



STURBRIDGE VILLAGER

Selectmen, School Committee races highlight Charlton election

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — The 2024 Charlton Municipal Election is fast approaching with contested seats on the Board of Select-

men, Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee, and Southern Worcester County Regional Vocational School District Committee set to be decided as well as the fate of a

Sturbridge selectmen rescind Curboy's permits, hire new Conservation agent

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

STURBRIDGE — The selectmen's response to ongoing issues to Curboy's Auto on Mashapaug Road April 1 was not a joke. By unanimous vote, they rescinded the company's permits to do business, citing refusal to allow Conservation Commission to visit the property and building a "large metal garage" without permits or inspection, among other things.

They'd previously given owner Sergey Privedenyuk such permits on a provisional basis late last year, pending such inspections. Privedenyuk did not attend the meeting.

Chair Jamie Goodwin said the town is primarily concerned Curboy's is in effect "operating a solid waste facility" because the cars there do not seem to be dismantled for parts. That would be legal, but not letting them sit there "in perpetuity," he noted.

He also cited concern the operation is "dipping over into the properties of [other owners on] River Road that go behind it."

In recent years, that site had accumulated many acres worth of derelict vehicles. The town required the previous owners to remove them, and they did so.

In somewhat related business, the board approved hiring Lauren Vivier as the new conservation agent. Town Administrator Robin Grimm said she received "several qualified applicants" and interviewed four, finding Vivier "knocked it out of the park." Among other things, she has town planning experience and is a Fiskdale resident.

It also approved making Florencia Sangermano an alternate Conservation Commissioner and putting three parcels off Fiske Hill into conservation restrictions. One of them is technically a "declaration," as it will be transferred to the state for addition to neighboring fish and wildlife land.

Grimm told the board a recent engineering review shows the Stallion Hill water tank will have to be replaced, but there's a "decent possibility" Sturbridge will be able to get up to \$1.5 million in grants to cover part of the cost. The town's share will likely be about \$500,000, and she's looking at whether to split it between water rates and general taxes, but she'll have more details for the next meeting.

She said the water system does "have capacity to provide water if that tank goes down [but] we cannot provide fire suppression." That tank serves some homes and several nearby businesses, and is used to fill fire tankers, she noted.

Selectmen were split on how to fund it. Mary Dowling noted "ratepayers shouldn't shoulder the whole thing when the benefit goes to everybody." But Mary Blanchard observed splitting it would mean ratepayers will "pay double in their taxes."

The board also approved placing four largely rou-

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Courtesy

David Singer

funding proposal for part of a new fire department substation.

The Board of Selectmen will see several familiar faces seeking two open seats, although only

one seat is truly contested. Barbara Zurowski is running for a new three-year term with no competition on the ballot, however the second seat will see a pair of fa-



Courtesy

Karen Spiewak

miliar names working to continue their history on the board. David Singer, a longtime incumbent, is seeking what he says would be his final three-year term on the board.

However, he will need to fend off a contest from Karen Spiewak, a former School Committee member and State Representative candidate who served

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Late season storm brings wind, snow, sleet to region

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — Just when it seemed a lackluster winter was ready to fade quietly away, Mother Nature wasn't fooling around in the first week of April.

With shovels having been replaced by rakes in many yards—and bags of rock salt replaced by topsoil and other garden supplies in stores—residents were caught by surprise on April 3 & 4, when a strong storm walloped the region with wind, snow, and sleet.

The storm downed trees and branches across the area, leading to road closures and thousands of power outages.

In Leicester, Parker Street was closed due to a fallen tree. Crews responded to similar incidents across town on April 4.

In Sturbridge, National Grid crews were

dispatched to Leadmine Road after trees and power lines came down.

Spencer responders were also kept busy with an array of calls. Among other responses, the fire department was dispatched to Paxton Road for reports of a tree and live wires blocking the road.

A large section of Spencer lost power during the storm, and Town Hall saw a delayed opening on April 4. Other municipal buildings throughout the area were also affected by the storm.

"We have numerous roads closed and impassable due to trees and wires down," read a statement released by the Spencer Police Department on April 4.

In Holland, crews worked quickly after sections of both Wales Road and North Wales Road were closed due to fallen branches, trees, and



Courtesy

Spencer emergency crews responded to Paxton Road after a fallen tree and wires blocked the road during last week's storm.

Quinebaug Masonic Lodge presents service awards

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE
QUINEBAUG MASONIC LODGE

SOUTHBRIDGE — On Monday night, April 1, the upper and lower parking lots at Quinebaug Masonic Lodge were packed full of Master Masons from the 24th Masonic District and from throughout the State of Massachusetts. There were special guests from the Grand Masonic Lodge of Boston. The surprising and special guests from the Grand Masonic Lodge of Boston were 2 Past Grand Masters of Massachusetts Brother Albert T. Ames and Brother Richard Maggio along



Courtesy

Special guests from the Grand Masonic Lodge of Boston Past Grand Master Brother Albert T. Ames, recipient Bro. Bob St. Cyr, District Deputy Grand Master of the 24th Masonic District Bro. Jonathan Neitz, recipient Bro. Larry Burbridge and special guest from the Grand Masonic Lodge of Boston Past Grand Master Brother Richard Maggio.

with 5 Past Junior Grand Wardens and other digni-

taries. Two local men, Bro-

ther Bob St. Cyr, of Charlton and Brother Larry

Burbridge of Union, Conn., were the recipients of the Robert Johnson Service Award. This award is the third highest service award given to Master Mason in Massachusetts. The service award is granted and presented once a year by the Master of the Lodge and is signed and presented by the District Deputy Grand Master of the 24th Masonic District. The service award is given to the unsung Brother of the lodge working behind the scenes who goes above and beyond the call of duty of what's expected of a Freemason.

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wires. Schools throughout the region were also closed on April 4, including the Tantasqua Regional School District, the Quaboag Regional School District, the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District, and Leicester Public Schools. After many districts saw no weather-related delays or closures in March, students received a rare day off in April. It took multiple days for crews to restore electricity in all locations across the state.

UnderGround Wednesday returns to Southbridge with special world premiere!

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Shawna Foundation presents UnderGround Wednesdays, free screenings of classic movies at starlite, 39 Hamilton St., Southbridge, on the last Wednesday of every month.

UnderGround Wednesday and the Massachusetts Independent Film Festival partner for this month's screening of the World Premiere of *A is for Alice* (Italy) by Sharon Grace Badia! What better way to kick off the Mass Indie Film Festival! *A is for Alice* portrays a dystopian world very close to us where people hibernate every November and wake up in the spring. The protagonist, a nine-year-old boy named Stefano, is forced to face

the period of hibernation in the isolated and creepy house of his stepmother, his father's new companion.

The young protagonist can't come to terms with his mother's death, and the fact that his father wants to move on. The absence of his mother figure awakens a strong fear of loneliness in him. His worst nightmare comes true when he discovers that he is the only human to have woken up too early from hibernation. Or at least, that's what he believes...

Sharon Grace Badia is a black, female film director and awarded film editor based in Milan. She was born in 1997 and raised by a single mother in Pesaro, Italy, where she developed

a passion for cinema at an early age. She was fortunate enough to study film direction and cinematography in her hometown and later in Rome, at RUFA (Rome University of Fine Arts), where she graduated in 2019.

The screening is on April 24th and starts at 7 p.m. It is free!

The Shawna E. Shea Memorial Foundation, Inc is a 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit who believes the arts and education are essential to creating a vibrant, healthy community and world.

The mission of the Shawna Foundation is to equitably promote and support students through scholarship and showcase artists in filmmaking, performance arts, poetry and other creative endeavors with a focus on underrepresented communities.

This program is supported by a grant from the Southbridge Cultural Council, a local agency funded by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency,

Abrahm Routhier of Southbridge named to Champlain College President's List

BURLINGTON, Vt. — Abrahm Routhier of Southbridge was named to the Champlain College President's List for the Fall 2023 semester.

Students on the President's List have achieved a grade point average of 4.0 or higher during the semester. Routhier is currently enrolled in the Game Programming program.

Making the President's List is a tremendous achievement. Many of the high achievers balance their career-focused classes with jobs, internships, clubs, and volunteering. We congratulate them on this great accomplishment and honor.

Founded in 1878, Champlain College is a small, not-for-profit, private college in Burlington, Vermont, with additional campuses in Montreal, Canada, and Dublin, Ireland. Champlain offers a traditional undergraduate experience from its beautiful campus overlooking Lake Champlain and more than 90 residential undergraduate and online undergraduate and graduate degree programs and certificates. Champlain's distinctive career-driven approach to higher education embodies the notion that true learning occurs when information and experience come together to create knowledge. Champlain ranks in multiple categories of U.S. News and World Report's "Best Colleges;" is included in The Princeton Review's 2024 list of "The Best 389 Colleges;" was named a 2023-2024 College of Distinction for Education, Business and Career Development; and was awarded one of America's Best Colleges by Money for combining quality and affordability. www.champlain.edu

REAL ESTATE

BRIMFIELD
None

CHARLTON
\$700,000, 58 Jennings Rd, Rawan Capital Invs LLC, to Atodaria, Vishwajitsinh.
\$660,000, 238 Guelphwood Rd, Falcone, Steven P, to Cole, Linda S, and Cole, Stephen M.
\$530,000, 20 Willis Dr, John P & D G Popiak Irt, and Popiak, John F, to Souppa, Elizabeth B, and Souppa, John A.
\$141,000, Worcester Rd, Dunn, Brian W, and Dunn, Barbara A, to Srl Realty LLC.

HOLLAND
\$48,000, 97 Leno Rd, Omara, George J, to Amaral, Jenny L, and Leary, Timothy J.

SOUTHBRIDGE
\$485,000, 65 North St, Audette, Raymond C, and Audette, Faith C, to Sena, Phylippe M, and Nazario, Dyego.
\$420,000, 171 Mechanic St, Center Of Hope Fndtn Inc, to Charles, Frantz.
\$370,000, 323 Worcester St, Fleming, Garry F, and Fleming, Jody I, to Kellogg, Kristopher, and Kellogg, Danielle.
\$210,000, 124 Riverview Pl #E, Scannell, Megan M, to Bembridge, Richard, and Bembridge, Venice.
\$155,000, 134 Pleasant St, Peet, James, to 134 Pleasant LLC.
\$140,000, 230 Dresser Hill Rd, Rousseau, Gary, to Ekt Investments Inc.
\$35,000, 89 Litchfield Ave, Lemieux, Stephanie A, and Proctor, Devante A, to Lemieux, Stephanie A.

