

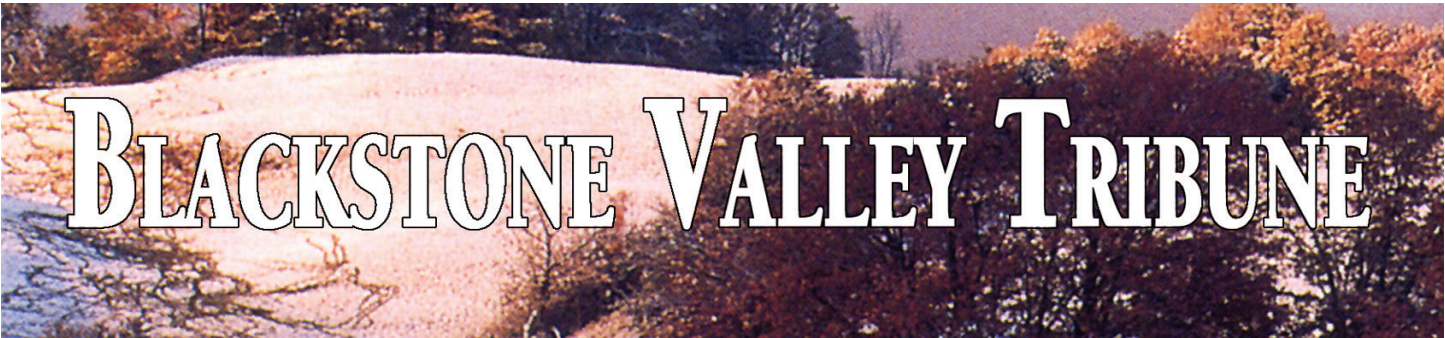
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Friday, January 31, 2025

Northbridge waitlisted for library construction grant

NORTHBRIDGE — On Jan. 9, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) awarded \$1.3 million in planning and design grants to thirteen libraries. Whitinsville Social Library and the Town of Northbridge was one of the 13 municipalities awarded this competitive grant. Northbridge is one of three municipalities on the waitlist for the grant.

The Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program (MPLCP) is a state-funded program that works

with local communities to build, renovate, and expand public libraries. The MPLCP awards grants in two phases: Planning and Design Phase and Construction Phase. Planning and Design includes the award of a \$100,000 grant partnered with \$150,000 from the town via vote at the Spring Town Meeting in 2024. These funds will be spent on hiring an architect to design and plan the library expansion. The plans will be submitted to MBLC by January 2026. Once the plans are independently reviewed and

pass the Level of Design per MPLCP standards, Northbridge's project will be recommended for a construction phase grant as soon as funding becomes available. There are many factors involved in funding becoming available, including the MPLCP's annual cap as set by the Governor's Office of Administration and Finance and potential delays in contracted projects. MPLCP could

cover 45-50 percent of total construction costs for a library expansion project. Remaining costs may be procured through the town of Northbridge, the Library Board of Trustees, and community fundraising efforts. In early 2024, Library Director Rebecca Sasseville began creating a Library Building Program required to apply for the grant. The application was submitted in late May 2024 and

included feedback from local residents and library patrons. Comments included the library's need for a dedicated programming space, meeting rooms, and a larger enclosed children's room. The full Library Building Program is available on the library's website. Whitinsville Social Library has been located at 17 Church St. since it was built by architect Richard Clipston Sturgis in 1913. It was

constructed through the efforts of Edward and Arthur Fletcher Whitin. The brothers sold it to the town of Northbridge for \$1.00 in 1917. The institution was founded in 1844 and has been Northbridge's public library since 1876. Except for a small addition in 2000 for an elevator, handicap accessible public bathroom, and the opening of the book stacks to the public, the building is unchanged.

Uxbridge unveils final report

UXBRIDGE — The Uxbridge Senior Center and University of Massachusetts Boston Gerontology Institute are excited to share with you the report "Aging in Uxbridge: A Community Needs Assessment."

This report is the result of many months of coordination and planning and is the culmination of feedback and ideas from Uxbridge's residents who have provided their time, energy, and ideas. Over the past year, many Uxbridge residents of all ages participated in interviews, focus groups and a community survey.

The focus areas include outdoor spaces and public buildings; broader transportation options; respect for diversity and social inclusion; communication and public information; housing choices; social participation; civic participation and employment; community and mental and physical health services.

The report was researched and written by the expert team at the University of Massachusetts Boston Gerontology Institute. We would also like to thank Dr. Caitlin Coyle and her team at UMass for their passion, enthusiasm, and dedication to this project.

We are grateful to everyone who participated in this process and provided thoughtful feedback including Uxbridge residents, community leaders, service providers, business owners, and municipal employees who gave of their time and provided insights into how to make Uxbridge a more vibrant community.

Please join us on Wednesday, Feb. 19 at noon at the Uxbridge Senior Center, located at 36 South Main St., Uxbridge, for a presentation of this Final Report. This is a luncheon meeting so please sign up early as space is limited. There will also be an evening Zoom meeting presentation at the Board of Selectmen meeting which will be held on Monday, Feb. 24 at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall.

We trust you will find this report to be informative and we encourage you to participate in the work ahead to meet our community's needs and improve the lives of Uxbridge's residents. This report will be shared widely, and the information will be used to support strategic and program planning.

Thank you for your support, vision, and engagement as we work to make Uxbridge a community for all ages. For more information, please contact Lisa Bernard, Director of the Uxbridge Senior Center, at 508-278-8622 or lbernard@uxbridge-ma.gov.



Courtesy
 UniBank showed its appreciation for local first responders from the Uxbridge Police and Fire Departments last week by donating \$2,500 each to both departments. Pictured in photo (left) are: Michael Welch (CEO of UniBank), Lt. Timothy Burke of the Police Department, Sandy Lemire (UniBank), Karen Beane (VP, Mortgage Consultant, NMLS# 485228) and Michael Sulham (VP, Relationship Branch Manager, NMLS# 688959).

Calling all singers!

DOUGLAS — The Blackstone Valley Community Chorus welcomes new and returning singers to Open Call for our 2025 spring season! Open Call will take place on Sunday, March 2, at 6 p.m. at the Douglas Municipal Center Resource Room located at 29 Depot St. in Douglas. New members do not need to prepare an

audition song, but should come ready to sing. There is a \$35 membership fee to join. Rehearsals take place on Sundays at 6 p.m. at the Douglas Municipal Center beginning on March 9. This season the BVCC is preparing a Gospel program and collaborative concert with Joyful Voices of Inspiration, a Boston based Gospel choir, to be

performed on May 4 at Valley Chapel in Uxbridge. The Blackstone Valley Community Chorus is a non-audition chorus with people of varied ages and musical abilities brought together by a shared love of music and a commitment to providing our community with exceptional musical experiences. We welcome anyone

who would like to join us, we only ask that you have the ability to carry a tune. Whether you enjoy singing at your school, with a church choir, or in your car or shower, we hope you will consider joining our friendly musical family! For more information on the BVCC, visit us on Facebook or at www.bvcc-chorus.org.

Bay Path Academy Director at Institute for the Musical Arts

GOSHEN — Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN of Athol (formerly of Dudley and Douglas), Academy Director at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy in Charlton was joined by her husband, Joseph Bolandrina at the Institute for the Musical Arts www.ima.org. The Institute for the Musical Arts (I.M.A.) was founded by Ann Hackler and June Millington in Northern California in 1986 and received its nonprofit status in 1987.

In 2001, the property was purchased in Western Massachusetts for a permanent facility. From IMA Web site, "The institute's non-profit mission is to support women and girls in music and music-related businesses. Rooted in the legacy of progressive equal rights movements, I.M.A.'s



Courtesy
 (Right) From left: Joseph Bolandrina, June Millington and Gretheline Bolandrina.

development is guided by the visions, needs, and concerns of women from a diversity of backgrounds and has grown from the need to nourish ourselves and each other."

The Bolandrinass met with June Millington a Filipina American guitarist, songwriter, producer, educator, and actor. Millington's career spanned from hard-rocking early days to the folkier sound she turned to in the mid- '70s (as a key part of the women's music movement, a queer-friendly alternative to the male-dominated mainstream music industry.) As the co-founder of the I.M.A. Millington runs rock camps for teen girls in Western Massachusetts and the invitation to attend the rock camps was extended to the practical nursing students, alumni, staff, and the friends and families of the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy community.

Millington released "Snapshots," her first

solo album since 1988. "Snapshots" has twelve tunes and a lot of color. She recorded some of the tunes with teens from the rock camps, while singer Evelyn Harris, formerly of Sweet Honey in the Rock, and Millington's brother, Scott, a drummer, contributed to "Un-Knowable." "The Ballad of Fanny" is a vibrant acoustic demo that Millington recorded in 1971 and "Make Me Happy" dates from 1977 or '78, when she was living in Woodstock, N.Y. According to Millington, the bulk of the work on the album, took place in the fall of 2020 and early winter of 2021 when she was riding out the pandemic at the I.M.A. Millington played all the instruments herself on a few songs, and recorded many of the vocal parts. Her work as a musician is influential with a message to keep pushing ahead. She is persistent and is still making a difference.

Legislators seek support for those dealing with crumbling foundations

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — For area residents who have grappled with the crumbling foundations crisis since 2017, disappointment and setbacks have become all too familiar. But in spite of the latest hitch endured when the State House of Representatives failed to take up a bill meant to support affected homeowners, the new year is bringing fresh waves of hope.

During the final legislative session of 2024, House members took no action on the bill that was approved by State

Senate members. Had the bill been greenlighted, it would have provided desperately needed support to homeowners.

“It’s frustrating that the House failed to take up the crumbling foundations bill in the previous legislative session, but we’re not giving up and will refile legislation this month,” said State Sen. Peter Durant (R—Spencer). “I am hopeful that we can garner support from our colleagues in the House, many of whom have constituents struggling with this issue.”

