

STURBRIDGE VILLAGER

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Thursday-Friday, October 17-18, 2024

Green Meadows opening dispensary in Marlboro

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE — Locally-based Green Meadows unveiled plans to open its third dispensary last week at a poorly-attended public hearing in Southbridge Town Hall which

turned into a discussion about the future of the cannabis industry.

According to CEO Chris Zawacki, the new site will be in a plaza on Marlboro's Route 20 west of I-495. The firm already has two – its "flagship" here in

Southbridge, which is also its growing and manufacturing facility, and a branch in Fitchburg. He said the plan is to supply Marlboro with most of its products from Southbridge's several lines, but it will also source some from other firms.

He described the new site as "very visible" with "tremendous traffic and need." Another company also considered that site, but didn't go through with the plan. Marlboro now has three dispensaries (and four licenses total), and this is Green

Meadows' last dispensary license under state law.

Zawacki expects the new store to open in early 2025 with about 20 full and part-time staff, and follow the "motif we're about – industrial Americana," with a focus on veterans and seniors, local hiring, and promoting events within the community. He noted the expansion might result in some additional production/growing jobs in Southbridge.

"We definitely want to replicate the look and feel of Southbridge and Fitchburg there," he said, adding the Marlboro site is "calling out for this."

Hearing moderator Dennis Kunian said the site should get some walk-in traffic Southbridge typically doesn't. He noted our town's site is a "destination location rather than an impulse location."

Both agreed the cannabis industry faces some unusual complications that still need to be worked out. One is that "the state is fairly satu-

Turn To **DISPENSARY** page 11



Courtesy

The Tantasqua Varsity golf team defended its SWCL tournament title last week at Heritage Country Club. Tantasqua posted a 319, which was good enough for another 1st place finish against Grafton and Auburn, who finished 7 shots behind. This is the 3rd year in a row that Tantasqua has won the league tournament. The team included seniors Brandon Phillips and Austin Dono, junior Sam Pieczynski, and sophomores Rory Herrick, Wyatt Fay, and Drew Bardsley. Leading Warriors included Wyatt Fay, who tied for 3rd with a 78, Sam Pieczynski and Rory Herrick, who tied for 5th with 80s, and Austin Dono, who also counted with an 81. Tantasqua heads to Taconic G.C. next Tues for the D2 district tournament.

Opacum Land Trust announces newly conserved property

SOUTHBRIDGE — Robert F. and Jeanne R. Opacum Land Trust is excited to announce the successful conservation of 165.5-acres in Southbridge, now known as the

Para Family Preserve. This important addition to our region's protected lands marks another step forward in our goal to

protect local land, water, and wildlife for current and future generations.

Located in Southbridge, the Robert F. and Jeanne R. Para Family

Preserve encompasses 165.5 acres of diverse habitats, including a brook and several ponds that support fishing birds like osprey and

bald eagles and an active beaver population, sandy upland habitat that is perfect for nesting turtles, and wetlands with a diversity of plants

and habitat for birds, insects, and other wildlife. In addition, the property abuts Cohasset Reservoir, an important source of

Turn To **OPACUM** page 10

Charlton Fall Town Meeting to address expenditures, bylaw changes

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — Charlton's 2024 fall special town meeting is fast approaching with a relatively thin warrant of only ten articles to set the town up for the remainder of the fiscal year and address some proposed minor changes to town bylaws.

The warrant begins with housekeeping expenditure approvals normally addressed during the fall meeting. Unpaid bills, inter- and intra-departmental transfers, and amendments to the Fiscal Year 2025 budget make up the first three articles of the night. Within these articles are allocations to the Capital Stabilization Fund and monies to fund an additional police officer and dispatcher for the police department. Article 4 addresses miscellaneous capital items and contracts through a series of individual motions starting with appropriating a combined total of \$640,000 from free cash to various departments and projects including the library, technology replacement and the townwide radio system, town hall improvements, and repairs to the #2 Schoolhouse. A second motion will utilize \$255,000 in free cash to lease or purchase new police vehicles and \$30,000 in free cash for new police firearms. Motion three of the article will seek to appropriate \$75,000 in free cash for the fire station alerting system and another motion will seek to allocate a combined \$957,500 from free cash and retained earnings for highway and sewer expenditures and projects. Capping off

Turn To **CHARLTON** page 10



Courtesy

The Southern New England Witch Dancers Troupe will make their debut at the Sturbridge Harvest Festival this weekend.

Sturbridge welcomes return of autumn at annual Harvest Festival

STURBRIDGE — As the vibrant colors of fall sweep across New England, Sturbridge is gearing up to celebrate the fall season with its beloved Annual Harvest Festival. Taking place on the weekend of Oct. 19 & 20 at the scenic Sturbridge Town Common, this family-friendly event is a hallmark of the autumn season, offering a perfect blend of festive fun, local craftsmanship, and community spirit.

Presented by the Chamber of Central Mass South, this year's Harvest Festival promises an unforgettable weekend, featuring nearly 80 local crafters and artisans, specialty foods, engaging activities for children, captivating live entertainment, and a mini food truck festival that will tantalize the taste buds of at-

tendees.

Visitors can explore a variety of unique, hand-crafted goods at the artisan booths, offering something special for every craft and food enthusiast. Meanwhile, foodies can indulge in an assortment of delectable seasonal treats from a curated selection of food trucks, ensuring there is something for everyone to enjoy. Live music and magic shows happening throughout the weekend will keep toes tapping and the mood festive. Guests of the 34th edition of the festival will experience brand new features as well, including an axe throwing trailer and a fun bounce house for the kids!

Turn To **STURBRIDGE** page 14

Chiasson, Donohue warn about variety of online scams

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT
SOUTHBRIDGE

—Although the Internet can provide a lot of connection and information, it's also a playground for crooks.

Last week, Kevin Donohue and Kimberly Chiasson brought an overview of what kinds of scams are common and how to avoid or recover from them. Both noted there's no shame in getting suckered into one, having both experienced it themselves, but there are ways to protect yourself.

Chiasson, from Savers Bank, said one of the top scams is the "romance scam," in which the crooks "shower you with attention," tell you "they've never met anyone like you," and a whole list of other things that play on your emotions. At some point, they say they want to come see you, but need funds to do so (or need help for something), but keep making excuses why they can't (or just disappear) if you actually send the money.

Donohue said such scams "skyrocketed during Covid, but it's still out there." The crooks "don't do it too quick; if they do, they scare a person off." But sometimes they're quite sophisticated about it; he knows one woman who's stuck in one and refuses to see it.

Property scams are also common, Chiasson noted. Sometimes, that's outright homeowner fraud — a dishonest contractor promises a project, starts the work for half the money, then claims there's a problem he needs the rest of the money early to solve, and never finishes it. She said she's also seeing more reverse mortgage and foreclosure scams recently; in some "you've turned over your entire house" by the time you realize it's criminal.

Other forms of criminal commerce include online "pop-up stores" (sometimes on social media) that offer "really great deals that are too good to be true." Typically, she said, people who order from them gets lots of delays, with the crooks hoping they'll not notice the payment

cleared until it's too late to correct it.

One audience member noted he has often reported similar scammers to Paypal. "When one goes down, 10 more come up," he said.

Often, scams manifest as "phishing," in which crooks send email (often spoofing a real person's name or something very close to a real company's address) containing a malware/virus link. She told people to never click a link in such an email, but if you want to check its legitimacy, go directly to the website through your browser. Clicking the link often installs malware that might allow the crooks to take over your computer, get access to your contacts and/or financial details, and other things.

She noted reading the email won't cause a problem, only clicking links within it. Touch-screens can be more sensitive to accidentally opening them, and sometimes they're images. One easy way to check such emails for validity is to scroll your cursor over the sender's name — that will reveal the email address it came from. Some fakery is obvious at that point — addresses with meaningless strings of letters and numbers — others require a little care, because it might seem to be a real company site with a slight misspelling (an extra letter, or a zero for "o," for example).

Donohue noted "phishing" technically refers to such scams by email; the term for text scams is "smishing." In effect, they're the same — fake links or links to a fraud page. Lately, he added, he's seen many election-related fraud attempts, and "all the big name ones are used in scams."

He noted some scams will steal small amounts

monthly from your account that look like legitimate fees but aren't.

"Sometimes, you're going to get your money back. Sometimes, you won't," he said. "But even if you do, it might be a headache to do it."

Some fraudsters are even trying to take advantage of the fact so many real data breaches are happening to send fake "your data has been hacked" notices with phone numbers and links to supposedly help protect you. When you call, they'll try to get additional personal info they don't already have (passwords, full social security numbers, etc.).

Chiasson said there were more than 3000 data breaches in 2023 alone affecting "billions of consumers," a 75 percent increase in just one year. To protect themselves, people can contact the three credit bureaus to flag their accounts with fraud alerts or freeze their credit (which prevents new accounts from being opened in your name). The latter is far stronger, and you can lift it when you need to. One recent change allows a 24-hour "thaw" to apply for credit for something like a new car; the freeze goes back in place at the end of the day without having to contact the agencies.

Donohue noted people can get four credit reports a year: one from the federal government, and one from each of the three agencies — Equifax, Experian and Transunion. He urged people to space them out

across the year and to "make sure everything in your credit report belongs to you."

He agreed freezing credit is "probably smart;" he's gotten eight data breach letters in the last year. One of them came from a health insurer he hasn't used in years. "They could still have my information," but it could also have been a scam, so he called them directly and found that one was real.

"Always verify everything you get," he said. "Just because you get it doesn't mean it's true," even if by mail.

For him, a top scam has been calls or letters claiming to be from Publishers' Clearinghouse but aren't. He said he only knows one person who fell for it; the crooks said he'd won millions, but would have to pay "minimal fees" of \$750 in gift cards to get the money. "He knew it was a scam from listening to his son and wife," but the crooks

called back saying he would lose the money if he didn't act fast, and he bought the gift cards anyway.

In his case, Donohue

said, his family stopped it at that point, so they just ended up using the gift cards themselves. But that's a common

Turn To SCAMS page 14

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Town of Charlton Early Voting Schedule Presidential Election Town Hall, 37 Main St Charlton, MA

Sat. Oct. 19	9 AM- 3 PM
Mon. Oct. 21	8 AM-5 PM
Tues. Oct. 22	8 AM-7 PM
Wed. Oct. 23	8 AM-5 PM
Thurs. Oct. 24	8 AM-5 PM
Sat. Oct. 26	9 AM-5 PM
Mon. Oct. 28	8 AM-5 PM
Tues. Oct. 29	8 AM-7 PM
Wed. Oct. 30	8 AM-5 PM
Thurs. Oct. 31	8 AM-4 PM

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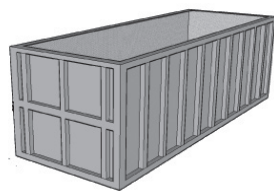


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Trunk or Treat planned at Charlton Arts and Activities Center

CHARLTON—The Charlton Arts and Activities Center will be holding its annual Trunk or Treat on Saturday, Oct. 19 from 1-4 p.m. at 4 Dresser Hill Rd., Charlton.

