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Thursday-Friday, March 30-31, 2023

# Charlton Middle School teacher arrested on underage rape charges

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — A Charlton Middle School teacher was placed on administrative leave after his arrest earlier this month on multiple charges, including aggravated rape.

Todd Peloquin, 52, was arrested on March 9 by Leicester Police after a warrant was issued. Peloquin, who resides on Stafford Street in Rochdale, was charged with incest, aggravated rape, two counts of indecent assault and battery on a child under 14, and one count of indecent assault and battery on a child over 14.

Peloquin was arraigned in East Brookfield District Court on March 10. He pleaded not guilty to all charges.

Bail was set at \$2,500, and Peloquin was ordered to have no contact with the victim.

Additionally, Peloquin must surrender his passport and agree to GPS monitoring. He cannot leave the state or have unsupervised contact with children under 16.

The case was continued to May 16.

After receiving information regarding Peloquin's arrest earlier this month, Dudley-Charlton Regional School District officials placed him on paid administrative leave, effective March 9.

Peloquin works as an English language arts teacher at Charlton Middle School. District officials said the charges against Peloquin do not involve any students or staff members in the district.

"While the Dudley-Charlton Schools were not associated with this arrest, law enforcement agencies will receive full cooperation of school and district staff if contacted," read a statement released by Dudley-Charlton Regional School District Superintendent Steven Lamarche. "Law enforcement officials have stated that the charges against Mr. Peloquin are not at all related to the school district and do not involve any of our students or staff."

If parents in the district have questions regarding the charges, they are asked to contact the Worcester County District Attorney's Office at 508-755-8601.

"It is important to note that placing an employee on paid administrative leave is standard practice in the case of criminal allegations, and it is not punitive or an indication of any wrongdoing," Lamarche added. "We take all allegations of misconduct very seriously and act swiftly and thoroughly in compliance with School Committee policy and state and local laws."

# Old Sturbridge Village returns to publishing with "Needle & Thread: The Art and Skill of Clothing an Early 19th-Century Family"

STURBRIDGE — With more than 40,000 pieces in its collection, Old Sturbridge Village is returning to book publishing as a way to share more of its collection up close and personal. The first release will be this March titled "Needle & Thread: The Art and Skill of Clothing an Early 19th-Century Family," authored by curatorial and research staff Rebecca Beall and Derek Heidemann.

The title expands on the current exhibit at the Village of the same name running now through 2025.

"It was a natural extension of the research we were doing for the exhibit," says Heidemann. "There's so much in our collection that we couldn't display [in the exhibit,] and this allowed us to share more."

The exhibit and book "explore the complexities of clothing acquisitions and care" for a 19th-century family, including laundry, ironing, sewing, and pattern making. They both feature sections on women's, men's, and children's clothing, accessories, and the tools needed to create and care for a family's wardrobe. The book even features patterns drafted from garments such as caps, capes, stays, a skeletons suit, and suspenders, so readers can try their hand at making reproductions.

"This publication was the perfect opportunity to highlight the extraordinary breadth of Old Sturbridge Village's textile collection and contextualize the intersection between domestic sewing and skilled needle trades through extant garments, accessories, tools, advice literature, and account books," says Beall.

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# "A signal achievement in your backyard"

AMERICAN  
OPTICAL  
INVENTION  
GETS  
LANDMARK  
DESIGNATION

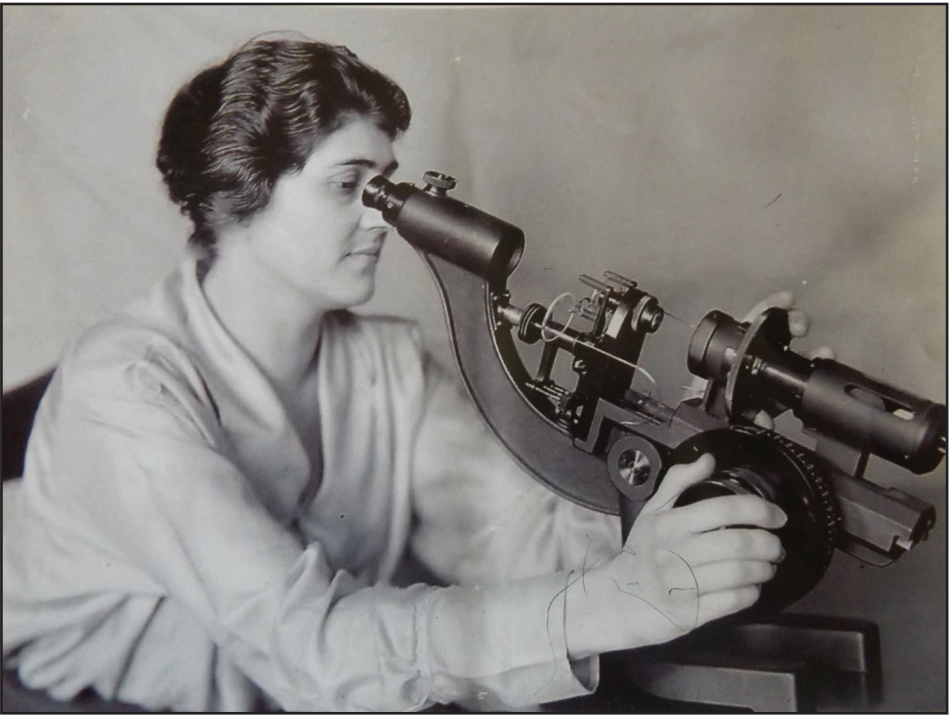
BY GUS STEEVES  
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE — Decades after it formally went out of business, with subsidiaries being spun off to other firms, American Optical is again getting a little bit of fame.

Last weekend, one of the local company's inventions from 1921, the Wellsworth Lensometer, was designated a Historical Mechanical Engineering Landmark, one of just three in Massachusetts. The Optical Heritage Museum on Crane Street hosted dozens of optical industry and engineering folks Saturday to celebrate the honor.

The device in question is what today's opticians and lensmakers worldwide use to ensure the lens they make for a given person's vision problem actually matches their need.

According to Optical Science Professor Carrie Wilson of Georgia, before



Gus Steeves

Dr. Estelle Glancy tests one of AO's early lensometers in this historic image taken from the event brochure.

its invention people had to use their "best reasonable estimate" of whether a lens met a person's prescription, which was particularly hard for astigmatism and other more serious visual issues.

"It was a ground-breaking invention, and most people don't even know it exists," she said.

"The lensometer has been my license to operate, my tool," said muse-



Professor Carrie Wilson points out a detail of one of many optical instruments on display at the Optical Heritage Museum.

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# Charlton FD puts focus on staffing, maintenance needs

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — The Charlton Finance Committee hosted a lengthy conversation with Charlton Fire Department Chief Ed Knopf during their March 8 meeting that explored several of the department's requests for the immediate and foreseeable future, particularly in terms of staffing and vehicle maintenance.

The discussion explored the Chief's recommendations for both departmental and town-wide staffing solutions as well as a request for \$20,000 from the town's reserve account for vehicle maintenance. In terms of staffing, Chief Knopf said one of his primary goals for the next budget year is to hire four more people for his crew which would offset staffing shortages due to illness and injury.

"If you had a staffing audit done of our department, I can guarantee you it would come back with eight more people. I was lucky enough that Auburn did one last year, so I took theirs off of public record and highlighted in their audit things that matched up with us so that's why we're looking for four people. Since 2019 we've lost over 10,000 hours due to injury and sick time which is equivalent to roughly five people working for a year," said the Chief.

While it's not a fire department item, Knopf also put his support

behind the police department's request to add a new dispatcher. Charlton currently has five dispatchers on staff, which at times results in shifts with only one individual on duty. The chief stressed the need for at least two dispatchers on duty at all times and fully supports bringing in a new hire to allow dispatch to stagger employ-

ee's appropriately to give shifts dual coverage.

"The town of Charlton has done a disservice to police and fire with having one dispatcher on at a time," said Knopf. "All it takes is that one call and if you have a scanner or if you've ever listened to the dispatcher, it can get kind of hectic in there."

Knopf is also advocating for adding a town

mechanic which would help maintain the town's full fleet of vehicles. He noted how he has to send his trucks to Hopkinton for repairs and believes bringing on a town-hired mechanic will alleviate labor costs. Speaking of maintenance, the chief also requested allocating \$20,000 from the town's

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Courtesy

# A DAY TO REMEMBER

Tantasqua student Alana Williams has developed a keen interest in world geopolitics. As a member of the Tantasqua Model United Nations Club, she's had the opportunity to debate political issues with fellow students and on March 18, participated in discussions with other local high schoolers at Clark University in Worcester. On March 25, she got to take her passion one step further when she attended "The European Conference" at The John F. Kennedy School of Law at Harvard in Cambridge. The Conference brought together political leaders to discuss challenges posed by the war in Ukraine and business opportunities. Williams was extremely excited to participate in the seminars and hear firsthand what living under conditions of conflict is like. Her biggest thrill was meeting The Ukrainian Ambassador to The United Nations, Sergiy Kyslytya (whom she is pictured with here), who encouraged her to pursue her dream of a career in politics. For Williams, it was a day to cherish and remember.



# Guest Speaker at 24th Masonic District Lodge of Instruction

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE  
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER  
QUINEBUAG MASONIC LODGE

WEBSTER — On March 23, Master Masons family and friends gathered at the Lodge of Instruction class at Webster Masonic Lodge in Webster Massachusetts.

The quest speaker was one of Boston's Best Local Authors, David Brody. He is an Amazon bestselling fiction writer and author of 16 novels. The Lodge was open to the public and

was packed with Master Masons and people from the community who came to listen to what he had to say about "Freemasons, Sun Worship and The Stone Chambers of New England." His children call him a "rock nerd" because of the time he spends studying ancient stone structures. He is a graduate of Tufts University and Georgetown Law School. He has served as a Director of the New England Antiquities Research Association (NEARA) and is an avid researcher. In his first 12 books he writes about the Knights Templars American

series. This series is an Amazon Kindle top 10 bestsellers. Eight titles have become the #1 bestseller in their category. Due to his extensive knowledge in this area, he has frequently appeared as a guest speaker on documentaries airing on the History Channel, Travel Channel, PBS, and Discovery Channel.

During his presentation, Brody showed numerous slide shows of artifacts and sites from around New England. He talked about and showed slides of a Stone Chamber located on private land in Webster. He talked about

the Upton Chambers, which many thought to be from Native American Indians, but local Indians say they are not. He also talked about the design and layout of Washington D.C. and how some of the main roads and streets were designed by Master Masons. He talked about Sun Worship and the ancient Druids, as evidence by the Masonic Druidic solar alignments prevalent in the layout of Washington, D.C. He talked about and showed slides on how the sun sets on the capital building and atop of Jefferson Memorial and much more. If you are interested and want to read additional information about these related sites, go to westfordknight.blogspot.com. This was a very informative evening for the Master Masons and the public who attended and listen to quest speaker David Brody. Questions were asked after the presentation and many of his books were for sale for those interested in his writing. If you would like more information about Freemasonry, go to www.massfreemasonry.org to find a lodge nearest you.



Courtesy  
Center sitting down is David Brody talking to Masons and quest from the community as they lined up to ask questions, buy some of his best-seller books and take photos with the author.

## Charlton Public Library to host program on beekeeping

CHARLTON — On Saturday, April 1, from 10:30 a.m.-noon, Charlton Public Library is pleased to welcome John Hedly, local beekeeper and member of Worcester County Beekeepers Association.



Hedley will present on the importance of bees to our environment and the basics of beekeeping. Topics include: Starting a beehive, the physical structure of a beehive, the bee colony and its organization, bee chores in and out of a hive, collecting honey, and the importance of pollination. This program is free and open to all. No registration is required. Overflow parking is available across Main Street at Town Hall. We hope to see you on April 1 (and that's no joke!). For more events, visit our event calendar at charltonlibrary.org. Charlton Public Library is located at 40 Main St. in Charlton.

**Bew true crime book at Charlton Public Library**  
Do you like mystery, suspense, and a little blood and gore? So do we! Join us for a monthly meetup to discuss entertaining & fascinating details about true crimes, both solved and unsolved. This book club is hosted by long-time library employees Deb and Susan on the first Wednesday of every month starting on Wednesday, April 5, 11 a.m.-noon in the Sibley Reading Area (main floor). Registration is requested; visit our event calendar at charltonlibrary.org.

## VILLAGER ALMANAC OPEN TO CLOSE SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN HALL

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8 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Thursday: 8 a.m.-8 p.m.  
Friday: 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

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

### CHARLTON TOWN HALL (508) 248-2200

**Office Hours:**  
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..... 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Tuesdays..... 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Friday..... Closed

visit [www.townofcharlton.net](http://www.townofcharlton.net) or more information.

Individual offices may vary  
**PUBLIC LIBRARY (248-0452)**

For library hours please check [www.charltonlibrary.org](http://www.charltonlibrary.org)

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

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Charlton Elementary School

..... (508) 248-7774 or (508) 248-7435

Heritage School ..... (508) 248-4884

Charlton Middle School..... (508) 248-1423

Shepherd Hill Regional High School

..... (508) 943-6700

Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical

High School (508) 248-5971 or (508) 987-0326

### HOLLAND: 413-245-7108

Mon – Thurs 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and  
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

### FISKDALE: 508-347-6486

Weekdays 9:00-4:30 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00

### STURBRIDGE 508-347-6463

Weekdays 8:30 – 5:00 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00

### BRIMFIELD: 413-245-3451

Weekdays: 9:00 – 4:30 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00

### WALES: 413-245-9808

Weekdays 8:30 – 12:30 and 2:00 – 4:30 and  
Sat. 9:00 – 12:00

## CHURCH LISTINGS

• **Charlton Federated Church**, 64 Main St., 248-5550, Sunday worship 10:30 a.m.

[www.fedchurchcharlton.org](http://www.fedchurchcharlton.org)

• **Charlton Baptist Church**, 50 Hammond Hill Road, 248-4488, [www.charltonbaptist.org](http://www.charltonbaptist.org), Sunday worship 10 a.m.

• **Charlton City United Methodist**, 74 Stafford St. 248-7379, web site: [CharltonCityUMC.org](http://CharltonCityUMC.org)

• **St. Joseph's Church**, 10 H. Putnam Ext, 248-7862, [www.stjosephscharlton.com](http://www.stjosephscharlton.com), Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 p.m., Sunday Mass 8 a.m., Sunday Family Mass 10 a.m., Sunday Life/TEEN Mass 5 p.m., Weekday Mass Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30 a.m.