The crisis began in 2017 with the dis-

covery of multiple deteriorating foundations in northern Connecticut and west-central Massachusetts, all of which were constructed with concrete produced from stone aggregate that was supplied by the same quarry in Willington, Conn.

A 2018 investigation confirmed that the presence of a naturally occurring iron sulfide mineral—pyrrhotite—tainted the stone aggregate produced from one vein of the quarry. Because the mineral causes a slow deterioration of concrete foundations when exposed to oxygen and water, problems didn’t start

surfacing at homes until many years after they were built.

Homes constructed between 1983 and 2015 could be impacted by the crisis, officials said. The majority of the tainted concrete was supplied by the now defunct J.J. Mottes Concrete and Septic Supply Company in Stafford, Conn.

Cracking, flaking, bowing, and separation of concrete are all indicators of a problem that could jeopardize the entire house if not addressed, officials warn.

The cost to replace a foundation ranges between \$150,000 and \$250,000 per house. Most home insurance policies do not cover costs associated with the crisis.

In recent years, many homeowners whose foundations are showing signs of deterioration have been afraid to get testing done and risk being unable to sell their properties. Other residents have passed up opportunities to buy homes because they weren’t able to get extensive testing done in finished basements.

Having spent several years advocating for affected homeowners, local legislators explained that it’s critical to continue putting pressure on their colleagues and conveying the direness of the situation.

“We often hear about affordable housing and ways the legislature can work to provide that, yet we have people who can afford their homes until their foundations crumble from a naturally occurring element, and we are not working quickly enough to help them retain their homes,” Durant said.

This year’s refiled bill would establish a commission to study the best ways to deal with the growing problem of crumbling concrete. Bay State legislators are hoping to catch up to their counterparts in Connecticut, who have already taken several significant actions to assist homeowners.

“Connecticut has established a workable program, and we certainly could use that as a model, or find a method more suitable for Massachusetts,” Durant said.

Last year, the proposed legislation was passed in the Senate at a formal summer session, then again at an informal December session.

Local students earn Dean’s List honors at Nichols College

DUDLEY — Nichols College is proud to recognize the academic accomplishments of students on the fall 2024 Dean’s List.

Dean’s List recognizes those students who achieve high grades during a single semester. In order to be included on the Dean’s List, a student must have a minimum grade point average of 3.5 for at least 12 undergraduate credit-hours and must have received no grades below B- during the semester.

The following local students have achieved Dean’s List honors for the fall

2024 semester:

Saige Frazier of Uxbridge
Collin Harty of Whitinsville
Jack Morvan of Uxbridge
Shane Okenquist of Uxbridge
Victorya Pacheco of Douglas
Tyler Richardson of Uxbridge

About Nichols College

Nichols College has earned business accreditation from the prestigious Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International), the longest serving glob-

al accrediting body for business schools and the largest business education network connecting learners, educators, and businesses worldwide. Founded in 1815, Nichols 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

Local students named to President’s List at Plymouth State University

PLYMOUTH, New Hampshire — 922 students have been named to the Plymouth State University President’s List for the Fall 2024 semester. To be named to the President’s List, a student must achieve a grade point average of 3.70 or better for the Fall 2024 semester and must have completed at least 12 credit hours during the semester, at least nine of which must confer grade points, at the time the lists are finalized.

Nolan Shayer, Undeclared major of Douglas

Devon Gokey, Cell and Molecular Biology major of Uxbridge
Cecelia White, Allied Health Sciences major of Douglas

About Plymouth State University

Established in 1871, Plymouth State University serves the state of New Hampshire and the world beyond by transforming our students through advanced practices where engaged learning produces well-educated undergraduates, and by providing graduate education that deepens and advances knowledge

and enhances professional development. The Plymouth State Cluster Learning Model emphasizes open, integrative, and project-based experiences. With distinction, we connect with community and business partners for economic development, technological advances, healthier living, and cultural enrichment with a special commitment of service to the North Country and Lakes Region of New Hampshire. To learn more about Plymouth State University, visit www.plymouth.edu.

Plymouth State University announces Fall 2024 Dean’s List

PLYMOUTH, New Hampshire — Plymouth State University recognizes 376 students who made the Dean’s List for the Fall 2024 semester. To be named to the Dean’s List, a student must achieve a grade point average between 3.50 and 3.69 during the Fall 2024 semester and must have completed at least 12 credit hours during the semester, at least nine of which must confer grade points, at the time the lists are finalized.

James Oatis, a English major of Northbridge

Justine Brueggemann, a Allied Health Sciences major of Whitinsville

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REAL ESTATE

BLACKSTONE

\$720,000, 7 Orchard St, Carter, Nadine L, and Daniello, Christopher J, to Rodrick Ft, and Rodrick, Laurence A.

\$480,000, 226 Elm St #226, Cordell Jr, Thomas C, to Sarmiento, Luis G.

\$285,000, 39 Fairway Ln #39, Bessett Charles E Est, and Guilbert, Suzanne, to Sandra L Dutkevitch RET, and Dutkevitch, Sandra L.

DOUGLAS

\$529,999, 22 Conservation Dr, Lackey Dam Properties Inc, to Rebello, Steven W, and Rebello, Melissa A.

\$490,000, 84 South St, Buchanan, Kevin L, to Glaude, Robert E, and Glaude, Samantha E.

NORTHBRIDGE

\$614,077, 17 Crestwood Cir #46, Stone Hill Partners LLC, to Gorzela, Richard S, and Gorzela, Donnamarie B.

\$605,750, 144 Rolling Ridge Dr #50, Stone Hill Partners LLC, to Fregeau, Linda M.

\$550,000, 221 Church St, Superior Realty TLIC, to Diniz, Gabryel C.

UXBRIDGE

\$862,500, 32 Turner Farm Rd, Brown, Brian, and Kieran, Patricia, to Saini, Vikas C, and Saini, Archana K.

\$740,000, 46 Landry Ln, Norberg, David S, and Norberg, Jacqueline A, to Riera, Diego F, and Riera, Deissy P.

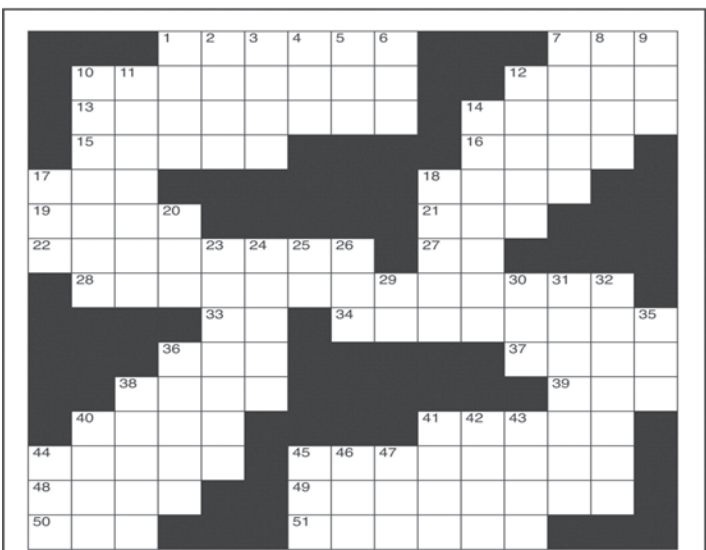
\$600,440, 189 Crownshield Ave #D, Woodlands Uxbridge Rlty L, to Trivedy, Ashish R, and Trivedy, Amee A.

\$505,000, 36 Pouts Ln #36, Jenkins, Anthony, and Jenkins, Sarah, to Curran, Thomas.

\$505,000, 36 Pouts Ln #36, Curran, Thomas, to Curran, Thomas, and Curran, Christy.

\$85,000, 58 Landry Ln, Norberg, David S, and Norberg, Jacqueline A, to Riera, Diego F, and Riera, Deissy P.

\$85,000, 73 Landry Ln, Norberg, David S, and Norberg, Jacqueline A, to Riera, Diego F, and Riera, Deissy P

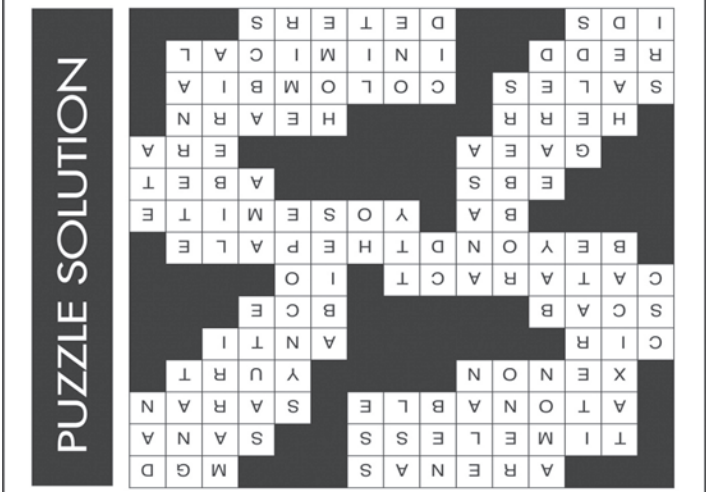


CLUES ACROSS

1. Where entertainers perform
7. Miller beer variety
10. Ageless
12. River in SE Europe
13. Able to be repaired
14. Type of wrap
15. Atomic #54
16. Type of tent
17. U.S. Treasury position
18. Opposed to
19. Protective covering
21. Bridge building degree
22. Clouding of the lens
27. Priestess of Hera loved by Zeus
28. Unacceptable
33. Mr. T's "The A-Team" character
34. American national park
36. One point south of due east
37. Assist in a crime
38. Greek mythological personification of Earth
39. A major division of geological time
40. German courtesy title
41. English family dating back to Norman times
44. Discounts
45. South American nation
48. Former Milwaukee Buck Michael
49. Hostile
50. Passports and drivers licenses are two
51. Discourages from doing

CLUES DOWN

1. Supreme god of ancient Egyptians
2. Nevada city
3. Energy, style and enthusiasm
4. Bird's beak
5. Language
6. Midway between south and southeast
7. Punjab village
8. Small biting flies
9. Sportscaster Patrick
10. A way to get around
11. Repeat
12. A way to cook with fat
14. Temporary loss of consciousness
17. Reciprocal of a sine
18. Fir tree genus
20. "Transformers" director Michael
23. Criminals who steal
24. Genus of leaf-footed bug
25. Music product
26. "Talk to you"
29. Santa says it three times
30. Doctors' group
31. African nation
32. Ageless
35. When you hope to get somewhere
36. Worn
38. Deprives of vigor
40. Used to have (Scottish)
41. Where you live
42. Muslim ruler title
43. Basics
44. Type of drug (abbr.)
45. Spanish soldier
46. It precedes two
47. Illuminated

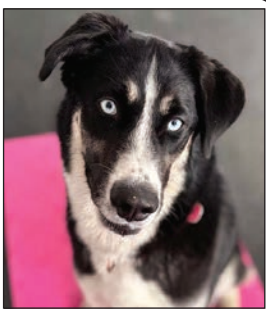


PAW of the WEEK BLUE

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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Keeping it local—why our community matters most

Big stories from far away dominate our feeds, leaving little room for the stories that directly impact our daily lives. But here in New England, we have something special, a culture of pragmatism, resilience, and a commitment to our neighbors that deserves more of our attention than any distant drama.