This is a free family trick or treating event and is open to all. Families, businesses, and non-profits are invited to host a decorated trunk and provide

pre-packaged treats to our costumed trick-or-treaters. For more information or to reserve a trunk spot, email us at Charlton.aac@gmail.com. Trophies will be awarded for the best decorated trunks. Entertainment includes Maggie the Clown and the musical duo Fox and the Dragon. The musical portion is supported in part by a grant

from the Charlton Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by The Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.



Trevor Wilson of Southbridge (pictured here with instructor Chris Cabral) completed the HVACR Facilities Maintenance Program from Technology Learning Center in Oxford.

Absentee ballots available in Southbridge

SOUTHBRIDGE — Absentee ballots are now available in the of-

ice of the Town Clerk/Board of Registrars, Town Hall, for the state election, which will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 5.

Persons wishing to vote by absentee ballot must obtain an application for completion and return to the Town Clerk/Board of Registrars no later than Monday, Nov. 4 at noon.

Voters may vote by absentee ballot for the following reasons:
- Absence from town during the hours the polls are open.
- Physical disability.
- Religious be-

liefs. Relatives may apply for absentee ballots for Southbridge residents absent from the state, residents in the armed forces or merchant marines, their spouses or dependents, and prisoners. Applications must be registered voters of the town of Southbridge. The state election will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 5, with voting at Precincts 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. Voters are urged to exercise their right to vote at all elections.

Southbridge Lions "Let's Rip It" Cornhole Tournament a huge success!

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Lions Club held its third annual "Let's Rip It" Cornhole Tournament on Saturday, Sept. 28, featuring 20 teams vying for cash prizes at the Southbridge Community Center. Under the guidance of Juliana and Bill Butler and the Let's Rip It team, the tournament went off without a hitch and featured some thrilling play. The boards were custom made by Matthew Mlyniec of M-Squared Woodworkings, and featured the names and logos of the tournament's sponsors: The Mellow Tiger, Maqui's Bar, Hearthstone Market, Morin Jewelers, Ruben's Transport, Dave's Pest Control, Mill St. Realtors, A&M Tool, Place Motors, and Milton Cat. These boards were raffled off to lucky winners during the event.

Everyone who attended the tournament received a raffle ticket good for the door prize, a pair of cornhole boards with the Southbridge Lions Club logo proudly displayed on them. Plus, there were 50/50 raffles, and basket raffles provided by the following generous sponsors: Southbridge Credit Union, Paul's Automotive, Fin's N Tales restaurant, Saver's Bank, Safe Greens USA, Hyde Tools, and Caddy Brook Cannabis. Spectators and participants enjoyed a variety of food and beverages while listening to the DJ sounds of Shawn Clark.

Congratulations to the top three teams of the Championship bracket: Joseph Regan and Mike Cardoso took first place and the \$1,000 prize, Harper Buth and Tonh Dom came in second place winning \$500, and Arthur Nguon and Jermaine King captured the third-place prize of \$250. Winners in the bottom 12 bracket were Dave and Rick Lacasse earning \$100 for their first-place team finish, and Josh (Jay) and Josh winning \$50 for second-place.

The Southbridge Lions would like to thank the Southbridge Community Center for allowing us to use their venue, and to the loyal cornhole players who came from all over New England to spend the day with us. Special thanks go out to our own Mike Comeau for coordinating this hugely successful fundraiser on behalf of the Southbridge Lions club. All proceeds will benefit local charitable organizations, schools, community events and individuals who need a helping hand.

REAL ESTATE

CHARLTON
\$625,000, 59 Ramshorn Rd, Cote, Richard K, and Cote, Linda M, to Depew, James M, and Depew, Kaitlyn.
\$440,000, 116 City Depot Rd, Zappulla, Carol, to Mugambizi, Ali.
\$430,000, 76 Osgood Rd, Fulone-Sweeney Faye D Est, and Sweeney, Sherri L, to Kokerski, Luke.
\$45,000, Wamsutta Ests, Pine Grove RET, and Prouty, Daniel, to Lindgren, Scott, and Lindgren, Jill.

HOLLAND
\$550,000, 19 Massaconnic Trl, Kimball, Lynne E, to St Thomas Rlty Assoc LLC.
\$200,000, 31 Halfway Ln, Hudon Joan A Est, and Scaife, Richard, to Suprenant, Corey.
\$200,000, N Cottage Rd, Hudon Joan A Est, and Scaife, Richard, to Suprenant, Corey.

SOUTHBRIDGE
\$475,000, 18 Central St, Martin Rlty Co Of Auburn, to 1638 Properties LLC.
\$450,000, 85 North St, Rosa, Marcos A, to Jimenez, Fabian, and Martinez-Tamara, Maria M.
\$330,000, 27 Field St, Noga, Adam M, and Noga, Amanda J, to Chea, Phichso-vann, and Chea, Victoria C.
\$325,000, 74 Paige Hill Rd, Coutu Sandra F Est, and Boucher, Victor, to Fernandez, Dana M, and Ayala, Samuel.
\$265,000, Canal St, Reya Ventures LLC, to F&g Re Associates LLC.
\$265,000, Pleasant St, Reya Ventures LLC, to F&g Re Associates LLC.
\$265,000, W Main St, Reya Ventures LLC, to F&g Re Associates LLC.
\$238,000, 128 River St, Deya, Makayla, and Estrada, Carlos J, to Jackson-Brennan, Daniel, and Kryger, Jordan.
\$58,000, Alpine Dr, Robert F Para Ft, and Whittemore, Nancy J, to Opacum Land TInc.

STURBRIDGE
\$635,000, 36 Podunk Pike, Barnicle Patricia M Est, and Mchugh, Laura B, to Mchugh, Andrew E, and Mchugh, Laura B.
\$635,000, 7 Ladd Rd, Barnicle Patricia M Est, and Mchugh, Laura B, to Mchugh, Andrew E, and Mchugh, Laura B.
\$559,000, 38 Mcgregory Rd, Meyer, Kenneth J, and Novack, Terrie, to Es-cott, Stephen.

VILLAGER ALMANAC

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Friday..... Closed

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Heritage School (508) 248-4884
Charlton Middle School..... (508) 248-1423
Shepherd Hill Regional High School
..... (508) 943-6700
Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School (508) 248-5971 or (508) 987-0326

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WALES: 413-245-9808
Weekdays 8:30 - 12:30 and 2:00 - 4:30 and Sat. 9:00 - 12:00

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.
- **Hope Christian Fellowship**, 6 Haggerty Road, 248-5144
- **Assemblies of God Southern New England District Headquarters**, Route 20, 248-3771, snedag.org, Office hours Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- **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
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Services - Sunday 9:00 am
Pastor Dan Purtell
- **Holland Congregation Church**
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Hollandchurch.org
Sunday Service @ 10:00 am
Pastor Dan Maketansky
- **Holy Trinity Episcopal Church**
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Phone: 508-765-9559
Web: www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org
Sunday Service 11:00 am
Pastor Dan Purtell

Friday's Child



Hi! My name is Izabella and I love nature and the outdoors!

Izabella, who also goes by Izzy, is an inquisitive, outgoing, and outspoken girl in search of her forever family. She loves to explore the outdoors and nature, which include various community activities, gardening, and collecting small insects for her "bug sanctuary" that she advocated to have. She always willing to try new things and new foods. Izzy also enjoys arts and crafts and going to the library to pick out books to read. Her biggest strength is her ability to advo-

Izabella
Age 9
Registration # 6966

cate and speak up for herself.
<https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/6966>

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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.



Southbridge takes next step toward electric aggregation

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE —The Town Council unanimously approved an electric aggregation service agreement last week, taking the next step in a process that's been in the works for more than a year.

Town Manager Jack Jovan said he talked to the town's consultant Good Energy Oct. 3, and expects to know approximate prices on Oct. 9. With them, Southbridge will go out to bid on Oct. 16 or so, and he said he expects "a number of companies to bid" on it, with a target to start aggregation in January.

Between now and then, the town will have to undertake a large public education campaign to let people know what aggregation can (and can't) do, how to opt-out and get back in later, and other details.

This meeting didn't go into many of them, but most are online in the plan's text at <https://southbridgecommunityelectricity.com>.

According to that plan, "A key focus of the Program will be to provide electricity options that match the diverse needs of our community, which include: Negotiating the best terms and conditions for electricity supply. It is important to note that the Program cannot guarantee prices will be lower than the National Grid Basic Service prices at all times, because Basic Service prices change frequent-

ly, and future prices are unknown; Using and supporting the growth of renewable electricity; Supporting electrification, particularly for heating and transportation currently powered by fossil fuels."

The plan offers three main tiers of service – the Basic plan, the lowest price one which will meet the state minimum for renewable sources (currently, 59 percent); the Standard plan, slightly higher priced but with 69 percent renewable; and the Plus plan, with 100 percent renewable at a higher price. Unless residents choose one of the other options, they'll be enrolled in the Standard plan when the system goes live. "All participants will receive all-requirements power supply," it states.

It does make one important distinction based on size: "Residential and small business new Eligible Customers will be enrolled at the same price as the existing customers. All other medium to very large business new Eligible Customers joining the Program after Program initiation will be enrolled at a price that reflects market prices at the time of enrollment." It aims to get price bids based on four classes of customers – residential, small, medium and large business – as currently defined by National Grid.

Additionally, people will have the choice to opt out at the beginning

by replying to a mailing that will be sent to almost everyone, or later "at any time subject to no charge," it states. Among the information an opt-out notice must include is to "prominently state all Program charges and compare the price and primary terms of Town's competitive supply to the price and terms of the current Basic Service offering provided by the Electric Distribution Company [currently, National Grid]."

People can also opt-in later, if they qualify. But the plan notes if people opt-out at the beginning then opt-in, they'll be charged the "then-current market-based prices" until the town's contract renews. On the other hand, people moving into town later will be given the same opt-out choice current residents have and will be enrolled in the Standard plan if they don't.

Over time, the plan requires the website to be updated quarterly "with the then-current large business Basic Service rates and every six months with the then-current residential and small business Basic Service rates." Afterward, residents will learn of price changes, contract renewal and other changes at least 30 days before they happen by various methods, including mail. "The direct mail notices will be sent in a clearly marked envelope indicating that it contains important information from the

Town regarding customer's participation in the Program."

A fair amount of the rest of the meeting involved a council commendation of the work of New Hope in light of the fact this is Domestic Violence Awareness month. New Hope's Diana Mancera said about one in three women and one in four men face some form of domestic violence in their lives, and a "higher rate" of transgender people do. Last year, there were 24 domestic homicides and suicides statewide, but this year is already at 29.

Police Chief Shane Woodson thanked New

Hope for its "partnership for many years." Originally, Southbridge shared an office with Webster, but it's now here and gets about 70 calls a month. He said their work matters especially because they work with people who might find dealing with an officer "intimidating."

"The average person out there thinks domestic violence is [just] violence, but it's more than just that," Councilor George Chenier said. "It starts with verbal abuse, mental abuse. ... People often just know the end result."

