

Electric vehicle mandate at issue in local budgeting

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

STURBRIDGE — In the course of this year's budget presentation March 4, Town Administrator Robin Grimm brought up an issue that will likely affect all area communities.

Starting with model year 2026 (that is, later this year), the state is requiring many municipal trucks be electric. Her budget seeks to buy a new truck this year for the DPW (plus an ambulance) and has others

upcoming for future years.

The problem, she and others noted, is that "the technology has not caught up" with what they're needed for. Towns generally lack the infrastructure to run them or store them indoors, and they don't run well in winter.

"The vehicles themselves are not ready to handle the kinds of storms where we're out 45-50 hours (for plowing)," Grimm said. "You have to take them off the road earlier, and that means

you need more trucks."

For now, though, she's aiming to get in line to buy one of the remaining diesel trucks, and will keep the old one it replaces instead of selling it at auction. She said Sturbridge is lucky to have an early Special Town Meeting (the same night as the annual in April), since it might enable the town to get its order in before communities who have to wait for next year's budget to start in July.

F i n a n c e

Director Barbara Barry agreed, saying the Mass Municipal Association "is working to get (this requirement) delayed because of the issues Robin said."

So did Finance Committee chair Kevin Smith, who said, "Even though we're mandated to buy them, they don't exist." Another speaker predicted the Legislature will end up delaying the rule.

On Nov 5, MMA's Web site noted the state already has delayed it once; it was slated to start last

year. It's online at <https://www.mma.org/mass-dep-adjusts-emissions-rules-for-medium-and-heavy-duty-trucks/>.

"Mass DEP announced that it will exercise enforcement discretion to exempt vehicles purchased by state and local agencies for snow plowing, snow removal, and street sweeping purposes from ACT manufacturer compliance requirements for model years 2025 and 2026," MMA stated. "... State and local government agencies must submit

written requests to MassDEP and manufacturers or their authorized dealerships detailing the make, model, year, and number of vehicles to be purchased. MassDEP will make a determination as to whether enforcement discretion is allowable for the proposed purchase, and will communicate its decision to the requesting agency and the manufacturer."

The same page notes, "In Massachusetts, for model year 2025, the rule requires 7 percent ZEV (Zero Emission Vehicle) sales in classes 2b-3, 11 percent in classes 4-8; and 7 percent for tractors classes 7-8." According to Wikipedia, Class 2b "light duty" starts at 8501 pounds; Classes 3-6 "medium duty" run from 10,001-26,000 pounds; and Classes 7-8 "heavy duty" are up to 80,000 pounds.

Grimm said that issue is just one this year's budget faces. Fiscally, the town is looking at a retirement system hike of 16.7 percent, plus a health insurance hike averaging 16.1 percent over last year's rise (9.9 percent for active employees, but more than 20 percent for retirees).

The total budget increase this year is about \$1.5 million, 45 percent of it "for those uncontrollable costs," she said. General government salaries, by contrast, make up 12 percent of the increase, although they're only rising 2 percent.

Grimm said Sturbridge "is not a big enough pool to take the risk of self-insuring," but she wants to look into plan changes and may consider bidding out insurance next year, depending on union negotiations.

At the same time, state aid is only rising 0.6 percent, and she noted Sturbridge only gets the minimum for education aid (\$100 per pupil). Overall, department requests exceeded income projections by about \$815,000, and that required Grimm and Barry to do some things they said they normally do not want to do to balance the budget. Among them are cutting two part-time jobs, eliminating two cruisers (they'll buy one with free cash), buying a bus with free cash, cutting police and fire overtime. She's also seeking to buy an ambulance with Ambulance Stabilization funds and free cash, and she noted the fire department is already seeking two major vehicles next year. Some other changes shifted certain costs into revolving funds that had been in the general budget (typically in the health department, regarding the landfill).

Regarding free cash usage, Smith objected, noting that's essentially using it "to pay operating expenses

to balance the budget." Grimm agreed, saying she'd rather have things like cruisers in the budget because they're regular needs. Many towns do use free cash for such purchases, but the amount of free cash varies annually.

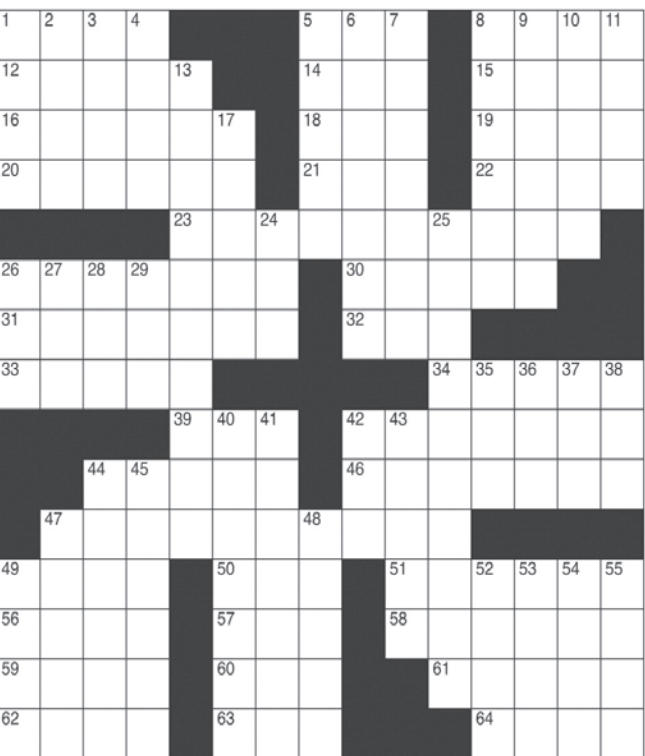
She added that part of this year's budgeting issue is the fact it's earlier. The state has "no urgency to have a budget balanced and out to us," and sometimes doesn't even approve one until the fall. (Towns usually base theirs on the Governor's proposal, because it comes out fairly early in January.)

"We're not in distress, just not in as good a shape as we've been," she said. "... We don't feel good about how we had to do it, but we held the line," noting the actual budget increase is the same as last year's, 3.6 percent.

One concern going forward, though, is that hotel/motel and food taxes have basically been "flat for years" excluding covid, Grimm added. The town has largely built-out its commercial zone and has shown no interest in multiple such areas, so there's "not a lot of places for major commercial/industrial growth" and only a little population growth.

To Smith, "We're getting close to spending more than we earn. This year, we're covering it ... but it seems we're at that tipping point" if costs keep rising. He noted a 3.6 percent budget hike isn't bad, but "we're not getting 3.6 percent increase in revenue."

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



CLUES ACROSS

1. Unsheared sheep

5. Rock TV channel

8. Streetcar

12. Concerning

14. Expression of recognition

15. Greek goddess of youth

16. An iPad is one

18. Adult beverage

19. Manning and Wallach are two

20. Makes a petty verbal attack

21. Tyrion Lannister's nickname

22. Pointed ends of pens

23. Wristwatches

26. Body part

30. Made a mistake

31. Adjusted

32. Turkish honorific title

33. Yell
34. Historic Alabama city

39. Cub

42. Type of sea bass dish

44. To call (archaic)

46. Unfortunate

47. Separate oneself from others

49. Hero sandwiches

50. Former OSS

51. Open spaces in a forest

56. Innermost brain membranes

57. Fortune

58. Hunting expedition

59. Doomed queen Boleyn

60. Peyton's little brother

61. Type of wrap

62. Scottish tax

63. Soviet Socialist Republic

64. An increase in price or value

CLUES DOWN

1. Works of body art

2. Abba __, Israeli politician

3. A desert in Asia

4. Eat greedily

5. Doomed French queen

6. Beat

7. One who survives on blood

8. As a consequence

9. Counted on

10. Acquired Brain Injury Behavior Science

11. Unclean

13. One who does not drink

17. Wild ox of the Malay Archipelago

24. __ student, learns healing

25. Bacterial skin infection

26. Expresses surprise

27. What one says on a wedding day

28. Crony
29. Where you entered the world (abbr.)

35. Unit of length

36. Side that is sheltered from the wind

37. More (Spanish)

38. Autonomic nervous system

40. Violent troublemakers, originally in Paris

41. Statements that something is untrue

42. Greek alphabet letter

43. Suspends from above

44. Popular types of cigars

45. Girls

47. U.S. philosopher and logician

48. Nocturnal hoofed animal

49. Relaxing spaces

52. From a distance

53. Form of Persian

54. Amounts of time

55. Trigonometric function



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Juniors named to honor roll at Bay Path

