the Influence of alcohol, operating an Uninsured and Unregistered Motor Vehicle, Failure to Stop for Police, and Possession of an Open Container of Alcohol in a Motor Vehicle.

A 75-year-old female from Southbridge was issued a summons in lieu of arrest on Nov. 3 for Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of license and a State Highway Traffic Violation.

A 35-year-old male from Southbridge was issued a summons in lieu of arrest on Nov. 3 for Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle, a Marked Lanes Violation, and driving at a rate of speed exceeding the posted limit.

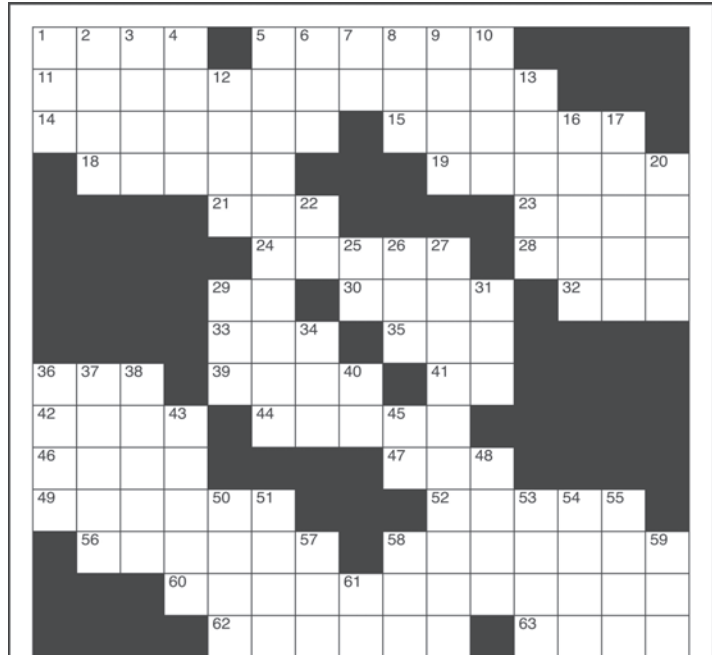


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- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Absence of effort
 - 5. Preserve a dead body
 - 11. Gratitude
 - 14. The act of coming together again
 - 15. Simpler
 - 18. Visionaries
 - 19. Large, fish-eating bird
 - 21. Indicates near
 - 23. Former CIA agent and critic
 - 24. Icelandic poems
 - 28. Pop
 - 29. "Hammer" is one
 - 30. Senses of self-importance
 - 32. Thyrotrophic hormone
 - 33. Not around
 - 35. Electronic data processing
 - 36. Licenses and passports are two types
 - 39. Snake-like fish
 - 41. Air Force
 - 42. Popular computers
 - 44. Of a withered nature
 - 46. Wings
 - 47. Used in combination
 - 49. Laid back
 - 52. Jeweled headdress
 - 56. In slow tempo
 - 58. ___ Falls
 - 60. Assertions made again
 - 62. Periods of history
 - 63. Hyphen
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Body part
 - 2. Mimics
 - 3. Expel large quantities rapidly
 - 4. Sea eagle
 - 5. A type of subdivision
 - 6. Variety of Chinese
 - 7. Mr. T's name on "The A-Team"
 - 8. Consumed
 - 9. Chinese dynasty
 - 10. NFL great Randy
 - 12. Ireland
 - 13. Palm trees with creeping roots
 - 16. Fungal disease
 - 17. Impressionable persons
 - 20. Affirmative! (slang)
 - 22. Instinctive part of the mind
 - 25. "The First State"
 - 26. A way to develop
 - 27. Fraternities
 - 29. Woman (French)
 - 31. Sunscreen rating
 - 34. Beer
 - 36. Spiritual leader
 - 37. Indigo bush
 - 38. Burn with a hot liquid
 - 40. Junior's father
 - 43. Ray-finned fishes
 - 45. Morning
 - 48. Line passing side to side through the center (abbr.)
 - 50. Double curve
 - 51. A small bundle of straw or hay
 - 53. Got older
 - 54. Crater on Mars
 - 55. Humanities
 - 57. Relating to the ears
 - 58. "To the ___ degree..."
 - 59. Residue of a burned product
 - 61. It cools a home

Dynamic Card, Collectibles and Crafts Show at CCUMC Saturday

CHARLTON holding its event Collectible and kinds this Saturday p.m., located at 74 Admission is free. of vendors offer sports memorabilia variety of craft with handmade naments and other a unique range of Pokemon to MTG

A tithing party will be in Worcester (shelter children), UMCOR relief agencies in REAS (senior heat with all the when you help Snacks and able for purchase.



Charlton City UMC is of Sports Trading Cards, handmade crafts of all day, Nov. 9 from 10 a.m. - 4 Stafford St. in Charlton. Two floors with dozens of trading cards, bilia and collectibles. A ers will fill the galleries jewelry, soaps, prints, or gift ideas. Come discover collectibles ranging from to Digimon to Comics. tion of the proceeds this efit Abby's House in for abused women and (one of the best disaster the world) and Charlton fuel assistance) You win dors, and the world wins others in need. beverages will be avail- Charlton City UMC is handicapped accessible, with ample parking space.

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DCRSD embracing multi-tiered system of support

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON — The Dudley Charlton Regional School District is embracing a proven system to help enhance support among staff across the district bringing together educators and administrators to provide the appropriate resources to provide accessible learning for all students.

Called the “multi-tiered system of support,” the approach involves creating three distinct but intertwined approaches to personalization learning strategies starting with the base tier that involves full classroom teaching and including two higher tiers that provide more targeted and individualized support. Assistant Superinten-

dent of Schools Kelly True provided an update on the district’s implementation of these systems during a School Committee meeting in October where she called is a “huge focus” for the entire staff this school year. The district has also put a heavy focus on least restrictive learning (LRE) which True says will be heavily supported by these systems.

“That is going to help us with our work around LRE, with our work around just what’s happening in our core classes, making sure that curriculum is accessible for kids and that it’s engaging. All those great things that we want. But it starts with leadership and us putting those structures in place for multi-tiered systems of support,” said True. “We are really work-

ing as an administrative team so that every building has a working multi-tiered system of support for both academics and social emotional wellness which is a lot of work – We’re working together in a course that is going to be very helpful for us and we also have partnered with a consultant.”

That consultant is Eric Sheninger who has authored writeups promoting personalized learning strategies and how they bridge the gaps in education. Sheninger will be providing the district with eight visits and consultations to help assist in creating the most accessible learning environment possible in Dudley and Charlton.

“He’s going to be working with our administrative team this year to help guide us on things like looking at data,

using data to support our multi-tiered systems of support, and the things that we want to be able to put into place in our schools. He’s going to help us get those off the ground as well as help us with different trainings that we can do with our staff and help support the administrators and the work that they’re doing with their staff within their buildings, which I think is really important,” said True.

The district plans to incorporate Sheninger into their professional development programs and meetings this school year with the end goal of enhancing academic wellness and social emotional health for all.

Friends of the Joshua Hyde Library bear tale of doomed ship at annual meeting

STURBRIDGE — The ship and its captain seemed cursed. The passengers paid the ultimate price. At the Friends of the Joshua Hyde Public Library’s Annual Meeting, attendees were captivated by the tale of this doomed side-wheel steamship Larchmont on a cold and stormy night on Feb. 11, 1907. That night, some emerged heroes, most lost their lives.

Daniel Harrington, a long-time monthly columnist for the Providence Journal, originally wrote an article about the sinking of the Larchmont for that Journal, but ultimately the tale haunted him and prompted him to delve deeper into the tragedy. He regaled the audience with his presentation “The Larchmont Remembered,” with stories of a troop of female Salvation Army members who gave up their seats in lifeboats to help others into life jackets and sang hymns on deck while the ship went down and we heard of a woman holding her 4-year-old son begging to be allowed into a lifeboat but shoved out by men. They both perished.

The tragedy happened while first pilot John Anson was on duty. The Harry Knowlton, a three-masted coal schooner was headed straight for the Larchmont. The law of the sea required the powered Larchmont to steer clear of the wind-powered schooner. Anson didn’t turn in time and the two ships collided, stuck together for a short time then were separated by the rough seas. The schooner was able to run aground and its entire crew made it to safety in a lifeboat. The Larchmont was not so lucky.

The accident happened after many had gone to sleep for the night. Most of the passengers who were sleeping in their cabins never made it out. Those who did were in their night clothes and lost their lives to hypothermia. The passengers who were staying up all night in the salon battled each other to get into the four lifeboats dropped in the sea. One passenger slit his own throat rather than face certain death from freezing.

The hurricane deck of the Larchmont detached from the rest of the ship and acted as a raft. While many victims washed ashore on Block Island covered in 8 to 10 inches of ice, thirty passengers had clung on top of the liberated hurricane deck and 12 hours after the accident some were still alive. The gale force winds had blown this lifesaving raft past Block Island entirely and

was floating out to sea. The fishing vessel Elsie set out on a rescue mission and was able to recover the survivors on this raft. Many were kept alive by Harry Feldman who beat his wife Bertha and others while screaming at them, “Don’t lie down with the dead!”

Since the only passenger list was on the ship, no one knows how many actually died, but it is believed at least 150 died, and possibly as many as 300 passengers perished. This prompted changes in maritime record keeping and now passenger manifests are required to have a copy kept on shore as well. Many have said this tragedy was America’s Titanic, but since the Larchmont went down five years before the Titanic, that tragedy was actually England’s Larchmont.

Following the tale of the Larchmont, the Friends conducted its Annual Meeting. At the meeting, the library’s annual Wish List of funding was approved as was an increase in annual dues. Also, officers were voted in including: Donna Englander, president; Carrie Braney, treasurer; Alice Kao, secretary/clerk and newcomer Lisa Beaudin was welcomed as vice president.