The council also voted to extend its current

contract with Veolia to run the sewer plant to Jan. 30, 2025; the town is in the process of seeking another vendor. It also finalized amending the zoning bylaw to allow cannabis establishments to be open from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m., approved installing a temperature control system for the DPW boiler; buying winter road salt, hiring Tighe and Bond to oversee its stormwater management project, and a couple of DPW transfers.

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

Sturbridge Historical Society presents "Finding William Lewis" Oct. 24

STURBRIDGE — Based on an extraordinary archive of personal journals, lifelong historians Christie Higginbottom and Bruce Craven bring their deep understanding of time and place to the story of William Lewis. This is the story of a man who lived in Central Massachusetts and evolved from tanner to peddler to farmer, from youth to family man, from transient to rooted in community. The program provides an intimate examination of one man's struggle to find his place in 19th century New England village life. As specialists in early New England social history and agriculture, the authors are able to provide rich contextualization to the 59 years' worth of journals, account books, and business records. These materials provide for a rich narrative of a life with details that are often completely lost to history.

Bruce Craven and Christie Higginbottom have worked at Old Sturbridge Village for over forty years. Bruce coordinated the agriculture program and designed museum exhibits. Christie coordinated the horticulture program and worked as research historian for horticulture and landscape. They will have their book, "Finding William Lewis," available for sale.

The program, which starts at 7 p.m., is free and open to the public, and generously hosted by Publick House.



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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Celebrating the spooky season

As the air turns crisp and the leaves crunch beneath your boots, there's something about this time of year that feels both cozy and a little eerie. Halloween is upon us, and with it comes the unmistakable pull of ghost stories, pumpkin carving, and a sense that maybe—just maybe—we aren't as alone as we think.

Halloween has roots that go way back, all the way to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain. Imagine bonfires lighting up the dark, chilly night, with people in animal skins and masks, hoping to keep the spirits from noticing them. It was believed that the veil between the living and the dead was thin on Oct. 31, and the spirits were out and about. Fast-forward a few centuries, throw in some Irish immigrants bringing their traditions to America, and here we are—still dressing up, still feeling that touch of magic (and maybe fear) in the air.

But there's something special about Halloween here in New England. Maybe it's the old houses, some of which seem to creak with secrets of their own. Maybe it's the fog that rolls in just right, making everything feel like the opening scene of a ghost story. New England has been the setting for some of the most chilling tales—stories that seem to hang in the cool, still air this time of year.

Take the eerie tale of the "Lady in White" of Union Cemetery in Connecticut. Picture it: a moonlit night, and a woman in a flowing white dress wandering the cemetery's edge. She's been spotted by countless people over the years, always disappearing into the mist just as quickly as she appears. Then there's "Emily's Bridge" in Vermont, where the ghost of a heartbroken young woman is said to linger; her presence felt by those brave enough to walk the bridge at night. And in New Hampshire, we have the haunting of the Mount Washington Hotel, where guests still report seeing the ghost of Carolyn Stickney, the original owner's wife. She's often spotted in Room 314, brushing her hair, or simply strolling the halls as if still watching over the grand hotel she loved.

But Halloween isn't just about the ghosts; it's about that cozy feeling that comes with the bright foliage and chilly air. There's something magical about this time of year. The world feels like it's slowing down, wrapping itself in the warm colors of fall—heavy sweaters, mugs of hot cider, the crackle of a fire. And yet, even as we snuggle in, we can't quite shake the feeling that we're sharing this season with something...otherworldly.

As you settle into the comforts of fall, don't forget to indulge in a few good ghost stories. Whether it's huddling around a bonfire or sitting by the fire with friends, these tales are as much a part of the season as the turning leaves. Maybe it's because they remind us that even in the coziest of moments, there's always a little bit of mystery in the air.

Enjoy your cider, carve your Jack O'Lanterns, and pull your sweater a little tighter; remember that you're part of something much bigger and older. And if you happen to catch a shadow out of the corner of your eye or feel a chilly breeze sneak in through the window, well, maybe that's just New England reminding you it's not just the living who love this time of year.

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

Auction news



ANTIQUES,
COLLECTIBLES
& ESTATES
•••••
WAYNE TUISKULA

It's been nearly a month since my last auction news update. Since then, a range of collectibles have hit the auction block, some items dating as far back as 1776 and some as recent as last month. I'll start by discussing an 18th century coin that just sold.

The coin dating back to the beginning of our nation just sold at a British auction house. The 1776 coin was found in a toffee tin and sold earlier this month. It was a Continental Currency dollar which was one of the earliest U.S. coins. The coin features a sun and sundial and was designed by Benjamin Franklin. It was found in the toffee tin along with "jewelry, objet d'art and curiosities," according to Fox News. Around 6,000 of the pewter coins were minted and only around 100 are believed to exist now. It sold to a U.S. collector for £25,000 (approximately \$32,000 U.S.).

Moving to an item from much more recent times, one of two Macintosh #M0001 prototype computers from 1984 is heading to the auction block this month, according to NewAtlas.com. The computer used a proprietary 5.25 "Twiggy" drive instead of the 3.5 drive that had previously been used. It's believed that Apple co-founder Steve Jobs ordered the pre-production computers to be destroyed because the Twiggy drives were error prone. A group of software developers had saved this PC from the crushers. This machine was exhibited at the Mac@30 Anniversary in 2014 where it was booted up by Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak. When an M0001 prototype last sold in 2019, it brought \$150,075, setting the record for a Macintosh computer. This sale is expected to surpass that previous auction record. Other Apple computers have brought even higher auction prices, though. A Lisa 1 sold for \$882,000 and an Apple-1 brought \$945,000.

A baseball from a game played last month is already making auction news. On September 19th, LA Dodger Shohei Ohtani hit his 50th home run of the season. He had already stolen 50 bases, making him the first Major League Baseball player to reach the 50/50 milestone. The ball was quickly put up for auction.

The ownership of the home run



ball is in dispute though. When the ball left the park in Miami, Florida, fans scrambled for it in the stands. As the ball rolled between some flipped over lawn seats, video footage shows Chris Belanski on his knees holding the ball while 18-year-old Max Matus has his left hand on the ball. Belanski eventually stood on his feet and raised the ball to the crowd. Matus filed a lawsuit claiming that he had the ball first and that Belanski took it from him. The court has ruled that for now, "the ball cannot be sold, concealed or transferred until there's a ruling in the case," according to ESPN.

Previously, the ball from Barry Bonds' 73rd home run of the season was the subject of a lawsuit and the \$450,000 it sold for was split between two owners. It will be determined whether the auction proceeds will be split again this time, but there is much more at stake than with the Bonds ball. As of Oct. 13, bidding had reached \$1.7 million. Some experts believe bidders will hit it out of the park and the ball will fly up to \$3 million or more.

We currently have two auctions running online. The auction with an eclectic mix of historical memorabilia, gambling memorabilia, glassware, and other items ends Oct. 22 and the art, jewelry, sterling silver flatware and holloware, watches and coins auction ends on Oct. 23. We will next be auctioning antiques in a Beacon Hill Boston estate and a large Civil War collection from a local estate. We are accepting consignments of all types 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).

Missing 411

POSITIVELY SPEAKING

TOBY
MOORE

Well, if you read my column last week, you'll know that for this Halloween season, I decided to venture into the Strange, Dark, and Mysterious—a bit of a departure from my usual focus on the positive. But I have to admit, I've always been intrigued by mysteries. And what better time than spooky season to dive into the things that freak me out?

Many of you will start looking for a logical explanation as soon as I bring up this topic. Our brains want to rationalize the strange and unusual. But sometimes, things defy explanation, and that's what drew me back to 2015 when I first heard David Paulides on "Coast to Coast AM" with George Noory.

Paulides, a former police officer turned researcher after his retirement. His focus? Missing person cases, often in the middle of nowhere and in our National Parks. As an avid hiker, I've been to many remote areas and forests, and I've

only ever experienced their beauty. But according to Paulides, something else lurks in these wildernesses—a series of cases that are as baffling as they are unsettling.

Now, I know what you're thinking—people get lost, wander off the trail, or are attacked by wildlife. And while these situations happen, a subset of missing person cases don't fit those typical explanations.

In his "Missing 411" series, Paulides doesn't speculate or offer wild theories. He presents the facts—just like a detective—and leaves the conclusions up to the reader. His work is compelling because he doesn't rush

to label any disappearance as a "Missing 411" case. A specific set of criteria must be met before a case qualifies.

These are the disappearances where people seem to vanish without a trace—no signs of a struggle, no evidence of an attack, no clues. Search and rescue teams comb the area, and dogs are brought in—but in some of these cases, the dogs refuse to track the scent.

One case that stands out for its oddness is the story of Keith Parkins, a two-year-old boy who disappeared on April 10th, 1952, near his grandfather's cattle ranch in Ritter, Ore. Keith was playing outside with his older brothers near a barn when he suddenly vanished. A frantic search began when his mother realized Keith hadn't returned for lunch with his brothers. The conditions were cold, with snow patches still on the ground.

Initially, locals and family members searched, quickly spread-

Turn To **MISSING** page 14

Watch out for investment scams



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When you invest, you'll find that knowledge is power. The more you know about your investment choices, and who is offering them, the better prepared you'll be to make good decisions. And this diligence can also help protect you against investment scams.

How widespread is this activity? Consider this: Investment fraud losses totaled more than \$4.5 billion in 2023, according to the FBI's Internet Crime Report.

Here are some common types of scams: Cryptocurrency – Not all cryptocurrency offers are scams, but many are. The scammers will contact you via social media, claiming they've made a lot of money in crypto and are willing to help you do the same. They may direct you to a website or app to invest, but the "company" taking your money may not even exist, and, after taking your money, may disappear.

Investment programs – These programs claim to have "proven" strategies that can enable you to get rich by investing in financial products. But these strategies are dubious at best and can cost you thousands of dollars that could otherwise go into an investment plan based on your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon.

Real estate – Typically, a real estate scam tries to get you to invest in a "world-class" or "luxury" property development, but these properties may take years to build, if they're built at all. Also, various real estate "seminars" claim they can teach you how to get wealthy by buying and selling real estate, but these programs are expensive and usually worthless.

Gold and other precious metals – Scammers who call themselves "rare coins" merchants may try to sell you gold coins, bullion or other types of precious metals, claiming that these assets will always go up in value (which isn't true) and that "now is the best time to act." You can find legitimate ways to invest in precious metals, possibly through mutual funds, but you'll need to determine whether these assets can be an appropriate part of your investment portfolio.

So, how can you avoid these scams? Here are some suggestions from the Federal Trade Commission:

Don't be pushed into snap decisions. Scammers will pressure you to act quickly because "space is limited" in an investment offering or a "special deal" won't last long. If someone won't give you time to consider an offer, it's not worth considering.

Be suspicious of "risk-free" claims. All investments carry risk, and no variable investments can claim to provide "guaranteed returns." If an individual or organization downplays the risk of an investment and doesn't want to provide risk disclosures, just walk away.

