

STURBRIDGE VILLAGER

Free by request to residents of Sturbridge, Brimfield, Holland and Wales

SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO NEWS@STONEBRIDGEPRESS.NEWS

Thursday-Friday, May 2-3, 2024



Opacum honors conservation volunteers

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

REGION — Opacum Land Trust highlighted its last year and previewed ongoing projects last weekend at its annual breakfast, this time at Pathfinder Tech in Palmer.

In the process, two Southbridge residents played key roles for the same project. Jeff Hehman received the Friend of Conservation Award for his work on the \$500,000 urban tree planting project that Steve Brady is serving as arborist for.

Brady said the years-long effort, which formally has to end this September, aimed to reduce the “heat island” effect in low-income and environmental justice areas of Southbridge and Ware. It originally began with a 1,000-tree goal, but various issues including Covid prompted Opacum and the US Forest Service to scale it back to 650 trees per town. At present, Southbridge has received 427 trees, and “we’re always looking to plant more trees,” Brady said.

Opacum President Leslie Duthie described Hehman as “an immensely important part” of that program, “especially in convincing people they want a tree in their yard. I never thought that’d be so hard.”

Hehman, also an arborist who retired recently, said “I still find great joy in talking about trees.” He noted he and Brady recently visited Southbridge elementary schools to talk and distribute dawn redwoods, a species that was thought extinct a few decades ago. He noted even the first graders knew what “extinct” meant, and was glad young people are more ecologically aware today.

Brady noted tree planting won’t stop in September. As that project ends, one to create a community arborum and catalog public trees is just beginning. Also, USFS grant funded (this time \$1 million), it aims to tag trees along Main Street, other streets, cemetery

Turn To **CHEER** page A12

Turn To **OPACUM** page A9

Southbridge Middle/High School Cheer team wins national competition

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Public Schools varsity cheerleading team

won first place in its division and an overall spirit award at a national cheer competition last Saturday.

Southbridge achieved a perfect routine, taking first place in the advanced coed all-music

category at the Eastern Cheer Hershey National Competition on

Saturday, April 20, 2024.

“The kids really stood up to the pressure. They didn’t let it hold them back, and they gave it their all,” said cheer coach Brianaliz Colon, who has coached the team since 2016.

Coach Colon, a Southbridge Public Schools alumna, said the school last competed in a

national cheer championship in 1984. This year’s team won the MSAA regional championship before taking third at the state championship at Worcester State

University in March, where the team qualified for the national competition.

Southbridge also won the “Show Your Spirit” award, for the

Paint stewardship advocate seeks support from Charlton

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — The Charlton Board of Selectmen has been approached with an offer to support a growing movement in the Commonwealth concerning product stewardships to resolve the state’s solid waste crisis.

Thomas Erwin, a member of the Dalton Waste Management and Recycling Committee and an advocate for such stewardships, met with the Charlton Board of Selectmen on April 23, providing a call to action during the board’s public comment segment. His request was for Charlton to consider issuing a resolution in support of a paint stewardship, a partnership that would allow retailers to take back paint cans for the products to be reused. Erwin presented the opportunity as a chance to allow townsfolk a way to dispose of a product that is otherwise complicated to throw away without the benefit of a hazardous waste day.

“After a careful study of ways to address this issue, paint stewardship seemed like the perfect first step and after confirming it was working well in the eyes of consumers and retailers in Vermont, New York, and Connecticut I became an advocate for this in the state. The need for paint stewardship is to begin addressing the Massachusetts odd waste problem. This is a problem that results from 6 million tons of waste being generated annually and only having 3.2 million tons of incineration capacity. The remaining 2.8 million tons of waste have to be landfilled and hauled out of state to places as far away as Ohio, which is an ever-increasing cost and has an extremely large carbon footprint. Primax Stewardship is an approach to begin reducing this burden that is endorsed by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

Turn To **CHARLTON** page A12

Council splits on development grant proposals

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE — The council gave three large “One Stop for Growth” grant proposals a split decision last week, voting to approve submitting an “expression of interest” for one, tabling one, and rejecting the third. In all cases, they aren’t actually applying for money yet, but seeking state advice on

whether the projects might qualify and for which of several grant programs.

The one they “tabled indefinitely” aims to obtain an extra \$2 million to extend the River/Crane road project to Pleasant Street. At present, because it uses Community Development Block Grant money, that project has to stop at the edge of the census tract,

Turn To **SOUTHBRIDGE** page A12



Courtesy

ELM STREET CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH DISTRIBUTES MEALS ON WHEELS

The Tri-Valley nutrition program has been providing meals for older adults since 1976, through our Meals on Wheels program and at dining centers and lunch clubs within the 25-town territory served by the agency. Meals are delivered to consumers’ homes Monday through Friday and include medically tailored options for those with conditions requiring a special diet. The meals are for adults 60 and older who meet program eligibility and a per-meal donation is requested to offset the rising costs of providing this vital service. In Southbridge, meals are distributed from the Elm Street Congregational Church. The church generously offered a home for our meal site when we were forced to relocate, and they have given us a warm welcome and the ability to provide uninterrupted service to our consumers. The majority of the more than 130 meals served each day are delivered to consumers in Southbridge, with some also delivered to Sturbridge and Charlton residents. When we deliver to a home, it is a good way of doing a wellness check. Some consumers also like to see one of our delivery persons come to the door. Just that little bit of time will brighten up someone’s day. To learn more about Meals on Wheels or the other services provided by TriValley, please visit <http://www.trivalleyinc.org> or call 1-800-2860-6640.

Please complete and mail the card in today’s paper

\$1.2 million award from Congress to boost Center of Hope Foundation's Hope Grows Here campaign

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Center of Hope Foundation, Inc., a leading organization dedicated to improving the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (ID/DD) and autism, is thrilled to announce a significant advancement in its mission. Congress has allocated a generous \$1.2 million to the agency's Hope Grows Here Capital Campaign, a transformative initiative aimed at enhancing and expanding the agency's facilities and programs. This funding, secured through proposals submitted to Federal Legislators, Sen. Markey, Sen. Warren, and Congressman Neal, marks a pivotal step in the agency's journey toward modernizing its services and infrastructure.

"The Center of Hope Foundation is a beacon for individuals with disabilities and the families and caretakers who love and support them. These funds, secured in partnership with Senator Warren, will make it possible for even more of these amazing individuals to be served in an upgraded and modern setting with expanded programming," said Senator Markey.

The Center of Hope Foundation has long been at the forefront of advocating for and providing support to individu-

als with ID/DD. This congressional funding, which is part of a Congressionally Directed Spending Request, will empower the agency to further improve the security and quality of the environments it offers. The Hope Grows Here Capital Campaign is a strategic effort to modernize the agency's facilities and programs, enabling it to serve more individuals effectively and with the latest advancements in care and support.

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Steering Committee members Randy Becker, Alan Peppel, Nick Smith, Casey Cormier, Chris McClure, Jennifer Herrmann, Paulette Pratico and Judy Laroche, the Hope Grows Here Campaign has now successfully raised \$1.9 million, achieving 73 percent of its fundraising goal. This milestone has been reached with significant contributions from Congress and the benev-

olence of other donors, including the Herman Becker Family Charitable Foundation, Affinity Group, The Kraft Foundation, Hyde Charitable Foundation, Fels Family Foundation, Southbridge Credit Union, Cornerstone Bank and Lamoureux Ford among many others whose generosity has been instrumental in advancing the campaign's objectives.

The Center of Hope Foundation extends its heartfelt gratitude to Congress and all the supporters who have joined in this endeavor. This earmarked funding and collective support mark a new chapter in the agency's mission, enabling it to enhance its facilities and programs dramatically. By doing so, the agency is set to offer new opportunities that will significantly impact the lives of individuals with disabilities, enriching their experiences and providing them with the means

to thrive.

The Hope Grows Here Capital Campaign continues to welcome support from all who wish to contribute to this noble cause. Together, with the continued generosity and backing of the community and partners, the Center of Hope Foundation looks forward to achieving its goal and fostering a more inclusive and empowering environment for all.

Escape the two-party trap at GRP convention

WORCESTER — Nothing is more crucial than peace today, but our major political parties are running away from it.

Not the Massachusetts Green-Rainbow Party! Here, peace, people and planet are always the priority. But to make them happen, we need you.

Help America escape the two-party trap of war and Wall Street at this year's GRP convention, Saturday, May 11 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at 1st Unitarian Church, 90 Main St., Worcester.

We'll have a great lineup of speakers: Hy Thurman on his experience forming the original Rainbow Coalition; Timmon Wallis and Vicki Elson on their work to prevent nuclear war;

and Jason Tait of OCPF on political finance law.

Beyond them are the internal party business: a panel on attracting young and diverse members, electing party leaders for the year via ranked choice voting, details on our petition effort to get Jill Stein on the ballot, and more. A little lighter fare will top off the day with good food, good music from Jack Swindlehurst and some cool stuff in the silent auction.

Come down, meet fellow Greens, and have some fun sticking it to the powers that be! Non-Greens with similar interests are always welcome.

For more information and to register, see www.green-rainbow.org.

The Town of North Brookfield Highway Department is hiring for a full-time position

Applications available at the Highway Garage

58 School St., North Brookfield

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Spiro Thomo
Broker
Licensed 35+ years
508.765.0465
774.200.8043

BRIMFIELD

None
CHARLTON

\$140,000, Hiland Rd #2, Burlingame, Douglas, to Hansen, Christopher R, and Hansen, Krystal L.

\$140,000, Hiland Rd #3, Burlingame, Douglas, to Hansen, Christopher R, and Hansen, Krystal L.

\$140,000, Hiland Rd #4, Burlingame, Douglas, to Hansen, Christopher R, and Hansen, Krystal L.

\$140,000, Hiland Rd #5, Burlingame, Douglas, to Hansen, Christopher R, and Hansen, Krystal L.

\$135,000, E Baylies Rd #1, Meagher, Katherine G, to J Dubois Contracting LLC.

HOLLAND

None

SOUTHBRIDGE

\$289,900, 434 Worcester St, Suarez, Ashley M, and Suarez, Adrian, to Steeves, Ryan, and Ullstrom, Emma.

\$279,900, 535 Charlton St, Hohn, Paul C, and Hohn, Leonina B, to Montigny, Michael G.

\$183,000, 5 Apollo Dr, Drake Jr, Dennis, and U S Bank Na Tr, to Daou Inc.

\$169,900, 535 Charlton St, Augusto, Fernando S, and Augusto, Elizabeth A, to Hohn, Paul C.

\$26,000, Vinton St, McMahon, Patricia A, and Svedberg, Catherine R, to Mcmanus, Patrick, and Mcmanus, Patricia A.

STURBRIDGE

\$1,250,000, 25 Library Ln, Antanavica 2012 Rt, and Antanavica, Michael P, to Kantar, Alp, and Erdogan, Burak.