• **Hope Christian Fellowship**, 6 Haggerty Road, 248-5144

• **Assemblies of God Southern New England District Headquarters**, Route 20, 248-3771, [snedag.org](http://snedag.org), Office hours Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

• **Living Word Church of Charlton**, 10 Main Street - Grange building 1st Floor, Charlton, Ma 01507, Pastor Craig Bellisario, (508) 233-8349

Sunday Service 10:00am. [www.livingwordcharlton.com](http://www.livingwordcharlton.com)

[info@livingwordcharlton.com](mailto:info@livingwordcharlton.com)

• **New Life Fellowship A/G, SNED Chapel**, 307 Sturbridge Road, Rt. 20, Charlton, MA, Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

• **Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale**- 8 Maple St. Sturbridge, 774-304-1021

[www.sturfed.org](http://www.sturfed.org)

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

• **Bethlehem Lutheran Church**- 345 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566

Phone 508-347-7297

Web: [www.bethlehemsturbridge.org](http://www.bethlehemsturbridge.org)

Services - Sunday 9:30 am

Pastor Dan Purtell

[www.StonebridgePress.com](http://www.StonebridgePress.com)

**Stonebridge Press**

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## REAL ESTATE

### BRIMFIELD

None

### CHARLTON

\$456,900, 182 Gould Rd, Wilson, Christine H, and Wilson, Gordon, to Hanks, Daniel W, and Hanks, Samantha L.

\$370,000, 183 Freeman Rd, Johnson, Nicole, and Johnson, Randy, to Erickson, Zachary J.

### HOLLAND

None

### SOUTHBRIDGE

\$410,000, 60 Dennison Ln, Mccullough Jr, Robert J, and Mccullough, Sharon A, to Dosreis, Wenderson P, and Doherty, Kevin P.

\$380,000, 367 Morris St, Roderick, Christopher, and Roderick, Gabriella, to Vangel, Jason, and Vangel, Savannah.

\$375,000, 408 Elm St, Berthiaume, Madlyn, and Beaudry, Pauline A, to Penaltvert 3rd, Andres, and Fredette, Jaclyn C.

\$330,000, 18 Glenview Ave, Central City Prop LLC, to Filo, Christine D.

\$310,000, 29 Fiske St, Noga, Alan G, and Noga, Annmarie, to Castasus, Nolvla, and Castasus, Christopher.

\$310,000, 31 Fiske St, Noga, Alan G, and Noga, Annmarie, to Castasus, Nolvla, and Castasus, Christopher.

\$309,900, 109 Pleasant St, Belanger & Son Rlty Co In, to Hall, Matthew Z.

\$270,000, 33 Fiske St, Dugan, John G, to Deleon, Sengsouvaanny.

\$256,000, 50 Clark St, Faye, Matthew, and Faye, Monica, to Rivera, Marc A, and Schnorf, John J.

\$86,500, 154 Marcy St, Ferraro, Anthony, and Ferraro, Scarlett G, to L & L Investments LLC.

### STURBRIDGE

\$105,000, 30 South Rd, Horizon Properties LLC, and Sachem Capital Corp, to Sachem Capital Corp.

\$105,000, 32 South Rd, Horizon Properties LLC, and Sachem Capital Corp, to Sachem Capital Corp.

\$50,000, 17 Shepard Rd, Roberge, Scott, and Roberge, Heidi, to Pope Jr, Alvan.



# Learn about finding birds in Central Mass. with Charlton Heritage Preservation Trust, Mass Audubon

CHARLTON — You are invited to attend an overview of birds and bird-watching in central Massachusetts, including bird identification, bird behavior, and association with different habitats presented in Dexter Hall of the Charlton Public Library on May 18 at 7 p.m. This is a free, one hour event that is designed to entertain and educate anyone; from those who prefer to watch birds at a feeder through their kitchen window, to diehards who will trudge through any weather for the annual bird count. The goal of the event is to help put birds and their preferred habitats into a local perspective.

The Charlton Heritage Preservation Trust (CHPT) is pleased to feature Dr. Martha Gach, who is the Education Manager for Mass Audubon's Central Region and the Sanctuary Ecologist at Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife

Sanctuary in Worcester. She is a graduate of Mass Audubon's Birders Certificate Program, leads bird walks and programs, and helps manage habitat for birds and other wildlife. Martha designed and maintains the sustainable landscape at Broad Meadow Brook to support wildlife, including pollinators, birds and people.

In 2021, CHPT, through an Environmental Quality Incentive Program Grant, contracted a professional forester to assess multiple key property holdings and recommend ways to enhance or preserve habitats. Birds were used as the ecosystem health indicator species with a focus on smaller songbirds. CHPT properties cover a range of habitats from upland woodlands to wetlands and ponds. Besides songbirds, CHPT properties have resident osprey, kingfishers, waterfowl,

herons, owls and a variety of hawks. Lisa Westwell, CHPT's president and a founding member is convinced of the value of preserving open space for wildlife while keeping those areas open and accessible to the public. According to Westwell, "The forestry survey was the first step in forming strategies to optimize wildlife habitats while creating outdoor recreational opportunities and giving people a chance to expand their birder's life lists. Bringing Mass Audubon to Dexter Hall is a piece of that strategy of enhancing awareness of what is available in our backyards."

William Blasius, clerk of the CHPT Board of Trustees began his professional career at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in the Ecology department.

"I started off working at the intersection of wildlife conservation and farming and gained an insight into the conflicts that are inevitable. While I didn't stay in that line of work, birds have been a important part of most family trips. We've been to islands off the coast of Maine to see nesting Puffins and to Wyoming to spot Sand Hill Cranes. Those were great experiences but, locally, I always appreciate encountering a Great Blue Heron pair on a nest with a super awkward chick at a beaver pond or looking up to spy a Bald Eagle harassing an Osprey for its fish. Since joining the CHPT Board of Trustees, I've learned about many of our hidden habitat gems and have had the opportunity to help create more public awareness and access," says

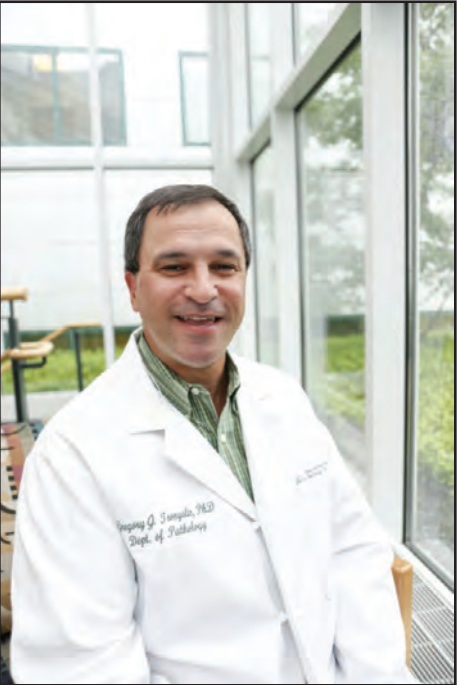


Blasius.

Charlton Heritage Preservation Trust owns 19 conservation properties in town, totaling more than 200 acres of natural land open to the public. CHPT works with landowners, developers and the town to balance healthy economic growth with conservation of important natural resources and historically significant places. They rely on donations of land and funds to make new conservation projects possible. CHPT relies on the volunteer help of their members and friends to preserve their conservation areas for the public benefit.

You can find out more about the work of Charlton Heritage Preservation Trust during Charlton's Earth Day Fest on the Town Common, April 29 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For further information about CHPT, including information about all of their properties and the May 18 Mass Audubon program at the Charlton Public Library, go to their Web site at <https://www.charlton-trust.org/index.htm>.

## New time, location for Harrington's "DNA and You" event



Dr. Gregory Tsongalis

STURBRIDGE — The Harrington Auxiliary invites the general public to an upcoming program, "DNA and You," which takes place on Friday, April 21 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Sturbridge Senior Center, 480 Main St., Sturbridge. Please note the change in time and venue. There is no charge to attend this program.

Gregory J. Tsongalis, PhD, HCLD, Vice Chair and Professor of Pathology, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Audrey and Theodor Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth, will examine how DNA influences health and the chances of developing certain medical conditions. His work has focused on identifying mutations in a person's genetic code

that might create an opportunity for personalized treatment, specifically targeted to the patient and the condition.

Dr. Tsongalis, a Southbridge native, graduated from Southbridge High School in 1980. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, earned a Master of Health Science degree from Quinnipiac College as a Pathologist's Assistant and received his PhD from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (now Rutgers University). He accepted his first clinical position at Harrington Hospital.

Dr. Tsongalis served as the inaugural medical director of the Molecular Pathology Lab at Hartford Hospital for 10 years before joining the Dartmouth Health System in Lebanon, New Hampshire. He is currently the medical director of the Center for Clinical Genomics and Advanced Technology (CGAT) at the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center and Norris Cotton Cancer Center (NCCC) in Lebanon.

Author/editor of thirteen textbooks in the field of molecular pathology, he has published more than 250 scientific articles, and has been invited to speak at both national and international meetings. He has served on numerous professional society committees and is a Past President of the Association for Molecular Pathology. He serves on the editorial boards of multiple journals and also sits on numerous corporate scientific advisory boards.

The Harrington Auxiliary, established in 1932, is a non-profit organization of dedicated and impassioned volunteers whose mission is to support and enhance the excellent services provided by UMass Memorial Health Harrington.

For more information, contact Kelly at [Kelly.Hibbard@UMassMemorial.org](mailto:Kelly.Hibbard@UMassMemorial.org) or 508-765-9771, ext. 6472.

## Charlton art show moving to library

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — The Charlton Cultural Council's annual art show will have a new look, a new location, and a new date this year as the popular showcase moves from the Town Hall to the Charlton Public Library in May of 2023.

Christine Grandalski, Chair of the Cultural Council, made the announcement during the Board of Selectmen's March 15 meeting confirming a new partnership between the council and the library will result in a new-look art show held earlier than in past years.

"Typically, the Cultural Council runs the art show during the Old Home Day celebration and both the library and the council have been fortunate enough to pursue additional grants from the state that are allowing us to hopefully do something a little bit bigger with a little more of an immersive twist," said Grandalski.

The artwork will be displayed throughout the library's exhibit floor from May 8 through May 19 with a spe-

cial reception on May 11. Grandalski said the library staff have been accommodating and that both the library and the council are excited about the new partnership. However, the announcement confirmed that the art show will not be part of Old Home Day in 2023 or, potentially, for the foreseeable future.

"This will be the only art show that we will do this year. We won't be running the art show on Old Home Day. We can only manage one art show without the calendar year. This is a departure and an experiment. We're excited to see where it goes," Grandalski said.

Art exhibits should be dropped off at the Charlton Public Library on May 6 and picked up on May 20 after the exhibit ends. The art show entry form is traditionally made available on the Charlton Cultural Council website. In years past the show has included art from local schools and adult artists ranging from paintings and sculptures to photographs and other visual mediums showcasing the wide variety of styles and inspirations that make up the town of Charlton.

## April events at the Brimfield Senior Center


April 18 – Lunch & Learn: The State 911 Department would like to make you aware of an exciting program that could greatly benefit you or members of your family. This program is the Massachusetts Equipment Distribution Program or more commonly referred to as MassEDP.

MassEDP provides adaptive telephone equipment to people who have difficulty using the telephone due issues such as hearing loss or vision loss. This enables you to have the opportunity to enjoy clear, independent phone communications and the ability to contact 911 in the event of an emergency. The specialized telephone equipment is offered to people with a permanent disability for little or no cost, depending on income level. These disabilities include: deaf/hard of hearing, blind/low vision, motion, cognitive, and speech. Lunch is available for a suggested donation of \$2. Menu is: Chicken Pot Pie with Biscuit Topping; Steamed Green Beans & Pear Crisp.

April 21, 10:30 a.m. Movie on the Big Screen, "A Man Called Otto." When a lively young family moves in next door; grumpy widower Otto Anderson meets his match in a quick-witted, pregnant woman named Marisol, leading to an unlikely friendship that turns his world upside down. Starring Tom Hanks. \$2 for the movie – popcorn, beverages & snacks free! 413-245-7253.

April 28 - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.: Welcome Spring Party! Join us as we welcome the season of showers and flowers. Your menu is: Crudite appetizer plate; Chicken Francaise over Angel Hair Pasta; Asparagus; Fresh Rolls with butter; Mixed Berry Shortcakes with Whipped Cream. There is a \$5.00 suggested donation for this party. Please register prior to April 24. 413-245-7253.

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## Friday's Child

**Hi! My name is Corey and I want to be a scientist when I grow up!**

Corey is a happy, loveable and insightful teen boy of African American descent. He enjoys Legos, roller coasters, and anything athletic. Corey loves Chinese food and can cook grilled cheese, eggs, and pancakes. He is an appealing and sociable child who relates well to older kids and adults and has formed positive relationships with his peers and works well in group activities. Corey wants to be a scientist when he grows up!


Legally freed for adoption, Corey's social worker is looking for a loving and supportive two-parent family or a single parent with other adults in the home or in close proximity for daily support. It is also important that he has a mother figure and he is the youngest in the home. Corey needs to maintain contact with his big sister, Kiy'aa, who is also free for adoption, and if possible would love a family willing to open their home to her.

<https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/7295>

### Can I Adopt?

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

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





CHARLTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

40 Main St., Charlton  
(508) 248-2219

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

Movies @ The Library  
All showings are on Tuesdays at 1:00 & 5:30 in Dexter Hall. No registration. Free popcorn!  
April 4 : ANGRY NEIGHBORS starring Bobby Canavale & Stockard Channing. 2022; R; 1 hr 29 min.  
April 11 : TILL starring Danielle Deadwyler. 2022 ; PG-13 ; 2 hrs 10 min.  
April 18 : ARMAGEDDON TIME starring Anne Hathaway. 2022; R; 1 hr 54 min.  
April 25 : THE MENU starring Ralph Fiennes & Anna Taylor-Joy. 2022; R; 1 hr 47 min.

Silver Needles Knit & Crochet Group  
Thursdays from 1:00-3:00 - Upstairs Reading Room  
Bring your current project and relax with friends while taking in the view in the upstairs reading room. All are welcome, regardless of skill level; no registration required.

Basics of Bees and Beekeeping  
Saturday, April 1, 10:30-12:00 - Dexter Hall - No registration  
Please join John Hedly, local beekeeper and member of Worcester County Beekeepers Association, to learn the basics of beekeeping. Topics include: Starting a beehive, the physical structure of a beehive, the bee colony and its organization, bee chores in and out of a hive, collecting honey, and the importance of pollination. This program is free and open to all ages. No registration is required.

Better Read Than Dead Book Club - NEW!  
Wednesday, April 5, 11:00-12:00 - Sibley

Reading Area - Registration Requested  
Do you like mystery, suspense, and a little blood and gore? So do we! Join us for a monthly meetup to discuss entertaining & fascinating details about true crimes, both solved and unsolved. This book club is being hosted by long time library employees Deb and Susan on the first Wednesday of every month!

Genealogy Group Meeting  
Thursday, April 6, 6:00-7:30 - Community Meeting Room - No Registration  
The Charlton Library Genealogy Group is a friendly group of people who share an interest in genealogy. We meet monthly on the first Thursday of the month from 6:00-7:30 in the Local History Room. Meetings will alternate between general discussion topics and guest presenters. The meetings are free and open to the public. Tonight will be a general discussion meeting.

Poetry Open Mic Night  
Thursday, April 6, 6:30-8:00 - Dexter Hall - No Registration  
To celebrate National Poetry Month, we are hosting a Poetry Open Mic Night at the Library with guest facilitator Joe Fusco, Jr. from Worcester County Poetry Association. You're welcome to read your own poetry or read a poem by a favorite poet. This event is free and open to the public. No registration is required. Sponsored by Charlton Friends of the Library.