Ask about licensing or registration. Legitimate investment professionals must be registered with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) and be licensed by your state's securities regulator before they can sell you any investment product. You can check the status of an individual or firm by using FINRA's Broker-Check tool at brokercheck.fina.org.

Do some research. You can search online for the name of the company or individual offering you an investment opportunity. By entering terms such as "review," "scam," "fraud" or "complaint," you may well find that other people have experienced problems or been victimized.

To achieve your financial goals, you'll likely need to invest for decades — so, be wary of scammers who claim to offer a shortcut to success.

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

Get the most out of your pumpkin



GARDEN
MOMENTS

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It's pumpkin season and time to select and decorate pumpkins for your fall display. Keep pumpkins and Jack-o'-lanterns looking their best longer with proper selection and care.

Harvest or purchase pumpkins free of holes, cuts, and soft spots for decorating. Damaged fruit tends to rot faster, ruining your fall display. And always carry the fruit cradled in your arms, not by the stem. Once the stem breaks away from the fruit, the pumpkin is more susceptible to rot and its beauty fades.

Store carving pumpkins in a cool location

until you are ready to start cutting. Extend the beauty of carved pumpkins by washing them with warm water and letting them dry before making the first cut. Try leaving the top intact and scooping the insides out through a hole in the back. This limits water entering the carved cavity and helps extend the life of your Jack-o'-lantern.

Coat the cuts with petroleum jelly or vegetable oil to seal in the moisture and prolong your display. Take it one step further and use a commercial preservative or peppermint oil to keep your Jack-o'-lantern looking its best for as long as possible.

Don't give up when your Jack-o'-lantern begins shriveling. Instead, give it a cold bath to freshen up its appearance.



Melinda Myers

Extend the life of pumpkins by creating crayon-dripped pumpkins rather than carving.

Or put away the knives and break out the paint, beads, decorations, crayons, and your imagination to further extend your pumpkin's beauty. Turn your pumpkin into a creature, movie character, pet, or fun object. You'll find lots of creative inspiration in magazines and online.

Don't worry if you have limited artistic ability. Create a multi-colored crayon-dripped pumpkin. Wipe the pumpkin's surface clean and allow it to dry before you start decorating. Remove the labels from the crayons and break them in half if needed.

Glue the crayons to the top of the pumpkin

to prevent them from rolling off while you work. Place one end of the crayon against the stem and the other end pointed away from the center of the pumpkin.

Cover your work surface and use your hair dryer to melt the crayons so they drip down the sides of the pumpkin, creating a colorful waxy covering. A high heat setting will speed up the process but may make a bigger mess by splashing the melted wax all over the table.

To further dress up your landscape consider converting a few pumpkins into fall planters. Remove the top. Cut a hole large enough to accommodate the pot you'll be inserting. Remove the seeds and flesh, cut a few drainage holes in the bottom, and then set a pot of pansies, asters, mums, or ornament-

tal peppers inside. Or plant the flowers directly in the pumpkin planter filled with potting soil. When your pumpkins start to rot, move them, plants and all, to the compost pile. They will break down into a wonderful soil amendment for next year's garden.

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.

Fall Lawn and Garden: What to Do & When to Do It

As the chill in the air and falling leaves signify the autumn season is well underway, mid October gardens still require care and upkeep. As many a backyard gardener will attest, chores don't end at harvest time. From planting to pruning, efforts now will be celebrated next year. It is the anticipation of these future crops that sustains weary gardeners through the roster of fall chores.

Fall Garden Chore Roster

OCTOBER
October Stats: Average temperature (Worcester, MA): 54°; Possibility of Sunshine: 58%; Precipitation: 4.7".

October is the month to:

- Plant spring flowering bulbs such as tulips, crocuses and daffodils.
- Prune roses to prepare for winter. Cut non-blooming roses back half way.
- Rake leaves



TAKE
THE
HINT
KAREN
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from lawn; add to compost pile.

Make sure evergreens have a good deep watering before the ground freezes. They should receive at least an inch of water a week, preferably more.

If you test your soil and add any needed amendments now, the soil will be ready for planting in spring.

Cut back and mulch fall chrysanthemums after blooming.

Christmas cactus should rest in a cool, dim room with little water. Bring it back out November 15 for holiday bloom.

Protect pumpkins from frost.

As leaves begin to fall, remove them long before snow arrives. They not only shade the

grass during late fall, but become wet and mat down to smother the grass over winter.

Raked leaves make an excellent mulch on the bare, winter garden. They can prevent weeds next year, and as they decompose add organic matter to the soil.

Continue to mow your lawn until growth ceases. Make the last mowing a notch or two lower, in order to remove much top growth. This will avoid the need to rake off dead growth in the spring, and will help prevent snow mold disease.

Other Fall Garden Chores and Pleasures

Stowing the Stash: Proper storage of your bountiful harvest will ensure your family the fruits of your labor throughout the New England winter. Generations ago, a root cellar was a basement

staple. Today, the temperature can be achieved via a little creativity. Whether you are growing your own root vegetables or are buying in bulk from a local farm or farmers market, proper storage is imperative to its flavor and quality.

Here's the rundown on proper temps to keep your harvest safe and flavorful: Potatoes, beets, carrots, parsnips, turnips, cabbage and celery should be kept in a humid atmosphere at about 35-40 degrees. Squash and pumpkins should be stored in a dry area at 40-60 degrees. Onions and dry beans should be kept at 33 degrees in a dry area.

Generations ago, a root cellar was a basement staple; today some improvising is in order. As noted in a previous column, those with unheated basements report success creating a substitute root cellar by partitioning off one corner,

installing insulation and a heavy, solid door. Keep in mind the temperature inside the root cellar will be coolest near the floor, so place roots there atop an old door or boards.

Another strategy shared in a past column is to create a root box by filling a large, sturdy cardboard box with a few inches of sawdust or sand. Place a layer of roots such as carrots, leaving two inches along the sides. Cover lightly with sawdust and alternate layers, adding a final three inches of sawdust on top. Store in a cool basement or in the cellar bulkhead area. Roots can touch each other in storage, just don't pack them in tightly, as some moist air must be able to circulate.

Lawn Care: New England lawns can be a challenge, but there are some shortcuts to ensure a lush lawn come spring. Raked leaves make an excellent mulch on the bare, winter

garden as they can prevent weeds next year, and as they decompose add organic matter to the soil. Or add them to the compost pile. Some people prefer to run over the leaves with a rotary mower, shredding them into fine pieces.

Continue to mow your lawn until growth ceases, often sometime in October. Make the last mowing a notch or two lower, in order to remove much top growth. This will avoid the need to rake off dead growth in the spring, and will help prevent snowmold disease.

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 fab-

ulous 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.

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Hobo life “a very high standard of ethics and personal care”

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE — While today, the terms “hobo,” “tramp” and “bum” are often used interchangeably for the semi-nomadic, semi-homeless people along the railroads of the early 20th century, they actually don't mean the same thing.

According to Chicago living historian Jay Blain, the distinction was defined by what they did. For hobos, their “sole purpose” was looking for work. By contrast, tramps “were primarily moving, and working enabled the moving.” Bums, however, “tend to stay as local as they possibly can,” he said.

Blain noted the stereotypical image is of someone “a little ragged, disheveled, and rough looking in the face,” but in reality “hobos really maintained a very high standard of ethics and personal care.” They generally tried to stay out of the public eye and pay for what they got, very few wore beards, most carried a change of clothes, and otherwise stayed clean because their goal was job-finding. He said tramps were likewise “working hard to bring money to their families,” while the bums were known to beg food and money from people.

More than 90 percent hobos were men, many of them young,

with “a few hundred women,” most of whom “were accepted as part of male society,” Blain said, speaking to the Southbridge Historical Society last week. The hobos generally worked the picking circuit, travelling from New England to the northern Midwest to the Pacific Northwest and down into California getting short-term work picking apples, potatoes, cantaloupes and other things, or working in lumber industry. Some did stints in the Appalachian mines, and some helped lay new railroad track.

En route, they took advantage of a very widespread network of semi-permanent camps called “hobo jungles.” They were often located near rivers, in valleys in or outside the cities, not far from points the trains would have to slow down going around corners, near bridges, or up hills. Such sites provided relatively safe sleeping places where hobos shared amenities too big to carry, with easy access to jump the train for rides to the next stop, riding in box cars, atop the trains or even underneath them.

Of course, doing that was “highly illegal” and “inherently risky,” and the police and “railroad bulls” “were given carte blanche to do whatever they wanted to get them off the train.” Such tactics



A 1931 “hobo jungle” in Vancouver, Canada. Note how well dressed they are, in contrast to the stereotype. (From the Vancouver Archives by way of <https://www.danielfrancis.ca/blog/hobos-jungles>)

were often violent, and many hobos got severely hurt and killed by being literally thrown out of moving trains.

The hobo movement tapped into the fact there were numerous veterans who returned from the Spanish-American War and World War I (some dealing with what we now call PTSD), and many other people displaced by the depressions of 1873 and 1893. For such vets, the hobo community gave them a sense of camaraderie they didn't necessarily get from wider society.

As the US's railroad mileage exploded — from 30,000 miles in 1860 to 253,000 in 1920 — it became a lot easier

to travel fairly cheaply, and opened up rural country to people seeking work, both skilled and unskilled. That interest drew the attention of various unions, especially the Wobblies (IWW) who saw them as “a golden opportunity.” In some places, the IWW was so strong hobos had to show IWW cards to get into hobo camps or urban hostels.

In 1900, Massachusetts studied “the tramp problem.” The 104 towns that participated identified more 145,000 “tramps” (by which they meant all three groups) they'd “housed during that year.” If such folks were in town, they'd be put up with local fam-

ilies, whom the town reimbursed for meals and the like. The towns didn't want them, “but there's this undercurrent of Christian duty that we can't turn people away,” Blain said.

Some towns started building “tramp houses,” bunk houses they could stay a couple of days then move on. He noted one in Middletown was variously identified as “a jail, a schoolhouse, but it was built as a tramp house.” In bigger cities, hobos built themselves large hostels, ran hobo newspapers, had a Hobo University, and other services for their community; such places often helped immigrants, too. In Iowa, one small

rural town paid Chicago hobo leaders to hold their convention in their town 114 years ago, and they still do, electing the “King Hobo” annually.

Blain said the hobo era, mostly from 1870-1939, came to an end for two major reasons. Trains switched from coal to diesel, which had more power and made it unnecessary to slow down at the spots they used to. That made it far harder and more dangerous for hobos to jump the trains, as did the fact the railroads began locking their boxcars. Likewise, the coming of World War II brought a period of “almost 100-percent full employment.” Afterward, hobo labor in California was replaced largely by Mexicans (usually transported by vans), the railroads themselves declined, and technology made security easier and stronger.

While there are still some hobos around today, they're mostly “a lifestyle choice,” with “an element of non-conformity,” he said. Mainstream society applies the same stereotypes to them as it does to the homeless, but Blain said “For every bum, there are hundreds of other people traveling for work or because they can't handle society.”

