

STURBRIDGE VILLAGER

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Thursday-Friday, August 8-9, 2024

Local seniors embrace benefits of yoga

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — Each week, the Charlton Senior Center and Charlton Public Library hosts a series of yoga classes for senior citizens designed to help them maintain their personal health and youthful energy in their elder years. Yoga, an ancient practice that combines stretching and calming exercises to benefit students physically and mentally, has long been a popular practice across generations, but its benefits for senior specifically has made it a common program for



Jason Bleau

Charlton yoga instructor Bonnie Dellerose leads one of the Charlton Senior Center's Yoga for Seniors sessions, held twice a week at the Charlton Public Library.

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Southbridge roadwork highlighted for 2024-'25

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE — This week, the town council approved a \$985,294 contract for this year's paving work with PJ Albert Paving of Fitchburg. While that vote happened after this paper's deadline, the plan was discussed a few days earlier at the DPW subcommittee.

According to Manager Jack Jovan, this was the second attempt at bidding this work. "We had to disqualify the bids and rebid the project due to a bid protest."

The resulting delay also enabled the town to change what streets would be repaired this year. Those will include much of Dennison Drive, Durfee Street's dead end, Fairmount Ave, Surrey Lane, Trailside Way, and Mass Ave.

Jovan noted the police department lot and "some water department areas" will also be done using funds other than Chapter 90, which is what's funding the rest. He later said he's also working on bids for River and Crane street work, which will go out soon; that project is being funded from several sources, including Chapter 90 and CDBG grant money.

DPW Director Rich Benoit said the plan is to start work in the fall. He noted "Some of the work will be greater than others," in that it will include some drainage repair. But "it's not going to be a huge undertaking like South Street," with most work being basic mill-and-overlay repaving.

A key part of this year's work – Mechanic and North – was originally slated for last year, but delayed due to last minute National Grid work plans. When that happened, paving was already underway on other streets, but the bulk of the work

Turn To **ROADWORK** page A13

Center of Hope Foundation receives grant funding for computer lab upgrades

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Center of Hope Foundation Inc. announces that they have been awarded a grant from the George W. Wells Foundation to modernize the Computer Lab. This funding will allow for vital updates to this technology center, which is used as a training hub for new employees, as well as for those supported to receive instrumental vocational training.

The grant of \$18,000 will be dedicated to new computers with improved operating systems and superior space, making it more functional, streamlining the training process. These enhancements will allow the nearly 140 people receiving vocational and community-based support over the last ten years to develop and hone the skills that will allow them to move forward in employment and with other areas of their lives. It will also allow for enhanced training for staff, improving the support provided in all service areas.

The George W. Wells Foundation's "...support through the decades has been invaluable and has helped us to continue to support more and more families in our community," said Cindy Howard, CEO. This project made possible by this grant will help advance The Center of Hopes mission to provide people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (ID/DD) and their families from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds the resources, services, and opportunities to be contributing members of their communities and to achieve the most fulfilling and meaningful lives possible.

The project will begin in July, 2024. We look forward to sharing updates on the

Turn To **GRANT** page A13



Courtesy

Master Masons from the 24th Masonic District along with the Lafayette-Greylock Lodge members and Master Masons from throughout Massachusetts attended this Annual Hill Degree up in the mountains in Berkshire County. Special guest Brother George Hamilton center who is our Most Worshipful Grand Master of Massachusetts of Boston.

Master Masons travel to Berkshire County for annual Hill Degree!

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE
QUINEBUAG MASONIC LODGE
SOUTHBRIDGE

WILLIAMSTOWN — On Saturday, Aug. 3, Master Masons of the 24th Masonic District and other Masons from throughout the state took a long ride

to Williamstown to watch and witness the Hill Degree 2024.

The sponsor of this annual event is the Lafayette-Greylock Lodge of North Adams. The annual event is held in a cornfield up in the mountains of Berkshire County. This event is open to all Master Masons who wish to ex-

perience 3rd Degree work in an open cornfield surrounded by mother nature. Rain or shine this event is put on and all who attend must be prepared for the weather and even the wildlife. At this event a classic barbeque style meal was served. Master Masons who attended this fun event had to provide

their own folding chairs and umbrellas, or pop-up tents if mother nature is not cooperating. The experience of an outdoor 3rd Degree work and comradeship is something to remember. If you would like more information about Freemasonry, go to www.massfreemasonry.org to find a lodge nearest you.

Local organizations receive food donations from Sheriff's Office

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — Run by the Worcester County Sheriff's Office, a sprawling organic farm is growing to new heights this summer.

Cared for by inmates at the Worcester County House of Correction, the farm is experiencing a record year of harvests. Officials ascribe the unprecedented amount of produce to consistently high humidity, sunny days, and frequent rainstorms.

"For over a dozen years, inmates at the Worcester County House of Correction have grown fresh produce on the Sheriff's Office's organic farm as part of the inmate work-release program," read a statement released by the Sheriff's Office.

Produce harvested on the farm each year is donated to several venues and organizations across Worcester County. These include food banks, senior centers, soup kitchens, veterans' organizations, and charitable groups, among others.

Produce is also used

to feed the inmate population in the facility.

"The 2024 growing season is off to an electric start with the ideal environmental conditions," read the statement issued by the Sheriff's Office.

As part of this year's impressive results, work-release crews are regularly yielding between 750-1,000 pounds of produce with their harvests.

Additionally, the Sheriff's Office has added a second delivery crew to distribute the produce to even more community partners throughout Worcester County.

Inmates eligible for participation in the work-release program have been deemed by officials as low-risk and non-violent. The inmates who qualify for the program, and choose to be in it, receive "good time credits" each month for their positive behavior and active participation in programming.

By the end of a typical growing season, harvests total approximately 40,000 pounds. Crops



Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis (center) and members of his team recently dropped off food donations at local senior centers and other venues.

Courtesy

grown at the West Boylston facility include zucchinis, apples, eggplants, corn, tomatoes, and several others.

For Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis and his team, it's always rewarding to share their programs and outreach efforts with the community. The Sheriff and his team frequently attend distribution events and hand out products grown on the farm.

Last week alone, delivery crews from the Sheriff's Office visited more

than 20 area nonprofits, food pantries, veterans' organizations, and se-

nior centers. Recipients included the Spencer Senior Center.

"We were thrilled to be able to receive fresh produce from the Sheriff's Office. They dropped off a crate of summer squash and a crate of zucchini," said Spencer Senior Center Director April Caruso. "Every little bit helps. Seniors are living check to check, and with the rising cost of everything, we appreciate all donations for our seniors."

To learn more about the Worcester County Sheriff's Office and how its programs are benefiting partners across the county, visit www.worcestercountysheriff.com.

A new bike and so much more Cornerstone Bank donates \$1,000 to Worcester Earn-a-Bike Inc.

WORCESTER — Giving a child a bike is great, but providing them the opportunity to earn it gives them so much more. Through Worcester Earn-a-Bike Inc., local youth volunteer five hours in the shop stripping donated bikes, organizing parts, helping others with bike repairs and learning how to use the tools safely. Then they can choose a bike from the organization's inventory of repairable bikes to repair for themselves. Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with locations throughout Central Massachusetts, recently donated \$1,000 to support this forward-thinking community program.

"We are so impressed with this innovative initiative for local youth," said Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman. "Participants gain valuable hands-on skills, learn teamwork and develop leadership skills. When they earn their bike and build it up with their own hands, it becomes so much more than just a bike."

Worcester Earn-a-Bike also hires paid youth mechanics through the Worcester Community Action Council. The youth mechanics help other kids and adults with bike repairs and serve as role models and mentors to new, younger kids who come to the shop.

The organization is also committed to encouraging bike riding as an empowering, economical and healthy alternative to car culture, hosting monthly community bike rides planned by the youth participants and open to the community.

"It's hard to tally all the benefits of this initiative, many of which are intangible," said Tallman. "From self-confidence and pride in a job well done, to a sense of community and belonging, this can truly be a life-changing experience."

Donated funds will be used toward program expenses, which include a youth coordinator and shop coordinator who work a few hours a week, bike tools and parts, rent and insurance, and for monthly community bike rides.

To learn more about earning a bike or participating in Worcester Earn-a-Bike events, such as monthly community rides, visit facebook.com/worcesterearnabike.

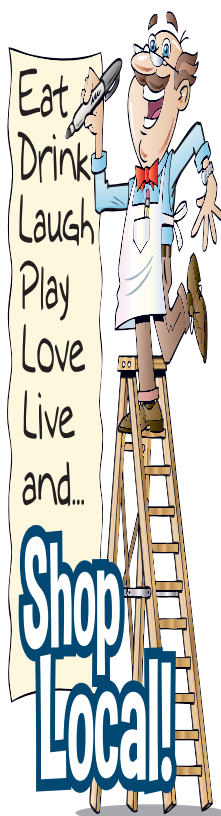
About Cornerstone Bank

Cornerstone Bank was formed in 2017, born of a long history of supporting the community, and providing a strong foundation to help people and businesses thrive. Serving Worcester County, Massachusetts, Cornerstone Bank's local presence and community-based banking model enables a unique ability to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone provides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations with branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts. Cornerstone works to connect customers with opportunities, through a broad range of deposit and loan products, and services. Built on Trust is not just a tag line, but also one of our guiding corporate values. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone stands on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. To learn about Cornerstone Bank's personal and business banking offerings, please visit cornerstonebank.com or call 800-939-9103.