CHARLTON — Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical School congratulates the following students in grade 11 on being named to the honor roll for the second quarter of the 2024-2025 school year:

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Honors
Bayleigh Alexis Abdella, Adrianna Nataly Alicea, Jacob John Archambault, Violet Renee Aucella, Emma Theresa Baldyga, Rhianna Anne Balliet, Logan Amanda Barriere, Arianna Rose Belanger, Megan Lucy Bell, Emma Nicole Berry, Ryan Michael Berthiaume, Edward Stephen Blash, Aleah Claire Brink, Dominic Raymond Brodeur, Lucien Stephen Brodeur, Alissa Lynn Burlingame, Samuel Elia Ceppetelli, Lily Sabina Chartier, Nathan Louis Chenevert, Frederick James Cierpich, Ellie Rose Clark, Charles Michael Congdon, Hunter Matthew Coombs, Maxton Anthony Cournoyer, Valentina Ashley Culberson, Brody Lawrence Cunningham, Connor Anthony Czechowski, Joseph Michael Daige, Myiah Kiara DeLaRosa, Treyton Joseph Dery, Cody Daniel Dombroski, Savannah Jane Dubois, Christopher Michael Dufresne, Grace Elizabeth

Dumas, Yandel Feliciano, Ethan Alexander Ford, Rylee Rose Fulmine, Riley Morgan Gilmore, Aiden Mark Giroux-Provencher, Anthony Mark Gonya, Molly Elizabeth Grant, Kylie Dorothy Greska, Liam Wayne Hesselton, Lillian Elaine Horneer, Grace Winifred Huehls, Hannah Jean Ingalls, Nicholas Edward Jalbert, Christian Michael Johnson, Zackery Collin Kelleher, Allison Hemenway Klar, Cassie Lee Kotowski, Marshall Thmas Lafond, Nia Mya Laforest, Joel Carlos Landor, Zachary Raymond Landry, Nicolas Sebastian Londono, Michael Anthony Lulu, Mia Marie Lussier, Lucas Scott Lyons, Philipos Anastasio Makrodimitras, Emily Jean McDonald, Avery Lynn McLaughlin, Sebastian Luke Moniz, Gianna Marie Morelli, Chase Patrick Newman, Liam Macrae Nicoll, Sebastian Alexander Nieuwenhoff, Connor James O'Brien, Matthew Thomas Obrycki, Kelsey Lynn Olson, Cole Henry Paradis, Maddox James Parente, Niti Nilesh Patel, Amari Audrey Pereira, Adam Jason Phaneuf, Jacob Paul Pratt, Grace Elizabeth Retallic, Taylor Lynn Richard, Sawyer Luke Schultz, Jaxon Russell Sitko, Alexander Charles Skladzien, Nathan Adam Steen, Gaige Charles Thompson, Josiah Felix Torres, Yandel Omar Torres, Thadaeus Boadi Tweneboa, Sebastian Paul Vargas, Natalie Helen Vigeant, Ava Quiyn Wall, Hunter Earl White, Trey Stephen Wilkin, Noah Williamson

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Notable events that make spring even more fun

Spring is widely considered a season of rejuvenation. The warmer post-winter air that is a hallmark of spring certainly adds an extra hop to the steps of millions of people each year, but a number of notable events also lend a festive feel to this beloved time of year.

St. Patrick's Day: Though the holiday itself occurs on one of the final days of winter, St. Patrick's Day celebrations tend to take place throughout the month of March. Many communities host St. Patrick's Day parades after the spring equinox, and celebrations of the patron saint of the Emerald Isle have a reputation for being especially convivial. A St. Patrick's Day celebration at a local

Irish pub featuring live music and food that would be at home on any dinner table in Ireland can mark the perfect way to close out winter and usher in spring.

March Madness: Basketball fans get their fix and then some each March, when the 68-team, single-elimination NCAA Tournament tips off. Affectionately known as March Madness, the college basketball tournament that unfolds over three weeks from mid-March to early April features its fair share of buzzer beaters, upsets and, of course, busted brackets. Regional contests ensure that just about everyone across the United States is within driving distance of the exciting, if maddening,

action.

Major League Baseball Opening Day: Another hallmark of early spring, Opening Day of the baseball season embodies the seasonal spirit of rejuvenation. Baseball fans across the globe know that every team has a chance to come Opening Day, when millions of fans return to stadiums to see their favorite teams kick off the six-month campaign.

Spring flower festivals: Spring flower festivals dot the landscape every year. Many occur between mid-March and mid-April and serve as beautiful, awe-inspiring reminders of the blooms that make spring such a colorful and enjoyable time of year.

Kentucky Derby: The annual "Run for the Roses" is held on the first

Saturday in May and attracts more than 100,000 visitors to the race track at Churchill Downs. Often referred to as "The Fastest Two Minutes in Sports," the Kentucky Derby serves as the first leg of the Triple Crown and inspires men to don their best seersucker suits and women to showcase their most elaborate, and typically largest, hats as they sip a mint julep and watch the thrilling race unfold.

Memorial Day weekend: Memorial Day is an American holiday that honors and mourns United States military personnel who died while serving in the nation's Armed Forces. Though there's a solemnity to Memorial Day events that is not present with other

notable celebrations each spring, the weekend itself also has become a time to gather with friends and family for backyard barbecues. Beachside communities also have come to see Memorial Day weekend as the unofficial beginning of summer.

There are no shortage of events each spring that serve as reminders of why this time of year is so special and enjoyable.

Leigh Marion, Madeline Beverly McDonald-Trimby, Brandon Raymond McGlone, Eli Mitchell, Kyle Joseph Mondor, David Antonio Morales, Tyson Joseph Moriarty, Jackson Ryan Mullins, Benjamin Francis Nocchi, Jeremiah Betsaleel Noel, Samuel Joseph Prefontaine, Leah Jane Raymond, Samantha Jeanne Reseigh, Brent Michael Robidoux, Kiarelis Ester Rodriguez, Vincent Timothy Rose, Wyatt Glenn Snay, Elias Manuel Vega, Ethan John Wall, Harrison Riley Wilson

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EDITORIAL

This moment will never come again

It's easy to rush through the day, to get caught up in schedules, responsibilities, and the endless loop of what's next. But the moment you are in right now will never happen again. It will pass, just like all the ones before it, and once it's gone, you don't get it back.

We think we have time. But the truth is, life isn't a dress rehearsal. This is it. The way you show up today, the way you treat people, the way you spend your time, it all matters, because every single second is a version of life you'll never live again.

Some moments seem small standing in line at the store, a conversation with a friend, a quiet drive home. But even that matters. Every interaction, every choice, every seemingly unremarkable moment adds up to the story of your life. Are you making it a story you'll be proud of?

It's not about perfection, it's about presence. It's about choosing to be where you are, instead of always looking ahead to where you think you should be. It's about speaking up when something needs to be said, reaching out when someone needs you, and appreciating the good that exists right now, even if it's not the moment you expected.

If today were the last time you had this exact moment, how would you show up for it? Would you listen more? Laugh harder? Say the thing you've been holding back? Would you let the small stuff go and focus on what actually matters?