Community Yoga  
Saturday, April 8, 9:45-10:45 - Dexter Hall - Registration requested.  
Join local instructor, Linda Davis, for a free monthly community yoga class. All ages and levels are welcome. Children under age 5 must have a caregiver with them at all times. Wear comfortable clothing and please bring your own yoga mat.

lation desk one month prior to discussion. All are welcome to join us whether you have read the book or not. The group meets in person in the Local History Room. If you prefer to participate remotely via Zoom, the link is on our event calendar (charltonlibrary.org).

Managing Finances: A Caregiver's Guide to Planning for the Future  
Thursday, April 13, 6:00-7:30 - Dexter Hall  
Cornerstone Bank is pleased to sponsor this presentation by Christopher Mallon, LPL and Carol Barton, Esq. who will present Managing Finances: A Caregiver's Guide to Planning for the Future. Come and learn the benefits of early financial & legal planning when caring for a loved one with dementia. Topics to be covered include: Power of Attorney, Estate Planning, Beneficiaries, and Legalities of Handling Finances. This is a Dementia Friendly Charlton event. All are welcome. Registration is encouraged but not required.

Writer Support Group  
Thursday, April 13, 6:00-7:30 - Community Meeting Room  
Saturday, April 29, 9:30-11:00 - Community Meeting Room  
This group meets to discuss the craft of writing, give encouragement, get accountability, break through writer's block, talk about favorite writing resources and the intricacies of the publishing business. This is not a critique group. Fiction focused. All writers 18+ welcome. Questions? Contact Barbara at leclerc.barbara@gmail.com

The Alzheimer's Support Network Caregiver Support Group  
Thursday, April 20, 6:00-7:30 - Community Meeting Room - No registration required.

Led by an Alzheimer's Care Professional and experienced caregiver, this group offers information, resources, and strategies specific to caring for someone with Alzheimer's and other Dementias along with support for transitioning to different care settings. Drop-in, no registration required. Co-sponsored by Tri-Valley as part of Dementia Friendly Charlton.

Irish Dance St. Patrick's Day Tour

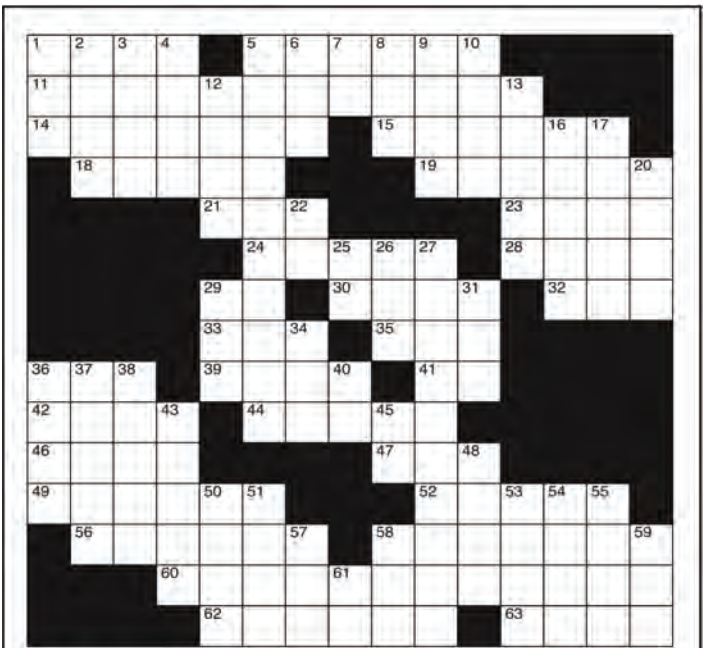
Thursday, April 20, 6:30-8:00 - Dexter Hall - No Registration  
Join Charlton's own Lee Irish Dancers for some entertaining Irish dancing in Dexter Hall. Dancers will perform traditional Irish dances such as Reels, Light Jigs, Treble Jigs, and Hornpipes! All ages are welcome and registration is not required.

Acoustic Roots Jam  
Saturday, April 22, 12:00-1:30 - Dexter Hall - Drop in, no registration  
An acoustic only music jam. Open to all 18+.

Edible Wild Plants and Mushrooms in and around Charlton  
Thursday, April 27, 6:00-8:00 - Dexter Hall - Registration requested.  
Join Russ Cohen, wild edibles enthusiast and author of the book Wild Plants I Have Known...and Eaten, for a 90-minute slideshow covering at least three dozen of the tastiest species the region has to offer. Russ will accompany his talk with handouts and several foraged goodies made with wild ingredients. Registration is requested.

CULE- Charlton Ukulele League & Ensemble  
Thursday, April 27, 6:00-7:30 - Community Meeting Room  
This club is a FREE, fun, low stress and entertaining way for adults 18+ to learn music together. You will be guided by experienced musicians who encourage you to find your own level of achievement. Any questions? Email Rich at Cule5632@gmail.com

Critical Thinking Discussion Group - The English Language and Its Grammar  
Friday, April 28, 1:00-2:00 - Sibley Reading Area (Main Floor) - No Registration  
Join some like-minded friends for a little mental workout to keep your brain in good shape! You may use any English grammar reference book for this discussion. Discussion items are available at the adult circulation desk one month prior to discussion date. This group is facilitated by local resident and scholar David Schiller. No experience with critical thinking discussion groups is necessary. Groups are drop-in (no registration). Question? Email saga3@charter.net.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Millisecond

5. Narcotic drug

11. Accident

14. Formal submissions

15. Popular 70s rock band

18. Discourage from doing

19. More socially elite

21. Arid

23. A way to look

24. Heroes

28. A surfer rides it

29. Potato state

30. Insect repellent

32. Cool!

33. Have already done
35. Collegiate women's fraternity

36. To the \_\_\_ degree

39. Gasteyer and de Armas are two

41. Blood type

42. Looked over

44. Language of Cameroon and Chad

46. Species of armadillo

47. Touch softly

49. Part of your upper body

52. Large, stocky lizards

56. Lack of social or ethical standards

58. Congressman

60. Unofficial force

62. As a result of this utterance

63. A main branch of Islam

CLUES DOWN

1. Woman (French)

2. Province of Pakistan

3. This (Spanish)

4. Transportation device

5. Greater in importance or priority

6. The human foot

7. Within

8. Consumed

9. Respectful Malaysian term

10. Therefore

12. Ceased to exist

13. Type of macaroni

16. English composer

17. Wooded tract

20. Tall, slender-leaved plant

22. 36 inches

25. Take too much (abbr.)

26. Allow

27. Individually
29. Journalist Tarbell

31. Bar bill

34. Hong Kong food stall: \_\_\_ pai dong

36. Not messy

37. Species that includes reedmace

38. Former MLB catcher Ed

40. Northern U.S. state

43. Wilt

45. Commercial

48. Bolivian river

50. Nursemaid

51. A car needs four

53. Guns (slang)

54. American state

55. Clusters of fern fronds

57. Body part

58. A person's brother or sister

59. Breed of sheep native to Sweden

61. Of I



Book Discussion - THE PARIS WIFE by Paula McLain  
Thursday, April 13, 6:00-7:00 - Local History Room (and via Zoom)  
Books are available for checkout at the adult circu-

SCHOTT donates fiber optics to Southbridge Optical Heritage Museum

GLASS FIBER BUNDLE AND LIGHT SOURCE GIVE VISITORS A TRUE-TO-LIFE IMPRESSION



Vicki Shrewsbury, HR Director of SCHOTT in Southbridge, and Dick Whitney, Executive Director of the Optical Heritage Museum in Southbridge, with the donation from SCHOTT.

SOUTHBRIDGE — How can you tie a knot in glass? The solution is simple if you know your fiber optics. Otherwise, you can find the answer by visiting the Optical Heritage Museum in Southbridge: Take glass optical fibers produced by glass expert SCHOTT. These are thinner than human hair and extremely flexible. You can even wrap them around your finger. They transport light from a light source to the end tip, needed for example in endoscopes. Light guides made of fiber optic bundles transmit light into the human body during minimally invasive surgery, allowing doctors to see human tissue more precisely.

“As strong supporters of science, technology and our community, we are pleased to donate a flexible fiber optic bundle and a light source to our town's museum. We hope it will allow many visitors to discover the fascination of specialty glass,” Vicki Shrewsbury, HR Director of SCHOTT Lighting and Imaging in Southbridge, said.

The company draws fibers for transporting both light and images and assembles them into sophisticated products. Imaging fibers are used, for example, in faceplates for medical or industrial x-rays as well as in night vision goggles to protect our soldiers. SCHOTT currently has several job openings which can be found on [www.us.schott.com/jobs](http://www.us.schott.com/jobs).

“We thank SCHOTT for their donation. Our exhibition tells the story of our town's strong history in optics. Yet, having state-of-the-art products on display is just as important to educate visitors on current technology and give them a real look-and-feel of fiber optics,” Dick Whitney, Executive Director of the Optical Heritage Museum, stated.

Did you know? The development of fiber optic technology began in the 1950s in several research projects that aimed at drawing optical fibers capable of transmitting light and images and assembling them into useful devices. A CIA-sponsored project in Southbridge, which had the original goal to use fiber optics to scramble messages, evolved into the American Optical, Fiber Optics Division, which the SCHOTT Group then later acquired. These experiments and inventions have been steadily refined throughout the years to form the solid basis for SCHOTT's current state-of-the-art development and manufacturing operations and its innovative fiber optic lighting and imaging technology.

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**TCA STUDENTS  
INDUCTED INTO NATIONAL  
JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY**

Trinity Catholic Academy's National Junior Honor Society is proud to welcome nine new members. A beautiful ceremony was held on March 23 at St. Mary's Church in Southbridge where students were inducted, and current members were recognized. Students are chosen for this prestigious honor based on their outstanding achievement and enthusiasm for the five pillars of NJHS: scholarship, leadership, service, character, and citizenship. A special thank you to our National Junior Honor Society advisor Ms. Casey, our guest speaker Trinity alumna and National Honor Society member Megan Garlie '10, and alumnus Collin Ladd '22 who led us in song. Congratulations to Trinity's 2023 inductees, we are confident you will serve our community well! [www.trinitycatholicacademy.org](http://www.trinitycatholicacademy.org)

Courtesy

## Charlton Earth Day Roadside Clean-up set for April 29

CHARLTON — Charlton residents are invited to help clean up the Town for Earth Day! Sadly the roads of our fair Town are strewn with litter. The Earth deserves better treatment from humans, so show your appreciation for the planet by cleaning up a mile (or two!) on Saturday, April 29.

Online registration begins April 1 at <https://www.townofcharlton.net/238/Earth-Day-Committee>. Sign-up for a road, or portion of a road, or sign up in person at the event. From 8 am on the Common, road volunteers may pick up yellow bags, gloves, safety vest, boxes of water, and a packet of native wildflower seeds. Supplies courtesy of a grant from The Last Green Valley and from donations from The Charlton Recreation Commission, and several Earth Fest Planning Group members. A limited supply of pickers is available, one per family/group. Please reuse pickers from previous years if you have them. Bring the filled bags to the dumpster donated by Casella Waste behind Town Hall. Enter raffles for prizes donated by Treehouse Brewery, CHPT, Cornerstone Bank.

T-shirts with design by contest winner Ellianna Holland, a student at Charlton Middle School are available on a first come, first serve basis, one per person, donated by Millennium Power Company.

Safety first! Please take care when picking up the roads. Use gloves to protect yourself from sharp objects. Wear bright clothing or a safety vest so drivers can see you easily. You may want to set up cones to caution drivers in higher speed areas. Never open containers of unknown substances. Contact the Police to dispose of any needles or syringes – do not touch or place them in bags with other refuse.

Walk any back road in Charlton, particularly the wooded roadsides, and you will easily fill a trash bag with a variety of plastic, glass, paper, and metal refuse. But the worst roads are some of the most traveled and therefore more dangerous to do. If you are up for the task, and not for kids for sure, these roads are hot spots: Route 31, Brookfield Road, Route 20 traffic lights, Saundersdale Road. Road registration begins April 1 at [www.townofcharlton.net/238/earth-day-committee](http://www.townofcharlton.net/238/earth-day-committee)

Blessings Farm will be bringing some horses to the Common; come and visit! Smick Studios will be documenting the day. Live music by The Wormtown Mugwumps, Worcester's premier purveyors of jug band music. Free kazoos! Food trucks attending include Baystate Chews, Big T's Jerky House, Sauced and Tossed Chicken Company, No Coast Kitchen, and Suzie Q's Ice Cream. The Earth Fest Planning Group will be giving away 100 free tree seedlings, Eastern Red Cedar and Concolor Fir, one per family while supplies last, thanks to Earth Day member donations and assistance from the Worcester County Conservation District.

Vendors include: Armstrong Acres Farm, Local 4 Life, Cornerstone Bank, Energy Monster, Second Chance Animal Shelter, Cathy Kuehl Memorial Wildflower Garden, Edward Jones (environmental investing), Charlton Garden Club, Keep Charlton Beautiful Committee, Charlton Conservation Commission, Blessings Farm, Kiddie Picasso Face Art, The Last Green Valley, Charlton Heritage Preservation Trust, Keep Charlton Beautiful Committee, Capen Hill Nature Center, AnnieMike's Honey, the Buffumville Army Corps of Engineers, and the Opacum Land Trust.

## Methodist Church announces community Easter bash

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Methodist Church of Southbridge invites the community to a big Easter party on Saturday, April 1 from noon to 3 p.m.

Activities will include an egg hunt, face painting, Easter cookie decorating, Easter crafts, games (egg toss, bowling, doughnut catch, and much more) with prizes for all, movies, an Easter Pinata, and more. Three great baskets (one Easter/Spring, one Kids, one Gardening basket) will also be raffled off! Apple pie, chili, popcorn, and drinks will be available. The Easter Bunny will be hands on for free pictures!

The entrance is free, as well as some activities, but tickets will be sold for the games, food and activities.

“We have always done free events and have to support many ministries,” says Pastor Sabina Terrades.

She continues, “Our little church offers many ministries to the community, free meals, food, a closet with free clothing, hygiene products, shoes, etc. movie nights, and more. We will be starting a free laundry ministry soon. We have great partners, but we need the help of the community to keep our doors open.”



All are invited to this event.

The Methodist Church is located at 449 Main St. in Southbridge, and can be reached at 508-764-6501. [Fumcsouthbridge.org](http://Fumcsouthbridge.org)

# Dining & Entertainment



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# Library program honors women who “changed astronomy forever”



Gus Steeves



Some of the books the library displayed to honor women in the space race.

Dino Tata talks to some of his audience.

**BY GUS STEEVES**  
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE — As many people who frequent events at the Jacobs Edwards Library know, Dino Tata has a fascination for space, in pretty much all its aspects.

Last week, he combined that with March’s Women’s History Month commemoration to educate the community on many of the women involved in the space race – American, Russian, Indian and others.

About the only key female space figure who didn’t get a starring role was the very first – Laika, the first being to orbit Earth. Back in April 2018, Smithsonian noted her one-way journey was “with one meal and only a seven-day oxygen supply.” Her craft, Sputnik 2, disintegrated during its return through the atmosphere in April 1957, but Laika has since been remembered in postage stamps, movies, TV shows and more.