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

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Southbridge Garden Club announces annual Greens sale

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Garden Club will hold its annual Greens Sale at the Ruth Well Center for the Arts at 111 Main St. (Route 131) in Southbridge on Friday, December 6, from noon to 5 pm, 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-prof-

it 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, sally.h.anderson@outlook.com.

Pasture Prime Players bring "Blithe Spirit" to the stage

CHARLTON — The Pasture Prime Players are pleased to announce performance dates for "Blithe Spirit" by Noël Coward. The production is directed by Stephen Jean and features the acting talents of John Golden, Madeleine Waters, Laura O'Brien, Carol Vancil, Mikey Dearn, Tey Gallipeau, and Cassidy Shaw.

Novelist Charles Condomine invites the eccentric medium Madame Arcati to his house to conduct a séance, hoping to gather material for his next book. The scheme backfires when his temperamental first wife, Elvira, manifests herself. She continually attempts to disrupt Charles's marriage to his second wife, Ruth, who cannot see or hear her. This play is produced by special arrangement with Concorde Theatricals, Inc., New York, N.Y.

Performances will be held Oct. 25 and 26 and Nov. 1 and 2 at 7:30 p.m. and Oct. 27 and Nov. 3 at 2 p.m. at the Charlton Arts & Activities Center, 4 Dresser Hill Rd., Charlton.

Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$15 for seniors (60 and older) and students (18 and under). For reservations contact us at (508) 248-5448, message us on Facebook or via e-mail at pasture.prime.players@gmail.com.

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OBITUARIES

Lorraine L. McNamara, 98

Webster/Southbridge: Lorraine L. (Cantara) McNamara, 98, of Christopher Heights Assisted Living in Webster, formerly of Highland St., Southbridge, passed away on Thursday, Oct. 10th, in the Jewish Healthcare Center, Worcester.

Her husband of 61 years, Richard "Dick" T. McNamara, passed away in 2011. She leaves her three sons; Richard T. McNamara, Jr. and his wife Nancy of Oneida, TN, Brian P. McNamara and his wife Marina of Annapolis, MD and John A. McNamara and his wife Malina of Washington, CT; her 9 grandchildren, Julianne and her husband Jason Bennett, Katherine and her husband John Buerger, Randall McNamara, Scott McNamara and his wife Kristin, Elena and her husband Phonetip Ketnouvong, Michael McNamara, Jess-Ellen and her husband Josh Villanti, Rocco McNamara, Malina and her husband Steven Clinton; and eight great grandchildren and nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her sister, Pearl Bellerive. She was born in Worcester the daughter of Alfred and Beatrice (Lariviere) Cantara.

Lorraine and her husband owned and operated Pascoag Auto Parts in Pascoag, RI and Valley Auto Parts in Smithfield, RI from 1959 to their retirement in 1996. Being ardent sports fans, they sponsored a number of local high school and club sports teams.

Lorraine was a member of the Notre Dame High School graduating class of 1944. She was a life-long member of Notre Dame / St. John Paul II Parish where she was a devoted volunteer for its community with the Notre Dame Family Festival, the parish choir, St. Vincent DePaul, the parish food pantry and St. Anne and St. Rita's women's sodalities.

Lorraine was an Honorary Life Member of the Harrington Hospital Auxiliary and volunteered at Harrington Hospital's Cancer Center.

She was a passionate volunteer for the American Cancer Society with the



Relay for Life, Daffodil Days Campaigns, and the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk. She received the 2010 Volunteer of the Year Award for Central Massachusetts and was recognized by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts House of Representatives for her many years of dedication to driving cancer patients to their treatments which she began in 1966.

Lorraine was a longtime member of the American Red Cross. An avid swimmer, she was instrumental in establishing the swim program at the Southbridge Town Pool on High Street.

Lorraine always gave so much of herself but wanted and expected nothing in return. A life well lived.

She was a sports enthusiast, loved to play and watch golf, bowl and play cards. Lorraine was an avid Boston Red Sox and New England Patriots fan. She took great care to make sure her yard was always well manicured with seasonal flowers and shrubs for the neighbors to enjoy as well. She loved her social events, to include Foxwoods Casino, with her closest friends.

Most important to Lorraine was heaping praise, support and love to her kids, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Her funeral will be held on Saturday, Oct. 19th, from the Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, with a Mass at 10:00am in Notre Dame Church of the St. John Paul II Parish, 446 Main St., Southbridge. Burial will follow in the New Notre Dame Cemetery, Southbridge. Calling hours in the funeral home will be held on Friday, Oct. 18th, from 5:00 to 7:00pm.

Donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, ATTN: Relay for Life, 7 Oak Street, Worcester, MA 01609-2508 or to Christopher Heights Assisted Living, ATTN: "Activities", 338 Thompson Road, Webster, MA 01570.

Anita L. Fiorelli, 94

Southbridge- Anita L. (Metras) Fiorelli, 94, died Tuesday, August 27th, at UMass Memorial Health/Harrington, after an illness. Her husband of 64 years was the late Daniel Fiorelli who died in 2020. They were married July 13, 1956.

She leaves her son Paul D. Fiorelli of Charlton, and 2 daughters, Nina Fiorelli of Southbridge, and Lisa Fiorelli of Southbridge, and 2 granddaughters: Jessica Sowa of Southbridge, and Sarah Hawk and her husband Eric of Holland, 6 great-grandchildren. She also leaves her sister Jeannine Mandeville of



Sturbridge, and nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her sister Aline Cormier of Southbridge.

She was an avid reader, and enjoyed crocheting and knitting. She retired from Universal Tag in Dudley where she worked for many years.

The funeral for Mrs. Fiorelli was held on Thursday, September

12, 2024 with a Mass at 11AM at Notre Dame Church, 446 Main Street, Southbridge, MA 01550. Burial followed at Saint Mary's Cemetery, Southbridge.

Edward R. Giroux, 84



Southbridge: Edward R. Giroux, 84, of Fiske St., passed away on Saturday, Oct. 12th, surrounded by his loving family in his home after a long illness.

His wife, Rita G. (Cadarette) Giroux, passed away in 2012. He leaves his five children, Darlene A. Heywosz and her husband John of Charlton, Karen R. Giroux of Charlton, Debra M. Gardner and her husband Armond of Southbridge, Shirley S. O'Connor and her husband Richard of Wales and Edward R. Giroux, Jr. of Southbridge; his three brothers, Joseph Giroux of Northboro, David Giroux of Spanaway, WA and Bernard Giroux of Sturbridge; his three sisters, Dorothy Duquette of Winchester, NH, Constance Fontaine of Southbridge and Anne Marie Widing of Okeechobee, FL; his 14 grandchildren, Jessica Giroux, Kristi Mathieu, Adam Houatchanthara, Tabatha Gardner, Aaron Houatchanthara, Jacob Giroux, Kristen Houatchanthara, Jayme Heywosz, Samantha Chapman, Thomas Heywosz, Michaela Burgwinkel, Dannielle Gilroy, Shane O'Connor and Kylie O'Connor; 10 great grandchildren and was eagerly awaiting the arrival of his newest great-grandson; and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his brother, Armand Giroux. He was



born in Southbridge the son of Armand N. and Emelia (Syriac) Giroux.

Edward served honorably in the US Air Force as an Airman 1st Class from 1959-1963. He was stationed in Thule, Greenland and later at Andrews Air Force Base in Washington, D.C.

Edward was a letter carrier for the US Postal Service in Southbridge for 27 years, retiring

many years ago. He was very involved in Veterans affairs in Southbridge and was a member and past commander of the Disable American Veterans; a member of the former Franco American Veterans and served as past president of the Southbridge Veterans Council. He was a lifetime member of the Hamilton Rod and Gun Club in Sturbridge. He loved to play bingo, enjoyed traveling, and doing puzzles. Most of all Edward loved to spend time with his family and supporting them in all of their activities.

Edward's funeral service was held on Wednesday, Oct. 16th, at 11:00am in the Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge. Burial will follow in Oak Ridge Cemetery, Southbridge. Calling hours in the funeral home were held on Tuesday, Oct. 15th, from 5:00 to 7:00pm.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Veterans Inc., 69 Grove St, Worcester, MA 01605.

www.morrillfuneralhome.com

Paul DongChun Yi, 97

Southbridge: Paul DongChun Yi, 97, formerly of Kunsan City, South Korea, passed away on Friday, Oct. 11th, in the Life Care Center of Auburn Nursing Home, surrounded by his loving family, after a short illness.

His wife, Veronica Yi, passed away in California in 2002. He leaves his son, John (Chungmin) Yi and his wife Christina Yi of Chunju City, South Korea, and his four daughters, Misa L. Guzman and her husband Deacon Juan Guzman of Southbridge, MA; Teresa Yim and her husband Dosung Yim of Folsom, CA; Jena Im and her husband Songbin Im of Chuncheon City, South Korea; and Anna Yi and her husband Daniel Yi of Hayward, CA; his six grandchildren, Juan J.L. Guzman, Jr, PhD and wife Cassandra Norgaise of Braintree, Francisco L. Guzman and his wife Laura Arvidson-Guzman, MD, of Natick, Huna Dockery, PhD, and her husband William Dockery of Folsom, CA, Albert Im and his wife Colleen of San Diego, CA, Francesca Yi and Clotilda Yi of Hayward, CA; and two great-grandchildren, Bennet Dockery and Corinne Guzman.

He was born in Kunsan, South Korea, the son of the late Myung-Chil Yi and Sun Yei Kim. Paul was a South Korean Army Veteran of the Korean War era. He emigrated to



California in 1989 and later to Southbridge, MA.

Paul was a Korean interpreter for the U.S. Air Force at Kunsan Air Base, South Korea for 35 years. His passion was bringing people to Christ and converting hundreds to the Catholic faith. Through his efforts, the first Catholic Church was built in his hometown.

He spent most of his life studying and teaching catechism. His other passions were praying before the Blessed Sacrament, gardening vegetables and flowers, and hiking at the Westville Recreation Area.

His funeral will be held on Friday, Oct. 18th, from the Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, with a Mass at 11:00am in Notre Church of the St. John Paul II Parish, 446 Main St., Southbridge. Burial will follow in St. Hedwig Cemetery, Southbridge. Calling hours in the funeral home will be held on Thursday, Oct. 17th, from 6:00 to 8:00pm.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the St. John Paul II Parish, 279 Hamilton St., Southbridge, MA 01550.

www.morrillfuneralhome.com

Charlton

continued from page 1

the financial items on the warrant are the proposed borrowing of \$850,000 to replace Charlton Fire Department's Engine 2, which the Board of Selectmen anticipates passing over indefinitely, and moving \$700,000 from free cash to the town's Stabilization Fund.

The second half of the evening's warrant will be a series of proposed bylaw amendments and revisions. Article 7 seeks to amend the town's bylaws concerning the numbering of buildings to officially establish a scheme for town officials to follow when homes are either built or renumbered. This article was proposed by both the fire and police departments and discussed in detail with the Board of Selectmen in September. Selectmen anticipate supporting this article for approval.