The Friends of the Joshua Hyde Public Library is a fundraising organization that funnels its income to providing for programming, museum passes, movie series, book discussion groups, children’s activities and programs and any extras the library needs to meet the needs of the community’s citizens. To join the Friends, please visit: www.sturbridgelibraryfriends.org.

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 Friday's Child 



Hi! My name is Lisa and I like unicorns!

Lisa is described as both funny and intelligent. She is open to new experiences and has gone horseback riding, taken violin lessons, played volleyball at her school, and taken part in a local Wizard of Oz production. She loves arts and crafts, playing card and board games, and watching videos on her tablet. Lisa enjoys reading and you can always count on her to have a book in hand. Lisa would one day like to take gymnastics or karate lessons. Lisa also attends a youth group, which she enjoys very much.

Lisa
Age 11
Registration # 7811

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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 care.



QCC police hold pet supply drive for hurricane victims

WORCESTER — The Quinsigamond Community College community is coming to the aid of pets affected by the recent hurricanes in several Southern states, through a recent Pet Food Drive sponsored by the QCC Police Department. More than 100 pounds of food and several boxes of supplies and toys have been donated.

“Hurricanes Helene and Milton devastated several of our southern states



college received bedding, leashes and toys. QCC’s canned and dry donations will join others from

across New England to support hurricane victims with pets. The items will be distributed out of North Carolina Lions Camp Dogwood, a retreat for the blind and visually impaired in Sherrills Ford, N.C.

“During catastrophic events, pets are often forgotten about or left behind. They deserve just as much help after these disasters,” said Campus Police Officer Nick Yacuzzi, who is also canine handler to Siggy,

QCC’s community resource dog. “Siggy has made a positive impact on our college community and now we are paying it forward by helping support other pet owners in need.”

CMDART is taking applications for volunteers across Central Mass and for those who may want to learn about emergency animal sheltering to help with disasters.

“When the world is full of stress as it is now, the coming to-

gether of people who care demonstrates a small positive impact we can make. CMDART was very glad to help transport to help animals and pet owners impacted in the South,” said JoAnn Griffin, president and team lead of CMDART.

VILLAGER ALMANAC

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Friday: 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

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Tuesdays 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
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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
Sunday worship and Children’s church 10am
- **St. Anne St. Patrick Church**, 16 Church St., Fiskdale (508) 347-7338
www.stannestpatparish.com
Saturday Vigil Mass at 4 pm, Sunday 8 am, 10 am, 12 noon, Youth Mass (September to May) 5 pm. Daily Mass Mon - Thurs 7:30 and 10 am, Fri and Sat 7:30 am
- **St. Joseph’s Church**, 10 H. Putnam Ext, 248-7862, www.stjosephscharlton.com, Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 p.m., Sunday Mass 8 a.m., Sunday Family Mass 10 a.m., Sunday Life/TEEN 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
Sunday Service 10:00am.
www.livingwordcharlton.com
info@livingwordcharlton.com
- **New Life Fellowship A/G, SNED Chapel**, 307 Sturbridge Road, Rt. 20, Charlton, MA, Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
- **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 Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566
Phone 508-347-7297
Web: www.bethlehemsturbridge.org
Services - Sunday 9:00 am
Pastor Dan Purtell
- **Holland Congregation Church** “Where the Bible is preached.”
11 Sturbridge Road, Holland, 413-245-9926
Hollandchurch.org
Sunday Service @ 10:00 am
Pastor Dan Maketansky
- **Holy Trinity Episcopal Church**
446 Hamilton St., Southbridge, MA 01550
Phone: 508-765-9559
Web: www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org
Sunday Service 11:00 am
Pastor Dan Purtell

DA earns award for efforts to prevent distracted driving

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — Worcester County District Attorney Joseph Early, Jr., recently received an award for helping to prevent distracted driving.

AAA Northeast presented DA Early with a Traffic Safety Hero Award during a ceremony held last month. The award recognizes Early’s efforts through multiple initiatives to reduce incidents of distracted driving.

Among the DA’s most effective programs this year is the “Eyes Up, Phones Down” campaign.

Launched in March, the campaign is supported by several community, state, and regional partners. These include AAA Northeast, the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, the City of Worcester, the Worcester Police Department, the Safe Roads Alliance, and WalkBike Worcester.

“I am so thankful to AAA for this recognition and for being a partner in our mission of prevention. This award



Worcester County District Attorney Joseph Early, Jr., is congratulated for earning a traffic safety award.

really reflects the efforts of a lot of good people with a passion to make our roads safer,” Early said. “They play an essential role in this campaign. Together, all of us are working to prevent traffic deaths and serious motor vehicle crashes.”

The Eyes Up, Phones Down campaign specifically encourages drivers to activate the “Do Not Disturb” feature on their cell phones, which mutes notifications while driving. The goal of the campaign is for residents to avoid distracted driving and help reduce crashes.

Additionally, the campaign utilizes

a variety of public education tools, including social media postings, educational pamphlets, and presentations to driving school students.

AAA Northeast hosts an annual Community Safety Traffic Awards ceremony, during which the organization not only recognizes Traffic Safety Heroes, but also local police departments and individual officers or school crossing guards for their safety efforts each year.

This year, 18 police departments and 23 individuals in Massachusetts received awards.

AAA Northeast leaders thank the DA’s Office for its efforts in increasing road and pedestrian safety.

“All of us who care about making the roads safer for all road users know that we can accomplish much more when we work together. The Eyes Up, Phones Down campaign proved to be a great stakeholder partnership, and we commend District Attorney Early for his leadership on the distracted driving issue,” said Mary Maguire, the vice president of public affairs at AAA Northeast.

To learn more about several other public safety initiatives led by the DA’s Office, visit www.WorcesterDA.com.

REAL ESTATE

CHARLTON

\$475,000, 7-A N Sturbridge Rd, Amoresano, Nicole Y, to Garcia, Jean L, and Fernandez, Braian.

\$412,236, 258 Carpenter Hill Rd, Judge, Jason, to 258 Carpenter Hill Road T, and Beach, Zachary.

\$385,000, 12-L Turner Rd, Charlton Orchards Grp LLC, to Mccullough, Andrew J.

\$95,000, Hiland Rd #4, Hansen, Christopher R, and Hansen, Krystal L, to Charlton Woods Const LLC.

\$77,500, Hiland Rd #2, Hansen, Christopher R, and Hansen, Krystal L, to Charlton Woods Const LLC.

\$77,500, Hiland Rd #3, Hansen, Christopher R, and Hansen, Krystal L, to Charlton Woods Const LLC.

HOLLAND

\$312,000, 21 Heritage Dr, Truax, Nicholas C, to Donahue, Nathan.

SOUTHBRIDGE

\$445,000, 117 Hartwell St, Giovanello Ft, and Giovanello, Enrico A, to Young, Rachel Y.

\$445,000, 119 Hartwell St, Giovanello Ft, and Giovanello, Enrico A, to Young, Rachel Y.

\$351,000, 64 Kingsley St, Pare, Mark W, to Ellis, Anekah S, and Ballard, Bryan T.

\$345,500, 901 Guelphwood Rd, Santos John G Est, and Santos, John J, to Mangual, Michaelangelo.

\$209,900, 44 Maria Ave #302, Sladdin, John, to Solomon, Peter.

\$80,000, 42 Prince Rd, Hawkes, Justin D, to Harrington, Amanda J.

STURBRIDGE

\$245,000, 7 Crescent Way #114, Vanderbrug, Andrew M, and Vanderbrug, Carol, to Stidsen, Larry D.

St. Christopher’s Annual Craft Fair returns Nov. 24

BRIMFIELD — The Women of St. Christopher’s Parish on Rt. 20 in Brimfield will hold their annual craft fair on Saturday, Nov. 23 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 24 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Vendors offer everything from handcrafted jewelry, primitives, quilted, knit & crochet items, Christmas decorations and ornaments, organic lotions and soaps, wood, watercolor, bargain tables and so much more! Get your gift shopping done and support your local small business, in addition to finding unique gifts for everyone on

your list! The kitchen will be serving a delicious breakfast and lunch along with sweet treats during the fair and a Cookie Walk on Saturday morning until sold out. Meat and Turkey Pot Pies can be pre-ordered to take home. There will be raffles offering great prizes too. Admission is free. A few vendor spots are available.

For more information contact the parish at 413-245-7274 or email stchrisbrimfield@gmail.com or check it out on the church’s Facebook page.

Ski or snowboard at Wachusett Mountain

SOUTHBRIDGE — Are you interested in having a lot of fun while also helping to make the winter fly by? Any students in Grade 3 and up, parents or teachers from any of the surrounding towns and states can ski or snowboard eight consecutive Saturday nights at Wachusett Mountain

for just \$199 through the Southbridge Ski Club. That’s less than \$25 per night! You drive to Wachusett Mountain on your own.

The eight-week program begins on Saturday, Jan. 4, and ends Saturday, Feb. 22. Ski or Snowboard Rentals as well as Lessons are

also available at a very reasonable cost. Also, students or non students can purchase Gold, Silver and Bronze season Passes at a lower discounted price through our Club. For more information, please contact southbridgeski@gmail.com.

Bay Path Academy Director attends JAK-L Foundation's Masquerade Gala for Mental Health

WORCESTER — Getheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN of Athol, Academy Director at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy was joined by her husband, Joseph Bolandrina in the Nov. 2 JAK-L Foundation Masquerade Gala at Union Station. The JAK-L Foundation mission is to expand mental health awareness and directly impact the community to reduce the stigma around accessing mental health support. The JAK-L Foundation wants to directly support suicide prevention as part of their work and encourage the community to prioritize mental health.

JAK-L Foundation is a non-profit organization founded to raise money for mental health awareness in memory of Julie Lulu, a beloved daughter, sister, mother, niece, and friend. Directly from JAK-L Foundation's Web site (<https://jak-l.com/>): "We lost Julie to suicide in 2017 after a long battle with her own mental health struggles. Julie was a fierce, loving, and goofy person and that got lost in the midst of her battle at times."