Most of those Tata honored didn’t meet a similar fate, although a few did. Some are very much still alive, but others died before their talents and contributions to science were widely acknowledged. He noted they generally share a key trait – “They’re all extremely well educated,” often with degrees in four or five different fields.

They also have cour-

age, he noted, describing it this way: “You’re sitting on 7 million pounds of some of the world’s most volatile explosives, and somebody’s putting a match to it.”

Not surprisingly, he started with several of Laika’s Russian compatriots, namely Valentina Tereskova and Svetlana Savitskaya.

The former piloted Vostok 6 around Earth for 48 hours and, on the way home, “jumped out of the Vostok and parachuted the rest of the way to Earth.” Since her journey, there have been no solo female spaceflights, and Tata said the now 90-year-old Tereskova told Russian president Vladimir Putin “when we have a spaceship going to Mars, I want to be on it.”

Savitskaya had a similar penchant for parachutes, having taken 450 jumps including several that set world records for height. Like her peer, she’s still alive, having served four terms in the Russian Duma and collected numerous national awards.

In the US, women in the early space era didn’t get nearly as much fame as those two did. Typically, such women served as computers, literally doing the calculating on paper for major aspects of the technology, software, or the spaceflights themselves. Education, often in segregated schools and/or as

the only woman among a class of men, “created a real chance for these brainiacs to get a real job,” Tata said. In several cases, the astronauts distrusted the mechanical computers of that era tasked with computing their trajectories enough that they called on a specific woman to redo all the work to make sure it was right.

Melba Mouton, for example, was a NASA head mathematician who calculated the trajectories to and from the moon for the Apollo missions. Like several other women he mentioned, she has a feature on the moon named for her (a mountain, although they’re often craters).

Mary Jackson became the first black female engineer at NASA and worked in the supersonic pressure tunnel testing airplanes. Christine Darden had a similar background, working to understand sonic booms and how to minimize their impact on people below them.

The only one Tata mentioned who was a Bay Stater was Henrietta Leavitt of Lancaster, who “changed astronomy forever and is just now getting credit for it 80 to 100 years after her death.” She predated the space program, but was the first person to identify Cepheid variables (despite not being allowed to use a telescope), a type

of star with such a regular pattern that they have become the standard for calculating distance to other galaxies. Like several of her peers, her discoveries were appropriated by their male colleagues and published under their names.

Around the same time, physicist Annie Jump Cannon took on the huge task of trying to map “every single star in the sky,” and succeeded for 350,000 of them. She designed the Harvard Classification Scheme, which identifies stars by spectral type and temperature.

Similarly, Donna Elbert identified “the Elbert Range,” how planets and stars develop magnetic fields and how they protect life from cosmic radiation. Her work “was the first example of work women did that men took the credit for,” Tata said, noting Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar turned it into a Nobel Prize.

Katherine Johnson, whose name now adorns NASA’s Computational Research Facility, made her name by calculating the orbital equations for Alan Shepard’s Freedom 7 flight, the first American in space, and later by being the go-to person for John Glenn’s Friendship 7 flight. Among many awards, Johnson received the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the “Silver Snoopy Award,” which Tata said, “is not a joke.

It’s an award NASA give to people who do great stuff.”

According to the NASA website’s 2020 obituary of her, “When asked to name her greatest contribution to space exploration, Johnson would talk about the calculations that helped synch Project Apollo’s Lunar Module with the lunar-orbiting Command and Service Module.”

Some of the later women actually were pilots, including Sunita Williams, who once held the women’s record for seven spacewalks and 50 hours outside spacecraft (both since eclipsed by other women). She was “the only person ever to run the Boston Marathon in space.”

Sally Ride was the first US woman in space, riding the shuttle Challenger and later being part of the team investigating that shuttle’s demise as well as the Columbia’s. Her peer Eileen Collins was the first female shuttle pilot and first mission commander; she spent 872 hours in space. Today, she travels the world encouraging young people to “make the most of your high school years,” in large part because she did not. “She went the extra mile to make up for her lack of attention in high school,” Tata said.

Of course, some met fates similar to Laika’s. Among them were Christa McAuliffe, the

first teacher headed for space, and Judy Resnik, the first Jew, who died on Challenger. As many alive in 1986 recall, the shuttle “had been cancelled four or five times due to various problems,” and the night before launch Florida got frost. That damaged the craft’s O-rings, which caused a fuel leak that detonated the shuttle soon after launch.

Two others, Laurel Clark and Kalpana Chawla, were both killed when Columbia burned on reentry in 2003. According to the incident’s Wikipedia entry, “During launch, a piece of the insulating foam broke off from the Space Shuttle external tank and struck the thermal protection system tiles on the orbiter’s left wing. ... [T]he damage allowed hot atmospheric gases to penetrate the heat shield and destroy the internal wing structure, which caused the orbiter to become unstable and break apart.”

Tata also presented several other women involved various aspects of the space program. The whole program will be on the town’s on-demand cable channel page sometime in the near future.

Gus Steeves can be reached at [gus.steeves2@gmail.com](mailto:gus.steeves2@gmail.com).

## Ella Andersen named to Head of School Scholar Honors List at Pomfret School

POMFRET, Conn. — Ella Andersen of Sturbridge, from the Class of 2023, was named to the Winter 2022-2023 Head of School Scholar Honors list at Pomfret School. To achieve this level of distinction, Ella earned a grade point average of at least 4.00 and received no grade lower than an A-.

Founded in 1894, Pomfret School is an independent coeducational college preparatory boarding and day school for 350 students in grades 9 through 12 and postgraduates. Set on a stunning 500-acre campus in Northeastern Connecticut, Pomfret empowers students to pursue lives of purpose and meaning by inspiring the next generation of change makers and problem solvers.

Learn more at [www.pomfret.org](http://www.pomfret.org).

## Ivy Dowdle named to Head of School Scholar Honors List at Pomfret School

POMFRET, Conn. — Ivy Dowdle of Charlton, from the Class of 2024, was named to the Winter 2022-2023 Head of School Scholar Honors list at Pomfret School. To achieve this level of distinction, Ivy earned a grade point average of at least 4.00 and received no grade lower than an A-.

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Learn more at [www.pomfret.org](http://www.pomfret.org).

## Kaylie Gonya earns Problem Solving Six Sigma certification

NEWTON — Kaylie Gonya, an Uxbridge resident studying Event Management at Lasell University, recently earned a Problem Solving Six Sigma Yellow Belt Certification.

Assistant Professor Siddharth Mobar, a hospitality and event management expert, provided the certification opportunity in his hospitality capstone course.

“Six Sigma certifications elevate a student’s professional marketability and exemplifies additional knowledge of being a problem solver,” said Mobar. “The students are prepared to be change agents within their organizations and can lead efforts to improve processes, deliver quality to customers, and achieve operational excellence.”

The certifying agency, GoLeanSixSigma.com, uses immersive virtual training experiences to improve problem-solving skills. Forbes, Amazon, Tesla, and Disney are among the many companies who utilize the agency.

For more information contact: Samantha Mocle, assistant director of communications, at (617) 243-2386, or [smocle@lasell.edu](mailto:smocle@lasell.edu)

## Gateway Players presents Matthew Barber’s “Fireflies”

SOUTHBRIDGE — Gateway Players Theatre of Southbridge presents “Fireflies” by Matthew Barber, from the novel Eleanor and Abel by Annette Sanford, presented by permission through special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc. Performance dates are April 28, 29, May 5 & 6 at 7:30 p.m., and May 7 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 David Corkum, and produced by Bill Guy. The cast includes Jim Douglas, John Golden, Carol Allard Vancil, and Gail White.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$13 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 [gateway-players.ticketleap.com/fireflies/](http://gateway-players.ticketleap.com/fireflies/)

In the play, retired schoolteacher Eleanor Bannister lives a quiet life alone in tiny Groverdel, Texas, set in her routines and secure in her position as the town’s most respected woman—until a hole in her roof draws the attention of Abel Brown, a smooth-talking drifter intent on renovating Eleanor’s house, and possibly her life. Can the unexpected sparks of late-life romance be trusted, or is there truth in the gossip that Abel isn’t all that he seems to be? Either way, the whole town is talking.

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**CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS**  
**DROP-IN SPRING STORYTIMES:** Tuesdays and Fridays at 10:45. Check website for dates. No registration required.  
**LEGO CLUB:** Thursday, April 13th at 6pm. Registration is required.  
**MAGIC FRED:** A family-friendly comedy magic show. Tuesday, April 18th at 11am. Registration is required. Sponsored by the Mass Cultural Council.  
**DROP-IN SPRING CRAFTS:** On April 19th between 12pm - 4pm, come create some spring crafts! No registration required. While supplies last.  
**DEB’S SING AND SWING:** Thursday,

April 20th at 11am. Stories and songs for children ages infant to 6 with an adult caregiver. Registration is required.

**ADULT AND TEEN PROGRAMS**  
**SCRABBLE CLUB:** Wednesdays at 6:30pm. No registration required.  
**AFTERNOON BOOK DISCUSSION:** Tuesday, April 11 at 1pm. Becoming Mrs. Lewis by Patti Callahan. No registration required.  
**ARMCHAIR TRAVELERS BOOK DISCUSSION:** Wednesday, April 19th at 7pm. The Ride of Her Life by Elizabeth Letts. No registration required.  
**CAREGIVERS OVERVIEW TO MEDICARE:** Wednesday, April 26th at 6:30pm. This educational presentation reviews Medicare, additional Medicare plans such as supplements, Medicare Advantage and Part D, and timeframes for enrolling. Registration is required.

Friends of the JHPL will be holding a **BOOK SALE** on Saturday, April 22, 2023 from 10am to 2pm.



# Girls Inc. hosts “HERstory in the Making” event

WORCESTER — Girls Inc. of Worcester held its annual “Girls Celebration,” a tradition for more than 22 years, on Thursday, March 23, at the College of the Holy Cross from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. This event highlights not only the success of Girls Inc. girls, but also provides the community with a snapshot of our progressive, innovative programs and staff that make our organization a vital component in Worcester’s community to make its girls strong, smart, and bold leaders for the future.

More than 100 sponsors and supporters showed up to help us present awards to community champions who have advocated and partnered with Girls Inc. of Worcester this past year: Senator Robyn Kennedy, Strong Advocate Award; Craig Dotting, Principal of Vernon Hill Elementary School, Smart Advocate Award; Diane Giampa, Executive VP at Bay State Savings Bank, Strong Advocate Award; Agnes Nkansah, Outstanding Alumna Award; and Kathy Chen, WPI Executive Director of Stem Education, for Outstanding Community Partner Award.

The event, themed “HERstory in the Making,” allowed Girls Inc. of Worcester the opportunity to not only thank our community champions, but to showcase our key activities and successes throughout the year with food, videos of our activities, and a salute to the Girls Inc. experience with a video humorously entitled “Girls Inc. Smells,” a reminiscence of smells that invoke pleasant memories and experiences by our alumnae. The event offered a chance to return to an in-person celebration, which was felt by everyone through the excitement and generosity of our guests.

Guests were entertained by 12 younger girls from our After School and Summer Camp program who sang a favorite camp song, while about 25 girls in our current Eureka! program talked about their experiences and goals for the future with guests.

During the event, Girls Inc. of Worcester also presented two Girls Awards to 2023 Eureka! Graduates who have completed our Eureka! STEM and Leadership program. The Vanessa T. Marcotte Award honors a Girls Inc. of Worcester girl who truly exemplifies Girls Inc.’s mission as well as Vanessa T. Marcotte’s legacy by being ambitious, generous in spirit, brave, and kind. This was awarded to Gianna Degon, who seeks to go into engineering to combat climate change. The second Girls Award, the Valerie S. Loring Girls of the Year Award, recognizes girls who exemplify the qualities of vision and leadership, courage and perseverance, generosity and compassion, and dedication and sincerity. This year, the award went to Syeda Faatima Adnon, who also received the Girls Inc National Scholarship.

In her acceptance speech, Faatima epitomized the heart of Girls Inc. or Worcester and its more than 100 years of support and advocacy for girls in Worcester: “Eureka is consistently embodying and encoding the slogan of smart, strong and bold into each and every one of its participants. Eureka has allowed me to build amazing connections, including lifelong friendships, and is able to provide that safe space where you’re able to push your boundaries, knowing there’s people behind you in case you stumble. I believe that empowering girls and young women is crucial to creating a more just and equitable society, and I am honored to be a part of this mission.”

The “HERstory in the Making” evening was a reminder of the value of our sponsors and supporters who provide us with the ability to continue to be a strong, smart, and bold influence on our young women of Worcester.

## First Church of Monson to launch Fabric FUNDrive

MONSON—On Nov.1, 2022, the Textile Recovery Act was passed in Massachusetts. Per this law, residents can no longer discard any textiles in their trash. In response to this new law, First Church of Monson is partnering with Savers to sponsor a soft goods FUNDrive to benefit our environment and to raise funds for First Church. Savers, located on Memorial Drive in West Springfield, has designed a collection that is an environmentally safe and profitable way to dispose of unwanted items. First Church welcomes donations from the wider community.

Residents are invited to bring donations to the parking lot of First Church, 5 High St., on Earth Day, Saturday, April 22 from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Clean used clothing, bedding (sheets, blankets, mattress covers), curtains, towels, or any other woven goods will be accepted. Household goods and books cannot be included. Donors are asked to bag clean items in large plastic bags averaging about 20 pounds each.

Start your spring cleaning early and help support this worthy FUNDrive. For questions, call the church office at 413-267-3312, email office@firstchurchmonson.org or go to the Web site <http://www.FirstChurchMonson.org>.



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FRANK G. CHILINSKI  
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE  
EDITOR

# “We don’t need roads”

## NOSTALGIA HAS ITS BENEFITS

It’s been one of those weeks where nostalgia has been hanging around quite a bit for us, whether it’s reminiscing with friends or searching for old CD’s or vinyl, nostalgia has a bit of magic all its own. A study has revealed that nostalgia can actually reduce general aches and pains due to the reduction in brain activity. Apparently, a longing for a simpler time has proven to dish out an analgesic effect. During one study, individuals were shown 26 old images while attached to an MRI machine. Such images included old TV shows, vintage candy and games. While attached to the machine, those people were also exposed to different levels of pain via a heat generator on their arm. Another group, were shown images of the modern world. The study revealed that those individuals who were shown nostalgic images showed lower levels of pain. Researchers continued to study the whys and how’s of nostalgia. One psychologist mentioned that those who long for the past may be depressed, however this proved not to be true. Nostalgia has been linked to giving people a feeling like their lives had roots and continuity. Recalling the past has been proven to reduce boredom, anxiety and loneliness. In addition feelings of nostalgia tend to make us more generous and open minded with strangers. Friends, families and couples report feeling closer when reminiscing. While it can be bittersweet to yearn for the past, most people recall those memories in a healthy way and actually can give the present more meaning. Most folks have feelings of nostalgia at least once a week and colder days seem to induce the feeling more as nostalgia tends to make us feel warm. In the end, nostalgia brings into our mind treasured memories that make us feel loved and valued. While we think of the past, it’s important to not compare it to the present. The best way to invoke nostalgic feelings is to listen to old music, flip through old photo albums, or Google old images from your past. In the words of Dr. Emmett Brown to Marty McFly in Back to the Future, “Roads? Where we’re going, we don’t need roads.”