Other proposed bylaw changes involving zoning starting with 98 Northside Rd. seeking to re-zone the property from a business enterprise park to an agricultural or rural residential plot. A second article, also pertaining to 98 Northside Road as well as 92 and 106 Northside Rd., would amend the zoning map to remove these lots from the wireless telecommunication overlay district. A final amendment regarding the wording of the subdivision proposals subsection of the zoning bylaws serves as the closing article on the warrant.

Charlton's fall special town meeting will take place on Oct. 21 starting at 7 p.m. at Charlton Middle School on Oxford Road. A full copy of the meeting warrant is available on the Town of Charlton Web site.

Opacum

continued from page 1

drinking water for the town of Southbridge.

"We are so thrilled to be a part of conserving the Para Family Preserve and adding it to the protected properties in our region," said Laney Wilder, Executive Director of Opacum Land Trust. "This property not only has amazing habitat for wildlife, it also extends to the Cohasse Brook Reservoir; protecting clean drinking water for the town of Southbridge. Its protection is a testament to the Para family's commitment to conservation."

It takes a village to make conservation happen and this project is no exception. Funding and support for the project was provided by the US Forest Service, the Forest Legacy Program, the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation, and the North American Wetlands Conservation Act administered by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection -DEEP (The Connecticut Depart-

ment of Energy and Environmental Protection is an Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Employer that is committed to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act. To request an accomodation contact us at (860) 418-5910.

We are also grateful to the town of Southbridge, whose assistance and partnership made the project possible, and to the trustees of the Robert F Para Family Trust for their commitment to conservation.

"My brothers and I are so glad that the land is conserved," said Nancy Whitemore, trustee of the Robert F. Para Family Trust. "It was my parents dream that this land be protected and left in its natural state."

The preserve will be managed by Opacum Land Trust. The land trust plans to build a parking area and public trails in the future and looks forward to being able to welcome the public to enjoy this special place after that work is complete.

For more information about the Robert F. and

Jeanne R. Para Family Preserve or Opacum Land Trust's conservation efforts, please visit www.opacumlt.org.

About Opacum Land Trust

Opacum Land Trust is a regional, non-profit land conservation organization that protects land, water, and wildlife for current and future generations. We work in a 13-town region stretching from eastern Hampden Country and southwestern Worcester County in the towns between Monson and Charlton. Founded in 2000, Opacum currently protects over 4,050 acres of land and is actively working to protect more land across the service area.

Reach out to us at Opacum Land Trust, PO Box 233, Sturbridge, MA 01566; info@opacumlt.org, (508) 347-9144 and check out our website for events, properties you can visit, and ways to get involved at www.OpacumLT.org



Dispensary

continued from page 1

rated now” with cannabis facilities – 140 licensed cultivators and about 340 dispensaries. Some existing growers don’t have enough outlets for their product and end up having to sell it very cheaply just before it expires, which pushes down prices for others.

Zawacki said the number of applications to start cannabis-related businesses has plummeted, with 450 over the last two years, but just 45 this year. (One of those is in Southbridge, where the Planning Board had a special permit hearing Oct 2 for a cannabis delivery firm on East Main Street.)

Another issue is communication from the Cannabis Control Commission (CCC), the state’s governing body, which they both said can be hard to reach. A third is that current rules prohibit a lot of detail in

advertising and still prevent the public from even being able to see into a dispensary.

Likewise, cannabis is still technically illegal at the federal level, although several states have legalized it. This fact still makes banking a problem for industry members. Kunian predicted it’ll take 8-10 years for Washington to legalize it.

Through the Mass Cannabis Coalition, the legal industry also tries to confront illegal synthetic hemp products (often known as Delta 9). That’s regulated by the FDA, and Kunian noted state and local authorities don’t “have enough of a budget to oversee [it].”

Many people “still don’t understand cannabis,” Zawacki added. “... There’s kind of that stigma still, and that makes things difficult.”

But, he also noted, a large percentage of the peo-

ple support it, and the company spends a lot of energy educating about varieties, medicinal uses, safety and other factors. In many cases, they talk about how it can help people currently on prescription meds get relief without the side effects those meds often have. (Zawacki does acknowledge, however, that cannabis effects can vary depending on the user’s own internal endocannabinoid system and other bodily factors.)

Kunian said roughly 28 percent of people 18 and older use it in some form, and he sees many of the rest as an opportunity, although admits some will never use it.

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

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- Sturbridge Villager
- Charlton Villager
- Southbridge News
- Webster Times
- Auburn News
- Blackstone Valley Tribune

LEGALS

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Under G.L. c.255 Sec.39A
Notice is hereby given by Cruise Control Transportation Inc. Pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, Section 39A. that on or after October 26th, 2024 at Cruise Control Transportation Inc. the following motor vehicle/s will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle:

VEHICLE MAKE : 2007 Freightliner M2 106
VIN:1FVACWCS27HY08782
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER :
360 Auto Group
79-02 Cypress Avenue
Queens NY 11385

VEHICLE MAKE: 2010 Mitsubishi Fuso FE85D
VIN:JL6CCJ1S6AK000382
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER :
Lester Luis Jova-Rodriguez
7505 PARK AVE APT 203
NORTH BERGEN NJ,07047

VEHICLE MAKE: 2017 Nissan Altima
VIN:1N4AL3AP4HN352494
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER:
Ryan Martin
108 HARRISON ST
MANCHESTER NH 03104

VEHICLE MAKE :2005 Mazda MPV
VIN:JM3LW28J950550946
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER :
Luis A Verges
55 GODDARD ST APT 3
SOUTHBRIDGE MA 01550

VEHICLE MAKE: 2008 Kia Amanti
VIN: KNALD125085166675
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER:
James P Downs JR
165 PLEASANT ST
SOUTHBRIDGE MA 01550

VEHICLE MAKE :2007 Audi Q7 (Black)
VIN:WA1BY74L87D049247
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER :
Jyneisha Lahni Perucier
16 BEDFORD AVE, APT 1
WORCESTER MA 01604

VEHICLE MAKE:2007 Honda Ridgeline (Maroon)
VIN:2HJYK16257H535273
LAST REGISTERED OWNER:
Sylvia D Nelson,
338 MAIN ST
CHERRY VALLEY, MA 01611

VEHICLE MAKE:2002 Toyota Camry (Black)
VIN:JTDBF30K320043888
LAST REGISTERED OWNER:
Amber L Newell,
183 PLEASANT ST,APT 21
WORCESTER MA 01609

VEHICLE MAKE:2010 Lexus IS 250
VIN:JTHBF5C22A5122380
LAST REGISTERED OWNER :
Efrain Agosto
2561 SOUTHERN OAKS
CANTONMENT FL 32533

VEHICLE MAKE :2012 Nissan Altima
VIN:1N4AL2AP7CN510054
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER :
Louise M Deliddo
55 LAKE ST,
WEBSTER MA 01570

VEHICLE MAKE :2010 MAZDA MAZDA 3
VIN:JM1BL1SGXA1227496
LAST REGISTERED OWNER:
Derrick J Lacross,
1350 NARRAGANSETT BLVD
CRANSTON RI 02905

VEHICLE MAKE :2006 Toyota Highlander Hybrid (Silver)
VIN:JTEEW21A660024685
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER :
Leroy Edwards,
1047 LA CROIX AVE
AKRON, OH 44307

VEHICLE MAKE :2005 Toyota Corolla
VIN:2T1BR30E85C555058
Kelcie S Farrell
138 JOSEPH CIR
WHITINSVILLE, MA 01588

VEHICLE MAKE:2012 Ford Fusion (Black)
VIN:3FAHP0HAXCR138358
LAST REGISTERED OWNER:
Dorneus, Marckendy
3600 MYSTIC VALLEY PKWY APT W809
Medford MA 02155
OCTOBER 18,2024
OCTOBER 11,2024
OCTOBER 25, 2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Division
Docket No. WO23P4431EA
Estate of:
Victor Matherly
Alson Known As:
Victor J. Matherly
Date Of Death: 11/17/2023
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

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

**Anna I. Dagostino of Oyster Bay NY
Katheryn J. Matherly of Sturbridge** 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.
October 18, 2024

The Brimfield ZBA will hold a public hearing at 5:00 pm on November 13, 2024, at Hitchcock Academy, 2 Brookfield Road, on behalf of Marcel and Sandra Clavet of 70 Maple Valley Rd, Bolton CT 06043, for the property located at 105 Little Alum Rd. Parcel ID 5C-A-9. The applicants wish to build a single story, 2-bedroom home with an attached garage. There will also be a new well and septic. Abutters and members of the public are encouraged to attend and provide feedback.
October 18,2024

**Legal Notice
Town of Charlton
Highway Department
P: (508) 248-2212**

**E: dpwadmin@townofcharlton.net
Temporary Part-Time
Employment Opportunity**

Seeking (2) Plow Truck operators (Class D License required), (1) Sander/Plow Unit Operator (Class B, CDL License required, 2B Hoisting Engineering License preferred) for the winter storm season of 2024-2025. Please inquire by calling, emailing or stopping by the Charlton Highway Department office located at 100 Flint Road, Charlton, MA 01507. The opening date for applications to be picked up, emailed or found online is **October 7, 2024**. Positions available until filled.
October 10, 2024

**Legal Notice
Town of Charlton
Highway Department
P: (508) 248-2212**

**E: dpwadmin@townofcharlton.net
Private Snowplow
Service Contractors
Employment Opportunity**

Now seeking Private Snowplow Removal Service Contractors for the winter storm season of 2024-2025. Applications can be found online at www.townofcharlton.net / Highway Department / Snow & Ice. We can also email you an application or you are welcome to stop by the Highway Department office located at 100 Flint Road, Charlton, MA 01507. The opening date for applications/specifications to be picked up, emailed or found online is **October 7, 2024**, and the **DEADLINE** to submit is **October 31, 2024, 3:00 p.m.**, EOE/AA.
October 10, 2024

**TOWN OF STURBRIDGE
SELECT BOARD
STURBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS**

Sealed Bids for the construction of the "Route 20 Sewer System Rehabilitation Project" will be received by the Board of Selectmen at the Town Hall, Veterans Conference Room, 308 Main St. Sturbridge, MA 01566 until **2:00 p.m. local time on November 13, 2024** at which time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read. Sealed Bids must have outer envelope marked as "Route 20 Sewer System Rehabilitation Project." The work consists of the following major items:

1. The cured-in-place lining of approximately 2,100 linear feet of 12-inch through 18-inch diameter asbestos cement gravity sewer mains.
2. The cured-in-placed lining of 2 exte-

rior manhole chimneys.

3. The epoxy lining of 230 vertical feet of manholes.
4. The replacement of 1 manhole.
5. The replacement and resetting to grade of the frame and cover of 1 manhole.

Bids shall be on a lump sum and unit price basis, as indicated in the Bid Form.

