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Thursday-Friday, May 30-31, 2024

Trio of Brimfield-based Scouts earn Eagle rank

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

BRIMFIELD — Three members of Brimfield-based Boy Scout Troop 7 recently earned the prestigious Eagle Scout rank.

Zachary Brigham (of Holland), Mark Fedora (of Brimfield), and Andrew Soderberg (of Wales) were celebrated for their accomplishments at a triple Eagle Court of Honor. The May 4 event was held at The First Congregational Church of Brimfield.

Brigham first joined Scouting as a Webelo in 2016. He has enjoyed taking multiple trips with his friends, including visits to Old Sturbridge Village, the State Police Barracks, and Pinewood Derby races, among several others.

During his tenure as a Boy Scout, Brigham has also participated in



From left, Mark Fedora, Andrew Soderberg, and Zachary Brigham celebrate their Eagle Scout rank during a recent ceremony.

many hiking and camping trips, volunteer work, and community projects. Some of his favorite adventures include working as a cook at Camp Matatuck for hundreds of Scouts; hiking the battlefields of Gettysburg, Pa., and Valley Forge, N.Y.; serving dinners at the Senior Center; and serving bag lunches for Worcester Fellowship and annual food drives.

Fedora started his Scouting career in 2018 as a sixth grader. He has held many leadership positions, such as Den Chief; Patrol Leader; and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader.

Some of his favorite trips include Winter Trek at Mt. Norris Scout Reservation in Eden Mills, Vt.; biking at Martha's Vineyard; and a visit to the Herkimer Diamond Mine Camporee in Herkimer,

Courtesy

Turn To **SCOUTS** page A14

Budget, FD funding approved at Charlton Town Meeting

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — The Town of Charlton held its annual town meeting on May 20 approving a new budget, funding for the fire department substation project, and a land purchase for a potential public water supply.

After opening the meeting with several housekeeping measures, the first major vote involved the loan authorization for a new fire department substation on the corner of Oxford Road and Heritage Drive which will replace the

Charlton Fire Department's aging Station 2. Voters had previously approved an override to fund \$13.1 million for the project during the annual town election, but the vote at town meeting was to approve appropriating \$18.5 million to cover the full cost of the building which includes debt exclusion, borrowing an additional \$3.8 million within the tax levy, transferring \$1.5 million from the Capital Stabilization Fund, and utilizing \$98,165.40 from unexpended bond proceeds. An overwhelming

Turn To **CHARLTON** page A16

Council approves \$69 million budget

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE — As has happened several times in recent years, councilor Mike Marketti was the sole no vote on this year's \$69.06 million town budget May 20.

"This budget's a little too rich for my blood," he said. "A 7.8 [percent increase] is how I see it. I've never seen a budget so high."

This year's budget breaks down this way: \$37.3 million for education, \$17.9 million for

general government, \$8.9 million for public safety, \$2.6 million for public works, \$1.2 million for Bay Path Tech, and \$1.2 million for human services. It also funds three enterprise funds – sewer \$4.5 million, water \$3.6 million and the new trash fund \$2.5 million; those three are designed to be largely self-supporting from user fees.

Town Manager Jack Jovan said his finance team "took a hard look at all the capital accounts,"

and didn't fund several this year to put more in reserve. Regarding the trash fund, he added the rest of this fiscal year (through June 30), it's being funded by free cash while the first quarter's bill payments come in, since the enterprise fund won't officially begin until July 1.

The evening's most seriously debated item, however, was an effort to get a \$50,000 technical assistance grant to look into potential uses of var-

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Tantasqua Interact Club holds installation ceremony

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

STURBRIDGE — The Tantasqua Regional High School Interact Club celebrated its official charter during an installation ceremony this month.

The May 14 event featured a pizza competition, a silent auction, and the presentation of citations from Massachusetts State Senator Ryan Fattman's office.

Representing the Senator and presenting the citations was Amanda Helliar. Meanwhile, Rotary District Assistant Governor David Zonia presented the official charter to TRHS Principal Peter Dufresne.

Zonia then swore in the executive board and all other members of the school's newly minted Interact Club.

"The event marked the foundation of Tantasqua's chapter of Interact Club, an organization for students 12-18 years old that is sponsored by Rotary International,"



The Tantasqua Regional High School Interact Club recently held an installation ceremony.

Courtesy

read a statement released by club advisor Amy Willard. "Interact Clubs are committed to developing leadership

skills, fostering responsible citizenship, and promoting international understanding through community service.

The clubs instill the Rotary value of 'service above self' by engaging students in action that improves their commu-

nities, both locally and globally."

Each chapter of Interact Club is sponsored by

a local Rotary Club that provides mentorship and support. Chapters across the country col-

Turn To **INTERACT** page A16

Southbridge honors Memorial Day



Police Chief Shane Woodson and Deputy Chief Jose Dingui salute during the national anthem.



The police contingent, the parade's vanguard, is ready to start marching at the fire station.



Dad and daughter duel with flags.



A couple citizens take time to contemplate at the Honor Roll.



John and Linda Daniel dip their heads during the invocation.

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This girl was among several kids towing small wagons with their projects on the geography of various states (in her case, Alaska).



Girl Scout Troop 65153 is in the house!

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Friday's Child

Hi! Our names are Chantce and Halo and we love to be active!
Chantce and Halo are spunky, creative girls who share a very close bond. Chantce, the older sister, is outgoing and makes friends easily. She loves sports, especially soccer, basketball, and hockey. Both girls love to play outside. Chantce is creative and enjoys art projects. Halo is a curious and sweet girl. While she can be shy at first, once she is comfortable she loves to spend time with others. Halo loves to go swimming and participate in gymnastics. She also enjoys art projects. Chantce and Halo have a very close relationship and love spending time together.
<https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/children/8603-8753>

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If you're at least 18 years old, have a stable source of income, and room in your heart, you may be a perfect match to adopt a waiting child. Adoptive parents can be single, married, or partnered; experienced or not; renters or homeowners; LGBTQ+ singles and couples. As an adoptive parent, you won't have to pay any fees, adoption from foster care is completely free in Massachusetts.
The process to adopt a child from foster care includes training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you. These steps will help match you with a child or sibling group that your family will fit well with.
To learn more about adoption from foster care visit www.mareinc.org. Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) can give you guidance and information on the adoption process. Reach out today to find out all the ways you can help children and teens in foster care.



A couple girls from Southbridge High's award-winning cheer team show off their moves while marching down Main Street.



This young man looks like he knows what he'll be when he grows up.

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SOUTHBRIDGE — This year's Memorial Day parade was the biggest in several years, with contingents from various youth organizations alongside veterans, the police, fire and DPW. Although the Southbridge High band didn't play, it was represented, as were kids from Trinity Catholic, West Street School, and Girl and Boy Scouts, among others.



Courtesy

Widows and Veterans enjoying time together in the Great Hall room at the Overlook Masonic Home facility in Charlton.



Courtesy

Rainbow Girls of Oxford, representative Caera Gonyea handing out roses to all the women and thanking them for all they have done for their service and support of their men.



Courtesy

Bro. Dean Moss serving food to the widows and veterans along with Bro. Johnathan Neitz ready to serve the delicious dessert.

Masons hold annual Widows and Veterans Luncheon

BRO. JIMMY FALZONE
QUINEBAUG MASONIC LODGE
SOUTHBRIDGE

CHARLTON — On Saturday, May 25, the 24th Masonic District held its Annual Masonic Widows and Veterans Luncheon at the Overlook Masonic Home facilities in Charlton.

This event has been going on for 12 years now. Chairmen Brother Dean Moss, and committee members were very happy to see all the attendees that came out for this very special tradition to honor our Masonic widows and veterans. Fifty-six people attended, including many of the Overlook Masonic Home residents. This event has had the greatest numbers of volunteers from members throughout the 24th Masonic District since

this annual event started 12 years ago. There was entertainment by Clyde Wheatley who played his saxophone and played mostly jazz from the 30's to 40's era. His music brought back many memories for those who attended this event.

Prior to entering the hall veterans and widows registered for the event. The Oxford Rainbow Girls from Oxford walked to each table and handed the widows and women roses and thanked them for their support and service.

Prior to the meal, the Color Guard entered the dining hall. The flag bearer, Brother Kevin O'Donnell, entered the room and proceeded to the POW/MIA Missing



Man Remembrance Table or sometimes refers as the Fallen Comrade Table. This table is our way of symbolizing the

fact that members of our profession of arms are missing from our midst. Bro. O'Donnell read a beautiful passage in remembrance of our fallen, missing, or imprisoned U.S. military service men

(Left) Bro. Dean Moss serving food to the widows and veterans along with Bro. Johnathan Neitz ready to serve the delicious dessert.

and women.

The Chairman of this event, Bro. Dean Moss, spoke and thanked everyone for attending this event. He told me he looked forward to this event because "The best thing we can give our widows and veterans is our time."

These are veterans who served our country when

we needed them the most and risked their lives so we could have a better life. They have served their country with honor and distinction and the widows supported them and believed in what they were fighting for. If you would like more information about Freemasonry, go to www.massfreemasonry.org to find a lodge nearest you.

St. Michael Romanian Orthodox Church benefit turkey buffet coming June 3

STURBRIDGE — The Publick House Historic Inn and Restaurant will host another in their series of community dinners on Monday, June 3, this time to benefit St. Michael Romanian Orthodox Church of Southbridge. The Publick House cooks for many local organizations as a way of giving back to the community. Each sponsored organization receives a portion of the ticket price for every dinner served.

The dinner will offer two seating times to accommodate guests: an early seating from 4:30 to 6 p.m. and a later seating from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Attendees will be treated to a buffet-style meal that includes Oven-Roasted Turkey, Cornbread-Sausage Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes, Butternut Squash and Cranberry Sauce

Tickets are priced at \$16 per adult

and \$5 for children aged four to 12 years. To purchase tickets or for additional information, please reach out to Spiro Thomo at 774-200-8043, Sandra Nasto at 774-318-8659, or Ken Benson at 774-230-3848.

Tickets may also be purchased at the Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale office located at 8 Maple St., Sturbridge, on Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and noon. Payments may be made by cash or check made payable to The Publick House. Tickets are pre-paid only, no tickets will be sold at the door. The deadline for ticket purchases is Thursday, May 30.