STURBRIDGE
None

VILLAGER ALMANAC

OPEN TO CLOSE

- SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN HALL**
Monday-Wednesday:
8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Thursday: 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
Friday: 8 a.m.-12 p.m.
- JACOB EDWARDS PUBLIC LIBRARY**
Monday: 9 a.m.-8 p.m.
Tuesday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Wednesday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Thursday: 9 a.m.-8 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (May 25 will be our last open Saturday until Labor Day) Sunday: Closed
- CHARLTON TOWN HALL (508) 248-2200**
Office Hours:
Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Tuesdays 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Friday Closed
visit www.townofcharlton.net or more information.
Individual offices may vary
PUBLIC LIBRARY (248-0452)
For library hours please check www.charltonlibrary.org
POLICE DEPARTMENT (248-2250)
Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
For emergencies, dial 911
FIRE DEPARTMENT (248-2299)
Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- POST OFFICES**
Charlton Center Post Office... (800) 275-8777
Charlton City (01508) (800) 275-8777
- SCHOOLS**
Dudley-Charlton Regional School District (508) 943-6888
Charlton Elementary School (508) 248-7774 or (508) 248-7435
Heritage School (508) 248-4884
Charlton Middle School (508) 248-1423
Shepherd Hill Regional High School (508) 943-6700
Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School (508) 248-5971 or (508) 987-0326
- HOLLAND: 413-245-7108**
Mon - Thurs 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- FISKDALE: 508-347-6486**
Weekdays 9:00-4:30 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00
- STURBRIDGE 508-347-6463**
Weekdays 8:30 - 5:00 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00
- BRIMFIELD: 413-245-3451**
Weekdays: 9:00 - 4:30 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00
- WALES: 413-245-9808**
Weekdays 8:30 - 12:30 and 2:00 - 4:30 and Sat. 9:00 - 12:00

CHURCH LISTINGS

- **Central Baptist Church**
256 Main St., Southbridge, MA 01550
Tel 508/764-6365; Worship 10:00 A.M.
- **Charlton Federated Church**, 64 Main St., 248-5550, Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. www.fedchurchcharlton.org
- **Charlton Baptist Church**, 50 Hammond Hill Road, 248-4488, www.charltonbaptist.org, Sunday worship 10 a.m.
- **Charlton City United Methodist**, 74 Stafford St. 248-7379, web site: CharltonCityUMC.org
Sunday worship and Children's church 10am
- **St. Anne St. Patrick Church**, 16 Church St., Fiskdale (508) 347-7338
www.stannepatparish.com
Saturday Vigil Mass at 4 pm, Sunday 8 am, 10 am, 12 noon, Youth Mass (September to May) 5 pm. Daily Mass Mon - Thurs 7:30 and 10 am, Fri and Sat 7:30 am
- **St. Joseph's Church**, 10 H. Putnam Ext, 248-7862, www.stjosephscharlton.com, Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 p.m., Sunday Mass 8 a.m., Sunday Family Mass 10 a.m., Sunday Life/TEEN Mass 5 p.m., Weekday Mass Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30 a.m.
- **Hope Christian Fellowship**, 6 Haggerty Road, 248-5144
- **Assemblies of God Southern New England District Headquarters**, Route 20, 248-3771, snedag.org, Office hours Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- **Living Word Church of Charlton**, 10 Main Street - Grange building 1st Floor, Charlton, Ma 01507, Pastor Craig Bellisario, (508) 233-8349
Sunday Service 10:00am.
www.livingwordcharlton.com
info@livingwordcharlton.com
- **New Life Fellowship A/G, SNED Chapel**, 307 Sturbridge Road, Rt. 20, Charlton, MA, Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
- **Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale** - 8 Maple St. Sturbridge, 774-304-1021
www.sturfed.org
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
- **Bethlehem Lutheran Church** - 345 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566
Phone 508-347-7297
Web: www.bethlehemsturbridge.org
Services - Sunday 9:30 am
Pastor Dan Purtell
- **Holland Congregation Church** "Where the Bible is preached."
11 Sturbridge Road, Holland, 413-245-9926
Hollandchurch.org
Sunday Service @ 10:00 am
Pastor Dan Maketansky

Got Space?
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TOWN TREASURER

The Town of Brookfield is seeking qualified applicants for the full-time (40-hour week) position of Town Treasurer. Full job description at brookfieldma.us. Salary commensurate with experience. Current appropriation is \$80,498.62 Submit cover letter and resume to: selectmen@brookfieldma.us. Reviews begin week of April 15th. Open until filled.

The Town of Brookfield is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

GRANT WRITER/FACILITATOR

The Town of Brookfield is seeking qualified applicants for a part-time (15 hours per week) Grant Writer/Facilitator. See job description at brookfieldma.us. Salary is commensurate with experience. Current appropriation is \$30.28 per hour. Please submit a resume and cover letter to selectmen@brookfieldma.us Open until filled.

Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

Friday's Child



Giavanna and Xander
Age 10 and 12

Hi! Our names are Giavanna and Xander and we are so excited to meet our forever family!

Giavanna (Gia) and Xander are sweet, soft-spoken siblings. Gia loves to read, write, and try new things, such as taking piano lessons! She is described as very smart, happy, funny, and often offers help when she sees someone who needs it. Gia gets along well with all her peers, and her teacher says she is an excellent student and a "joy in class."

Gia's younger brother Xander loves to play video games, board games,

and Legos. He also likes basketball and takes drum lessons. Once you get to know him, Xander is very funny and witty and comes up with great one-liner jokes!

Gia and Xander would do well in a loving, two-parent household. A family for Gia and Xander would support their relationships with their three younger siblings, who they see monthly. Both Gia and Xander do well in the family setting and enjoy activities such as watching movies, playing games, and going out together.
<https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/children/8342-8343>

Can I Adopt?

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

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

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



Here Today Adopted Tomorrow hosting “Spay”ghetti Supper

BRIMFIELD — Here Today Adopted Tomorrow (HTAT) invites all animal lovers to our “Spay”ghetti Supper at the First Congregational Church of Brimfield on Sunday, April 14. This fundraiser comes at a time when shelters across the state and the nation are hitting crisis levels and there is an increasing demand for HTAT to take in and place cats that are traditionally seen as “unadoptable.”

Executive Director, Rachael Max, said, “At HTAT we pride ourselves on our personalized approach to adoption and continued care. This allows us to help cats who may fall through the cracks at traditional shelters, but flourish with the individual at-

ention they receive in our cageless cattery.”

“It has been four years since our last “Spay”ghetti Supper and each year more and more people have been asking for its return. I am excited to announce that it is finally back!” says Max. “I am looking forward to seeing everyone enjoy a meal together again, and at the same time help the animals right here in our community!”

Join HTAT for a night of food, family, fun, and raffles to raise money for cats and the people who love them at our “Spay”ghetti Supper in the First Congregational Church of Brimfield Sunday, April 14. The first seating is 5-6 p.m. The second is 6:30-7 p.m. Advance prices are \$15 for Adults and \$10 for Se-

niors & Kids.

To purchase advance tickets at a discounted price please visit www.heretodaysanctuary.org or call 413 324-8224.

If you need assistance in feeding or caring for your pet, Here Today Adopted Tomorrow can help. Local cat owners can spay or neuter their cats for \$65 or less, and strays and ferals can be fixed for free! Please visit heretodaysanctuary.org to learn more about these and more community assistance programs.

About Here Today Adopted Tomorrow Animal Sanctuary

Here Today Adopted Tomorrow (HTAT) was founded by mother-daughter team Barbara Horn and Rachael Max.

HTAT is a volunteer driven group focused on helping cats and the people who love them in our community. In 2012 we opened our no kill, cageless cat adoption center for adult cats and kittens in Brimfield. It is deeply important to us that every resident’s stay at HTAT is comfortable and healthy, making for well-adjusted, happy animals. Shortly after opening, we realized there were more homeless cats than we could handle by adoption alone. We believe that pets are cherished members of the family and our ultimate goal is to keep pets and people together.

We have programs to help special needs cats flourish and get adopted, as well as community assistance programs to help pet owners keep their pets, such as our Pet Food Pantry, low-cost spay-neuter program, and free cat behavior program. Each year, HTAT helps more than

1,500 animals and their families. For more information, visit heretodaysanctuary.org.

Visit Here Today Adopted Tomorrow on Facebook at facebook.com/heretodaysanctuary, and follow us on Instagram at [@heretoday-adoptedtomorrow](https://instagram.com/heretoday-adoptedtomorrow).

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ERA Key’s Dabrowski in top 1 percent of ERA Realtors worldwide



Diane Dabrowski

CHARLTON — ERA Key Realty Services announced today that Diane Dabrowski of Charlton, a Realtor whose office is based in Charlton, is in the top 1 percent of all ERA Realtors worldwide.

She also was the #2 Realtor for ERA Key for all of 2023. ERA Key has 300 agents and ERA Franchise Systems LLC has nearly 40,000 agents in more than 2,200 offices worldwide.

She began her estate career with Realty World in Charlton, then formed Alliance Realty, which merged with ERA Key in 1990.

In addition to being a broker and Realtor, she is a Certified Negotiation Expert (CNE), a Certified Real Estate Brokerage Manager (CRB),

a Certified Residential Specialist (CRS), a Graduate of the REALTOR® Institute (GRI), a Seniors Real Estate Specialist® (SRES®), an Accredited Buyer’s Representative (ABR) and an Accredited Buyer’s Representative Manager (ABRM).

She has won many awards from ERA, including the Beyond Excellence Award and Board of Realtor awards for production. She has consistently been named to the Leader’s Circle and the ERA Top Agent Circle. She also received the REALTOR® Choice Award from the REALTOR® Association of Central Massachusetts.

She also received ERA Key’s Circle of Light Award for her volunteer work in memory of her daughter, Emily. Her efforts include volunteering and raising funds for Pwoje Espwa Sud, an orphanage in Haiti. She also started a scholarship fund for students at Shepherd Hill Regional High School in Dudley.

“As a third-generation real estate professional, real estate is in Diane’s DNA,” ERA Key President and COO Cheryl

Eidinger-Taylor said. “Her high production and volunteer work are inspirational. She has been among our top producers for many years.”

About ERA Key Realty Services

ERA Key Realty Services of Northbridge has 15 offices throughout central and eastern Massachusetts and is among the largest residential real estate agencies in Massachusetts. Since merging with HUNT Real Estate ERA in 2018, it has become the Number 1 agency in the ERA Franchise System, which has nearly 2,400 agencies worldwide. ERA Key was named among the top places to work in the state in the large company category for seven of the past eight years, based on a survey administered by Energage for The Boston Globe. It also won the Momentum Award as the fastest growing ERA franchise in 2012 and the Gene Francis Memorial Award as the Top All-Around Company in ERA in 2014 and 2018. For more information about ERA Key, visit keyrealtyservices.com.



The Federated Church
of Sturbridge & Fiskdale
presents the

*Fanfare Brass
Ensemble
in Concert*

April 14, 2024 | 7 p.m.

Admission is FREE but a freewill offering will be collected.

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Ralph Crowley, Jr. to deliver Nichols College Commencement address

DUDLEY — Nichols College has announced that Ralph Crowley, Jr., president and chief executive officer of Polar Beverages, will give the Commencement Address at the 2024 commencement exercises on Saturday, May 4.

Crowley has led Polar, founded in 1882 and the largest privately owned sparkling beverage bottler in the country, since 1992. Under his leadership, Polar has grown from an \$18 million to a \$1 billion enterprise. Polar made several key acquisitions of manufacturing facilities that accelerated the growth of the company, including Adirondack Beverages in Scotia, New York, Polar South of Fitzgerald, Georgia and Polar Texas Bottling in Temple, Texas. Polar also gained significant market share through the distribution of seasonal Polar Seltzer flavors while concurrently embracing heritage recipes, such as Polar Orange Dry and Birch Beer, that reflect the company's roots.

Crowley was instrumental in bringing the Worcester Red Sox to Central Massachusetts and serves on the organization's Board of Directors. The Woo Sox

play their home games in Polar Park. He and his siblings also own Wachusett Mountain Ski Area in Princeton. He is widely known for his philanthropic leadership in Worcester and beyond and serves on numerous nonprofit boards and advisory councils.