When you know what's happening in your town, you can make better decisions, participate in meaningful ways, and strengthen your community. From town meetings and school board decisions to the opening of a new business or a neighbor organizing a food drive, these are the stories that impact our daily lives.

Local news reminds us that what happens right outside our door often affects us far more than what's unfolding hundreds of miles away. Sure, keeping an eye on national or global events is important, but the real opportunities for change and impact start right here.

Living in New England is a badge of honor. This isn't an easy place to call home, and we like it that way. The winters are brutal, the terrain is rugged, and the people. We're straightforward, skeptical of nonsense, and fiercely independent. But beneath that no-nonsense exterior is a deep sense of loyalty and community.

We might argue about who makes the best chowder or complain about tourists clogging the roads in leaf-peeping season, but when someone in our community needs help, we show up.

Social media and national headlines are filled with division and negativity, but we know better: We've built a culture where actions matter more than words and where we measure people not by their politics, but by how they treat others.

Ask yourself, how can I make an impact here? Can you volunteer at a local food pantry? Mentor a student? Organize a block party to bring people together? These small, tangible actions might not make national news, but they'll make a world of difference to the people around you.

At the end of the day, we're New Englanders. We don't fall for the fluff or the fearmongering. We know life is about the relationships we build and the community we create. It's about showing up, speaking truth, and taking care of the people around us.

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:

St. Augustine was correct: anger, hope and courage do make change! On a freezing, brilliant-blue-sky day in Washington, D.C., the 47th President of the United States was inaugurated while the vanquished composed 'gracious' faces and the victors wide smiles. Not surprising, because that is how it is done in a Democracy, with pomp and circumstance for the "peaceful transfer of power" occurring 60 times since George Washington took the first Oath of Office. Once again, 'free speech' prevails, and a eulogy can now be written for those among the fear-mongering legacy media and local pundits. It's refreshing.

Although the ceremony was held in the Capitol Rotunda and Visitors Center with a smaller audience due to frost-bite weather conditions, 20,000 packed the

To the Editor:

Society has changed throughout the years — along with technological advances — but I would argue that these differences are not for the better.

During the early 2000s, social media was a new set of platforms that no one really cared about. Not even thirty years later, this form of technology has completely engulfed individuals as it has become the determining factor of how one interacts with the world around them. Today, the average individual spends at least two hours a day on various social media platforms where they are met with countless false realities. Those posting tend to only pick the best of the pictures to

To the Editor:

The Carpenter Road Causeway in Whitinsville begs to be replaced. Spanning the Carpenter Reservoir, which connects to Whitin's Pond and provides a haven for diverse wildlife, the causeway shows signs of structural deterioration and is in "poor condition," as identified by the 2022 "Technical Memorandum Carpenter Causeway Evaluation," generated by the engineering firm Fuss & O'Neill and published by the town of Northbridge. Cracks in the masonry pose a concern for potential collapse. Portions of the protective chain link fence are missing. There is also evidence to suggest that the hydraulic opening beneath the causeway, which allows water to flow from one side of the reservoir to the other, is responsible for the formation of harmful algae blooms. In the interest

To the Editor:

From the patches of grass that grow along the streets and roads that make up this town, to the beautiful dams that border various ponds and lakes home to Northbridge, piles of plastic bags collect litter and contaminate the waterways and the air we breathe every day. Yet, all of the restaurants, grocery markets, convenience stores, and businesses in this town continue to bag their products with plastic receptacles, ignoring the necessity for an easy switch that could ultimately improve pollution issues and the destruction of the environment: the ban of plastic bags and the promotion for the use of paper bags.

As a citizen of Northbridge for nearly 18 years, I want to see an improvement

print in a local area. The primary objective of local governments and businesses is to serve their community, which is why communal commitment to the environment would likely encourage companies and municipalities to align their respective ideals with environmental stewardship. Should the Blackstone Valley community endorse environmentally friendly practices, not only would major facilities (such as the upcoming UPS distribution center) be inclined to implement carbon-neutral operations, but smaller buildings and businesses would also likely follow suit. Whether it be placing restrictions on industry, improving recycling workflows, or simply encouraging responsible water use, local sustainable efforts supported by the locals and implemented by their

tol project in Blackstone, believing that the health benefits individuals gain outweigh the negative impacts. Public health should be the priority instead of questioning the solution. The disease can have severe consequences and possibly lasting impacts on individuals when they are infected. Although I certainly recognize the concerns about environmental impacts, modern mosquito control methods are designed to target the ones that need to be eliminated, and most importantly humans should be prioritized. The methods would be non-invasive, mini-

water, demonstrates the susceptibility of structures to large amounts of weight and environmental stressors, and demands attention immediately.

While this specific infrastructure failure was local to Uxbridge, it is also happening on a global scale. For example, recently in Turkey, a four-story building collapsed and trapped at least five people. Although the exact cause remains a mys-

Opinion and commentary from the Blackstone Valley and beyond
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Just had to smile on Jan. 20

Capitol One Arena, with untold tens of thousands filling nearby streets to be part of the "America First" celebration. There is loud cheering for the long-awaited, hope-filled, future-forward agenda being espoused. It's refreshing.

The Inaugural Address was an important recitation of promises made to those who voted for him and those who did not. Some still decry his 'plain speaking', but voters responded in record numbers; corporate and world leaders, even some across the aisle, are attentive to the vision of a "Golden Age" being laid out by a President who says what he means and means what he says. Four years ago, great hope was placed in promises by a self-proclaimed "peacemaker" and "unifier," afterwards rendered meaningless. Now, with President Trump voicing those same promises, America is confi-

show or they edit these images to elevate their physical attributes. Studies have shown that so much exposure to these facades has plummeted one's self esteem. Because of this, these platforms have become one of the leading causes of eating disorders in adolescents.

Some might argue that social media provides a place where one can express themselves and celebrate their bodies; however, the depressing truth is that in more cases than not, witnessing these unrealistic beauty standards — through social media — often crumbles mental health and tends to lead to issues with body image that follows many well into adulthood. More contemporary gener-

Carpenter Causeway: Pass at your own risk

of the public's safety and the health of the reservoir, solutions have been proposed by the town of Northbridge for the rehabilitation, removal, or replacement of the causeway. Out of the three alternatives, replacement is the best option. However, it is unclear when any plans will be executed.

Improving the causeway in any sense comes at a high cost. According to the 2022 evaluation of the causeway, removal will amount to over two million, and replacing the current structure with a raised span bridge will cost more than double the funds. The expenses associated with repairing the causeway (improving the current structure and widening the road) fall somewhere in between. While replacement requires the most money, it seems to be the most logical solution. Eliminating the causeway will cut off many Carpenter Road residents

of the undeniable issue regarding pollution in this town. Therefore, I highly recommend that our community begins to not only recognize the harsh effects of plastic waste, but act against the usage of this harmful material. The use of plastic bags poses extremely detrimental effects on the environment that are not spoken about enough: the release of toxic chemicals into the air; the amount of time it takes for this material to decompose, and the consumption of energy that occurs as a result of creating plastic. The pollution of plastic is not only harmful to wildlife, marine life, and other organisms, but to humans as well due to the proliferation of microplastics and the toxins released into the air, due to the fact that plastic

Sustainability starts with us

governments in places like the Blackstone Valley will make a significant positive impact on not only our community but also the communities around us.

However, it is still important to consider the opposing side of the climate change issue. With efforts centered around protecting the environment come higher upfront startup costs. Despite the increase in initial funds required, the investment in eco-friendly methods will pay itself off in the long run. As examples, smart climate control can reduce cooling and heating costs on average by 10-15 percent. Furthermore, waste reduction programs typically cut disposal costs to up to 50 percent. This list of cost-efficient alternatives goes on and on, leaving a clear choice when it comes to

mizing the negative effects and processing the project meticulously. This issue needs to be taken care of immediately to reduce the future risks involved with mosquitoes.

I would address someone concerned about the environmental impacts with the opposing viewpoint, highlighting the importance of balanced approaches that consider both public health and environmental protection. I would present the targeted areas, provide information about what types of pesticides the town would utilize, and promise the reduced

dent they will be fulfilled. It's refreshing!

And those nominated for cabinet positions have been tapped based on resumes of proven merit and expertise in specific areas. Aside from partisan opposition's 'delaying tactics', nominees have answered Congressional questions in common sense terms, instead of the usual 'political hack speech,' and expressed clear understanding of "America First" policy to guide various agencies. It's refreshing!

Pushback from certain quarters is expected, but the First 100 Days of the second Trump Presidency should be amazing... as his first 36 hours in office attest with an astounding \$500 billion private investment of built-in-America A.I. infrastructure announced. It's refreshing!