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Registration # 7609

<https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/7609>

Hi! My name is Skyl'ar and I have a fun and silly side!

Skyl'ar is a smart and independent young lady. She can be shy at first but once she opens up, she has a fun and silly side. Skyl'ar takes pride in advocating for herself. Skyl'ar loves playing with dolls and basketball. She is hoping to sign up for soccer and cheerleading.

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

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

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



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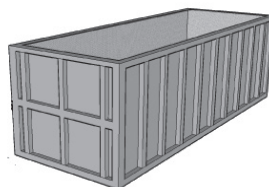


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Gwendolyn Kennan to perform in “Legally Blonde The Musical JR.” at Hanover Theatre and Conservatory

CHARLTON — Charlton pre-teen, Gwendolyn Kennan, will have Worcester thinking pink when she appears in “Legally Blonde The Musical JR.” during the Youth Pre-Teen Summer Program (YSP) at The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts Saturday, Aug. 10 at 2 and 6 p.m. The fun and upbeat musical follows the adventures of a sorority girl named Elle Woods – a Gemini with a double Capricorn moon – who tries to win her ex-boyfriend back by earning a Harvard law degree. Kennan will play Vivienne/“Serious” Couple in the production.



Gwendolyn Kennan

“‘Legally Blonde The Musical JR.’ may be a comedic, light-hearted show, but it also explores serious themes of self-discovery and independence which resonate with people of all ages,” says announced today by Freddie Gershon, CEO of Music Theatre International (MTI). “We hope everyone in Worcester is totally psyched to see the show.”

Delta Nu sorority president Elle Woods seems to have it all: good looks, a relationship with the “campus catch,” and great taste in clothes. However her life is turned upside-down when her boyfriend, Warner, dumps her in an attempt to start getting “serious” about his future and attend Harvard Law. Determined to win him back, Elle uses a lot of hard work and some charm to get into Harvard Law so she can prove to

Warner that she’s serious enough for him. Once at school, she is challenged by her peers, professors and her ex, but with the help of some new friends, Elle realizes her potential and sets out to prove herself to the world.

In a recent interview, the Charlton pre-teen shared, “My favorite part of the show is when Elle Woods sings ‘So Much Better’. Sophia [Zarrinkoub] is going to slay that number!”

With a book by Heather Hach, music and lyrics by Laurence O’Keefe and Nell Benjamin, “Legally Blonde JR.” is based on the book by Amanda Brown and the hit Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer motion picture starring Reese Witherspoon, which was nominated for a Golden Globe Award for Best Motion Picture: Musical or Comedy. “Legally Blonde The Musical” opened at Broadway’s Palace Theatre in April 2007, starring Laura Bell Bundy as the iconic Elle Woods.

The Hanover Theatre Conservatory’s Youth Pre-Teen Summer Program will present “Legally Blonde The Musical JR.” Aug. 10 on the main stage at 2 Southbridge St., Worcester. All tickets are \$18. Seating is general admission. For more information, visit TheHanoverTheatre.org or contact the box office at 877-571-7469.

“Legally Blonde The Musical JR.” is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI, 421 West 54th St., New York, NY 10019 Phone: 212-541-4684 Fax: 212-397-4684; www.MTIShows.com.

About The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts

Since opening in 2008, The Hanover Theatre has entertained more than two million guests with Broadway musicals, comedy headliners, music, dance and more. POLLSTAR consistently ranks The Hanover Theatre as one of the top theatres in the world. The award-winning historic theatre continues to establish its place as a world-class center for the performing arts, a venue for local cultural and civic organizations and a catalyst for the revitalization of downtown Worcester. The Hanover Theatre’s facilities at 551 Main St. house function spaces, offices and The Hanover Theatre Conservatory.

The Hanover Theatre Conservatory provides performance opportunities, classes, and individual instruction in theatre, dance and technical theatre and design to more than 600 young people and adults from across central

Massachusetts each year. Established in 2016, the conservatory cultivates individual attention, ignites creativity and inspires confidence through arts education led by outstanding teaching artists. The state-of-the-art facility includes classrooms, rehearsal and teaching studios, and tech and costume labs for advanced education in stage craft and design. Students receive access to master classes with national touring artists and gain professional experience from performance opportunities with THT Rep and on The Hanover Theatre’s world-class stage. THTC believes in access to arts education for all and provides financial aid for those in need. Many conservatory students have continued their pursuit of the arts at institutions such as Emerson College, Boston University, NYU, Boston Conservatory at Berklee, Berklee College of Music, Hofstra University, Hartt School at the University of Hartford, Marymount Manhattan College, Syracuse University and more.

Worcester Center for Performing Arts is a registered not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, which owns and operates The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts (THT) and, on behalf of the Worcester Cultural Coalition (WCC), manages Worcester’s BrickBox Theater at the Jean McDonough Arts Center (JMAC). All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

Friends of the Joshua Hyde Library hosting Book Sale Saturday

STURBRIDGE — The Friends of the Joshua Hyde Library, 306 Main St. in Sturbridge, will hold their annual August sale of nearly new and gently used books from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Aug. 10. The sale will be held outside,

behind the library and also inside the building, down in the meeting room.

Come and find biography, mystery, nonfiction, history, classics, and fiction galore. There will be hardcover and paperbacks for adults, young

readers and children of all ages.

Proceeds from the sale help fund the many programs, museum passes and events that make the library special.

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Bay Path Nursing student receives P.E.O. grant

CHARLTON — Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy student Delene Sarsfield of Charlton is named P.E.O. (Philanthropic Educational Organization) grant recipient. Sarsfield received the grant, a certificate, and gifts from members of Chapter AA.

Sarsfield is a multi-faceted, efficient, ethical, motivated, and Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) with over 15 years of patient centered care. She exudes compassion and empathy for each patient she interacts with and collaborates well with her colleagues. Sarsfield takes direction well and is open to constructive feed-



back. She is adaptable and works well under pressure. Her long-term goals include obtaining her certificate in practical nursing to become an LPN (Licensed Practical Nurse) and eventually bridge into an RN (Registered Nurse) field of interest is hospice and palliative care nursing.

She graduated from the

Holy Name Central Catholic Jr./Sr. High School in Worcester. She is BLS/HCP CPR certified and recently obtained her certificate in Stop the Bleed.

The P.E.O. organization honored Sarsfield with the PCE (Program for Continuing Education) grant for the 2024-2025 academic year. The grant was presented to Sarsfield by Debbie Nickerson from Chapter AA.

"I cannot thank everyone enough for taking time out of their busy schedule. It was such an honor. I had such a wonderful time surrounded by such amazing women," stated Sarsfield.

ABOUT P.E.O.

The P.E.O. Sisterhood, founded Jan. 21, 1869, at Iowa

Wesleyan College, Mount Pleasant, Iowa, is an international philanthropic and educational organization which promotes increased educational opportunities for women through scholarships, grants, awards, and loans. There are 5,800 local chapters in the United States and Canada with almost 250,000 initiated members. The P.E.O. Sisterhood has provided over \$398 million in financial assistance to more than 119,000 recipients. The P.E.O. Sisterhood also owns Cottey College, a fully accredited, private liberal arts and sciences college for women, with two-year and selected four-year programs located in Nevada, Mo.

Bay Path alum sworn in as member of Board of Registration in Nursing

BOSTON — Heidi L. Underwood, BSHS, AACJ, LPN of Brookfield was appointed as a member of the Board of Registration in Nursing, pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 13, Section 13.

Before commencing her responsibilities, Underwood took an oath of office. She was sworn in on the balcony of the state house by Jonathan Torcia, Senior Deputy Director of Boards and Commissions.

Consistent with the statute under which Underwood was appointed, her term will expire on January 12, 2027. In a letter addressed to Underwood, Gov. Maura T. Healy expressed her congratulations and appreciation for Underwood's willingness to serve the Commonwealth in her capacity as a member of the Board of Registration in Nursing. Copied on the official communication were Kimberley Driscoll, Lieutenant



Governor, William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth, William J. McNamara, Comptroller of the Commonwealth, and Kate Walsh, Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services.

Underwood is a graduate of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, class of 2014. Underwood was appointed as Notary Public in 2022 by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Office of the Secretary of Commonwealth (One Ashburton Pl., Boston, MA 02108). Underwood was the 2021 Massachusetts Adult Immunization Confer-

ence (MAIC) Champion Awardee, and her achievement was recognized during the 26th Annual Massachusetts Adult Immunization Conference held, April 13, 2021. Underwood was the Clinical Coordinator of Vaccine Management at the Family Health Center of Worcester (FHCW). She is described by her colleagues as a "tireless champion of immunizations for the patients who receive care at the FHCW." Underwood is responsible for many initiatives encouraging adult immunizations. Her meticulous planning resulted in FHCW's provision of

over 3,425 flu vaccines to low-income, culturally diverse patients in need. Her efforts almost tripled 2020's adult flu vaccination count of 1,250. Underwood and her team accomplished this through the establishment of a walk-in, six-day-a-week community-based flu clinic and engaging in community outreach efforts. Further, Underwood initiated efforts to decrease duplicate patient records for FHCW in the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS). Since March 2020, Underwood has decreased the duplicate patient records in the MIIS for FHCW from over 15,000 records to zero records. She continues to innovate and has implemented a booster vaccination catch-up program for adults (18-35). Underwood is a Certified Coordinator for Vaccine Management and is ACLS and BLS Certified (American Heart Associa-

tion). Currently, she serves as the infection control nurse manager at the Edward M. Kennedy Health Center in

Worcester and as the Financial Aid Administrator at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy.