The mission of St. Michael Romanian Orthodox Church is to experience the grace of God and to share it with others.

St. Nicholas to hold yard sale June 8

SOUTHBRIDGE — St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church will hold its Multi-Family Yard Sale on Saturday, June 8 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (no early birds) on the church grounds, 126 Morris St., Southbridge.

Come one, come all. There will be something for everyone!

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Gateway Players to hold auditions for "Spreading It Around"

SOUTHBRIDGE — Gateway Players Theatre in Southbridge is hosting auditions for "Spreading It Around" a light comedy by Londos J. D'Arrigo. They will be held on Sunday, July 7 and Monday, July 8 at 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall of Elm Street Congregational Church, 61 Elm St. in Southbridge. Entrance is on Park Street (around the corner). You only need to attend one night.

Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script. A read through of the script for all those cast will be on July 11. Performance dates are Sept. 6, 7, 13, 14, &

15. Rehearsals will be on Monday and Wednesday nights. Presented by permission through special arrangement with Concord Theatricals. The characters consists of:

Angie Drayton – Likeable, caring, active woman, Age range 60-75.

Martin Wheeler – A fit, well-preserved man, Age range 60-75.

Larry Drayton – Angie's son. An arrogant, self-important fellow, Age range 30-45.

Traci Drayton – Larry's wife, and Angie's daughter-in-law. A self-absorbed fashionista, Age range 30-45.

Dr. Krapinsky – A serious man,

Age range 40-60.

Angela Drayton, a wealthy widow living in an upscale retirement community, is tired of handing out money to her unappreciative children. So she starts the "S.I.N. (Spending It Now) Foundation," to give to those truly in need. This terrifies her greedy son, driving him to devise a plan to have her committed. Featuring delicious roles for adult and mature actors, this poignant family comedy has played numerous theaters in the US and Canada, and continues spreading the laughs around.

REAL ESTATE

BRIMFIELD

\$15,000, Warren Rd #3-1, Bell Point LLC, to Farrell, Misty L.

CHARLTON

\$705,000, 78 Daniels Rd, Harvey, Richard P, and Harvey, Laraine M, to Pawluczzonek, Nancy, and Pawluczzonek, Anthony.

\$369,000, 125 Blood Rd, Faford, Paul M, to Faford, Joshua, and Faford, Christine.

\$265,000, 138 Old Worcester Rd, Goff, Erik, and Morgan, Penny J, to Robidoux, Michael R.

\$220,000, 93 Center Depot Rd #53, Jansen, Karen, to Lubin, Danielle T.

\$70,000, 140 Sandersdale Rd, Reynolds, Rebecca J, to Aec Construction LLC.

HOLLAND

None

SOUTHBRIDGE

\$490,000, 85 Brentwood Dr, Proulx, David C, and Proulx, Jeannine M, to Bryant, Kamel A, and Bryant, Abigail A.

\$475,000, 47 Lens St, Heavenly Hm Solutions LLC, to Ramsey, Leann V, and Paulino, Soledad V.

\$437,500, 292 Cournoyer Blvd, Sckd Rt, and Cournoyer Jr, Donald, to Bonica, Kady A.

\$420,000, 166 Mechanic St, Center Of Hope Fndtn Inc, to High Altitude LLC.

\$415,000, 675 Main St, Duran, Valdemar M, to Joseph, Jean M, and Joseph, Mikelange P.

\$400,000, 89 Litchfield Ave, Lemieux, Stephanie A, to Cruz, Yanairys I, and Colon-Baez, Christian U.

\$375,000, 395 High St, Theodoss, Arthur H, and Theodoss, Paulette T, to Kaitbenski, Frank S, and Kaitbenski, Suzanne M.

\$335,000, 560 South St, Altiery, Donald W, and Boyce, Shawnie L, to Taylor, Steven R.

\$313,629, 174 Hamilton St, Map Realty Group LLC, and Wilmington Svgs Fund Soc, to Resi Mtg Aggregation T, and Wilmington Svgs Fund Soc.

\$285,000, 254 Dresser Hill Rd, Arcoite, Brian J, to Boss Jr, Christopher P.

\$265,100, 204 Fiske St, Lsf9 Master Part T, and Us Bank TNa Tr, to Floria, Jordan T.

\$230,000, 104 Riverview Pl #A, Rosenquist, Heidi, to Fletcher, Nicole L.

\$210,000, 17 Old South Rd #17, Varnum, Joyce C, to Espinal, Elsa V.

\$175,000, 105 North St, Skarbros Realty Inc, to Daou Properties LLC.

\$175,000, 7 Pearl St, Skarbros Realty Inc, to Daou Properties LLC.

\$61,983, Alpine Dr, Rlty Funding Advisors LLC, and Dcb Realty LLC, to Dcb Realty LLC.

STURBRIDGE

\$350,000, 25 Sturbridge Hills Rd #25, Ball, Agnes, to Van Roon, Richard P.

\$337,000, 120 Cedar St, Dion, Dwight, and Dupuis, Kristal, to Matias, Antonio, and Blanchard, Erin C.

\$233,200, 226 Cedar St, Habitat For Humanity Metr, to Stjacques, Jason R, and Zicko, Lesley A.

Friends of the Library open online spring store

CHARLTON — The Friends of Charlton Public Library announce the opening of their spring online store, with a variety of short- and long-sleeved tee shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies, and tanks for men, women, and children. The items are manufactured locally by I Am T Shirts and are available in several colors and sizes and feature the Friends' new logo.

The online store can be accessed at <https://tinyurl.com/FriendsSummerTees>. The store opens on 5/21/24 and will close on 6/9/24. All items ordered by

the deadline will be available early in July.

The Friends of Charlton Public Library, a registered 501(c)3, support the Charlton Public Library by sponsoring a variety of programs, projects, and events, including museum passes, movies, author talks, music concerts and performances, and other cultural and educational experiences. Your purchase enables the Friends to continue this support. For more information, email charltonfriends@gmail.com.

Library knitting group joins World Wide Knit in Public Day



SOUTHBRIDGE — Knitting with Sonya, the knitting/crochet group hosted by Jacob Edwards Library in Southbridge, is once again joining World Wide Knit in Public Day on Saturday June 8.

The event will take place on the grass at the end of the Southbridge Town Common, Mechanic St, close to the Police Station, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Everyone is invited to join the knitters in this worldwide event. Bring a chair, a lunch, hat, needlework and come to have fun and meet new friends.

WWKiP day started in Norway in 2005. Over

the years participating groups from every continent are represented in this day long event. It is free and open to the public. Come to the Common to knit or crochet in peace and harmony.

Knitting With Sonya meets at the Jacob Edwards Library, 236 Main ST, Southbridge, on Tuesdays 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. It is free and open to all. Just bring your projects and plan to work with others in a convivial atmosphere. While each member works on their own projects, the group also makes hats, mittens, scarfs for community programs, donating

to New Hope, St. Luke's Guesthouse and other organizations in the past. For more information regarding World Wide Knit in Public Day, go to wwkipday.com.

World Wide Knit in Public Day was started in 2005 by Danielle Landes in Norway. It began as a way for knitters to come together and enjoy each other's company. Knitting is such a solitary act that it's easy to knit alone somewhere and sink into your work without thinking about all the other knitters out there. Neighbors could spend all their lives never knowing that the other knits. This a specific

day to get out of your house and go to a local event (with your knitting in tow) just for you and people like you.

In 2005, there were 25 groups scheduled throughout the world. In 2009 there were 751. Until 2014 WWKiP day was actually a weeklong event. In 2014 the second Saturday in June was selected as the official day. The events are held in public areas to demonstrate that knitting can be a social event-as well as a productive pastime. For more information-and to see all the locations participating, go to wwkipday.com.

Methodist Church announces ham and bean supper followed by Disco dance!

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Methodist Church of Southbridge invites the everyone to a community Ham and Bean Supper on Saturday, June 1, at 5 p.m. The menu will include ham and beans, potato salad, corn bread, peach cobbler, and beverages. Tickets are \$12 per person (children under 12 eat for free). Guests are invited to reserve their tickets by calling the church at 508-764-6501 or pastor@fumcsouthbridge.org. Payment will be due at the door (cash or check). Walk-ins are also welcome, as long as food lasts.

The community meal will be followed at 6:30 p.m. by a Saturday Night Disco Dance. Everyone is invited (in costume or not) to dance and have fun. Refreshments will be served. The event is free!

The First Methodist Church is located at 449 Main St. in Southbridge, and can be reached at 508-764-6501.

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Some of the best memories are made in flip flops

With Memorial Day weekend in the rearview mirror, summer is (unofficially, at least) in full swing, with everyone walking around with a sun-kissed glow. Apart from mild weather, lush green forests, swimmable rivers and lakes and beautiful flowers, there are significant health benefits to these summer months.

Sunlight aids in regulating our systems. During the summer months there is a reduced rate of heart attacks. One study revealed that those who suffered a heart attack during the summer had survival rates increase by 19 percent. Vitamin D is said to play a role in protecting the heart as well as regulating calcium and phosphorus absorption.

Individuals tend to eat lighter and healthier in the summer, consuming more fruits and vegetables, which boosts our immune system. Produce is in abundance, whether it's at the local farmer's market or in our own back yards. Bring on the watermelon! The sun, can also cure many skin issues, such as psoriasis, dermatitis and acne, however this doesn't mean we can skip the sunscreen.

Summertime encourages us to get out and exercise. Getting the blood pumping creates endorphins and initiates and improves the flow of oxygen to the brain, which in turn lowers stress, and can aid in productivity in other areas of our lives. The longer days also afford us zero excuse to get out and get it done.

Because of the warmer temperatures, we automatically increase our water intake. This promotes digestion and flushes the toxins from our bodies.

Sleep disorders tend to fall by the wayside or improve during the summer due to the sun's early morning exposure. Experts say getting sunshine between 7 and 9 a.m. every morning, will help you sleep better at night.

Spending time with friends, family and community increases in the summer which is key to our mental health. During summer months there are more outdoor activities that bring folks together such as band concerts, farmer's markets, campfires, which are all great places to catch up with our neighbors.