Jane F. Keegan
Uxbridge

Reject the negative influence of social media

ations have fallen into the trap social media has set. These individuals are being nurtured in an environment that makes one believe there is always something wrong with them.

Urge the adolescents of the Blackstone Valley community to realize the negative influence of this usage of social media. If we are to raise our children in an environment of self love instead of the trend of hatred, we need to stand together and break the cycle before it is irreversible. Consider your role in this issue. Will you be the change or only fuel the fire of the problem?

Hannah Ostroff
Northbridge

from quick access to the Whitinsville town center, as well as delay emergency response to homes across the reservoir. Meanwhile, repairs to the causeway's structure will only slightly increase its lifespan; this course of action will still require eventual replacement.

It is clear that the town of Northbridge must pursue full replacement of the causeway while continuing to keep community members updated about the project's progress. Though the length of time needed to finalize plans and execute a final decision is understandable, the causeway's continuous deterioration cannot wait much longer. The safety of Carpenter Road homeowners, the protection of the surrounding environment, and the existence of the causeway itself are at stake.

Emeln DeWeerd
Whitinsville

Northbridge should join the movement to ban plastic bags

takes hundreds of years to degrade.

However, this issue is proven to be able to be resolved as seen in surrounding towns and cities that have completely banned the use of plastic bagging: Grafton, Hopkinton, Upton, Westborough, and several others, making up 70 percent of the state of Massachusetts that has participated in this ban. As a community, I believe that there is no better way to begin to advocate for change than to contribute to the large percentage of townships that have already begun to move towards the cause for a better environment by also participating in the ban of plastic bags.

Sincerely,

Katie Godin
Northbridge

making an investment in sustainability as a government and a business. Thus, as the Blackstone Valley continues to flourish, it is pivotal that as a community, we take responsibility for our towns and the impact, recognized or not, of our community on the environment. With major new additions like the UPS center on the Grafton border arising often, the community must commit itself to advocating for local eco-friendly efforts and holding local businesses accountable for their own climate friendly efforts as such support will generate remarkable environmental and economic benefits. Sustainability starts with us.

Respectfully,

Corbin Swaim
Grafton

usage of pesticides to minimize his or her concern about the environment. State and local agencies or departments will work closely to ensure that the use of pesticides is guided and monitored carefully. I recommend that a person attend community meetings that are held regularly. Community members should stay informed about mosquito control efforts, possibly participate in local meetings, and take action to improve the situation.

Sincerely,

John Kim
Millville

Investing in infrastructure is an investment in the well-being of the community

To the Editor:

The recent collapse of a building on South Main Street in Uxbridge, which resulted in the closure of several businesses and the hospitalizations of two individuals, highlights an imperative issue in our society today: the low-quality and aging infrastructure that is detrimental to our communities. This collapse suggested to be caused by an excessive load of

tery, such accidents result from structural failures, poor supervision, faulty design, and disregard for proper protocols.

To address this pressing matter, it is vital that local governments and property owners not only actively assess their structures, but also comply with building regulations to ensure safe structures are built. While taking shortcuts in constructing new buildings may save a few

pennies in the short term, the long-term negative effects it can have on families and businesses are often fatal and not worth the risk. Investing in the strength of our infrastructure is a commitment to ensuring the well-being of our communities.

Logan O'Connell
Uxbridge

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR CONTINUED

Free peace

To the Editor:
In Bev's recent letters, she chose to 'school' us on free speech without, for

Mendon needs a grocery store!

To the Editor:
I am writing to you to address the lack of convenience in Mendon Massachusetts. There are no grocery stores in Mendon, and some Mendon townspeople are forced to travel up to 20 minutes just to run to the nearest one. At that point, a "quick run" to the grocery store no longer exists. There has been talk about a grocery store being built but it's been two years and there's still no store. Now is the time to take action and finally give the people what they want and need.
Some individuals think a grocery store would bring too much traffic, and others bring up the excuse that a large chain wouldn't want a small town like Mendon. To that, I say we already have many large attractions in Mendon: the Mendon Twin drive-in, Imperial Cars, and Southwick's Zoo. If these attractions

one, discussing its inherent responsibilities toward others. As she puts it directly, the real essence of being American is aren't messing up our traffic, then we can figure out the traffic pattern for a small-town grocery store. Along with this, since our town has so much to offer, there is most definitely a store or chain that would benefit from being built here, big or small. A smaller grocery store would honestly be ideal for our town to help us keep that small-town feel that some citizens are afraid of losing.
I think a grocery store would be a great addition to our quaint but fun town. This added convenience would just make our town that much better. The Mendon Town Board of Selectmen needs to support and revisit this idea for action to finally be taken. Thank you for reading this leader and hopefully I'll see you at the new Mendon town grocery store!
Sincerely,

Georgia West
Mendon

Not every day needs to be a victory

To the Editor:
New Year's Eve. A night full of laughter, parties, champagne, and of course, the ball drop at Times Square. While each celebration will look a little different, one nigh-universal tradition that most partake in is the New Years Resolution: the decision to make a change with the coming of the new year.
Most resolutions will be a promise of improvement. Whether it's getting to the gym more often, cutting out some of those devilish sweets, simply deciding to be a little kinder, the new year is seen as the perfect time to forge new habits and change for the better.
Tragically, only about 5 percent of these resolutions will come to fruition. In fact, only 20 percent will make it to February. The second Friday of January has ended so many of these resolutions that it's literally called Quitter's Day. A novel idea, but an unrealistic one.
Why is this the case? Well, there's

no definitive answer, but I have some ideas. It's not easy to be disciplined; it's tempting to skip one day of working out, or to have three slices of cake at someone's birthday. And while some dessert or a day off isn't the end of the world, momentum is powerful. After a few days of the scale moving in the wrong direction, becoming discouraged and giving up altogether is not uncommon.
However, momentum goes both ways. After a week of consistency, insignificant changes compound. Goals inch closer. Difficult activities become routine. This year, Quitters Day is already in the rearview mirror. It may be too late to have never quit, but it's never too late to try again. Habits are hard to create, so don't give up after a failure. In the long run, all that matters is that there are more days won than lost. Not every day needs to be a victory. Just most of them.
CJ Najem
Douglas

Douglas can balance economic growth with a small town feel

To the Editor:
I have been a resident in Douglas for almost a decade. From firsthand experience, and after many conversations with fellow Douglas residents, I believe that the town would benefit from more community buildings in order to improve the town's economy.
After talking with individuals on the Douglas town committee, there are already a few existing community businesses and buildings within Douglas; however, some aren't open during the winter, and some don't provide the basic needs of an individual. This forces residents to travel across town lines in search of things such as a grocery store, any kind of medical center, and entertainment. A recent survey, conducted by the Master Plan Committee, indicated these needs and desires within Douglas, encouraging residents to remain hopeful and persistent

for the future improvements of the town.
Before the commercialization of America sweeps through this small town, I believe Douglas should take advantage of the vacant buildings and empty property for the benefit of the town. For instance, there is a parcel of land on North/Gilboa Street that is desirable for development. While this project specifically may require taxpayer dollars, reorganization of traffic patterns, and a collective effort from Douglas residents, a new building could work to improve Douglas' economy.
I understand that balance must be maintained between the established town and what I am proposing, but if done correctly, this town could thrive even more and ensure that money continues to flow within the town borders.
Respectfully,

Gillian McGee
Douglas

Well, I might as well not build a well

To the Editor:
Building a private well should be an excellent cost-cutting measure for residents of Douglas, right? While that is the case for some, in reality, the zoning regulations actually make it much more difficult than it needs to be.
Take, for example, how in section 6 of the Board of Health's article on private well use, they write that "All private wells shall be located at least twenty-five (25) feet from existing buildings." Doesn't sound so bad, right? For a new homeowner; maybe it isn't so bad; however, for someone looking to construct a building, expansion, or any new structure upon their existing land, it is quite annoying.
If one examines the Massachusetts state laws, it only states that a well needs to be 5 feet away from any existing building, so why the discrepancy? The only feasible reasons that I could see are 1. Discouraging the use of private wells, and causing people to pay more for water through use of munic-

ipal water, or 2. wanting to keep up the idea that Douglas is a "less settled" area with room for big lawns and bigger properties. While the latter may be the case, I think it's important to remember that settlement is inevitable. Douglas citizens can already see it through the continued construction of developments and projects such as the distribution center along Route 16. As for the first reason, that just seems immoral. As for why I bring this up, right now, my family is in the process of planning the construction of an addition to our house and this unnecessary requirement is causing loads of problems that could be solved with a largely inconsequential change in BOH legislature. I'm sure my family isn't the first, nor will we be the last to encounter this issue, but it would certainly be helpful for this (in my mind) bogus regulation to be repealed.
Sincerely,

Caden Anema
Douglas

'the freedom for an individual to say ridiculous things. Even the things we hate.'" However, free speech comes with responsibility for each citizen. If your speech 'targets a particular individual for harm, leads to incitement, true threats, defamation, obscenity, fraud, and others'(UofPITT), it is not protected by the First Amendment.
Further, "Schools must take action to remedy behavior (speech) that interferes with a particular student's ability to exercise their right to participate fully in the life of a university."(ACLU) If little 'Liam' wore that shirt as targeted harassment or as an invasion of privacy toward a particular individual/s or interfered with that individual's right to participate in school fully, then he (or the parent who suggested his shirt) isn't protected.
Another Bev case of Free Speech going amuck because of the 'evil and powerful' disinformation villain that lurks wherever humans abide is her proclamation that Fauci is unforgivable and responsible for all COVID deaths, including her father's death. A naive reading of her letters could encourage further threats to a man and his family who have already spent years receiving them. 'Big Daddy' just revoked his security detail because Fauci's free speech threatened Big Daddy's 'delicate point of view' on anything COVID. This incident depicts the issues confronting us when free speech never gets to the truth, provides only part of the truth, or suggests a conclusion not warranted by underlying research and how it can hurt all of us. If that isn't enough, there is a moral question. Ever hear of the 8th commandment - You shall not bear false witness against our neighbor. Want to guess why that commandment was included?