Further stated at the Web site, "We, as a family, know how devastating the loss to suicide is and our goal is to raise money with the goal of supporting others and their families so that they don't have to experience what we did." The office of JAK-L Foun-



Courtesy Kim Sterczala of Cahill Tire Automotive Center in Oxford, member of JAK-L Event, Committee and Bolandrina.

ation is located at 43 Buffum Rd., Charlton.

Bolandrina stated, "The mission of JAK-L Foundation directly aligns with my belief in breaking the stigma associated with mental illness and raising awareness for mental health, I fully support their efforts."

For JAK-L Foundation's Masquerade Gala, tickets were available at jak-l.com and the two local locations Essentials Hair Design in Webster, and Cahill Tire Automotive Center in Oxford. Funds raised help support local programs for Mental Health and Scholarships for local schools. Live music, mask contest, dancing, photo booth, and fabulous prizes from raffles and silent auctions along with delicious food made for an enchanted evening.

"Additionally, empowering communities and saving lives, it's what prudent nurses do," said Bolandrina.

She added, "It's a chance to make an impact in mental health awareness, and a chance to show community support."

Further, Bolandrina stated, "I am grateful for the opportunity to participate, for my husband Joseph's support, and Kim's invitation. We look forward to participating again next year and for the May 17, 2025 Walk."

Friends of Jacob Edwards Library holding book sale

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Friends of Jacob Edwards Library are holding a book sale this week at the library, 236 Main St. in Southbridge. The sale starts Thursday, Nov. 7 and runs until Saturday, Nov. 9.

The Pioppi Room and Periodical Room in the lower level will have a vast assortment of books, plants and puzzles. Books are sorted into categories to make shopping easier. The sale runs from noon on Thursday until 7:45 p.m. Friday, the sale runs 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Saturday, the sale will be 9-11 a.m. Prices are \$1-\$3 for plants, \$1 for books and

puzzles- only cash is accepted. The inventory consists of hundreds of gently read books and intact puzzles, as well as many sizes and variety of plants.

At the same time, raffle tickets for the craft basket will be sold until the drawing on Saturday. Tickets are \$2, 3 for \$5 for a basket stuffed with lots of crafting materials. Proceeds from the sales fund the programs supported by the Friends, namely museum passes, programs, summer reading activities, gingerbread house project, beverage service and other library needs. For more information, call



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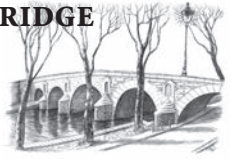
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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Embracing the shift: Falling back to a cozier season

As the clocks roll back an hour and daylight slips away a bit sooner, it's easy to feel the initial sting of losing those precious evening rays. The transition to shorter days and longer nights can be tough—our routines are thrown off, the dark arrives before dinner, and it feels like our world has shrunk just a little. But while that initial adjustment can feel jarring, there's an opportunity in this seasonal shift to lean into something more comforting and cozier.

When we fall back, we enter a season that invites us to slow down and settle in. The crisp, cool air outside becomes a reason to pull out our favorite sweaters, gather around fires, and sip on warm drinks that taste like nostalgia. It's a time when neighborhoods start to glow with holiday lights, and homes become filled with the sounds of friends and family reconnecting over shared meals and laughter.

For those who thrive on outdoor adventure, the shift also marks the beginning of snow sports season. The first snowfalls dust the world in white, creating a canvas that catches the sunlight and transforms the simplest landscapes into scenes of breathtaking beauty. Whether you're skiing down a mountain, sledding with the kids, or taking a quiet walk as snowflakes fall around you, there's something undeniably magical about embracing winter's gifts.

And while the early nights may initially feel like a loss, they can also be an invitation. An invitation to slower evenings at home, wrapped in blankets, breathing in the cool, refreshing air as it seeps through the window. An invitation to more time spent catching up with loved ones, sharing stories, and building up the excitement for the holidays ahead.

Adjusting to the time change isn't always seamless, but soon enough, we settle into this season and realize it's not so bad after all. It's the season of comfort, of gathering, and of finding joy in the simple things. So, as we turn the clocks back and brace for the darker evenings, let's remember to also turn our focus to the light—whether it's in the glow of holiday decorations, the sparkle of snow under the sun, or the warmth shared with those we love.

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

Tiffany Studios and Tiffany & Company



ANTIQUES,
COLLECTIBLES
& ESTATES
WAYNE TUISKULA

One of the most knowledgeable antique dealers I've worked with used to call Tiffany "the magic word." The Tiffany name coupled with the quality and craftsmanship of their pieces commands a premium.

Tiffany's history dates back nearly 200 years. Their website states that Charles Lewis Tiffany and John B. Young opened a "stationery and fancy goods" store with a \$1,000 advance from Tiffany's father. The shop opened at 259 Broadway in New York and focused on "American style" goods that differed from the styles of the day in Europe. In 1845, the Tiffany & Co. Blue Book became the first direct-mail catalog, offering jewelry and accessories to those who couldn't travel to the New York store.

Tiffany's silverware designs earned them a bronze medal at the 1867 Paris Exposition. At the turn of the 20th century, they opened locations in London and Paris. They weren't only known for their silverware. In 1878, they showcased one of the largest and finest yellow diamonds at 128.54 carats with 82 facets.

Louis Comfort Tiffany took over the business in 1902 and formed Tiffany Studios and other offshoots of the main company. Tiffany & Company continued to produce silver and jewelry while Tiffany Studios produced Tiffany Lamps and stained glass. Louis Comfort Tiffany also produced bronze, glass, pottery and other functional and artistic pieces as Tiffany Studios and under different brands.

Tiffany Studios closed in 1932 while Tiffany & Company continued to run. Tiffany & Company produced china for White House dinners, military medals, and sports trophies. Their jewels have been worn by famous women including Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and Elizabeth Taylor. Tiffany & Company still runs their landmark store on 5th Ave-



nue in New York City. You can even order breakfast at Tiffany's in their Blue Box Café.

As you would expect, the quality and beauty of Tiffany pieces continues to make them popular with collectors. In one of our auctions last month, we sold a group of Tiffany bronze and glass desk accessories that brought \$1,200. We also sold a Tiffany "Olympian" pattern sterling silver flatware set for \$3,500. An antique Tiffany 18 karat gold necklace with tourmaline stones brought \$23,000.

Stained glass pieces have also fetched some amazing prices at auction. "The Danner Memorial" window made by Tiffany Studios from the First Baptist Church in Canton, Ohio, sold for a little under \$2 million in 2000. A one-of-a-kind Tiffany stained glass and bronze lamp that was exhibited at the Exposition Universelle in Paris in 1900 and at the 1901 Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, N.Y., went to auction in 2021. It lit up the auction hall and the bidder's home when it sold for \$3.7 million in 2021.

We have some specialty auctions coming up including a major collection of Civil War memorabilia and a collection of memorabilia of some Hollywood legends. As always, we continue to accept consignments of fine jewelry, sterling silver, paintings by well-known artists, advertising signs, coins, old comic books and baseball cards, and almost any other valuable antique or vintage item for future auctions. Please visit our Web site, <https://centralmassauctions.com>, for links to upcoming events.

Contact us to consign items or for auction information at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique, Collectibles Auctions and Appraisal Services info@centralmassauctions.com or (508-612-6111).

Happy Election Week

We stand at the crossroads of another chapter in our nation's story. The act of voting, an honor hard-won and cherished, reflects our journey from a small group of colonies to a mighty republic, constantly tested and reshaped by the hands of its people.

It all began in 1775 with a small group of determined colonists who risked everything for self-governance. Visionaries like George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin knew that independence from Britain was only the start. They would go on to craft a nation based on untested ideals of liberty, rallying under the Declaration of Independence—a declaration of rights for all who would call themselves American, even if America's early reality fell far short of this lofty vision.

We faced immediate and daunting challenges. As westward expansion continued, conflicts erupted between settlers and Indigenous tribes.

Tragically, Native American nations were forced from their lands, often with devastating consequences that continue today, reminding us of promises not kept and wrongs that still echo through our history.

Even as America grew, another dark shadow loomed: the institution of slavery. By the 1800s, slavery was entrenched in American life, particularly in the South, where millions of people lived in bondage. Abolitionists like Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, and Harriet Tubman risked their lives to challenge this brutal institution. Their courage would be a rallying cry for the Civil War, a four-year battle that tore the nation apart. Yet, under the leadership of Abraham Lincoln,

the Union's victory brought freedom to enslaved people and solidified the principle that "all men are created equal."

The fight for freedom did not end there. The women's suffrage movement took hold in the late 19th century, as Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton,

and countless others pushed for equal rights. Decades of relentless advocacy finally succeeded with the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920, granting women the right to vote and affirming that America's promise of freedom extended to all citizens.

Just when we seemed to be on a path of unity, the world was thrown into chaos. World War I and later World War II. Veterans of those wars, like Dwight D. Eisenhower and George S. Patton, returned as heroes, their courage reinforcing America's role as a beacon of freedom, yet even as our soldiers fought for liberty abroad, Americans at home wrestled with deep issues of justice and equality.

The Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s marked a new era of change, challenging systems of segregation and discrimination. Leaders like Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, and John Lewis reminded the nation that "freedom for all" meant just that—for every race, creed, and color.

They pushed America toward the promises written into its founding documents through marches, sit-ins, and speeches, which led to legislative milestones like the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act, which continue to protect and empower citizens today.

Since then, we've faced significant challenges and times of turmoil—from

Cutting spending can help boost retirement savings



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Like most of us, you may someday want to enjoy a comfortable retirement. Your ability to achieve this goal will depend on how much you save — but it also matters how much you spend.

And saving and spending are certainly related: The more you can reduce your spending, the more money you could have available to save for retirement through your IRA and your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. Over many years, even relatively small amounts diverted from spending to saving and investing could add up substantially.