Most people tend to go on vacation during the summer, reducing stress and burnout. More and more people are realizing just how important it is to take a breather.

Summertime helps us to feel more footloose and fancy free. There is also an overall feeling of relaxation and joy, over simple things like reading a book on the front porch, sipping sun tea or the smell of fresh cut grass.

The rivers flow wildly in the mountains and the lakes remain calm for fishermen to drop a line and float about, letting all cares melt away as the sunlight dances off the small ripples and waves. Mountain summits are picture perfect with blue skies, white clouds, vibrant green trees with glistening rocks, often-times creating scenes that don't even look real.

Take advantage of the season and savor every moment. In the words of the great writer Henry James, "Summer afternoon-summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language."

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

Checking your coins

I often handle estates with coins that families have collected. In today's column, I'll share some things you can look for if you also have coins.

We recently auctioned a silver tea set made by Ephraim Brasher, who lived next door to George Washington in New York City. Brasher created the first gold coin, the Brasher Doubloon, over two centuries ago in 1787. The United States minted gold coins for circulation until 1933 when production was halted to stabilize gold value during the Great Depression. However, gold coins are still being made for collectors by the U.S. Mint.

Gold coins will always be at least "worth their weight in gold." Older coins were made from 90 percent gold. Some modern collector gold coins are 99.99 percent pure. Some gold coins are "bullion" meaning they are worth only the value of the gold, however, older coins may have value well above their melt value.

Along with checking the date on your coins, there are other factors to consider. Mintmarks indicate where the coin was produced. A "P" or plain/unmarked coin is from the Philadelphia Mint. "D" is for Denver, "S" indicates San Francisco, and "O" stands for New Orleans. The Carson City Mint used "CC" and coins featuring that mintmark are often the most valuable.



Just like other collectibles, coins can be graded. Professional grading companies use a scale of 1 to 70. The highest-grade

coins are categorized as MS (Mint State), with an MS-70 being a perfect coin. Some coins may be valuable enough to pay to send out for grading, while others may not. Along with the condition, there are other variations to coins that can make them desirable. Having slightly different shaped letters and differently placed stars and

rays can make a big difference in price. An 1861-S \$20 Double Eagle AU55 (Almost Uncirculated) gold coin sold for \$3,120 at auction in 2023. A "Paquet" variation with the same AU55 grade coin sold for \$162,000 that year.

The United States minted silver coins (dimes, quarters, half dollars, and dollar coins) out of 90 percent silver until 1964. Kennedy half dollars from 1965 to 1970 are made with 40 percent silver. Any silver coins from these years will be at least "bullion" coins and worth

their weight in silver but some could be more valuable.

Many of the same factors that impact gold coins also come into play with silver. Age and condition are important. A rare high grade 1794 Flowing Hair Silver Dollar sold for \$6.6 million in 2021. The number of coins produced at each mint for each year is very important. This holds true for both gold and silver coins. Only 360,649 silver Peace Dollars (depicting the head of the Statue of Liberty) were produced in 1928 while 10,198 were minted in 1925. A 1925 MS66 grade Peace Dollar sold for a little over \$500 recently while a 1928 coin with the same grade sold for over \$30,000.

The United States has issued half cents, one cent, two cent, three cent, half dime, and twenty cent coins. There are "type collectors" who look for coins in different denominations and variations. It's worth checking your old coins, some may be worth a pretty penny.

We are accepting coin consignments for our late summer auction along with art, gold jewelry, sterling silver, historical items, advertising signs, and other antiques. 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).



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Grow vertically for added beauty and garden productivity

Expand your planting space, grow a living screen, or add vertical interest to your garden beds. Train vines up a decorative support, onto a fence, or allow them to climb a trellis set in front of a wall or structure.

Pole beans, peas, Malabar spinach, cucumbers, melons, and squash are all edible candidates for growing vertically. Training these vegetables up a support saves space in the garden. Plus, the increase in light and airflow through vertically trained plants helps reduce the risk of mildew and other diseases.

Growing vertically can also increase your

yields and make harvesting much easier. Pole beans typically produce an extra picking. Plus, it requires less bending to harvest. If it is easy, you are more likely to pick regularly, increasing productivity and ensuring the best flavor. Try scarlet runner beans or purple podded pole beans for added color.

Train Malabar climbing spinach up an obelisk in a container or over a decorative trellis in the garden. Use the leaves the same way you use true spinach. The buttery nutty flavor is great fresh, added to a salad, used as a sandwich wrap, stir-fried, or steamed. The red stems, flowers, and seeds make



GARDEN
MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA
MYERS

an attractive display in the vegetable or ornamental garden.

Support the heavy fruit of melons and squash when growing vertically. Create a sling from cloth strips, an old T-shirt, or macramé — yes, it's back! Tie the sling to the trellis to cradle the large fruit. The sling handles the weight, preventing the heavy fruit from ripping the plant off the support and damaging

Turn To **GARDENING** page A14

TO THE EDITOR

Vote Gumlaw for Holland Tax Collector

To the Editor:

We are excited to announce that Jennifer Gumlaw has accepted the nomination for Holland Tax Collector. Elections will be held Tuesday, June 11 at the Holland Community Center from 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

Jennifer Gumlaw is the only choice that Sharon Ashleigh and I stand behind, and here's why: She is currently the Assistant to the Town Administrator, Chair of the Holland Public Library trustees, as well as the Assistant Treasurer. Jen jumps in to learn new processes, is trustworthy, and is reliable.

After graduating from high school, Jen served her country in the Army National Guard for eight years as an administration specialist, as well as working on their payroll. Her previous work experience includes process-

ing payroll, as well as AP and cash management in dining services at Springfield College. Jen loves crunching numbers!

Jen has been a Holland resident/homeowner for over 18 years. Both of her daughters have gone through the Holland school system; her oldest graduating this year, and her youngest is still in high school.

Jen loves working in the Holland Town Hall, and she has a wonderful rapport with the staff and with the residents that stop in. The Tax Collector position requires a solid candidate, and that's what we have in Jennifer Gumlaw.

Please join us in voting for Jen Gumlaw on June 11 in our Holland town election.

Kathy Boyer
Holland

Should estate plans be equal ... or fair?



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When you're creating your estate plan, your biggest priority may be taking care of your family — your spouse, grown children, grandchildren, and other loved ones. And as you think of where you want your assets to go, you also may be thinking about how to be fair — but is that the same as treating everyone equally?

In estate planning, "equal" doesn't always mean "fair." Let's consider some factors that can help explain the difference:

Need — It's highly unlikely that the individuals you want to include in your estate plan — especially your adult children — have the same family and financial situations. For example, you could have one child who is extremely successful and has no children of their own, while another child earns much less income and supports three children. Clearly, your two adult children have vastly different financial needs — so, you need to consider whether you want to treat them equally or fairly. If you decide you want to treat them fairly, you may want to divide your assets in a way that provides more help to the child who needs it most.

Abilities — You may well have some assets that you believe are more suitable for one child over another. This can be especially true if you are planning on passing on a family business. If you know that one child is the most capable of running the business or has been primarily involved in the business, then you may want to give that child control as a next-generation owner. Yet, this may not seem fair to another child, who might also express interest in the business, so you may want to look for ways to provide this child with enough assets to help make the overall inheritance more equal.

Practicality — In some instances, you might think you can meet both the "fair" and "equal" criteria. Suppose, for instance, that you have a cabin or other vacation home that you think two of your children could share. In theory, this joint ownership might sound good, but in practical terms, it could cause problems. Are both children equally willing and capable of paying taxes and upkeep on the cabin or vacation home? What if one child wants to sell their share? And then, there's the question of who gets to use the property at various times of the year. All these issues should be resolvable, but they can also cause great stress within the family.

There's no simple formula for solving the fair-versus-equal dilemma. But keep this in mind: Communicating your wishes to your loved ones while you are drawing up your estate plan can help reduce confusion — and hopefully lead to fewer hard feelings — when you are no longer around. By their nature, fairness and equality issues related to estate plans can trigger a range of emotions, and addressing these feelings beforehand can help provide a great service for your loved ones.

You might also find that some objectivity can be valuable. That's why, when creating your estate plan, you may benefit by working with a team of professionals, including your legal, financial and tax advisors.

When developing your estate plan, you might well strive for equality and fairness but above all, you want to get things right. And careful planning, open communication and appropriate guidance can help go a long way toward this goal.

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.

Edward Jones, its employees, and financial advisors cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.

The next generation of fishermen

What a great Memorial Day weekend! The nice weather gave everyone a chance to enjoy time with family and friends in the great outdoors.

It gave Americans a chance to remember all of our veterans that served our country, which is the real meaning of Memorial Day, with many that had paid the ultimate sacrifice.

This week's picture shows the recent graduation of 16 young fishermen that had completed Whitinsville Fish & Game Club's first annual Jr. fishing class. The class was pond Chairman Daryl Carter & Kris Hawkes' idea to have the class in hopes of promoting fishing to many youngsters. After the graduation, the young anglers were treated to a full breakfast by numerous members and volunteers.

With the falling interest in fishing in Mass., hopes are high that the annual class will have more anglers participating in the sport of fishing! Nice job, everyone. The following young anglers graduated from the fishing class: Jacob Plumondon,



This week's picture shows the Whitinsville Fish & Game Club's Jr. graduating fishing class of 2024.

Brayden Nicastro, Jayden Dubois, Arthur Dubois, Jacob Dubois, Khloe Hetherington, Bobby Diamond, Joseph Sever,

Boon Flagg, Braydon Vaidyn, Logan Williams, Mason Williams, & Jackson Lavallee. I hope to see you on the water!

Fly fishing was my favorite sport when I was 16 years old, and I hope the upcoming class will have someone that

is a fly fishing angler, that will become a teacher for future students. Joining the New England Fly Tyers group



THE GREAT OUTDOORS
RALPH TRUE

will also provide some great and exciting new fishing and fly tying opportunities.

Striper fishing was hot in both Mass. & Rhode Island last week, with live lining pogies providing the most exciting success. Watching a striper chase a live pogy, and literally inhale the baitfish, and peel the line from the reel until the hook finds its mark! The fight is on! Large bluefish are also hitting lures and live bait, which is not good news for many striper fishing anglers. They are more of a nuisance for some anglers fishing for striped bass. If the striper needs to be released, you need to get them back in the water ASAP, to insure their survival!