Shawna Foundation to screen silent film classic

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Shawna Foundation Presents UnderGround Wednesday with a Screening of the silent movie classic "The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari" from 1920 with musical accompaniment, another in our Silent Movie Concert Series, Aug. 28 at starlite, 39 Hamilton St., Southbridge, beginning at 7 p.m.

"The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari" jolted the post-war masses and catapulted the movement known as German Expressionism into film history. Director Robert Wiene and a visionary team of designers crafted a nightmare realm in which light, shadow and substance are abstracted, a world in which a demented doctor and a carnival sleepwalker perpetrate a series of ghastly murders. Starring Conrad Veidt (Casablanca) as Caesar, the somnambulist.

Accompanying the movie will be live music performed by SWRM featuring Alec K. Redfearn on synth and with Matt McLaren on drums.

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Making the last of summer count

As the calendar flips to August, there's a collective realization that summer is winding down. For students, the end of the season brings the inevitable return to school, while those heading off to college face a life-changing transition. It's a time filled with anticipation, excitement, and a touch of bittersweet nostalgia. Before we all dive back into the routine of school schedules and academic responsibilities, it's crucial to hang on to the last days of summer and make the most of this precious time.

August is the perfect time to squeeze in all those summer activities we've been meaning to do. Whether it's a beach day, a family picnic, a hiking adventure, or simply lounging in the backyard with a good book, these moments are fleeting and should be cherished. The beauty of summer lies in its carefree nature, the long days that invite exploration and relaxation. As the final full month of summer, August offers a last chance to bask in the sun.

For high school graduates heading off to college, August marks a significant farewell to the familiar comforts of home. It's a time to soak in the presence of family, savor home-cooked meals, and engage in the simple joys of being surrounded by loved ones. The transition to college is exciting, but it also comes with the reality of leaving behind the everyday connections that define home. Students should take this time to bond with their families, sharing laughs, stories, and experiences that will stay with them as they venture into new territories.

For soon-to-be college students, it's about preparing for a new chapter filled with independence, new friendships, and academic challenges. This preparation doesn't have to be all work; it can also involve exploring the excitement of new beginnings, whether through shopping for dorm essentials or planning future adventures.

While it's important to enjoy the final days of summer, it's equally crucial to approach this time with balance. Packing too much into August can lead to stress and exhaustion, defeating the purpose of a relaxing summer break. Instead, prioritize activities that bring joy and fulfillment. Whether it's a spontaneous road trip or a quiet evening at home, focus on experiences that truly matter.

Letter submission policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author's name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author's name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted.

It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.

OPINION

The lessons of petitioning in 2024

Some of you reading this probably saw me and Maureen out at the post office, farmers' markets and other area events over the last few months collecting signatures for that quadrennial trial of most third parties – getting candidates on the ballot.

It's an important, if sometimes frustrating, part of democracy, but also highlights how skewed our system really is. Small parties – in our case, the Greens' Jill Stein – and even well-known non-party candidates like RFK, Jr. have to pound the pavement to meet an arbitrary threshold of acceptance to get on the ballot at all. That threshold varies hugely by state. According to Ballotpedia, the lowest are Tennessee's 275 and New Jersey's 800, climbing all the way up to 145,040 in Florida and 219,403 in California.

Massachusetts requires 10,000 for president and US senator, and our deadline just passed (July 30) to get them to local clerks for certification. Later this month, they need to get to the Secretary of State's office.

I could turn this into a rant about how corrupt our political system is, and write pages about that. But I won't.

EARTHBORN

BY GUS
STEEVES

Instead, what we saw while petitioning is what really matters. That response split a few ways.

A fairly distressing number of people simply said they don't participate – they're unregistered and/or don't vote. Sometimes, that was clearly just a brush-off alongside responses like “I'm all set,” “I'm in a hurry” and similar meaningless phrases.

Sometimes it was true. We all know a large minority of our population really aren't voters, and that says a lot about our system, none of it good. As it stands now, “the powers that be” in our country largely ignore all such people (even more than they ignore most of us who do vote). Doing so, however, fails to account for the reality that non-participants actually fall in two camps: those who were apathetic to start with and those who quit in disgust. The former don't care, and don't want to be reached; the latter care a lot and are fed up with the crookedness and propaganda that riddles our system today.

The latter could probably be brought back into the system by something the major parties would never support be-

Turn To **EARTHBORN** page A13

Antique and collectible fakes, reproductions and warehouse finds



ANTIQUES,
COLLECTIBLES
& ESTATES
•••••
WAYNE TUISKULA

It's always caveat emptor (aka buyer beware) in the antiques world. Today's column will cover some helpful tips to consider before making your next purchase.

The more knowledge that you have about antiques, the better chance you'll buy something authentic. An internet search is always a good way to quickly find information about a piece you are considering. You can find selling prices for items similar to the one you're looking at using eBay sold prices or by checking pay sites like worthpoint.com. You may also see red flags that make you want to leave the item on the shelf. It may just be that the piece is priced higher than they typically sell for. You may also find that the item has been heavily reproduced. It could be a “warehouse find,” which is when a large quantity of the same type of items are discovered, sometimes in an old warehouse. When thousands of like items turn up and hit the market all at once, the market gets flooded and prices drop.

Before I became a fulltime auctioneer over 20 years ago, I used to go to antique shops, flea markets, and antique shows in my free time. I would often see the same object being offered in multiple locations and realize that items were being reproduced or someone just discovered a large amount of them (a warehouse find) somewhere.

Some people can't afford to pay antique prices for pieces for their home but like the look of antiques. There are companies that offer reproductions online. On Old Farmhouse Primitives (oldfarmhouseprimitives.com) you can buy items ranging from a “tinner's candlestick” for \$9.99 to a “heart of Massachusetts settle” (bench) for \$2,200. Upper Deck Limited (upperdeckltd.com) offers a wide range of reproductions in their 2023-2024 Garden Catalog. You can buy a metal garden spider or snail key box for under \$5. An “extra large farm bell” will cost you \$64.50.

Checking online sites like these can help you to avoid buying reproductions when you are antique hunting. Here are some other tips. Go to auctions, antique stores, antique shows and anywhere else you can view an-



tiques and collectibles. Examine pieces to see how they are made. You will notice the quality of craftsmanship, which you don't typically see in mass produced reproductions.

Here are just a few of the things I've encountered when searching for antiques over the years. I used to see Ken-Wel Lou Gehrig baseball glove die-cut signs in multiple fields in Brimfield in the late 1980s. They are still being offered on eBay with some being labeled as reproductions and others making no mention of it. There was a period where we handled a lot of Tiffany bronze and slag glass (opaque marbled glass) desk accessories. They are now being reproduced in Asia and the price of originals has dropped considerably. It should be noted that the detail is nowhere near as crisp on a repro compared to an original. I've seen where people used acid to create an artificial patina (natural green color found on copper or bronze) to make weathervanes and other metal pieces look older. I've also seen autographs being offered as authentic despite the name being misspelled. All antique dealers make some mistakes when buying, but hopefully this column helps you to make fewer of them.

We will be closing consignments for our major auction of art, gold jewelry, sterling silver, coins, historical items, and other antiques soon. Please visit our website <https://centralmassauctions.com> for links to upcoming events.

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

Make succession plan a priority



FINANCIAL
FOCUS

TREVOR
NIELSEN

When you run your own business, your days are busy and there's always a lot on your mind — but have you also thought about the day when you'll leave the business?

In other words, have you started thinking about your exit strategy? If not, you have company: About one-third of business owners haven't prepared a business succession plan, and of these owners, slightly more than a third don't view succession planning as a priority, according to a recent survey from Morning Consult, NXT360 Partners and Edward Jones.

If you're not close to retirement age and you've only had your business a short time, you might not think that creating a succession plan is a priority — or even a necessity. After all, you've got plenty of other things to do, such as attracting new business, dealing with competition, managing a staff, and so on. So, what benefits can you gain by prioritizing a succession plan?

Here are a few to consider:

You'll be prepared if your plans change. You might be fully engaged in running your business now, but you can't always foresee where you'll be in the future. If a new opportunity came along, would you decide to take it? Or what if you experienced a health crisis and you could no longer run your business? If either of these situations were to occur, and you did not have a succession plan, you might be forced to act quickly and take steps — such as suddenly liquidating your business — that might not be in your best interest.

You can help avoid family squabbles. If you have family members involved in your business or those who feel they should have a financial stake in it, you'll be doing yourself, and everyone else, a favor by developing a business succession plan and communicating it to your family. Your choice of successor may not please everyone, but if family members know far in advance what to expect when you exit your business, there's less likelihood of bitter disputes that can arise when succession plans are ill-defined or poorly communicated.

You can develop your successor's management skills. If you've decided that you want an internal successor, whether it be a family member or a current employee, your succession plan will give you time to help develop this individual's management skills, as well as their overall knowledge of your business and familiarity with your customers, vendors, and other key parties. Of course, it's a different story if you plan to sell the business to an outsider, but even then, you'll want to be sure the new owner has the abilities needed to succeed.

You may help improve your company's performance. As you prepare your succession plan, you may well find existing vulnerabilities in your business that you can address now. You also may find that you need to innovate in certain areas, define your long-term goals more clearly and identify the resources you'll need — human and otherwise — to sustain the level of growth you desire.