Let's take a look back to the dark times of March 2020. The Life Care Center of Kirkland became "ground zero" for the COVID-19 pandemic. Of the first 46 deaths in Washington, 30 were vulnerable seniors at Kirkland. On March 1, 2020, MYNorthwest News reported, "Ellie Basham, its executive director, said that residents and employees are being monitored and those with symptoms or who were potentially exposed are quarantined."
The facility has banned families, volunteers, and vendors as a precaution." Later, on March 13, 2020, CMS announced measures to protect nursing homes. "Facilities should restrict visitation of all visitors and nonessential health care personnel, except for certain compassionate care situations, such as an end-of-life situation." Seema Verma (not Fauci -director of NIAID), the Administrator for CMS under Trump, implemented the visitor restrictions for nursing homes in 2020. However, Fauci supported the restrictions on nursing homes. Only as the pandemic progressed and it was better understood how COVID was transmitted and what, in fact, were adequate prevention measures could they change their approach to protecting seniors. It took CMS until Sept. 17, 2020 to issue new guidance about visitors. It was now better understood what infection prevention practices needed to be maintained to keep this population safer and allow visitors.
The biggest issue was allowing visitors to visit without endangering other residents. Within six months, they changed their guidance because they had actual data about the impact of COVID-19 on this population, infection control procedures, and saw the effect of 'prolonged' isolation on residents. So within 26 weeks and 6 days, CMS better understood how to protect nursing home residents while allowing craved visitation by loved ones, etc.

On April 21, 2020, a little over a month from the original CMS Memorandum, Bev G. lost her father, who "had been in declining health for some time." And I am very sorry for your loss. He died a short time after the pandemic had been identified while everything was being done to keep the nursing home population safe. Your animus against Fauci is unfair and unjustified. Creating the perfect visitation requirement for this

vulnerable population was never possible - certainly not in a little over 5 weeks. If you need a scapegoat, try Trump. 'Big Daddy' in late Jan. 2020, "We have it totally under control. It's one person coming in from China, and we have it under control." By early February 2020, Trump was already starting to move against Fauci's statements and sideline him. On Jan. 6, 2020, I started ordering N95 masks - I saw it coming. I literally got on a plane, flew to MI, and, as my mom liked to say, kidnapped her and brought her back to Massachusetts. We were happy to try everything Fauci/others suggested to keep her safe from COVID-19. She did die on May 24, 2021, on the palliative care floor at Milford Hospital from natural causes at 93, not COVID-19.

The Bev G. tirade continues about Fauci, as he "refused to permit the use of IVM or Hydroxychloroquine for COVID patients." Fauci had no say over the courts as she pointed out that Lorigo, a lawyer, secured the treatment for perhaps as many as 100 cases through court orders. However, "Merck, which manufactures the drug, stated in 02/2021 affirming its position that there's no scientific basis for potential therapeutic effect against COVID-19 from IVM." And "on Aug. 26, the CDC issued a health alert warning of a five-fold increase of calls to poison control centers regarding IVM exposure." Free speech allows her to note, "Over 20 clinical trials tracked the results with reductions in COVID fatalities up to 74 percent." Bev picked a citation from PUBMED from 2021. The results cited are from Peru. She just chose not to tell you the rest of the story. Even as IVM use in Peru was approved, a health minister from Bolivia stated," It is a product that does not have scientific validation in the treatment of COVID-19." On 8/21/21, Rounder(Houston Press) said," There is no evidence IVM helped fight COVID in Peru."

He continues, "There have been studies in Peru, but they have the same problem many other IMV studies have: they are badly designed and rife with bias. Only more clinical data done with proper controls will show if IVM has any benefit, though so far no such study has."

A further study from August 2024, International Journal of Antimicrobial Agents stated: "The collision of research and misinformation showed the need for and importance of generating and timely disseminating clear recommendations; unfortunately, there was an absence of timely and robust evidence to guide health care professionals the public and policymakers. Several studies tested repurposed and new drugs as potential treatments for COVID-19. IVM was proposed as an antiviral to treat COVID-19 and was used in several regions, particularly in Latin America. The dissemination of some positive results of poorly designed and powered IVM studies confused the general population, patients, clinicians, and decision-makers who may have manipulated the information due to individual and political interest, as had happened previously with Hydroxychloroquine." "Nowadays, the NIH recommendation against the use of IVM for COVID-19 is based on high-quality randomized controlled trials reporting effects on clinical outcomes, mainly all-cause mortality."
"Major health organizations including the FDA, CDC, and WHO recommended not using IVM for COVID-19."

What irony, Bev "will never forgive Fauci" precisely because he exercised his free speech, you know - 'The Indispensable Right,' per his job requirements. Fighting a pandemic requires 'learning from uncertainty' as quickly as possible. So "Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better." (Maya Angelou). "Though there are many reasons to elevate freedom of speech, one is that "it ensures a search for truth," as Holmes might suggest. Perhaps, at some point, the search for truth can bring her peace.

Linda Lacki
Northbridge

LETTERS CONTINUED PAGE A10



Community Connection



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Creating an indoor oasis of greenery can help lift your spirits, reduce stress and improve your overall wellbeing. Challenges arise when growing indoor plants with kids and pets in the house. Keep them safe by selecting pet- and kid-safe plants and pest management strategies.

Increase your indoor gardening success by selecting plants suited to your home's growing conditions and gardening style. If you tend to overwater your plants, grow moisture-loving plants or opt for more drought-tolerant plants if you practice benign neglect. Once you have your list, double-check their people and pet toxicity. Consult with your veterinarian and visit the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) website for a list of pet-safe and toxic plants. Consult with your pediatrician, local botanical garden, and children's hospital for a list of kid-friendly indoor plants.

Keep an ongoing list of all the plants you are growing. Include both common and botanical names for accurate identification. Research the care they need and their toxicity to your pets and youngsters in the home. If you suspect your pet or child has ingested a toxic plant, you'll have the proper plant name when contacting your veterinarian or poison control center.

Display any toxic plants out of the reach of curious kids and pets. This can be challenging if your cat or child is skilled at jumping and climbing. With so many beautiful houseplants, play it safe and avoid those that are toxic or too tempting.

Secure plants against accidental tipping by inquisitive pets and kids with mounting putty. A couple of pieces on the bottom of the pot will help reduce the risk of spilled plants and soil. Invest in pots with wider bases for floor plants or secure several pots together to reduce the risk of tipping.

Cover the soil surface to prevent children and pets from digging. Fiber mulch and plant pot grid covers create a barrier between the soil and those who like to dig.



Melinda Myers

Prayer plant (*Maranta leuconeura*) is a tropical plant with beautiful, unique foliage that's non-toxic to pets and people.

Once you narrow down the list, place your kid- and pet-friendly plants where they will receive the necessary amount of sunlight. An east- or west-facing window provides enough light for most indoor plants. Keep those that need brighter light within two feet of the window. Those that prefer lower light can be grown near a north-facing window or up to six feet back or off to the side of an east- or west-facing window.

water to dislodge pests like aphids and mites. Follow with an application of a lightweight horticulture oil like Summitâ Year-Roundâ Spray Oil. This organic spray controls

Tips for Painting Perfection!

Are the winter doldrums setting in? Why not perk up your space with a paint project? Since nothing transforms a space quicker or cheaper than paint, it's a natural choice for a mini makeover. Whether you're painting an entire room or a piece of furniture, the following ideas and techniques can help ensure paint perfection!



TAKE
THE
HINT
KAREN
TRAINOR

door and 15 square feet for each average-sized window in the room. The figure you end up with is a pretty close estimate of the actual wall area. Keep in mind, you can expect one gallon of paint to cover approximately 350 square feet.

Want to know the most efficient order of painting a room? Experts advise painting ceiling, walls, trim, cabinets, and doors.

Quick Tips
For a quick patch job on walls, simply use items on hand: Mix equal parts of starch and salt, with just enough water to make a thick paste. Apply and smooth over cracks or small holes.

When mixing up commercial plaster, you'll reduce lumps if you add the powdered plaster to the water instead of adding water to the plaster.

Sanding is a tedious chore. To reduce sanding on plastered walls, simply go over freshly applied joint compound with a wet paint brush for a smooth finish.

Ensure a smooth surface: Before painting over an old bureau or other piece of furniture, you can easily clean the finish by wiping it down with a lint free cloth dampened with straight turpentine. This method picks up any stray dust and helps smooth out the surface to prepare it for painting.

When painting new plaster, or other porous surface, paint on a solution of water mixed with PVA glue first. This seals the surface and stops the paint from soaking into the plaster, giving a better finish and making the paint go further!

When painting with a brush, always keep a wet edge as you paint, and work away from that wet edge. If you paint over a dry edge, you will get overlap marks.

Aerosol paint is a popular choice for revamping furniture and small accessories, but it can be frustrating when the paint does not dispel evenly. Here's a trick to ensure a finer and more even coat of paint: Simply place the can in warm water several minutes prior to spraying. The higher temperature helps the paint to flow out more easily, and smoothly.

Win a Three Course Dinner for Two at the Publick House

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



Do you have a helpful hint or handy tip that has worked for you? Do you have a question regarding household or garden matters? If so, why not share them with readers of Stonebridge Press newspapers? Send questions and/or hints to: Take the Hint!, C/o the Southbridge Evening News, PO Box 90; Southbridge, MA 01550. Or E-mail KDRR@aol.com. Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn.

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Mock Code team prepares for Scenario 2

CHARLTON — The Practical Nursing Class of 2025 Mock Code Team (MCT) under the guidance and leadership of Professors Cheryl Cahill, Jennifer DeFilippo, and Angela McGrath, are set to prepare and execute the Term 2 Mock Code Scenario.

Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy's MCT and Simulation Training improves response to code events. During cardiac arrests, the quick response of a code team requires cohesiveness, timely defibrillation, and clearly defined roles. It is important for members of the healthcare team to intuitively know their role as part of the response team especially during code situations when seconds count.

"We continue to believe in using simulation training to improve performance," said Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN Academy Director. "We are blessed to have the continued guidance, experience, and expertise of our PN faculty!" Bolandrina added.

The timely use of defibrillation and empowered, confident nurses result in a positive response to code events. According to the American Heart Association's Get With The Guidelines (GWTG) resuscitation program, time to first shock is one of four achievement metrics. The guidelines state that hospitalized patients exhibiting ventricular fibrillation or pulseless ventricular tachycardia should receive defibrillation within two minutes to improve outcomes.

In 2017, the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy MCT was formed to improve resuscitation skills and comfort levels for practical nursing students. The MCT meets for a full day of preparation, with members practicing as much as possible. On Mock Code Day, the MCT runs the code scenarios



Courtesy

Members of the 2025 MCT, from left: Delene Sarsfield of Charlton, Loise Ngigi of South Grafton, Jason Houatchanthara of Fiskdale, Grant Peterson of Millbury, Maria De Amorim Hentschke of Worcester, Chalinant Desrosiers of Oxford, Emily Bamberger of Wales, and Gorret Rusoke of Springfield.

tion, with members practicing as much as possible. On Mock Code Day, the MCT runs the code scenarios multiple times. The formation of the MCT increased mock code opportunities and participation three times in an academic year. Participation in mock codes increases the comfort level of practical nursing students. An effective code team is one that acts safely, and efficiently, and saves lives. The MCT aims to be proficient with skills and knowledge, effective with communication, and highly organized.

Participation in mock codes increases the comfort level of practical nursing students. An effective code team is one that acts safely, and efficiently, and saves lives. The MCT aims to be proficient with skills and knowledge, effective with communication, and highly organized.

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Walt Disney

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faith. That train ride wasn't just a change of scenery—it was a statement of hope.

Walt was choosing to believe in a future that hadn't been written yet, even when his circumstances told him otherwise. The rest is history.

Many things aren't fair and can cause a chain reaction of events that can take us far off course. Sometimes, we make bad choices and miss out on the life we want, but that doesn't mean it has to stay that way.

"All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them." – Walt Disney.

But what gives a person the courage to pursue their dreams? One factor is a positive vision of what's possible.

The problem isn't that people lack vision—it's that their vision of the future is often shaped by the failures and limitations of their past. In other words, they do have a vision—but it's a negative one.

One trait of a successful person is they don't allow themselves to be defined by their failures or their present unfavorable circumstances.

Instead, they define themselves by a positive vision of their future.

That seems odd when you think about it. They define themselves by something that hasn't even happened yet.

It's easy to look at a great person and assume they had everything handed to them or that somehow life was much easier on them than it was on you.

I have many fond memories of my parents taking me to Disney World. I've been on the rides, seen the movies, and heard about the man who built it all, Walt Disney. I've driven past the Disney skyscraper in Burbank, Calif., hundreds of times; I've auditioned at Walt Disney Studios dozens of times.

I often wonder how many potentially great people never accomplish their vision because they believe in their failures more than in their dreams. They accept what their present circumstances are telling them instead of what their future vision could create.

If Walt Disney had been one of those people, we'd have missed out on one of the most creative minds of the 20th century.

He wouldn't have created Mickey Mouse, one of the most beloved characters of all time. There'd be no Snow White, no Cinderella, no Fantasia—classics that redefined animation forever.

He wouldn't have built Disneyland, the first-ever theme park of its kind, or Epcot, a visionary concept of a utopian community.

The Disney legacy wouldn't have touched billions of lives through films, theme parks, and innovations that continue to inspire the generations.

Walt Disney refused to let his failures or limitations define his future, so he became one of the most influential people of all time.

Like all great people, he focused on what could be instead of what had been.

We have the same choice—focus on what could be and take the first step toward your vision.

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When surrounded by all that accomplishment, it's hard to imagine that Walt ever faced any hardship.

Most don't know that Walt Disney was fired from his job at the Kansas City Star after his newspaper editor told him that he didn't have enough imagination or creativity!

What if Walt Disney allowed himself to be defined by that moment, and for the next 20 years, he wandered from job to job, telling himself, "I'm not creative, I don't have a good enough imagination...."

Instead, imagine Walt in Kansas City after Laugh-O-Gram failed, sitting alone in his office, staring at empty walls. He had no money, no plan, and no clear way forward. Perhaps he wondered if his editor had been right all along—maybe he didn't have what it takes. It would've been so easy to give up then, to let the weight of failure convince him to settle for less.

But he didn't.

He sold his camera, scraped together enough for a one-way train ticket to Hollywood, and took a leap of

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OBITUARIES

Bruce Frieswick, 73

Whitinsville - Bruce Frieswick, 73, of Whitinsville, Massachusetts, passed away on January 9, 2025.

Born on November 22, 1951, Bruce was the son of Andrew and June Frieswick of Whitinsville. A lifelong resident of his beloved hometown, he built a life rooted in family, community, and service.

Bruce was a proud graduate of Blackstone Valley Tech and went on to earn his bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from Johnson & Wales University after attending Central New England College. He was a dedicated employee St. Vincent's Hospital, where he worked for over 40 years as a biomedical engineer technician.

In retirement, Bruce found joy in fishing both locally and at the Cape Cod Canal, as well as tending to his garden. He volunteered for several organizations in Northbridge and throughout Massachusetts, embodying the spirit of service that defined him.



Bruce is survived by his devoted wife of 47 years, Carol; his children Alana Kimball and her husband Jeffrey of Concord, NH; Robert Frieswick and his wife Rebekah of Sutton; and Jon Frieswick. He was a proud grandfather to three grandchildren: Caia Kimball, Paige Frieswick, and Owen Frieswick. He is also survived by two sisters,

Marilyn Adams and her husband Todd, and Jeanne Frieswick and her partner Charles Amereihn; as well as numerous aunts, an uncle, nieces, nephews, and great-nieces and nephews.

Bruce's legacy of kindness, dedication, and love will be cherished by all who knew him. May his memory bring comfort to those he leaves behind.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Wed., Jan. 29, 2025 at 11 AM in St. Patrick's Church, 1 Cross Street, Whitinsville.

Burial will follow in the parish cemetery. www.bumafuneralhome.com

Plummer Place

Home of the

Northbridge Senior Center

(508) 234-2002

VA Services Rep, Carl Bradshaw, will be at Plummer Place the second Thursday of every month to help you with questions or concerns regarding VA services. His office hour will be from 10-11:00am in the main dining room.

Our Women's Circle, Women on the Move, will meet Wednesday, February 5th at 9:30am. We will have a guest speaker for this meeting. New members are always welcome! Call Michelle or Amy for more information.

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 will meet at 2:00pm on the second Monday of each month. Our next meeting is Monday, February 10th. 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!



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LEGALS

A.C. 75A COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS The Trial Court Worcester. SS Probate Court

To all persons interested in the estate of Leo Morrisette late of Southbridge, in said County, deceased

A petition has been presented to said Court for authority to sell at private sale -public auction - certain real estate of said deceased and that the petitioner may become the purchaser of said real estate.

If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at Worcester before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the Eighteenth day of February 2025, the return day of this citation.

Witness, Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court, this Seventeenth day of January, 2025

Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
January 31, 2025

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 192 Maple Street, Douglas, MA 01516

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Kathleen Federico f/k/a Kathleen Gagliardi and Michael G. Federico to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for ARC Home LLC, and now held by **Freedom Mortgage Corporation**, said mortgage dated August 26, 2021 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 65951, Page 210, as affected by a Loan Modification dated July 7, 2023 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 69523, Page 264; said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Arc Home, LLC to Arc Home LLC by assignment dated August 5, 2024 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 70855, Page 170; said mortgage was assigned from Arc Home LLC to Freedom Mortgage Corporation by assignment dated August 28, 2024 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 71107, Page 388; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on February 21, 2025 at 01:00 PM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The land in the Town of Douglas, County of Worcester, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and more particularly bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at a point on the northerly side of Maple Street in said Town of Douglas, said point being the south-easterly corner of land now or formerly of Michael Millette, et ux;

Thence S. 20° 17' 00" E., 57.35 feet by a stone wall to a point; Thence S. 3° 08' 00" E., 89.02 feet to a point in said stone wall; Thence S. 20° 25' 00" E., 35.64 feet by said stone wall to a point

at other land of the grantors; Thence N. 20° 34' 40" E., 632.42 feet to a point; Thence S. 71° 00' 49" E., 100.00 feet to a point at land now or formerly of John Cosma; Thence N. 18° 59' 11" E., 574.60 feet to a point at land now or formerly of the Southern New England Railroad Co.; Thence N. 66° 54' 33" W., 42.37 feet to a point at land now or formerly of Michael Millette, et ux; Thence S. 33° 39' 53" W., 1,066.51 feet to the point of BEGINNING. Containing 3.15 acres, more or less, and being shown as Lot # 1 on a plan entitled "Land of Gordon L. Bliss et ux al., Douglas, Mass., March 26, 1981, Scale 1" = 100', John R. Andrews III, Land Surveyor," recorded with said Deeds in Plan Book 486, Plan 107. Being all and the same premises conveyed by deed recorded in Book 52980 Page 322.

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 16, 2014 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 52980, Page 322.