\$338,000, 3 Gedeon Ave, Carling, Melissa A, and Midfirst Bank, to Holdcraft, John.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 273 SPRING YARD SALE

Saturday, May 25th

Universal Tag Parking Lot, 36 Hall Road, Dudley
Early Birds (8am to 9am) \$10.00 per person fee
9am until 3pm FREE We accept CREDIT CARDS!
24,000 sq.ft. of yard sale items ONE DAY ONLY
Pick your items and Make an offer!

Grouped Items: Electronics - stereos, etc. (no TV's) **Tools** - hand tools, lights, flooring, etc. **Furniture** - Tables, chairs, bed frames, cabinets, hutches, etc. **Housewares** - glassware, dishes, pictures, mirrors, bowls, cups, small appliances **Sporting goods** - Bikes, skis, baseball equipment, golf, exercise equipment **Clothes** - shirts, pants, jackets, shoes, bags **Kids toys and baby items** - high chairs, bouncy, games, Antiques





Destiny
Age 11

Hi! My name is Destiny and I love art and music!

Destiny is a charming, compassionate, and creative girl. She is described as very sociable and enjoys making new friends. Destiny takes pride in being an older sister and loves caring for others. Her creative side has inspired a love of art and music, which includes dancing and coloring. Destiny has developed a new interest in reading and enjoys reading to others. Her favorite sport is basketball which she plays with her friends, and she wants play for a team in the future. Destiny also enjoys hanging with friends whether she is going shopping, going to trampoline parks, or making TikTok videos. She also loves dogs.

<https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/8937>

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

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

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

VILLAGER ALMANAC

OPEN TO CLOSE

SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN HALL
Monday-Wednesday:
8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Thursday: 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
Friday: 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

JACOB EDWARDS PUBLIC LIBRARY
Monday: 9 a.m.-8 p.m.
Tuesday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Wednesday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Thursday: 9 a.m.-8 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (May 25 will be our last open Saturday until Labor Day) Sunday: Closed

CHARLTON TOWN HALL (508) 248-2200
Office Hours:
Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays
..... 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Tuesdays..... 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Friday..... Closed
visit www.townofcharlton.net
or more information.

Individual offices may vary
PUBLIC LIBRARY (248-0452)
For library hours please check www.charltonlibrary.org
POLICE DEPARTMENT (248-2250)
Monday to Friday..... 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
For emergencies, dial 911

FIRE DEPARTMENT (248-2299)
Monday to Friday..... 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

POST OFFICES
Charlton Center Post Office... (800) 275-8777
Charlton City (01508) (800) 275-8777

SCHOOLS
Dudley-Charlton Regional School District
..... (508) 943-6888
Charlton Elementary School
..... (508) 248-7774 or (508) 248-7435
Heritage School (508) 248-4884
Charlton Middle School..... (508) 248-1423
Shepherd Hill Regional High School
..... (508) 943-6700
Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical
High School (508) 248-5971 or (508) 987-0326

HOLLAND: 413-245-7108
Mon - Thurs 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

FISKDALE: 508-347-6486
Weekdays 9:00-4:30 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00

STURBRIDGE 508-347-6463
Weekdays 8:30 - 5:00 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00

BRIMFIELD: 413-245-3451
Weekdays: 9:00 - 4:30 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00

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

CHURCH LISTINGS

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





Jason Bleau

A popular feature of the benefit was an hour-long intense workout session with a room full of participants pushing themselves to the limit.



Jason Bleau

A massive raffle filled with donated goods from local supporters and businesses served as the centerpiece of the fundraiser to help the Congdon family.



Jason Bleau

The face painting booth was quite a popular part of the day with a line of children waiting for their turn.



Jason Bleau

A balloon artist goes to work on a hat for a young visitor.



Jason Bleau

Handmade signs showing support for AJ Congdon lined the fences surrounding the Shepherd Hill Regional High School athletics fields.



Jason Bleau

Shepherd Hill athletes helped encourage local visitors to take part in athletics, one of AJ Congdon's passions. Here an athlete teaches kids about the sport of volleyball.

Fundraiser supports Congdon Family



Jason Bleau

AJ Congdon and his family pose for a photo as they meet with guests at a benefit to help them with AJ's medical expenses.



Jason Bleau

Probably the most popular treat of the day was cotton candy, which came in many flavors and was enjoyed by nearly every young visitor to the event.



Jason Bleau

Young guests try their hand at free-throws in Shepherd Hill Regional High School's gymnasium.

PROPERTIES FOR RENT
 Prince Edward Island, Canada
 Summer/Fall Weekly Cottage Rental
 2-bedroom newly constructed oceanfront cottage that sleeps 8. Sweeping views of the pond, ocean and lighthouse. Enjoy kayaking, bicycling and beach walking.
 \$900/wk. Contact Scott at 603-254-5032 or scottm@plymouth.edu

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DUDLEY/CHARLTON — Supporters of AJ Congdon, a student of Dudley Elementary School who has been diagnosed with a brain tumor, came together for a day of fun, family, and community on April 27 with the proceeds helping pay for AJ's treatment. Building off of AJ's love of athletics, the event featured a variety of activities including sports demonstrations, a basketball free-throw, and an hour-long workout while also featuring more conventional fundraising activities including a massive raffle filled with donations from local businesses and supporters. Every penny from the event will help support the Congdons as they pursue treatment of AJ's condition. Supporters have also set up a GoFundMe page called AJ Congdon Strong which, as of this writing, was nearing \$80,000 of its \$85,000 goal.

Hometown Mortgage to host free homebuyer seminar

WORCESTER — Hometown Mortgage, bankHometown's mortgage division, is hosting a free homebuyer seminar on May 1 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at bankHometown's Worcester office, 270 Grove St., Worcester.

Join our experienced lending professional Francisco Valdes (NMLS# 1622231) in partnership with Brian Carpenter, broker and owner of 1 Worcester Homes. Whether you're a first-time homebuyer or looking to upgrade, our experts will guide you through the process from start to finish. Learn about home loans, down payments, credit scores, and more. Get your questions answered and gain valuable insights to make your homebuying journey a smooth one.

This is a free event, but space is limited. To register, visit www.HFGmortgage.com/HomebuyerSeminar.

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CHARLTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

40 Main St.
(508) 248-2219

Visit our Web site (charltonlibrary.org) for a full listing of programs and events or to register.

Movies @ The Library

All showings are on Tuesdays at 1:00 ONLY in Dexter Hall. No registration required. Free popcorn!

May 7: LION. 2016. PG13. 1 hr 58 min. A five-year-old Indian boy is adopted by an Australian couple after getting lost hundreds of kilometers from home. 25 years later, he sets out to find his lost family.

May 14: CRAZY RICH ASIANS. 2018. PG13. 2 hrs. This contemporary romantic comedy, based on a global bestseller, follows native New Yorker Rachel Chu to Singapore to meet her boyfriend's family.

May 21: THE BIG SICK. 2017. R. 2 hrs. Pakistan-born comedian Kumail Nanjiani and grad student Emily Gardner fall in love but struggle as their cultures clash. When Emily contracts a mysterious illness, Kumail finds himself forced to face her feisty parents, his family's expectations, and his true feelings.

May 28: THE JOY LUCK CLUB. 1993. R. 2 hrs 19 min. The life histories of four East Asian women and their daughters reflect and guide each other.

Silver Needles Knit & Crochet Group
Thursdays from 1:00-

3:00 - Upstairs Reading Room - No registration required

Bring your current project and relax with friends. All are welcome regardless of skill level.

Genealogy Group Meeting

Thursday, May 2, 6:00-7:30 - Community Meeting Room - No registration required

The Charlton Library Genealogy Group meets monthly on the first Thursday of the month from 6:00-7:30 in the Community Meeting Room. Meetings alternate between general discussion topics and guest presenters. Tonight will be a general discussion.

Sourdough Starter Workshop with Sourdough Brandon

Saturday, May 4, 10:00-11:30 - Dexter Hall - Registration required

Learn how to make, maintain, and store a sourdough starter from sourdough baker and food blogger Sourdough Brandon. You'll leave with many tips and tricks on how to keep your sourdough starter active, what to make with your starter, and even leave with some free sourdough starter!

CPL Book Discussion - THE PERSONAL LIBRARIAN by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray

Thursday, May 9, 6:00-7:00 - Community Meeting Room and via Zoom - No registration

Books are available for checkout at the adult circulation desk one month prior to discussion.

Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88235025038>

Community Yoga
Saturday, May 11, 9:45-10:45 - Maynard Field (weather permitting) or Dexter Hall

All ages and levels are welcome. Wear comfortable clothing and please bring your own yoga mat. Registration is required.

Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group

Thursday, May 16, 6:00-7:30 - Community Meeting Room - No registration required

Led by experienced caregivers and offers information, resources, and strategies specific to caring for someone with Alzheimer's and other Dementias along with support for transitioning to different care settings. No registration. Co-sponsored by Tri-Valley and Charlton Public Library.

Bees and Beekeeping

Saturday, May 18, 10:00-11:00 - Dexter Hall - No registration

Join John Hedly, local beekeeper and member of Worcester County Beekeepers Association, to learn the basics of beekeeping. Topics to include: Starting a beehive; The physical structure of a beehive; The bee colony and its organization; Bee chores in and out of a hive; Collecting honey; The importance of pollination. This program is free and open to all ages. No registration is required.

SARJ (Saturday Acoustic Roots Jam)

Saturday, May 18, 12:00 - 1:30 - Community Meeting Room - No registration required
An acoustic only

music jam. Open to all 18+. Join us to play or just to listen!!