It may seem a long time before you'll leave your business, but tempus fugit — time flies. So, put a succession plan on your to-do list.

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

Tomato Tips



TAKE
THE
HINT

KAREN
TRAINOR

The much anticipated tomato season is here! Whether you grow tomatoes in a backyard plot, or buy them from a farmer's market or roadside stand, there's nothing like biting into a ripe red summer tomato!

Since there is such a small seasonal window in which to enjoy the fresh fruit, this week's column will highlight how to store and freeze the precious picks!

For optimum flavor, never store whole tomatoes in the refrigerator! Freshly picked tomatoes should be kept at room temperature to maintain flavor and juiciness.

However, once you slice into the tomato, storing cut tomatoes in the refrigerator is recommended to reduce bacteria

Did you know that fresh, whole tomatoes should be stored stem side down on a paper towel in the counter or in an open container? Don't cover tomatoes.

Freezing Tomatoes: If you're lucky enough to have too many tomatoes to use or give away, you might want to consider freezing them. Here's how USDA extension guides recommend it's done:

Freezing Raw Tomatoes: It is possible to quickly freeze raw tomatoes without blanching them first. They may be frozen without their skins or frozen whole with their skins. Frozen tomatoes are best used in cooked foods such as soups, sauces and stews as they become mushy when they're thawed.

Preparation. Select firm, ripe tomatoes for freezing. Sort the tomatoes, discarding any that are spoiled.

Tomatoes should be washed before cutting. To wash, wet each tomato with water; rub its surface, rinse it with running water; and dry it with a paper towel. After washing, cut away the stem scar and surrounding area and discard it before slicing or chopping the tomato.

Washing tomatoes in a sink filled with water is not recommended since contaminated water can be absorbed through the fruit's stem scar. The use of soap or detergent is neither recommended nor approved for washing fruits and vegetables because they can absorb detergent residues.

Tomatoes may be frozen whole, sliced, chopped, or pureed. Additionally, you can freeze them raw or cooked, as juice or sauce, or prepared in the recipe of your choice. Thawed raw tomatoes may be used in any cooked-tomato recipe. Do not try to substituted them for fresh tomatoes, however, since freezing causes their texture to become mushy. Tomatoes should be seasoned just before serving rather than before freezing; freezing may either strengthen or weaken seasonings such as garlic, onion, and herbs.

Freezing Whole Tomatoes with Peels: Prepare tomatoes as described above. Cut away the stem scar. Place the tomatoes on cookie sheets and freeze. Tomatoes do not need to be blanched before freezing. Once frozen, transfer the tomatoes from the cookie sheets into freezer bags or other containers. Seal tightly. To use the frozen tomatoes, remove them from the freezer a few at a time or all at once. To peel, just run a frozen tomato under warm water in the kitchen sink. Its skin will slip off easily.

Freezing Peeled Tomatoes: If you prefer to freeze peeled tomatoes, you can wash the tomatoes and then dip them in boiling water for about 1 minute or until the skins split. Peel and then freeze as noted above.

Lifespan: To extend the lifetime of frozen foods maintain good quality, package foods in material intended for freezing and keep the temperature of the freezer at 0 degrees F or below. It is generally recommended frozen vegetables be eaten within about 8 months for best quality.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

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

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

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Distribution decisions

FINANCIAL FOCUS

BY CHRISTOPHER MALLON
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT,
PROGRAM MANAGER
LPL REGISTERED PRINCIPAL, THE
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When it comes to retirement planning, most clients will generally fall into one of two categories: the accumulation phase or the distribution phase.

The accumulation phase is the time spent during your working years, earning income and (hopefully) setting aside assets to be used in retirement. The strategies used during this phase are fairly straightforward. Most individuals will sock away regular contributions into an employer sponsored retirement plan (i.e., 401(k) and/or individual retirement accounts (i.e. IRA).

But when it comes to the distribution phase of retirement, things can become more complex. When you retire and are no longer collecting a regular paycheck, you will need to rely upon new sources of income. For most people, this involves a combination of social security, personal savings, and retirement accounts. The decisions you make during this period can have a dramatic impact on how long your retirement assets will last.

Do you have a spending plan in place for when you retire? Many retirees worry about outliving their money. It's important to have a strategy for withdrawing and using your retirement assets.

First, you'll need to determine the total annual cost it takes to run your household, and choose a practical, yearly withdrawal amount. Some households adopt

the "4 or 5 percent rule," which entails removing 4 to 5 percent from their savings annually. That rule, however, has its critics, many of whom feel it can backfire in a volatile market. Some retirees try to withdraw a set dollar amount annually. Others withdraw a fixed percentage of their portfolio or aim to live off its interest rather than its principal. There is also the "bucket" approach, in which a retiree withdraws cash to live on from an account that would be "refilled" with investment earnings from other accounts.

Second, keep in mind the order in which you withdraw from your accounts. It may be preferable to withdraw income from your taxable investment accounts first. That way, you can give your tax-deferred accounts a chance to grow and compound further. Generally, withdrawals from tax-deferred retirement accounts are required at age 72. Keep in mind the taxable income resulting from these mandatory withdrawals may put you in a higher tax bracket, so you'll want to account for tax-withhold-

ing.

Last but not least, choosing when to receive your Social Security benefits requires careful consideration. In general, if you are in good health and do not "need" the income to cover your bills, consider waiting until full retirement age. For anyone born 1960 or later, full retirement benefits are payable at age 67. Some individuals may also consider delaying their benefits until age 70. For each year you delay claiming Social Security past your full retirement age, your benefits grow by 8% — but after age 70, there are no further increases.

As your retirement progresses, you should review your spending strategy. Life events, market volatility, investment returns, inflation and other factors may call for adjustments. The key is to have a plan in place which you can modify as needed. Decisions, decisions...

About

The Capstone Planning Group

The Capstone Planning Group is an experienced wealth management team conveniently located at Cornerstone Bank. The team offers comprehensive financial planning, retirement income planning, asset management, and insurance. To learn more about the team and schedule a courtesy consultation please visit www.thecapstone.group or call 508-764-0046.

We don't have forever

I recently lost a close friend. His death was unexpected and came out of nowhere. Having known him since the fifth grade, his passing left me reeling.

This loss struck me profoundly and reminded me that our time is finite. We often forget how limited our time is until a loss brings this reality crashing down on us. It's a startling realization, driving home the point that we have so little time to pursue our dreams and make the most of our lives.

Life is fleeting. When we're young, we feel like we have all the time in the world. It seems like yesterday when he and I were in 6th grade, dumping dish soap into the hot tub and filling the neighborhood with bubbles.

In a flash, we were graduating high school and swimming 375 miles from the top of Lake Michigan to Chicago with three other friends. As the saying goes, "Time flies." It is a relentless force, always moving forward, never waiting for anyone.

"Time is the most valuable thing a person can spend," said Theophrastus.

You may think it's too late. You may think your time has passed. But consider this: London is eight hours ahead of Los Angeles, but there is still time for LA. While this might seem like a silly analogy, it illustrates an important point. Have you ever heard about a person who became a CEO at 25 and died at 50, while another person became a CEO at 50 and died at 90? Obama retired at 55, while Trump started at 70.

Some people may seem ahead of you, and you might think, "Why bother? It's too late for me." But everyone in this world runs their race in their own time. They are in their time zone, and you are in yours.

"There is no right time. There is just time and what you choose to do with it," said J.K. Rowling.

The essence of this wisdom is that the perfect

moment to start living your dreams will never come on its own. You must seize the moment, create the opportunity, and decide to start now.

So, how do you start? Begin by acknowledging where you are and where you want to be. Set goals, no matter how small, and take steps towards them. Each moment spent working towards your dreams is a moment well spent.

As the great philosopher Lao Tzu said, "The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step."

Embrace your journey, and remember that it's always possible to make a change, take a step forward, and pursue what truly matters to you. Time is precious; the only way to honor it is by making the most of every moment.

"Don't watch the clock; do what it does. Keep going," said Sam Levenson.

This means that instead of fixating on the passage of time, focus on your actions and the progress you're making. Every second is a chance to move closer to your goals and to live a life that fulfills and excites you.

So, ask yourself: Are you living the life you want? If not, now is the time to start. Reflect on your dreams, passions, and the steps needed to reach them. Take inspiration from those who have walked before you, and remember that your unique journey is valuable and significant.

"Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life," Steve Jobs once advised.

This is your life, your time. Make it count. Live authentically, chase your dreams with vigor, and appreciate the beauty of every moment you have. Make sure your friends and family know you love them. Hug them and spend time with them.

Every heartbeat and breath is a gift, an opportunity to make a difference, love, create, and live fully. Don't let the minutes slip away unnoticed. Embrace

Turn To **POSITIVE** page A13

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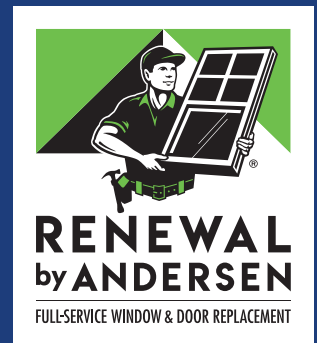
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Charlton hosts annual Blueberry Festival



Jason Bleau

Several rows of vendors filled the lawn adjacent to the Charlton Arts and Activities Center offering a variety of good for visitors to the Blueberry Festival.



Jason Bleau

Chuck & Mod and the Hole in the Dam Band provided the morning entertainment as the Blueberry Festival kicked off.