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

BBQ Grilling Tips

It's officially barbecue season! Firing up the BBQ grill, is a summer tradition, and this country boasts a rich history of barbecue celebrations, dating back to the Colonial era. In fact, written history accounts reveal George Washington attended a barbecue in 1769!

Today, serving up creatively prepared foods grilled to perfection has been elevated to a fine culinary art. The good news is you don't have to be a cooking school graduate to earn your BBQ apron - sometimes all it takes is a refresher guide in basic backyard grilling techniques.

And, as you prepare for a season of grilling, remember that we have Native Americans to thank, as they first introduced basic barbecue techniques to the colonists!

Tenderizing Techniques: Great grilling starts with meat preparation. Taking the time to tenderizing tough cuts of meat can make the difference between grilling success or failure. While the goal is to break down the muscle fibers in the meat, there are a few standard methods that have been proven successful. The manual method employs the use of a kitchen mallet, which is used to "beat" down the fibers in raw meat. Also, there are several meat tenderizers available on the market that can be sprinkled onto the meat before cooking. Perhaps the most popular tenderizing option is the use of marinades, as these liquids not only make the meat tender but impart an important boost of flavor too. Add the fact overnight marinating can reduce cooking time by up to 35%, and it's no surprise the marinating method is a top choice.

BBQ experts recommend tender cuts of beef marinate for just a couple of hours, while tougher cuts may require overnight soaking. Keep in mind marinating should be used with zippered plastic bags or glass or plastic bowls as the acids in some marinades can react with



TAKE THE HINT
KAREN TRAINOR

metal. After marinating, be sure to pat the meat dry with paper towels to ensure it cooks evenly on the grill.

Certified Angus Beef Signature Steak Marinade (reprinted with permission and by popular demand!)

This recipe from the country's premiere beef brand is a tasty tribute to grilled steak suppers.

Ingredients: 1/2 cup Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce; 3 tablespoons balsamic vinegar; 1 1/2 tablespoons Dijon mustard; 1/2 teaspoon pepper.

Instructions: Combine all ingredients. In large, shallow non-aluminum baking dish or plastic bag, pour marinade over steaks; turn to coat. Marinate in refrigerator for 30 minutes. Remove steaks; discard marinade. Grill or broil steak to preferred doneness.

No Fail Marinade
This unconventional recipe from the retro era promises taste and tenderness.

Ingredients: one third cup steak sauce; one half cup packed brown sugar; one twelve ounce can 7Up or Sprite; one half cup melted butter; four tablespoons red wine vinegar; one quarter teaspoon each onion powder, garlic powder, salt and pepper.
Instructions: Combine all in a bowl or zip lock bag. Allow meat to marinate in mixture for at least an hour, or as long as overnight.

Hot off the Grill: Gauging Doneness
Gauging meats grilled to perfection can be a tricky challenge. Beyond checking the temperature of the meat, backyard chefs have learned to rely on a few "rules of thumb" to test for doneness.

*This "old school" chef trick is still a reliable way to gauge your meat without cutting into it:

To test doneness by "feel" this method compares your hand and fingers to the firmness of the cut of meat. Pressing

on the middle of the steak, a rare steak should feel the same as the heel of your hand (the fleshy area between your thumb and wrist) when hand is relaxed; a medium rare steak should feel like the heel of your hand when you press your thumb and forefinger together (which is firmer); a medium rare steak will feel as firm as the heel of your hand when you touch your middle finger to your thumb (firmer yet); and medium well should feel as firm as the heel when you press your ring finger and thumb.

*Another common "rule of thumb" for doneness is the inch method is to cook by thickness of the meat. For a one inch thick steak, cook seven minutes for rare; nine minutes for medium; and 11 minutes for well done.

* When using an internal thermometer: a rare steak should be cooked to 125-130 degrees; 130 to 140 degrees for medium-rare; 140 to 150 degrees for medium; 150-160 degrees for medium-well or 160 to 170 degrees for well done.

BBQ Basics
•As a general guide, when you grill with charcoal, it takes about 30 minutes for coals to reach a medium temperature and become ash covered.

•For gas grills, allow about 15 minutes for the grill rack to preheat properly.

*To increase the heat on a charcoal grill, simply push the coals together, add more coals as needed lower the grilling surface, or fan the fire and tap the ashes from the coals.

•Steaks best for grilling without the need to tenderize, are such cuts such as Ribeye, Filet Mignon, T-Bone and Porterhouse.

•For best results cook pork on direct heat to seal the juices. Then finish it with indirect heat to ensure the center is completely cooked. Just be sure to pre-heat the grill so it will seal in the juices quickly.

•Cooking for a crowd? To ensure even grilling, meats should be placed about three quarters of an inch apart on the

grill rack.

•Does your fish dry out and break up when you cook it on the grill? Brush it with lemon juice while cooking to keep it moist.

*Fish should be from one to one and a half inches thick to prevent drying out.

•Always apply sweet basting sauces made with sugar, honey or syrup during the last few minutes of grilling only to prevent burning.

•When cooking steaks on the grill don't season the meat until each side has browned to keep the cut tender.

•When using a dry rub during barbecuing, always allow the meat to cook for approximately one third to one half of the total time before applying any basting sauce. This allows the meat to become warm and start absorbing the dry rub seasonings.

•If you are marinating meat, you'll need one to two cups of marinade for every one and a half to two pounds of food. You want enough marinade to completely surround the food.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the 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 email KDRR@aol.com. Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn.

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JUNE LGBTQ+ EVENTS AT JOSHUA HYDE PUBLIC LIBRARY

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(508) 347-2512

EVENTS AT THE CHARLTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
- 40 Main St., Charlton charltonlibrary.org

Tuesday, June 4 - 5:30-6:30 pm - Pride Rocks! Join the Charlton Public Library in their Storytime Room to paint some Pride-themed rocks! This program is for all ages. Registration is not required.

Tuesday, June 11 - 5:30-6:30 pm - Pride Friendship Bracelets. Join the Charlton Public Library in their Storytime Room to learn how to make friendship bracelets. This program is best for ages 8 -18. Registration is not required.

Tuesday, June 18 - 6:00-7:30 pm - Rainbow Wall Hanging Craft. The Charlton Public Library is crafting a cheerful wall hanging made of painted wooden beads and fluffy pom poms! This program is for adults and teens ages 13 and up. Registration is required.

Wednesday, June 26 - 2:00-3:00 pm - Pop Up Art School - Felted Rainbow Patches. Make a fuzzy felted patch with wool at the Charlton Public Library. Pick from four rainbow designs. For ages 9-18. Registration is required. Limited spaces available.

EVENTS AT THE JOSHUA HYDE PUBLIC LIBRARY - 306 Main St., Sturbridge sturbridgelibrary.org

Thursday, June 6 - 5:00 pm - Family Story Time. Join the Joshua Hyde Public Library for a Family Story Time about families!

Friday, June 21 - 1:00 pm - Pride Craft Event. Come to the Joshua Hyde Public Library and make buttons you design yourself; friendship bracelets; and a color your own rainbow ornament!

EVENTS AT THE JACOB EDWARDS LIBRARY - 236 Main St., Southbridge jacobedwardslibrary.org

Thursday, June 6 - 6:30-7:30 pm - Artist Reception: John Polakowski, Michele Fontaine, Laura Cenedella, Cas Reyes, Karen Ryker, and Mara DeWitt This show will be on view throughout the month of June. All are invited to the Meet and Greet!

Tuesday, June 25 - 3:30 pm - Panel Discussion with Kiva

Thursday, June 27 - 6:30-7:30 pm - Pride in Southbridge. Join the Jacob Edwards Library for a special dramatic presentation of short plays by Museful Intent.

EVENTS ON ZOOM - register at sturbridgelibrary.org

Tuesday, June 11 - 6:30 pm on Zoom. Christopher Castellani, author of *Leading Men*. Set in 1950s Italy as well as contemporary Boston, *Leading Men* dramatizes the tempestuous relationship between Tennessee Williams, his longtime partner Frank Merlo, and their protege, an aspiring Swedish actress named Anja Bloom. Registration is required and this program will not be recorded.

Wednesday, June 12 - 6:30 pm on Zoom. LGBTQ+ Inclusion 101 with Ali Kane. This workshop encourages individuals at all levels of understanding to learn about what it means to be LGBTQ+ and how to be stronger allies so our entire community feels welcome to be their authentic selves. Thursday, June 20 - 7:00 pm - Mercury Stardust: The Trans Handy Ma'am. Join TikTok phenomenon and published author, Mercury Stardust! Mercury will entertain you with 30 minutes of talking about her book & her life, before a

30 minute moderated Q&A. Registration is required and this program will not be recorded.

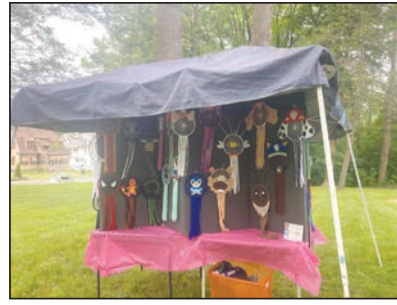
Wednesday, June 26 - 6:30 pm on Zoom. History of The Stonewall Rebellion. Join author Milo Todd as

he discusses the 1969 Stonewall Rebellion, a grassroots movement that sparked LGBTQ+ rights across the country, and later, across the world. Registration is required and this program will not be recorded.

Ruth Wells Center readies for Midsummer Festival

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Ruth Wells Center for the Arts, located at 111 Main St. in Southbridge, is holding the annual Midsummer Festival on Saturday, June 22 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The rain date is Saturday, June 29.

The outdoor Festival will feature craft vendors, live music by the Euphoralites, a reggae ska band, food truck, children's activities, something for everyone. Louise Pigott's exhibit will be inside in the Center galleries. This annual event is a fun time to shop, relax listening to music, let the kids play and explore art. The Festival is funded in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state



agency. For more information, call 508 764 3341 or go to the Web site, ruthwellscenter.com.

Louise Pigott is the featured artist for June. Her opening is Sunday, June 9 starting at 1 p.m. Gallery hours will be Saturdays and Sundays, 1-4 p.m. throughout the month.