CULE (Charlton Ukulele League & Ensemble)

Thursday, May 23, 6:00-7:30 - Community Meeting Room - No registration required

Experienced musicians and newbies all welcome. Questions? Email Cule5632@gmail.com

Critical Thinking Discussion Group - Medea by Euripides

Friday, May 24, 1:00-2:00 - Sibley Reading Area (Main Floor) - No registration required

No experience with critical thinking discussion groups is necessary. Books/materials are available for checkout one month prior to discussion. Questions? Email saga3@charter.net

Motown Hits and History Concert Performance

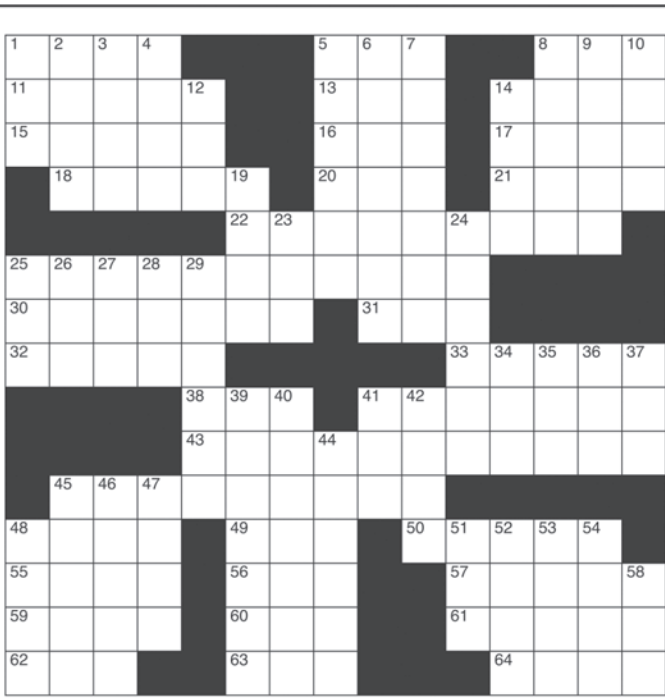
Thursday, May 30, 6:30-7:30 - Dexter Hall - No registration

In this one hour concert, Melodious Zach will perform Motown favorites, and entertain you with Motown trivia. Featuring songs from artists such as: Smokey Robinson, Stevie Wonder, Jackson 5, Four Tops, and many more. Zach will also discuss the cultural significance of Motown and how it changed over the years. He will also touch on Motown's relaunch in 2011. This concert is free and open to all. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Charlton Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.



Courtesy

Elm Street Congregational Church has several events coming up and wish to invite all to participate. The church is on the corner of 61 Elm Street and Park Street. May 12- Mother's Day Service-10 a.m. Carnations will be presented to all women/mothers. May 19- Pentecost front lawn service, 10 a.m., 61 Elm St. lawn. Lou-Ellen Corkum to preach. Bring a chair. June 23- Town Common worship service, 10 a.m. Bring a chair and join us at the Town Gazebo.

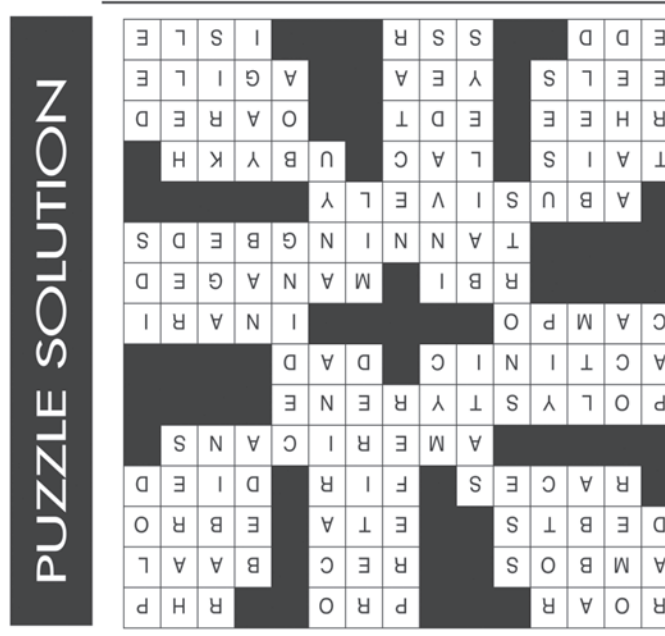


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Lions do it
- 5. In favor of
- 8. Rest here please (abbr.)
- 11. Pulpits
- 13. Leisure activity
- 14. Fertility god
- 15. Financial obligations
- 16. When you anticipate getting somewhere
- 17. Spanish river
- 18. Sporting events
- 20. Type of tree
- 21. Ceased to be
- 22. Persons
- 25. Synthetic resin
- 30. Relates to photochemical reactions
- 31. Father
- 32. Former Cowboys coach
- 33. City in Finland
- 38. Run batted in
- 41. Got through
- 43. They darken skin
- 45. In a harmful way
- 48. Form of weaving
- 49. City of Angels hoopster
- 50. Caucasian language
- 55. Syngman __, Korean president
- 56. Sun up in New York
- 57. Paddled
- 59. Fishes
- 60. Affirmative
- 61. Nimble
- 62. Doctor of Education
- 63. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 64. A small island

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Cool!
- 2. Hebrew unit of measure
- 3. Swedish rock group
- 4. College army
- 5. Favor over another
- 6. Called it a career
- 7. Egg-shaped wind instrument
- 8. Israeli statesman
- 9. Hurries
- 10. Slog
- 12. Midway between south and southeast
- 14. Benedictine monk
- 19. Self-immolation by fire ritual
- 23. Family of regulator genes
- 24. Surrendering
- 25. Political action committee
- 26. S. American plant
- 27. Long-term memory
- 28. Bark
- 29. Breathes in
- 34. Take hold of
- 35. Everyone has one
- 36. Valentine's Day color
- 37. Drivers' licenses and passports
- 39. Outer walls of castles
- 40. Enters with force
- 41. One thousandth of an inch
- 42. Deceased Chinese politician
- 44. Sugary secretion of plants
- 45. Expressed pleasure
- 46. Shelter
- 47. Utilizes
- 48. Forest resident
- 51. Fashion accessory
- 52. A sharply directional antenna
- 53. __ Kristofferson, actor
- 54. A bad place to end up
- 58. MLBer Gordon



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FOR KIDS - Friday, May 10 at 2:00pm - DIY GARDEN MOSAICS. For ages 8-12 with an adult caregiver. Registration is required. Sponsored by the Friends of the JHPL.

FOR KIDS - Thursday, May 23 at 6:00pm - LEGO CLUB. For ages 5-12 with an adult caregiver. Registration is required. Sponsored by the Friends of the JHPL.

Tuesday, May 7 at 1:00pm - AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP ~ Exploring the Importance of Place - This month's book is "Maine" by J. Courtney Sullivan. Sponsored by the Friends of the JHPL. Registration is not required.

Wednesday, May 15 at 6:30pm - ARMCHAIR TRAVELERS BOOK GROUP ~ Challenging Boundaries - This month's book is "Lessons in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus. Registration is not required. Sponsored by the Friends of the JHPL.

Tuesday, May 28 at 6:30pm - WORLD BUILDING BOOK GROUP ~ a book group for lovers of science fiction and fantasy - This month's book is "Light from Uncommon Stars" by Ryka Aoki. Registration is not required. Sponsored by the Friends of the JHPL.

FOR AGES 5+ - Saturday, May 4 from 10:30am to 11:30am - EXPLORE WOOL PROCESSING - Join OSV AmeriCorps members to explore wool processing! Spring was the time when people began the process of shearing their sheep and turning that wool into something useful. Come explore the different steps of the process and dye some yarn to take home. For ages 5+.

FOR TEENS & ADULTS - Saturday, May 18 from 1:00pm to 2:30pm - LEARN TO KEEP A SKETCHBOOK. Join Joan Ellis as she teaches you how to keep a sketchbook and observe the world around you. Her practice includes drawing, painting, and found objects to create lasting memories! Paper and pencils will be supplied. Registration is required. Sponsored by the Friends of the JHPL.

FOR TEENS & ADULTS - Monday, May 20 at 7:00pm - VIRTUAL - CELEBRATING MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH with romance author Camilla Eversgreen. "How to Find Love When You're Weird" makes it clear that people on the spectrum, (in fact, ALL people) are worthy of love and a HEA (happily ever after). This program is in conjunction with the Ashland Public Library. Registration is required.

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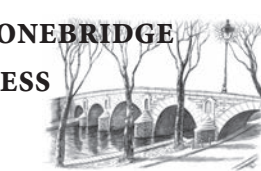
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“Vision for Southbridge” program addresses student eye care

SOUTHBRIDGE — A \$55,000 grant from The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts is enabling Southbridge Public Schools to partner with 20/20 Onsite in providing vision services at Southbridge Public Schools.

The “Vision for Southbridge” program offers students comprehensive eye examinations and corrective eyewear at no cost. This collaboration ensures that every student can access complimentary, high-quality eye exams and glasses.

Vision exams take place at the Mobile Vision Clinic, a fully-equipped optometry vehicle parked outside the school, or the Mobile Vision Suite, an optometry office set up inside the school. 20/20 On-

site optometrists and vision specialists conduct pre-testing that includes capturing a high-definition image of the retina and an eye pressure test for glaucoma detection.

Then, students receive an eye exam using fully-digital, top-of-the-line equipment.

“I am very grateful to the Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts and 20/20 Onsite for bringing this powerful program to the students enrolled in Southbridge Public Schools. Providing quality vision care and eyeglasses to students is an important part of ensuring all children have access to a high-quality education,” said Southbridge Public Schools Receiver/Superintendent Dr. Jeffrey A. Villar.

“We are proud to support this project with Southbridge Public Schools and 20/20 Onsite in bringing much-needed vision services to students in an area where access to comprehensive eye examinations, vision care, and prescription eyeglasses is challenging for many families,” said Dr. Amie Shei, President and CEO of The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts. “We anticipate that this initiative will help create a pathway to longer-term sustainability, ensuring that Southbridge students have access to vision services not only now but also in the future.”

“We are immensely proud to expand our school-based program and provide essential

eye care services to students in need in Southbridge,” said Sonali Bloom, CEO of 20/20 Onsite.

About The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts is dedicated to improving the health of those who live or work in Central Massachusetts, with particular emphasis on vulnerable populations and unmet needs. Through its unique and impactful approach to grantmaking, The Health Foundation supports community-identified health issues, broadly defining health to include social determinants of health and focusing on promoting health equity.

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Ruth Wells Center to host photography workshop

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Ruth Wells Center for the Arts, located at 111 Main St. in Southbridge, is honored to host a photography workshop, “Our Perceptions,” led by Arthur Furtado and Helen Boyle on Saturday, May 4 from 9-11 a.m.

The first hour of this workshop will be dedicated to detailing the process and general techniques of creating professional images with digital equipment. The second hour will cover the “eye” of the photographer and how to explore methods of creating images in a unique way.

This workshop is free to Ruth Wells for the Arts members, and is \$15 for non-members. Membership sign up button is on the Web site, ruthwellscenter.com.

All attendees should contact Arthur Furtado (afurtadoart@verizon.net) to register. For more information, call the Center at 508 764 3341.

The month of May will feature the photos of Arthur Furtado and Helen Boyle on display in the Ruth Wells Center galleries. Gallery hours are Saturday and Sunday, noon to 4pm. The opening reception is Saturday, May 11 from noon to 4 p.m. Light refreshments will be served as visitors will have the opportunity to view the fine art on exhibit. The gallery show is free and open to the public.

The Ruth Wells Center for the Arts was established in 1977 as the Quinebaug Valley Council for the Arts and Humanities and has continued to offer art and culture to the community. For more information, go to the website, ruthwellscenter.com or the facebook page. May is an exciting month with the photography workshop May 4, the opening reception May 11, the community tag sale on the lawn, May 11 and the gallery exhibit throughout the month.