The seconds are already slipping by. Make them count.

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

Opinion and commentary from the Blackstone Valley and beyond

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Jeers and more jeers

mothers who lost their children to illegal immigrants under the Biden Fiasco, and if that's not enough proof that the Democrats are poison, they wouldn't even stand and applaud for a young cancer survivor. This courageous young man who fought off brain cancer wants to be a police officer when he is old enough, and in addition, President Trump made this kid a Secret Service Officer to keep his dream alive. And what did the Democrats do to honor this young man? Nothing. Can any Democrat tell me why the Democrats have an axe to grind with this child? The Democrats were as stubborn as their mascot the donkey, a.k.a. the mule and this display is going to hurt them for a long time.

When President Trump said, "There are only two genders," Democrats booed and waved their pocket signs. When Trump declared that there would be no more reassignment surgeries for underage children, the Democrats booed. Trump announced that Woke ideologies are over... Democrats booed. Bringing jobs back to America, strengthening our economy, cutting the fat at the federal level, exposing the climate change scam and ditching the ridiculous Green New Deal, and the Paris Accord are top priorities for the Trump administration, but

the Democrats just booed. Well, the SOTU was a complete bust because of the Democrats. Trump was very composed and had quite a few zingers which only seem to further infuriate the Democrats. One of my favorite lines from Trump was, "It turns out that this country doesn't need a new legislature, just a new president!" and the place went wild. Trump even called out Elizabeth Warren, who was agreeing that there should be more money and five more years of war in Ukraine, and Trump retorted, "I thought you'd like that, Pocahontas." President Trump and his Cabinet want peace abroad and to make this country great again and so do millions of people who voted for him. After Trump's term, I am looking forward to voting for JD Vance or any other Republican willing to stick his or her neck out for this country. I love this country, and I am tired of the people who just want to see it burn to the ground. If a Democrat were in the driver's seat right now, what would we be enduring? I can answer that, but I won't until this gets printed in the Tribune. Until then.

Mike Downing
Whitinsville

What were Dems thinking?

their party's churlish behavior witnessed worldwide? Bad behavior persisted while accomplishments of the administration's first weeks were listed. There was no applause; only protesting, placard-wielding, pink-suited Dem ladies. But surely, some items, many supported overwhelmingly by voters, deserved a modicum of hand-smacking! Nov. 5 validated a desire to solve long-standing problems; so such childish antics are unlikely to advance that goal. Meanwhile, how can we maintain a country if we can't live peacefully with our neighbors and distrust our institutions? The President's earlier prediction proved true: nothing he says or does will ever cause Dems to smile or applaud. Sadly, the piece de resistance of heartless disrespect unfolded when Dems dehumanized special guests being introduced. Not to applaud or

even stand was inexcusable. So come '26, remember that image of the Dems. These are our elected officials refusing to acknowledge their fellow Americans, example, those families of victims killed by illegals; a slain police officer's son admitted to West Point; champions of no-men-in-women's-sports; a 13-year old brain cancer survivor inducted into the Secret Service. Neither could Dems bring themselves to applaud proposals for permanent tax cuts for everyone and no tax on tips. All telling reasons why they lost in November! Admittedly, it is nice having Republicans (adults) in charge now, but I hope the Dems start working with the majority soon... and stop those cringe-worthy TikTok 'fight' videos. The 'fight' is too serious; the country can 'afford' to wait no longer.

Jane F. Keegan
Uxbridge

Meatless Meals Roundup Part II

Still searching for creative and tasty meatless meals to serve this season? Read on for a second compilation of delicious dishes - sans the meat.

And remember readers, your hints will put you in the running for a fabulous three course dinner for two at the Public House!

**

A reader suggested this meatless favorite that is quick, easy, and a tried and true favorite during Lent.

An inexpensive recipe for Lent is frozen pierogis w/potato or cheese or fresh pierogis (some of the churches make them) with sautéed onions & mushrooms.

Jean Ciesluk

**

Mock Crabmeat and Artichoke Casserole

Rich, filling and delicious, this recipe, making the rounds on the internet, is a five star favorite!

Ingredients: 8 ounces uncooked small

shell pasta; 2 tablespoons butter; 6 green onions, chopped; 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour; 1 cup half-and-half; 1 teaspoon dry mustard; ½ teaspoon ground red pepper; salt and black pepper; ½ cup shredded Swiss cheese, divided; 1 (8 ounce) package imitation crabmeat, chunks; 1 (14 ounce) can artichoke hearts, drained and cut into bite-size pieces

Directions: Preheat oven to 350. Cook pasta according to package directions; drain and set aside. Melt butter in large saucepan over medium heat; add green onions. Cook and stir about 2 minutes. Add flour; cook and stir two minutes more. Gradually add half-and-half, whisking constantly until mixture begins to thicken. Whisk in mustard and red pepper; season to taste with salt and black pepper. Remove from heat and stir in 1/4 cup cheese until melted. Combine crabmeat, artichokes and



TAKE THE HINT
KAREN TRAINOR

pasta in a buttered two quart casserole. Add sauce mixture and stir until blended. Top with remaining 1/4 cup cheese. Bake about 40 minutes or until hot, bubbly and lightly browned.

Simple Soufflé

This souffle uses canned soup as a shortcut, but it still tastes impressive. Note: If you object to canned soups, you can make homemade condensed cream of celery soup with celery, onion, flour, butter, vegetable stock, s & p. Recipes are easy to find online.

Ingredients: One (10 3/4 oz) can of condensed Cream of Celery Soup (or homemade); 1 cup sharp cheddar cheese, grated; 3 eggs, separated

Directions: Mix together soup and cheese in a saucepan and heat slowly until cheese melts, stirring occasionally. In a large bowl, beat egg yolks until thick

and lemon colored. Slowly stir soup mixture into beaten egg yolks. In a separate bowl, and using clean beaters, beat egg whites until stiff peaks form. Fold into soup mixture. Pour into ungreased two quart casserole. Bake at 300°F for about an hour or so until the soufflé is brown. Serve immediately. Makes four to five servings.

**

Classic Mini Clam Cakes

This classic mid-century recipe can easily be doubled or tripled for hearty family servings:

Ingredients: two eggs; one half cup clam juice; one half cup milk; dash pepper; one and one half cups flour; one quarter teaspoon salt; three teaspoon baking powder; one 6.5 ounce can minced clams or equal weight of fresh, chopped clams.

Directions: Beat eggs. Add milk and clam juice. Sift flour, baking powder, salt and pepper. Add the minced clams to the sifted flour and then add enough of the liquid to make a thick, lumpy batter. Drop batter by tablespoon into 375 degree oil. When one side is cooked, the cakes will roll over by themselves. Drain on brown paper and serve immediately with chowder.

Baked version: Drop by tablespoon on a parchment lined cookie sheet. Cook at 425 degree oven for about 20 minutes until lightly and crispy – or try the air fryer with the same temperature (time till doneness will vary)

**

Win a Three Course Dinner for Two at the Public House

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Public House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month (or whenever I receive enough tips for a column) will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renowned restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I'm in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I'm counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

**

Remember the Alamo!

My dad was obsessed with the Battle of the Alamo, which fell in the early morning hours of March 6, 1836—nearly 189 years ago this week.

His passion for this pivotal moment in history shaped some of my earliest memories. The first time I ever traveled on a plane was when he took me to San Antonio, Texas, just to see the Alamo.

He'd guide me through every historical marker, narrating the story with the enthusiasm of a historian. After dinner, we'd walk back to the Alamo and just stand there, staring at its walls for hours. I was only six years old, and even then, I was intrigued—less because of the battle itself and more because of how much it meant to him.