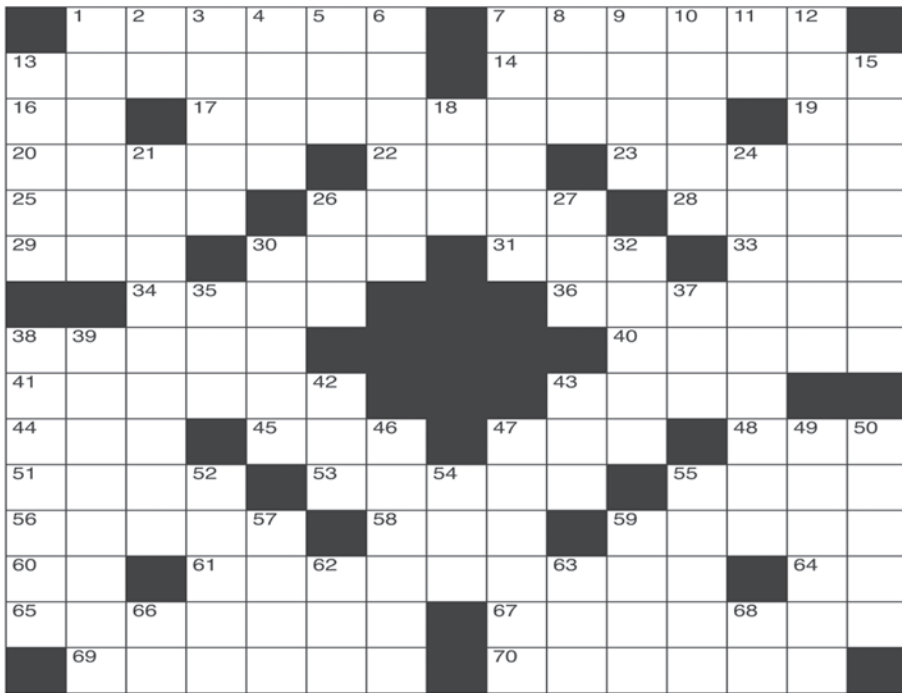
Crowley received a BA from Bowdoin College and an MBA from Clark University. He will receive an Honorary Doctorate in Business Administration, as will Amy Pitter, former chief executive officer of the Massachusetts Society of Certified Public Accountants.

Pitter led MassCPAs from 2015 until her retirement in December 2023. The organization represents 11,000 accounting professionals across the Commonwealth, including those serving in public accounting, business, government, nonprofit and education. As CEO, Ms. Pitter developed programs to help accounting professionals prosper, while building the pipeline of accountants and increasing diversity in the profession.

Prior to her stint as CEO, Pitter served as commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Revenue. She

boasts more than 25 years of experience helping government agencies transform their businesses. She earned a BA from Connecticut College, an MA in accounting from Northeastern University, and a JD from New England School of Law.

About Nichols College has earned business accreditation from the prestigious Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International), the longest serving global accrediting body for business schools and the largest business education network connecting learners, educators, and businesses worldwide. Founded in 1815, Nichols College transforms today's students into tomorrow's leaders through a dynamic, career-focused business and professional education. Nichols offers real-world learning focused on professional depth - combined with vibrant living, competitive athletics, and an unmatched alumni advantage - equipping students to exceed their own expectations. www.nichols.edu

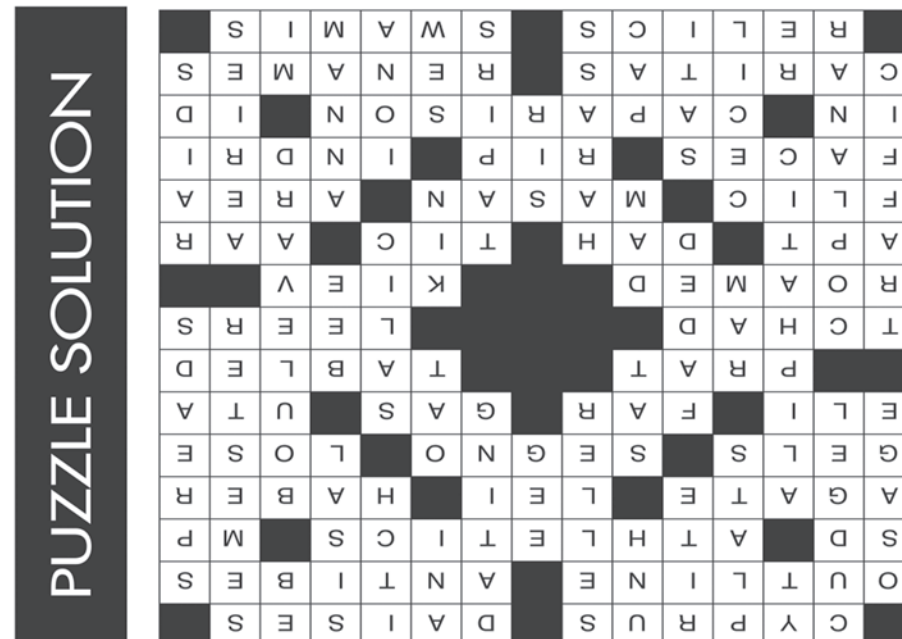


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Island nation
- 7. Platforms
- 13. Project plan
- 14. French fishing port
- 16. South Dakota
- 17. Oakland's baseball team
- 19. Military policeman
- 20. Ornamental stone
- 22. Garland
- 23. Process that produces ammonia
- 25. Mousses
- 26. Music notation "dal _"
- 28. Fail to win
- 29. Peyton's little brother
- 30. Not near
- 31. Some cars still need it
- 33. Lizard genus
- 34. An idiot (Brit.)
- 36. Postponed
- 38. African country
- 40. Gazes unpleasantly
- 41. In a way, traveled
- 43. Ukraine's capital
- 44. Appropriate
- 45. Dash
- 47. Twitch
- 48. Swiss river
- 51. Data file with computer animations
- 53. City in S. Korea
- 55. Particular region
- 56. They have eyes and noses
- 58. Tear
- 59. Large Madagascan lemur
- 60. Not out
- 61. Ornamental saddle covering
- 64. A driver's license is one
- 65. Latin term for charity
- 67. Rechristens
- 69. Objects from an earlier time
- 70. Hindu male religious teachers

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Used as a weapon
- 2. Yukon Territory
- 3. Makes a map of
- 4. An established ceremony prescribed by a religion
- 5. Unnilhexium
- 6. Merchant
- 7. Playing the field
- 8. Folk singer DiFranco
- 9. Something to scratch
- 10. Mexican agave
- 11. Equal to one quintillion bytes
- 12. Session
- 13. North American people
- 15. Ranches
- 18. Electroencephalograph
- 21. A type of compound
- 24. Avenue
- 26. High schoolers' test
- 27. A type of meal
- 30. Gradually disappeared
- 32. Ancient Frankish law code
- 35. Popular pickup truck
- 37. Buzzing insect
- 38. Deal illegally
- 39. Lying in the same plane
- 42. Obstruct
- 43. Related
- 46. Challenge aggressively
- 47. Nocturnal hoofed animals
- 49. Bird's nests
- 50. Forays
- 52. ___ B. de Mille, filmmaker
- 54. Title of respect
- 55. One-time name of Vietnam
- 57. Self-immolation by fire ritual
- 59. Private school in New York
- 62. Political action committee
- 63. A way to fashion
- 66. Email reply
- 68. "The Great Lake State"



PUZZLE SOLUTION

Locals named to Champlain College Dean's List

BURLINGTON, Vt. — Michael Ng of Sturbridge and Riley Plourde of Uxbridge was named to the Champlain College Dean's List for the Fall 2023 semester.

Students on the Dean's List have achieved a grade point average of 3.5 or higher during the semester. Ng is currently majoring in Computer Networking & Cybersecurity.

Making the Dean's List is a tremendous achievement. Many of the high achievers balance their career-focused classes with jobs, internships, clubs, and volunteering. We con-

gratulate them on this great accomplishment and honor.

Founded in 1878, Champlain College is a small, not-for-profit, private college in Burlington, Vermont, with additional campuses in Montreal, Canada, and Dublin, Ireland. Champlain offers a traditional undergraduate experience from its beautiful campus overlooking Lake Champlain and more than 90 residential undergraduate and online undergraduate and graduate degree programs and certificates. Champlain's distinctive career-driven approach

to higher education embodies the notion that true learning occurs when information and experience come together to create knowledge. Champlain ranks in multiple categories of U.S. News and World Report's "Best Colleges;" is included in The Princeton Review's 2024 list of "The Best 389 Colleges;" was named a 2023-2024 College of Distinction for Education, Business and Career Development; and was awarded one of America's Best Colleges by Money for combining quality and affordability. www.champlain.edu

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Poetry open mic night at Charlton Public Library

CHARLTON — In celebration of National Poetry Month, Charlton Public Library is holding their Second Annual Poetry Open Mic Night on Tuesday, April 16, at 6:30 p.m. in Dexter Hall.

Joe Fusco, Jr. from the Worcester County Poetry Association will return as our facilitator. Joe will open the evening with a reading, and

then open it up to guests who are welcome to read their own poetry or something by a favorite poet. This event is free and open to the public, however, registration is requested so that we have an idea of the number of participants. Register online at charltonlibrary.org on the event calendar. If you don't get a chance to register, you can still come and we

will work you into the lineup! This program is generously sponsored by Friends of the Charlton Library.

The Worcester County Poetry Association (WCPA) was founded in 1971 by Dr. Samuel Bachrach and Professor Michael True and incorporated as a nonprofit organization in 1972. With over fifty years

of service to poetry, it remains one of the longest-running non-profit poetry organizations in the United States.

The mission of the Worcester County Poetry Association is to celebrate the rich literary history and creative energy of Central Massachusetts through public readings, workshops, festivals, scholarly con-

ferences, and other programs. They publish the literary journal The Worcester Review. They collaborate with libraries, bookstores, colleges and universities, museums, churches, schools, community centers, businesses, and cultural organizations to promote poetry events.

Last year was our first Poetry Open Mic night

and there was a rich assortment of poetry read by people of all ages! We hope you can join us to read your own work, the work of a favorite poet, or just to listen.

Charlton Public Library is located at 40 Main St. in Charlton.

Jillian Goyette of Fiskdale named to Champlain College President's List

BURLINGTON, Vt. — Jillian Goyette of Fiskdale was named to the Champlain College President's List for the Fall 2023 semester.

Students on the President's List have achieved a grade point average of 4.0 or higher during the semester. Goyette is currently enrolled in the Marketing program.

Making the President's List is a tremendous achievement. Many of the high achievers balance their career-focused classes with jobs, internships, clubs, and volunteering. We congratulate them on this

great accomplishment and honor.

Founded in 1878, Champlain College is a small, not-for-profit, private college in Burlington, Vermont, with additional campuses in Montreal, Canada, and Dublin, Ireland. Champlain offers a traditional undergraduate experience from its beautiful campus overlooking Lake Champlain and more than 90 residential undergraduate and online undergraduate and graduate degree programs and certificates. Champlain's distinctive career-driven approach to higher education em-

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Let Tantasqua students help with your project

FISKDALE — The Tantasqua Regional School Committee will be accepting applications for projects to be built during the 2024-2025 school year. The purpose of these projects is to provide practical work experiences for the carpentry students of Tantasqua's Technical Division. Since there is no charge for student labor, qualified

applicants realize substantial savings. Additional savings can result if Tantasqua's electrical students install any necessary wiring.

Applications and design plans will be accepted for the construction of a single story house, garage, addition, or similar project. One or more projects may be selected. Applicant must reside

in the Tantasqua School District.

All applications should be submitted directly to the Superintendent's Office by June 1.

For further information please call the Technical Division at 508-347-3045, ext. 0915 or access our Web site at <http://www.tantasqua.org/technical/forms.htm>.

Charlton City UMC launching Collectibles, Cards, and Craft Show

CHARLTON — Charlton City United Methodist Church is excited to announce a new quarterly series: Dynamic Collectibles, Cards, and Craft Show. The first show will be May 4 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at 74 Stafford St., Charlton. Watch for dates for future shows every quarter.