Jason Bleau

Volunteers create the signature treat of the day, the blueberry shortcake.



Jason Bleau

Facepainting was just one of the many family-friendly activities at the Blueberry Festival which also included sand art, a bouncy house, and more.



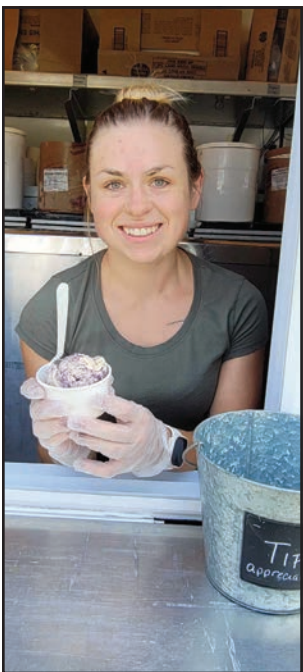
Jason Bleau

Representatives of Fay Mountain Farm brought a variety of blueberry treats for visitors to purchase, including actual farm fresh blueberries.



Jason Bleau

(Left) A family of guests enjoy some of the first blueberry shortcakes of the day.



Jason Bleau

(Left) Batch, a Longmeadow ice cream company, brought a special blueberry muffin themed treat to help refresh guests during a hot summer day.



Jason Bleau

(Left) Melissa Flaherty Cakes brought a variety of blueberry themed cakes, cookies and treats to fit the theme of the day.

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Turn To FESTIVAL page A16

QCC receives national excellence award for Respiratory Care program

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College's Respiratory Care program was recently honored with the President's Award for Excellence in Credentialing Success from the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC). QCC was one of only 10 colleges in the country to earn this recognition.

"This award speaks to the caliber of QCC's faculty, as well as to the commitment and dedication of our students," said QCC President Luis G. Pedraja, Ph.D., adding that this is the second year in a row QCC has received the award.

The award is given by CoARC to accredited programs that have three consecutive years of a 100 percent credentialing rate for their respiratory care students. When students graduate from QCC's Respiratory Care program, they are required to take two credentialing exams to earn their Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) credential.

"I am proud of our students, faculty, and the Respiratory Care Program. This award is the result of a collective effort," said Assistant Dean of the School of Healthcare Shanan Stratis. "Our students receive instruction by highly skilled and experienced respiratory therapists in the classroom, lab and in various clinical settings. As a result, they are well-prepared for their credentialing exams, which is evident in our high exam pass rates."

The Respiratory Care program at QCC is a 20-month associate degree program that prepares students to enter the workforce as a licensed RRT. Currently, QCC has a 100% job placement rate for students upon graduation. Graduates from the program are often employed at QCC's clinical affiliates such as UMass Memorial Medical Center and Mass General Hospital.

"It is a wonderful feeling that we earned this award for the second year in a row. It is no easy feat for students to earn their RRT credential and this is just a reflection of the passion and dedication of our respiratory care faculty. This is an amazing program that can open so many doors to jobs that do so much good for our community while also earning a really good wage," said Respiratory Care Program Coordinator and QCC alum Daniel Marsala.

QCC's Respiratory Care program began in 1967 and is the oldest respiratory program in the state.

Gateway Players announce auditions for "Alice @ Wonderland"

SOUTHBRIDGE — Gateway Players Theatre is hosting auditions for "Alice @ Wonderland" Written by Jonathan Yukich on Monday, Sept. 16 and Wednesday, Sept. 18 at 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall of Elm Street Congregational Church, 61 Elm St. in Southbridge. Entrance is on Park Street (around the corner). You only need to attend one night of auditions. This show will consist of a youth (eight years and older) and adult cast and is directed by Lou-Ellen Corkum and produced by Stephanie Ruggiere.

Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script. All those who audition will also be asked to sing a selection from the show which will be taught by our Music Director, Chris Rubenacker. Performance dates are Dec. 6, 7, and 8. Rehearsals will be on Monday and Thursday nights, with a few Sunday afternoon rehearsals as needed. Presented by permission through special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Service. This program is supported by a grant from the Southbridge Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. If you have any questions, please contact Lou-Ellen Corkum at lcorkum14@gmail.com

What would happen if a 21st century Alice collided with Lewis Carroll's legendary Wonderland? This modern retelling of the classic children's story has all of the characters you know and love, including the Mad Hatter, the White Rabbit, and the Queen of Hearts. The story is laid out in traditional style, except that Alice is distinctly contemporary, complete with a cell phone in hand. Full of references to text messaging and social media, the play imagines a present-day Alice encountering the Wonderland so many of us treasure.

List of Characters: 1. ALICE 2. WHITE RABBIT 3. QUEEN OF HEARTS 4. CATERPILLAR 5. FROG - NEWSIE 6. FROG - NEWSIE 7. CHESHIRE CAT (2) 8. MAD HATTER 9. MARCH HARE 10. DORMOUSE 11. TWEEDLEDUM 12. TWEEDLEDEE 13. HUMPTY DUMPTY 14. KING OF HEARTS CHORUS 1. DOOR ONE 2. DOOR TWO 3. DOOR THREE 4. TINY DOOR 5. LILY 6. ROSE 7. DAISY 8. VIOLET 9. QUEEN'S GUARD ONE 10. QUEEN'S GUARD TWO 11. STORM 12. KITTY KAT CHORUS 13. THE KING'S MEN

University of Delaware announces Dean's List

NEWARK, Del. — The following students have been named to the University of Delaware Dean's List for the Spring 2024 semester:

Cole Miller of Uxbridge
Grace Orr of Uxbridge

To meet eligibility requirements for the Dean's List, a student must be enrolled full-time and earn a GPA of 3.5 or above (on a 4.0 scale) for the semester.

Local students receive Bachelor's degrees from UMass Amherst

AMHERST — Approximately 7,000 students received bachelor's degrees in more than 100 majors at the University of Massachusetts Amherst's Undergraduate Commencement on May 18 at the McGuirk Alumni Stadium.

Below is a list of students from your area who earned a degree.

BRIMFIELD

Lydia Maeve Boland
Michael Reese Crosby
Jordan Reese Guillette
Erika Elizabeth Madden
Jonathan A Rubio

FISKDALE

Julia Howard
Fallon Elizabeth Matte

HOLLAND

Serena Mae Chiasson
Andrew James Radoc

STURBRIDGE

Maeve Margaret Brennan
Mark Henry Charron
Jason Matthew Hastings
Kylee Inthirath
Adon Osimo

WALES

Kyle John Boone

Southbridge resident to run Falmouth Road Race in support of brain injury

SOUTHBRIDGE

—The Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts (BIA-MA) is pleased to announce it will be returning to compete in 52nd Annual ASICS Falmouth Road Race with Team BIA-MA on Sunday, Aug. 18. Team BIA-MA will have twenty-six runners for this iconic race, which is an important annual fundraising and awareness event for the organization.



BIA-MA welcomes Karen Dmohowski of Southbridge to her third run of the Falmouth Road Race for BIA-MA. In 2013, her son suffered a near fatal brain injury while playing baseball. Karen is a nurse who often has patients with histories of brain injury. During those first uncertain months after her son's injury, she discovered BIA-MA and how it can be a valuable resource for individuals and families living with brain injury. She would like "to raise awareness and give back. This cause is near and dear to my heart."

"We are excited and thankful to have our largest number of inspiring runners who have come together determined to accomplish their personal milestones and to raise awareness for brain injury," BIA-MA Chief Executive Office Nicole Go-daire said.

Though the Falmouth Road Race is not intended as a charity race, the "Numbers for Nonprofits" Program allows nonprofit organizations like BIA-MA to both fundraise and participate. To support any of the Team BIA-MA runners in the 2024 ASICS Falmouth Road Race, please visit the team fundraising page. More information can also be found at biama.org/falmouthroadrace.

The Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts (BIA-MA) is the only organization in the state dedicated to improving the lives of those affected by brain injury while reducing its incidence and impact through advocacy, education, prevention, research and support. For more information, visit www.biama.org.

LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES

BROOKFIELD

Brookfield Ecumenical Food Pantry
St. Mary's Church
4 Howard Street, Brookfield, MA 01506
Distribution: Wednesday 9 AM-11 AM;
Saturday 9AM-11AM

CHARLTON

Chip - In Food Pantry
McKinstry Building
37 Main Street, Charlton, MA 01507
Distribution: 3rd Saturday 9 AM-12 Noon

LEICESTER

Leicester Food Pantry
St. Joseph-St. Pius X Parish
759 Main Street, Leicester, MA 01524
Distribution: Tuesday 5 PM-7 PM

NORTH BROOKFIELD

St. Joseph's Food Pantry
296 No. Main St, North Brookfield, MA 01535
Distribution: First Thursday 5 PM-6:30 PM; Third Thursday 12 PM-1:15 PM

SOUTHBRIDGE

Saint John Paul II Food Pantry
Saint Vincent de Paul
279 Hamilton St, Southbridge, MA 01550
Distribution: Tuesday 3 PM-5 PM, Wednesday 9 AM -11 AM

SPENCER- EAST BROOKFIELD - RESIDENTS ONLY

Mary Queen of the Rosary Food Pantry
60 Maple St, Spencer, MA 01562
Distribution: Thursday 10 AM-12 Noon

WEST BROOKFIELD

Sharing Cupboard Food Pantry
First Congregational Church
36 North Main Street,
W.Bookfield, MA 01585
Distribution: Wednesday 10 AM-11:30 AM - Thursday 7 PM- 8 PM



Gateway Players presents "Spreading It Around"

SOUTHBRIDGE — Gateway Players Theatre of Southbridge presents "Spreading It Around" a light comedy by Londos J. D'Arigo. Presented by permission through special arrangement with Concord Theatricals. Performances will be on Sept.