Don't forget our ongoing activities-- Strings and Things, Monday 6-8 p.m., Open Studio, Thursday 1-3 p.m., Renew Body Sequence (yoga), Saturday 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

The Ruth Wells Center for the Arts was founded in 1977 as the Quinebaug Valley Council for the Arts and Humanities and serves the community by bringing art and culture to the area, supporting local artists, providing opportunities for kids to learn and explore their talents.

The Midsummer Festival is free and open to all. Gallery exhibits are also open to all. Stop by the Festival to experience the fun at the Ruth Wells Center.

Ruth Wells Center spotlights Louise Pigott

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Ruth Wells Center for the Arts, 111 Main St. in Southbridge, is proud to sponsor a solo exhibit by local artist Louise Pigott for the month of June. Her opening is Sunday, June 9 from 1-5 p.m. The show is free and open to all. Light refreshments will be available. Ongoing gallery hours are Saturdays and Sundays, noon to 4 p.m.

Louise Pigott is a self-taught artist who began her artistic journey in 2010. Since then she has exhibited regionally and received



awards. Louise gets her inspiration from her grandfather who was an artist of fresco paintings, and from her mother who was one of her biggest supporters. Lou-

ise spent some time at Wild Vine Studios where she sharpened her skills and continues her success through internet networking and local venues.

Louise's favors working with a palette knife in parts of her work, which is full of vibrant color and texture. Louise creates wonderful contrast in each piece that evokes great emotion and bliss giving off a celestial feeling delivered through the awe of nature.

Visit her site at <https://www.louisepigottart.com/about.html>.

Stonehill College celebrates Class of 2024

EASTON — A total of 625 students processed at Stonehill College's 73rd Commencement on Sunday, May 19.

Julio Del Valle of Southbridge Megan Vanelli of Uxbridge Rofail Wassef of Uxbridge During the ceremony, Ed Cooley '94, head coach of the Georgetown University men's basketball team, gave the keynote address. The speaker also received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree alongside Br. Paul Bednarczyk, C.S.C. '80, superior general of the Congregation of Holy Cross, and Jean MacCormack, former chan-

cellor of the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth and former president of the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate.

For more information about Commencement, visit Stonehill College's Web site.

About Stonehill College Stonehill College, a Catholic institution of higher learning, was founded by the Congregation of Holy Cross in 1948. Located on the beautiful 387-acre campus and former estate of Frederick Lothrop Ames in North Easton, Massachusetts, it is a community of scholar-

ship and faith, anchored by a belief in the inherent dignity of each person.

Through more than 100 academic programs in the liberal arts, sciences, business and pre-professional field, Stonehill College provides an education of the highest caliber that fosters critical thinking, free inquiry and the interchange of ideas for over 2,500 students.

Stonehill College educates the whole person so that each Stonehill graduate thinks, acts and leads with courage toward the creation of a more just and compassionate world.

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Southbridge Public Schools receives grant for student mental health

SOUTHBRIDGE — A grant from the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health (DMH) is providing funds for Southbridge Public Schools to launch a program aimed at delivering mental health care to students in crisis.

ient Youth in Transition program, a tiered in-school program developed by the Brookline Center for Community Mental Health, equips schools with the resources to help students through mental health disruptions by creating an individualized plan

addressing academics and mental health.

“We have students that have significant social/emotional or mental health needs, that require more than just a once a week session with a counselor,” said Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kelly Williamson. The grant funds the

positions of clinical coordinator and academic coordinator at West Street Elementary School, Charlton Street Elementary School and Southbridge Middle School, as well as providing setup costs, totaling over \$800,000 (\$269,500 per school).

“As a district, we understand that students have to feel well if they’re going to achieve academically,” Dr. Williamson said.

The grant is one of several awarded to Southbridge Public Schools recently, aimed at improving student mental health.

In January, SPS announced a partnership with Clark

University to establish the Southbridge CARES project, aimed at improving mental health in Southbridge High School students and giving them access to college and career planning resources.



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LEGALS

TOWN OF BRIMFIELD HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

**Request for Bids
FY2025 Heating Oil, Diesel,
Gasoline and Boiler Maintenance**
Sealed bids, appropriately marked, will be received by Monday, June 17, 2024 at 10:00AM. Sealed bids will be publicly opened and read on Monday, June 17, 2024 at 10:15AM. in the Brimfield Town Annex, Select Board Office, 23 Main Street, Brimfield, MA. The following items for Fiscal Year 2025 will be awarded by the Select Board on Monday, June 24, 2024 at their duly posted meeting.

I. Fuels: *Must hold an Ultimate Vendor's License

1. Heating Fuel
1,000-gallon capacity
 2. Diesel – Ultra Low Sulphur
2,000-gallon capacity
 3. Gasoline – Unleaded
2,000-gallon capacity
 4. Boiler Maintenance
- See Below**

***Boiler Maintenance:** The Town of Brimfield has a total of four (4) furnaces/boiler systems in its municipal buildings (Town Hall, Town Hall Annex Building and Library) that require annual cleaning and periodic repairs. Bids are to include the per hourly labor rate for this work. Materials will be paid for as necessary.

The Town of Brimfield will consider bids based only upon "mark up over daily rack price"

Bid specifications will be available for pickup beginning May 29, 2024 at the Brimfield Highway Department, 34B Wales Road, Brimfield, MA from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday - Thursday or by emailing the Chief Procurement Officer at selectboard@brimfieldma.org. All questions must be submitted in writing to the Chief Procurement Officer. All questions/answers and addendums will be distributed to all bid package holders.

Envelopes must be clearly marked IFB2024HWYFLS01 FY2025 Heating Oil, Diesel, Gasoline, and Boiler Maintenance and include the bid opening date. All bids must be submitted on the Town of Brimfield Bid form (included in the bid packet). No bids will be accepted after the time and date specified. Executed Certificates of Non-Collusion and Tax Compliance (attached) and Corporate Authority must be included in all bid submissions. Duration of bid is for Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025); otherwise, please state on bid sheet any exceptions. Payment Terms: Net term, 30 days.

Prevailing Wage Rates have been established by the Department of Labor and Industries under the provisions of provisions of Chapter 149, M.G.L., section 26-27D. Bids submitted for heating oil, diesel and gasoline are subject to the provisions of the Prevailing Wage law where applicable. The Select Board reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids or accept that bid deemed to be in the best interest of the Town of Brimfield.

Zachary Lemieux
Highway Surveyor
Brimfield, MA 01010
(413) 245-4103
May 31, 2024
June 7, 2024

LEGAL NOTICE INVITATION TO BID TOWN OF CHARLTON DPW ASPHALT MILLING AND REMOVAL

Sealed bids appropriately marked will be publicly opened and read in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, Municipal Office Building, 37 Main Street, Charlton MA 01507 on Tuesday, June 18, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. for the following DPW materials which will be used on approximately 14,000 square yards of road surface.

1. Asphalt Milling and Removal "all sweeping included", "MassDOT prequalification of contractors with the class of work as, Pavement – Milling and Cold Planing, for the project with an estimated value of \$140,000.00 will be required."

This is a state funded project that exceeds \$50,000.00, therefore, all contractors intending to bid on Item 1 –Asphalt Milling and Removal, all sweeping must be included, **must be pre-qualified** by the Contract Engineer, Room 7373, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116. With submission of the properly executed "Approval for Proposal Form" to the office of the Town Administrator, Municipal Office Building, 37 Main Street, Charlton MA 01507, the prospective bidder will be entitled to a non-transferable proposal package.

Prospective bidders must obtain and utilize the bid package. The Town Administrator in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, Municipal Office

Building, 37 Main Street, Charlton MA 01507, must receive sealed bids, no later than **Tuesday, June 18, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. Each item shall be clearly marked in a separate envelope as to which category the bidder has chosen**, i.e. "Item 1 – Asphalt Milling and Removal, all sweeping must be included, must be pre-qualified. Any deviations from Massachusetts General Laws, Massachusetts Highway Department requirements and proposal stipulations will result in an automatic disqualification from the bidding process.

This bid is advertised under Chapter 30; Section 39M, Chapter 149, Section 26 – 27F of the M.G.L., in reference to the prevailing wage rates. All road material work and materials shall conform to the requirements of the Massachusetts Highway Department Standard Specifications for Highways, Bridges and Waterways.

All bids must be submitted under Chapter 30, Section 39M, which requires a bid deposit in the form of a bid bond. The amount of such bid deposit shall be five per cent of the value of the bid.

Within ten days of the notification of award, the contractor is required to provide a security bond under section twenty-nine of Chapter One Hundred and Forty Nine, for 50% of the contract award

All bids are effective June 2024 and expire June 2025.

Any questions should be directed to Harold Piehl, DPW Superintendent at 508-248-2212.

The Town Administrator reserves the right to waive any minor informality in the bids and reject any or all bids and to make awards in a manner deemed to be in the best interest of the Town. May 30, 2024

Town of Brimfield Highway Department Request for Bids

Various Road Materials, Equipment Rentals, and Bituminous Concrete Type-I for Fiscal Year 2025

Sealed bids, appropriately marked, will be received no later than Monday June 17, 2024, by 11:00 AM. Sealed bids will be publicly opened and read on Monday June 17, 2024 at 11:15 a.m. in the Brimfield Town Hall Annex, 23 Main Street, Brimfield, MA. The following items that will be purchased for Fiscal Year 2025 will be awarded by the Board of Selectmen at their duly posted meeting on June 24, 2024:

- Various Road Materials
- Equipment Rental with Operator
- Bituminous Concrete – Type I

Bid specifications will be available for pickup beginning Thursday May 30, 2024 at the Brimfield Highway Department, 34B Wales Road, Brimfield, MA from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday or by emailing the Chief Procurement Officer at selectboard@brimfieldma.org. Questions related to this bid invitation are to be emailed to the Chief Procurement Officer. All addendums, questions and answers will be sent to all bid package holders.

Envelopes must be clearly marked "IFB2024HWY01 – FY2025" and include the date and time of the bid opening. Where required, bids must indicate a single square yard multiplier (dollar amount per square yard) on the appropriate bid form attached. All bids must be submitted on the Town of Brimfield Bid forms (included in the bid packet). No bids will be accepted after the time and date specified. Executed Certificates of Non-Collusion and Tax Compliance (attached) and Corporate Authority must be included in all bid submissions.