Each show will be jam-packed with vendors, from rare Pokemon cards to knitted hats; from Epicure represen-

tatives to collectible art, each offering a wide variety of affordable, one-of-a-kind product. Baked goods and drinks will sustain you while you peruse the dozens of vendors. Vendors are coming from all over Massachusetts to display their goods for you. Any interested vendors can contact Joe Dupont at joedupont@dynamiccardcollectors.com. Hope to see you there!

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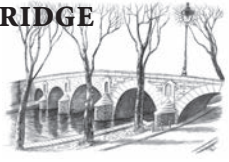
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The allure of outer space and eclipses

Humanity's fascination with outer space and celestial events like eclipses stretches back to the dawn of our existence. From ancient civilizations to modern-day space agencies, the allure of the cosmos has captured our imaginations and sparked a colossal sense of wonder and curiosity. But what is it about outer space and eclipses that continues to captivate us?

One of the most undeniable reasons is the utter scale and mystery of the universe. Outer space represents the ultimate frontier, a vast expanse of uncharted territory waiting to be explored. The unfathomable distances between stars and galaxies, the enigmatic nature of black holes, and the possibility of extraterrestrial life all contribute to a sense of awe and intrigue. The exploration of outer space offers us the chance to push the boundaries of our knowledge and understanding, to uncover the secrets of the cosmos, and to answer some of humanity's most weighty questions about our place in the universe.

Eclipses, in particular, hold a special place because they offer a tangible connection to the cosmos. These rare celestial events, where the sun, moon, and Earth align in perfect harmony, produce breathtaking displays of light and shadow that captivate millions of people around the world. Whether it's a solar eclipse, where the moon passes between the sun and Earth, casting a temporary shadow on our planet, or a lunar eclipse, where Earth's shadow falls across the surface of the moon, eclipses remind us of the beauty and grandeur of the universe.

Moreover, eclipses have played a significant role in shaping human history and culture. Ancient civilizations viewed eclipses as omens or portents, often interpreting them as signs from the gods. Today, eclipses continue to inspire awe and wonder, bringing people together to witness these rare cosmic events firsthand. Whether it's through scientific expeditions to observe and study eclipses or community gatherings to marvel at their beauty, eclipses have a way of uniting us in our shared sense of wonder and appreciation for the cosmos.

In addition to their aesthetic appeal, outer space and eclipses also hold immense scientific value. Studying the cosmos allows us to better understand the fundamental laws of nature, from the forces that govern the motion of celestial bodies to the origins of the universe itself. Eclipses provide scientists with unique opportunities to conduct experiments and observations that would be impossible under normal circumstances, offering valuable insights into everything from solar physics to the dynamics of Earth's atmosphere.

Furthermore, our fascination with outer space and eclipses speaks to something deeper within us – a primal instinct to explore, to seek out new frontiers, and to push the boundaries of what is possible.

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

TO THE EDITOR Singer for Selectman

To the Editor:

Hello, my name is David Singer, and I'm running for re-election for the Board of Selectmen. After many discussions with family and friends, I have decided to run for one last term as a Charlton Selectman. Charlton continues to grow, and I would like to spend the next, final three years, helping us navigate our journey.

I'm extremely proud of what we've achieved over the years. Charlton has an outstanding bond rating, we've successfully built, and continue to build upon, our stabilization fund. After many roadblocks we are now in the midst of pursuing a solution for clean water and water independence for the people of

Charlton. We've successfully lowered many fees and passed much needed bylaws for solar farms and much more.

But our work is far from done. Challenging times are ahead, and we need experienced leaders with proven track records to help guide us through. Leaders who deliver with actions, not empty words and promises. I'd be honored to have your support as we work together to keep Charlton as the best place to live.

Please consider voting for and re-electing Singer for Selectman on May 4 at the Heritage School. Thank you.

Yours,

DAVID SINGER
CHARLTON

Celebrate Arbor Day and Earth Day at Trees and Treasures event

To the Editor:

What a great way to celebrate Arbor Day and Earth Day, at Trees are Treasures! This event, its fourth annual, will be held at Wells State Park in Sturbridge on Saturday, April 20, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

There will be face painting and crafts for kids and a free native tree giveaway. Several costumed charac-

ters along the marked trail will be explaining wetlands and stone walls. It is a great way to enjoy nature and your community! This event is sponsored by Brookfield Fights Fear and Grassroots Central Mass. For more details, please see www.grassrootscentralmass.org/events.

MAUREEN DOYLE
SOUTHBRIDGE

Re-elect Selectman David Singer: A continuation of fiscal excellence

To the Editor:

I am writing to express my strong support for the reelection of David Singer as a Selectman of Charlton. As a past Chairman and 24 year member of the Charlton Finance Committee, I had an opportunity to work with David for many years. We often advocated and worked for the same beneficial changes for our community. Most telling to me regarding his concern for our town and its citizens was his willingness, in the midst of differing opinions, to find common ground. David was always diligent, respectful and willing to work toward a compromise that moved us forward. I am convinced that David Singer's leadership is indispensable for the continued progress and prosperity of Charlton.

During his tenure as Selectman, David Singer has consistently demonstrated a fiscally responsible commitment to serving the interests of our community. His dedication to transparency, accountability, and strong continued fiscal responsibility has been evident in his decision-making process. David has consistently advocated for policies that prioritize the well-being of Charlton residents and ensure that our town remains a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

David Singer has a proactive, sensible approach to addressing the current challenges facing Charlton sets him apart as a leader who is not afraid to tackle difficult issues head-on. Eco-

nomically, with respect to the changes in Charlton, I believe it is critically important to have his voice working for the taxpayers of Charlton. Whether it's advocating for infrastructure improvements, supporting local businesses, or enhancing responsible public safety measures, David has consistently shown his ability to effectively navigate complex issues and deliver results for our town.

Moreover, David Singer's accessibility and willingness to listen to the concerns of his constituents make him a selectman who listens. Certainly, that quality is a welcome and critically important component for a town leader. He understands the importance of community engagement and actively welcomes input from residents wishing to inform his decision-making process. Open communication will always bring forth an environment healthy for the bond between a town government and its citizens.

As we approach the upcoming election, I urge my fellow Charlton residents to join me in supporting David Singer for reelection as Selectman. His years of service to the town and his record of leadership, integrity, and dedication to making fiscally responsible decisions for the citizens of Charlton, make him the clear choice to continue guiding Charlton towards a bright and prosperous future.

Sincerely,

FRANK J. MORRILL
CHARLTON

A vote for Singer is a vote for Charlton's future

To the Editor:

On May 4, Charlton residents will head to the polls and decide who will sit on Seat 2 for the Charlton Board of Selectmen. While local elections don't have the turnout of national or statewide elections, I can easily argue that this election is more important. Local politics can make a greater impact on our daily lives than national elections, and this year's election is coming at a crucial time for our town.

In a time where our country is seemingly void of common sense, it's my sincere hope that our town can break free of the nonsense and vote in people of character who do not have an agenda, but rather a sincere invested interest in helping Charlton be the best it can be. That's why I'm supporting David Singer for Town Selectman.

In my time here in Charlton, I

have seen Mr. Singer support not only our Police Department, Fire Department and veterans, but he has been a staunch supporter of our schools and our senior community. Three years ago, in my narrowly failed bid for a selectman seat, the town seemingly chose false promises and idealism over conservatism and reality. If you've been paying attention, you know the major issues that faced the board over the past three years. I cannot imagine the harm that could've fallen on our town had Mr. Singer not been on the board to represent us. Speaking for my family, we have seen frivolous spending and increased taxes in the state since our last gubernatorial election, and we certainly can't afford to see that spill over to our town as well.

Good Neighbor Food Pantry

BY DR. ROBIN MCFEE

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat...."

Matthew 25: 31

Most of us take for granted when we are hungry, we can go to our refrigerator or a kitchen cabinet and find something to eat. In some cases we are blessed to find a wide variety of options from which to choose. But many in our community cannot do that. Their cupboards are bare, or nearly so, and food insecurity has become a daily struggle.

Members of our community who don't know where their next meal is coming from have faces and names; they are more than statistics. That fact came to Charlton City United Methodist Church (CCUMC), and we were ready!

The other day we got a knock on the door at our church. A woman introduced herself, and told the pastor she got laid off from work, and after rent, didn't have enough money to feed her children, let alone herself. She started walking from her apartment hoping she would come across someone who might help her when our church came into view.

Her timing was perfect. And thankfully we were able to provide lots of food for the woman and her children, with an invitation to return for more, because CCUMC just started our Good Neighbor Food Pantry, which is one of several outreach ministries to fulfill our mission of being the scriptural 'good neighbor' as a church, and serve as a resource for the people around us.

Thanks to the generosity of so many people in our faith family, and three women who decided to take on this ministry – Gaelle McLoud, Marsha Mason and Jean Anderson - we are ready to share food with those who need it. And the only questions you will get from us, as our Pastor demonstrated, will be "how can we help you," or "did you take enough," or "can we help you carry more to your car?"

Putting a face to the challenge of hunger is always powerful. So is the feeling of helping someone, even if it just gets them through a day or a week. Because the real gift isn't just the food, but the knowledge for those in need that they too can put a face on the people willing to lend a hand. It is in the human touch of kindness that transcends and makes us all better for it.

When I asked each of the women who helped champion our good neighbor food pantry what motivated their efforts, to a person they shared an observation – they were noticing people who in the past were able to share resources now are in need of help. Having spoken with members of food banks and similar outreach enterprises, they, too, are seeing people who once could give, and now need to receive.

Gaelle, Marsha and Jean also shared personal stories how each had a period in their lives when they faced financial struggles, and could relate to folks needing help. Fortunately now they are in positions to help others, and wanted to find a way to make a difference. And as people of faith, each wanted to live Christ's admonition to feed the hungry (Matthew 25:31 – 40).

And there are lots of hungry folks around. The number of people who don't have enough to eat, who have to juggle limited resources and make choices whether to buy sufficient food, pay rent, get medications, or purchase heating fuel, is growing – in our neighborhoods, all across the Commonwealth, as well as states around us.

As a church and as individuals we recognize the needs are great and houses of worship like ours are in a position to help meet those needs. Most of the great religions have scriptures that inspire congregants to help others. If you belong to a house of worship, consider starting a food pantry for your neighborhood.

We can do something to lighten the hunger burden, and Charlton City United Methodist Church on 74 Staf-

Slow and steady: A smart way to invest

You've probably heard stories about fortunate investors who "get in on the ground floor" of a new, hot company and quickly make a fortune. But while these things may happen, they are exceedingly rare and often depend on hard-to-duplicate circumstances — and they really don't represent a viable way of investing for one's goals. A far more tried-and-true approach is the "slow-and-steady" method.

To follow this strategy, consider these suggestions:

Start small — and add more when you can. When you're first starting out in the working world, you may not have a lot of extra money with which to invest, especially if you're carrying student loan debt. But one of the key ad-

vantages of the slow-and-steady method is that it does not require large investment sums to get going. If you can afford to put away even \$50 or \$100 a month into individual stocks or mutual funds, month after month, you may be surprised and pleased at how your account can grow. And when your salary goes up, you can put away more money each month.

Take advantage of an employer's retirement plan. If your employer offers a 401(k) or similar tax-advantaged retirement plan, try to take full advantage of it. Again, if you're just beginning your career, you may not be able to put away much in this type of plan, but even a small amount is better than nothing. And as soon as you can possibly afford



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it, try to put in enough to earn your employer's matching contribution, if one is offered. These types of plans can offer some key benefits — and perhaps the biggest one is that investing is automatic, in that the money is moved directly from your paycheck into the investments you've chosen within your 401(k) or other plan.