All Bids for this project are subject to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws or Chapter 30, Section 39M as amended. Bidding Documents may be obtained electronically from the Tighe & Bond website at: http://www.tighebond.com/Projects_Out_to_Bid.php

Prospective bidders must complete a one-time registration process on the web site in order to receive login credentials. Bidders must log in to the web site to download bidding documents for the project. Bidders will be added to the "planholders" or prospective bidders list upon downloading the bidding documents for the project. Bidding documents may also be examined at the office of Tighe & Bond, Inc., 120 Front Street, Worcester, Massachusetts between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, legal holidays excluded.

A bid deposit shall be furnished in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

This Contract contains price adjustments for hot mix asphalt mixes, diesel fuel and gasoline. See Section 01270 for payment procedures and base prices for this Project.

Minimum Wage Rates as determined by the Commissioner of Department of Workforce Development under the provision of the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 149, Section 26 to 27D, as amended, apply to this project. It is the responsibility of the Contractor, before Bid opening, to request if necessary, any additional information on Minimum Wage Rates for those trades people who may be employed for the proposed Work under this Contract. A non-mandatory pre-Bid conference will be held at the Sturbridge Highway Department at 1 New Boston Road Extension in Sturbridge on October 31, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

TOWN OF STURBRIDGE,
MASSACHUSETTS
October 17, 2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200**

**Docket No. WO23P3399EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**
Estate Of:

**Garry Paul Howe
Date of Death: 10/22/2021**
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **FS/A - Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by

Dawn Marie Howe of Whiteville NC requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that:

Dawn Marie Howe of Whiteville NC be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/05/2024**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.

Date: October 03 2024
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
October 17, 2024

Town of Brimfield Conservation Commission Public Hearing Notice

In accordance with the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Brimfield Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on Wednesday November 13, 2024, at 6:00 PM to review a Notice of Intent submitted by Graves Engineering, Inc. c/o Jonathan Leonard/Brimfield Housing Authority. The Notice of Intent requests to expand two parking areas. **Project Location:** 20 Colonial Park, Brimfield, MA (Assessor's Map (13-B-3.11)).

Meeting Location: Public Participation will be In-Person at Hitchcock Academy at 2 Brookfield Road, Brimfield, MA 01010 on November 13, 2024, at 6:00 PM.

Any person(s) interested or wishing to be heard on this request should appear at the time and place designated. A copy of the permit application and plan may be inspected at the Brimfield Town Annex in the Conservation Commission Office, Salisbury Annex Building, 2nd Floor, 23 Main Street, Brimfield, MA 01010 or contact the office at 413-245-4100 ext. 1101.

Roger deBruyn & Joseph Venezia
Co-Chairs
10/07/2024
October 17, 2024
October 24, 2024

In accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act, Chapter 131, Sec 40, a public hearing by the Conservation Commission will be held on Tuesday 10/22/2024 in the Conservation Commission Room, second floor, in the Holland Town Hall, 27 Sturbridge Rd, Holland, MA. This meeting is to review a Notice of Intent (NOI) filed by Joseph Centauro for retaining wall repair at 29 Hamilton Dr., Holland, MA. To comply with the Open Meeting Law, all public hearings are scheduled for 6:30 PM and, barring unforeseen circumstances, will be taken in the order in which they appear on the agenda. This meeting will be held in person and virtual; for virtual meeting login information contact Holland Conservation at conservation@hollandma.org or call (413) 245-7108 x114.

Conservation Commission
Town of Holland
October 17, 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 October 23, 2024, at 7PM on the application of Steven Bressette

The applicant has submitted a Request for Determination of Applicability for a stream re classification. Stream location: Hill Road, Charlton, MA. Parcel ID: 31-D-6 & 32 -A-7

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
October 17, 2024

In accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act, Chapter 131, Sec 40, a public hearing by the Conservation Commission will be held on Tuesday 10/22/2024 in the Conservation Commission Room, second floor, in the Holland Town Hall, 27 Sturbridge Rd, Holland, MA. This meeting is to review a Notice of Intent (NOI) filed by John Beltrandi for retaining wall repair at 93 Maybrook Rd., Holland, MA. To comply with the Open Meeting Law, all public hearings are scheduled for 6:30 PM and, barring unforeseen circumstances, will be taken in the order in which they appear on the agenda. This meeting will be held in person and virtual; for virtual meeting login information contact Holland Conservation at conservation@hollandma.org or call (413) 245-7108 x114.

Conservation Commission
Town of Holland
October 17, 2024

Keeping Albanian culture alive through food

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE — Even something as apparently simple as a cookbook can reflect the changing times while preserving the past.

“Albanian food's getting more popular because Albania is being opened to tourism,” and people are opening restaurants, Virginia Rapo said. Historically, immigrant parents “carried on cooking and baking here. ... Now, we're getting it for the new generation.”

Louise Majewski agreed, noting it's “very basic food.” A lot of people associate similar food with Greeks, “but they use a lot more spices,” she said.

They're referring to the long, flaky spinach, squash, leek and sauerkraut pies coming out of the ovens at St Nicholas Church last week. It was just one day of several spread over months preparing for their annual “Albanian pies and ethnic delicacies” sale. The deadline for orders this year is Nov. 1 to be picked up Nov. 25; contact 508-764-6226 for details.

This year is also the 50th anniversary



Gus Steeves

One of the cooks holds up what's left of a spinach pie the taste testers have already pronounced worthy.

of Southbridge's own “From Albanian Kitchens,” which includes these pies and a long list of other dishes, some with meat, some vegetarian. They aren't vegan, though. As Majewski said, “Our parents all came from Albania. At that time, they didn't have refrigeration, but all had their own cows. That's why our food has a lot of butter.”

“We kind of know who gave us the recipes,” she added. But the 1974 first edition left out names “because everybody made them.” The most-recent 2016 edition, however, includes them.

Rapo noted finding first names took some work, because Albanians traditionally identified women in a way



Gus Steeves

Making the pies requires rolling out a lot of dough.

that translates as “you belonged to your husband,” she said. She had to “walk around the cemetery looking for their stones to get the correct spelling.”

Also traditionally, all the cooking was done by women, but they both noted that's changing, with some men they know being good cooks.

A recent edition of *AramcoWorld* (January-February 2024) featured several such cooks back in their native land, noting even popular chef Bledar Kola learned some of “the intricacies of traditional Albanian cuisine” at the hands of women. After years in the UK and France, Kola wanted to open a gourmet restaurant in Tirana, but found “few recipe books available to guide him.”

The article by Tristan Rutherford notes decades of Communist

rule were partly to blame. The government restricted dairy, meat and fat, so “Albanians often found themselves unable to replicate the dishes that had been passed down for generations.” But the cuisine survived, extending a legacy that traces back to the ancient Illyrians, and has been fed by Greeks, Romans, and Ottomans along the way, Rutherford wrote.

In Southbridge, the idea's to keep that custom going, too. When the cookbook was created 50 years ago, “we told all our mothers, ‘Next time you cook such and such, keep a pad of paper, measure everything, write it down and we'll preserve it,’” Rapo recalled.

That included some of the customs surrounding recipes. For example, the book includes a description of Rusicat,

a mid-Pentecost ceremony — “all would gather in a mountain chapel or church for the Liturgy and share their Lenten specialties and red-colored Easter eggs.” To celebrate spring's arrival on March 2, “children, carrying small branches, would knock at their neighbors' doors mimicking the sounds of birds. The children would exchange the branches for treats of soda bread, figs and nuts.”

Elsewhere, it gives a recipe for Grure, “a mixture of boiled wheat, sugar, nuts and sometimes raisins” shared among the people who attended a memorial service. “The Grure serves to remind us of the resurrection of the dead,” it states. “As grain must be buried in the earth to grow and bear fruit, so to the body of the dead must be committed to earth so that it may rise to eternal life.”

“We wanted to make it a history our kids and grandkids would remember,” Majewski said.

Of course, things do change. They noted some people these days

use pre-made fillo dough instead of making their own crusts. (Properly made crusts require several dough rollings and time in the fridge between them.)

“Sometimes, people look at a recipe and say that's too much work,” Rapo said. “But we always had this at home. This is what we were raised on.”

“Seven of us make them [for the sale] and four are over 80, so it'll be a lost art,” Majewski added. “Younger people don't have the time.”

To fight that, there have been a few attempts to teach the cooking style publicly. Majewski recalled Holy Cross professor Roy Gunther's book “Ethnic Stew,” and Bay Path's invitation of older women to the school “to show how to make stuff, but that was many, many years ago.” However, she noted there are talks now about having a cooking class at the Senior Center featuring several local ethnic groups, including Albanian, Lao and Hispanic cuisines.

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

Friends of Charlton Public Library to celebrate National Friends of Libraries Week

CHARLTON — The Charlton Public Library will be spending the week of Oct. 20-26, celebrating its Friends of the Library group as part of the 19th annual celebration of National Friends of Libraries Week.

The Friends present programs and services that celebrate the year-round dedication of the Friends of the Library. Some previous programs have featured gene-

alogy experts, musical performances, poetry readings, author talks, and more.

The Friends of Charlton Library are dedicated to supporting and enabling the library to fulfill its mission. Made up of community members, the Friends are a major factor in the library's progress, advocating for funding and volunteering their time to assist with fundraising efforts that enable the Friends to sponsor

the Summer Reading Program, provide museum and entertainment venue passes, and represent the library at local community events, among others.

“The Friends of Charlton Library play a vital role in advocating for our Library. They supplement and support numerous programs and services that are not covered by our operating budget, such as our popular Summer Reading

Program,” said Karen Wall, Charlton Public Library Director. “We are very grateful for the time and energy they devote to making our Library a great community asset!”

Please visit <https://www.charltonlibrary.org/> to learn more about their activities, and to find out how to become a member of the Friends.

National Friends of Libraries Week is coordinated by United for Libraries, a

division of the American Library Association. United for Libraries supports those who govern, promote, advocate, and fundraise for libraries, and brings together library Trustees/board members, advocates, Friends Groups, library Foundations, and those who work with them into a partnership that creates a powerful force for libraries. For more information, visit www.ala.org/united.

Overlook crafters generously donate proceeds to charity

CHARLTON — The Overlook Crafters are thrilled to announce that they are donating all proceeds from The Overlook's Fall Festival to two deserving charities: The Children's Dyslexia Center of Central Mass and Charlton's Chip-in Food Pantry.

The Overlook Crafters are pleased to report that they have raised more than \$3,500 for charity. This impressive accomplishment is the result of months of dedicated planning and

preparation for the annual Fall Festival.

In addition to selling handcrafted items made by the members, the Overlook Crafters received a generous donation of a handmade quilt from Virginia Belforte, an Overlook Resident, which was raffled off at the Fall Festival. The lucky winner of the quilt was Patti Sciarra.

All unsold items from the festival were generously donated. Knitted hats were distributed to Charlton El-



ementary School, while other crafts were given to local thrift stores and churches.

A special thanks goes out to Resident Nancy

Corkum for her invaluable guidance in organizing the group's craft display, sales strategy, and charitable contributions.