Letter submission policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author’s name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author’s name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted. It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.

# OPINION

## To the Editor

### Applicants sought for Emily Dabrowski Memorial Scholarship

To the Editor:

The Emily Dabrowski Memorial Scholarship Committee is seeking applications for 2022 scholarships. This is the sixth year that funds have been generously provided by participants in the ‘Dad’s Swatfest’ Golf Tournament and members of our community.

The scholarships are in memory of my daughter, Emily, who died during her senior year at Shepherd Hill. Emily’s “Happiest place on Earth” was a Haitian Orphanage called Espwa, where she worked for three summers with others from St. Joseph’s Church in Charlton. This scholarship seeks to encourage students like her to continue their volunteer efforts.

The committee will base the amount and the number of scholarships granted on applications received. We seek students who have shown kindness to others, animals and our environment. A history of volunteering in Third World countries, a desire to join the Peace Corps or similar efforts are desired. A pursuit of humanitarian fields of study is preferred.

Scholarship applications must be submitted to the Shepherd Hill Guidance Office by April 7, 2022. I’d like to thank everyone who has donated to the scholarship fund. Your generosity is deeply appreciated!

To make a donation to the Emily Dabrowski Memorial Scholarship Fund, please contact Saver’s Bank in Charlton at 508-248-4255. If you would like to participate in the Dad’s Swatfest Golf Tournament, which will take place at the Heritage Golf Course on July 16, please contact me at DianeD@ERAKey.com or Melissa Boucher at Shepherd Hill Regional High School, at 508-943-6700, ext. 175.

Thank you,

DIANE DABROWSKI  
CHARLTON

## CDs can be part of your investment strategy



FINANCIAL  
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In the financial world, stocks and stock-based mutual funds often get a lot of attention. And deservedly so, because they often form the core of a portfolio. But to help achieve your goals, you may also want to consider a broader array of investments — one of which may be a certificate of deposit (CD).

As you may know, a CD earns interest on a lump sum for a designated period. You can purchase CDs whose maturities range from a few months to 10 or more years. Generally, the longer-term the CD, the higher the interest rate, although this isn’t always the case.

In recent years, CD rates have been pretty low, reflecting the overall interest-rate environment. But now, as the Federal Reserve has repeatedly raised interest rates to combat inflation, CD rates are rising, too. In fact, one-year CDs can currently be found paying in the 5 percent range — a rate that hasn’t been seen in more than 15 years. Later in 2023, though, if the Fed eases up on rate hikes, or perhaps even starts reversing them, CD rates could fall again.

You can purchase a CD from a bank or buy a “brokered” CD from a financial services provider. The income you receive from a CD may be its main attraction, especially if the rates remain elevated for a while. But there’s another key advantage to owning CDs: They can help diversify a portfolio of stocks and stock mutual funds that are generally more susceptible to movements in the financial markets. A portfolio that contains CDs, as well as bonds and government securities, can help reduce the effects of market volatility. Keep in mind, though, that diversification can’t guarantee profits or prevent losses in a declining market.

While adding individual CDs can be valuable, you might get a greater benefit from a more strategic approach known as laddering. You can build a CD ladder by buying a series of CDs that mature at different dates in the future — perhaps one month, three months, six months, nine months and 12 months out, or an even longer-term ladder of one to five years. In either case, as one CD matures, you can use the money if you need it or reinvest it to another “rung” on your ladder. If interest rates are up, the reinvestment option might be appealing, but if the available CD rates are lower than your maturing CDs, you could find better uses for your money. And you’d still have your longer-term CDs, possibly paying higher rates, working for you. You must evaluate whether a CD ladder and the securities held within it are consistent with your investment objectives, risk tolerance and financial circumstances.

The amount of space occupied by CDs in your portfolio should depend somewhat on your stage of life. If you’re a long way from retirement, you may want to own a larger percentage of growth-oriented investments. But once you’re retired and getting more income from your portfolio becomes more important, you might find a greater need for CDs.

In any case, CDs may prove useful to your overall financial strategy — so give them some thought.

*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.*

## Age can be an ally

I know a 92-year-old doctor who stays just as busy and motivated as a young man 60 years younger. He stays up late into the night writing research papers for publication. He’s had many successful inventions and patents, continually working on new projects, and never thinks of his age as a hindrance to achieving his goals.

POSITIVELY SPEAKING

TOBY MOORE

You may have thought you were supposed to accomplish your dream when you were younger, but now you’re older. Is the dream still waiting, calling for you to seize it? Now, you’re better equipped and ready.

Just because our bodies have aged doesn’t mean we have to be old in our thinking. Think of the doctor I mentioned above; he has a young mind and is still optimistic, passionately following his dreams, even after all these years.

The fact is, we can accomplish big things at any age.

A youthful mind has a sense of wonder and enthusiasm. A positive attitude is crucial for cultivating a young mind. How can you feel wonder and enthusiasm without a positive mindset?

A youthful mind is continually growing and willing to learn. Have you stopped learning and growing? You must have a Growth Mindset. Embrace the idea that you can continuously learn, grow, and evolve; at any age!

A youthful mind is unafraid to take risks, embrace change, and chase its dreams. It sees challenges as opportunities to grow rather than roadblocks and, stays flexible, can always learn new things.

Keeping a youthful mind in your later years is key to accomplishing your dreams late in life.

One man’s life was marked by a string of failures. He couldn’t hold down a job, failed as a lawyer, and even attempted

suicide but failed at that too. His dream of running a successful restaurant also fell through when it didn’t take off.

At the age of 65, he felt alone and defeated, sitting down to write his will while dwelling on all his hardships.

But something rose inside of him, a flicker of hope, and he decided that he was going to make something of himself. He had a clear vision of franchising his chicken recipe, a plan to drive to as many restaurants as he could, live out of his car, clean up at gas stations, and live that lifestyle until he found a partner to franchise this new business.

With just \$105 from his first Social Security check, he traveled across the country, going from restaurant to restaurant, peddling his fried chicken technique in an attempt to sell his franchise.

After 1,000 failed attempts, he stayed focused, never losing sight of his goal. In time, Colonel Sanders found a partner. His restaurant was eventually almost worth \$1 billion - now world-famous Kentucky Fried Chicken.

As Sanders once said, “I just say that the moral of my life is don’t quit at age 65; maybe your boat hasn’t come in yet. Mine hadn’t.”

Remember that success is not just for young bodies but, more frequently, for those with young minds. And there is always time to chase your dreams. Keep pushing forward, keep trying, and never give up.

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# The last of winter

It looks as though we escaped the last snowfall, and are well on our way to spring weather. I decided to put my snowblower away for the season this past weekend, even if we get a snowstorm, it will melt the next day. If the weatherman is correct, there is no snow in the long range forecast(?)

Anglers are catching a few of the recently stocked rainbow trout, but most days the bite has been slow for most fishermen, but a few seem to be doing very well. Ashland and Hopkinton Reservoir have seen the most action. No word on Wallum Lake trout stocking to date by either Rhode Island or Massachusetts. It would be a shame if the lake received no stocking. Anglers need to protest to their state senators and state representatives, if the lake does not receive a trout stocking by both states this year! It will be the first time during my lifetime that a spring trout stock-

ing was not done at the lake. The lake is scheduled to open on April 8 this year! Stay tuned!

The Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission reviewed potential recreational limits for scaup and seabass for 2023. It was determined that the DMF would move forward with the following anticipated limits: Recreational daily limits for sea bass would be cut from six fish to four fish, and the length would be raised by half an inch to 16 and a half inches! It is more than likely Rhode Island will follow the same regulations. It just makes you sick! The season on seabass starts on May 20 this year. Scaup limits also changed this year!

Contaminated Water from the Plymouth nuclear power plant is being reviewed, allowing the water to be dumped into the bay! The plant started decommissioning of the Plymouth facility on May 31, 2019. The plant



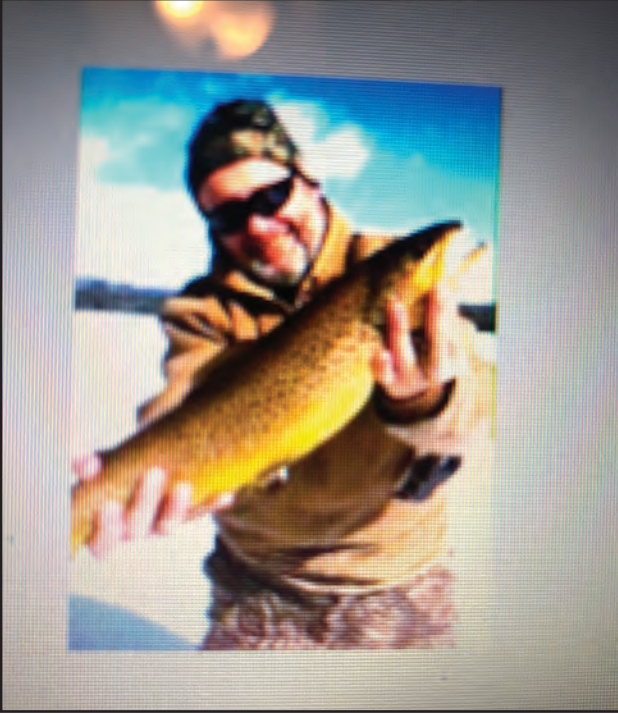
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was responsible for killing 68 different saltwater species that dramatically affected all marine life in Cape Cod Bay over the years of operation. Now they want to deposit millions of gallons of contaminated water directly into the bay? The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which oversees the nuclear plant at Pilgrim, needs to be watched very closely to ensure the safety of its residents and our valuable water species. During the operation of the nuclear facility, the power plant used the ocean water to cool and convert it to steam, which was recirculated, picking up radioactive contamination. One million gallons of this

radioactive water is still sitting in storage at the plant, and it has got to go somewhere! Protest from residents, fishermen, and government officials as to the best means to dump the contaminated water is still up in the air. The company in charge of the cleanup is getting closer to dumping the wastewater into the bay. Outrageous! Safety removing any hazardous materials has been a big problem, and it is only getting worse. What a mess! For a complete report on Pilgrim, go to their Web site!

Ice fishing is not over for some diehard anglers that fish in the northern parts of Maine. Jerry Gareri left this past weekend to fish a body of water near his camp in Maine. The lake still had 10 inches of ice on it as of this past Sunday. He often catches some really impressive brown trout like the one in this week's photo!

Take a Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods



Courtesy

This week's picture shows Jerry Gareri with a really impressive brown trout he caught a few years ago. He is hoping to catch another one this week.

Bending!

Editor's note: The views expressed in this column

are the author's own, and do not necessarily represent those of Stonebridge Press.

## A Mix of Assorted Tips and Tricks

It's time once again to share a potpourri of tips and tricks that didn't fit into a themed hint column. With that in mind, this week's column will feature a mixed bag of (mostly unrelated) ideas that are sure to make your life a little easier!

\*\*

Vanilla extract isn't just for baking! Vanilla not only smells and tastes yummy, the scent has the ability to lift spirits and revive the body. Pour about a quarter cup of pure vanilla extract to your next warm bath and treat both body and soul!

\*

Attention busy cooks! To keep pasta water from boiling over, spray the inside edge of the cooking pot with nonstick cooking spray. Want to peel garlic in record time? Microwave cloves for fifteen seconds and the skins will pull off easily. And when you buy a new frying pan, boil some

white vinegar in it to prevent food from sticking during cooking!

\*

It doesn't take a pet psychic to know what your pet is thinking - take cues from cat's body language. A cat's tail acts as an indicator of its mood and as a warning of intention. Broad swishing of the tail indicates annoyance. Severely agitated cats will move their tails rapidly back and forth from the base. The larger and more rapid the swish, the more upset the cat.

\*\*

Here are some painting pointers from the pros: The higher the gloss of the finish, the easier the paint is to clean. However high gloss shows imperfections, that's why flat is used. How do you get a flat finish with "washability?" Just mix a pint of gloss finish paint into each gallon of flat finish.

\*

If you drink tea, you're boosting your immune system. Studies show tea reduces the risk of some cancers. Real tea, as opposed to herbal tea, is rich in powerful antioxidants. The National Foundation for Cancer Research reports green tea is 100 times more potent than vitamin C and 25 times more potent than vitamin E at protecting cells from cancer.

\*\*

Fresh fruit and veggie season will soon be here, but if you're buying commercial produce cleaners, you're literally throwing money down the drain! Try this homemade solution that does the job for pennies! Dissolve two vitamin C tablets in a large bowl of water. Just dunk in the fruits or vegetables to keep them fresher longer.

\*\*

If you're drinking decaf, you can still have a great cup of tea! Did you know



TAKE  
THE  
HINT  
.....  
KAREN  
TRAINOR

you can decaffeinate regular tea quickly and easily? Just steep it for about one minute, then pour that off and add water to re steep. This method releases the caffeine, yet retains all the taste!

\*\*

Your crowning glory can become a royal pain, especially if harsh weather making your hair dry or frizzy. Here are a few tricks of the trade to tame those temperamental tresses:

If ends are split and frizzy, rub a good olive oil into the ends of your hair a couple of times per week. Leave on overnight and rinse in the

morning. Here's a hair salon tip for taming the frizzies: Shampoo only every other day - since detergent inflates the hair shaft and roughens up cuticles.

\*

Whether you grow herbs or buy them, the simple herb, with its many merits, should never be underestimated! Most everyone knows Camomile tea helps the body relax, but did you know it can also help relieve swollen ankles and can stimulate the appetite? Just drink up.

Camomile tea not only tastes great it does a mouth good as it's also used as an oral gargle to relieve mouth ulcers and a dry throat.

\*\*

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing.

One winner per month will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renown restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I'm in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I'm counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

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

## Understanding plant tags & seed packets to increase your gardening success



Melinda Myers

Check the back of seed packets for pertinent information so you provide the proper growing conditions for the plantings to flourish.

ardening is a wonderful way to grow your own food and create a beautiful landscape. Proper plant selection can help you make wise purchases when visiting the garden center or ordering plants online.

Much of the information you need to know can be found on plant tags and seed packets. Understanding this information can help you select plants suited to the growing conditions in your yard.

Most gardeners first learn about plants by the names that friends, relatives, or fellow gardeners use to refer to them. Each plant also has a unique scientific, also called botanical, name. Since plants can have multiple or regional common names, it is important to check the botanical name when shopping. Checking the tag for the botanical name ensures you buy the right plant.

You will also see the word "zone" followed by numbers in the information on trees, shrubs, perennial flowers, and vegetables. These numbers reflect the plant's ability to survive the average minimum winter temperatures in the hardiness zones listed. You can find your hardiness zone on the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Plant Hardiness Zone Map. It is often included in plant catalogs and other gardening resources to help you find plants suited to your climate. Despite record summer temperatures, it is still important to select plants that can survive the average minimum winter temperatures in your area. Selecting plants that tolerate both the

highs and lows where you live will increase their chance of returning each year.

Make sure the plants you select have sufficient frost-free growing days to mature and flower or produce fruit. This is listed as the number of days from planting until harvest. Count the number of days in your growing season from the time you can plant to harvest to see if it's a good choice.