Ecumenical Fellowship Community to host National Day of Prayer event

STURBRIDGE — The community is invited to join the Ecumenical Fellowship Community for a special event to celebrate the 73rd Annual National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 2 on the Southbridge Common, according to the Reverend David W. Cote, pastor of the Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale.

The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, inviting people of all faiths to pray for the Nation. It was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of the United States Congress, and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman.

The Ecumenical Fellowship Community is an organization that includes churches of all denominations in Southbridge, Sturbridge, Charlton, and

Brimfield. The organization hosts the annual Easter Sunrise service at Old Sturbridge Village.

EFC Chair Christine McTigue says, “We come together from our different traditions to pray for love and peace in our local communities, the country, and the world. This ecumenical event will have local leaders praying for church, family, education, business, military, government, and media. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.”

Anyone interested in leading a prayer should email Christine McTigue at cmct@verizon.net. For additional information about the 73rd Annual National Day of Prayer, visit <https://www.nationaldayofprayer.org/>.



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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Unwind and savor

In a world where the pace of life seems to quicken with each passing day, it's becoming crucial to pause and appreciate the beauty in life's simplest moments. We're bombarded with messages that tell us success is synonymous with constant activity and productivity, but in our relentless pursuit, we often overlook the joy that can be found in slowing down and simply chilling out.

Think about it—how often do we rush through our days, barely taking the time to notice the world around us? We grab our morning coffee on the go, scroll through our phones during moments of downtime, and fill our schedules to the brim with commitments and obligations. But what if we took a step back and savored the little things?

There's something incredibly powerful about embracing simplicity in a world that seems to value excess. Whether it's enjoying a quiet moment with a good book, taking a leisurely walk in nature, or sharing a meal with loved ones without the distraction of technology, these small acts can have a profound impact on our well-being.

Research has shown that practicing mindfulness and engaging in simple activities can help reduce stress, improve focus, and cultivate a greater sense of contentment. By slowing down and being present in the moment, we can find peace amidst the chaos and rediscover the beauty that surrounds us.

Living more simply isn't about depriving ourselves or giving up on our goals—it's about finding balance and prioritizing the things that truly matter. It's about recognizing that true happiness isn't found in material possessions or external achievements, but rather in the connections we form, the experiences we cherish, and the moments of quiet reflection that nourish our souls.

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.

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OPINION

Earth days

This year, I was overjoyed and proud when my oldest son, a second grader, asked if we could participate in Earth Day. Yes! Because if God gave us our home as a gift, I can't imagine we should treat it like trash. If I were ever able to give my kids a house as a gift, I surely wouldn't want to drive by one day and see it dirty and crumbling.

Speaking of trash, we typically think of Earth Day as when we pick up trash and litter from the side of the road. That's important, for sure, keeping our town looking nice. I don't think it's exactly the point of Earth Day, though.

I remember once deciding to walk around my neighborhood as a teenager picking up trash. When I got

BEYOND THE PEWS

BY REV. JOHN H.D. LUCY CHARLTON CITY UMC

home, my mother yelled, "John, what do you think you're doing!" Apparently I was supposed to leave the trash there until the one day of the year we cared. And what I wanted to ask was, "Why is all this trash on the side of the road in the first place?"

Indeed, ultimately, the point of Earth Day isn't to pick up trash once until the next year. Earth Day should remind us that every day is an Earth Day and we should care every day so there isn't so much to pick up.

If we're going to care about our home every day of the year, then we should take a lesson from home organizing. If we leave organizing and cleaning to once a month, or more, then

Turn To **PEWS** page A12

Attract success, don't chase it

So many of us yearn to be successful, driven by an unrelenting desire to achieve. We work tirelessly, struggle against all odds, and clock in long hours, yet often find ourselves falling short of our goals.

Sometimes, it seems we're chasing after success like a mirage in a vast desert, seemingly within reach yet perpetually out of grasp, like trying to catch smoke with our bare hands. It can be like running a marathon with no finish line in sight. This relentless pursuit can feel

POSITIVELY SPEAKING

TOBY MOORE

like chasing the horizon — the closer you get, the further it seems to stretch away.

Success, when pursued directly, often proves elusive, darting away like a startled deer the moment you think you've cornered it.

If you persist in chasing success and consistently fall short, you will encounter a series of deep disappointments. These are not just mere setbacks; they are soul-wrenching disappointments that penetrate to the core of your being. Like sharp thorns on a seemingly beautiful

rose, they prick at your spirit each time you reach out, leaving emotional scars that linger. Each failure feels like a personal betrayal, a dream deferred that saps your enthusiasm and dims the light of hope within you. These profound letdowns can hollow you out, leaving a feeling of emptiness where your passion once thrived.

Imagine sitting quietly in a park, lost in thought, when Jim Rohn, a white-haired man with twinkling, wise eyes, sits beside you. He carries the quiet authority of someone who has experienced much

in life and who, during his lifetime, was celebrated for his insightful approach to personal development.

After a moment of comfortable silence, he turns to you and asks gently, "Well, how come you haven't achieved success yet?" His voice is soft but carries a weight that suggests deep understanding.

You find yourself opening up more than you intended, sharing, "I've tried for many years, but Success has always eluded me. I put in the hours, worked relentlessly, and at the end of the day, I

Turn To **POSITIVE** page A12

TO THE EDITOR

Singer will keep Charlton moving forward

To the Editor:

I have had the pleasure of serving with David Singer during my entire tenure on the Board of Selectmen. We have partnered on many issues, disagreed on others and yet we remain strong colleagues and friends. Endorsing a candidate is a crucial decision that impacts the direction of our town, but after careful consideration, I am proud to endorse Selectman Singer as he seeks re-election on May 4. David brings a wealth of experience, dedication, and fiscal conservatism to the table. His track record of community involvement, coupled with his understanding of the budget process makes him an ideal candidate for the next three years.

Throughout his many years on the board, he has demonstrated strong leadership skills and a commitment

to serving the public interest. He has a proven ability and track record of listening to constituents, collaborating with diverse stakeholders, and making well-informed decisions that benefit Charlton as a whole and not special interest groups. Additionally, he has outlined a clear vision for Charlton's future with strong positions on infrastructure improvements, public safety, and economic development. His dedication to transparency, accountability, and fiscal responsibility ensures that taxpayer dollars will be spent wisely and efficiently.

Please join me in voting for Selectman David Singer on Saturday, May 4, and let's keep our current successes moving forward.

Bill Borowski
Charlton

Write-In Kimberly Laferriere for Board of Health

To the Editor:

A critical aspect of public safety is public health, which is why it is important to elect the most qualified candidate to the Board of Health. Kimberly Laferriere is that candidate.

The primary mission of the local Board of Health is to develop and maintain programs that will safeguard and improve the general health of all Charlton's citizens. Having graduated from Worcester State College with a Bachelor's in Nursing, Kim has been a practicing registered nurse, working both inpatient and outpatient, for 17 years.

She has deep roots and a love of her community from having grown up

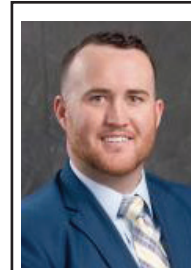
here and graduated from Shepherd Hill. She believes the key to keeping people healthy starts at the community level, and as such she has volunteered at several community immunization events.

Living in Charlton with her husband Kenny and two beautiful boys Kim has a vested interest in our town and strives to give back through service utilizing her health care background.

Please write-in Kimberly Laferriere for Board of Health in the Charlton town election on Saturday, May 4 at Heritage School 8am to 8pm.

Pat Stockwell
Charlton

Financial literacy: It's important for everyone



FINANCIAL FOCUS

TREVOR NIELSEN

April is National Financial Literacy Month — a good reminder that all of us can benefit from boosting our financial knowledge.

But what is financial literacy? There's no one single definition, but the term certainly covers these areas:

Saving – Most of us would probably agree that saving money is important, but actually doing it can be challenging given all the expenses of modern living. Still, techniques are available that everyone can follow, such as having money automatically moved each month from a checking or savings account to a financial account that's not used for daily expenses.

Budgeting – Budgeting isn't necessarily a fun activity — but it's an important one. And it's easier than ever these days, given the variety of budgeting tools available online. By tracking your spending every month and organizing it into categories, you may be able to find areas where you can cut back, such as on streaming services you rarely use.

Borrowing – Virtually all of us carry some type of debt at various times in our lives. But it's important to manage your debt load so it doesn't become too burdensome. One way of achieving this goal is to use "good" debts wisely — such as a low-rate mortgage on your home — and avoid "bad" debts — such as high-rate credit cards used for unnecessary purchases.

Investing – As you go through life, you'll likely have a variety of financial goals, such as making a down payment on a house, sending your children to college and attaining a comfortable retirement lifestyle. And to achieve these goals, you'll need to invest for them. That's why it's important to learn about different types of investments and how to develop an investment strategy that's appropriate for your objectives, risk tolerance and time horizon.

We aren't born with these skills — we have to learn them. Unfortunately, as valuable as they are, they aren't widely taught to young people. In fact, according to a 2023 Edward Jones study conducted with Morning Consult, only 20 percent of respondents reported receiving financial education in school. This situation may be changing, though, as many states are now requiring or recommending personal finance education before high school graduation.

For now, though, if you have younger children, try to teach them money management skills. You will likely find that they enjoy learning about these matters. You can make it fun for them in different ways, too. For example, to teach them about investing, why not buy them a share or two of stock of a company with which they're familiar? Charting a stock's progress and learning something of the factors affecting its price can help children build a foundation in investing, which will be valuable when they reach the age when they can invest for themselves.

But financial education isn't just for kids. If you feel that you are lacking somewhat in any of the key financial management areas mentioned above, you can always educate yourself by reading or talking to people knowledgeable in these subjects. You also might find it valuable to work with a financial professional — someone who will take a holistic approach to your finances and make appropriate suggestions.

National Financial Literacy Month will end on April 30, but the benefits of financial literacy can last a lifetime.

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

Invasion of the stripers

Stripers are starting to invade coastal waters in both Mass. & Rhode Island. This week's picture shows John Gareri with his first striper of the season caught in the Providence River last week! The pair of anglers reported no sightings of Menhaden, but the fish were feeding on some small fish near the surface. The one striper that they caught was on a surface plug.



THE GREAT
OUTDOORS
.....
RALPH
TRUE

Tautog fishing was also hot last week, with Captain Mel of FishNet Charters reporting limits of tautog for his clients. Seabass will open on May 18 in Mass.! Black seabass will open on May 17 in Rhode Island with a two fish daily limit? Summer flounder open on May 3, in Rhode Island with a four fish daily limit, and an 18 inch size limit.

The black bugs exploded with their annual hatching last week, and made it uncomfortable just trying to sit in the backyard. Wild turkey hunting opened this past Monday and hunters were hoping

that the black bugs were gone by then.