Bituminous Concrete-Type I bids must indicate all prices, both pick up at plant (*not more than 15 miles of the Brimfield Highway Garage, 34B Wales Rd*) and to be delivered to the Town of Brimfield, Town Yard, or to the job location in the Town of Brimfield. Bids shall include the current period price (May 2024) of \$665 per ton for liquid asphalt. The price adjustment of hot mix asphalt mixtures containing liquid asphalt shall apply as per scheduled posted on Massachusetts Highway Department website: www.mass.gov/mhd and "Special Provisions" as attached.

Contractors intending to bid on Bituminous Concrete – Type I, must be pre-qualified by the Massachusetts Highway Department and the pre-qualifying form from the State must be presented at the time the bid package is picked up from the Town of Brimfield. The classification of work is "Resurfacing" The total cost of project(s) is estimated to be \$511,080.80 NOTE: Award is subject to the Fiscal Year: 2025 Chapter 90 appropriation and release. A bid deposit of 5% of the total price bid must be submitted.

Prevailing Wage Rates have

been established by the Department of Labor and Industries under the provision of Chapter 149, M.G.L., Section 26-27D. Bids submitted for Bituminous Concrete -Type I, are subject to the provisions of General Laws, Chap 534, 30B, Section 30M inclusive as amended, (Public Works Construction).

Allwork/items must meet Massachusetts Department of Transportation, highway standards specifications. Executed Certificates of Non-Collusion and Tax Compliance (attached) and Corporate Authority must be included in all bid submissions. Minority percentage rate must not be less than 5%.

Duration of the bid contract is July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025; otherwise, please state on bid sheet any exceptions.

Payment terms: Net term, 30 days. The Select Board reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids, or, accept that bid deemed to be in the best interest of the Town of Brimfield.

Zachary Lemieux
Highway Surveyor
Town of Brimfield
Brimfield, MA 01010
(413) 245-4103
May 31, 2024
June 7, 2024

CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on June 12, 2024, at 7PM on the application of PRW Enterprises LLC.

The applicant has filed for a Notice of Intent for the construction of a septic system within the 100-ft buffer zone to a bordering vegetated wetland. The project location is: Lot B-1 No. 6 Schoolhouse Road, Charlton MA 01507.

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, via Zoom Conferencing by calling 1-646 558 8656 and using meeting ID # 892 9898 0343 Passcode 458971 or using the link below <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89298980343?pwd=VjJlMzG1hUGRnYzRkR1c2eTJTL3lWZz09>

Copies of the NOI may be examined at the Conservation Office by appointment during business hours.

Thomas O'Malley
Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission
May 30, 2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Division Docket No. WO24P1582EA Estate of: Ronald Gerard Graveline Also Known As: Ronald G. Graveline Date Of Death: March 26, 2024 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

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

**Renee Graveline of Sturbridge MA
Renee Graveline of Sturbridge MA** has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties

are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. May 30, 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 June 12, 2024, at 7PM on the application of PRW Enterprises LLC.

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to a bordering vegetated wetland. The project location is: Lot A-1 No. 6 Schoolhouse Road, Charlton MA 01507.

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, via Zoom Conferencing by calling 1-646 558 8656 and using meeting ID # 892 9898 0343 Passcode 458971 or using the link below <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89298980343?pwd=VjJlMzG1hUGRnYzRkR1c2eTJTL3lWZz09>

Copies of the NOI may be examined at the Conservation Office by appointment during business hours.

Thomas O'Malley
Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission
May 30, 2024

PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 166, §22F notice is hereby given of a public hearing to be held by the Town Manager on July 10, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. in the George Parent Meeting Room, second floor of the Town Hall, 41 Elm Street, in regards to a petition filed by National Grid for the following Order for JO Pole relocation:

Paige Hill Road:
Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc requests permission to locate poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public way:

Paige Hill Road – National Grid to install 2 JO Poles and relocate 2 JO Poles on Paige Hill Rd., beginning at a point approx. 187 feet southeast of the centerline of the intersection of Paige Hill Rd. and Cliff St. and continuing approx. 2872 feet in a southeast direction. Installing new Pole and Anchor P17-50~70 southeast of existing P18 on Paige Hill Rd. Relocate Pole and ~16' south of existing P321 on Paige Hill Rd. Relocate Pole and anchor P9~64' south of existing P9 on Paige Hill Rd.

Anyone wishing to be heard regarding this petition will be given the opportunity to speak.

TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE
Jack Jovan, Town Manager
May 30, 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 June 12, 2024, at 7PM on the application of Bluewater Bay Development, LLC

The applicant has filed for an amendment to an existing Order of Conditions DEP No. 128-1889 for revised bank stabilization and associated work. The project location is: Route 20 (associated to 53 Sturbridge Road, Amazon Project) Charlton, MA 01507.

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, via Zoom Conferencing by calling 1-646 558 8656 and using meeting ID # 892 9898 0343 Passcode 458971 or using the link below <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89298980343?pwd=VjJlMzG1hUGRnYzRkR1c2eTJTL3lWZz09>

Copies of the Amendment may be examined at the Conservation Office by appointment during business hours. Thomas O'Malley
Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission
May 30, 2024

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Hofstra student from Charlton participates in Undergraduate Research Day

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — More than 140 undergraduate students, including Theater Arts major Delaney Bodamer from Charlton, presented their research at Hofstra's annual Undergraduate Research Day, May 10. The research projects were showcased in multiple formats including posters, art displays and performances and focused on varied academic disciplines, including humanities; communications; education; engineering; computer science; and the natural, health, and social sciences. The Undergraduate Research Poster Session was held in the Mack Student Center Multipurpose Rooms and the Student Art & Design Displays were shown in the Student Center Atrium while the Creative Performances and Projects Session were shown in the Monroe Lecture Center.

"Undergraduate Research Day stands as a celebration of our students' scholarly achievements, showcasing their impressive depth of knowledge and innovative thinking across a multitude of disciplines," said Elfreda Blue, vice provost for undergraduate studies and professor of special education.

The students showcased their work on posters and gave presentations to the attendees who included Hofstra faculty, administration, and fellow students. While some posters covered international, national, and regional research topics, others were hyper-local with a focus on Hofstra and the surrounding communities.

One example of a local topic was

Juan Azmitia Delgado of Guatemala City named to Dean's List at Lehigh University

BETHLEHEM, Pa. — Dean's List status, which is awarded to students who earned a scholastic average of 3.6 or better while carrying at least 12 hours of regularly graded courses, has been granted to Juan Azmitia Delgado in the Spring 2024 semester.

For more than 150 years, Lehigh University (lehigh.edu) has combined outstanding academic and learning opportunities with leadership in fostering innovative research. The institution is among the nation's most selective, highly ranked private research universities. Lehigh's five colleges - College of Arts and Sciences, College of Business, College of Education, College of Health, and the P.C. Rossin College of Engineering and Applied Science - provide opportunities to more than 7,000 students to discover and grow in an academically rigorous environment along with a supportive, engaged campus community.

"College Consumerism: Sustainable Fashion at Hofstra University" by Grace Varnum, a sustainability studies major from Flourtown, Pa.

Varnum's project focused on the effects of "Fast Fashion" and how, according to her research, it is destroying our planet. She sent an anonymous survey to Hofstra students to determine their limits when shopping. The survey results showed that price was the number one factor when shopping, and a lack of knowledge about sustainable fashion companies was evident.

"Garment waste has increased substantially in the past 20 years. Even though there are many sustainable fashion companies, many people cannot access them due to limitations," Varnum said. "Companies should find ways to make sustainable fashion more affordable and educate the public about their products and practices, and the detriments of fast fashion."

Students in the fine and performing arts showcased their work in the Mack Student Center Atrium, while the creative and music performances and film projects were shown in Monroe Lecture Center.

Theater arts majors Delaney Bodamer from Charlton, and Bela Valente from Hempstead, N.Y., with direction by drama major George Concannon from Bay Shore, N.Y., performed "From Imitation to the Sun: The Journey of Shakespeare's Prince." The performance is part of Concannon's senior thesis research project in which he created and directed this one-hour version of Shakespeare's history play "Henry IV, Part One" and modeled it after the touring

Shakespeare pieces in Hofstra's annual Shakespeare Festival.

"Undergrad Research Day is a great way for students in the visual and performing arts to show our work to a wider audience, so they get a sense of what we actually do," Concannon said.

"Few people outside of our departments come to our school-specific events, so events like Research Day are also a way for students within the arts to find new venues to showcase themselves," he added.

Reagan Pearce, a filmmaking major from Gilbert, Az., showcased her film "Witchin," which she shot in just three weeks.

"I am super excited to be included in Undergrad Research Day. It is nice to be recognized for the projects I'm doing. A ton of my friends were involved in the

acting and shooting, so the prep was so fun and made the whole experience better," Pearce said.

The full list of projects and performances can be found on the Hofstra website.

Hofstra University's primary mission is to provide a quality education to its students in an environment that encourages, nurtures, and supports learning. At Hofstra, new ideas take shape through collaboration, engagement, and interaction. Hofstra students create their success with small classes and dedicated faculty, alongside a beautiful campus, plus all the opportunities of New York City within easy reach.

For more information, contact Marketing and Communications at 516-463-6493.

Local students named to SNHU Dean's List

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — Karyssa Thompson of Charlton and Giovanna Perez of Southbridge have been named to Southern New Hampshire University's Winter 2024 Dean's List. The winter terms run from January to May.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean's List. Full-time status is achieved

by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit institution with a 91-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 225,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 accredited undergraduate,

graduate and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH. Recognized as one of the "Most Innovative" regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner. Learn more at www.snhu.edu.

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LEGALS

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

Docket No. WO24P1674EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate of:

Marion A. Kowalski

Date of Death: 02/17/2024

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Shirley J Kourey of Dracut MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that:

Shirley J Kourey of Dracut MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve 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 06/018/2024.

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: May 17, 2024

Stephanie K. Fattman,

Register of Probate

May 30, 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 June 12, 2024, at 7PM on the application of Cory Hansen.