Matching plants to the amount of sunlight they need to thrive is also important for growing healthy plants. In general, full-sun plants prefer six, preferably eight or more, hours of direct sunlight. Areas receiving only intense afternoon sun are often suitable for plants listed as full or part sun tolerant. Part-sun plants usually need four to six hours of direct sunlight. Part-shade plants generally need two to four hours of direct sunlight preferably from east-facing or other locations where the sun is less intense. Shade plants usually perform well with two hours of direct sunlight or bright, indirect light throughout the day.

Always check the mature size and spread of the plant you select. Picking the right size plant for the available space will save you time and frustration having to prune the mature plant down in size.

No matter what plants you select, make sure to call 811 at least three business days before you begin planting. Wisconsin residents can also file online at [www.DiggersHotline.com](http://www.DiggersHotline.com) and gardeners in any other state can visit <https://call811.com/811-In-Your-State>. They will contact all the appropriate companies who will mark the location of their underground utilities in your designated work area. This free service can help reduce the risk of injury and the inconvenience of accidentally knocking out power, cable, or other utilities.

To remind everyone to call before digging, April has been designated Safe Digging Month. Please make contacting 811 part of your gardening plans and remind family and friends to do the same.

For more gardening information, register



GARDEN  
MOMENTS  
.....  
MELINDA  
MYERS

for Myers' free webinar "Understanding Gardening Basics to Boost Your Gardening Success" on March 29 at 6:30 p.m. The webinar is free, but registration is required. Just visit Myers' website [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com). If you can't attend the live webinar, a recording will be available to watch 24 hours after the live presentation.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the recently released *Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition* and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* DVD instant video series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by *Diggers Hotline* to write this article. Myers' Web site is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).

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175 State Street

Belchertown, MA 01007

508-867-5117

PEMBROKE OFFICE

50 Mattakesett Street

Pembroke, MA 02359

781-293-6645

VISIT US AT: [www.lamotheassoc.com](http://www.lamotheassoc.com)



LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE

The United Way of South Central Massachusetts, Inc., will hold its ANNUAL MEETING on Thursday, April 13, 2023, at 8:00 A.M. at Nichols College, Bison's Den, 80 Airport Rd. Dudley, MA. The purpose of this meeting will be to nominate and elect the Corporation Treasurer, Secretary and Board of Directors; to approve the appointment of the Auditor; to receive reports and to act upon any other business presented.  
Mary O'Coin  
Secretary/Clerk  
March 30, 2023  
March31, 2023

Town of Brimfield Planning Board  
23 Main Street  
Brimfield, MA 01010  
March 22, 2023

The Brimfield Planning Board will hold a public hearing on May 03, 2023 at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall (21 Main Street) regarding the town meeting articles regarding proposed zoning by-law changes. The proposed zoning by-law changes will affect the following sections:  
To see if the Town will vote to amend Zoning Bylaw Section 7.3.1  
To see if the Town will vote to amend Zoning Bylaw Section 7.5.1  
To see if the Town will vote to amend Zoning Bylaw Section 3.11  
To see if the Town will vote to amend Zoning Bylaw Section 3.12  
To see if the Town will vote to delete Zoning Bylaw Section 3.13  
To see if the Town will vote to delete Zoning Bylaw Section 3.14  
To see if the Town will vote to amend Zoning Bylaw Section 3.18.1  
To see if the Town will vote to delete Zoning Bylaw Section 3.18.2  
To see if the Town will vote to delete Zoning Bylaw Section 3.18.3  
To see if the Town will vote to amend Zoning Bylaw Section 3.19  
To see if the Town will vote to add Zoning Bylaw Section 3.20  
To see if the Town will vote to add Zoning Bylaw Section 3.20.1  
To see if the Town will vote to add Zoning Bylaw Section 3.20.2  
To see if the Town will vote to add Zoning Bylaw Section 3.21  
To see if the Town will vote to add Zoning Bylaw Section 3.21.1  
To see if the Town will vote to add Zoning Bylaw Section 3.21.2  
To see if the Town will vote to add Zoning Bylaw Section 3.22  
To see if the Town will vote to add Zoning Bylaw Section 3.22.1  
To see if the Town will vote to add Zoning Bylaw Section 3.23  
To see if the Town will vote to add Zoning Bylaw Section 3.23.1  
To see if the Town will vote to add Zoning Bylaw Section 3.24  
To see if the Town will vote to add Zoning Bylaw Section 3.25  
To see if the Town will vote to add Zoning Bylaw Section 3.26  
To see if the Town will vote to add Zoning Bylaw Section 3.27  
To see if the Town will vote to add Zoning Bylaw Section 3.28  
To see if the Town will vote to add Zoning Bylaw Section 3.29  
To see if the Town will vote to add Zoning Bylaw Section 3.29.1  
To see if the Town will vote to add Zoning Bylaw Section 3.30  
To see if the Town will vote to add Zoning Bylaw Section 3.31  
To see if the Town will vote to add Zoning Bylaw Section 3.32  
To see if the Town will vote to add Zoning Bylaw Section 3.33  
For the complete narrative of this proposed changes please visit <http://www.brimfieldma.org>, visit the Town Hall Annex at 23 Main Street or contact the Planning Board at [planning@brimfield-ma.org](mailto:planning@brimfield-ma.org).  
March 31, 2023

LEGAL NOTICE

The Brimfield ZBA will hold a public hearing on behalf of Amand and Mare Dimo of 30 Haynes Hill Rd, 13-A-32, on April 19, 2023, at 5:30 pm at the Brimfield Town Hall, 21 Main St. The applicants are seeking a special permit to store 1-10 dumpsters on their property for their dumpster and restoration business. Abutters are encouraged to consider the proposal and provide public input.  
March 24, 2023  
March 31, 23023

Legal Advertisement:

Notification is hereby given that an application has been filed by Deep Roots Distillery USA for a Change or Alteration of Premises for the premises located at 559 Main Street, Suite 209, Fiskdale, MA 01518 to 559 Main Street, Suites 208 & 209, Fiskdale, MA 01518, with the Sturbridge Board of Selectmen. In accordance with MGL Ch. 138, a public hearing will be held on Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 6:35 p.m. This hearing will be held at Veterans Memorial Hall, Sturbridge Town Hall 308 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566.

Your advertisement must appear 10 days prior to the public hearing to comply with Massachusetts General Laws and /or Town of Sturbridge Bylaws. Failure to comply may result in your application being denied or delayed.  
March 30, 2023

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE  
OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Tammy L. Riopel, Michael P. Riopel to Wilmington Finance, a Division of AIG Federal Savings Bank, dated August 18, 2004 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 34428, Page 332, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from: Wilmington Finance, A division of AIG Federal Savings Bank to CIT Group/Consumer Finance, Inc., recorded on June 24, 2005, in Book No. 36631, at Page 250  
CIT Group/Consumer Finance, Inc. to US Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee for Bermuda Investments 2011-1 Trust, recorded on January 6, 2012, in Book No. 48376, at Page 59  
LSF6 Bermuda Investments 2011-1 Trust to LSF6 MRA REO Trust, recorded on July 30, 2012, in Book No. 49363, at Page 117  
Vericrest Opportunity Loan Trust 2009-FL1 to LSF6 Bermuda Investments 2011-1 Trust, recorded on July 30, 2012, in Book No. 49363, at Page 123  
LSF6 Bermuda Investments Trust Series 2008-1 to Vericrest Opportunity Loan Trust 2009-PL1, recorded on July 30, 2012, in Book No. 49363, at Page 124  
Vericrest Financial, Inc. successor in interest to the CIT Group/Consumer Finance, Inc. to LSF6 Bermuda Investments Trust Series 2008-1, recorded on July 30, 2012, in Book No. 49363, at Page 132  
LSF6 MRA REO Trust to U.S. Bank Trust, N.A., as Trustee for VOLT 2012-RPL2 Asset Holdings Trust, recorded on March 24, 2014, in Book No. 52147, at Page 342  
US Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee for Bermuda Investments 2011-1 Trust to Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, recorded on July 14, 2020, in Book No. 62794, at Page 142 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 5:00 PM on April 14, 2023, on the mortgaged premises located at 51 Breakneck Road, Sturbridge, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,  
TO WIT:  
A lot of land together with all buildings and improvements thereon, situated in Sturbridge, Worcester County, Massachusetts, on the easterly side of Breakneck Road, being shown as Lot 35 on "Plan of Land in Sturbridge surveyed for Richard and Rose Simonian" by Robert F. Para, dated January 14, 1984, and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 520, Plan 61, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at the northwesterly corner of said lot; THENCE S. 71 degrees 40' 55" E a distance of Four Hundred Eighty and Eight Hundredths (480.08) feet to a point; THENCE S. 22 degrees 36' 24" W. a distance of One Hundred Ninety-Four and Forty-Five Hundredths (194.45) feet to a drill hole in a ledge: THENCE N. 70 degrees 35' 00" W. a distance of Four Hundred Fifty-Three and Forty - Eight Hundredths (453.48) feet to the easterly side of said Breakneck Road; THENCE N. 18 degrees 41' 12" E. a distance of One Hundred Eighty-Three and Seventy-Five Hundredths (183.75) feet along said Breakneck Road to the point of BEGINNING. CONTAINING according to said Plan 2.017 acres.  
For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 18196, Page 272.  
These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.  
TERMS OF SALE:  
A deposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-

0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.  
METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY  
Present holder of said mortgage  
By its Attorneys,  
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.  
150 California St.  
Newton, MA 02458  
(617)558-0500  
11870  
March 16, 2023  
March 23, 2023  
March 30, 2023

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

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 40A, §11, the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at 6:35 PM** at the **Center Office Building located at 301 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566 and/or by virtual or hybrid means** if circumstances warrant, in accordance with applicable law; on the application of Teresa Paquin.  
The applicant is requesting a Special Permit pursuant to Article XVIII §300-18.2 (2) and Article XI §300-11.1-11.6 of the Zoning Bylaw to allow the construction of an Accessory Dwelling Unit on the property owned by Stephen & Jamie Rudert located at **11 Carey Road** in accordance with the plans and application submitted.  
The proposed request can be viewed at <https://www.sturbridge.gov/zoning-board-appeals/pages/recent-filings> or arrangements can be made to view the application packet by contacting the Sturbridge Planning Department at (508)347-2508 or by email at [jlacy@sturbridge.gov](mailto:jlacy@sturbridge.gov).  
Any person interested or wishing to be heard on this proposal should appear at the time and place designated. Members of the public may watch the meeting online via the Town's on demand video broadcast or via cable television on Channel 191. It is the intent to have this Public Hearing in person. However, if circumstances warrant, the Board may choose to hold this Hearing via virtual or hybrid (in person and virtual) means. In the event of a virtual or hybrid meeting, notice and a link shall be posted on the ZBA website. Please note that the meeting/hearing will not be suspended or terminated if technological problems interrupt the virtual broadcast, unless otherwise required by law.  
Elizabeth Banks, Chair  
Sturbridge Zoning Board of Appeals  
March 30, 2023  
April 6, 2023

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

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 40A, §11, the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at 6:55 PM** at the **Center Office Building located at 301 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566 and/or by virtual means** if circumstances warrant, in accordance with applicable law; on the application of Taylor Stedman for the property at 14 Cedar Lake Drive.  
The applicant is requesting a Special Permit pursuant to Article XVIII §300-18.2 (2) and a Finding pursuant to Article XV §300-15.2 A of the Zoning Bylaw to expand, change or alter a pre-existing, non-conforming use or structure for the property located at **14 Cedar Lake Drive**. The applicant is proposing to build a 651 sq.ft. two bay garage as shown on the plans and documents provided. As proposed the right side setback will be reduced to 8.7' where 15' is required. No other non-conformities will be intensified as a result of the proposed alterations.  
The proposed request can be viewed at <https://www.sturbridge.gov/zoning-board-appeals/pages/recent-filings> or arrangements can be made to view the application packet by contacting the Sturbridge Planning Department at (508)347-2508 or by email at [jlacy@sturbridge.gov](mailto:jlacy@sturbridge.gov).  
Any person interested or wishing to be heard on this proposal should appear at the time and place designated. Members of the public may watch the meeting online via the Town's on demand video broadcast or via cable television on Channel 191. It is the intent to have this Public Hearing in person. However, if circumstances warrant, the Board may choose to hold this Hearing via virtual or hybrid (in person and virtual) means. In the event of a virtual or hybrid meeting, notice and a link shall be posted on the ZBA website. Please

note that the meeting/hearing will not be suspended or terminated if technological problems interrupt the virtual broadcast, unless otherwise required by law.  
Elizabeth Banks, Chair  
Sturbridge Zoning Board of Appeals  
March 30, 2023  
April 6, 2023

Town of Sturbridge  
Zoning Board of Appeals  
Public Hearing Notice  
Special Permit  
16 Mt. Dan Road, LLC

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 40A, §11, the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at 6:45 PM** at the **Center Office Building located at 301 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566 and/or by virtual means** if circumstances warrant, in accordance with applicable law; on the application of 16 Mt. Dan Road, LLC.  
The applicant is requesting a Special Permit pursuant to Article XVIII §300-18.2 (2) and a Finding pursuant to Article XV §300-15.2 A of the Zoning Bylaw to expand, change or alter a pre-existing, non-conforming use or structure for the property located at **16 Mt. Dan Road**.  
The applicant is proposing to raze the existing house and rebuild a new 1,274 sq.ft. home in the vicinity of the existing foundation as shown on the plans and documents provided.  
The proposed request can be viewed at <https://www.sturbridge.gov/zoning-board-appeals/pages/recent-filings> or arrangements can be made to view the application packet by contacting the Sturbridge Planning Department at (508)347-2508 or by email at [jlacy@sturbridge.gov](mailto:jlacy@sturbridge.gov).  
Any person interested or wishing to be heard on this proposal should appear at the time and place designated. Members of the public may watch the meeting online via the Town's on demand video broadcast or via cable television on Channel 191. It is the intent to have this Public Hearing in person. However, if circumstances warrant, the Board may choose to hold this Hearing via virtual or hybrid (in person and virtual) means. In the event of a virtual or hybrid meeting, notice and a link shall be posted on the ZBA website. Please note that the meeting/hearing will not be suspended or terminated if technological problems interrupt the virtual broadcast, unless otherwise required by law.  
Elizabeth Banks, Chair  
Sturbridge Zoning Board of Appeals  
March 30, 2023  
April 6, 2023

TOWN OF STURBRIDGE BOARD OF  
HEALTH PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE  
Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 1:30 PM  
Center Office Building Meeting  
Room, 301 Main Street,  
Sturbridge, MA

In accordance with provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 40, the Board of Health will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 1:30 PM at the Center Office Building located at 301 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566, regarding the property owned by Stephen and Jamie Rudert located at 11 Carey Road. The applicant, Teresa Paquin, is requesting a Variance regarding the shared well and septic on 11 Carey Road in accordance with the plans submitted.  
The proposed request can be reviewed by contacting the Sturbridge Board of Health at (508)347-2504 or Soper Construction Company, Inc. at (508)765-9003.  
Any person interested or wishing to be heard on this proposal should appear at the time and place designated.  
Sturbridge Board of Health Department  
March 30, 2023

NOTICE OF SALE

Pursuant to Mass General Laws Chapter 105A, the contents of the following spaces: H127 (Mitchell Olszta) & H166 (Tom O'Connor) located at 25 Brimfield Road, Holland, MA will be sold to satisfy the owners lien of Storage Plus. Sale date is Wednesday, April 12, 2023 @1:00 PM. Inspection between 12:30PM and 1:00PM on April 12, 2023. Sealed bids must be hand delivered by 1:00PM on April 12, 2023. All goods must be purchased by cash as is, including a \$50.00 refundable cash deposit, and must be removed within 48 hours of sale. Owner has the right to bid to protect his lien and to withdraw any unit upon settlement by the obligated party up for sale. For further information call (413)245-4388.March 31, 2023  
April 7, 2023



CHARLTON

continued from page A1

reserve fund for maintenance on one of the department's vehicles. The vehicle has experienced issues with its DEF system, which is designed to reduce air pollution from diesel engines.