The wild rabbit population continues to grow which is good news for sportsmen that own a good beagle and love to hunt the rabbits. This past week, I observed five rabbits that were killed by cars near my home. It is a sure sign that the rabbits are making a big comeback, and are here to stay. Unfortunately, they are a nuisance to gardeners trying to grow some fresh vegetables for the family. Woodchuck populations are also abundant in the valley area, and can mow down a garden almost overnight.

The Uxbridge Rod & Gun club will stock their club pond with trout this Friday in anticipation of their annual kids fishing derby next Saturday, May 4. Breakfast will be served starting at 7 a.m., and the derby will start at 8 a.m.! Fish chairman Matt Fontaine is hoping for a good turnout, with plenty of prizes being awarded for the largest trout caught.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

Courtesy

(Right) John Gareri with his first striped bass of the season from the Providence River!



Spring Garden Roundup

It's finally May, and the promise of a warm weather and a bountiful gardening season awaits. For many in New England, the highly anticipated spring season brings with it the excitement of "getting out in the garden" again.



TAKE
THE
HINT
.....
KAREN
TRAINOR

A new season of gardening chores has begun, and in recognition of the 2024 planting season, the following guide, geared toward planning your garden tasks, is offered - as well as some tried and true garden tips.

MAY
May Stats: Monthly Averages: Average temperature (Worcester, MA): High: 66 degrees; Low: 47 degrees; Precipitation: 4.19"; Rainy Days: 15 days
US Climate Data, 2024

May is the month to:
Obtain a soil test
Add lime to "sweeten" soil as necessary
Complete indoor sowing of tomatoes, herbs, broccoli, cauliflower
Set out cool season varieties such as peas.
Turn gardens over

Compost or fertilize garden beds six to eight inches deep

Dig and transplant many perennials before new growth advances too far.

Fertilize your trees, shrubs and perennials. As these plants emerge from the dormant state, their need for nutrients is great.

Plant your bareroot rose stock this month.

Transplant crops that were sown in April.

Transfer crops to larger containers until ready to plant

Fertilize spring bulbs which are actively growing

Plant your summer flowering bulbs later in the month such as gladiolus, dahlia and canna.

Prune shrubs such as forsythia, witch hazel, and weigela right after

blooming. Fertilize soon after for lush growth this season

Harden off plants to prepare for planting

Pinch back early blossoms of annuals now and you'll be rewarded with more blooms later. Also Pinch off early blossoms of established strawberries for a more bountiful harvest later.

Control your lawn weeds now before the heat of summer to avoid burning grass.

Green Thumb Growing Tips

Hard shelled seeds do not always germinate properly. But you can aid the germination process by making an x cut in the hard seed with a sharp knife.

Or, to speed germination in without breaking the surface, try soaking hard shelled seeds overnight in water.

To get a fast start on germinating corn, try this old trick. Place the corn seeds on a moist paper towel, leaving it overnight. Then fold

the damp towel over. Corn seed that has been pre-sprouted will jump-start your crop and is less likely to rot in cold soil.

When planting your garden, sink a small jar or can in the middle of a row. This way, you can gauge exactly how much water your garden is getting from both irrigation and rainfall.

To stop vigorous mint from spreading and taking over the garden, keep it corralled by planting it in a plastic bucket with the bottom cut out.

Pepper plants thrive on heat, so it helps to place large rocks next to your green pepper plants to attract the sunlight

Plants that grow best in alkaline soil such as geraniums and hydrangea, will thank you with better blooms if you water them with a mild mixture of baking soda and water occasionally.

When buying flowers, the general rule is to choose the largest bulbs

because they usually result in larger flowers.

When buying annuals, you'll have the best luck transplanting them if you choose short, stocky, dark green plants with no flowers on them.

When removing the plants from their containers, don't be afraid to break the root mass apart. It will stimulate these small starters into better, stronger growth.

For cost effective mulch, use three sheets of newspaper under bark mulch. You'll save money on bark and the newspaper decomposes, enriching the soil.

Did you know that approximately seven pounds of human hair contain as much nitrogen as 200 pounds of manure? Save hair from home trims to toss in the garden.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in

Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing.

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

American folk art

I've had the pleasure of seeing and handling a wide variety of antiques and collectibles and one of the things I enjoy seeing most is folk art. Folk art follows traditional forms of style, theme, and craftsmanship. Items were made from whatever resources were available to the craftsman at the time. Folk art pieces often have a utilitarian purpose but are also aesthetically pleasing.



ANTIQUES,
COLLECTIBLES
& ESTATES
.....
WAYNE TUISKULA

with a fruit basket and their cat. A painting in Colonial Williamsburg shows nine children in an outdoor setting. One of the boys has a stick and hoop that was a popular toy at the time. An older girl is holding a baby. Other paintings of the time depict boys with fish-

ing poles and a sea captain with a ship beside him. Given the high mortality rate for children during that time period, many paintings of children were painted posthumously.

Another type of folk art is quilting. European colonists were skilled in working with wool and linen. Quilting was born out of necessity, though. When imported textiles weren't available or when people didn't have the money to buy them, they repurposed material. Block printing and printing on copper plates were used to create designs on fabric, accord-

ing to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. These fabric pieces were often incorporated in quilts. Basic designs consisted of squares, diamonds, and hexagons. There were other styles of quilts, but the patchwork quilt is a popular style that used small pieces of cloth to create something that not only kept people warm but looked great in their homes.

There are many other types of folk art, including weathervanes, whirligigs, cigar-store figures, trade signs, ship's carvings, stoneware face jugs, game boards, carnival game wheels of chance, and scrimshaw. Most definitions describe a whirligig as a toy that spins like a top or pinwheel. The folk art whirligigs often depict people with paddle-like arms that twist in the wind or cause a character to saw wood or perform another task.

Some of the more interesting types of folk art we've handled were trade signs. We sold a painted zinc sign that had painted eyes inside the frame to let people know they

could find an optometrist there. That piece sold in the mid-thousands. We've sold multiple weathervanes, but an old banner (directional arrow design) with great patina (natural aging) went for over \$4,000. A pair of beautifully painted leather fire buckets with a connection to Sutton, MA sold for nearly \$20,000. We've sold two 19th century wooden barber poles that brought figures in the thousands. One pole had a sign attached advertising haircuts, shaves, and baths. Up until the 1700s, barbers also performed surgery, dental work, and bloodletting. The red and white design that's still being used symbolized blood and bandages. In the 18th century, you had to be very clear when telling a barber to "take a little off the top."

We are accepting folk art consignments for our summer auction, along with historical items, fine jewelry, sterling silver, art, coins, and other antiques and collectibles. It was nice discussing antiques with the large group who came to the Holden Senior Center



last week. Thank you to the readers of this column who attended the event. I'll be at a Learning in Retirement event in Danielson, Conn. on May 6 discussing downsizing. Please visit our website <https://centralmassauctions.com> for links to other upcoming events.

Contact us to consign items or for auction information at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/ Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique, Collectibles Auctions and Appraisal Services info@centralmassauctions.com or (508-612-6111).

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Storms
continued from page 3

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Gus Steeves

Opi the Salamander does his mime performance for the people arriving at Opacum's breakfast last Saturday.

Opacum
continued from page 1

ies, and various town properties for identification, give them health checks and replace dying ones, clean public forestland of invasives and related work.

"Urban spaces and urban trees are so important to all that we do," said Executive Director Laney Wilder. But she also highlighted the many other projects Opacum has going.

One that's new this year is a collaboration with TerraCorps, a federal ecological volunteer program modeled on AmeriCorps. Over the next 11 months, a couple TerraCorps interns will help Opacum coordinate land and habitat management, create a "really cool database called Landscape" to track such work, and propose future projects.

"When we do conservation work, it's forever," she added, noting visiting nature "restores our brains from the busy tech lives we have."

A key part of that long-term protection is the forest legacy program, where Opacum works with landowners to put their land into conservation easements in perpetuity. Since many owners are land-rich but cash-poor, Opacum helps them seek out grants and other compensation to do so, as an alternative to selling for development. Last year, Wilder said, Opacum got an \$85,000 grant to help work through the legal details of such easements.

She noted the nonprofit now holds 3,852 acres across the region, with an additional 1100-plus acres

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in the process of being protected. To help that process, it launched its spring donor campaign, aiming to collect \$30,000 by the end of May; she said the first \$11,000 will be matched by a group of donors.

"We never want to overlook those small donations" Duthie later added. "Those nickels add up to make a big donation."

She said Opacum is also seeking volunteers for stewardship, fundraising and other efforts, to help run events like the annual Tour Opacum in September, manage properties, and other func-

Turn To **OPACUM** page **A16**

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OBITUARIES

John B. Voyles, 78

Sturbridge: John B. Voyles, 78, passed away on Wednesday, April 24th, in St. Vincent Hospital, Worcester, after a brief illness.

He leaves his wife of 52 years, Myra A. (Augusto) Voyles; and his son, Jason Voyles and his longtime companion Lorraine of Victoria, VA. He also leaves his dog, Whitie. He was predeceased by his two brothers, Bobby Voyles and Scotty Voyles and his sister Peggy Ann Wilbanks. He was born Corinth, MS the son of the late G.B. and Shirley (Rast) Voyles. He was a graduate of Corinth High School and a graduate of Worcester Junior College.



John was the owner and operator of JBV Optical. He previously worked for New York Life Insurance Co. John enjoyed his optical work and enjoyed investing. He loved animals, especially his dogs. He enjoyed football and played football in his younger years. He loved fishing and was a fan of Red Sox and Patriots.

A celebration of life for John will be held at a later date. There are no calling hours.

The Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, is directing arrangements. www.morrillfuneralhome.com

SOUTHBRIDGE POLICE LOG

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Police Department reported the following arrests from April 15-29.

Jacob Michael John Stevens, age 19, of Southbridge was arrested on April 16 for Failure to Stop for Police, Failure to Stop or Yield, driving at a rate of speed greater than was reasonable and proper, Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, a Marked Lanes Violation, operating an Unregistered Motor Vehicle, operating an Uninsured Motor Vehicle, Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and a Number Plate Violation to Conceal ID.

Edwin Jesus Madera Collazo, age 33, of North Grosvenordale was arrested on April 16 in connection with a warrant.

A 28-year-old male from Southbridge was issued a summons in lieu of arrest on April 17 for operating an Unregistered and Uninsured Motor Vehicle.

Ryan P. Fortier, age 29, of Monson was arrested on April 17 in connection with multiple warrants.

Jullien Carlos Gonzalez, age 24, of Southbridge was arrested on April 17 for Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle.

A 48-year-old male from Southbridge was issued a summons in lieu of arrest on April 17 for Violating an Abuse Prevention Order.

Ryan D. Leblanc, age 39, of East Falmouth was arrested on April 18 for Possession of a Class B Drug and Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle.

A 61-year-old male from Southbridge was issued a summons in lieu of arrest on April 19 for Operating a Motor Vehicle with a Suspended License.