6, 7, 13 & 14 at 7:30 p.m., and on Sept. 15 at 2 p.m. All performances will be held at the Fellowship Hall of Elm Street Congregational Church, 61 Elm St. in Southbridge. Parking is available on Elm Street, or in the parking deck behind the Southbridge Town Hall.

This production will be directed by Lynn Boucher, assistant director is Deb Hollett, and the producer is Kathi Grenier. The cast includes Richard Clark, Cynthia Claudio, Greg Glanville, Dawn Sedlier, and Matt Sedlier. Tickets are \$18 for

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

In "Spreading It Around," Angela Drayton, a wealthy widow living in an upscale retirement community, is tired of handing out money to her unappreciative children. So she starts the "S.I.N. (Spending It Now) Foundation," to give to those truly in need. This terrifies her

greedy son, driving him to devise a plan to have her committed. Featuring delicious roles for adult and mature actors, this poignant family comedy has played numerous theaters in the US and Canada, and continues spreading the laughs around.



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LEGALS

The Brimfield ZBA will hold a public hearing at 5:00 pm on September 19, 2024, at Hitchcock Academy, 2 Brookfield Rd, on behalf of Kimberly Fleming, for the property located at 94 Five Bridge Rd. Parcel ID 16-A-7.8. Deed book 21448, page 63. The applicant seeks a variance and/or special permit for an accessory building on her property for her home occupation. The structure is 14.4" x 14.4" with a pitched roof and loft. She is seeking relief from the required front setback and relief for having a loft. Abutters and members of the public are encouraged to attend and provide feedback.
August 9, 2024
August 16, 2024

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

VEHICLE :2011 HONDA PILOT (TAN)
VIN: 5FNYP4H58BB027444
LAST REGISTERED OWNER:
Arturo E Morales,
339 PLYMOUTH ST
MISSOULA, MT 59801
VEHICLE: 2013 Chrysler Town and Country
VIN: 2C4RC1BG5DR662649
LAST REGISTERED OWNER:
Travis Kyle Austin
47 WALLER ST
PROVIDENCE RI 02908
VEHICLE: 2005 Mercedes-Benz E-Class
VIN: WDBUH82J15X171996
LAST REGISTERED OWNER: Ute Gannett
60 Washington
Mendon MA 01756
VEHICLE: 2011 Ford Escape (Black)
VIN: 1FMCU9D74BKB43078
LAST REGISTERED OWNER:
Evan Anderton, AND Laura I Anderton,
Evan Anderton, AND Laura I Anderton,
16 SOPHIES WAY
BRIDGTON, ME 04009
VEHICLE: 2014 Toyota Tacoma
Vin: 3TMLU4EN3EM151450
LAST REGISTERED OWNER:
Joseph Dandurand
12120 COLORADO BLVD,APT D105
Thornton CO 80241
VEHICLE : 2009 NISSAN MURANO
VIN: JN8AZ18W69W129089
LAST REGISTERED OWNER :
Amanda Liz Santiago
37 PROVIDENCE ST, APT 3,
Worcester MA 01604
VEHICLE :2007 BUICK LUCERNE
VIN: 1G4HP57247U194825
LAST REGISTERED OWNER:
Julie Ann Scricco
15 Sullivan Blvd
oxford MA 01540
VEHICLE: 1997 FORD RANGER
VIN: 1FTCR15X7VTA15373
LAST REGISTERED OWNER:
Gabriealla Diana Tanacea
29 PECK ST, APT 2
SOUTBRIDGE MA 01550
VEHICLE: 2008 Infiniti G37
VEHICLE: 2008 Infiniti G37
VIN: JNKCV64E08M118298
LAST REGISTERED OWNER:
Tracy A Rose,
1242 CARDINAL ST
NEW BEDFORD, MA 02745
VEHICLE: 2007 Mitsubishi Outlander
VIN: JA4MT31X07Z012509
LAST REGISTERED OWNER:
Dewin Castillo
489 MAIN ST, APT 37
FISKDALE MA 01518
VEHICLE:2017 HONDA ACCORD
VIN: 1HGCR2F54HA136298
LAST REGISTERED OWNER:
Luis Carlos Paredes Acosta,
113 COMMERCIAL ST, APT 1,
LYNN, MA 01905
VEHICLE: 2003 Honda Odyssey
VIN: 5FNRL186X3B147350
LAST REGISTERED OWNER:
Sarah E Mandell
94 CENTRAL ST
MILLVILLE, MA 01529
VEHICLE :2010 NISSAN ALTIMA
VIN: 1N4AL2AP8AN556439
LAST REGISTERED OWNER:
Jessica Lyn Thomas,
23 PEARL ST, APT 1,
SPENCER MA 01562
SPENCER MA 01562
VEHICLE:2008 SATURN AURA
VIN: 1G8ZV57738F120175
LAST REGISTERED OWNER :
Anty C Darwulo,
43 ACTON ST, APT 1L
WORCESTER MA 01604
August 2,2024
August 9,2024
August 16,2024

MEMORANDUM

TO:
Local Licensed Child Care Providers, Community Professionals, Private Nursery Schools, Day Care Facilities, Group Homes, Parent Organizations, Clinical/Healthcare Agencies, Early

Intervention Programs, Private/Parochial/Home Schools, District Schools, Agencies Serving Migrant and/or Homeless Persons, and Other Agencies/Organizations

FROM: Jessica R. Bolduc, Director of Special Education
RE: Child Find (Brimfield, Brookfield, Holland, Sturbridge, Tantasqua Regional, Wales)
DATE: August 1, 2024

It is the responsibility of the Tantasqua Regional and Union 61 School Districts to identify any child ages 3 through 21 who may have a disability who is either a resident of Brimfield, Brookfield, Holland, Sturbridge, or Wales or who attends a private school within the geographic boundaries of Brimfield, Brookfield, Holland, Sturbridge, or Wales. This also includes children who reside in Brimfield, Brookfield, Holland, Sturbridge, or Wales who are home-schooled, as well as children ages 3 through 21 who are not yet enrolled in school.

Tantasqua Regional and Union 61 School Districts are responsible for the evaluation of those students to determine if they are eligible for special education or related services under federal and state law.

Tantasqua Regional and Union 61 School Districts are committed to identifying children before their third birthday in order to provide early intervention services for three and four-year-olds with disabilities. If you have questions or concerns regarding a child's development and would like to have the child screened, please contact the Office of Special Education.

If you suspect that the child may need an evaluation to determine eligibility for special education services, a parent, any person in a caregiving position, or any person in a professional position who is working with that child may request an evaluation, at no cost, through the Office of Special Education. Contact information is provided below: Office of Special Education
Tantasqua Regional and Union 61 School Districts
508-347-3560
August 9, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE REGARDING DESTRUCTION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION RECORDS

August 1, 2024

Notice is hereby given that Tantasqua Regional and Union 61 School Districts intend to destroy the records of all students who exited from any special education program prior to and during the 2016-2017 school year. Any student, or former student, who has reached 18 years of age, may review and/or receive these records by contacting the Office of Special Education and Student Support services at (508) 347-3560 to schedule an appointment to obtain your records by **September 1, 2024**. Destruction of these records will begin on **September 7, 2024**.

According to Policy on Destruction of Student Records 603 CMR 23.06, a student's temporary record shall be destroyed no later than seven years of graduation or withdrawal from our school system. School authorities are also allowed to periodically review and destroy misleading, outdated, or irrelevant information. The regulation states that parents/guardians/and eligible students (18 years or older) must be notified of this action so they may obtain copies of any of the information before it is destroyed.

We encourage all graduates to pick up their record upon graduation to ensure that you have documents you may need in the future and to protect your privacy. Many students have already obtained their file upon graduation. According to federal law, parents and guardians lose their right to review or obtain these records when their child (the student) reaches 18 years of age or starts attending a postsecondary institution, whichever occurs first. However, a parent of a child with a disability who is 18 years of age or older may retain parental rights provided a court has appointed legal guardianship to the parent. Upon review, a copy of any information contained in the record will be provided to the parent/guardian or eligible student. Once an appointment is scheduled, the record will be held for review for ten days after the appointment date. If an appointment is not kept or if the appointment is rescheduled, the file will be held for 10 days from the last scheduled appointment. If no student, parent or guardian responds to this public notice, the school district will assume consent to destroy the entire records specific to the student. In accordance with federal and state laws, special education records are maintained for up to seven years after the student exits the special education program. A permanent record of the student's name, address, phone number, grades, attendance record and year completed is maintained for 60 years. The purpose of destruction is to protect the student from improper and unauthorized disclosure of the confi-

dential information contained within the file. Please note that certain records may be needed by the student, parent or guardian for social security benefits or other purposes. If you do not understand this notice or if you are in need of interpretation, contact the Office of Special Education and Student Support Services at (508) 347-3560.
August 9, 2024

TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE BID ADVERTISEMENT ELEVATOR MAINTENANCE & INSPECTION FOR VARIOUS TOWN BUILDINGS

Sealed bids will be received by the Town Manager, Town Hall, 41 Elm Street, Southbridge, Massachusetts until 11:00AM on Thursday, August 29, 2024 for Elevator Maintenance – Various Buildings and at that time opened and publicly read. Late bids will not be accepted under any circumstances. Envelopes must be clearly marked “ Bid – Elevator Maintenance”. Bid documents may be obtained by contacting DPW Operations Officer, Hannah Prescott at hprescott@southbridgemass.org. Prevailing Wage Rates as determined by the Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Industries under the provisions of the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 149, section 26 to 27G, as amended, apply to the work associated with this contract.