How can you go about potentially reducing your spending? Here are a few suggestions:

Use a budgeting tool. If you're not already doing so, you might want to consider using a free online budgeting tool. Among other capabilities, these apps can place your spending in categories — groceries, travel, entertainment, and so on — which can reveal redundancies that, once eliminated, could save you money. For example, you might find that you're spending a not-insignificant amount on streaming services you rarely use. Or you might be surprised at how often you go the grocery store, rather than consolidating your visits and reducing the likelihood of "impulse" purchases.

Take advantage of employee benefits. If you work for a mid-size or large company, you may have an extensive employee benefit plan, which could include discounts on some products and services. Also, if you are enrolled in a high-deductible health plan through your employer, you might have access to a health savings account (HSA) or flexible spending account (FSA), either of which may let you lower your out-of-pocket health care costs by using pre-tax dollars to pay for deductibles, copayments, coinsurance and some other qualified expenses.

Shop around for insurance. To some extent, we are all creatures of habit, which can be good in some circumstances and not so good in others. In the "not so good" category, many people stick with their auto, homeowners and life insurance policies year after year, even though they might be able to save some money by switching to another company. But even if you stay with your current company, you might find ways to save money by taking steps such as adding a home security system. Check with your insurer to learn more.

Compare credit cards. There's a piece of financial advice that essentially says: "Pay cash for everything" — and this isn't a bad idea. Ideally, you might want to use a credit card strictly for items such as car rentals or hotel reservations, and you should pay off the bill each month to avoid interest charges. Sometimes, though, you may need to use your card for other purposes, and it may not always be possible to pay your bill in full. That's why you'll want to review credit cards periodically to find one with lower interest rates, a favorable balance transfer offer and a better rewards program.

It's not always easy to cut down on your spending, but when you do, it can provide more peace of mind — and an opportunity to boost your savings for what could be a long and active retirement.

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.nielson@edwardjones.com.

Butternut Squash Recipes



TAKE THE HINT
KAREN TRAINOR

As the harvest season wraps up, farmers markets, local stands, and grocery stores are piled high with winter squash, with butternut being a top choice. Butternut squash is healthy, hearty, versatile, and delicious, so it's no surprise it's a seasonal favorite!

From savory soups to flavorful fries, this week's column highlights ways to enjoy the last of the season's finest!

Butternut Squash Bisque

This hearty recipe uses fresh butternut squash and apple cider for a blend of savory and sweet.

Ingredients: 1 tablespoon olive oil; ½ large onion, diced; ½ large carrot, diced; 1 stalk celery, diced; 1 pound butternut squash, peeled, seeded and diced; 2 sprigs fresh thyme, rinsed; 5 cups chicken stock or canned chicken broth; 2 cups apple cider; 2 cups heavy cream, or half cream half chicken stock (optional); Salt and black pepper, to taste.

Directions: Heat the oil in a large pot and sauté the onion, carrot, and celery until the carrot and celery are soft and the onion is translucent, about 5 minutes. Add the squash and thyme and sauté until all of the vegetables are coated with oil, about 2 minutes. Add the stock and the 2 cups of cider and simmer until the squash is very soft, about 30 minutes. Remove from heat. Puree the mixture, in small batches, in a blender on medium speed until smooth and well blended. Place the pureed mixture into another pot and stir in either the cream or stock to achieve the desired consistency. Add the salt and black pepper. Heat gently and serve.

Note: When heating this soup, be careful not to overcook it to retain its sweet and savory flavor.

Easy Butternut Squash Soup

This six ingredient Butternut Squash recipe Easy, is not only easy, but healthy. You won't even miss the cream!

Ingredients: ½ T olive oil; 2 garlic cloves, minced; one onion, diced; one butternut squash, peeled and diced into cubes; 32 ounces

vegetable broth; 1-2 tsp salt

Directions: In a Dutch oven or heavy pot, heat olive oil over medium heat. Add onion and garlic and cook until softened, about five minutes. Add cut up butternut squash and vegetable broth. Bring to a boil then cover and simmer for 15-20 minutes until squash is softened.

Blend to desired smoothness with immersion blender (or in a blender). Season with salt.

Makes eight cups; 135 calories per cup.

*recipe from Yummy-HealthyEasy.com

Butternut Squash Fries

Ingredients: one medium butternut squash (chose squash with longer necks for more fries); 2 T olive or avocado oil; ½ teaspoon each salt and pepper.

Instructions: Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Line a cookie sheet with parchment paper.

Peel squash; cut into half, then cut into shorter strips to form fries. (If you have a crinkle cutter, even better!)

In a bowl, coat the squash strips with oil, salt and pepper. Place

evenly on the cookie sheet.

Cook for 20 minutes, turn fries, and then cook for another 10 to 20 minutes, until browned and crispy. (Cooking time varies, depending upon how thick the squash is cut.)

Chinese Butternut Ravioli

This is a restaurant recipe shared years ago, and worth republishing. It's a seasonal treat that combines the flavors of fresh butternut squash and native maple syrup with an Asian twist. And it's so easy to prepare!

Ingredients: Butternut squash; butter; brown sugar; won ton wrappers; egg white; pure maple syrup.

Instructions: Mash and prepare butternut squash with butter and brown sugar as desired. Brush one side of won ton wrapper with egg white wash. Fill center of wrapper with squash and top with another wrapper (washed sides touching). Pinch edges to form a seal. Boil in water for three or more minutes until won tons are tender. Serve hot topped with warmed maple syrup.

From the ar-

chives: Below are two butternut squash tips previously shared by readers:

This tip cuts prep time for butternut squash down to size!

I have an easy tip for prepping butternut squash. The squash is delicious, but it can be such a difficult thing to prepare. Here's a trick you can use to make that process easier. Just place the squash in the microwave for 2-3 minutes. Afterwards you'll see that the squash becomes much easier to seed, peel and cube.

Donna Lewandowski
Charlton, MA

Who knew? This reader's slow cooker method eliminates the hassle of peeling and cutting hard-as-a-rock butternut squash!

Here is my tip. Put the whole butternut squash right in the crockpot, add just a little water and cook it until soft. It comes out so good, I can even eat the skin. I wish my father knew this on all those holidays! Just scoop out the seeds in the middle, no peeling needed.

Cathy Patchen
NorthBrookfield, MA

Win Dinner for Two

at the Publick House

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month (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.

Grow healthier gardens with the help of a soil test



GARDEN MOMENTS
MELINDA MYERS

Soil is the foundation of a healthy garden, but let's be honest, most gardeners

don't like spending time, energy, and money on it. It's more fun to show off pretty flowers or share tasty vegetables. But creating a healthy soil foundation will increase your growing success which means more beautiful flowers, larger harvests, and a healthier landscape to enjoy.

When creating a new lawn, landscape, or garden bed, begin with a soil test. Use soil testing to evaluate your fertilization practices and diagnose problems in existing lawns and gardens. Prioritize and spread out the cost by starting with new and struggling gardens or lawn areas. Then implement an ongoing testing schedule that tests one or two existing gardens each year. Testing lawns and gardens every few



Melinda Myers

Soil testing can be used to evaluate fertilization practices and diagnose problems in lawns and gardens.

years can help improve their health while helping you avoid improper and overfertilization that can negatively impact your landscape and the environment.

A soil test report tells you what if any fertilizer is needed and what fertilizer is best to use for the plants you are growing. It also evaluates the soil pH, acidity, and alkalinity, advising you of any needed adjustments. Testing this before fertilizing or adjusting the soil pH can help avoid years of problems caused by applying too much or the wrong fertilizer, lime, sulfur, or other products.

You can take a soil sample for testing whenever the soil is not frozen, and you have not recently applied fertilizer. Fall is an excellent time as it allows you to implement the soil test results before the next growing season.

Contact your local or state University Extension Service to locate a qualified soil testing lab near you. Many have a state lab that provides this service for a fee while others provide lists of soil-testing labs in your area.

Take separate samples for each type of planting, garden bed, and if needed, lawn area. As you may have discovered, the soil can vary greatly from one place to another. Fill may have been added when the house was built, topsoil used to

create planting beds, and other soil amendments incorporated that can impact your growing success. Taking a sample from individual planting beds, mixed borders, and the lawn provides better information on the existing conditions and what is needed for growing those types of plants.

Use a clean trowel and bucket to gather the soil sample. If needed, slide away mulch and remove a narrow slice of soil, four to six inches deep, where many plant roots grow.

Take several samples from the garden or lawn area you want to test. Collect samples from each edge and several throughout the middle of the bed or lawn area. Mix the samples together, place about a cup in a plastic bag, and send it to the soil testing lab. Allow several weeks for the test to be completed and the results returned.

Consider adding soil testing to your garden preparation and ongoing care. This investment will help you grow healthier, more productive, and more beautiful gardens and landscapes.

Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, including Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd 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.

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The horror takes over Main Street

SOUTHBRIDGE — “The horror, the horror!” isn’t just a line from “Heart of Darkness.” It also walked down Main Street last Thursday in innumerable forms, from lurching zombies and demons to Squidward and Mario Brothers. Even kings and cameras and various unidentifiable monsters joined this year’s shambling Horribles Parade.

Photos by Gus Steeves



Squidward and Patrick the Starfish collect some candy.



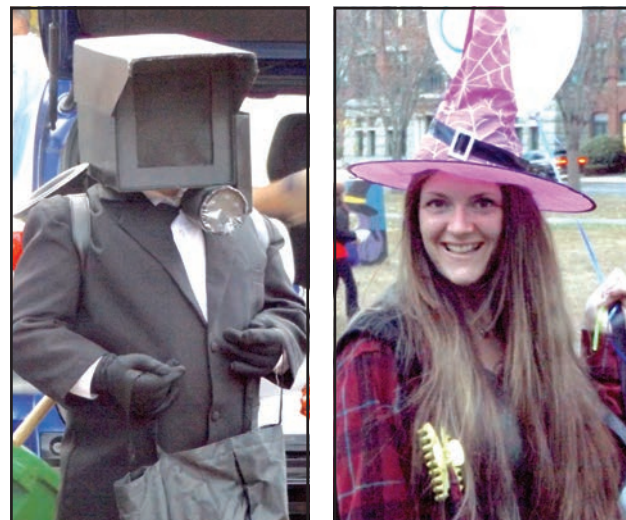
Cat-mom catches a shot of her son Mario in the graveyard.