Geraldo Manuel Alvarez, age 39, of Southbridge was arrested on April 19 in connection with a warrant.

Allison P. Murray, age 38, of Holland was arrested on April 19 for operating an Uninsured Motor Vehicle, operating an Unregistered Motor Vehicle, a Number Plate Violation to Conceal ID, and Possession of a Class B Drug (subsequent offense).

A 30-year-old male from Worcester was issued a summons in lieu of arrest on April 20 for Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle.

Jason William Giammariano, age 24, of Rutland was arrested on April 20 for Possession of a Class B Drug.

John W. Varnum, age 31, of Southbridge was arrested on April 22 for Receiving Stolen Property, Vandalization of Property, and Carrying a Dangerous Weapon.

A 48-year-old male from Southbridge was issued a summons in lieu of arrest on April 22 for Failure to Register as a Sex Offender (subsequent offense).

Mark Allen Perry, age 38, of Southbridge was arrested on April 23 in connection with a warrant.

A 39-year-old female from Southbridge was issued a summons in lieu of arrest on April 23 for operating an Unregistered and Uninsured Motor Vehicle.

Robin Fay, age 48, of Southbridge was arrested on April 23 for Shoplifting By Concealing Merchandise.

Xavier Luis Marcano, age 21, of Southbridge was arrested on April 24 for Operating a Motor Vehicle with a Suspended License, driving at a rate of speed greater than was reasonable and proper, and Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle.

A 38-year-old male from Webster was taken into protective custody on April 24.

Kevin Cardoza, age 38, of Southbridge was arrested on April 25 in connection with multiple warrants.

Nicholas Leif Normandin, age 42, of Southbridge was arrested on April 26 for Threatening to Commit a Crime, Disturbing the Peace (subsequent offense), Disorderly Conduct (subsequent offense), and Possession of Ammunition Without an FID Card.

Kassandra N. Gonzalez, age 26, of Southbridge was arrested on April 26 for Trafficking in 200 Grams or More of Cocaine. Miguel A. Lopez, age 26, of Southbridge was arrested during the same incident for Trafficking in 200 Grams or More of Cocaine, Possession of a Firearm with an FID Card, Possession of a Large Capacity Firearm, Improper Storage of a Large Capacity Firearm, Possession of Ammunition Without an FID Card, and multiple counts of Possession of a Large Capacity Feeding Device.

A 40-year-old female from Southbridge was taken into protective custody on April 26.

Kaitlyn Ann Cardenas, age 34, of Brookfield was arrested on April 26 in connection with a warrant.

Tyler Denault, age 29, of Southbridge was arrested on April 27 for Shoplifting By Concealing Merchandise (second offense).

A 31-year-old male from Worcester was taken into protective custody on April 27 and subsequently charged with Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol, a Lights Violation, Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and Possession of an Open Container of Alcohol in a Motor Vehicle.

A 49-year-old male from Southbridge was taken into protective custody on April 27.

Joseph Eric Rodela, age 48, of Southbridge was arrested on April 28 for Operating a Motor Vehicle with a Suspended License (subsequent offense).

Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy students medal at SkillsUSA States Conference



MARLBOROUGH — Seven Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy students were awarded gold, silver, and bronze medals at the recent SkillsUSA States Conference. Gold medal winners will be advancing to the SkillsUSA National Conference to be held June 24-28 in Atlanta, Ga.

The Practical Nursing student medalists are as follows: First Aid/CPR Patrick Njunge of Worcester, Silver Medal; Health Knowledge Bowl Victoria Boateng of Gardner Gold Medal, Julie Dodson of West Brookfield Gold Medal, and Vanessa Gachagua of Southbridge Gold Medal; Medical Math Ashley Breault of Brookfield, Bronze Medal; Practical Nursing Samantha Stanikmas of Charlton, Bronze Medal, and Medical Terminology Ashley Urbain of Paxton, Gold Medal.

"We are grateful to both SkillsUSA Advisors for Bay Path, Ms. Pam Stoney and Mr. James Primes and the Superintendent, Mr. Kyle Brenner for his support," said Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN Academy Director. "Our Practical Nursing students represented the Academy with pride and did very well. The rest of the PN 2024 cohort and PN faculty have also shown tremendous support."

This year's success raises to over a dozen the number of Bay Path Practical Nursing students who have advanced to national competition over the years; many of whom placed medals nationally.

According to SkillsUSA Web site, "SkillsUSA's National Leadership & Skills Conference (NLSC) is the largest gathering of America's future skilled workforce and the ultimate recognition of excellence in career and technical education. Held in Atlanta each June, the NLSC is a week-long celebration of the skilled trades and the accomplishments of career-ready leaders from across the United States. The event brings together more than 16,000 attendees, including students, instructors, industry partners, government officials, administrators and more. The highlight of the NLSC is the SkillsUSA Championships, where more than 6,000 state champions compete for national gold, silver and bronze medals in 115 skilled and leadership competitions."

About Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy

Bay Path Practical Nursing is a 40-week, (10-month), full-time, Monday through Friday, evening program. The program begins mid-August and is completed in late June. Graduates receive a Practical Nursing Certificate and are eligible to take the NCLEX-PN licensure exam. Visit www.baypath.net.

2024 Street List Book now available

SOUTHBRIDGE — The 2024 Street List Book for the town of Southbridge is now available at the Town Clerk's office. The cost to purchase a book is \$20.

According to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 51, Section 6, any person wishing to purchase a street list book must sign their name and address in a log.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact the Town Clerk's office at (508) 764-5408.

LOCAL SERVICE PROVIDERS



Local residents inducted into Honor Society for first-year success

MANCHESTER — Local Saint Anselm College student Summer Chaffee of Charlton was accepted into Alpha Lambda Delta, a national scholastic honor society for first-year success, for the 2023-2024 academic year.

To be eligible for invitation, students must be enrolled full-time at an institution with an active chapter of Alpha Lambda Delta and have a 3.5 grade point average or higher in their first semester or first year of study.

Alpha Lambda Delta was founded in 1924 by Maria Leonard, the Dean of Women at the University of Illinois, to recognize academic excellence among freshman women. One year prior, Dean Thomas Arkle Clark had founded Phi Eta Sigma, an honor society to recognize academic excellence among freshman men. Both groups became coeducational in 1976 in response to Title IX. Alpha Lambda Delta has grown to 280 chapters and has initiated over one million students.

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Shields Health, UMass Memorial-Harrington announce new partnership for advanced MRI and PET/CT imaging services

SOUTHBIDGE — Shields Health and UMass Memorial - Harrington proudly announce a new partnership to provide state-of-the-art MRI and PET/CT imaging services, increasing access to advanced radiological care for residents of south-central Massachusetts and beyond.

Equipped with Siemens' cutting-edge 20-slice PET/CT system, patients and the referring community will see an upgrade from the previous technology available at the hospital.

Top benefits of this system include:
Faster and sharper images
Enhanced detail to better detect masses and small lesions

Consistent image quality across the patient population, regardless of size and weight

High detail imaging needed for better understanding of disease progression

The site will also provide access to specialty amyloid and prostate (PSMA) PET/CT imaging.

PET/CT services operate on Fridays at Harrington Hospital, 100 South St., Southbridge.

Additionally, the partnership ensures the continued delivery of MRI services at Harrington's two locations in Southbridge and Charlton. Both centers are equipped with powerful 1.5T MRI machines, providing physicians

and patients with the precise images for accurate diagnoses. The Southbridge location at Harrington Hospital's Main Campus also offers an Open-Bore MRI option, featuring a 70 cm opening that helps alleviate claustrophobia, while maintaining superior image quality.

MRI services are operational Monday, 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. at Harrington Hospital 100 South St., Southbridge, MA 01550 and Harrington Healthcare at Charlton, 10 N Main Street, Charlton, MA 01507.

"Bringing state-of-the-art technology to our local patients is incredibly fulfilling," said Ed Moore, President of UMass Memorial Health - Harrington. "Through this joint venture with

Shields, we are able to offer affordable and precise imaging solutions, ensuring effective treatment for the community. We are excited about the possibilities ahead for our partnership and improving our patient care in various ways."

This collaboration marks the third PET/CT partnership and the third MRI partnership for Shields Health and UMass Memorial Health, having similar ventures in Worcester, Marlborough, Fitchburg, and Leominster through UMass Memorial Medical Center; UMass Memorial Health - Marlborough Hospital and UMass Memorial Health - HealthAlliance-Clinton Hospital.



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Charlton Cultural Council announces Art Show People's Choice Award Winners

Charlton Cultural Council announces Art Show People's Choice Award Winners

The following original artwork won favorite amongst voters in our community in their age group:

Adult – Teresa McConnell "A Heart"

Youth – Luca Lowe "Brushes"

Congrats to the winners! We are pleased to be able to support such talented local artists and creatives.



CHARLTON

continued from page A1

2030 Solid Waste Master Plan that calls out product stewardship, in particular paint stewardship as well, as a solution to this problem," explained Erwin.

Mass DEP has set a goal to reduce waste by 30 percent by 2030 and as much as 90 percent by 2050. Erwin said stewardships are an essential part of reaching this goal and while there are a variety of larger stewardship programs and initiatives in the state, his request for Charlton was specifically to start with paint which is among the more inconvenient popularly used substances to dispose.

"The benefits will be first that it would be a service that Charlton runs and that you're going to value. This is quickly apparent by noting that 92 percent of 735 Massachusetts residents in the central valley and western part of the state that attended household hazardous waste day events signed petitions asking their legislators to become co-sponsors of this legislation. That suggests that 92 percent of the residents of Charlton that have paint in their garage and basements, and I bet there are many, would support this. Second, it would represent no cost to the municipalities, and it would decrease household

hazardous waste day costs, freeing monies for other solid waste issues. Third, it's going to be a model for future product stewardship legislation that's going to address large issues such as mattresses, solar panels, and packaging," Erwin explained.

If adopted, the stewardship would cost customers an extra 75-cents per gallon at the time of purchase but allow them to drop the paint off as participating retailers for disposal without having to wait until a designated hazardous waste day. The approach would allow most of the latex based paints to be reused while oil-based paints would be utilized as

an industrial fuel source. Legislation on the state level has been supported by members of both the State House and Senate and the paint stewardship specifically has been sent to the Ways and Means Committee for consideration.

Selectmen chose not to remark on the proposal since it was presented during the public comment segment and was not part of the meeting agenda. However, they agreed to add the item to an upcoming meeting and directed Town Administrator Andrew Golas to consult the Board of Health for their input on the matter as well.

SOUTHBRIDGE

continued from page A1

which corresponds to the bridge over the river.

The one they approved would fund contamination-related studies on two Guelphwood Road parcels, at 30 Mill St., and at various downtown properties, but no amount was on the agenda.