Be prepared for downturns. The financial markets will always experience ups and downs. So, you need to be prepared for those times when your investment

statements may show negative results. By understanding that these downturns are a normal part of the investment environment, you can avoid overreactions, such as selling quality investments with good fundamentals just because their price has temporarily dropped.

Chart your progress regularly. A key element of a slow-and-steady investment approach is knowing how well it's working. But it's important to measure your progress in a way that makes sense for you. So, for example, instead of measuring your portfolio's performance against that of an external stock market index, such as the S&P 500, you may want to

assess where you are today versus one year ago, or whether the overall progress you're making is sufficient to help you meet the financial goals you've set for yourself well into the future. Another reason not to use a market index as a measuring tool is that the index only looks at a certain pool of investments, which, in the case of the S&P 500, is simply the largest companies listed on U.S. stock exchanges. But long-term investors try to own a range of assets — U.S. and foreign stocks, bonds, government securities, certificates of deposit, and so on.

"Slow and steady" may not sound

like an exciting approach to investing. But it's often the case that a little less excitement, and a lot more diligence, can prove to be quite effective.

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.

Freshwater fishing heats up

Wachusett Reservoir was hot last week for numerous anglers, as this week's pictures show. Trout fishing was not bad either, if you could stand the cold wind that was blowing all week.

Wallum Lake opens this Saturday, and should be a great day outdoors. The lake was stocked two times by Massachusetts, and the trout should provide some great fishing. The Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club will also open their trout pond to fishing for members only.

Eastman Party boats had some slow fishing last week with spotty fishing for



Courtesy

Pet is shown here with some nice large lake trout taken from Wachusett Reservoir last week.



A possible catch & release record lake trout caught at Wachusett Reservoir last week.

haddock and pollock. There were plenty of Cusks being caught. Mass. saltwater fishing regulations have changed very little from last year, with scaup increasing another inch.



THE GREAT
OUTDOORS
RALPH
TRUE

Tautog fishing in both Mass. & Rhode Island should start to improve in the next

two weeks. Although a three fish daily bag limit is still in effect, catching a few of these hard fighting fish are all worth the effort. Eating one of these fish can provide a meal like no other ocean fish.

Turkeys are starting to become more active in the last few days. Sightings by local hunters have increased also. The Mass. turkey season opens on April 29.

Striper migration is slowly heading our way, and anglers are only days away from catching them. The one fish daily limit is the same as last year, with a slot limit still in effect.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep them Rods Bending.

An Array of Random Tips & Tricks

Spring is here and it seems the perfect season to start a home project and/or prep for planning that backyard garden. From painting to gardening tips (and a few home remedies), read on for some "semi random" tips that seem especially appropriate to share this time of year!

Spring is spruce-up season, and if for you, that in includes painting, try these painting pointers from the pros:

Flat Out Frugal Paint: The higher the gloss of the finish, the easier the paint is to clean. However high gloss shows imperfections, that's why flat is used. How do you get a flat finish with "washability?" Just mix a pint of gloss finish paint into each gallon of flat finish.

FOOD PANTRY

ford Street is here to help. If you or someone you know needs some food, give us a call or come on by during one of our worship services or outreach programs. We will make you feel at home.

And if you wish to contribute to our good neighbor food pantry, we welcome your kindness. Trust me, the feeling of helping others, especially knowing you kept a child, a family from going hungry, even if it was just for one night, can be transformative. So please join our efforts.

For more information contact Charlton City United Methodist Church at 508-248-7379, or email john@cc-umc.org or robinccumcmedia@gmail.com.

LETTER

It should be clear to all that during Mr. Singer's long tenure serving our town, he has not been a slave to pet projects or false promises made simply to "get elected." He has served this town with integrity, and perhaps most importantly, common sense. We need people like Mr. Singer, now more than ever, to lead our town considering the expenditures on the horizon and shrinking family incomes. My feeling is that it would be disastrous for our town to move away from a fiscal conservative like Mr. Singer.

David Singer has shown that he respects everyone's opinions and represents the entire town of Charlton fairly and honestly during his long time on the board. This is something that cannot be disputed by anyone that has been paying attention. Our government is supposed to work for us - and we shouldn't be taking chances in such an important time in our town's history. I choose to back the candidate who stuck with Charlton through the tough times and knows what it takes to help run this town. Please take the time to visit Heritage school on May 4 and vote for our town's future. Join me in supporting David Singer for Charlton Town Selectman.

Sincerely,
SCOT NERI
CHARLTON

TAKE THE HINT
KAREN TRAINOR

Timing the Job: Choose warm dry mornings to paint. Cold weather retards drying of paint and the dampness will spoil the gloss. And avoid using paint directly from the can as this may cause contamination and prematurely age the paint. Pour the amount you expect to use in 30 minutes into a separate container.

Backyard gardeners are prepping for planting this month. Read on for some helpful hacks:

Beautiful Blooms: Planning a spring flower garden? For an interesting mix, plan to merge short plants with tall specimens for variety and depth, and differing textures. And don't underestimate the power of fragrance. Plan a pathway of flowers with strong floral scents to welcome visitors up to your door!

See the Light: Starting indoor seedlings and don't have greenhouse light? No worries! It is possible to achieve satisfactory results by utilizing your ordinary LED white shop lights. Gary Pilarchik of therustedgarden.com recommends 5,000 lumens or higher. Hang the lights about two feet above the seedlings.

An old fashioned lore worth repeating: Long ago farmers used to use the cricket's chirp to estimate the temperature, and you can too! Just count how many chirps you hear in 15 seconds, then add 40. This will give the approximate temperature in degrees Fahrenheit.

H2O2 for Plants: Hydrogen peroxide. It does much more than sooth a sore throat or clean a cut! Even your plants can benefit from H2O2. Just water or mist plants with an ounce of hydrogen peroxide in one quart water.

Produce Wash for Pennies: 'Tis the season of fresh produce - and pesticides. If you're buying a commercial produce wash, your hard earned cash may be literally going down the drain! Instead, in a spray bottle, mix two tablespoons of baking soda with one cup of water. If you want add a tablespoon of lemon juice. Spray veggies, let sit for a few minutes and rinse!

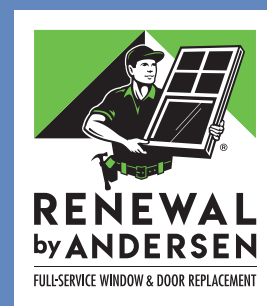
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news@
stonebridgepress.news



Windows & Doors Triple Savings Event



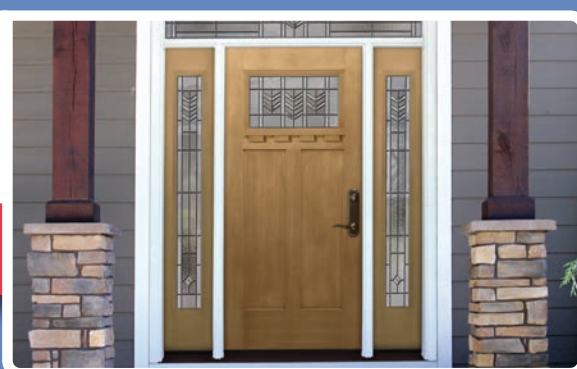
Until April 30, we're discounting our most popular products

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+

2 Save \$850
on entry doors¹



+

3 Save \$850
on patio doors¹



+

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¹DETAILS OF OFFER: Offer expires 4/30/2024. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Get \$400 off each window and \$850 off each entry/patio door and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry/patio doors between 4/1/2024 and 4/30/2024. Subject to credit approval. Interest is billed during the promotional period, but all interest is waived if the purchase amount is paid before the expiration of the promotional period. Financing for GreenSky® consumer loan programs is provided by federally insured, federal and state chartered financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, or familial status. Savings comparison based on purchase of a single unit at list price. Available at participating locations and offer applies throughout the service area. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. License number available upon request. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. "ENERGY STAR" is a registered trademark of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. "2022 Andersen brand surveys of U.S. contractors, builders, architects & homeowners." See Renewal by Andersen® Products and Installation Transferable Limited Warranty for details. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of their respective owners. ©2024 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. ©2024 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved.

Masonic Open House is back!



Quinebaug Masonic Lodge located at 339 Ashland Ave. in Southbridge invites you to come and see the history and mystic of Freemasonry. We are looking for a "Few Good Men"; is there greatness in you?

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE
QUINEBAUG MASONIC LODGE

SOUTHBRIDGE — This Saturday, April 13, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge located at 339 Ashland Ave, Southbridge will be hosting an Open House. All lodges located throughout Massachusetts will

also be hosting this Open House. Quinebaug Masonic Lodge was chartered in 1859 and has been around for an astounding 165 years. The Lodge is thriving due to the strong bond of Freemasonry and family-oriented men in this community. If you like history and tradition, come down and visit the Lodge. During this Open House period you will be able to see

the mysterious Lodge meeting room along with ancient symbols. Additionally, our walls of photos represent previous Lodge Past Masters, dating back more than 100 years. We will give you a tour and explain what Freemasonry is to men and their families in our community. In its 165 years the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge of Freemasons has

continued to make good men better. One of our famous founding fathers, Benjamin Franklin, once said "Is there greatness in you." Ask this question to yourself and if so, come to this open house and talk to our brothers. If you would like more information about Freemasonry and to find a lodge nearest you, visit our Web site at www.massfreemasonry.org.

Southbridge Garden Club presents Third Annual Spring Plant Sale

STURBRIDGE — Calling all gardeners, plant enthusiasts and nature lovers! The Southbridge Garden Club invites the general public to its third annual Spring Plant Sale on Saturday, May 27 from 9 a.m. to noon on the Sturbridge Town Common. The sale takes place rain or shine.

The Plant Sale will feature a wide selection of perennials, shrubs, vegetables, herbs, houseplants, cemetery boxes, and a garden treasure table with variety of garden-related items, such as small tools, flowerpots, gloves, decorative garden items, some surprises, and other goodies.

A representative from the Massachusetts Master Gardeners Association will conduct free soil testing. The Yankee Dahlia Society will be selling tubers and other items. Other vendors include Missa's Organic Native Garden, the Worcester Conservancy, Eric's Aviaries, the Union Bee Company, and more. Shoppers will be able to browse and purchase one or more books on gardening, ecology, cooking, and landscaping at the Friends of Joshua Hyde Public Library Book Sale in Sturbridge.

Proceeds from the Spring Plant Sale support the programs, scholarships, and beautification projects that the Southbridge Garden Club sponsors. Your support is greatly appreciated.

The Southbridge Garden Club is a regional organization that welcomes gardeners of all abilities and has been serving the area since 1953. The organization became a member of the Garden Club Federation in Massachusetts in 2003. The Club's mission is to "share an interest in horticulture and to expand our knowledge of gardening for our mutual benefit and that of our local communities."

Visit our Facebook page for updates, <https://www.facebook.com/SouthbridgeGardenClub>.

For more information, please contact Sally at 508-207-6882.

For Advertising Information
Call 774-200-7308
email: mikaela@stonebridgepress.news

Old Sturbridge Village commemorates American Patriots with muskets, marching, and more



- 25th Continental Regiment (American Revolution)
- Historic Marine Education (War of 1812)
- 15th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry (American Civil War)
- Be What Remains (American Civil War)
- U.S. Naval Landing Party (American Civil War)

Families and friends are encouraged to connect with history at Old Sturbridge Village during the final month of the Kids Free Standard Daytime Admission promotion, running until April 28. Throughout April, up to two children, aged 17 years or younger, will be admitted for free with each adult standard full-price daytime admission ticket.