Jack Sparrow hangs out with a demoness and some young princesses as the parade goes by.



Bet you didn’t know even the ketchup is watching you!



Ah, the Panopticon lives!

The Spider Witch of Southbridge takes a break from casting spells.



(Right) A young lady gets an audience with the king.

(Left) Jack Skellington and a friend cross the common.



(Right) Playing in the leaves, part 1.



Playing in the leaves, part 2.



As a former primary care doctor, and now a Mass Advantage member, what I most appreciate about Mass Advantage is the dedicated team of Member Navigators who provide top notch customer service and guidance.

Robert Babineau Jr. M.D., Member since 2023



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Call Us: (844) 416-1027 (TTY:711)
 RSVP for a local sales seminar or personal consult
www.MassAdvantage.info/RSVP

Representatives are available October 1 - March 31, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m., 7 days a week; and April 1 – September 30, 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Monday – Friday. Calls are answered by licensed sales agents.

Mass Advantage is an HMO and PPO plan with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in Mass Advantage depends on contract renewal.
 * Premium and coverage may vary based on plan selection. For a complete list of benefits, visit MassAdvantage.com. Other providers are available in our network. For accommodation of persons with special needs at meetings, call toll-free (844) 416-1027 (TTY:711). We can also help with registering for a sales seminar or rescheduling due to inclement weather.

Friends of Charlton Public Library host Quilt of Valor

CHARLTON — During the month of November in honor of Veterans Day, the Friends of Charlton Public Library will host a special “Quilt of Valor,” designed by local quilter and quilting teacher Emily (Mimi) Strack, who died on Sept. 9 following a lengthy battle with cancer.

Strack developed a passion for quilting after the birth of her first child and immersed herself in perfecting the craft. She designed numerous quilts in her inimitable creative style, earning acclaim from others in the quilting field. Strack also taught the art of quilting in community centers, quilt shops, and craft schools in Massachusetts and Vermont. She was often called upon to serve as judge in quilting shows due to her expertise and experience.

In addition to creating numerous quilts for Quilts of Valor, Strack made hundreds of unique quilts for the



Mimi Strack's Quilt of Valor will be on display at the Charlton Public Library through the month of November.

Linus Project, which provides handmade blankets for children from 0-18 who are seriously ill, traumatized, or

otherwise in need. Her designs often inspired many others.

In 2003, Catherine Roberts dreamed that

quilts could heal the wounds of war and launched an organization that has awarded more than 400,000 quilts nationwide as of 2024. Machine or hand-quilted, a Quilt of Valor (QOV) is a quality quilt awarded to a service member or veteran who has been touched by war. The quilt expressly

communicates a clear message: “Thank you for your service, sacrifice, and valor in serving our nation.”

To use the term Quilt of Valor, Quilts of Valor, or QOV, the quilt must meet specific size requirements and bear a label with required information. These quilts are not a gift but must be

awarded to the individual and recorded with the national organization.

The local Quilt of Valor group meets on the last Sunday of each month at the Christ Episcopal Church hall, 1089 Stafford St., Rochdale, from 1 to 3 p.m. The group is open to all interested parties.

Southbridge Garden Club announces annual Holiday Greens Sale

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Garden Club will hold its annual Holiday Greens Sale at the Ruth Well Center for the Arts at 111 Main St. (Route 131) in Southbridge on Friday, Dec. 6, from noon to 5 p.m., and on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 9 a.m. to noon.

The sale will feature a variety of handcrafted items, including decorative wreaths, holiday centerpieces, door swags, and assorted decorations and greens. All items contain different types of live, fresh greens.

The Southbridge Garden Club's mission is to share an interest in horticulture and to expand our knowledge of gardening for our mutual benefit and that of our local communities. The Club is a non-profit organization and proceeds from the Greens Sale support a variety of programs and scholarships.

For more information, please contact Sandra Gibson-Quigley at 508-347-7956 or 508-864-6319, sgibquig@gmail.com or Sally Anderson at 508-207-6882, sallyh.anderson@outlook.com.

Election

continued from page 6

foreign wars to September 11th and beyond.

Through it all, our strength has been found not in perfection but in a continued willingness to change and strive for a better future.

And here we are again, after a divisive election, with candidates on all sides calling for different paths forward.

We must remember that we are united by a shared love for our country and by the knowledge that, regardless of who sits in the Oval Office, the power rests with the people. We must uphold the ideals that have defined America: liberty, justice, and freedom for all.

So whether your candidate wins or loses, whether this election played out precisely as you'd hoped or not, we all have a role to play in moving forward. Our nation's history is built on debate, disagreement, and, ultimately, unity in the pursuit of freedom. That pursuit makes us the “shining city on a hill”—a place of hope, progress, and promise. Our light must never be extinguished.

Together, we can keep America strong, free, and fair—a place where all voices are heard and everyone, regardless of race, religion, or background, can pursue their dreams.

Happy Election Week, and may our love of country keep us united, now and always.



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TWIN: \$199 (REGULARLY \$299)
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FULL: \$299 (REGULARLY \$599)

ALL TV'S ON SALE!

50" Vizio \$289.99 (Regularly \$649.99)
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75" Samsung \$699.99 (Regularly \$799.99)
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FRIGIDAIRE DISHWASHER #7150 **\$299.99** WAS \$599.99

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7 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER **\$199.99** WAS \$299.99

AMANA WASHER OR DRYER **\$469.99** WAS \$599.99

MAYTAG DRYER OR WASHER **\$549.99** WAS \$699.99

WHIRLPOOL FRENCH DOOR BOTTOM FREEZER **\$1599.99** WAS \$2,699

FRIGIDAIRE SIDE-BY-SIDE REFRIGERATOR **\$1099.99** WAS \$1,599.99

20 CUBIC FOOT UPRIGHT FREEZER **\$799.99** WAS \$999.95

DELUXE WHIRLPOOL WASHER **\$499.99** WAS \$699.95

AMANA GAS RANGE #AGR10300AG • Stainless Steel **\$599.99** WAS \$699.99

GE FRONT LOAD WASHER #GFWS06SNWW **\$749.99** WAS \$899.99

10 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER **\$499.99** WAS \$599.99

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LEGALS

Sealed bids for furnishing the Annual Materials for DPW, Trails, and Landfill will be received at the Office of the Town Administrator, Sturbridge Town Hall, 308 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566 until the time specified below at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read.

Specifications and bid forms may be obtained at the Office of the Town Administrator during office business hours or online on the Town of Sturbridge website, <https://www.sturbridge.gov/bids>.

Bids will be opened in the Sturbridge Town Hall, Veteran's Memorial Hall, Second Floor at 308 Main Street by the Office of the Town Administrator on November 21, 2024 at 1:00 pm.

All bids for this project are subject to applicable public bidding laws of Massachusetts, including, but not limited to MG.L. c.30B. Payment Bonds will not be required due to the material being stockpiles and not part of any specific project. **Multiple contracts will likely be awarded.**

Selection of the contractor will be based upon bidder qualifications, including evidence of past performance in similar projects, and bid price. The contract will be awarded to the bidder deemed by the awarding authority to be the lowest responsible and eligible bidder. Multiple contracts will be awarded for lowest asphalt bid, lowest landfill material bid, lowest trails materials bid and suppliers for gravel materials to DPW including material type (including appearance). Town reserves the right to request a sample of materials to be provided and select materials suitable based on appearance and meeting MassDOT standard specifications.

The bidder agrees that its bid shall be good and may not be withdrawn for a period of 30 days, Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays excluded, after the opening of the bids.

The Town reserves the right to waive any informalities, to accept or reject, in whole or in part any or all bids, or take whatever other action may be deemed to be in the best interest of the Town.

The Town of Sturbridge
By: Robin Grimm, Town Administrator
November 7, 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 November 13, 2024, at 7PM on the application of Massachusetts Electric Company.

The applicant has submitted a Request for Determination of Applicability for the installation of new poles, anchors, and an OH line to extend electrical service from Pierpont Road to Lelandville Road. The project location is: Lelandville Road, Charlton, MA, 01507. Parcel ID: Public Way 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
November 7, 2024

(SEAL)

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS The Trial Court Probate and Family Court

Docket Number: **W024P2011GD**
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester MA, 01608

In the interests of **Nyomi G Greene of Southbridge MA**

Minor
NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

Hearing Date/Time: A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on **06/14/2024** by **Yolanda Garcia of Southbridge MA** will be held **01/23/2025 08:30AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing** Located **Worcester Probate & Family Court**

Response to Petition: You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to: File the original with the Court; and Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

Counsel for Parents: If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want

an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.

Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.

ORDER TO PETITIONER(S)
IT IS ORDERED THAT copies of this Notice and the Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor be served in hand on the minor, (if 14 or more years of age and not the petitioner), the guardian, the parents of the minor, and any other person if ordered by the Court, at least **fourteen (14)** days prior to the hearing date listed above. **Service must be made by sheriff, constable, or other person approved by the Court.**

If Service in hand cannot be accomplished on any interested party, **IT IS ORDERED** that copies of this Notice and the Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor be served on all interested persons at least fourteen (14) days prior to the hearing date by mailing first class mail to last and usual place of residence of the interested party at least **fourteen (14)** days prior to the date of hearing listed above.

If the identity or whereabouts of an interested party is not known, **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that copies of this Notice and Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor be served on all interested persons at least fourteen (14) days prior to the hearing date by mailing first class mail and by publishing a copy of the Order and Notice once in **New Leader Spencer** publication to be at least **Seven (7)** days prior to the hearing date.