The applicant has filed for a Notice of Intent for the construction of a single-family residence with associated site work within the Riparian Zone to the Little River and bordering vegetated wetland. The project location is: Lot B-5 Oxbow Road, Charlton MA 01507. 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, via Zoom Conferencing by calling 1-646

558 8656 and using meeting ID # 892 9898 0343 Passcode 458971 or using the link below <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89298980343?pwd=VjlmZGIhUGRnYzRkR1c2eTJTL3lWZz09>

Copies of the NOI may be examined at the Conservation Office by appointment during business hours.

Thomas O'Malley
Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission
May 30, 2024

TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE

Request for Bids for
Aeration Pipeline CIPP
Southbridge Wastewater Treatment Plant

The Town of Southbridge invites qualified firms to furnish and install CIPP Liner at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). Copies of the specifications are available from the Town Website as of 09:00AM, on 05/23/2024.

The project location/details can be viewed at the WWTP located at 83 Dresser Hill Road, Southbridge MA, Monday-Friday between the hours of 7:30am and 3:00pm. Appointments are necessary, call 1-508-764-4927 to schedule.

All Bids for this project are subject to the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 30 Section 39M. Prevailing Wage Rates are required on this project. The current wage rate schedule is attached to the bid specification package.

The bidder will provide a 5% bid deposit with bid.

The deadline for sealed bids is **06/06/2024 at 10:00AM**. The sealed bid shall be clearly marked "Aeration Pipeline CIPP - WWTP". Bids are to

be addressed to the Department of Public Works, Town of Southbridge, 185 Guelphwood Road, Southbridge, MA 01550. Late bids will not be opened.

May 23, 2024

May 30, 2024

PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 166, §22F notice is hereby given of a public hearing to be held by the Town Manager on July 10, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. in the George Parent Meeting Room, second floor of the Town Hall, 41 Elm Street, in regards to a petition filed by National Grid for the following Order for JO Pole relocation:

Charlton St.:
Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc requests permission to locate poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public way:

Charlton St - National Grid to install 1 JO Pole on Charlton St. beginning at a point approx. 118 feet southwest of the centerline of the intersection of Charlton St. and Mechanic St. and continuing approx. 526 feet in a northeast direction. Installing new Pole #15-75, ~70 south of existing P #15-50 on Charlton St. Underground Primary Cable ~360' from Pole #12 Charlton St to p # 15 Charlton St. Anyone wishing to be heard regarding this petition will be given the opportunity to speak.

TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE

Jack Jovan, Town Manager

May 30, 2024

Jackson Haker of Uxbridge presented with AIC's Yellow Jacket of the Year Award

SPRINGFIELD — Jackson Haker of Uxbridge has been honored with the Yellow Jacket of the Year Award by American International College (AIC). Haker was among eighteen student-athletes recognized for their outstanding contributions to the success of the AIC Department

of Athletics at the 2023-24 Athletics Awards Night held in the Butova Gymnasium on Wednesday, April 24.

The Yellow Jacket of the Year Award is presented to the male and female student-athlete who best exemplifies AIC in character, talent,

and spirit.

Haker, of AIC baseball, was a First-Team All-Region selection in 2023 and is tracking to repeat as he is in the top seven in both batting average and on-base percentage in the NE10, and also served as a member of the SAAC Executive Board.

AIC congratulates Haker and all the deserving student-athletes on their awards honoring their remarkable achievements.

Founded in 1885, American International College (AIC) is a private, co-educational, doctoral granting institution located in Springfield, Massachusetts, comprising the School of Business, Arts and Sciences, the School of Education, and the School of Health Sciences. AIC supports and advances education, diversity, and opportunity for its students and the community.

SNHU announces Winter 2024 President's List

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Winter 2024 President's List. The winter terms run from January to May.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Tok Rosario of Southbridge
Matthew Hall of Southbridge
Shana Caisse of Southbridge
William Allen of Charlton
Makenzie Woods of Charlton
Autumn Monahan of Fiskdale
Nicholas Pellegrini of Fiskdale

Sandy Jones of Sturbridge
Ryan Manners of Sturbridge

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit institution with an 91-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 225,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 accredited undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH. Recognized as the "Most Innovative" regional university by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner. Learn more at www.snhu.edu.

Council

continued from page 1

ious town properties. The concept started as a proposal from NEC in Charlton to look at building a solar array atop the landfill, but expanded into a discussion at subcommittee about that, expanding the gas-to-energy capacity and powering the "blue building" there. It eventually came to include looking at potential uses for other town properties, including the West Street fire station recently vacated by the school maintenance department.

But the council largely reacted to the initial solar proposal, and shot it down on a tie 4-4 vote. Marketti noted the Board of Health discussed it and "were not very enthusiastic about it" due to concerns about its effect on the landfill cap's stability.

Scott Lazo agreed with him, saying he had "a very hard time with this one" and would "oppose drilling or building on that [landfill] hill un-

der any circumstances." Regarding other properties, he saw no need to study them, but would just "liquidate it and put [the money] into capital improvement."

Speaking in favor of the grant, George Chenier noted the manager had explained that any proposal to sell, lease for solar, or otherwise use property "will come to council." He liked the idea of seeking "the best use of the properties."

John Daniel also supported it, saying he thought getting assistance to look at the options was good. But he also noted he'd become "really tainted on solar arrays and would have to be really convinced to vote for one."

There was also some debate over re-hiring recently-retired Landfill Agent Anna Smith as a four-hour-per-week solid waste consultant. That was also a 7-1 vote, with Marketti opposing it.

"It seems like we have a consultant in almost

every department," he said. "... I don't feel it's needed. That's why our budget keeps going up and up and up, because we keep hiring more and more and more."

All of the evening's other items passed easily, often with little discussion. Many of them were end of year transfers, annual revolving fund renewals, and two were bylaw readings to create new such funds. The two largest of those approved using Chapter 90 highway funding to do the 25 percent design work for the River/Crane project and applying for a \$50,000 brown-field grant to look at the viability of saving Hamilton Mill. The board also approved installing new EV chargers at Town Hall that will cost users money; they noted the existing free ones will move to the DPW for town staff to use.

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

Scouts

continued from page 1

N.Y. Additionally, Fedora took part in fundraising and service activities at bottle and can drives, car washes, town-wide cleanups, and community food drives, among several others.

Soderberg entered the Cub Scouts during the third grade before eventually earning his Arrow of Light Award and crossing over into Boy Scout Troop 7.

Soderberg has enjoyed taking part in community service projects such as food drives, flea market car parking, and town-wide cleanups, among others.

He was also thrilled to participate in multiple trips, including visits to Gettysburg National Military Park, Mt. Norris Scout Reservation, the West Point Military Academy Camporee, Herkimer Diamond Mine, and Camp Webster.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank—the highest rank available in Scouting—the three Boy Scouts each fulfilled requirements in the areas of leadership, community service, and outdoor skills.

Moreover, each Scout was required to complete an Eagle Scout service project.

For his project, Brigham refurbished the softball benches at Tantasqua Regional Junior High School in Fiskdale, which he attended years prior. After receiving generous donations of materials and/or volunteer time from Howlett Lumber, his grandfather Ernie Brigham, and his fellow Scouts, he was thrilled to complete a successful project.

For his Eagle Scout project, Fedora worked with East Quabbin Land Trust in West Brookfield. His project provided access from the existing Upland Trail on the historic Pyncheon's Grist Mill property—the first grist mill in the Quaboag Plantation. The project also included the installation of a split rail fence around the existing well, along with signage.

Soderberg's Eagle Scout project involved building a kiosk at the Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary in Wales. This project required preparations such as material gathering, land clearing, and careful planning and teamwork. Soderberg and his team worked

with Norcross staff members who helped carry out the project successfully.

The kiosk provides information on Norcross trails.

The Eagle Court of Honor program was attended by the Scouts' family members, friends, and several special guests.

State Sen. Ryan Fatman's office presented each Eagle Scout with a citation from the State Senate. Additionally, State Rep. Todd Smola presented the young men with congratulatory certificates from the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

Selectman George Adams presented each Eagle Scout with a certificate from the Brimfield Select Board.

The Scouts also received many messages and letters of congratulations, including documents from President Joseph Biden, U.S. Congressman Richard Neal, and even Chuck Norris.

To learn more about Brimfield Troop 7 and how you can join, reach out to Scoutmaster George Adams at troop7brimfield@gmail.com or 860-595-4084.

Gardening

continued from page 4

the plant. Elevating the fruit also reduces loss to soil-dwelling insects and disease.

Use decorative supports to add a bit of beauty or help blend edibles into ornamental plantings. Save money and add some personality by upcycling found items into creative supports. A section of an old iron fence, headboard, golf clubs, or farm implements can add a bit of functional whimsy to your garden.

Add color to a plain fence or wall with annual and perennial flowering vines. Use a support and leave space between wooden fences and siding to reduce moisture buildup that could damage these structures. This also makes it easier to manage future repairs and painting if the vines can easily be moved away from the structure.

Double up your plants to increase the floral impact. Use annual vines to provide quick cover for the first few years while establishing perennial vines onto the support. Consider mixing two vines on one support if space allows. Select vines that bloom at the same time to cre-



Melinda Myers

Clematis and impatiens growing on a wheel trellis.

ate interesting combinations. Or plant two vines that bloom at different times to extend the floral display.

Always select supports strong enough to support the plants you are growing. Make sure the support provides the structure needed for the vines to climb. Those with twining stems and petioles need something to grab onto while those with root-like holdfasts or suction cups need a rough surface for attaching. Make sure the structure will not be damaged by the vines adhering to the surface. Other vines may need their stems to be tied to the support.

As you can see, the possibilities are endless. Start gathering

decorative supports, look for spaces that need a bit of vertical interest, and select vines suited to your growing conditions and landscape design.

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.

Interact

continued from page 1

laborate internationally to promote projects worldwide.

"Tantasqua's Interactors are looking forward to the opportunity to make a difference in the Tantasqua community and beyond," read the statement issued by Willard.

The club's founding members include: Jackson Landine (Co-President), Stella Buday (Co-President), Rachel Salisbury (Vice President), Jocelyn Mrotek (Secretary), Charlotte

Ardis (Treasurer), and Samantha Baker (Director of Public Relations).