His obsession ran deep. He owned every book ever written on the Alamo, studied every account, and took us back to San Antonio many times over the years. And if there was one night in that story that truly defined his fascination, it was the final night—the moment when the walls were breached.

For 12 long days, a small band of Texan rebels, including legendary figures like James Bowie, William B. Travis, and Davy Crockett, had held off the massive Mexican army led by General Santa Anna. Despite being vastly outnumbered—fewer than 200 men against thousands—not a single defender had fallen during the siege. But in the early hours of March 6, under the cover of darkness, the Mexican forces launched their final assault.

Wave after wave of soldiers stormed

the mission, scaling ladders, battering gates, and overwhelming the defenders with sheer numbers. In less than an hour, the Alamo was overrun. Every last Texan fighter was killed, their sacrifice becoming the rallying cry of the Texas Revolution.

"Remember the Alamo!" became more than just words—it became the battle cry of those who would go on to win Texas its independence. And for my dad and so many others, the Alamo wasn't just history—it was a symbol of defiance, courage, and an unwavering stand against impossible odds.

I read one of my father's old articles that he wrote about the Alamo and he said something in that article that struck a chord with me—something that transcends the Alamo itself.

Reflecting on the Alamo defenders, my father said, "Heroes are important. No human being today can hold up to the scrutiny we give them, but we need someone to emulate."

Having someone to admire and emulate is important, especially when that person excels at something we aspire to do ourselves. It's natural to be drawn to greatness, to want to follow in the footsteps of those who have achieved something remarkable. But that admiration can sometimes turn into idolization, and that's where things get complicated.

I once idolized an Olympic swimmer:

He was a powerhouse in the water, someone I wanted to be like. But after getting to know him, I realized that while I respected his skill, I didn't necessarily admire his personality. And that's when it hit me—people are just people. Even those we put on pedestals.

Great people, even those with strong moral convictions, have made mistakes. And when those mistakes come to light, they can shatter the illusion we've built in our minds. The question isn't whether our heroes are perfect—they never are—but whether we can still draw inspiration from the best parts of who they were while understanding that they, too, were human.

No one is perfect, and if we expect our heroes to be, we set ourselves up for disappointment. The truth is that greatness and imperfection exist side by side. A person can make mistakes and still leave behind something worth admiring.

Maybe we've become too harsh on our heroes, or maybe we've been too unrealistic about what it means to have role models in the first place.

Admiration doesn't require blind devotion; learning from someone's greatness doesn't mean ignoring their flaws. Because if perfection is the requirement for being worthy of admiration, we won't have any heroes left at all.

Our heroes, past and present, aren't meant to be untouchable figures. They're reminders that even flawed people can do extraordinary things. And maybe, that means we can too.

Plummer Place

Home of the Northbridge Senior Center

(508) 234-2002

Northbridge Senior Center's 50th Anniversary Gala, Thursday, June 19th from 4:00-8:00pm at Pleasant Valley Country Club. This amazing event, a fundraiser and a benefit to celebrate the Northbridge Senior Center's 50th year, includes a three-course meal, dancing to "Flamingo" a 15 piece all women big band, raffles and a silent auction. Also included is valet parking. Tickets are \$50 per person, and you may purchase your tickets at the Center starting Monday, March 3rd. Tickets are limited, don't miss this exciting event!

Arizona Doug Concert, Tuesday, March 25th from 1:30-2:30pm. Enjoy "Music Through the Decades" with cover songs from the 1940's through the 1970's. Doug enjoys entertaining audiences with songs from the Beatles, Elvis, Frank Sinatra and many others. Sign up in the main office. This program is sponsored in part by a grant from the Northbridge Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Change of Date: Plummer Place Book Club has moved it's next meeting to Wednesday, March 26th at 10:30am.

MA Judge, John Stapleton will be at Plummer Place on Wednesday, March 26th at 11:00am. Come and learn about the importance of impartial and independent judiciary directly from a judge. Judge Stapleton will be addressing a variety of challenging matters presented to the courts every day. Sign up in the main office.

Lunch & Learn with Blackstone Valley Physical Therapy, "All About Back Pain", Thursday, March 27th from 12-1:00pm. Come and talk with the BVPT experts and learn how to combat your back pain. Sponsored by Blackstone Valley Physical Therapy and Rep. Dave Muradian.

Plummer Place Singers meets on Wednesdays at 1:00pm. Raianne Richards will lead you as a group, to develop your skills, to enjoy the camaraderie, and to perhaps sing for others. If you would like to join this group, please call the Center to sign up. The cost is \$5 per class.

"Writing Your Way" will meet every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from 2:00-3:30pm. All writers are welcome to share their writing with others, get motivated to write their story, and get feedback from fellow writers! Lori Gannon is the instructor for this class, call the Center for more information. \$5/class.

Meditation group meets every Thursday at 9:30am. Set your intentions to start your day in a calm, relaxing manner. There is no commitment, join us when you can. Beginners to meditation are always

welcome.

Grief Support Group meets the second Monday of each month at 2:00pm. Sign up in the main office or call Michelle at Plummer Place for more information.

We are accepting donations for our Plummer Place Café. Heavy duty plasticware utensils, heavy duty plates large and small, bowls, napkins, plastic cups, crystal lite packs, bottled water either large or small, creamers, decaf coffee and regular coffee, Shaw's gift cards. We appreciate all donations to help our café run successfully!

Whitinsville's Vander Baan named to Academic All-Patriot League Squad

EASTON, Pa. — Senior Justin Vander Baan earned a spot on the 2024-25 Academic All-Patriot League Men's Basketball Team, announced on Wednesday morning.

To be eligible, student-athletes must have at least a 3.20 cumulative grade-point average and be a starter or key reserve player in their sport. Freshmen are not eligible for this honor, as it tracks from the previous spring semester.

Vander Baan, a native of Whitinsville, Mass. and son of Jeff and Laurie Vander Baan, was crowned the Patriot League's Defensive Player of the Year after a sensational season in the frontcourt on March 3. He was also listed on the Third Team and the All-Defensive Team. The Northbridge Mass. native averaged 12.2 points, 6.9 rebounds, 3.0 assists and 2.9 blocks per game in his final regular season run for Lafayette. Overall, he competed in 94 games while starting in 77 and scored 886 points and grabbed 471 rebounds.

He has blocked 77 shots this winter, good for fifth in the country and first in the Patriot League, topping the NCAA from Jan. 16-20. His 2.92 blocks per game average rank third in the NCAA for the regular season. He matched his career high of six swats at Navy on Jan. 5. In three years wearing the Maroon and White, Vander Baan quickly climbed the program ranks to second all-time on College Hill with 183 career blocks. He passed 2001 gradu-

ate Frank Barr's 160 blocks against American on Jan. 29.

Vander Baan recorded six double-doubles in 2024-25, bringing his career total to a team-high nine. His most recent came in the Patriot League first-round matchup with Holy Cross on 25 points and 11 rebounds on March 4.

He has also participated in various community service activities with the program, such as the Leopards' youth camps, Community Day with Philadelphia Youth Basketball at the Sixth Man Center, and raising funds and awareness for Athlete Ally, Coaches vs. Cancer and Lafayette Sustainability.

The Leopards (13-19, 7-11 PL) move on to play No. 2 American in Washington, D.C. on Thursday in the Patriot League Championship Quarterfinal. Live coverage on ESPN+ is set for 7 p.m. with tickets available here.

2024-25 Patriot League Men's Basketball Academic All-League Team

Lincoln Ball, American, Gr., G
Miles Brewster, Boston University, Gr., G
Justin Vander Baan, Lafayette, Sr., C
Tyler Whitney-Sidney, Lehigh, Sr., G
Milos Ilic, Loyola Maryland, Sr., F
Austin Benigni, Navy, Jr., G

For the latest on the Lafayette College men's basketball program, follow the Leopards on Twitter @LafayetteMBB and Instagram @lafayettembb.