Adult visitors are encouraged to purchase tickets online in advance to save even more! In addition to Kids Free, tickets purchased online include a \$3 savings compared to tickets purchased at the door. For full details, restrictions, and to purchase tickets visit: <https://www.osv.org/event/kids-free-march-april/>.

The Kids Free promotion for April applies only to standard full-price adult daytime admission. Please note that this promotion does not apply to field trips.

Old Sturbridge Village is open Wednesday-Sunday from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. For a full list of Patriots' Day Weekend details, visit: <https://www.osv.org/event/patriots-weekend/>.

STURBRIDGE — On April 13 & 14, Old Sturbridge Village will honor Patriots' Day with a weekend of fife and drums and the booming of musket fire as soldiers muster on the historic Common. Visitors will participate in programs and activities throughout the day hearing stories of patriots who helped lay the groundwork for the founding of our country during the American Revolution as well as military history from the 19th and 20th centuries. The weekend's highlight will be the visiting re-enactment groups representing different wars. They include:

5th Connecticut Regiment (American Revolution)

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LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE INVITATION TO BID

TOWN OF CHARLTON DPW MATERIALS & SERVICES

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 Monday, April 22, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. for the following DPW materials which will be used on approximately 10,000 linear feet of road surface.

1. **Bituminous concrete, Type I, in place (Must be pre-qualified)** *"MassDOT prequalifications of contractors with the class of work as, Pavement Surfacing, for the project with an estimated value of \$573,230.00 will be required."*

2. **Full Depth Pavement Reclamation (Calcium Chloride) (Must be pre-qualified) all grading included.** *"MassDOT prequalifications of contractors with the class of work as, Pavement Surfacing, for the project with an estimated value of \$97,685.40 will be required."*

3. **Stone Seal, Double Stone Seal & 10% Asphalt Rubber Surface Treatment (Must be pre-qualified).** *"MassDOT prequalifications of contractors with the class of work as, Pavement Surfacing, for the project with an estimated value of \$245,182.50 will be required."*

This is a state funded project that exceeds \$50,000.00, therefore, all contractors intending to bid on Item 1 – Bituminous concrete, Type I, in place and Item 2 – Scarifying and pulverizing in place asphalt pavement, **all grading included** and Item 3 - Stone Seal, Double Stone Seal & 10% Asphalt Rubber Surface Treatment, **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 **Monday, April 22, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.** **Each item shall be clearly marked in a separate envelope as to which category the bidder has chosen**, i.e. "Item 1 - Bituminous concrete, Type I, in place". 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 April 22, 2024 and expire April 22, 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. April 5, 2024 April 12, 2024

LEGAL NOTICE MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Jeanne M. Button and Thomas R. Button to Bank of America, N.A., dated March 4, 2006 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 38585, Page 379 (the "Mortgage"), as affected by a Release of Liability as to Thomas R. Button, dated May 28, 2020, and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 67681, Page 182 of which mortgage Bank of America, N.A. is the present holder, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 140 Paradise Lane, Fiskdale (Sturbridge), MA 01518 will be sold at

a Public Auction at 3:00 PM on April 25, 2024, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The land in Sturbridge, Worcester County, Massachusetts shown as lot #36 on a plan of land entitled "Plan of lots in Sturbridge, Massachusetts surveyed for J & J Realty, June 6, 1996, Para Land Surveying, Incorporated, Southbridge, Massachusetts, scale 1" = 40', said plan being recorded with Worcester District Registry of deed at plan book 705, plan 73, said land being more particularly bounded and described as follows: beginning at the northwest corner of land herein described, at a point on the easterly side of Paradise Lane as shown on said plan; thence S. 69° 03' 41" E. Along land now or formerly of J & J Realty and Nathan Southwick, a distance of 440.14 feet; thence S. 10° 47' 29" E. Along land now or formerly of Sturbrook Realty Trust, a distance of 244.50 feet; thence S. 60° 01' 26" W., along land now or formerly of G. M. N. Inc., a distance of 150 feet; thence N. 47° 00' 19" W. Along lot 35 as shown on said plan, a distance of 212.03 feet; thence N. 51° 09' 08" W. Along said lot 35 a distance of 249.10 feet to a point on the easterly side of paradise lane as shown on said plan; thence N. 07° 21' 43" E. Along said paradise lane a distance of 173.00 feet to the point of beginning. Containing an area of 2.7566 acres. Being the same property conveyed to Thomas R. Button and Jeanne M. Button by quit claim deed of Donald W. Garfield recorded 10/16/98 in Book 20539, Page 59, Doc. 152069.

For mortgagor's title see deed recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 20539, Page 59.

The premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and other municipal assessments and liens, and subject to prior liens or other enforceable encumbrances of record entitled to precedence over this mortgage, and subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, reservations and conditions of record and subject to all tenancies and/or rights of parties in possession.

Terms of the Sale: Cashier's or certified check in the sum of \$5,000.00 as a deposit must be shown at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify as a bidder (the mortgage holder and its designee(s) are exempt from this requirement); high bidder to sign written Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid; balance of purchase price payable by certified check in thirty (30) days from the date of the sale at the offices of mortgagee's attorney, Korde & Associates, P.C., 900 Chelmsford Street, Suite 3102, Lowell, MA or such other time as may be designated by mortgagee. The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Bank of America, N.A.
Korde & Associates, P.C.
900 Chelmsford Street
Suite 3102
Lowell, MA 01851
(978) 256-1500
Button, Jeanne M. Button and
Thomas R. Button, 12-009647
April 4, 2024
April 11, 2024
April 18, 2024

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 50 Randolph Street, Southbridge, MA 01550

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Jonathan Gonzalez to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for OCMBC, Inc., and now held by **Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC**, said mortgage dated October 21, 2021 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 66352, Page 303, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as Nominee for OCMBC, Inc. to Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC by assignment dated August 25, 2023 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 69564, Page 202; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on May 21, 2024 at 09:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit: *The land with the buildings thereon, and all the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging situated in said Southbridge, on the southerly side of Randolph Street, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at an iron pin in the*

ground on the southerly line of Randolph Street at the northeasterly corner thereof and the northwest corner of land of David Calcagni, said pin being situated 50 feet westerly from the westerly line of Lyons Street; THENCE westerly along the southerly line of Randolph Street 50 feet to an iron pin at land formerly of Antaya; THENCE southerly along land formerly of Antaya 85 feet, more or less, to the northwest corner of land now or formerly of Joseph Marinelli et ux; THENCE in an easterly direction along the northerly line of land now or formerly of Joseph Marinelli et ux, 50 feet to an iron pin at land of Calcagni; THENCE northerly by land of Calcagni 85 feet, more or less, to the point of beginning.

BEING Lot No. 103 as numbered and shown on plan entitled "Plan of Lots for Mrs. A. P. Olney, Southbridge, Mass., made by John A. Whittaker, C.E. dated, August 15, 1901, recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Book of Plans 24, Plan 62

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated October 12, 2021 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 66352, Page 299.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC
23 Messenger Street
2nd Floor
Plainville, MA 02762
Attorney for Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC
Present Holder of the Mortgage
(401) 217-8701
April 11, 2024
April 18, 2024
April 25, 2024

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 36 Finlay Road, Fiskdale (Sturbridge), MA 01518

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Al J. Gallant and Nancy P. Gallant to Financial Freedom Senior Funding Corporation, a subsidiary of IndyMac Bank, FSB, and now held by **Longbridge Financial, LLC**, said mortgage dated July 31, 2007 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 41608, Page 236, said mortgage was assigned from Financial Freedom Senior Funding Corporation to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), as nominee for Financial Freedom Acquisition LLC by assignment dated September 25, 2009 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 44930, Page 169; said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Financial Freedom Acquisition LLC to Longbridge Financial LLC by assignment dated November 9, 2022 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 68479, Page 279; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on May 21, 2024 at 10:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

6 FINLAY ROAD, STURBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS
The land with the buildings thereon, situated in Sturbridge on the easterly side of Finlay Road, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at the south-westerly corner thereof, at an iron pin on the easterly side of Finlay Road at land of Ferdinand J. Szczypien et ux, distant 691.99 feet northerly from an iron pin at the end of a stone wall on the easterly side of Finlay Road at land of George W. Curboy; THENCE N. 86 deg. 28' 58" E. by said Szczypien land, 409.10 feet to an iron pin at stone wall at said Curboy land; THENCE N. 6 deg. 17' 42" W. along wall by said Curboy land, 150.17 feet to an iron pin at land now or formerly of John S. Finlay; THENCE S. 86 deg. 28' 58" W. by land now or formerly of John S. Finlay, 401.82

feet to an iron pin on the easterly side of Finlay Road; THENCE S. 3 deg. 31' 02" E. by the easterly side of Finlay Road, 150 feet to the point of beginning. CONTAINING 1.39 acres, more or less. The premises are shown on plan by Wayne Morse and Donald Murray Surveyors, dated March 4, 1970 and filed with Worcester District Deeds, Plan Book 352, Plan 12. For Grantor's title see Deed recorded in Book 19548, Page 203.

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated January 12, 1998 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 19548, Page 203.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC
23 Messenger Street
2nd Floor
Plainville, MA 02762
Attorney for Longbridge Financial, LLC
Present Holder of the Mortgage
(401) 217-8701
April 4, 2024
April 11, 2024
April 18, 2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Suffolk Division Docket No. SU24W0313 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION Judith Herrea, Plaintiff(s) VS.

Christopher Santos, Defendant(s)
To the above-named Defendant(s): *Christopher Santos*
A Complaint has been presented to this court by the Plaintiff, *Judith Herrerra*, seeking a Complaint for Custody-Support-Visitation filed on February 21, 2024

You are required to serve upon Plaintiff, *Judith Herrerra at 176 Msgr O'Callaghan Way, South Boston, MA 02127* you answer on or before May 12, 2024.

If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer bin the office of the Register of this Court at 24 New Chardon St., Boston, MA 0.2114. WITNESS, **Brian J. Dunn**, Esquire, First Justice of said Court, this 21st day of March, 2024.

Stephanie K. Fattman
April 11, 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 April 24, 2024, at 7PM on the application of William H Webb for Webb Construction Co. The applicant has submitted a Request for Determination of Applicability for the removal of an existing deck and the construction of a new deck. The project location is: 62 Baker Road, Charlton, MA.

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=VjlmZGhUdGRnYzRkR1c2EzJTL3lWZz09>

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

Thomas O'Malley
Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission
April 11, 2024

Enjoy and protect hydrangeas from hungry deer



Melinda Myers

Hydrangeas are a favorite of hungry deer making them susceptible to severe damage so strategies to protect these plants are recommended.

Low maintenance, beautiful flowers, and plenty of varieties have made hydrangeas a favorite landscape plant. It seems you can't visit a garden center or nursery without being tempted by one of the traditional favorites or newer hydrangea varieties.

Despite their easy-care nature, hungry deer can make it difficult to fully enjoy these plants. Rutgers University rates landscape plants based on their susceptibility to deer damage. According to Rutgers, hydrangeas are occasionally severely damaged by deer, meaning they are a plant preferred by deer and protection is advised. Your experience may be different and can vary from year to year, but it is always wise to be prepared to protect key plants in your landscape.

Deer like to browse leaves, tender shoots, flower buds, and blossoms. Damage is worse when populations are high, food is scarce, and when environmental stresses like cold and deep snow are present. Once deer find a place to dine, they tend to return. Their damage has a rough or torn appearance as opposed to a clean cut like that made by a pruner. Preventing damage is always the best way to maximize your enjoyment. Even if your plants have escaped damage in the past, continue to watch for deer tracks, droppings, and plant damage.