"This truck has been a thorn in my side since we got it, and I did an analysis over the last three years. Twenty percent of my apparatus maintenance budget typically goes towards this truck. That's just preventative maintenance, but we've always had problems with it throwing codes and it's the new DEF systems with the diesel trucks. In this particular case, we had it where it essentially told us to shut the thing down and don't drive it anywhere because we had so many codes being thrown on the system," the Chief explained.

After discussing the situation with a local repair facility and the manufacturer's recommended repair shop they determined that, at worst, the price would be \$20,000 which would facilitate a complete replacement of the DEF system. Knopf noted that he is hoping that they can avoid the worst-case scenario and save some of the \$20,000 to replenish the department's depleted maintenance budget. The Finance Committee approved the request confirming that it was the first allocation from their annual \$150,000 reserve fund budget so far in the current fiscal year.

The meeting also briefly touched on the ongoing need for maintenance to the Charlton Fire Department's facilities, specifically the need for a substation and the deteriorating condition of Station 2. The Charlton Board of Selectmen have approved adding a question to the annual town meeting in May to utilize ARPA money and free cash to fund a feasibility study for the substation.

OSV

continued from page A1

With support from the Communications and Retail departments in launching the effort, Heidemann plans to work with donors and trustees to establish a five-year plan to share more of the museum's collection through publications. A few proposed future topics might include historic music, needlework and embroidery, tin smithing, and militia uniforms and equipment.

Retailers interested in carrying the book in their shops can also contact us at shop@osv.org for information. Every purchase in our shops supports the educational mission of Old Sturbridge Village.

Federated Church announces Holy Week schedule

STURBRIDGE — The Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale announces its 2023 Holy Week schedule.

April 2 – Palm Sunday  
“Jesus arrives in town”  
9:30 a.m. Service in the Sanctuary

April 5  
5:30 p.m. Lenten Soup & Bread Finale  
6:30 p.m. Lenten Study Finale

April 6 – Maundy Thursday  
6:30 p.m. Service in the Sanctuary

April 7 — Good Friday  
Noon Stations of the Cross  
St. Anne's Shrine, Sturbridge

April 9 – Easter morning  
6 a.m. Sunrise Service at Old Sturbridge Village  
7:30 a.m. Breakfast, Fellowship Hall  
9:30 a.m. Easter Services, Sanctuary

12th Annual Al DiPetro Memorial Golf Tournament sponsored by the Southbridge Lions Club

SOUTHBRIDGE — Please join the Southbridge Lions Club Friday, May 19 at Heritage Country Club in Charlton for the 12th Annual Al DiPetro Memorial Golf Tournament.

The format is an A, B, C, D scramble with four player teams. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. The \$125 per player entry fee includes greens fee, golf cart, lunch & refreshments, prizes and a steak dinner. Advance registration is required and forms are available from any Southbridge Lions member or by calling Gary Fontaine at 774-230-1412 or John Harold at 508-988-0903. Check-in is at 7 a.m., with an 8 a.m. shotgun start. We guarantee a fun day and, as usual, outrageous raffle prizes, so don't miss out!

Local Realtor recognized as top producer



Diane Dabrowski

CHARLTON — Diane Dabrowski, Realtor and Broker with ERA Key Realty in Charlton, has been recognized by the Board of Realtors as a top producer for her 2022 real estate sales! At a recent ceremony, Diane received the “Emerald Level”, placing her closed real estate transactions at the 2 percent production of all Realtors. The Board of Realtors is a professional organization guiding ethical conduct of licensed Real estate professionals. Not all real estate licensees are Realtors.

Dabrowski credits her continued success to satisfied clients recommending her with confidence. Diane and her team pride themselves on treating each transaction with individual attention and keeping the clients' goal as the guide for all professional recommendations.

Diane has been the top producing Realtor in the Charlton area since 1990. You may reach her at ERA Key Realty in Charlton Center, next to the town hall, or by phone at 508-479-2340.

Local residents named to Simmons University Dean's List

BOSTON — The following local students were named to the 2022 fall semester dean's list at Simmons University in Boston.

- \* Lindsay Albright, Charlton
- \* Molly Brodeur, Charlton

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

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

LEGALS

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Worcester Division**  
**Docket No. WO23PO713EA**  
**Estate of:**  
Faye D Fulone-Sweeney  
**Also Known As:**  
Faye Debra Fulone Sweeney  
**Date Of Death: November 17, 2022**  
**INFORMAL PROBATE**  
**PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above-captioned estate by Petition of Petitioner

**Sherri Lynn Sweeney of North Grafton MA**

a will has been admitted to informal probate.

**Sherri Lynn Sweeney of North Grafton MA** has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.  
March 31, 2023

**PUBLIC NOTICE ANNUAL MEETING**  
Savers Cooperative Bank will hold its Annual Meeting April 10, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. at the Bank, 270 Main Street, Southbridge, Massachusetts, for election of the Corporation Clerk and the members of the Board of Directors, and to take care of any other business that may be brought up for attention. An Annual Disclosure Statement may be obtained by calling (508) 765-7398 or by writing to Savers Co-operative Bank, P.O.Box 250, Southbridge, Massachusetts 01550.  
Kenneth E.Rizner Clerk  
March 30, 2023  
April 6, 2023

**Town of Sturbridge**  
**Zoning Board of Appeals**  
**Public Hearing Notice Special Permit**  
**Jeff & Martha Buchanan**

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 40A, §11, the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at 7:05 PM** at the **Center Office Building located at 301 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566** and/or by virtual means if circumstances warrant, in accordance with applicable law; on the application of Jeff & Martha Buchanan for the property located at 68 Paradise Lane. The applicant is requesting a Special Permit pursuant to Article XVIII §300-18.2 (2) and a Finding pursuant to Article XV §300-15.2 A of the Zoning Bylaw to expand, change or alter a pre-existing, non-conforming use or structure for the property located at **68 Paradise Lane**. The applicant is proposing to raze and rebuild a single family home as shown on the plans and documents provided. As proposed the front setback will decrease from 30' to 15'.

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

Any person interested or wishing to be heard on this proposal should appear at the time and place designated. Members of the public may watch the meeting online via the Town's on demand video broadcast or via cable television on Channel 191. It is the intent to have this Public Hearing in person. However, if circumstances warrant, the Board may choose to hold this Hearing via virtual or hybrid (in person and virtual) means. In the event of a virtual or hybrid meeting, notice and a link shall be posted on the ZBA website. Please note that the meeting/hearing will not be suspended or terminated if technological problems interrupt the virtual broadcast, unless otherwise required by law.  
Elizabeth Banks, Chair  
Sturbridge Zoning Board of Appeals  
March 30, 2023  
April 6, 2023

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Worcester Division**  
**225 Main Street**  
**Worcester, MA 01608**  
**(508) 831-2200**  
**Docket No. WO22P0502EA**  
**Estate of:**  
Henry B Rand  
**Date of Death: 01/06/2022**  
**CITATION ON PETITION**  
**FOR ORDER OF**  
**COMPLETE SETTLEMENT**

A Petition for **Order of Complete Settlement** has been filed by **George C Rand, Jr of Worcester MA** requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, First and Final and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: **10:00 a.m.** on the return day of **4/25/2023**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

Witness, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court  
March 22, 2023  
Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate  
March 30, 2023

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Worcester Probate and Family Court**  
**225 Main Street**  
**Worcester, MA 01608**  
**Docket No. WO23P0802GD**  
**CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF**  
**PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF**  
**GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED**  
**PERSON PURSUANT TO**  
**G.L. c. 190B, §5-304**  
**In the matter of:**  
**Felix Esquilin Rodriguez**  
**Of: Southbridge, MA**  
**RESPONDENT**  
Alleged Incapacitated Person  
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has

been filed by **Umass Memorial Health of Worcester, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that **Felix Esquilin Rodriguez** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **S. Michael Fournier Esquire of Leominster, MA**

(or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority. **You have the right to object to this proceeding.** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **04/11/2023**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

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

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: March 09, 2023

Stephanie K. Fattman  
Register of Probate  
March 30, 2023

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SPORTS

Southern Worcester County League's best entertain at All-Star games



Southbridge's Jaimarys Oquendo

Nick Ethier photos



Tantasqua's Gabby Scanlon



Maeve Early of Tantasqua



Tantasqua's Nicki Vejack



Bryce Tessier of Tantasqua



Michael Cook-Ramos of Southbridge

WEBSTER — On Thursday, March 16, the Southern Worcester County League's best basketball players were all under one roof, as Bartlett High hosted the girls' and boys' All-Star Games.

The girls were up first. The teams were divided into two teams: the Home Whites and Away Darks. The home team consisted of players from Leicester High, Millbury High, Auburn High, Bartlett High, Northbridge High and Uxbridge High, and were co-coached by Leicester's Chris Barry and Millbury's Steve Reno. The away team consisted of players from

Tantasqua Regional, Grafton High, Quaboag Regional, Southbridge High, Oxford High and David Prouty Regional, and were co-coached by Tantasqua's Andy Haley and Quaboag's Bill Beauregard.

The Home Whites jumped out to a 17-5 lead after the first quarter of play, led 25-13 at halftime, increased the advantage to 45-24 through three and finished off a 63-40 decision. For the second straight year, Auburn's Hanorah Murphy was named the Game MVP.

The following players made up the All-Star Teams:

- Home Whites
- Sarah O'Connor, Leicester
- Ashleigh Lagor, Millbury
- Bianca Vincequere, Millbury (Did Not Play)
- Mila Nikiforow, Millbury
- Hanorah Murphy, Auburn
- Bella Doyle, Auburn
- Lily C'Miel, Auburn, (DNP)
- Tiffany Salazar, Bartlett
- Molly Gahan, Northbridge (DNP)
- Melissa Sabourin, Northbridge (DNP)
- Ryleigh Johnson, Northbridge (DNP)
- Grace Orr, Uxbridge (DNP)
- Kate Cahill, Uxbridge
- Natalie Orr, Uxbridge
- Away Darks
- Gabby Scanlon, Tantasqua
- Kelsie Wotton, Tantasqua (DNP)
- Maeve Early, Tantasqua
- Nicki Vejack, Tantasqua
- Gracyn Barnes, Grafton
- Ella Molinari, Grafton (DNP)
- Camryn Mulligan, Grafton
- McKenzie Anderson, Grafton
- Kiara Gauthier, Quaboag
- Parker Tunley, Quaboag
- Evelyn Doe, Quaboag
- Jaimarys Oquendo, Southbridge
- Alexis Steiger, Oxford
- Lindsey Soter, David Prouty (DNP)

The boys' game was up next, and the Home Whites had student-athletes from David Prouty (although those players did not participate since they had the Division 5 State Championship to play two days later), Grafton, Bartlett, Uxbridge, Leicester, Northbridge and Oxford, and were coached by Oxford's Dave Aldrich. The Away Dark players were from Millbury, Auburn, Quaboag, Southbridge and Tantasqua, and

were coached by Millbury's Jim Donnelly.

The Away Darks led at all the stops — 26-14 after one quarter, 45-42 at halftime, 59-58 through three and 85-75 at the final — although the Home Whites were close throughout. Kenny Donnelly of Millbury was the Game MVP.

The following players made up the All-Star teams:

- Home Whites
- Braeden White, David Prouty (DNP)
- Cam Hoekstra, David Prouty (DNP)
- Alec Fournier, David Prouty (DNP)
- Jay Jay Neiray, David Prouty (DNP)
- Ethan McInerney, Grafton
- Liam Donagher, Grafton
- Xander Schelling, Grafton
- Ethan Minarik, Bartlett
- Ayden Carlson, Bartlett
- Drew Gniadek, Uxbridge
- Ethan McCusker, Uxbridge
- Colin Spencer, Uxbridge
- Matt Dorenzo, Leicester (DNP)
- Ian Gahan, Northbridge (DNP)
- Tim Labrie, Northbridge
- Brady Margoupis, Oxford
- Evan Remington, Oxford
- Away Darks
- Lucas Friedman, Millbury
- Kenny Donnelly, Millbury
- Anthony Phillipo, Millbury
- Tyler Vaccaro, Millbury
- Jordan McFadden, Auburn
- Logan Bostock, Auburn (DNP)
- Drew Martinez, Quaboag (DNP)
- Chase Potvin, Quaboag
- Michael Cook-Ramos, Southbridge
- Colm McGrath, Tantasqua
- Bryce Tessier, Tantasqua
- Adam Howe, Tantasqua



Tantasqua's Colm McGrath

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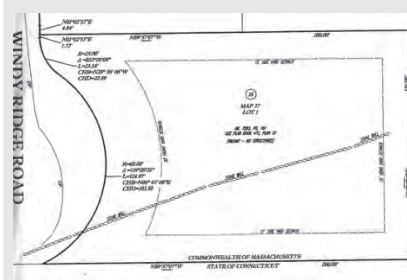
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**WEBSTER -  
17 ASSELIN AVENUE**

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Webster Lake  
27 South Point Road



**SORRY, SOLD!**

OOH! WHAT A VIEW!!! Middle & South Ponds! 80' +/- ft sandy beach! Expansion possibilities! 2 Bedrm, 2 1/2 Bath, Garage, **\$811,000.**

Webster Lake  
13 Bates Point Road



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# OBITUARIES

## George D. Smith, Sr., 79



Charlton - George D. Smith, Sr., 79, died Sunday, March 26, 2023 at his home. George's beloved wife of 59 years, Mary Jane (Blash) Smith, died September 2, 2022. He is survived by his sons George D. Smith, Jr., of and Brian K. Smith, both of Charlton; his daughter Georgina "Gina" Gardner and her husband, Michael, of Charlton; 11 grandchildren: Chelsea Ferguson, Christopher Healy, Zachary Gardner, Alexis Peden, Marissa Lamontagne, Austin Healy, Amanda Smith, Nathan Healy, Katelyn Smith, George Smith, and Adelynn Smith; 8 great-grandchildren; and his brother, Bruce Smith and his wife, Nancy, of Grafton, MA. He was predeceased by his daughter, Marie Smith

Healy, in 2004. Born in Worcester, MA on March 5, 1944, George is the son of the late Elmer and Ida (Shore) Smith. He was employed by the Norton Company in Worcester for many years. His proudest "job", however, was being a farmer. George and Mary Jane also enjoyed raising racing horses. George was especially proud of his family, and he enjoyed every moment he spent with them. George's funeral mass will be Friday, March 31, 2023 at 9:30AM at St. Joseph's Church, 10 H. Putnam Road, Charlton, MA. Please meet directly at the church. There are no calling hours. Burial will immediately follow at West Ridge Cemetery, Main Street, Charlton. In lieu of flowers, kindly consider a memorial donation in George's name to the Chipin Food Bank, PO Box 611, Charlton, MA 01507.