7 fun ways to celebrate St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated each year on March 17. The day honors St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, but it's also a celebration of Irish culture. Although St. Patrick's Day is celebrated around the world by people who can trace their lineage to the Emerald Isle, millions more with no such heritage join in the festivities each year. That means anyone who is Irish or just Irish in spirit can take part in St. Patrick's Day celebrations.

There are many entertaining ways to commemorate this special day. Here are a few to get the party started.

1. Eat green foods. Green is a prominent color for St. Patrick's Day and Ireland in general. Many people eat foods and consume beverages dyed green on March 17.
2. Bake soda bread. Everyone can take part in the kitchen whipping up a batch of delicious Irish Soda Bread. This is a great recipe for kids because there's no need to wait for dough to rise. Baking soda is the "soda" in the recipe and serves as the leavening agent.
3. Take part in a parade. St.

Patrick's Day parades are held in major cities across the country, making it relatively easy for people to be there in person. However, many communities also host parades that are small in scale but still big on fun.

4. Attend an Irish dancing demonstration. Irish dance is a traditional dance that originated in Ireland. It is known for its intricate footwork and minimal upper-body movement.

5. Dine the Irish way. Although corned beef and cabbage is often served on St. Patrick's Day, it is not the most authentic Irish fare one can eat. Find a restaurant that serves Irish stew, Boxty, Colcannon, or Black and white pudding, or try making such dishes at home.

6. Host a scavenger hunt. See who can find the gold at the base of the rainbow. Pick a person to organize the scavenger hunt. This person can write the clues and hide the prize.

7. Listen to Irish music. Tune in to The Chieftains, The Dubliners, Planxty, The Gloaming, The Wolfe Tones, and others to get into a festive spirit.

Enjoy the scores of different ways to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.



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That first full day in the garden may find you tired, sunburned, and stiff. Whether you are a young or young-at-heart gardener, include some strategies to help extend your enjoyment and reduce fatigue and muscle strain so you can keep gardening longer each day and for years to come.

No matter your age, it's important to protect your joints when gardening. Use a kneeler pad or knee pads to protect your knees. Knee pads secured to your legs allow you to conveniently and comfortably protect your knees as you move from one garden bed to another.

If you need help kneeling, consider a garden kneeler with handles. The handles provide needed support when kneeling and standing up. The ones that can be flipped over and used as a garden bench provide double the benefit. The seating position reduces bending and helps minimize the need to kneel.

Elevating your garden can also help. It is a great way to save space and eliminate the need to bend when planting, weeding, and harvesting. Elevated gardens and raised beds also offer a place to garden where planting space is limited or nonexistent. You'll enjoy planting and harvesting with minimal weeding needed. Just be sure to monitor soil moisture and water as needed. Use self-watering containers, add irrigation or employ water-extending products to help lengthen the time between watering.

Further expand planting options by dressing



Melinda Myers

Kneeler pads provide comfort and protection for knees.

up walls, fences, and more with vertical gardens. Monitor soil moisture in wall-mounted gardens regularly as many have limited soil that dries out quickly.

Clean and sharpen your tools, including pruning equipment, digging and weeding tools. This allows you to make cuts more easily and dig into the soil and weed with less effort.

Consider investing in ergonomic tools designed for comfort to help prolong your time in the garden. Select lightweight tools with non-slip comfortable grip handles aligned to keep your wrist extension straight, which helps reduce muscle strain.

Use pruners with ratcheting, compound, or Dual Link action for more cutting power with less effort. You'll be able to spend more time pruning with less muscle strain and

fatigue. Consider investing in shovels with an anti-skid plate above the blade, providing more foot support for more digging power. Or retrofit an existing shovel with a commercially available anti-skid

foot plate.

Don't overlook the importance of protecting your hands as well when gardening. Quality gardening gloves provide support and protection when digging, planting, prun-

ing, and more.

Start with some preseason training. Every gardener knows gardening is a workout and often involves different motions and muscles than other exercises. Always warm

Crafts are a lucky bet for St. Patrick's Day celebrations

While it certainly can be fun to visit a pub and raise a pint in honor of St. Patrick's Day on March 17, such efforts are not necessarily a family-friendly way to commemorate the patron saint of the Emerald Isle. Thankfully, there are plenty of activities for children and adults that focus less on imbibing and more on hands-on fun so everyone can be involved equally. Crafting often fits that bill.

The following are some unique craft ideas to celebrate the spirit of

St. Patrick's Day. Many of these projects include items you may already have around the house.

Shamrock key chain

Find your favorite salt dough recipe and use a shamrock cookie cutter to cut out the shape of a lucky clover. Poke a hole at the top where you can connect a key ring. When the shamrock is dried and hardened, paint it in a vivid shade of green. Attach keys, a school ID or anything else to the key ring, or simply hang it from a backpack.

Leprechaun hats
With a little green paint, green card stock and construction paper in black and gold, anyone can create miniature leprechaun hats. Paint the toilet paper tube green, then wrap the bottom in a strip of black and place a gold "buckle" made out of a rectangle

of gold or yellow paper. Glue the tube to a round of green card stock, and voila, you have a perfect leprechaun hat for decorating a room or table.

Easy rainbow craft

Grab some fruity O-shaped cereal and let kids sort the colors into red, orange, yellow, green, and purple. Glue rows of these colored cereal rings onto a piece of white cardstock to make the rainbow. At the base of the rainbow, glue some cotton balls to serve as the clouds.

Beaded bracelets

Visit a craft store and stock up on small green, white and gold beads, as well as some bracelet wire or poly string. Spend a few hours making bracelets that everyone can wear with their green attire for St. Patrick's Day. The bracelets also can be given as gifts.

Shamrock slime
Those who can find green glitter glue and shamrock confetti can turn their favorite slime recipe into one worthy of St. Patrick's Day.

Rainbow cereal bars
Incorporate some of the marshmallows from a favorite "lucky" cereal brand into the mix of rice cereal treats to give them a rainbow-inspired upgrade.

Pots of gold
If you have leftover plastic witches' cauldrons from Halloween, paint them gold and use them to store foil-wrapped chocolate coins. Otherwise, tie green helium-filled balloons to the cauldron to make a perfect centerpiece.

St. Patrick's Day crafts get the entire family in on the fun of celebrating the Emerald Isle.

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MORE INFO:

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JONAH D. GLICKMAN

Vice President

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Friday's Child

Thomas

Age 14

Registration # 8537

Tommy is very passionate and enjoys engaging in conversation with adults and children. He loves a good debate with a trusted adult! Tommy loves techno music and Pokémon. He is also very active outdoors, riding his scooter around the neighborhood and helping his foster mother with gardening and yard work. He is a very entrepreneurial young man, and is creating a small business plan to mow his neighbors' lawns. Tommy is very interested in golf. He is a wealth of knowledge when it comes to club styles and putting techniques.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/21177981306>

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

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

7 activities to commemorate the spring equinox



The beginning of spring is cause for celebration. In many areas of the world, the start of spring marks the end of cold temperatures and hours spent indoors, a shift in conditions that is welcomed by millions each year.

Spring is a time of rebirth when flowers and trees bloom anew and animals bear new young. Spring is an exciting and busy time, and one that people can commemorate in many unique ways. Here are seven ideas to

usher in spring this March.

1. Fill a home or business with flowers. Collect some early tulip or daffodil blooms and place them around the house. Offer bouquets of dandelions to children or weave them

into flower crowns.

2. Spend time in nature. It's time to get outside, and there is no better time to do so than the beginning of spring. Soak up the sun and temperate climate, which can be good for your physical and mental well-being.

3. Visit a loved one. Bring some sunshine to an elderly relative by visiting with him or her. Take a stroll outside or sit on a bench and enjoy a picnic.