If required, service on the United States Veteran Administration and the Department of Children and Families may be shed lar first class mail at least Seven (7) days prior to the hearing **THIS IS A LEGAL NOTICE:** An important court proceeding that may affect your rights has been scheduled. If you do not understand this notice or other court papers, please contact an attorney for legal advice
Date: September 26, 2024
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
November 7, 2024.

(SEAL)

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS The Trial Court Probate and Family Court

Docket Number: **W024P2010GD**
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester MA, 01608

In the interests of **Giovanni I Shingles of Southbridge MA**

Minor
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COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS The Trial Court Probate and Family Court

Docket Number: **W024P2009GD**
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester MA, 01608

In the interests of **Armani Neriah Corey of Southbridge MA**

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Register of Probate
November 7, 2024.

(SEAL)

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS The Trial Court Probate and Family Court

Docket Number: **W024P3068EA**
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester MA, 01608

In the interests of **Armani Neriah Corey of Southbridge MA**

Minor
NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

Hearing Date/Time: A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on **06/14/2024** by **Yolanda Garcia of Southbridge MA** will be held **01/23/2025 08:30AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing** Located **Worcester Probate & Family Court**

Response to Petition: You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to: File the original with the Court; and Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

Counsel for Parents: If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want

an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.

Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.

ORDER TO PETITIONER(S)
IT IS ORDERED THAT copies of this Notice and the Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor be served in hand on the minor, (if 14 or more years of age and not the petitioner), the guardian, the parents of the minor, and any other person if ordered by the Court, at least **fourteen (14)** days prior to the hearing date listed above. **Service must be made by sheriff, constable, or other person approved by the Court.**

If Service in hand cannot be accomplished on any interested party, **IT IS ORDERED** that copies of this Notice and the Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor be served on all interested persons at least fourteen (14) days prior to the hearing date by mailing first class mail and by publishing a copy of the Order and Notice once in **New Leader Spencer** publication to be at least **Seven (7)** days prior to the hearing date.

If required, service on the United States Veteran Administration and the Department of Children and Families may be shed lar first class mail at least Seven (7) days prior to the hearing **THIS IS A LEGAL NOTICE:** An important court proceeding that may affect your rights has been scheduled. If you do not understand this notice or other court papers, please contact an attorney for legal advice
Date: September 26, 2024
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
November 7, 2024.

(SEAL)

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS The Trial Court Probate and Family Court

Docket Number: **W024P3498EA**
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester MA, 01608

In the interests of **Janet K. Puccelli**

Informal Probate
NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above-captioned estate by Petition of Petitioner

Charles Puccelli of Hubbardston MA

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Charles Puccelli of Hubbardston MA

has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the 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.
November 7, 2024

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS The Trial Court Probate and Family Court

Docket Number: **W024P3068EA**
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester MA, 01608

In the interests of **Armani Neriah Corey of Southbridge MA**

Minor
NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

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an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.

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If Service in hand cannot be accomplished on any interested party, **IT IS ORDERED** that copies of this Notice and the Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor be served on all interested persons at least fourteen (14) days prior to the hearing date by mailing first class mail to last and usual place of residence of the interested party at least **fourteen (14)** days prior to the date of hearing listed above.

If the identity or whereabouts of an interested party is not known, **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that copies of this Notice and Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor be served on all interested persons at least fourteen (14) days prior to the hearing date by mailing first class mail and by publishing a copy of the Order and Notice once in **New Leader Spencer** publication to be at least **Seven (7)** days prior to the hearing date.

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Counsel for Parents: If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want



Courtesy

The public is invited to a free community luncheon on Wednesday, Nov. 20, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The menu includes American chop suey, salad, dessert and beverage. This will be served in Fellowship Hall of Elm Street Congregational Church, 61 Elm St. in Southbridge. All are invited to share a communal meal in friendship. On Dec 21 there will be an Open House to display Nativity scenes. For more information, call 508-764-8058 or check our Facebook page.

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Savers Bank promotes Keri Gonzalez to Executive VP, Chief Operating Officer

SOUTHBRIDGE — Savers Bank is pleased to announce the promotion of Keri Gonzalez to Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer.

Gonzalez, who joined the Bank in 2017, has over 30 years of banking experience and has consistently demonstrated leadership, dedication, and a deep understanding of bank operations.

In her expanded role, Gonzalez will now oversee Retail Banking and Marketing, in addition to her current responsibilities of Compliance, Deposit Operations, Electronic Services, and IT. Her experience, coupled with her expertise in technology, payments, and banking processes, will foster increased synergies across the departments she leads, driving the bank's operational effectiveness and enhancing the customer experience.

"We're thrilled to expand Keri's



Keri Gonzalez

leadership role," said Rosemary Picard, President & CEO of Savers Bank. "Her expertise in technology, and her proven leadership, makes her the ideal person to lead our bank as we continue to evolve and innovate."

Gonzalez's academic credentials

include a B.A. from Stonehill College, an MBA from Florida International University, and accreditation as an Accredited ACH Professional (AAP). She is also a graduate of the New England School for Financial Studies. Keri serves on the Board of Directors for the New England Automated Clearing House (NEACH). Her strong educational background, combined with her operational knowledge, positions her well to lead her teams as they collectively shape the bank's future roadmap.

Bay Path staff & students learn about Generative AI tools

WORCESTER — Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy faculty, staff, and students recently completed the workshop presented by the Massachusetts Rhode Island League for Nursing (MARILN) on Friday, Oct. 25 at the Hogan Center, College of the Holy Cross.

The 2024 MARILN Fall Conference and Annual Meeting - Innovate and Educate: Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools for Nurse Educators speakers were Rachel Cox Simms DNP, MS-HPed, RN, FNP-BC Assistant Professor MGH Institute of Health Professions (Boston); Semiha Asli Bozkurt PhD, RN, CHSE Clinical Assistant Professor University of Massachusetts Boston (Boston); Catherine Carroca DHS, MSN, RN, CNE Associate Professor Massachusetts College of Pharmacy of Health Sciences (Boston, MA), and Joseph Gordon-Reznar Associate Chief Nursing Officer Cambridge Health Alliance (Boston). The purpose of the workshop is to empower nurse educators with the knowledge and skills to effectively integrate generative AI tools into their teaching and professional practices. The participants explored the fundamental principles of generative AI and discovered practical applications for creating engaging educational materials, designing innovative assignments, and enhancing assessments. The workshop addressed ethical considerations and best practices, ensuring responsible AI usage in educational settings. At the end of the workshop, participants were equipped to leverage AI for professional development, scholarly activities, and enrich the learning experience for nursing students.

In the photo above are Loise Ngigi of South Grafton, a member of the PN Class of 2025 and Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Full-time faculty Shannen Sherman, BSN, RN, of CT.

Ngigi is a compassionate Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and certified home health aide (HHA) whose knowledge is based on the accumulation of seven years of direct experience as a certified HHA and CNA. She obtained her nursing assistant certification through the 3 Dimensions College (Worcester) in 2017. She obtained her high school diploma from Moi Girls Kamangu High School in Kenya (2012). As a practical nursing student at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, she has completed her Dementia Care certification. She is certified in BLS/HCP/CPR (Basic Life Support, Health Care Provider Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation), Medical Administration Program (MAP), and Mental Health First Aid. She has expressed interest in volunteering for Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) specifically for the Vaccine clinic and monitoring residents for any side effects after receipt of vaccine. She was a CNA at River Terrace Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center (Lancaster) and is currently a direct support professional at Venture Community Services (Sturbridge).



Loise Ngigi and Shannen Sherman.

Courtesy

OBITUARIES

Marion Lillian Pickarski, 101

Southbridge- Marion Lillian (Samuels) Pickarski, 101, of South St., passed away on Nov. 3rd, in Homestead Hall, Worcester. Her husband, Norbert Joseph Pickarski, a local Southbridge dentist, died in 1998. Marion leaves her three children, Susan Suriyapa of Pasadena, CA, Robert D. Pickarski of Pine City, MN and Karen A. Pickarski of Southbridge; a granddaughter, Lily Pickarski Futrell of Harris, MN; a nephew, Gregory Kuzia of Hardwick; her nieces, Christine Piekarski of Canton and Karen Hoffman; her two grandnephews, Michael Rada of Rockford, IL and Justin Piekarski of Canton and a grandniece, Maria Dimick of Normanna, TX. She was predeceased by a sister, Evangeline Stalla; her nephew, Charles Piekarski and a niece, Carole Stalla.

Marion was born in Chicago on March 30, 1923, the daughter of Anthony and Albina (Jurik) Samuels, from Czechoslovakia. Marion was a secretary until she trained as a Registered Nurse with the Cadet Corps and graduated from Loyola University, Chicago in 1949. While an RN at University Hospital in Chicago, she met her future husband, who



was studying dentistry at Loyola University. They married in 1952 and moved to Southbridge where Norbert opened a dental practice. Marion worked as an RN at Harrington Hospital in Southbridge before starting a family. She then managed her husband's dental practice. Marion was secretary of the West Street PTA and Holy Rosary Society of St. Hedwig's Church. She was a member of the YMCA's Silver Sneakers,

Women's Club and League of Women's Voters. A lifelong animal lover and advocate, she worked to establish the CAW, Citizens for Animal Welfare. Marion was a fun-loving, joyous, and generous person, who could talk to anyone and easily made friends. Her children recall that their classmates really came to their home to visit their mom because "she was so much fun!"

Marion's memorial service and burial will be private. There are no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Marion's memory to North Shore Animal League America <https://www.animal-league.org/>

www.morrillfuneralhome.com

Beatrice E. Young, 89

PEPPERELL — Beatrice E. (Dancause) Young, 89, of Idal Street, died Thursday, October 31, 2024, in her home. She was predeceased by her husband of 59 years, Clarence "Kelly" H. Young who died in 2013. She is survived by two children, Robin Day and her husband Ronald of Pepperell, and David Young of Pepperell; a sister, Janice Kekelik and her husband Richard of Dudley; her brother-in-law, Walter Fettig of Dudley; her daughter-in-law, Brenda Young of Millbury; ten grandchildren, nineteen great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandson. She was predeceased by a son, Gary Young; and a sister, Rita Fettig.