A walk-through of the various buildings will be held beginning at the Department of Public Works, 185 Guelphwood Rd Southbridge, MA 01550 on Thursday, August 15, 2024, at 9:00 AM. A representative of the Town will be available to address questions. While additional walk-through may be requested, this will be the only guaranteed opportunity to access the buildings prior to bid due date.

The Town reserves the right to reject any or all bids and award in the best interest of the Town.

Town of Southbridge

Jack D. Jovan, Jr.

Town Manager

August 8, 2024

August 15, 2024

Sturbridge Planning Board Public Hearing Application for Site Plan Approval Town of Sturbridge Trails Committee

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 40A, §11, the Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, August 19, 2024 at 6:50 PM** in 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 The Town of Sturbridge for the property located at **9 River Road**.

The applicant requests Site Plan Approval as required by the Sturbridge Zoning Bylaws Article XIX, Site Plan Review to construct an eleven (11) vehicle parking lot off of River Road to provide access to the Grand Trunk Trail extension in accordance with the plans and application submitted.

A copy of the site plan and application can be inspected on the Sturbridge Town Website at <https://www.sturbridge.gov/planning-board/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.

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting will be conducted in person and may be conducted via remote means if circumstance warrant, in accordance with applicable law. This means that members of the public body as well as members of the public may access this meeting in person, or via virtual means.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/472675877>

Every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post of the Town's website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of the proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.

Charles Blanchard

Chairperson

August 1, 2024

August 8, 2024

TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE BID ADVERTISEMENT EQUIPMENT HIRE

FOR ROAD REPAIR ASSISTANCE
Applications for various equipment hire to assist the Southbridge Department of Public Works with road repairs, as weather and scheduling permits, during FY25. Applications will be received by the Office of the Town Manager, Town Hall, 41 Elm Street, Southbridge, MA no later than August 29, 2024. Late applications will not be accepted. Applications envelopes shall be clearly marked, “FY25 ROAD EQUIPMENT HIRE”. The

contract specifications and application sheet may be obtained from DPW Operations Officer, Hannah Prescott at hprescott@southbridgemass.org. Applicants may submit availability one or more pieces of equipment listed on the application sheet.

Prevailing Wage Rates as determined by the Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Industries under the provisions of the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 149, section 26 to 27G, as amended, apply to the work associated with this contract.

Applicants must submit a certificate of insurance, workers' compensation and copy of the vehicle registration with their application.

The Town reserves the right to reject any or all applicants and hire in the best interest of the Town.

Town of Southbridge

John D. Jovan, Jr.

Town Manager

August 8, 2024

August 15, 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. W024C0371CA
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME**

In the matter of:

Roy Earl Hankins

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Roy Earl Hankins of Southbridge MA**

requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Patricia Earlene Hankins

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 08/13/24. 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: Junly 29, 2024

Stephanie Fattman,

Register of Probate

August 8, 2024

Sturbridge Planning Board Public Hearing Application for Site Plan Approval Town of Sturbridge Cedar Lake Recreation Area

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 40A, §11, the Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, August 19, 2024 at 6:35 PM** in 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 The Town of Sturbridge for the property located at **60 Cedar Street**.

The applicant requests Site Plan Approval as required by the Sturbridge Zoning Bylaws Article XIX, Site Plan Review to make ADA improvements to the playground and beach recreation area. In accordance with the plans and application submitted, the improvements include the addition of two (2) ADA parking spaces, ADA accessible ramps to access the pavilion and playground area, ADA accessible pads to accommodate portable toilets, ADA accessible beach mats, reconstructing of the existing playground surface, and a dumpster pad with fenced enclosure. The project also includes the construction of stormwater controls to address existing conditions and the new impervious area.

A copy of the site plan and application can be inspected on the Sturbridge Town Website at <https://www.sturbridge.gov/planning-board/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.

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting will be conducted in person and may be conducted via remote means if circumstance warrant, in accordance with applicable law. This means that members of the public body as well as members of the public may access this meeting in person, or via virtual means.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/472675877>

Every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post of the Town's website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of the proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.

Charles Blanchard

Chairperson

August 1, 2024

August 8, 2024

EARTHBORN

continued from page 6

cause it'd be a huge threat to their power: Adding a "None of the Above" line to all ballots, then disqualifying candidates who lose to that line from running again. Could you imagine how much that could change things?

But I digress. For some people who refused to sign, the response was conditioned by pro-Trump ideology or "Trump Derangement Syndrome" opposing him. We saw a fair amount of both, people who have swallowed the idea both major parties are spouting that they'll protect us from the other party's evil designs. Instead of having a real public debate about policy in which major candidates actually address major issues, we've seen grade-school insults, spats over who has the best golf handicap, appeals to identity politics, and appeals to fear. In short, a politics of manipulation that benefits those who seek to keep the American people divided.

By contrast, though, we met many people who really do care about the health of our democracy, and put people before partisanship. Those people said they believe in giving people options on the ballot and signed regardless of their personal political affiliation. The ones I knew who did so came from both parties. That's a hopeful sign, one seriously needed in a time where so much of the publicity out there emphasizes division and animosity.

Likewise, while we heard about organized efforts to undermine Green Party (and other third party)

signature collection efforts in some other states, we did not see that on the local level here. As expected, the town clerks we dealt with were all professional and friendly. I was personally a little surprised to hear from most of them that they were not seeing significant numbers of nomination papers for anyone, even RFK, despite his famous family name. (I once looked at the list of people who'd declared presidential candidacies, and there were hundreds. Most, of course, were people who had less than zero chance of going anywhere.)

What the clerks were seeing were a lot of mail-in ballots, and several expressed some concerns about that. While generally supporting the idea of expanding voting, as the state's mail-in and early voting law intended, they generally said they weren't actually seeing such an increase. At best, it's been a shift from in-person to mail-in, with maybe a slight bump in the total and very small numbers of people taking advantage of early voting days.

All of the offices we visited had stacked boxes of ballots to be mailed, largely because the state offered people the chance to mail-in ballots for all elections this year. But town clerks noted they get back just a third to half of the ballots they mail out, and they sometimes get calls from people wondering why they're even getting a ballot.

In a few cases, the response the clerks have seen is outright hostile. One office happened to have a mail-in envelope sitting on the counter covered in red handwriting that said "F*** your mail-in ballot" and obscenities directed at Joe Biden. Others said they'd

seen similar missives.

Even if you oppose mailed voting, town clerks definitely do not deserve such abuse. They're just doing their job, one that has become more difficult in part because of the mailed ballots. As a couple clerks noted, the Legislature largely ignored their concerns when passing the law. Among those were the cost for staff time to do it, the need to constantly weed out duplications from the voter lists, the waste of resources to mail unused ballots, the need for more storage space for all the extra paper, the confusion to voters, and other issues. Some noted that change has sparked something of an exodus of veteran clerks from the field.

Now, I'm all in favor of trying to encourage more participation in democracy. But it seems like the Legislature opted for a quick-fix without actually building the necessary foundation for a workable change. That foundation would involve a serious investment in teaching civics, especially when aimed at getting more people directly involved in local-level politics.

We can't keep a democracy alive just by voting for corrupt, oligarch-picked federal candidates. We need to actually work it by joining town elected and appointed boards, going to their meetings with concerns, attending Town Meeting if your town has one, petitioning for candidates and causes we care about, and casting ballots, especially in local elections. That's where democracy matters most, where elections really can be decided by just a few votes.

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

GRANT

continued from page 1

progress of these improvements.

For more information about the grant and upcoming facility upgrades, please contact ccarron@thecenterofhope.org.

About the Center of Hope Foundation

The Center of Hope Foundation, Inc. is a recognized non-profit organization committed to supporting individuals with disabilities through a wide range of services and programs.

With a focus on creating opportunities, enhancing lives, and fostering community, the agency aims to provide every individual it serves with the means to achieve their highest level of independence and personal fulfillment.

<https://thecenterofhope.org/>

About The George W. Wells Foundation

The George W. Wells Foundation was established in 1934 to support and promote quality educational, human services and health care programming for underserved populations in the central Massachusetts area.

ROADWORK

continued from page 1

transferred to Ellis and Guelphwood.

Several years ago, the council approved a bond of up to \$10 million for future roadwork, but most of that bond has yet to be used.

Regarding a related road issue, Jovan and Benoit talked about changing Neuco/National Grid practices in town. Benoit noted they've been seeking better communication with the companies for some time, and it seems to be improving. Among the issues in

progress are sidewalk repairs, pole replacements and trenching in roads.

Regarding pole replacement, Councilor George Chenier wondered if it'd be possible to have National Grid get permits so the town knows more about when and where they're happening. Benoit said that'd be difficult since most replacements are emergency situations caused by car accidents and/or trees coming down, but they could get more information on planned pole replacement work.

Jovan said he and Benoit are looking into using leftover money from

fiscal 2016 and other funds to do some sidewalk work later this year. They intend to seek bids in the fall for spring-time work.

The subcommittee and council also voted on bids for a project to do asbestos removal and roof work at three water department gatehouses.