4. Prepare the garden

by cleaning out weeds and tilling the soil. Some early spring preparation ensures everything will be ready when planting time arrives.

5. Prepare an outdoor feast. Whether it's a picnic or a barbecue, serve up a warm-weather feast with salads, sandwiches and other dishes that are normally served outdoors.

6. Sow some seeds. Encourage each member of your household to pick a favorite plant or flower

and sow it in celebration of the first day of spring. It's possible to make a special spring garden with perennials that will bloom each year.

7. Make spring-related crafts. Colorful wreaths, centerpieces and garlands can bring some of the natural wonders of spring indoors.

The first day of spring is an opportunity to enjoy what makes the season so special. Celebrate the new season with plenty of creative ideas.

Daily steps to make a vehicle last longer

Modern cars have longer life expectancies than their predecessors. Consumer Reports indicates it's not unheard of for modern vehicles to endure for 200,000 miles or more. For many, that equates to 12 to 15 years of usage.

Even though many vehicles are built to have increased longevity, it often is up to the driver to do his or her part to ensure cars and trucks can last for years and years. Here are some daily steps vehicle owners can take to achieve longer life spans for their cars or trucks.

• Take it slow and steady. Athletes do not hit the ground running at top speed, and neither should a vehicle. Let the car gradually acclimate to being on the move each day after sitting overnight. Gently accelerate and afford the engine time to warm up and all of the components to get the fluids they require before you jump on the highway or require the vehicle to go all out. Most automotive experts warn against idling a car in the driveway to warm it up, but starting out at

a slow and steady pace is key.

• Don't be extreme. Jerky turns, gunning the gas and braking hard lead to unnecessary wear and tear on a vehicle. By smoothing out your driving, you'll put less stress on mechanical components and help prevent them from wearing out prematurely.

• Clean it out daily. Accumulated debris often builds up inside a vehicle that is used all of the time. Taking a few minutes to clear out trash or to wipe down the interior each day will prolong the interior components, not to mention make it easier to do a more thorough detailing when the time comes.

• Find a trusty fuel station. Bad gas can wreak havoc on a vehicle. Find a station that you trust, particularly one that takes care of their pumps and regularly changes their pump filters. It's worth it to spend a little more over-all for good gas.

• Read your oil level. Oil is essential to maintain a properly operating engine and vehicle. AARP suggests routine reading of a

car's oil level so that you can add lubricant as necessary. While this might not be a daily task, doing it regularly enough means you will keep on top of this important step.

• Park in the shade or a garage. The sun may feel good on a warm day, but the UV rays from the sun can take their toll on a vehicle's paint. Whenever possible, park out of direct sunlight so that the paint will not fade and the interior upholstery will not bleach. Those who need to park their vehicles for an extended period of time should choose a clean, dry, well-ventilated location, advises Wawanesa Insurance.

• Be attentive. Listen to the sounds your vehicle is making and give it a visual inspection each time you get in or out of the car. The sooner you catch something that is out of the ordinary, the easier it becomes to fix problems before they become costly and damaging.

Vehicle owners can take steps each day to improve the longevity of their cars and trucks.

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Docket No. W025C0104CA
CITATION ON PETITION TO
CHANGE NAME**

In the matter of:
Kelsey Marie Bodwell
A **Petition to Change Name of Adult** has been filed by
Kelsey Marie Bodwell of Northbridge MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Oliver Henry Bodwell
IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 03/25/2025 at 10 a.m. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 21, 2024
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
March 14, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
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(508) 831-2200
Docket No. W025P0738EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**
Estate Of:
Lynn Ellen Hlustick
Date of Death: 12/25/2024

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Michael A. Hallowell of Cedar Park TX** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that:
Michael A. Hallowell of Cedar Park TX be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.
IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/08/2025**.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 05, 2025
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
March 14, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508)831-2200
Docket No. W025C0049CA
CITATION ON PETITION TO
CHANGE NAME**

In the matter of:
Catherine Ann Lazo
A **Petition to Change Name of Adult** has been filed by
Catherine Ann Lazo of Northbridge

MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Catherine Ann Grimley
IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 04/01/2025 at 10 a.m. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 28, 2024
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
March 14, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. W025P0759EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**
Estate Of:
Norman R Youngsma
Date of Death: 12/13/2024

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Rebecca J Cooper of Northbridge MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that:
Rebecca J Cooper of Northbridge MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.
IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/08/2025**.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 05, 2025
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
March 14, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. W025P0396EA
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**
Estate Of:
Claire Leona Reney
Also Known As:
Claire L. Reney
Date of Death: August 22, 2024

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of :
Petitioner **Lisa Jeronymo of Upton MA**
a Will has been admitted to informal probate
Lisa Jeronymo of Upton MA has been informally appointed as Personal Representative of said estate to serve **without Surety** on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be

filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
March 14, 2025

MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by Ernest P. Demers to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Advanced Financial Services, Inc., its successors and assigns, dated May 23, 2007 and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 41223, Page 372, subsequently assigned to Bank of America, N.A., successor by merger to BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP fka Countrywide Home Loans Servicing, LP by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 49119, Page 10, subsequently assigned to Green Tree Servicing LLC by Bank of America, N.A. by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 50289, Page 337, subsequently assigned to NewRez LLC D/B/A Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing by Ditech Financial LLC f/k/a Green Tree Servicing LLC by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 61637, Page 272, subsequently assigned to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee for RCAF Acquisition Trust by NewRez LLC D/B/A Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 69882, Page 398 for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at 11:00 AM on April 4, 2025 at 21 Delmar Drive, Northbridge (Whitinsville), MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit:

The land in that part of Northbridge known as Whitinsville, and bounded and described as follows: The land in Northbridge being shown as Lot #173 on plan of Meadowood Estates, Section 5 owned by Delmar R. Kidd dated June, 1972 and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds, plan book 367, plan 123, bounded as follows: Northeasterly by Delmar Drive, 100 Feet; Easterly by land now or formerly of said Delmar R. Kidd, 224.27 feet; Southwesterly by land of said Meadowood Estates, Section 4, 126.23 feet; Westerly by Lot #172, 189.39 feet according to said plan. The premises are to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, encroachments, building and zoning laws, liens, unpaid taxes, tax titles, water bills, municipal liens and assessments, rights of tenants and parties in possession, and attorney's fees and costs.

TERMS OF SALE:
A deposit of FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS (\$5,000.00) in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or money order will be required to be delivered at or before the time the bid is offered. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Foreclosure Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid within thirty (30) days from the sale date in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee's attorney. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor,

the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE.
Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.
U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCAF ACQUISITION TRUST
Present Holder of said Mortgage,
By Its Attorneys,
ORLANS LAW GROUP PLLC
PO Box 540540
Waltham, MA 02454
Phone: (781) 790-7800
22-008207
March 14, 2025
March 21, 2025
March 28, 2025

Tillman Infrastructure, LLC is proposing to build a 185-foot self-support tower (199 ft w/appurtenances) located east of Commerce Dr, 800 feet south east of 400 Commerce Dr, Northbridge, MA 01534. Structure coordinates are: (N42-07-09.84)/W71-38-14.67). No lighting is anticipated. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Antenna Structure Registration (ASR Form 854) file number is **A1309506**.
Environmental Effects: Interested persons may review the application at www.fcc.gov/asr/applications by entering the file number. Environmental concerns may be raised by filing a Request for Environmental Review at www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest within 30 days of the date that notice of the project is published on the FCC's website. Online filings are strongly encouraged. Mailing address for a paper filing is: FCC Requests for Environmental Review, ATTN: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554.
March 14, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. W025P0772EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**
Estate Of:
John Joseph Cotter
Date of Death: 12/23/2024

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Patricia J Cotter of Uxbridge MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that:
Patricia J Cotter of Uxbridge MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.
IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/01/2025**.