Economic Development Director Peg Dean said she doesn't yet have specific sites in mind for the last of those uses. Regarding 30 Mill, she said the town obtained a similar grant to do a phase 2 brownfields assessment a couple years ago. When the property got tied up in bankruptcy court, Southbridge had to return the funds; the court process is closer to completion now.

Unfortunately, the building is also closer to falling down, since the town had to demolish the south wing earlier

this year by emergency order when a section collapsed. If it gets this money, it can do a full review of the surviving section, and the building department is already pursuing having engineers look at it to determine if it's salvageable.

The expression of interest the council rejected would have sought up to \$5 million from the Housing Works program to continue the redevelopment of the American Optical complex. That campus has seen several proposals in recent years, although only one has yet been completed – 48 apartments in 5 Case St. More apartments (127) are being slated for 25 Case, and the planning board was recently working on conditions for 139 more units total at 40 and 50 Optical Drive.

Owner Chip Norton of Franklin Realty told the Planning & Development Subcommittee April 17 a concept to put a cannabis growing facility in

35 Optical Drive died when the state and federal government would not fund it. Although it's legal in Massachusetts, it's still not at the federal level, he noted.

Instead, Norton said he hopes to attract some kind of manufacturing firm to the building, using the fact the campus has its own cogeneration power plant as an enticement. The number of jobs it might provide "really depends on the industry. It could be anything from 100-200," he speculated.

That would be one part of a much larger project for which Norton has been seeking various forms of public and private financing for several years. He said he's brought in about \$150 million to date and expects to need a similar amount going forward.

This time, he said, the "One Stop" proposal would go toward a "multimillion dollar infrastructure improvement

project" aimed at upgrading roads, sidewalks, Mechanic Street access, bridges and lights; "convert the private property to a public access, public use facility [of] approximately 70 acres." That last part refers mostly to the forested hillside behind the AO buildings, where he hopes to put foot and bike trails, plus installing an access path around Lensdale Pond, a couple platforms over the pond and stairs to the water. He noted he's still looking into whether to add boating there "but not sure because of the dam and safety."

Dean said the town approved a "covenant" with him some time ago that laid out various requirements, including how to make it "public access in perpetuity" while still being Franklin Realty-owned and brought up to current road and other standards. She noted she'll bring forth an amendment to that covenant

to reword a section so Norton will be able to legally apply for public funds for roadwork.

A couple years ago, the Council rejected a similar proposal primarily for that reason, since the roads will not be publicly-owned. It rejected this one on largely the same grounds, with Mike Montigny decrying the idea it will "end up being state taxpayer money" for private uses. He noted the town waived permit fees for the 5 Case St. project and received a MassWorks grant for East Main Street work in that area to benefit that campus. (That roadwork has not yet been done.)

George Chenier agreed, saying he's concerned "We can't even fix our own roads, and citizens hear we're applying for a grant for a private developer."

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

PEWS

continued from page A6

it will take all day; if we organize and clean every few days, though, then it will take a short while.

Better yet, though, the more often we organize and clean, the more likely we are to reduce what can cause clutter in the first place because we'll grow tired of cleaning it up.

The same applies to our Earth Days. May we commit to cleaning up and maintaining our home more often than once a year. Better yet, may we commit to

reducing the clutter. Do we need every plastic bag at every store? Do we need straws? Do we need every new toy advertised to us? Can we bring our own plastic spoons to get

ice cream? Can we reuse the old before we buy new?

These and many more questions we should be asking ourselves to reduce clutter

in this gift of a home we've been given. Hopefully we can begin to truly care for our home so that the Gift Giver can see our well we've maintained it.

POSITIVE

continued from page A6

he knows this story all too well. His response is both shocking and eye-opening. He responds with serene confidence, "Success is something you attract, not something you pursue. It's something you attract by becoming attractive."

You can't help but chuckle to yourself, misinterpreting his words, and reply, "Well, there are plenty of successful people who aren't traditionally attractive, and unfortunately, we're born with the looks we have."

He flashes a gentle, knowing smile and clarifies, "Not that kind of attractive. I'm talking about becoming someone who naturally draws opportunities. It's about being a person of value, character, and action—qualities that magnetize success."

Encouraged by his insight, you lean in, intrigued, and ask, "So, how does one attract success then?"

watched as everyone else got their slice of the pie, but I never got mine." The older man nods thoughtfully as if

His eyes light up with the question as if he's been waiting to share this secret.

He replies earnestly, "It's not about chasing external rewards; it's about personal development. You can have more than you've got right now because you can become more than what you are right now. If you multiply your value by three or by five, you can easily multiply your income by three, five, or even ten. But the key is to work on yourself. That's how you make yourself a magnet for Success."

His words resonate deeply, suggesting a shift from outward effort to inward growth and highlighting a pathway to better circumstances and a better self.

If you want to have a successful large business, you need to refine your leadership skills. If you aspire to be a renowned artist, enhance your innovative thinking and master new artistic techniques. For those aiming to excel in academia, strengthen your research abilities and cultivate critical thinking. Want to innovate in technology? Develop your technical expertise

and learn to adapt quickly to new technological advancements.

By focusing on personal growth in these targeted

ways, you make yourself a beacon for opportunities, naturally attracting the success you seek.

CHEER

continued from page A1

enthusiasm shown both by the team and the fans in attendance.

"They just came together as a group and just proved to everyone why they deserved to be there," Coach Colon said.

"We're proud of how well our students represented Southbridge Public Schools on a national stage, demonstrating the value of hard work and dedication," said Receiver/Superintendent Dr. Jeffrey A. Villar.



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LEGALS

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES Under G.L. c.255 Sec.39A

Notice is hereby given by Cruise Control Transportation Inc. Pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, Section 39A. that on or after MARCH 9,2024 at Cruise Control Transportation Inc. the following motor vehicle/s will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle 2019 RAM 1500

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1 BROOKSIDE AVE
WORCESTER MA 01602

2002 JEEP LIBERTY
vin: J4GL48K92W316977
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER : Ricardo Jacob Rivera
21 STERLING ST, APT 1,
WORCESTER MA 01610

2002 Chevrolet S-10
VIN:1GCDT19W728203722
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER : James Dube
92 Penn Ave
Worcester MA

2013 Nissan Altima
VIN: 1N4AL3AP7DC286271
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER : Frederick Geroux
PO BOX 652
CHARLTON MA 01507

2004 Chevrolet Express
VIN:1GCGG25V241171097
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER : Wilson Felipe Reyes Germon
15375 ROPCKAWAY BLVD
Jamaica NY 10458

2002 Nissan Altima
VIN: 1N4AL11D72C212873
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER : Norah Hickey
8 BRANCH DR
SMITHTOWN NY 11787

2007 Toyota Yaris
VIN: JTDJT923775070051
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER : David J Froais
7 FREDERICK ST
NORTH PROVIDENCE RI 02904

1998 Honda Accord
VIN:1HGCG5547WA218054
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED OWNER : Thomas John Reppucci,
33 NORTH ST,
WILMINGTON, MA 01887
April 26,2024
May 3,2024
May 10,2024
April 26, 2024

TOWN OF BRIMFIELD PUBLIC HEARING

The Brimfield Select Board will hold a public hearing on the following pole and wire locations petition filed by National Grid on **Monday, May 20, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.** for the following:

Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid. requests permission to locate poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public way:
Washington Road: #30647440

Reason: Washington Road – National Grid to install 1 JO pole on Washington Road beginning at a point approximately 885 feet North of the centerline of the intersection of Kings Bridge Road. National Grid to install pole# 28-2 approximately 885 feet North of the centerline of Kings Bridge Road and Washington Road in Brimfield, MA.

Persons with an interest in this public hearing are asked to appear at the Brimfield Elementary School, 22 Wales Road, Brimfield, MA on the date and time affixed to this notice.

Martin J. Kelly
Select Board, Chairperson
Town of Brimfield
May 03, 2024
May 10, 2024

Town Of Brimfield

The Brimfield Planning Board will hold a public hearing on May 15, 2024, at 7:00 PM at the Hitchcock Center (2 Brookfield Rd) regarding the town meeting articles regarding proposed zoning by-law changes. The proposed zoning by-law changes will affect

Zoning Bylaw 3.7: add 3.7.4 Duplex/ Multi (8 units max), Family residential dwellings in Business District.

For the complete narrative of this proposed changes please visit <http://www.brimfieldma.org>, visit the Town Hall Annex at 23 Main Street or contact the Planning Board at planning@brimfieldma.org.
May 02, 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. WO24P1189EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Estate of:

Robert G. Mandeville
Date of Death: 04/11/2021

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by

Michelle Benoit of Southbridge 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: **Michelle Benoit of Southbridge MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **With Personal 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 05/14/2024.**

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

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

Date: April 10, 2024
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
May 03,2024

TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE DPW Invitation for Quantities Bids for Sidewalks and Masonry

The Town of Southbridge Department of Public Works invites qualified contractors to submit quantity bids for sidewalks and masonry. Copies of the specifications and special provisions are available from the Town Website as of 09:00AM, on 04/29/2024. Questions may be directed to the Operations Officer at 508-764-5403x3 or hprescott@southbridgemass.org.

All bids for this project are subject to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30 Section 39M and Chapter 30B section 5. Prevailing Wage Rates, and subsequent Certified Payroll with proof of OSHA, are required on this project. The current wage rate schedule is attached to the bid specification package.

The deadline for sealed bids is **05/16/2024** at 10:00AM. The sealed bid shall be clearly marked "Sidewalks and Masonry Quantities". Bids are to be addressed to the Department of Public Works, 185 Guelphwood Road, Southbridge, MA 01550. Late bids will not be opened.
May 02, 2024

TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE DPW Invitation for Quantities Bids for Road Improvements Paving

The Town of Southbridge Department of Public Works invites qualified con-

tractors to submit quantity bids for road improvement paving. Copies of the specifications and special provisions are available from the Town Website as of 09:00AM, on 04/29/2024. Questions may be directed to the Operations Officer at 508-764-5403x3 or hprescott@southbridgemass.org.

All bids for this project are subject to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30 Section 39M and Chapter 30B section 5. Prevailing Wage Rates, and subsequent Certified Payroll with proof of OSHA, are required on this project. The current wage rate schedule is attached to the bid specification package.

The deadline for sealed bids is **05/16/2024** at 10:00AM. The sealed bid shall be clearly marked Road Improvement Pavement Quantities. Bids are to be addressed to the Department of Public Works, 185 Guelphwood Road, Southbridge, MA 01550. Late bids will not be opened.
May 02, 2024

TOWN OF STURBRIDGE BOARD OF HEALTH PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

May 14, 2024 at 2:30pm
Center Office Building Meeting Room,
301 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA

In accordance with provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 40. the Board of Health will hold a Public Hearing on May 14, 2024, at 2:30pm on the application of Stephen and Marcy Reed. The applicant is requesting a Variance of the Local Well Regulations for the property located at 88 South Shore Dr, Sturbridge, MA.