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 Freedom Mortgage Corporation
Present Holder of the Mortgage (401) 217-8701
January 24, 2025
January 31, 2025
February 7, 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. WO24P4300EA
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**
Estate Of:
**Francis E Brady, Jr.
Date of Death: October 27, 2024**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of :
Petitioner **Eugene M Brady of Northbridge MA**
Eugene M Brady of Northbridge MA has been informally appointed as Per-

sonal 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.
January 31, 2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO25P0169EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**
Estate Of:
**Douglas M Warren
Date of Death: 11/13/2024**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Virginia A Ethier of Millville 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:
Virginia A Ethier of Millville 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 02/18/2025.**

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: January 17, 2025
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
January 31, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. WO24P4305GD
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF
PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF
GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED
PERSON PURSUANT TO
G.L. c. 190B, §5-304
In the matter of:
Jeffrey Schiappucci
Of: Blackstone MA
RESPONDENT**

Alleged Incapacitated Person

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Department Of Developmental Serv of Worcester, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that Jeffrey Schiappucci is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Gayle Greene of Ashburnham, MA** (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority. **You have the right to object to this proceeding.** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **02/18/2025.** This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
January 17, 2025
Stephanie K. Fattman
January 31, 2025

Douglas Adult Social Center

(508) 476-2283
Hours of operation: Monday through Thursday 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m.-noon

DAILY ACTIVITIES: All our daily activities are free of charge.
Monday: Painting class 9:45 to 11:45, Balance & Strength Exercise 12pm, Mat Yoga 2pm
Tuesday: Walking club 9 am, Cribbage 9:30 am, Zumba 9:30 am, Lunch & Bingo 11:30am, Technology Class 1pm (call to make an appt.), Line Dancing 2 to 2:45pm (starting Jan. 7)
Wednesday: Balance & Strength 10am, Darts 11:30 am, MahJong 1pm, Dominoes 1 to 2:30pm
Thursday: Walking club 9am, Chair Yoga 9:30am, Pitch 9:30am, Hand and Foot card game 12:30pm
Friday: Balance & Strength 10am

FEBRUARY EVENTS:
The center will be closed on Monday February 17th.

- Wellness/ Blood pressure Clinic with Nurse Ann: Monday February 3rd & Tuesday February 18th from 10 am to 12 pm.
- Hearing aid cleaning w/ Darci on Thursday February 6th from 10:00 am to 11:00 am. Please call the center to schedule your appointment @ 508-476-2283.
- FREE Valentine Craft Thursday February 6th @ 11:30. All supplies included, refreshments will be served. Please call the center to sign up by 2/3,

@ 508-476-2283.
• Valentine's Day Celebration Thursday February 13th @ 12:00. A turkey luncheon with all the fixings will be served. The Counterfeit Cash Band will be performing the hits of Johnny Cash from 12:30-2:00 the entertainment for this event is being sponsored by

the Douglas Cultural Council. Please call the center to sign up by 2/6 @ 508-476-2283.
• Lunch & a Movie Thursday February 20th @ 11:30. We will be watching 53Blast. Lunch is tacos with all the fixings for \$4.00 per person. Please call the center to sign up by 2/14

@ 508-476-2283.
PLEASE CALL (508) 476-2283 TO SIGN UP FOR PROGRAMS & CLASSES
Check our website for events that may not be listed here
<https://www.douglas-ma.gov/202/AdultSocial-Center-Senior-Center>

Simon Fairfield Public Library

290 Main St., Douglas
(508) 476-2695

February 2025 Schedule
The Simon Fairfield Public Library's February 2025 Schedule. Please note that some events do require registration. If you have any questions regarding any events, please do not hesitate to contact the library at 508-476-2695 or email at us at douglas@cwmars.org.

Please note that we will be closed on Monday, February 17th in Observance of President's Day.

Children's Book Clubs (Registration Required)
Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 4 p.m.: Young Reader's (Grades K-2), "Letters from a Desperate Dog" by Eileen Christelow
Thurday, Feb. 13 at 4 p.m.: Book Wizards (Grades 5-7), "Wonder" by R.J. Palacio
Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 4 p.m.: Book Bunch (Grade 2-5), "A Boy Called BAT" by Elana Arnold

Winter Storytime (Registration Required)
Monday, Feb. 3 & 10 at 10 a.m.: Storytime
Tuesday, Feb. 4 & 11 at 10 a.m.: Storytime

Children's Programs
Tuesday, Feb. 4 & 18 at 11:30 a.m.: Music & Movement with Deb Hudgens
Wednesday, Feb. 5, 12, and 26, at 11:30 a.m.: "Young Scientist's" STEM Program Ages 3-6 (Registration Required)
Wednesday, Feb. 5 at 3:30 p.m.: Lego Club I (Registration Required)
Wednesday, Feb. 12 at 3:30 p.m.: Lego Club II (Registration Required)
Wednesday, Feb. 19 at 6 p.m.: Reading to Gabby (Registration Required)
Wednesday, Feb. 26 at 3:30 p.m.: Lego Club III (Registration Required)
Wednesday, Feb. 26 at 6 p.m.: Gross, Weird, Cool Science

Adult Book Clubs
Thursday, Feb. 6 at 6:30 p.m.: Greatest Book Club Ever; "Turtles All the Way Down" by John Green

Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 6:30 p.m.: Intrepid Readers, "Cry of the Kalahari" by Delia Owens
Tuesday, Feb. 18 at 6:30 p.m.: Sci Fi Book Club, "I, Robot" by Isaac Asimov
Monday, Feb. 24 at 6:30 p.m.: Plot Twisters Book Club, Book TBA
Thursday, Feb. 27 at 6:30 p.m.: Muggle Meetup: "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" by J.K. Rowling

Adult Programming
Tuesday, Feb. 4 at 5:30 p.m.: Sci Fi Film Club, Blade Runner 2049 (Patrons under the age of 17 must be accompanied by an adult)
Thursday, Feb. 13 & 27 at 5:45 p.m.: Fiber Arts Friends
Saturday, Feb. 15 at 10:30 a.m.: Douglas Homeschool Network
Tuesday, Feb. 18 at 6:30 p.m.: Short Cuts Film Club (Patrons under the age of 17 must be accompanied by an adult)
Thursday, Feb. 20 at noon: Get Help With Jenna Gouin



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Rides need to be made in advance!
Call the Senior Center to schedule your ride 508-865-9154

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SAM'S STEMS
Monday, February, 10th 1 P.M. - 3 P.M.
price is \$20
Call the center to sign up!

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February, 13th 10 -11 A.M.
Call or stop by the center to sign up 508-865-9154

THERAPY GARDENS
Chocolate Tasting
Thursday, February 6th 1 P.M. - 2 P.M.
RSVP 508-865-9154

BETTER BREATHERS CLUB
Tuesday, February 25th 10:30 A.M.
SENATOR MOORE'S OFFICE
Meet with a representative from Senator Moore's office!
Wednesday, February 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.
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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, February 24th 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!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR CONTINUED

Hey, neighbor

To the Editor:
The issue litters our streets, pollutes our parks and causes difficulty and hardship for its victims: homelessness.
In many ways, homelessness has touched almost all individuals' lives in one way or another but in the Worcester area homelessness could potentially be impacting a whole lot more people in the next coming years as "the population of unhoused people in Worcester grew nearly 20 percent from 2023-2024" (GBH,2024); this year marks the third that homelessness has been on the rise in the Worcester area. One of the main reasons that homeless populations are so high is because Worcester is one of the most difficult places to live due to its expensive housing and its "apartment vacancy rate[s] [which are] hovering in the low single digits" (Telegram & Gazette,2024). These challenges already make it difficult for the homeless to find housing yet another obstacle might present itself in the future after the 2024 June 28th Supreme Court case which ruled that "cities can ban people from sleeping and camping in public places"(NPR, 2024). This ruling, although mostly taking place in the west, is predicted to sweep its way across the country and could potentially affect the town of Worcester in the future. The rise of homelessness in Worcester and ruling of the Supreme Court need not be issues that go ignored (like the people in the homeless community so often are) and instead a call to action to provide affordable housing and oppose the Supreme Court's ruling in Massachusetts should be enacted in order that the homeless community may have a second chance at a better life.
The solution for diminishing the home-

SNAP APPLICATIONS (Food Stamps)
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University of New England announces fall Dean’s List

BIDDEFORD and PORTLAND, Maine — The following students have been named to the Dean's List for the 2024 fall semester at the University of New England:
Emma Brothers of Uxbridge
Samantha Billmyer of Whitinsville
Dean's List students have attained a grade point average of 3.3 or better out of a possible 4.0 at the end of the semester.
The University of New England is Maine's largest independent university, with two beautiful coastal campuses in Maine, a one-of-a-kind study-abroad

campus in Tangier, Morocco, and an array of flexible online offerings. In an uncommonly welcoming and supportive community, we offer hands-on learning, empowering students to make a positive impact in a world full of challenges. We are the state's top provider of health professionals and home to Maine's only medical and dental colleges, a variety of other interprofessionally aligned health care programs, and nationally recognized programs in the marine sciences, the natural and social sciences, business, the humanities, and the arts. Visit www.une.edu.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR CONTINUED

School cell phone policies aren’t cutting it

To the Editor:
As a resident of the Blackstone Valley and current high school student, current school cell policies are no longer cutting it. Students are spending more time on their phones than actually learning. While these devices can be powerful tools for learning and social interaction, more often than not cell phones can do more harm than good.
Coming out of the pandemic many schools such as those in the Blackstone Valley have been unable to grapple with students -most of whom still face setbacks from the pandemic- and their cell phone reliance. Locally, Northbridge High School has outlawed cell phone

use by students among schools across the nation. By placing such bans, students are able to more keenly focus on their studies without the distraction of their devices; however, nuances are still important to acknowledge.
All students live in an increasingly digital world with problems 'caused' by phones, such as bullying and social isolation, which have only transferred out of real life onto devices. Additionally, most administrators placing policies have not grown up or learned in a digital classroom where online resources are prioritized on platforms such as Google Classroom. Yet, as most of these students are learning to navigate

their device relationships, implementing school-wide cell phone bans is the most effective way to foster a healthy learning environment and to isolate students from distraction. Initially some students may struggle, but with clear rules and guidelines students and teachers will see better academic performances.
Julia Gibbons
Whitinsville