She was born in Webster, daughter of the late Henry and Doris (Latour) Dancause, and lived in Webster for 20



years, Lowell for 30 years, and Oxford for 20 years, before moving to Pepperell several years ago.

Mrs. Young was a homemaker throughout her life. She operated a vegetable stand with her husband in their yard for twenty years. She was a member of Sacred Heart Church in Webster. She enjoyed playing Bingo, traveling to Branson, MO, going to the Senior Center in Pepperell, and camping at Wyman's Beach in Westford. Most of all, she loved spending time

with her family.

A funeral Mass will be held at 11 a.m. on Monday, November 11, 2024, at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 18 East Main St., Webster. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to MSPCA-Angell, 350 South Huntington Ave., Boston, MA 02130.

Paradis-Givner Funeral Home in Oxford is directing the arrangements.

William (Bill) Harty 95

FISKDALE - William (Bill) Harty 95, of Sturbridge, MA, passed away peacefully on Thursday, October 31st. He was born in Spencer, MA, on July 14th, 1929, the first-born son of William and Beatrice (Sourdif) Harty. Shortly after graduation from David Prouty High School, he enlisted in the Air Force. He proudly served his country for 2 years in Okinawa, during the Korean War. Once home he married Jeannine (Jean) Westphal and they soon moved to Sturbridge to raise their family. He enjoyed a long career as a salesman for the food brokerage Edwards, Shaughnessey and Toomey. Later he worked part time at Yankee Spirits and Shaws, in Sturbridge. Bill's ready smile, humor, and warm personality endeared him to all. He was an active member of St Anne's Parish in Fiskdale MA. He was passionate about reading, and earlier in his life was a bowler at Hippodrome



Lanes, enjoyed family lake outings at Holland Rec, Fenway Park, live theater and music events and trips to CA to visit his sister, brother and family.

Bill was a devoted husband and father. His love of family trumped everything else. There is nothing he wouldn't do for his children and grandchildren. His greatest accomplishment, he said, was being a good father to his children. Bill is survived by his wife of 68 years, Jean, and his 4 daughters: Jane MacAlpine (Robert), Karen Brown (Chester), Laurie Reynolds (partner Bob Moynagh) and Didi Harty (partner Chris Baton), 9 grandchildren: Caitlin, Eric, Meghan, Tyler, Kyle, Bryan, Dean, Samantha, Amanda and 4 great grandchildren: Graeson, Ashleigh, Ari and Leo. He also leaves behind his younger sister Maddy (Lyn Hall), and his sister-in-law Evelyn. He was predeceased by his brother John.

A special thank you to the staff at Overlook Short Term Rehab staff, for the excellent and compassionate care they gave to Bill his last days.

A funeral mass will be held at St Anne's in Fiskdale MA, November 12th at 10 AM. Sansoucy Funeral Home is handling arrangements. www.sansoucyfuneral.com

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Historical Society to dig through history

SOUTHBRIDGE — Two new speakers will address the next Southbridge Historical Society meeting in place of the originally scheduled speaker.

Society member Steve Brady will update us on the status of the proposed Local Historic District encompassing

the Downtown Southbridge area, and also the on-line map of the area being produced as part of the ongoing Mass. Office of Travel and Tourism initiative.

We will also hear from Society member Ray Petrelli about his decades-long passionate pursuit of buried 'treasure'

by locating long forgotten dumps covered over by nature and digging for antique bottles and all kinds of other discarded items. These old dumps were mostly on private properties such as farms, in-town residential sites, and even municipal places like behind the

former Main Street School, which also saw life as a district courthouse and police station.

The public is invited to this free program, which happens on Wednesday, Nov. 13 at 7 p.m. in the Ruth Wells Center for the Arts, 111 Main St.



Health FACT:

This is one of the first medical professionals who assists patients.

Answer: Nurse

Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-20. The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right. The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

4		3	18
10			30
	1	9	16
20	20	24	

6	1	9
12	8	10
3	11	4

Solution

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1834: The Free University of Brussels is founded by Pierre-Théodore Verhaegen.

1872: Susan B. Anthony votes for the first time in defiance of the law.

1996: Bill Clinton is reelected President of the United States.

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

GRITSEDREE SUERN

Answer: Registered nurse

NEW WORD

TRIAGE

sorting and enabling treatment for patients

How they say that in...

English: Nurse
Spanish: Enfermera
Italian: Infermiera
French: Infirmière
German: Krankenschwester

Did You Know?

Nurses work in many different settings, including in hospital emergency rooms and in doctors' offices.

Get the PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Nurse near ambulance

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to the holiday season. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 11=A)

A. 12 11 16 1 22 19
 Clue: Come together

B. 8 11 9 23 26 4
 Clue: Related people

C. 15 23 25 25 22 19
 Clue: Evening meal

D. 1 13 26 23 15 11 4
 Clue: Festive event

Answers: A. gather B. family C. dinner D. holiday

SUDOKU

			2					
	4							
9	7	1		6	4			5
		9				5	7	
	9		6	7				
						1		
5	6			2				9
8			5				7	1
4				8				

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

4	7	1	3	9	8	5	6	2
8	2	9	5	6	4	3	7	1
5	6	3	7	1	2	8	4	9
7	5	6	2	4	3	9	1	8
1	9	8	6	5	7	2	3	4
3	4	2	9	8	1	6	5	7
9	8	7	1	3	6	4	2	5
2	3	4	8	7	5	1	9	6
6	1	5	4	2	9	7	8	3

ANSWER:

Eva Glaser of Sturbridge presents at COPLAC conference

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. — Eastern Connecticut State University sent students from a broad range of disciplines to present at this year's Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC) Northeast Regional Conference on Oct. 25 and 26 at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts in North Adams. Fifteen students from nine academic departments represented Eastern at the conference.

"Our students presented with poise and personality, engaging their audiences and showing off the

wealth of opportunities Eastern provides for students to find their scholarly voices," said English Professor Allison Speicher, who served as faculty chaperone.

Among the students who presented was Eva Glaser of Sturbridge, a senior who majors in English and presented a project titled "Of Ghosts and Gates; Or, American Women Writers' Civil War Theologies."

Eastern Connecticut State University is the state of Connecticut's public liberal arts university, serv-

ing upwards of 4,000 students annually on its Willimantic campus. A residential campus offering 41 majors and 68 minors, Eastern offers students a strong liberal arts foundation grounded in a variety of applied learning opportunities. Ranked among the top 25 public institutions in the North by U.S. News & World Report in its 2024-25 Best Colleges ratings, Eastern has also been awarded 'Green Campus' status by the Princeton Review 14 years in a row. For more information, visit www.easternct.edu.

Nursing

continued from page 1

tistics show that more than 76 million people in the U.S. age 20 and older have high blood pressure. Of those, about 22 percent are unaware of their condition, 69 percent are receiving treatment and only 45 percent have their blood pressure controlled.

Delene Sarsfield of Charlton and Chalinant Desrosiers of Oxford were the recent PN student volunteers to report to the Charlton Senior Center.

Both are members of the PN Class of 2025. Both are Mental Health First Aid Certified, Dementia Care Certified and completed training in Domestic Violence.

Sarsfield is a multi-faceted, efficient, ethical, motivated, and dependable Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA). She has more than 15 years of centered-based patient care and customer service experience. She is employed at CareOne at Millbury as a CNA (since 2019) and was with Sterling Village at Sterling from 2008 to 2019.

She graduated from the Holy Name Central Catholic Jr/Sr High School in Worcester (2005). Sarsfield's long-term goal is to complete her practical nursing education, become an LPN (Licensed Practical Nurse), and bridge into an RN (Registered Nurse) program with her field of interest-hospice and palliative care nursing. She is a 2024 PCE (Program for Continuing Education) Grant recipient from P.E.O. International (Philanthropic Educational Organization, www.peointernational.org) Sarsfield was also newly elected as an officer of the UNICEF Club.

Desrosiers is a professional blending office management and student services with her clinical medical assistant background. She had 15 years of experience in customer relations. She is connected to Peak Medical Academy as Office Manager. Previously she was a Medical Assistant at UMass Memorial, Harrington, and Reliant Medical/Optom in Worcester. Her educational experience includes Certifica-

tion as Clinical Medical Assistant at Peak Medical Academy (Worcester, 2021), International Hospitality Management at IMI International Management Institute Switzerland (Luzern, Switzerland PGCert-International Hospitality Management, 2009), Language & Communication at National Institute of Development Administration (Bangkok, Thailand 2008), and International Business Administration at the University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce (Bangkok, Thailand 2000).

Sturbridge

continued from page 1

things. Last year, it spent \$3.1 million, and she told the board to expect "a lot of vehicle purchases this year."

Dowling said she feels free cash should only be used for "non-recurring or emergency expenditures" or to reduce the tax rate. For years, she said,

Sturbridge used \$200-300,000 annually to do the latter, but hasn't in a few years and she'd like to see that resume.

Grimm noted that would be up to the board to set such a policy. Barry said the last few years, the town has spent the amount of free cash it had in excess of the highest reserve percentage.

Jamie Goodwin noted many towns use reserves to improve their bond ratings, but "things are much

more expensive right now" and Sturbridge shouldn't just "rely on its bond rating." Dowling said the town's bond rating is probably already the highest it can be, given Sturbridge's size.

"Given the scale of the town and the cost of everything, the recommendations look pretty logical to me," he added.

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

Schools

continued from page 1

table classrooms and/or a temporary building. Among them are needs for bathrooms in Eastford classrooms, meeting classroom area standards, and rearranging various spaces now being used for things they weren't intended for. They noted Eastford is "the only one that's undersized" while the others are "much larger than what is required."