The Plan may be reviewed by contacting the Sturbridge Health Department at (508) 347-2504 or Matthew Jalbert of Jalbert Engineering, 508-347-5136.
April 25, 2024
May 2, 2024

Town of Sturbridge Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearing Notice Special Permit

Jane & Timothy Seitz

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 40A, §11, the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at 6:35 PM at the Center Office Building located at 301 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566** and/or by virtual means if circumstances warrant, in accordance with applicable law; on the application of Jane & Timothy Seitz.

The applicant is requesting a Special Permit pursuant to Article XVIII §300-18.2 (2) and a Finding pursuant to Article XV §300-15.2A of the Zoning Bylaw to allow the raze and rebuild of an existing single family home on the property owned by Jane & Timothy Seitz located at **97 Shore Road** in accordance with the plans and application submitted. As proposed, the side setbacks will be reduced from 3.5' & 7.7' to 8.5' & 11.2' where 15' is required and the lot coverage will increase from 20.96% to 24.02% where 15% is required. No other non-conformities will be intensified as a result of the proposed alterations.

The proposed request can be viewed at <https://www.sturbridge.gov/zoning-board-appeals/pages/recent-filings> or arrangements can be made to view the application packet by contacting the Sturbridge Planning Department at (508)347-2508 or by email at jlacy@sturbridge.gov.

Any person interested or wishing to be heard on this proposal should appear at the time and place designated. Members of the public may watch the meeting online via the Town's on demand video broadcast or via cable television on Channel 191. It is the intent to have this Public Hearing in person. However, if circumstances warrant, the Board may choose to hold this Hearing via virtual or hybrid (in person and virtual) means. In the event of a virtual or hybrid meeting, notice and a link shall be posted on the ZBA website. Please note that the meeting/hearing will not be suspended or terminated if technological problems interrupt the virtual broadcast, unless otherwise required by law.

Diane Trapasso, Chair
Sturbridge Zoning Board of Appeals
April 25, 2024
May 2, 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. WO24A0089AD
CITATION G.L.c. 210, § 6
In the matter of:
Ava Lynne Boyle

To:

Justin Boyle
any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth.

A petition has been filed by said court Cameron Meece of Charlton, MA Ashley Jason of Charlton, MA requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to

Ava Lynne Meece

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT: **Worcester ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00AM) ON: 0604/2024**

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

Date: February 27, 2024

Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate

May 2, 2023
May 9, 2023
May 16, 2023

TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE COUNCIL CHAMBERS TOWN COUNCIL MONDAY, MAY 20, 2024-6:00PM PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to the Town of Southbridge Home Rule Charter Chapter 10 Financial Provisions and Procedures Section 5 Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed Budget and Section 8 Notice of Public Hearing on Capital Programs. The Town Manager will be holding a Public Hearing on the following:

1. FISCAL YEAR 2025 PROPOSED BUDGET

General Government	\$17,940,294
Public Safety	\$8,872,084
Public Works	\$2,574,429
Human Services	\$1,160,773
Bay Path	\$1,210,156
School Department	\$37,302,518
Sewer Enterprise Fund	\$4,513,314
Water Enterprise Fund	\$3,613,200
Solid Waste and Recycling	
Enterprise Fund	\$2,492,684
TOTAL	\$79,679,452

2. FISCAL YEAR 2025 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Town Manager's recommended Six Year Capital Improvement Program and proposed funding of programs for FY25.

Copies of FY 2025 Budget and Capital Improvement Program will be available for inspection at the Southbridge Town Hall Town Manager's office or on the Town of Southbridge website, www.ci.southbridge.ma.us, beginning on May 6, 2024.

May 02, 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. WO24C0164CA
CITATION ON PETITION TO
CHANGE NAME

In the matter of:

Julianna Ann-Marie Robinson
A **Petition to Change Name of Minor**-

has been filed by **Julianna Ann-Marie Robinson of Fiskdale MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: **Julianna Ann-Marie Campbell**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 05/14/24. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

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

Date: April 09, 2024

Stephanie Fattman,

Register of Probate

May 2, 2024

**For Legal Advertising Information,
Call 508-909-4127
email: legals@stonebridgepress.news**



Gus Steeves

Amanda Cardenas displays her tie-dye artistry, which she calls Petals & Loops.



Gus Steeves

A firefighter adds a pallet to the flames.



Gus Steeves

Firefighters from a few towns helped keep the fire under control.



Gus Steeves

Mom and daughters split their attention between the music and a cellphone.



Gus Steeves

Maggie the Clown face paints one of a very long line of kids.

Firing up Springtime

STURBRIDGE — Mother Nature provided ideal weather for hundreds of people to throng the Common Saturday for an old-fashioned bonfire party to celebrate spring, community and life in general.

CMS Chamber to host ribbon cutting welcoming Regus to Sturbridge

STURBRIDGE — For more than 30 years, Regus has helped businesses find and create the perfect workspace for their people. With 3,000 locations in 900 cities in 120 countries, Regus' extensive network enables companies of all sizes to work wherever and however they need. To celebrate the opening of their new location at 198 Charlton Rd. in Sturbridge, Regus and the Chamber of Central Mass South cordially invite the public to attend the official ribbon cutting ceremony followed by an afternoon reception with snacks, refreshments and guided tours of the facility and its workspaces.



Courtesy

Need office space? Regus offers clean, bright, convenient offices in the heart of Sturbridge.

Get all the business support you need to succeed at Regus' Sturbridge location. Whether you're collaborating in their fully furnished coworking areas, pitching in peaceful meeting rooms, or working solo in their private spaces, Regus' professional offices give you the perfect platform to thrive. Help your business stand tall with luxurious office space in a convenient location with free parking and a warm and welcoming reception team. Take a tour and view the workplaces throughout the center at the open house which will follow the ribbon ceremony.

The Chamber of Central Mass South, accompanied by local dignitaries, will present the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Friday, May 3 at 1 p.m. sharp, and the open house will continue until 4 p.m. All are welcome to attend the ribbon cutting and open house. There is no cost to join in. If you will attend, kindly RSVP by email to Regus at: sturbridge.charltonrd@regus.com

so there will be enough refreshments for all of their guests.

The Sturbridge location of Regus is located at 198 Charlton Rd. (Route 20), Suite 8, in Sturbridge. For more about Regus, please visit www.regus.com.

The Chamber of Central Mass South is the leading advocate for local business, promoting the success of its members, and enhancing regional prosperity through networking, education, and promotion. Learn more and join the Chamber today by visiting cmschamber.org.

Local residents named to Simmons University Dean's List

BOSTON —The following local residents were named to the 2023 fall semester dean's list at Simmons University in Boston.

- * Lindsay Albright, Charlton
- * Jessica Hennessey, Fiskdale

To qualify for dean's list status, undergraduate students must obtain a grade point average of 3.5 or higher, based on 12 or more credit hours of work in classes using the letter grade system.

About Simmons University

Located in the heart of Boston, Simmons is a respected private university offering nearly 50 majors and programs for undergraduate women and graduate programs open to all on campus, in blended formats, or entirely online in nursing and health sciences, liberal arts, business, communications, social work, public health, and library and information science. Founded in 1899, Simmons has established a model of higher education that other colleges and universities are only recently beginning to adapt: the combination of education for leadership in high-demand professional fields with the intellectual foundation of the liberal arts. The result is a Simmons graduate prepared not only to work, but to lead in professional, civic, and personal life - a vision of empowerment that Simmons calls preparation for life's work. Follow Simmons on Twitter at @SimmonsUniv, and on LinkedIn at <https://www.linkedin.com/school/simmons-university/>.

Southbridge Garden Club presents Third Annual Spring Plant Sale

STURBRIDGE — Calling all gardeners, plant enthusiasts and nature lovers! The Southbridge Garden Club invites the general public to its third annual Spring Plant Sale on Saturday, May 18 from 9 a.m. to noon on the Sturbridge Town Common. The sale takes place rain or shine.

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

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

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

The Southbridge Garden Club is a



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

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

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

Historical Society highlights General Sherman

SOUTHBRIDGE — Frank Morrill returns to the Southbridge Historical Society to talk about Civil War General William T. Sherman on Wednesday, May 8 at 7 p.m. in the Ruth Wells Center for the Arts, 111 Main St., Southbridge.

A lifelong educator, he received his graduate degree from the University of Buffalo in 1971 and taught science, history and law for 33 years at Millbury High School, retiring in 2005. In retirement he has written several local history books containing original photographs from the Bullard collection, which he talked about several times in the area. The last three books were co-authored with his granddaughter Hannah Morrill, who is now a freshman college student.

Morrill has always had a strong interest in historical documents and photographs and has collected them for 56 years. He has resided in Charlton since 1976 and has been active in Charlton town government and as president of the Charlton Historical Society. The public is invited to this free program.

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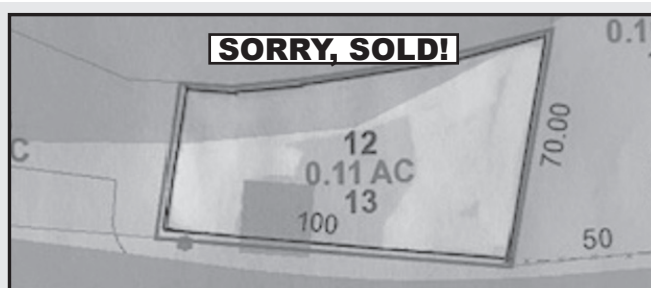


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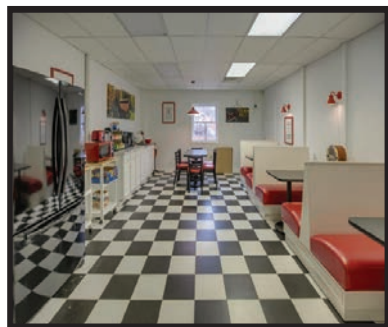
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Gus Steeves

Attendees line up for the buffet breakfast fare cooked by Pathfinder Tech's culinary program staff and students.



Gus Steeves

Amy Adams bags the silent auction winnings for Roger deBruyn of Brimfield.

Opacum

continued from page 9

tions. She noted the organization used to be entirely volunteer, but has since grown enough to hire three paid staff.

"I look forward to many years of being able to see and have others see what we're able to do with stewardship," Duthie said.

"The land gives so much to us," Wilder agreed. "The value of land is more than a dollar sign. ... All of the spaces we've protected are so import-

ant to people and wildlife. Wildlife needs places to live and thrive as well."

Specifically, Wilder was referring to what should be common knowledge, but might not be – the fact nature provides carbon sequestration and oxygen, cleans the air of pollutants, gives us food, housing and resources, and, although she didn't mention it, literally provides the very atoms of our DNA.

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



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