Fencing is one option but not always the most attractive or practical. An eight-foot fence is the recommended height



GARDEN MOMENTS
•••••
MELINDA MYERS

for protecting large areas. The University of Minnesota found deer can be kept out of small gardens that are 8 x 16 feet or smaller with much shorter fences. Sturdy decorative posts and somewhat invisible deer fencing tend to make a less obtrusive fence. Always check with your local municipality for any fencing restrictions.

Many gardeners report success using high-test fishing line. Create a barrier using strong five-foot posts with the fishing line spaced at two-foot intervals.

Scare tactics may provide some short-term help. Motion-sensitive sprinklers, noise makers, and smells are often used. Several gardeners reported success placing colorful wine bottles inverted over rebar posts. The rattling helped discourage deer browsing and added an ornamental element to the garden. Change scare tactics to increase success.

Place key plants closer to your home, in the back of large beds, or surrounded by less susceptible plants. Making it hard to reach the plants can help discourage damage to hydrangeas.

Repellents are another option. Treat

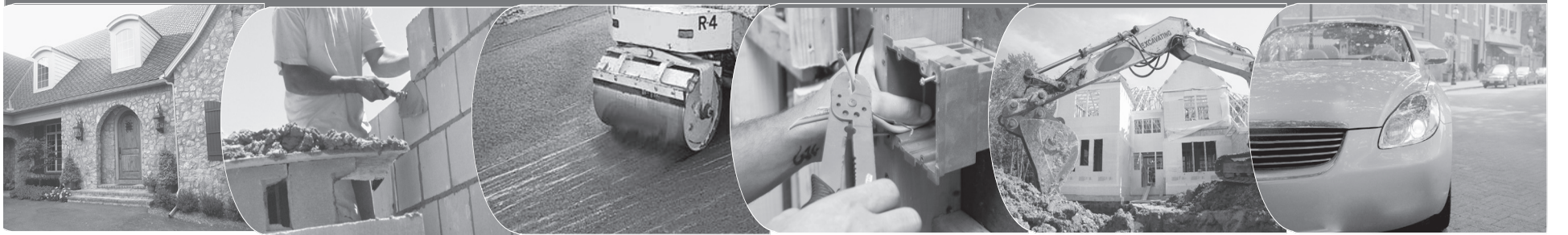
susceptible plants before the deer start browsing for the best results. Look for a rain and snow-resistant product, like organic Plantskydd (plantskydd.com), which does not need to be reapplied as often. That means you'll save time applying and spend less money.

Maximize results by treating new growth according to the label directions. Most liquid repellents need time to dry and can only be applied when temperatures are above freezing. Always check the label for the product being applied and follow the directions for the best results.

Continue to monitor the landscape for signs of deer presence and damage and adjust your management strategies as needed. Be persistent so you can increase your success.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including The 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 and was commissioned by Tree World Plant Care for her expertise in writing this article. Her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

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LEGALS

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING, PUBLIC HEARING, AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U.24-39

April 4, 2024

Petition of the Town of Southbridge for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134. On February 9, 2024, the Town of Southbridge ("Town") filed a request with the Department of Public Utilities ("Department") for approval of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134. General Laws c. 164, § 134 authorizes a municipality to procure electric supply on behalf of consumers within its municipal borders through a municipal aggregation program ("Program"). Eligible electricity consumers not already enrolled with a competitive electric supplier would be automatically enrolled in the Program unless they chose to opt-out, in which case they would continue to receive basic service provided by their electric distribution company, Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid. The Department docketed this matter as D.P.U. 24-39. The Town has retained Good Energy, L.P. to serve as its consultant in this proceeding and to assist in

the implementation of the Program. The Town seeks a waiver on its own behalf and on behalf of the competitive electric supplier(s) chosen for the Program, of certain information disclosure requirements contained in G.L. c. 164, § 1F(6) and 220 CMR 11.06(4)(c). The Department will conduct a virtual public hearing to receive comments on the Town's filing. The Department will conduct the hearing using Zoom video conferencing on **May 8, 2024**, beginning at 2:00 p.m. Attendees can join by entering the link, <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82503834626>, from a computer, smartphone, or tablet. No prior software download is required. For audio-only access to the hearings, attendees can dial in at 1 646 931 3860 (not toll free) and then enter the **Meeting ID #825 0383 4626**. If you anticipate providing comments via Zoom during the public hearing, to the extent possible, please send an email by the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **May 7, 2024**, to Lauren.Morris@mass.gov with your name, email address, and mailing address. Alternatively, any person who desires to comment on this matter may submit written comments to the Department via email no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **May 8, 2024**. To the extent a per-

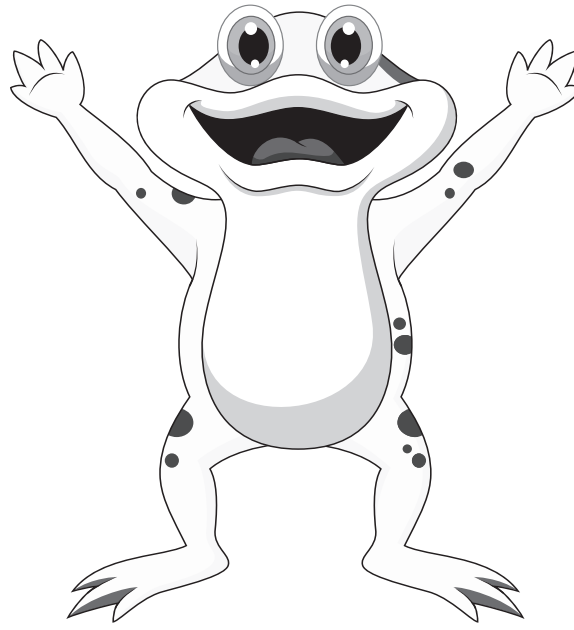
son wishes to submit comments in accordance with this Notice, electronic submission, as detailed below, is sufficient. All written comments or other documents should be submitted to the Department in **PDF format** by e-mail attachment to dpu.efiling@mass.gov and Lauren.Morris@mass.gov. In addition, all written comments should be emailed to counsel for the Town, Laura Olton, Esq., at laura@lsoenergyadvisors.com. The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U.24-39); (2) the name of the person or company submitting the filing; and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document. All documents submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's website as soon as practicable at <http://www.mass.gov/dpu>. The e-mail must also include the name, title, and telephone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing. Importantly, all large files must be broken down into electronic files that do not exceed 20MB. At this time, all filings will be submitted only in electronic format in recognition of the difficulty that parties and the Department may have filing and receiving original copies. Ordinarily, parties would follow Sections B.1 and B.4 of the Department's Standard Ground Rules regarding the filing of original paper ver-

sions (D.P.U.15-184-A, App.1 (March 4, 2020)). However, until further notice, parties must retain the original paper version and the Department will later determine when the paper version must be filed with the Department Secretary. The filing and all subsequent related documents submitted to the Department or issued by the Department will be available on the Department's website as referenced above as soon as practicable at <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber> (enter "24-39"). To the extent a person or entity wishes to submit comments in accordance with this Notice, electronic submission, as detailed above, is sufficient. To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), contact the Department's ADA coordinator at Andrea.R.Casul@mass.gov. For further information regarding the Town's filing, please contact the Town's attorney, identified above. For further information regarding this Notice, please contact Lauren Morris, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at Lauren.Morris@mass.gov. April 11, 2024



Creative Coloring

Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.



Double Word Puzzle

Unscramble the words to reveal the sentence.

M J P U

O R F G
1 2 4

S K E L A
5 8

D P T E O L A
6 9 3 10 7

1 2 3 4

C C H
5 6 7 8

9

Y
1 10

Answers: Jump, Frog, Lakes, Tadpole, Frog catches a fly.

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- **1606:** THE UNION FLAG IS ADOPTED AS THE FLAG OF ENGLISH AND SCOTTISH SHIPS.
- **1900:** PRESIDENT WILLIAM MCKINLEY SIGNS THE FORAKER ACT INTO LAW, GRANTING PUERTO RICO LIMITED SELF-RULE.
- **1980:** CANADIAN RUNNER AND ATHLETE TERRY FOX BEGINS HIS MARATHON OF HOPE RUN IN ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND.



TOAD

a tailless amphibian with a stout body and short legs

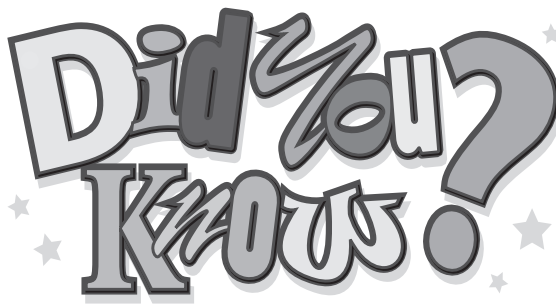


FROGS HAVE A BACKBONE AND ARE COLD-BLOODED VERTEBRATES. THEY LIVE ON BOTH LAND AND IN WATER, MAKING THEM THIS TYPE OF ANIMAL.

ANSWER: AMPHIBIAN

How they SAY that in...

- ENGLISH:** Frog
- SPANISH:** Rana
- ITALIAN:** Rana
- FRENCH:** Grenouille
- GERMAN:** Frosch



A FROG COMPLETELY SHEDS ITS SKIN ABOUT ONCE A WEEK. AFTER IT SHEDS THE DEAD SKIN, IT USUALLY EATS IT.



GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: FROG



CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to Lyme disease. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 8 = L)

A. 16 22 13 24 9 25

Clue: Biting insect or organism

B. 5 8 8 23 22 26 26

Clue: Causes one to be sick

C. 6 8 9 9 11

Clue: Flows through the body

D. 6 12 13 24 22 25 5 12

Clue: Microorganisms that can cause disease

Answers: A. vector B. illness C. blood D. bacteria

SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:

Mount Everest (and your retirement)

Climbing Mt. Everest is a challenge that captures the imagination of adventurers worldwide. It is a daunting feat that pushes ones physical and mental endurance, resiliency, and technical skills to the limit. Standing at a staggering 29,032 feet above sea level, Everest's summit is the highest point on earth. To put that height in perspective, commercial airplanes fly around 31,000 feet.

Climbers daring enough to attempt this challenge will often spend years physically training, planning, and preparing. When they finally arrive at base camp, a successful expedition can still take anywhere between six and 10 weeks — the average being two months. Often, extreme weather condi-

tions can make summiting impossible. Climbers must contend with unpredictably high winds, blizzards, and sub-zero temperatures, even during the "climbing season". Sudden changes can turn a promising bid into a perilous situation, forcing climbers to retreat or seek emergency shelter.

The mountain is notorious for its steep ice slopes, deep crevasses, and rocky ridges. It requires the use of ropes, shaky ladders, sherpas, and fixed lines to ascend safely. The Khumbu Icefall, a particularly hazardous section near Everest's base camp, is well known for its unstable ice towers and seemingly bottomless crevasses.

As climbers ascend, the air becomes progres-

sively thinner, leading to reduced oxygen levels. This can cause altitude sickness, characterized by headaches, nausea, and fatigue. Taking just a few steps in these conditions can be utterly exhausting. But for those individuals fortunate enough to reach the top, it is worth the effort to achieve a lifelong goal.

Since 1953 approximately 6,664 different people have successfully summited Mt. Everest. Sadly, the mountain has also claimed many lives (approximately 305). What might be surprising to learn is that 80 percent of those deaths occurred on the way down — after they successfully reached the summit.

When it comes to financial planning, it may seem your "climb" is done once

you've reached retirement. But in reality, a new set of challenges and decisions will present themselves. How long will your portfolio last? Are you withdrawing too much or too little? Do you have a spending plan? How should you adjust your asset allocation? Is your portfolio protected? When should you take Social Security? What about taxes and inflation?