The Overlook Crafters group was founded more than 17 years ago by Resident Barbara Delano, who learned to make totes in a class at The Overlook. As more Residents joined and showed interest in crafting, the group grew into the vibrant community it is today.

When asked about participating in the Fall Festival and donating the proceeds to charities, Barbara Delano said, “It's a communal effort to give back to our

community. Participating in the Fall Festival serves two purposes: giving back to charities and uniting in a communal effort with other Residents.”

The checks were collected by Darlene Emco, Representative of Charlton Food Bank, and Ill. Robert Schremser 33 Degree MSA, Representative of Children's Dyslexia Center of Central MA.

Franco-American authors present new books at Jacob Edwards Library

SOUTHBRIDGE — Invoking Southbridge's rich Franco-American history, poets Jeri Theriault and Steven Riel and memoirist Charlie Gargiulo will read from their new books at the Jacob Edwards Library, 236 Main St., on Thursday, Nov. 21, 6-7:30 p.m.

Jeri Theriault's recent awards include the 2023 Maine Arts Commission Literary Arts Fellowship, the 2023 Monson Arts Fellowship, and the 2022 Norward Prize for Poetry. Her most recent collection of poetry, “Self-Portrait as Homestead,” focuses on family and heritage, specifically the Franco-American culture the poet experienced growing up in Waterville, Maine.

Steven Riel's newest book is titled “Edgemere” after the neighborhood in Shrewsbury near Lake Quinsigamond. His poems zigzag across liminal spaces, not just between male/female and human/in-



human, but between those fallen from AIDS and survivors who grieve them. Riel serves as editor-in-chief of the Franco-American online literary journal *Résonance*.

others, including Lowell's immigrant population.

The event is free and open to the public.

Marianhill Class of 1974 holds 50th reunion

REGION — The former Marianhill High School of Southbridge may be gone but their Alumni never forget their valuable formative years together and look forward to congregating every 5 years! Marianhill Central Catholic High School was at the current location of Trinity Catholic Academy on the corner of Hamilton and Pine streets from the years 1965 -1986. Our students were from local areas that included: Southbridge,



Sturbridge, Charlton, Dudley, Webster, Oxford, Warren, and other towns.

A weekend of activities occurred from Friday evening through to

Sunday's final celebration event themed, "Party Like it's 1974." Opportu-

nities to golf and a tour of the Heritage Optical Museum were a couple of the featured opportunities attended. The highlight of the reunion weekend took place on the beautiful grounds of classmate, Thomas Palmerino's home on a gorgeous Sunday in late September. Approximately thirty-nine classmates, spouses and guests including former basketball coach, Ralph Loconto enjoyed the festivity that started at 1pm and went

well into the evening by a warm firepit in the darkness. Attendees took the theme to heart and a wonderful time was had by all. Classmates came from California, Florida, Oregon, Texas, and local areas. Some classmates attended their first reunion in 50 years or their first since the 20th reunion! What an exciting time it was.

These classmates look forward to meeting again for the 55th reunion in 2029 and beyond!

Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy welcomes new adjunct faculty

CHARLTON — The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is pleased to welcome newly appointed adjunct faculty Megan Redkey, BSN, RN, CCRN of Gardner.



Bachelor of Science in Nursing at MCPHS University, Worcester, MA (May 2021) where she was inducted to the Sigma Theta Tau Interna-

tional Honor Society of Nursing. Her academic honors include Magna Cum Laude and Dean's List. She is expected to complete his Doctor of Nursing Practice degree (Family Nurse Practitioner Track) in 2027 at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School, Tan Chingfen Graduate School of Nursing. Her certifications include AACN CCRN, AHA BLS,

AHA ACLS, and AHA PALS. Her work experience includes Critical Care Float Pool at UMAss Memorial Medical Center University Campus where she provides care and management of patients to all ICU and specialty inpatient settings including surgical, transplant, trauma, neuro, cardiovascular, pulmonary, pediatric/PICU, PACU/SACU, cardiac step-down, and car-

diac short-stay including maintenance of specialty education associated with each unit. She was previously connected with the Heart and Vascular Critical Care Unit at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, where she precepted and was a back-up/trainee, shadow experience partner for new grads/students, dayshift. Professor Redkey volunteers with the Medical Reserve Corps,

Wachusett Unit.

"We are excited to have Professor Redkey join the Practical Nursing Academy," stated Gretheline Bolandrina DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN Academy Director. "She brings with her expertise and experience that would greatly benefit the PN students and our Bay Path community."

Missing

continued from page 6

ing out in a line, covering as much ground as possible. As the day wore on, the search grew larger, and by nightfall, more than 200 people were involved, combing the area in hopes of finding the boy. Despite the cold and rough terrain, they were confident they'd see him

nearby. But the search dragged on through the night, with no sign of Keith.

Then, at around 7 a.m. the next morning, searchers found footprints three miles away, walking through a herd of cattle—one set of footprints. Hours later, a searcher found Keith 12 miles away in Skull Canyon, lying face down

in the snow, his hat and coat beside him. Remarkably, he was alive but suffering from exposure, unable to move because his body was stiff from the cold. His face was covered in scratches, and his clothing was torn. Keith made a full recovery, but his case left many unanswered questions. How did a two-year-old travel 12 miles

in freezing temperatures overnight without shoes, food, or water? Yet, against all odds, he survived. I have a hard time believing he could do this without help from someone or something.

This case has a happy ending—Keith was found alive—but he was two years old, and two-year-olds don't walk 12 miles, especially bare-

foot in the snow.

Parkins' case isn't an isolated incident. There are hundreds of cases that are even stranger and far more terrifying.

Mysteriously, these cases often occur in clusters—specific locations where disappearances appear more frequently. The patterns suggest that something strange is at play in these re-

gions, though no one has been able to pinpoint a solid explanation.

The forests, mountains, and wilderness may hold more mysteries than we care to admit. So, as you carve pumpkins, watch scary movies, and enjoy Halloween, understand that real-life mysteries can be far more frightening than any old ghost story.

Scams

continued from page 3

scam method; legitimate prizes and lotteries never require you to pay anything up front. They'll take taxes and fees out of the winnings, and send you a smaller amount.

"Upfront charges are red flags all the time," he noted. Those can sometimes be seen in inheritance scams, too. He recalled speaking to a group in Northbridge where two people had identical "inheritance" letters, both claiming they'd get significant sums if they paid taxes and attorney fees up front.

Also common, he said, are tech support scams. Those often pop up as flashing screens and siren-like sounds that claim your computer's been taken over by malware which can only be removed by calling a fake phone number that claims to be tech support from Microsoft or a similar major company. Usually, the warning includes the line "don't turn off your computer," but that's actually the way to get out of it. Don't call them, just turn it off and restart it.

Donohue has also seen several "grandparent scames." Those often manifest as phone calls from "a distraught voice" claiming to be a grandson or child in an accident, jail or some other negative situation and needing emergency money. Sometimes the crooks will even arrange to have a courier come to the hosue to

collect the money/gift cards. To protect his family, he said he has his kids remember passwords that will tell him it's really them.

He noted AI voice cloning could "make [this] a more targeted scam," but so far it's been random. Similarly, some scammers use Facebook "friend requests" from people you think you're already friends with to steal your contact lists. Sometimes, they send "look who died" scam notices about famous people which serve the same purpose.

Both Donohue and Chiasson also cited fake job scams, with Chiasson saying she sees them often. Donohue said they often say you're already hired, but to start you need to pay fees or buy certain job items (for example, postage and paper). Typically, the crooks send a large check, say you can keep some and send the rest to a certain address in the form of cashiers' check or gift cards. But the check is fake and will bounce, typically after you've drawn on your own funds to do what the scammers requested.

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

Sturbridge

continued from page 1

Tasty food options will be served up by a lineup of fabulous food trucks. Uncle E's BBQ Express, Grub Guru (Asian Fusion street food and Mediterranean), and Honest Town Pizza will be at the festival on both days. The Korean tastes of Sun Kim Bop (Saturday only) and east coast style seafood and burgers of the Off the Hook Food Truck (Sunday only) round out the collection of mobile eateries available to festgoers.

The festival's entertainment schedule is as follows: On Saturday, October Mountain (blues and reggae) plays on the main stage from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Magician Ryan Lally performs from 1:15-2 p.m. on the main stage followed by two hours of roving magic. Erin Harpe's CBD (Country Blues Duo) plays on the main stage from 2:30-5:00pm. On Sunday, Ryan Lally's magic show happens on the main stage from 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. followed by roving magic. Making their first appearance at Harvest Festival, the Southern New England Witch Dancers Troupe will perform from 12:30 to 1 p.m. in front of the bandstand. Blending mysticism, dramatic costumes, and rhythmic choreography, the troupe performs captivating dances inspired by witchcraft and folklore. The Pioneer Valley Flamethrowers, the last act of the weekend, perform acoustic blues and bluegrass music from 1-3:45 p.m. on Sunday.

"We are excited to add several new crafters, artists, activities, and the bounce house specifically for kids this year. For adults, we've added axe throwing and two new bands. The extended forecast looks great, so we're getting ready for a fabulous festival," said CMS Chamber Executive Director Alexandra McNitt.

Harvest Festival's hours are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, come rain or shine. Parking and admission are free. The 34th Annual Harvest Festival is proudly presented by the Chamber of Central Mass South and sponsored by the Sturbridge Tourist Association. Don't miss out on this quintessential fall experience! Experience the 34th Annual Harvest Festival and revel in the colorful sights, sounds and tastes of the season.

The Chamber of Central Mass South was founded in 1945 and is the leading business organization in the region, fostering economic and community development with a spirit for collaboration and success. For more information, please visit cmschamber.org or contact the Chamber at 508-347-2761.

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Bethlehem Lutheran Church at 345 Main St., Sturbridge, held a Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, Oct. 7, at 1 p.m. on the church grounds. The custom of blessing the animals is conducted annually around the birthday of Saint Francis of Assisi who expressed his love for all creatures. A special prayer was offered for the companionship of animals, and for the help they provide us physically, emotionally, and spiritually. The event was open to the public and well attended. Pastor Ellie Kraner presided and gave a special blessing to each of the animals.

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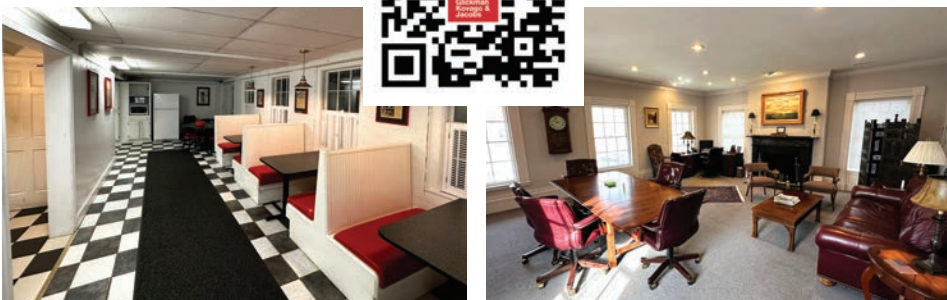


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