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

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WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 05, 2025
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
March 14, 2025

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St. Patrick’s serves up fish & chips & free concert

WHITINSVILLE — Back by popular demand, St. Patrick’s Church, 7

Local students named to Holy Cross Dean’s List

WORCESTER — More than 1,700 students were named to the College of the Holy Cross’ Dean’s List for outstanding academic achievement during the Fall semester of the 2024-25 academic year. The following local students made the list:

Benjamin Johnson of Uxbridge, class of 2025

Khushi Patel of Douglas, class of 2025

To qualify for the Dean’s List, students must pass four or more letter-graded courses with no failing grades during the semester and earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

About Holy Cross

The College of the Holy Cross, in Worcester, is among the nation’s leading liberal arts institutions. A highly selective, four-year, exclusively undergraduate college of 3,100 students, Holy Cross is renowned for offering a rigorous, personalized education in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition. Since its founding in 1843, Holy Cross has made a positive impact in society by graduating students who distinguish themselves as thoughtful leaders in business, professional and civic life.

East St., Whitinsville, will be offering delicious Fish & Chips Dinners again this year during Lent on Ash Wednesday & Fridays (Mar 5 - April 11) from 4:30 to 7 p.m.

Dinner options are baked fish/ baked potato & coleslaw or fried fish/fries & coleslaw dinners for \$15.

Vegetable Soup or Clam Chowder for \$6/bowl. Mac & cheese/fries for \$5. In-house dining includes drink/ dessert.

Place orders to go by calling 508-234-5656 after 4pm. Payment by Venmo or Cash. Thank you for supporting the Youth in Action Summer

Service Trip to Billings, Mont.

On Friday night, March 14, there will be a celebration of Irish Music in the Church at 7 p.m. This event is open to the public, free of charge, and is sponsored by the Northbridge Cultural Council/Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Local students named to Pacific University Dean’s List

FOREST GROVE, Ore. — Chip Garrigan of Whitinsville has been named to the Fall 2024 Dean’s List at Pacific University in Forest Grove, Ore.

The Dean’s List recognizes undergraduate students in Pacific’s colleges of Arts & Sciences, Business and Education who earn a grade-point average of at least 3.70

and complete 12 or more graded hours.

Celebrating 175 years of purpose, Pacific University is Washington County, Ore.’s only comprehensive university. With undergraduate, graduate and professional programs in the arts and sciences, business, education, health professions and optometry, Pacific inspires its 3,400

students to think, care, create, and pursue justice in the world. The No. 1 private research institution in the Northwest, Pacific serves its communities through campuses in Forest Grove, Hillsboro, and Eugene; healthcare clinics throughout the Portland area and through 34,000 alumni pursuing lives of purpose globally.

Natalie Ottaviano studying abroad through Muhlenberg College

ALLENTOWN, Pa. — Natalie Ottaviano of Newtonville is studying abroad in England this spring at the FSU Theatre Academy London program. A graduate of Newton North High School, Ottaviano is studying Theatre and Dance at Muhlenberg College.

In addition to signature study abroad and domestic study away pro-

grams, Muhlenberg students have an large number of affiliated programs to explore for study abroad opportunities, taking them all over the globe. In all, more than 90 Muhlenberg students are taking advantage of the college’s wide variety of global study abroad experiences this spring.

Founded in 1848, Muhlenberg is a

highly selective, four-year residential, liberal arts college in the city of Allentown, Pa., with nearly 2,000 bachelor’s and master’s degree-seeking students. The college’s curriculum and experiences are designed opens doors to new ideas, discoveries, friendships and a lifetime of personal and intellectual growth.



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Millbury Senior Center

ST PATRICK'S DAY PARTY
Monday, March 17th 11 A.M.
Entertainment with Larry Lewis
Serving a Corn Beef and Cabbage lunch
Call or stop by the center to sign up!

TRANSPORTATION
Monday - Thursday 8 - 4 P.M.
Friday 8 - 11:30 A.M.
Need a ride outside the WRTA Catchment Area?
Rides need to be made in advance!
Call the Senior Center to schedule your ride 508-865-9154

FLORAL ARRANGMENT CLASS SAM'S STEMS
Monday, March 13th 1 P.M. - 3 P.M.
price is \$20
Call the center to sign up!

BETTER BREATHERS CLUB
Tuesday, March 25th 10:30 A.M.

SENATOR MOORE'S OFFICE

Meet with a representative from Senator Moore's office!
Wednesday, March 5th
First Wednesday of the month between 11 - 12 P.M.
All are welcome to meet and discuss issues of importance or looking for assistance

TRANSPORTATION
All appointments will be accepted by the WRTA
Millbury Seniors 60 and older / those with ADA services call 508-752-9283 in order to register with the WRTA in advance if they need transportation
Transportation Hours are Monday through Thursday from 8 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. & Fridays 8 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.
Rides have to be scheduled by 4:30 P.M. the day before by calling 508-752-9283
For more information on regards to transportation call the center at 508-865-9154

SENIOR CENTER EXERCISE CLASSES!

ZUMBA CLASSES
Mondays at 1 P.M. (Class is \$3)

LIGHT EXERCISE CLASSES
Mondays and Fridays 9:30 A.M. - 10:15 A.M. (Free!)

TAI CHI
Tuesdays 9:30 - 10:30 A.M. (class is \$3)

LINE DANCING CLASSES
Wednesdays at 10:30 A.M. (Class is \$3)

YOGA
Thursdays 9 - 10 A.M. (Class is \$3)

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES!

MAHJONG
Mondays at 12:45 P.M.

CRIBBAGE
Monday through Friday 8:30 A.M.

BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC
Every Tuesday from 9 A.M. - 10 A.M.

SOCIAL BINGO
Wednesdays at 1 P.M.
Bring your pennies!

PITCH
Thursdays 1 - 3 P.M.

COLORING
Thursdays at 10 A.M.

Lunches are served Monday through Thursday 12 P.M. Friday 11:30 A.M.
The menu is available on the town website, www.townofmillbury.org

Or our Millbury Senior Center Facebook page
A 48 hour reservation is required.
Call the center at 508-865-9154

"MEMORY CAFÉ"
Please join us on Tuesday, March 25th at 1 P.M.
Refreshments will be served
A Memory Café is a monthly gathering for people with memory loss / challenges and their care partners. It is a time to socialize, make new friends, and have a good time
Our Outreach worker, Julie Fitzgerald, is happy to answer any questions, call to RSVP 508-865-9154!

SNAP APPLICATIONS (Food Stamps)
Our appointments are on Tuesdays & Thursdays 10 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.
Call for an appointment & required documentation 508-865-9154
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HELP WANTED
The Resident Care Facility at Saint Joseph's Abbey, 167 North Spencer Road, Spencer, MA., has an opening for a part time facility cook.
Hourly wage negotiable depending on experience and related skills
Requirements: High School Diploma or GED. Ability to speak and read English required. Must be able to understand written policies and procedures. Must be able to work unsupervised while following food safety protocols.
For more information and to apply, contact Wally Connor, Facility/HR Manager at (508) 885-8700 Ext. 550 or by email: wally@spencerabbey.org



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The Spencer Housing Authority has an opening for a Full-Time Administrative Assistant

The Spencer Housing Authority is seeking a qualified full-time Administrative Assistant to assist with a variety of tasks including, but not limited to, processing applications, maintaining waitlists, calculating rent determinations, and general reception duties including answering phones, entering work orders, filing and assisting the public. This is a full time (40 hours) benefited position. Retirement is through the Worcester County Retirement Office. Successful candidates must have excellent written and verbal communication skills and be proficient in computer skills. Working knowledge of EOHLC, CHAMP, or PHA-Net software. The selected applicant must be able to pass a criminal background check (CORI). The full job description can be found on the SHA website. Pay: \$20.00 per hour
Applicants should submit a cover letter and resume to:
Spencer Housing Authority 13 McDonald Street Spencer, MA 01562
Attn: Kimberly Hurlbrink
You may also email cover letter and resumes to Kimberly Hurlbrink: kim.hurlbrink@spencerhousing.org
Resumes will be accepted until 2:00PM on March 21, 2025
Spencer Housing Authority is an equal Opportunity Employer.