Successfully reaching retirement is a fantastic accomplishment. But there is still plenty of work to be done. A knowledgeable financial planner can help guide you through the vast array of retirement pitfalls.

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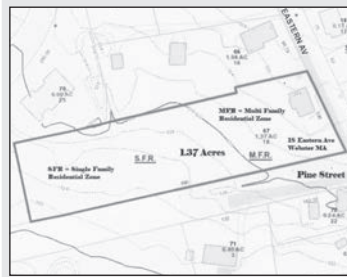
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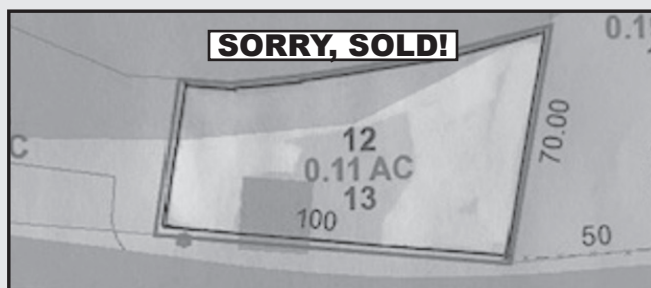


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Keep smiling

I waited tables for quite a while in my early acting days. It's a common choice for actors because you can work at night. That leaves your days free for auditions and acting gigs.

Even after I landed a lead role in Showtime's "A Separate Peace," a film produced by Oscar winners Dustin Hoffman & Michael Sugar and directed by Oscar nominee Peter Yates, I was back at the restaurant working shifts before and after filming.

It surprised a lot of folks. They thought a movie role meant you made it big, but acting jobs can be few and far between. Keeping a steady job, like waiting tables, helped me pay the bills.

Being a waiter is straightforward but challenging. You're always on your feet, rushing around. Customers are only sometimes lovely; some can be downright rude or impatient. And when you're juggling several tables, plus dealing with kitchen mix-ups, guess who customers blame? Yep, the waiter.

Waiting tables is a job packed with stress. There were days when it was written all over my face, days when anyone walking by the kitchen could hear me grumbling under my breath. I was short with the kitchen staff, snappy with my managers, and could have done better at keeping my cool.

Quitting crossed my mind more often than I'd like to admit. I fantasized about making a grand exit, throwing my apron down and shouting, "I QUIT!" for everyone to hear, then striding out the door with my head held high.

Then came the day my managers decided it was time for a chat. They understood that the job was stressful, but they also made it clear that stress comes with the territory in the restaurant world. They told me straight: no matter how tough things got, losing my cool wasn't an option. I was expected to handle it all with a smile, no exceptions.

I remember thinking, How am I supposed to keep smiling? What if a customer yells at me for their steak being overcooked when they asked for it well-done? It seemed impossible at the time. How could I grin and bear it when things were so obviously not my fault, yet I had to act as if they were?

POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

TOBY
MOORE

It didn't matter. Showing annoyance and anger towards a customer, no matter how much they might deserve it, wasn't an option. I was forced to choose.

After many nights of soul-searching, tossing, and turning, with thoughts racing through my head, I reached a decision. No matter what happened during my shifts, I had to keep smiling.

No matter how tempting it was to snap back, showing annoyance or anger towards a customer was off-limits. I had to make a choice, which was definitely challenging.

I found myself smiling at customers who sent back their meals because the soup was "too hot" or complained their ice cream was "too cold." It seemed absurd, but as I kept my cool and flashed a smile—even when everything in me wanted to do the opposite—something unexpected began to happen. The stress that used to weigh me down started to lift.

As I made smiling a practice, I realized it wasn't about giving in or pretending the stress didn't exist; it was about choosing how I reacted to it.

I realized that my smile wasn't just a courtesy; it was my shield, a powerful defense against the relentless negativity and chaos that threatened to engulf me. No matter how unreasonable the customers were, how baseless the complaints were, or how chaotic the kitchen became, I found something interesting.

I found that smiling, keeping calm, and not reacting to the negativity wasn't me being a fake person. It was changing how I felt on the inside. I started to feel happy and soon enough I didn't have to force it.

I also noticed that the customers found it hard to continue their negativity when confronted with unwavering positivity.

Next time you find yourself about to lose your cool, take a breath and force a smile. It might feel unnatural at first, but give it a moment. That smile will start to work wonders, not just on those around you, but on you as well.

Gateway Players brings "Off She Goes" to the stage

SOUTHBRIDGE — Gateway Players Theatre of Southbridge presents "Off She Goes" by Sturbridge playwright Ed Humphries. Performances will be held on May 3 & 4 at 7:30 p.m., May 5 at 2 p.m., and May 10 & 11 at 7:30 p.m. All performances will be held at the Fellowship Hall of Elm Street Congregational Church, 61 Elm St. in Southbridge. Parking is available on Elm Street, or in the parking deck behind the Southbridge Town Hall. This production will be directed by Ed Humphries, produced by David Corkum, and the Stage Manager is Gwen O'Brien.

Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$15 for seniors and youth under 18. Tickets may be reserved by calling Gateway at 508-764-4531. Online credit card ticket sales are available at <https://www.ticketleap.events/tickets/gateway-players/off-she-goes>.

"Off She Goes" is a comedy/drama about a British war bride, Ellie - who after saying goodbye to her husband of 60 years, moves into an assisted living community - assuming she'll just mark time until her own time comes. But fate has other plans for her when she meets her new roommate, Anna - also a British war bride who came to the States after the war and finds she shares a surprising connection with Ellie. As Ellie flashes back to the pivotal moments of her life - the two women form a friendship and come to realize that while they may never have gone home again, maybe home has finally come back to them.

Marianhill Class of 1974 plans 50th reunion

SOUTHBRIDGE — It is time to play "remember when" at our Marianhill Class of 1974 50th Reunion in September 2024 and the organizing committee is in high gear! To be sure that everyone from our class is invited, we could use assistance. Please be sure we have your recent contact information. We especially could use contact information for the following classmates: Mark Lloyd, Donna Cloutier-Leblanc, Anne Rearick- Nabors, and Denise Dupel-Lafleche. Please send an email to marianhill74@gmail.com to offer updated contact information. A weekend of connection and fun is in the planning stages, and we want to include our entire class.

BOS

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tine articles on the special town meeting warrant, which will be held the same night as the annual town meeting in June. Those will transfer funds for snow and ice deficits and unpaid bills from last year (both still to be determined), plus \$72,000 to fund streetlights and \$7,980 from sewer betterments to cover Registry of Deeds fees. It also closed the Annual Town Meeting warrant, which the Finance Committee was to begin discussing this week. The formal budget presentation was this Tuesday, after this paper's deadline.

One issue those discussions will look at is insurance, specifically the board's recent approval of shifting to a 70/30 split for health coverage. Grimm said the goal of doing that is to "support recruitment across the board," since many nearby towns are now at 75/25 and "employees are really paying attention to health care." She noted the change will cost Sturbridge about \$122,000 extra a year.

Regarding insurance, the town also had to start offering a "low-cost high-deductible plan" based on the percentage of income for lower-paid staff. Grimm noted the federal government fined Sturbridge \$45,000 for not having such an option. The change "won't offset that penalty" this year, but will eliminate it going forward, she said.

Dowling noted she had not heard of anyone actually expressing interest in such a plan.

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

CANDIDATES

continued from page A1

on the Board of Selectmen from 2018 until 2021 when she decided not to seek re-election.

Two other contested elections will be decided on May 4, both involving the local schools. Incumbent Dudley Charlton Regional School Committee member Nicole Enberg will seek to maintain her seat on the committee for another year while Anthony Aube will seek to usurp Enberg to join the board. Incumbent committee member Jeanne Renaud Costello is unopposed as she seeks a new three-year term. The Southern Worcester County Regional Vocational School District Committee, which oversees Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School, will see incumbent Donald Montville challenged by Jay Sweet for a three-year term.

All other seats on the ballot are uncontested this year: Incumbent Assessor Brett Moore has no competition for re-election. Neither do incumbent Willis Bond for Cemetery Commissioner, returning Library Trustees Frances Mower and Stefan Sage and new Trustee candidate Lance Russell Morin, or former selectman Patricia Ann Rydlak who is unopposed for seats on both the Planning Board and the Recreation Commission. Other seats on the Water & Sewer Commission, Recreation Commission, and Board of Health did not have candidates listed by the town.

Voters will also be tasked with making an important decision regarding the fate of a funding proposal for a fire department substation project, the continuation of years of discussions seeking a solution to the department's aging Station 2. Voters will be asked to vote on a proposed debt exclusion of \$13.1 million from the provisions of Proposition 2 ½ to pay for a large part of the project which would erect a new facility at the intersection of Oxford Road and Heritage Drive.

Charlton's annual municipal election will take place on Saturday May 4. Election details and locations can be found on the Town Clerk page of the Town of Charlton website. The election will be followed by the annual town meeting on Monday, May 20.

AWARDS

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Let me tell you a little bit about these two "Worthy Men" who received this Distinguished Service Award. Brother Bob St. Cyr has been a Master Mason for 16 years. During his years as a Master Mason, he has been the 24th Masonic District communication officer, Chairman of the Lodges MYChips committee, Grand Lodge Officer, Grand Lodge Education and Training Committee -Membership Chairman, President of the Masonic Secretaries Association, works at many fund-raising events and for the past 10 years still is the Quinebuag Lodge secretary just to name a few.

Brother Larry Burbridge has been a Master Mason for 42 years. This man has pretty

much done it all, volunteered and helped at every event the Lodge has. Educating and new candidates as they become members. He helps with whatever the needs are for the Lodge, big or small. He is the Veterans Service Officer for the Grand Lodge, Veterans Affairs Officer for the Grand Lodge, and the Veterans Liaison Officer for the Grand Lodge and the 24th Masonic District. His commitment to his Lodge and Freemasonry is exemplary. The members of the Quinebuag Masonic Lodge are very proud of these two Brethren who received the 3rd highest service awards presented to Master Masons in Massachusetts. If you would like more information about Freemasonry, go to massfreemasonry.org to read to and to find a lodge nearest you.

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Southbridge Rotary Club donates eclipse glasses to local first responders



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Courtesy

Pictured: Chief Shane Woodson, SPD, Dino Tata, and Chief Paul Normandin, SFD.

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Rotary Club is proud to announce its donation of eclipse glasses to the Southbridge Fire and Police Departments. The donation comes in anticipation of the upcoming partial solar eclipse, which will be visible in Southbridge on April 8.

“We understand the importance of safety during a solar eclipse,” said Constantino Tata, NASA Solar System Ambassador and member of the Southbridge Rotary Club. “Donating these eclipse glasses will ensure that our fire-fighters and police officers can safely observe the eclipse while they continue to serve our community.”

The donated eclipse glasses meet the international safety standard ISO 12312-2:2015, which guarantees safe viewing of a solar eclipse.

“We are grateful to the Southbridge Rotary Club for their generous donation,” said Shane Woodson, Chief of the Southbridge Police Department. “These eclipse glasses will be a valuable resource for our first responders as they continue to protect our community.”

About the Southbridge Rotary Club
The Southbridge Rotary Club is a chapter of Rotary International, a service organization that brings together business and professional leaders to provide community service and international humanitarian aid. The Southbridge Rotary Club is committed to making a positive impact on the Southbridge and Charlton communities.



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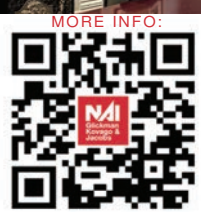
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