## Mary Ann Armstrong, 81



STURBRIDGE - Mary Ann (Jedrzynski) Armstrong, 81, formerly of Dudley, passed away Wednesday, March 22, 2023 at home with family at her side. Her husband of 36 years, Guy B. Armstrong, passed away in 2003. She leaves 2 sons, Carl W. Armstrong and his companion Brigitte Sterf of Sturbridge, and John G. Armstrong, Sr. and his wife Christine of Woodstock, CT; a daughter, Angela M. Piekarczyk and her husband Gary of Dudley; 4 grandchildren, Haley Armstrong, U.S. Marine PFC John Armstrong, Jr., and Maria and Brad Piekarczyk; a longtime friend, Frank Cierpich of Dudley; and nieces and nephews. Her brother Andrew C. Jedrzynski died in 2014. She was born on January 30, 1942 at the family home on Brandon Road, the daughter of Andrew A. and Jennie (Nowak) Jedrzynski and graduated from Bartlett High School in Webster in 1959. She lived in Dudley until moving to Sturbridge in 2008. Mary Ann was an instructional aide at the former West Main

Street School in Dudley and then at the Charlton Elementary School on Burlingame Road. She retired in 1998. She was a member of Saint Stephen's Church in Quinebaug, CT and enjoyed reading, crocheting and going camping with the family. She looked forward to her Tuesday meetings with "the girls" in Sturbridge. She enjoyed attending her grandchildren's athletic competitions and music performances. The family would like to thank her special "angel" nurse Heather at the Southbridge Cancer Center. Her funeral will be held on Monday, April 10, from the Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, Webster, with a Mass at 11:00 AM in Saint Stephen's Church, corner of Routes 131 & 197 in Quinebaug. Burial will be in Saint Joseph Garden of Peace, Webster. Visitation will be held from 9:00 to 10:15 AM on Monday in the funeral home, prior to the Mass. Donations in her name may be made either to Shriner's Hospital, 516 Carew Street, Springfield, MA 01104 or to the Quinebaug Volunteer Fire Department, PO Box 144, Quinebaug, CT 06262, or to a charity of the donor's choice. www.websterfunerals.com

## Phyllis Franklin, 102



Phyllis (Mancini) Franklin, age 102, passed from our midst on March 22nd to join her beloved husband, Edwin and son, Dennis in the presence of the Lord. Phyllis was born in Providence, RI, daughter of Pasquale Mancini and Josephine (Colarusso) Mancini. She leaves her son, Donald Franklin of Warwick, RI, son, Ted Franklin and wife Karen of Warwick, RI, daughter, Dianne Robidoux of Warwick, RI and daughter, Bev Loconto and husband, Patrick of Southbridge, MA, and many nieces and nephews. Phyllis was

always so proud to mention her 13 grandchildren, 19 great grandchildren and 5 great, great grandchildren. Phyllis owned and operated the Gold Door Salon on Marcy St. in Southbridge for many years. She loved family gatherings and visits and will be especially remembered for her love, kindness and generosity, her quilting, toll painting and her Italian cooking and baking. Phyllis' family would like to thank the Nursing and Hospice staff at Saint Elizabeth Home in East Greenwich, RI for their love and wonderful care provided to Phyllis over the past five years. Funeral services and burial will be private. www.morrillfuneralhome.com

Send all obituary notices to  
Stonebridge Press, PO Box 90,  
Southbridge, MA 01550, or by e-mail  
to [obits@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:obits@stonebridgepress.news)



## UMass Memorial Health-Harrington welcomes new Urology physician

CHARLTON — UMass Memorial Health – Harrington (UMHH) has welcomed Stanley J. Swierzewski III, MD to its Urology practice located at 20 Southbridge Rd. in Charlton. To schedule an appointment, call 508-765-7886. Dr. Swierzewski is certified by the American Board of Urology and has been a member of the American Urological Association for more than 30 years. He is also a member of the American Association of Clinical Urologists, Society of Laparoendoscopic Surgeons, American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine, and the American Fertility Society, among others, and has twice

been awarded the Continence Public Education Award by the American Foundation of Urologic Disease. He has presented at nearly 50 regional, national and international professional conferences throughout his career and has authored or co-authored more than a dozen publications in scientific journals including the Journal of Urology. Prior to joining the UMHH Urology practice, Dr. Swierzewski served as Chief of Surgery at Holyoke Medical Center in Holyoke for ten years and Director of Urology for six years. He also served as President of Hampden

Urological Associates in Holyoke for more than 20 years. He earned his medical degree with honors from Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston, where he currently serves as an Assistant Clinical Professor in the Department of Urology. He completed his residency at the University of Michigan, in Ann Arbor Michigan. In addition to his clinical achievements, Dr. Swierzewski has also served in a number of non-clinical roles within the healthcare sector, including as founder, chairman, and CEO of Healthcommunities.com, a consul-

tant for Remedy Health Media, Imagin Medical, Inc., and Dornier MedTech, as well as a member of the Board of Directors for Aquarius Surgical Technologies, Inc. He has also served in the Army National Guard where he achieved the rank of Captain. The UMHH Urology practice provides care for a variety of disorders of the urinary tract, including kidney stones, kidney, bladder and prostate cancer, overactive bladder and urinary incontinence, urinary tract infections, hematuria, erectile dysfunction, and more. For more information, visit [harringtonhospital.org/urology](http://harringtonhospital.org/urology).

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# Possible signs of animal cruelty

Animal cruelty can affect any animal in any location. Some of the signs of animal abuse are readily apparent, but much of the time they can be so subtle that they're very difficult to spot. Furthermore, animal cruelty may be intentional, or some people may not be aware of the harm they are inflicting.

Animal abusers are unlikely to turn themselves in, and animals cannot advocate for themselves. So it is up to observant individuals to report situations in which animal abuse may be occurring. The following are some warning signs of animal abuse.

- Scars or wounds, particularly around the ears: Dogs who are being used in fighting scenarios may have tears or holes in their ears. Some have docked ears, though this is not necessarily a sign of abuse or fighting. Other bite marks or scars on the body may indicate frequent fighting.
- Strong aromas of waste: If the smell of feces or ammonia are strong, it may indicate neglect of animals due to a lack of sanitary conditions. Sometimes an overwhelming smell of animal waste is a sign of a hoarding situation.
- Behavioral clues from the animal: If the pet seems unusually submissive, shies away from human touch or flinches, it could be that the animal is being struck or otherwise abused. Some animals who are abused will act out with unusual aggression, attempting to bite or scratch when petted.
- Poor appearance: Many times a case of abuse or neglect is discovered when someone sees an animal who looks to be in a bad way. This may be a very skinny, malnourished appearance or obvious wounds or injuries that go untreated. Additional signs include lack of grooming, matted fur, long nails, and symptoms of flea infestation.
- Lack of food or water: Another sign observers may notice is animals being confined or tied up without ready access to food or water.
- Signs of overcrowding: Some people think they are doing the right thing by opening their homes to numerous pets, only to discover they don't have the room nor the means to care for so many animals. Hoarding situations can get out of control. Sometimes overcrowding occurs among unscrupulous breeders looking to make money.

Anyone can report a suspected case of animal cruelty to a local law enforcement agency, humane society or animal control organization. It is better to be wrong than to let an animal continue to suffer abuse.

# Southbridge Water Department to perform semi-annual hydrant flushing

SOUTHBRIDGE — Southbridge Water Department will start its semi-annual hydrant flushing program on Sunday, April 9 at approximately 9 p.m. and continue during overnight hours for approximately six to eight weeks between the hours of 9 p.m. and 5 a.m. Flushing will start in the Westville area and continue easterly throughout the town.

The procedure will include the cleaning of the reservoir intake screens, flushing accumulated sediments from the water mains and testing the operation of each hydrant.

The Department requests that during this period customers check their water before washing clothes. Customers may also get accumulated sediments in their house laterals and experience some discolored water. This will clear after a brief run of water at the tap. Please contact the Southbridge Water Department at (508) 764-3207 if you have any questions or comments.

# Tantasqua School Committee accepting applications for student labor

FISKDALE — The Tantasqua Regional School Committee will be accepting applications for projects to be built during the 2023-2024 school year. The purpose of these projects is to provide practical work experiences for the carpentry students of Tantasqua's Technical Division. Since there is no charge for student labor, qualified applicants realize substantial savings. Additional savings can result if Tantasqua's electrical students install any necessary wiring.

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

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

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



# News, really close to home

# Quilt Guild meets April 16

CHARLTON — The next meeting of the Cornerstone Quilters Guild will feature Diane Hamm. She will present her lecture and “trunk show” entitled “Applique in America – a style that adds so much depth to a quilt.”

Before the lecture, there is an opportunity to socialize, sign up for workshops and purchase fabric at bargain prices. After the lecture there will be a “show and tell” of quilts recently completed by guild members. Everyone is welcome! Come be inspired by new ideas and beautiful quilts.

The meeting will be held Sunday, April 16 in the sanctuary of the Charlton Baptist Church. The church is located at 50 Hammond Hill Rd. in Charlton. The doors will open at 1 p.m., and the lecture will start at 1:30 p.m. There is no charge for first time visitors.

# TRINITY CATHOLIC ACADEMY HONOR ROLL

SOUTHBRIDGE — Trinity Catholic Academy has released its honor roll for the second trimester of the 2022-2023 school year.

Grade 4  
High Honors: Jayden Kotarba  
Honors: Jaliany Cruz, Angel Delgado, Ainsley Heckendorf, Evelyn Howard-Donlin, Emily Legacy

Grade 5  
High Honors: Adele James  
Honors: Olivia Kentley Freeman, Celia Ladd, Ayden Rodriguez, Ella Sawyer, Heer Swadia, Alexio Yacavace

Grade 6  
High Honors: Layla Beu  
Honors: Chloe Cahill, Lucas Cournoyer, David Gil, Sofia Henao, Lily Nellis, Anthony Postale, Kerstin Smaltz

Grade 7  
High Honors: Alivia Gauvin, Greta Thompson  
Honors: Jameson Durocher, Heather Kennedy, Matilda Paradis, Nolan Smeltzter, Noah Waterhouse

Grade 8  
High Honors: Michael Gasperini, Apollo Logan  
Honors: Melany Ngo, Yashvi Swadia, Nico Yacavace

# Women’s Fellowship to host take-out dinner

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Women's Fellowship group of Elm Street Congregational Church, 61 Elm Street in Southbridge, is sponsoring a “Take-Out” Stuffed Shells and Meatball dinner on April 15 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. The menu will include: Stuffed Shells and Meatballs, Italian Zucchini, French Bread, and dessert. Donation of \$12 for adults, and \$6 for children six to 12. For tickets, call Harriet Lacasse at 508-347-3464, or the church office at 508-764-8058 on Tuesdays-Thursdays from 8 a.m.-noon. The church is handicapped accessible, and parking is available in back of the Southbridge Town Hall.

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**Outreach Coordinator for Town of Charlton**

The Outreach Coordinator performs professional and administrative work in communicating programs and services with the Town's senior population. This is a 37.5 hour per week benefited position. High School Diploma with some additional coursework in Social Work, Human Services or Health Service required along with at least 1 year of working with the seniors; or any equivalent combination of education and experience. Please see job description for complete list of qualifications and responsibilities. Salary range: \$21.38hr – \$23.60/hr depending on qualifications. Please apply online at <https://www.townofcharlton.net/158/Human-Resources> no later than April 6, 2023. The Town of Charlton is an equal opportunity employer and encourages diversity.



ACHIEVEMENT

continued from page A1

um board member and optician Keith Cross. The device (also termed a focimeter) “eliminated a handicap that had no traditional way to overcome it.” Prior to its common use, sight problems were “true handicaps” that often prevented learning and made other life activities difficult.

“This shows the public the genius and engineering that exists in the [optical] field” and their impact on society, Marty Ross of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers’ historical section in Hartford said. “It’s a signal achievement in your backyard.”

His organization has also recognized two other devices nearby – one at Wyman Gordon, the other at Alden Research, but they aren’t in optics. He said ASME does not recognize military inventions, but only things that benefit “billions of people in the world.”

ASME researched the lensometer’s history for several years before coming to the conclusion that it really was the first of its kind, and not essentially copied from a prior one. It was invented by Charles Troppman in 1912 as a laboratory device and refined over the next few years by Edgar Tillyer and Estelle Glancy “into an easy-to-operate instrument that could be manufactured cheaply enough to be marketed to opticians everywhere,” according to the event



Saturday’s event opened a door into the history of local optical inventions.

brochure.

“It’s very important to recognize where this stuff comes from,” said Darius Panozzo of Zeiss Australia. “The same [medical] problems still exist, and we build on the shoulders of giants.”

Indeed, the event brochure notes the original device is still the industry standard. In 2008, there was “a study of the accuracy of commonly used devices for measuring lenses available in the market today. Interestingly, they found that modern commercial lensometers are no more accurate than the Wellsworth Lensometer introduced commercially 100 years ago.”

“Southbridge is known

for its optics, and it’s good to have a museum about them,” said Brigitte Sterf, Schott marketing manager. “I’m glad this exists in town and recognizes the achievements the town has done.”

Town Council Chair John Daniel agreed, describing the museum as “a gem.” Many in town have relatives who worked at AO, and he said the museum is “a nice place to recollect what we’ve accomplished as individuals and as a town.”

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



Council Chair John Daniel talks to Zeiss Australia’s Darius Panozzo.



Two eventgoers enjoy beers while chatting in front of a museum display of glasses.



Museum Chair Karen Roberts, right, from Zeiss Australia, talks to a couple eventgoers.



People take their seats prior to enjoying dinner and the night’s formal presentations.



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FRIGIDAIRE SIDE-BY-SIDE REFRIGERATOR #NED4655EW \$1199.99 WAS \$1,599.99	AMANA WASHER OR DRYER #NED4655EW \$499.99 WAS \$699.99	MAYTAG DRYER #VEDC46HW \$649.99 WAS \$699.99	GE FRENCH DOOR BOTTOM FREEZER #FEDC46HW \$1999.99 WAS \$2,699
MAYTAG TOP FREEZER 18 CU. FT. \$749.99 WAS \$899.99	AMANA GAS RANGE #AGR1533CBAS • Stainless Steel \$599.99 WAS \$699.99	GE FRONT LOAD WASHER #GFWSOSSNWW \$799.99 WAS \$999.99	WHIRLPOOL REFRIGERATOR Counter Depth \$1799.99 WAS \$2299.99
10 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER \$449.99 WAS \$599.99	20 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER \$899.99 WAS \$1099.99	FRIGIDAIRE SMOOTH TOP ELECTRIC STOVE #EYMS160RFS \$749.99 WAS \$899.99	AMANA MICROWAVE #JYM3160RFS \$229.99 WAS \$329.99

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