6 benefits of servicing a vehicle at the dealership



using a dealership for servicing needs.
According to a study by Kelley Blue Book, 35 percent of all cars were serviced at a dealership in 2021. By 2023, that figure had dropped to 30 percent. Service chains, like tire service centers and quick lube brands, are gaining ground in the automotive servicing market. Here are six reasons why consumers may want to think about returning to the dealership to maintain their vehicles.

1. Cost
KBB says that owners are not saving much by shifting their business to service centers. In 2023, the average dealership service visit cost \$258, while a visit to a non-dealer service center was \$249 on average. Customers may be able to negotiate with dealerships where they purchased the car for lower prices or coupon incentives, as dealerships typically like to build relationships with customers to ensure repeat business.

2. Original equipment manufacturer parts
A big advantage to going to the dealership for service is original equipment manufacturer parts, known as OEM parts and accessories. OEM means the components used in the service or repair will be the same as those used by the manufacturer in their own workshops, guaranteeing both quality and compatibility, according to DCH Honda. This can be especially important for electrical components.


3. Certified technicians
Modern vehicles are complex and unique between make and model. Visiting a dealership for service means you'll be getting a service technician who has specific knowledge about the vehicles that dealership sells. Technicians at dealerships have to be manufacturer-certified, meaning they will have the most up-to-date knowledge and access to cutting-edge equipment.

4. Warranty savings
More often than not, new vehicles come with manufacturer warranties. Certain service may be covered by the manufacturer or dealership at no cost to the vehicle owner. Plus, the dealership can easily look up and apply the warranty price if applicable. Also, the service may need to be performed at a dealership by a certified technician for a warranty to continue to be valid.

5. Accessible records
If and when the time comes time to sell a vehicle, having a handy log of all servicing can be advantageous. This is easier to come by if all of the visits took place at a dealership. They can simply pull up a record of the vehicle and provide it to the owner; otherwise, one may scramble to compile the vehicle history from various service centers.

6. Loaner vehicle
Often times dealerships will provide courtesy cars to customers while service is taking place. This means that customers will not be inconvenienced if repairs take a day or more, and will not have to spend out-of-pocket to get a rental car.

Even if customers know and trust an independent mechanic, or feel confident in their own repair skills, there are times when going to a dealership for servicing may be a better idea.



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Dehydrating gives “DIY convenience”



Gus Steeves

Lanette Lepper holds up one of her sample jars, with several others in the background.

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – With higher winds and more unpredictable weather, we’ve been seeing more power outages in recent years. Sometimes they’re brief, sometimes they last days.

Of course, the latter is a problem when you have food in the fridge.

But if it’s dehydrated, it’s “shelf stable,” local farmer Lanette Lepper told a small group at Dudley library last weekend. “If the power goes out, it doesn’t matter.”

Lepper, of the Dudley Agricultural Commission and Grange, has been dehydrating food “probably 15 years,” since before she even started growing her own food.

But human beings have been doing it, in one form or another, for at least 1000 times that long.

She notes “everyone’s going to have different reasons for doing it.” Among them are “you’re overrun with zucchinis” in summer and don’t want to buy in winter, or you want to send loved ones their favorite recipe, or you want lightweight and space-saving food for camping, or you have stuff that’s stale or just

about to go bad and don’t want to waste it. The list is pretty long.

While there are many food preservation methods, most require more work than dehydration. Take canning, for example – that requires boiling in a large pot and being very careful to make sure the cans seal to avoid botulism. Dehydration doesn’t have that risk, although if you don’t make sure its truly dry, you might see it mold in storage. (That said, though, Lepper notes “Some things just need to be canned.”)

One commonly canned thing – tomato sauce – is also ideal for dehydrating. Lepper showed her audience it in two forms – a jar of powder and a crinkly sheet that looked like a fruit rollup (which it essentially was). Both of them will reconstitute into sauce by simply adding water, and you can do the same thing with apple sauce and many other things.

She said dehydrating provides a lot of “DIY convenience,” giving her a lot of ingredients to throw in soup, often with more nutrients than stuff that’s “fresh” at the supermarket (especially in winter).



Gus Steeves

Lanette Lepper and Maureen Doyle look over one version of a dehydrator.

Beyond that, it’s preparation for the unexpected; “It’s good way to have things on hand when you don’t know if you can get them,” Lepper said.

“Almost anything” can be dehydrated, “but there are a few things I don’t recommend,” she said. One of the latter is meat – very lean meat is OK, but fats will spoil (true also of fatty plant products like avocados; she urged just freezing them).

Historically, meats and fish were typically cured with salt and/or various spices and dried either in the sun or smoked in a dry, hot place. According to the online essay “Historical Methods of Food Preservation” by Brian Nummer, “Evidence shows that Middle East and oriental cultures actively dried foods as early as 12,000 B.C. in the hot sun.” (Chances are it was actually far older than that.) He also notes, “In the Middle Ages purposely built ‘still houses’ were created to dry fruits, vegetables and herbs in areas that did not have enough

strong sunlight for drying. A fire was used to create the heat needed to dry foods and in some cases smoking them as well.”

His essay is at <https://nchfp.uga.edu/resources/entry/historical-origins-of-food-preservation>. Lepper noted there are many online resources for curing meat, something she doesn’t do.

Lepper said she typically starts by chopping, slicing or shredding the fruit or vegetables, and frozen veggies will dehydrate quite well. Apples and pears are “easy-peasy,” – and apples are one of her family’s favorites; “They hardly ever make it to a storage bag, they’re so good.” Also easy are peas, tomatoes, peaches, strawberries, nectarines and cherries. Some, like cherries and cherry tomatoes, need to be cut in half first, with the cut side up to retain the nutrients; full size tomatoes get sliced (as do most others).

Lepper is not fond of dehydrated blueberries; she’ll freeze them instead, and notes you can’t get banana chips from dehy-

drating because they’re actually fried in oil. Carrots, celery, broccoli and many other things dehydrate easily, but onions, hot peppers, and garlic will “stink up your house,” so she recommends doing them outdoors.

She also noted potatoes “are one of the types of vegetables you have to blanch before dehydrating” or they’ll turn black. They’re still edible, but not very appealing; blanching is simply boiling them for a few minutes before slicing them. She recommends running them under cool water before sticking them in the dehydrator.

Most herbs don’t need a dehydrator; just hang them in a dry, dark place. But you need to harvest them before they go to flower to collect the most essential oils and nutrients. If doing them in a dehydrator, they need a temperature of 95 degrees “so it doesn’t ruin the essential oils,” she said.

Other things need the following: vegetables, 125 degrees, fruit, 135 degrees,

and 160 degrees for meat jerky (because it has to cook, too). Some ovens can get that low, but most can’t. Most dehydrators have thermostats, but she notes they’re “helpful but not necessary.” Timers are useful, but also unnecessary; the key is simply to check on the drying process occasionally.

“If you have any doubt, leave it in an extra hour or two, but don’t leave it in overnight,” she added. Things are dry if they pass the “snap, crackle, pop” test – they break easily when folded, for example.

One useful tool is a portable vacuum-sealer for cans; they’re available online and in some stores. You can reuse cans of various kinds (with or without vacuum seals) for storage, unlike in canning.

Lepper said a basic startup costs \$50-\$60, her dehydrator cost about \$300, and commercial varieties can cost thousands.

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



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