Hill noted any project would take years, especially if Southbridge goes through the Mass School Building Authority aid process, but nobody was sure how long. MSBA breaks projects into "modules," and would require its own feasibility study of various options, hiring an owner's project manager, creating a Building Committee, and various other things. They said they think MSBA would cover about half the cost, but it paid 80+ percent of the middle/high school 10 years ago.

Abdelmasih noted option 2 would require finding new land. Some town officials

noted Southbridge has such land – the Palmerino property, which was deeded for educational use. Scott Lazo said it was considered years ago as a potential site for a "three-pod" elementary school, but that never happened. Instead, the middle/high school went up on Torrey Road.

Looking at options 2 and 3, Steve Kelly asked them "Were you assuming the student population would remain stagnant" or grow? Hill said it was based on last year's numbers and the ongoing downward trend, but they didn't analyze it based on projected birth rates going forward.

Citing the receiver's previously stated worry about a "catastrophic failure" potentially shutting down a school, George Chenier asked when they thought that might happen. Shaw said they found "imminent safety concerns" all of which would be likely "within a 10-year time frame," but they expected "a major failure of some system before that."

To Chenier, a "catastroph-

ic event" means one that's "life-threatening today," based on his firefighting background. He said he wants a clearer idea of "what could happen sooner rather than later."

Receiver Jeff Villar said he sees those risks as being losing heat, getting major leaks, having a fuel system failure, or something similar that could shut down a building, especially in winter.

Mike Montigny noted their projection called for \$133 million in repairs over the next five years. And about nine years to build a school. Nobody mentioned this at the meeting, but the latter is quite likely; Bartlett in Webster has taken nearly that long so far to work through the MSBA process, including a couple failed ballot votes before being approved and starting construction last year.

Shaw said the town could accelerate the process, but would probably forego MSBA aid doing that. Also, he noted the state probably would not provide funds for both repair

and major renovation/construction at the same time.

Villar said the town might get 65-70 percent from MSBA, but would have to "meet their very specific requirements." One key issue in just doing a repair is whether the work would trigger state law requiring the entire building be brought up to current code. By state standards, repairs and new buildings should last 30 years, he added.

Now, the schools get about \$300,000 a year in local capital funds, most of it going to repair work. But the West Street flooding cost \$1 million, Villar said.

Andrew Murch said he felt the presentation "gives you a better understanding of what we have to deal with overall." He noted the numbers they cite are from last year, and have already inflated.

To him, the work needs to be done, in part because the buildings "are pushing 100 years old." Noting the fire station project "barely passed," he said he hopes the schools don't get delayed as long as

that did.

Lazo agreed, saying, "When you have these problems, the landlord [the town] has to step up" and fix them. If Southbridge opts to sell any building, "you have to sell them in some sort of good condition," so even those will need repairs.

"The taxpayer has to know we're going to be very frugal," he added, but noted the total bill will not be cheap.

"I don't know how much more the taxpayers of Southbridge can take," Mike Marketti responded later, noting town officials just got this report and need time to study it.

While observing he "woke up fresh and blood this morning; I'm not made of money," Murch said he feels funding projects like this are "what we do for the town we live in."

The presentation is available online at <https://4.files.edl.io/dad2/10/29/24/142219-dbb618f9-5690-4ecc-89d4-fb4702d2855c.pdf>

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Gathering

continued from page 1

legally one of four US subdivisions termed "commonwealths," as Massachusetts is.

keeping its current status, those who want statehood, and those who seek independence. Because Puerto Ricans are American citizens, people have flowed fairly easily between the mainland and the island for work, family and other connections. They started coming to Southbridge in significant numbers in the 1960s and '70s.

Some of that background is in local historian Robert Brown's "The New New Englanders," which Rivas said was the first book in which she saw the Puerto Rican community depicted. She also credits him with "show[ing] me someone like me could be a writer;" Rivas later became a local reporter (for this newspaper) and is now an educator at Old Sturbridge Village.

"We are truly stronger together," Rivas added. "It's what makes America great."

Davila, who claims Afro-Latina ancestry, agreed, saying "You can't spell American without Rican."

She said the recent rhetoric "disrespects our families, ancestors, and all of us who work daily," but the Puerto Rican community "will continue to build up our people, our island, because that's who we are."

"Puerto Rico is a place of vibrant culture, resilience and beauty, a home full of love," she added.

To Davison, "It's still shocking to



Gus Steeves

One participant brought a flag emblazoned with the island's Taino Native American name, Boricua, which has come to be what Puerto Ricans call themselves.

see so much hate in the world," so it's important to have events like this that "show how proud we are of our community."

"We want to be able to give voice to everyone in our community," Rivas later added. "That is the power we have. Let's not give it away."

Among the songs, dancing and Puerto Rican flag-waving, a few others also gave some brief comments, including candidates Jeanne Costello

and Anthony Allard. But Rivas noted the event was "really just about unity. We're not trying to get political. It's especially about our students – we want them to know we support them."

She said the event was inspired in part by a similar rally in Worcester that drew several city councilors, school committee members and legislators.

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Charlton Land Trust presents program on animal tracking

CHARLTON — A free illustrated public program on animal tracking will be presented by the Charlton Heritage Preservation Trust (CHPT) on Thursday, Nov. 21 at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the Charlton Federated Church, 64 Main St., Charlton.

This program presented by Nick Wisniewski of Walnut Hill Tracking & Nature Center will highlight the skills of identifying animals by the tracks found on the ground, in the woods and meadows of Central New England, and in people's own backyards. These skills help our understanding of animal activities and their impacts on the ecology and environment of Central New England.

"We are pleased to offer public programs like this that help people understand the natural world around them," said CHPT president, Bill Blasius.

He further commented, "By doing so, we hope to inspire all people regardless of their background to explore nature on our hiking trails, or wherever they find it and to join us in preserving and maintaining open spaces in our community. We are also grateful for the Federated Church of Charlton who is donating the use of their building for this program."

Nick Wisniewski is a lifelong naturalist, photographer, and professional tracker. He was a long-term student and apprentice to master tracker Paul Rezendes, author of the acclaimed "Tracking and the Art of Seeing" (1992, revised 1999). He has taught the skills of animal tracking to hundreds of people through the nature school he founded in 2003, Walnut Hill Tracking and Nature Center. He has worked as a certified interpretive guide for the state of Massachusetts at Walden Pond, the site of Thoreau's experiment in living. He continues working as a park naturalist and guide for the state and continues running private programs throughout New England, helping people connect to nature through animal tracking and outdoor immersion activities.

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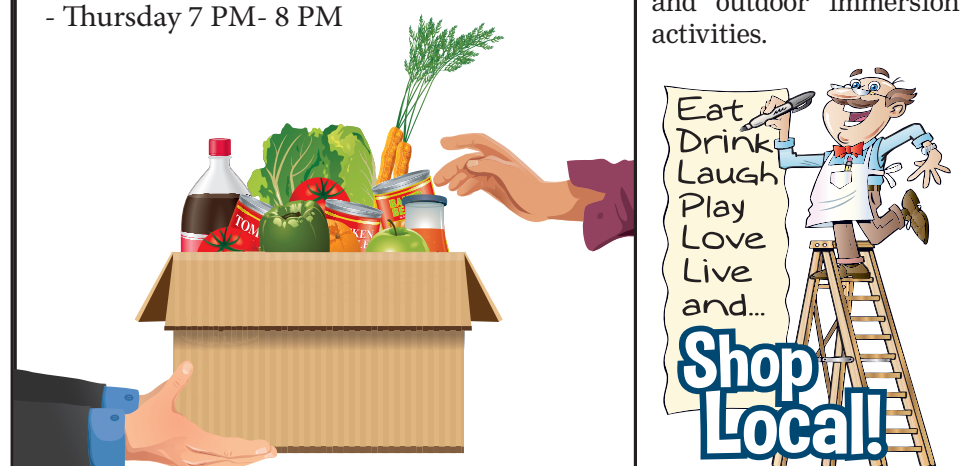
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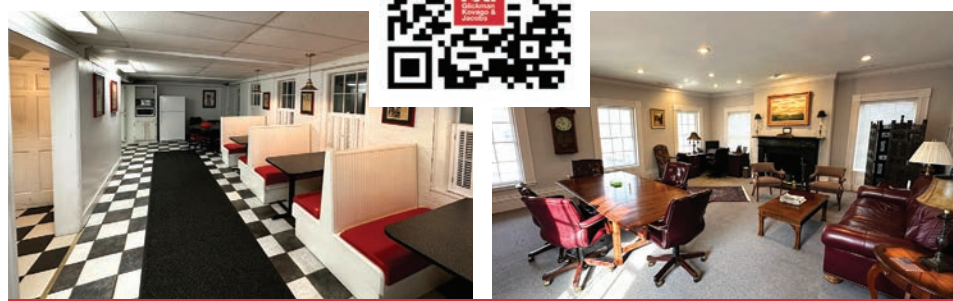
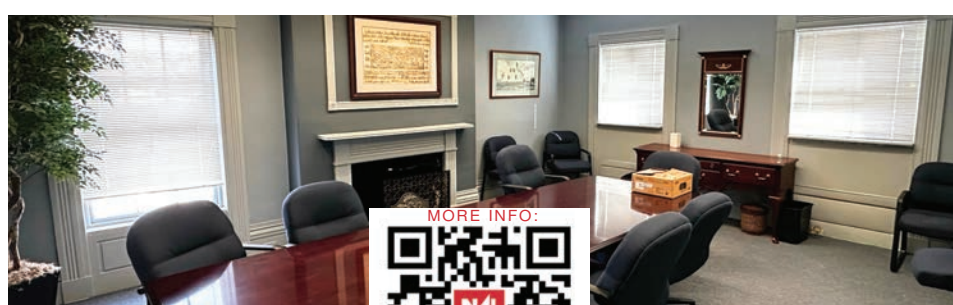
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