Northbridge needs a public park

To the Editor:
The town of Northbridge desperately needs a public park; it will be a terrific benefit to the community. The idea of a park was originally brought to the town's attention on Oct. 22, 2024, during a town meeting. In this meeting, the vote was struck down because it did not reach a two thirds majority vote. One can assume this was because of the tax increase that would come from trying to find the funds for this public works project. I would like to urge people to reconsider this decision, understand this from another perspective, and see the true value that a new public park would bring to the community.
The building that exists in place of this potential park is in disarray. The old elementary school is in total disrepair: there are broken windows and graffiti on the inside. The building has also become an unsafe place for the youth of the community.
However, a new public park would be an asset to youths in Northbridge and the surrounding towns, instead of an unsafe building, this park would give older kids the opportunity to safely connect with one another and enjoy the outdoors. This addition would also be quite a community-building event for the town. If the entire town could come together to complete this project, that alone would boost morale as well as instill some pride in our devoted community. Once the park is built, it could potentially become a meeting place for many of the groups that currently inhabit our town. Church youth groups, the community center, the town library, the senior center and so many other organizations in the Northbridge area would have a centralized place always available to them.
The plans for the park have already been created. All that remains is a “yes” vote from Northbridge citizens. With a “yes” vote, our town would become a more livable and thriving place. In a document labeled “Cross Street Park - The Concept”, there is a mock-up of what this park would look like, fitted with both 6 tennis/pickle ball courts and a brand new basketball court; the plans would also provide public restrooms and a playground for the younger people of this town.
Playgrounds are an important part of children's lives. While there are playgrounds available for the youth of our town, they are either not up to date with the standards, or they are part of a school. A new public park with recreational facilities for all ages would be a worthwhile investment similar to other large public works projects in the town, like the new football field, the new elementary school, and the new fire station. This park is a missing puzzle piece to the greater town of Northbridge, and I urge all town citizens to reconsider and get this important project off the ground.
Thank you for your consideration and blessings,
Joanna Graves
Whitinsville

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As temperatures drop, Cornerstone Bank is helping families stay safe and warm

WORCESTER — Temperatures are dropping and Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with locations throughout Central Massachusetts, wants to help make sure residents have the tools they need to get through the coldest months. Cornerstone is donating \$25,000 toward the Worcester Community Action

Council’s Emergency Fuel Fund. “We know the high price of fuel is making it difficult for families to stay warm as winter sets in,” said Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman. “That’s why we appreciate the Worcester Community Action Council’s work to make sure our neigh-

bors are taken care of.” The Emergency Fuel Fund helps homeowners and renters pay home heating bills and past due balances on utility bills incurred from November through April of each year. Income-eligible residents can apply for aid through the agency’s federally funded Low Income

Home Energy Assistance Program. “As a community bank, we are committed to supporting causes that improve the quality of life for those around us,” said Tallman. “We hope this donation helps offer some relief to residents facing challenges trying to safely get through the winter.”



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Bay Path UNICEF Club supports Philippine athlete

CHARLTON — The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy UNICEF Club 2025 through their elected officers supports Philippine Athlete, Cyrusjet Tedi Bueno of Quezon City, Philippines. Harnessing the uniting power of sports to bring focus to global citizenship, the practical nursing students and UNICEF Club officers believe in sports as a critical tool in teach-

ing kids about teamwork and inclusion, creating safe spaces, overall childhood development, and fostering community engagement. The UNICEF Club elected officers are Elizabeth Achayo of Worcester as chair, Tamara Lidonde of Spencer as co-chair, Delene Sarsfield of Charlton as secretary, Loise Ngigi of South Grafton as treasurer, and Rachel Anane

of Worcester as press relations officer. Achayo holds a college diploma in Human Services (career guiding and counseling, from Kenya). She is a support specialist with the Justice Resource Institute (Framingham, MA). Lidonde is a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) with experience working at Venture Community Services and CareOne Concord. She completed



her secondary education at Worcester Technical High School. Sarsfield is a CNA at CareOne at Millbury. She graduated from Holy Name Central Catholic Jr./Sr. High School in Worcester. Ngigi currently works for Venture Community Services (Sturbridge) as a direct support professional. She graduated from Moi Girls Kamangu High School in Kenya. She obtained her CNA training at 3Dimensions Health Services in 2017. Anane works as staff at Arbor (Southborough). Prior to coming to Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, she has taken courses at Framingham State University. The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy UNICEF Club was founded in 2016 and each year club officers lead members through various fundraising methods that serve to educate and raise awareness of relevant issues happening locally and globally. The UNICEF Club meets after school hours. Plans are underway for educational fundraising activities. Philippine swimmer Cyrusjet Tedi Bueno will be competing on the upcoming FOBISIA Swimming 2025 (<https://www.teemsglobal.com/fobisia-swimming-2025>), which will take place on Feb. 20 to 23 at Thanyapura, Phuket, Thailand. The 2025 FOBISIA swimming is hosted at the world-class Thanyapura Sports and Health Resort. This event will bring together talented swimmers from across Asia to compete, build camaraderie, and inspire the next generation of athletes. The event is all about the exciting opportunities to embrace the moment, form new friendships, and striving for personal bests. As a key part of the process, Bueno's participation is through generous supporters to help cover the costs of travel, accommodation, training, equipment, and cost of participation.

Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy welcomes new full time faculty

CHARLTON — The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is pleased to welcome newly appointed full-time faculty member. Melissa Zeien, BSN, RN, WCC of Charlton had been named full-time faculty. Professor Zeien assumed her role on Jan. 13. Professor Zeine is an experienced RN with a specialty in Wound Care. She completed her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (2016) at the Empire State College, State University of New York, and her Associate of Science in Nursing (2010) at Suffolk County Community College in Selden, N.Y. She became Wound Care Certified (2022) through the Wound Care Education Institute. Self-described as “calm, responsible, reliable, caring, hard-working, and physically fit individual with strong leadership skills and ethics,” Professor Zeien works well in a group setting or one on one. She is well versed in theory and in practice.



Courtesy

Melissa Zeien
She enjoys collaborating with individuals from all socioeconomic backgrounds. “We are excited to have Professor Zeien join the Practical Nursing Academy,” stated Gretheline Bolandrina DHA, MSN

Ed, RN, CRRN Academy Director. “She came to the Academy in opportunity time and brings with her expertise and experience that would greatly benefit the practical nursing students and our Bay Path community.”

Alexandra Weedon named to University of Mississippi Dean’s Honor Roll

UNIVERSITY, Miss. — Alexandra Weedon of Whitinsville was named to the University of Mississippi's Fall 2024 Honor Roll lists. Weedon, in the B.A. in Allied Health Studies program, was named to the Dean's Honor Roll, which is reserved for students who earn a semester GPA of 3.50-3.74. To be eligible for honor roll designation, a student must have completed at least 12 graded hours for the

semester and may not be on academic probation during the semester. The University of Mississippi, affectionately known as Ole Miss, is the state's flagship university. Included in the elite group of R1: Doctoral Universities - Highest Research Activity by the Carnegie Classification, it has a long history of producing leaders in public service, academics and business. Its 16 academ-

ic divisions include a major medical school, nationally recognized schools of accountancy, law and pharmacy, and an Honors College acclaimed for a blend of academic rigor, experiential learning and opportunities for community action. Recognized among the nation's most beautiful, Ole Miss' main campus is in Oxford, which is routinely acknowledged as one of the country's best college towns.

University of Rhode Island names area students to Dean’s List

KINGSTON, R.I. — The University of Rhode Island is pleased to announce that several area students have been named to its Fall 2024 Dean's List. Among them are:
Giovanni Biagioni of Northbridge
Olivia Frabotta of Northbridge
Avery Guillette of Uxbridge
Jillian Harper of Douglas
Oscar Hay of Whitinsville
Grant Houatchanthara of Whitinsville
Kayla Kamishlian of Northbridge
Rylie Loftus of Uxbridge
Mackenzie Malone of Whitinsville
Stephanie Massey of Whitinsville
Shelby Montville of Uxbridge
Erika Our of Douglas
Mia Pellegrino of Northbridge
Ella Pezzullo of Uxbridge
Caitlin Porcelli of

Northbridge
Meghan Roeder of Uxbridge
Payson Roy of Uxbridge
Kevin Sawyer of Whitinsville
Lincoln Schiller of Uxbridge
Isabelle Washington of Whitinsville
Kailyn Washington of Whitinsville
To be included on the Dean's List, full-time students must have completed 12 or more credits for letter grades which are GPA applicable during a semester and achieved at least a 3.30 quality point average. Part-time students qualify with the accumulation of 12 or more credits for letter grades which are GPA applicable earning at least a 3.30 quality point average. Students named to the Dean's List represent nearly all of Rhode Island's cities and towns, all six New England states, New York and New Jersey, and many other

states and countries. **About the University of Rhode Island**
The University of Rhode Island is a diverse and dynamic community whose members are connected by a common quest for knowledge. As a global education leader and the state of Rhode Island's flagship public research institution, URI offers distinctive opportunities designed to meet the global challenges of today's world and the rapidly evolving needs of tomorrow. Founded in 1892, URI now enrolls more than 18,000 students and offers more than 200 degree programs across nine schools and colleges. As a land- and sea-grant institution, URI is a key driver of economic development in Rhode Island and contributes significantly to the health and vitality of the state, the New England region, and the nation. To learn more, visit: uri.edu.

Lindsey Labossiere of Uxbridge named to Provost’s List at Hofstra University

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — Lindsey Labossiere of Uxbridge achieved a perfect 4.0 GPA during the fall 2024 semester, earning a spot on the Provost's List at Hofstra University. Lindsey's major is Criminology.

Hofstra University's primary mission is to provide a quality education to its students in an environment that encourages, nurtures, and supports learning. At Hofstra, new ideas take shape through collabo-

ration, engagement, and interaction. Hofstra students create their success with small classes and dedicated faculty, alongside a beautiful campus, plus all the opportunities of New York City within easy reach.



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maxwelllucianos.com

Storm Date: Sunday February 16th