At the club's May 14 kickoff event, members held a community outreach event called "Tantasqua Pizza Challenge." Members voted on local pizza establishments that generously donated their pizza for the event.

Raffle prizes were also donated by local businesses.

The Tantasqua chapter of Interact Club is sponsored by the Sturbridge Rotary Club. The charter was completed

with the guidance of Linda Langevin-Zonia (President, Sturbridge Rotary) and David Zonia (Assistant Governor, District 7910).

Additional club supporters include Southbridge Credit Union, Cormier Jewelers, BT's Steakhouse, Brush It Off Art & Pottery Studio, Pickleball U, Honest Town Eats, Escape the Pike, Park Place Salon, Jars Coffeehouse, Old Sturbridge Pizza, Uncle Sam's Pizza, Pizza Chef, Tutti Quanti, and Sherwin Williams.

Charlton

continued from page 1

majority of the 313 attendees voted in favor of the article, accompanied by a round of applause.

Voters also approved a selection of financial items, including the town budget. The \$40.4 million spending plan presented an increase of 7.30 percent, including an education budget of \$21 million and a general government budget of \$3.5 million. The new spending plan goes into effect on July 1. The Water and Sewer Department budgets, cemetery perpetual care funds, and revolving funds were also subsequently approved. Voters also supported several capital items including an ambulance replacement, waterway improvements, Rail Road Pond repairs, a sludge design and buildout project, and the Main Street water interconnection all from existing funding accounts.

Two articles pertaining to tax exemptions were approved soundly with the first article allowing for additional real estate exemptions for blind persons, veterans, surviving spouses, and senior taxpayers eligible for tax exemptions. The second article increased the maximum income limit for seniors who qualify for tax exemptions. Both articles were meant to provide added tax relief to individuals based on certain qualifications laid out in Massachusetts General Law.

One of the most heavily discussed items was an article seeking to purchase property on Bay Path Road to

establish a new public water supply. Voters approved utilizing \$835,000 from the Water Stabilization Fund to acquire the two undeveloped parcels which Water & Sewer Commission Vice Chair Russ Jennings said will be a valuable asset for Charlton even if the town never uses them.

"Large amounts of water exist under this property that have been deemed usable for the public water supply," said Jennings. "When we find a source that is viable through our research, much of which is through grant money over the years, we invest in pieces of property that are potentially going to be useful to the town. When we find one and secure the deal, we bring it before you. We think it's very valuable to obtain this piece of property today, put it in the bank for later use, and maybe never use it because at this point developing our own water supply for ourselves within our town would be very expensive as opposed to our current deal of purchasing water directly from Southbridge. I'll challenge you to find additional properties in Charlton that would be deemed viable."

Voters closed the meeting by approving two zoning articles, one requested by a property owner as a zoning map amendment and the second being a wording amendment in the bylaws to conform with the National Flood Insurance Program requirements.



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*** June Cazeault * Laurie Sullivan * Matthew Ross * Lori Johnson-Chausse * William Gilmore II * Bryan Pelletier**

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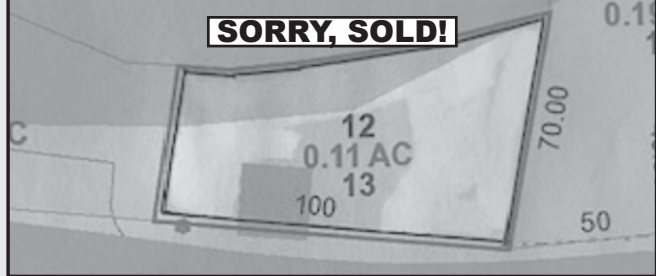
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Local residents receive degrees at WPI's 155th undergraduate Commencement

WORCESTER — On Friday, May 10, Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) held its 155th Commencement. Nearly 1,100 undergraduate degrees were awarded during the ceremony.

President Grace J. Wang, PhD, and Board of Trustees Chair William Fitzgerald presided over the exercises.

Wang told the graduates that in a changing world, where new technologies and industries are rapidly emerging, and where they could be doing jobs that have not yet been invented, they should dream boldly, persevere, be a team player, and enjoy the journey.

"WPI has prepared you for this future," Wang said. "During your time here, you have been immersed in a transformative, leading-edge, and inclusive environment to ready you for jobs, careers, and, also, exciting opportunities to come."

In her commencement address to undergraduates, Nancy M. Pimental, a 1987 WPI graduate who spent 11 years as a writer and executive producer on the hit Showtime series "Shameless," told the graduates they are well-prepared for whatever career path they choose to follow.

"With your degree from WPI, you're ready for success," Pimental said. "You can literally accomplish anything you set sights on. Isn't that amazing? The possibilities are unlimited. You learn to think critically, solve problems logically, and work together collaboratively. These are the skills you need to overcome any obsta-

cles that are thrown your way. There's nothing you can't do now that you're a WPI grad."

Pimental and Michael J. Dolan '75, WPI Trustee Emeritus, who served for 16 years as an active member of the Board of Trustees, received honorary degrees as part of the ceremony.

Student speaker Samuel Levitan, a biology and biotechnology major, weaved Commencement history into his speech, reminding the audience that Black educator, reformer, and intellectual Booker T. Washington gave WPI's 50th Commencement address in 1915, speaking about America's transformation since the end of slavery. Levitan also talked about the sense of belonging instilled in WPI students, who balance a STEM education with a formative personal experience.

"To learn about cutting-edge technologies and scientific discoveries at WPI takes an open mind," Levitan said. "But no matter where you go and no matter what you do, an open heart is just as important. Remember that you belong wherever that may be, and that the people around you are counting on you to believe that they belong, too."

The following students earned bachelor's degrees:

Louis Desy, of Brimfield majored in Biomedical Engineering

Ian Grzembski, of Sturbridge majored in Computer Science

Luke Hoy, of Fiskdale majored in Robotics Engineering

Jack Lafond, of Stur-

bridge majored in Data Science

Isabella Pabon, of Worcester majored in Computer Science

Joelis Velez Diaz of Southbridge majored in Chemical Engineering

Emily Brindisi of Charlton majored in Chemical Engineering

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute

WPI, a global leader in project-based learning, is a distinctive, top-tier technological university founded in 1865 on the principle that students learn most effectively by applying the theory learned in the classroom to the practice of solving real-world problems. Recognized by the National Academy of Engineering with the 2016 Bernard M. Gordon Prize for Innovation in Engineering and Technology Education, WPI's pioneering project-based curriculum engages undergraduates in solving important scientific, technological, and societal problems throughout their education and at more than 50 project centers around the world. WPI offers more than 70 bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs across 18 academic departments in science, engineering, technology, business, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts. Its faculty and students pursue groundbreaking research to meet ongoing challenges in health and biotechnology; robotics and the internet of things; advanced materials and manufacturing; cyber, data, and security systems; learning science; and more. www.wpi.edu

NAI Glickman Kovago & Jacobs

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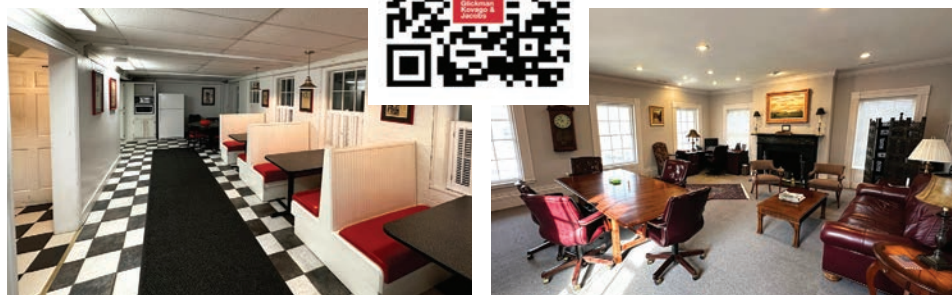
9,536-SF HISTORIC OFFICE BUILDING FOR SALE



- Historical building, also known as Tiffany-Leonard House, built in 1832
- Large Executive Offices with Elegant Finishes and High Ceilings
- Large Open Concept Cubicle Areas



- Listing price: \$650,000
- Building size: 9,536 SF
- Lot size: 13,939 SF
- Loading docks: (1) tailgate height
- Basement: partial | Unfinished



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TWIN: \$199 (Regularly \$299)
FULL: \$269 (Regularly \$499)
FULL: \$299 (Regularly \$599)

5 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER #7150 \$219⁹⁹ WAS \$299.99	FRIGIDAIRE DISHWASHER #7150 \$299⁹⁹ WAS \$599.99	18 CU. FT. REFRIGERATOR #7150 \$599⁹⁹ WAS \$699.99	MAYTAG DISHWASHER #MDB4949SKZ \$549⁹⁹ WAS \$349.99	STAINLESS STEEL BOTTOM FREEZER #1295.99 \$899⁹⁹ WAS \$1295.99	DELUXE WHIRLPOOL WASHER #1295.99 \$499⁹⁹ WAS \$699.95
FRIGIDAIRE SIDE-BY-SIDE REFRIGERATOR #1599.99 \$999⁹⁹ WAS \$1,599.99	AMANA WASHER OR DRYER #469.99 \$469⁹⁹ WAS \$599.99	MAYTAG DRYER OR WASHER #569.99 \$569⁹⁹ WAS \$699.99	WHIRLPOOL FRENCH DOOR BOTTOM FREEZER #2,699 \$1599⁹⁹ WAS \$2,699	10 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER #599.99 \$499⁹⁹ WAS \$599.99	20 CUBIC FOOT UPRIGHT FREEZER #999.95 \$799⁹⁹ WAS \$999.95
LG TOP FREEZER 18 CU. FT. \$699⁹⁹ WAS \$899.99	AMANA GAS RANGE #AGR1533C3AS • Stainless Steel \$599⁹⁹ WAS \$699.99	GE FRONT LOAD WASHER #GFWS505SNWW \$749⁹⁹ WAS \$999.99	20 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER #1099.99 \$899⁹⁹ WAS \$1,099.99	LG SMOOTH TOP ELECTRIC STOVE #599.99 \$729⁹⁹ WAS \$999.99	OVER THE RANGE MICROWAVE #279.99 \$199⁹⁹ WAS \$279.99

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