Benoit and water superintendent Steve Gregoire both expressed some concerns about the fact the bidder's prices were, in Jovan's words, "quite the spread." Gregoire said they determined the contractor, C & K Roofing of Hudson, was "reputable," and "they

assured me they'd specked out" the work the town needed. He noted "because they were so low, I'm nervous and they will be watched."

Jovan also briefly mentioned a collapsing wall between the Yatco gas station and the town's former West Street fire station building (now vacant and most recently used by the school maintenance department). He said Yatco had been given four weeks to start repair work, but six weeks have elapsed without it. He's having health department attorney Rob Caprera look into deed issues there.

YOGA

continued from page 1

seniors nationwide.

Charlton's "Yoga for Seniors" program is offered through the Charlton Senior Center and funded by a grant from the Massachusetts Councils on Aging. The classes are led by Bonnie Dellerose, a Charlton native who provide remote and in-person yoga instruction as a profession. Dellerose explained the many bene-

fits that yoga provides for seniors, helping them maintain their youthful physique and energy both internally and externally.

"As we age yoga definitely helps to maintain your youthfulness in all ways. It helps your mind stay young, it helps your breath, it helps maintain strength and flexibility so as our joints get tighter, and our facia and soft tissue get tighter yoga helps to stretch and smooth that out. There are a million

benefits. It helps the heart too because any inversion your heart is over your head and that increases your heart rate and keeps your heart youthful," said Dellerose.

The classes have become a popular pastime for many in town, specifically senior women who have shared the benefits of the program with Dellerose after every class. Some say it has helped them find a clearer mind while others have seen improve-

ment with physical ailments and balance thanks to the exercise. While Dellerose does enjoy sharing her love of yoga, helping her community adds an even more special touch to the senior sessions.

"I love being in Charlton, I love being able to share with the town. I love that these are all Charlton residents. For me, it's not about what age I'm helping, it's about being part of a community, and the senior center offers

a lot of great things for the town's residents so being able to support them is a great thing," said Dellerose.

Yoga for Seniors is held in Dexter Hall at the Charlton Public Library every Tuesday and Thursday morning from 9:45 until 10:45 a.m. There is no pre-registration required. The program is open to any Charlton resident age 50 and older. More information on the sessions is available on the Charlton Public Library Web site.

POSITIVE

continued from page 7

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LEGALS

In accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act, Chapter 131, Sec 40, a public hearing by the Conservation Commission will be held on Tuesday 8/13/2024 in the Conservation Commission Room, second floor, in the Holland Town Hall, 27 Sturbridge Rd, Holland, MA. This meeting is to review a Notice of Intent (NOI) filed by Jacek & Anna Zielinski to rebuild a fire damaged SFH on the footprint, remove trees, and install solar panels at 49 Island Rd, Holland, MA. To comply with the Open Meeting Law, all public hearings are scheduled for 6:30 PM and, barring unforeseen circumstances, will be taken in the order in which they appear on the agenda. This meeting will be held in person and virtual; for virtual meeting login information contact Holland Conservation at conservation@hollandma.org or call (413) 245-7108 x114.

Conservation Commission
Town of Holland
July 29, 2024
August 8, 2024

TOWN OF BRIMFIELD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with MA General Laws Chapter 87, Public Shade Tree Law, Section 3 (Cutting of Public Shade Trees; Hearing; Damages) and MA General Laws Chapter 40, Powers and Duties of Cities and Town, Section 15 C (Scenic roads designation; improvements; fines), the Town of Brimfield Tree Warden and the Planning Board will hold a public hearing, regarding an application from the Town of Brimfield to remove public shade trees on Haynes Hill Road. **The hearing will be held at 7:00 pm on September 4th, 2024 at the Hitchcock Free Academy (2 Brookfield Road).** Any person interested or wishing to be heard on this matter should appear at the time and place designated, or may submit a letter to the Tree Warden before the hearing so that it may be read into the hearing record. Correspondence should be sent to the Tree Warden at 34B Wales Road, Brimfield, MA 01010. The effected

trees will be marked at least 7 days before this hearing.

The list of 40 Public Shade Trees petitioned for removal are located on Haynes Hill Rd, starting in the area of number 106 (Cooks Orchard) to house number 112. Trees range in diameter from 10" to 32". The trees designated for removal are marked with a green ribbon.

Forty (40) Norway spruce
For more information, please contact Zach Lemieux
Tree Warden
413-245-4103
August 8, 2024
August 15, 2024

CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on August 14, 2024, at 7PM on the application of Derek Gad-

bois.

The applicant has submitted a Request for Determination of Applicability for the removal of 7 trees within the 100-foot buffer zone of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland. The project location is: 62 Hanson Road, Charlton, MA.

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Charlton Conservation Commission will be conducted in person and via remote means. Members of the public who wish to participate can access the meeting remotely, via Zoom Conferencing by calling 1-646 558 8656 and using meeting ID # 892 9898 0343 Passcode 458971 or using the link below <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89298980343?pwd=VjllMzGhUGRnYzRkR1c2eT-JTL3lWZz09>

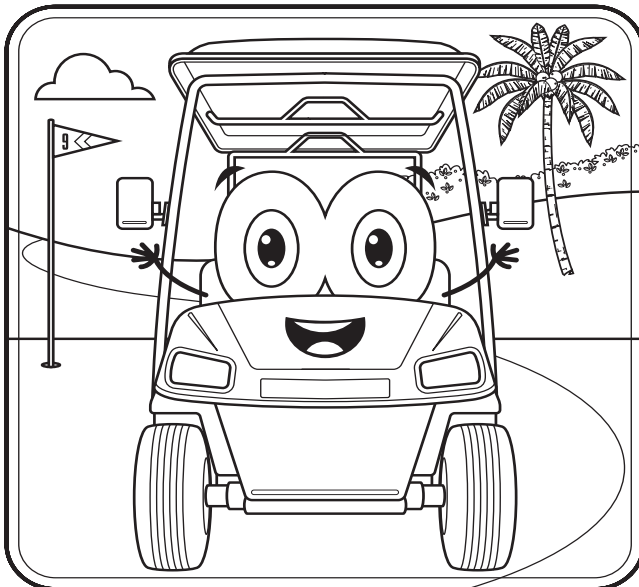
Copies of the RDA may be examined at the Conservation Office by appointment during business hours.

Thomas O'Malley
Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission
August 8, 2024



Creative Coloring

Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.



Double Word Puzzle

Unscramble the words to reveal the sentence.

LGOF

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NSGSIW

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6 7

GOBEY

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3

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1	2		3	4	5	2	6	7	8	7	2

Answers: Golf, Swings, Bogey, Fairway. Get a hole in one.

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1492: CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS ARRIVES IN THE CANARY ISLANDS ON HIS FIRST VOYAGE TO THE NEW WORLD.
- 1865: JOSEPH LISTER PERFORMS THE FIRST ANTISEPTIC SURGERY.
- 1992: CANADA, MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES ANNOUNCE COMPLETION OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT.



PAR

the number of strokes a skilled golfer should need to complete a hole



THIS POPULAR SPORT PLAYED WITH A BALL AND CLUBS IS BELIEVED TO HAVE ORIGINATED IN ST. ANDREWS, SCOTLAND IN 1552.

ANSWER: GOLF

How they SAY that in...

- ENGLISH:** Ball
- SPANISH:** Pelota
- ITALIAN:** Palla
- FRENCH:** Balle
- GERMAN:** Ball

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ANSWER: GOLF BALL AND HOLE

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TOWN OF BRIMFIELD Commonwealth of Massachusetts Cemetery Commission Employment Opportunity

Temporary employment to map plots and gravesites in the Brimfield Cemetery. Prior knowledge of the Brimfield Cemetery required. The applicant will be responsible for mapping the main cemetery and two other cemeteries located in Brimfield. The applicant will use the current maps and numbering system to locate and identify who is interred in each plot. An excel spread sheet will be created showing who is interred and in which plot. Position to be held until completion of project. Please send letters of interest to: Cemetery Commission 23 Main Street Brimfield, MA 01010 or to Cemetery@brimfieldma.org Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The Town of Brimfield is an equal Opportunity provider and employer.

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ON DEPOSIT

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Courtesy

Elm Street Congregational Church will hold its annual picnic at the Westville Recreation area in Southbridge/Sturbridge on Sunday, Aug. 11 at 10 a.m. All are invited to attend the worship service followed by the cookout. This event is in coordination with Oxford and Brimfield Congregational churches. Kids activities will be organized by Oxford Congregational Church, with Paster Karen preaching. For more information, call 508-764-8058. Join us for fun and fellowship.

FESTIVAL

continued from page 9



Jason Bleau

The Charlton Fire Department took the opportunity to meet and greet local kids and families during the annual Blueberry Festival.



Jason Bleau

Young guests to the Blueberry Festival indulge in one of the many blueberry-themed treats of the day, blueberry doughnuts.



Courtesy

The Ruth Wells Center for the Arts, 111 Main St. in Southbridge, is holding a fall tag sale on the spacious lawn on Saturday, Sept. 7 (rain date Sept. 14) from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The vendor registration form may be found on the Web site, ruthwellscenter.com. For \$30, vendors can set up tables to sell collectibles, attic treasures and whatever else you would like to part with. This is a great way to downsize- and to offer the community an array of valuable items at a reasonable price. For more information, call 508-764-3341.

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For tickets and more info theloos.org/smo



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