

Charlton Villager

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Thursday-Friday, January 23-24, 2025

Board of Health looks at landfill's future

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

STURBRIDGE — The Board of Health opened the door to closing Sturbridge's landfill a couple years early at their Jan. 14 meeting.

Doing that, though, will depend on a cost benefit analysis comparing the cost to invest in the necessary upgrades and staffing to keep the landfill running for the roughly 6.5 years of permitted airspace it still has versus the cost of contracting for trash disposal, closure and monitoring more quickly.

Either way, as Town Administrator Robin Grimm noted, the latter will have to be done, and she's concerned the costs will rise before the permit actually expires.

According to contractor Fred Roche of EA Engineering, the landfill takes about 3,500 cubic yards of trash a year, and has just over 23,000 cubic yards of remaining space. That intake has been stable for years, and he said the town will have to start the closure process about two years before the permit actually ends to meet DEP timelines.

At the moment, he said, there are two issues Sturbridge has to fix to comply with the permit, regardless of what it does going forward. One is that two areas are violating the official grading requirements; the other is that two monitoring wells have issues. One was crushed by a falling tree and needs replacing; the other has shown exceedances in arsenic and a volatile organic compound.

Health Director Ken Lacey said the grading work will prepare for final capping anyway, and will make those sections safer for the DPW staff. He noted it'll be "the last time we grade it until we're getting close to closure."

Regarding long-term closure, Roche said what happens partly depends on what Sturbridge wants to do with the property afterward. Some towns have put recreational facilities on theirs, others built emergency communications or cell towers, and others have erected solar arrays. Those all have different impacts on the underlying landfill and require different capping techniques to support their weight.

To Grimm, the real issue is that Sturbridge is going to have to fund closure eventually anyway (it has a capping account set aside), so she feels it might make sense to start the process now. "The longer we wait, the more expensive all of this is going to be to

Charlton police announce officer's passing

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — The Charlton Police Department is mourning the loss of one of its own after announcing the untimely passing of Officer Richard Reddick who passed away at his home on Jan 12. A cause of death was not announced. He leaves behind his wife Brandi and six children: Valentine Reddick, Madison McNamara, Hailey McNamara, Kaydence Derany, Nicholous Derany and Brayden Derany.

Reddick's passing sparked tributes from numerous area departments, especially Charlton and Southbridge where he spent much of his career. He began as an Auxiliary Police Officer in Southbridge, eventually being promoted to a full-time police officer and began working as a narcotics K9 handler in 2004 teamed with several different K9 partners through his career including Chase, Mika, and Pablo. He also worked with outside agencies including the Massachusetts State Police, Postal Police, and the Drug Enforcement Agency on training, crime fighting, and education initiatives. He joined the Charlton Police Department in 2023.

When announcing Officer Reddick's passing, the Charlton Police

Department commended their comrade for his tireless dedication to his job and his ability to keep his composure despite the inherent stresses associated with being an officer.

"Rich always led the departments he worked for in citations and arrests... 'the numbers.' But he would always say that's not what this job is about. He would say it's about getting the work done, getting bad guys, guns and drugs off the street and helping people in any way you can. The numbers came to him by way of the sheer volume of work he was producing, not as goals he was striving for. Those of us who had the pleasure of working with him in critical situations of high stress saw nothing less than grace under pressure in his actions. He was someone to look up to and emulate. No matter how many years you had on the job, Rich could show you a thing or two about how it's done," the department said in a statement, calling Officer Reddick a "superhero" feared by criminals but revered by others including local youth.

The Southbridge Police Department posted their own tribute courtesy of Chief Shane Woodson, who acknowledged Officer Reddick for serving and protecting local communities for over two decades.

"Rich will be missed



Officer Richard Reddick

by his friends and colleagues and anyone who ever had the privilege of working with him at our department would tell you he was a 'cops cop,' which is a compliment in our profession. Rich volunteered countless hours doing K9 demonstrations at our schools for the children in our community (including my own children at schools in another district). Rich made many sacrifices that all police officers make when we get into this profession by working nights, holidays, weekends, etc. and

having to spend time away from your family. His impact will be felt at our department for years to come, and he will forever be missed," said Woodson.

Services and a burial for Officer Reddick were completed prior to this story's publication. In lieu of flowers, the family is asking anyone looking to honor Officer Richard Reddick to donate to the Friends of Charlton Police Dogs, Inc. c/o Charlton Police Department, 85 Masonic Home Rd., Charlton, MA 01507.

CDBG hearing explores using \$925,000

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE — This year's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application follows on what the town has been prioritizing the last couple years — housing and commercial rehab and code enforcement.

But as CDBG Coordinator Sue Starkey and Economic Development Director Peg Dean noted at one of the recent public hearings, they're "always collecting ideas for future grant [rounds]" and want people to "reach out and throw their two cents in."

This year, Southbridge is eligible for \$925,000, a sum that's basically guaranteed once a plan's approved because the town is a "mini-entitlement community." The economic development department is using the money as one source of funds to implement issues raised by the 2023 Community Development Plan, but Starkey noted other

ideas "could be part of the next strategic plan."

The funds need to be used in ways that improve conditions for residents of low and middle income, typically in certain downtown areas, but a wide range of things have been approved over recent years. Some of the CDBG projects still in the works include River/Crane and North streets and creating an open space plan (with public outreach coming soon). Others have been completed, including re-vamping various parks and roads and doing the slum/blight survey.

Regarding the rehab projects, they're being done now and proposed for this year as forgivable 15-year loans; if they sell before then, they have to repay a prorated portion of it. The housing work requires owners to live in the home (although they can have tenants there as well) and meet certain income qualifications. If they have tenants, they have to sign a

"fair rent agreement" that restricts how much they can hike rents during the loan's term, and report their rents annually, Dean said.

Before the work applicants seek can be done, federal rules are requiring the homes to have lead removed and certain other things, and the town has a contractor who coordinates the work.

For commercial loans, they've typically been used for awnings, signs and similar things, although Dean is seeking comments on using some for painting this year. Eligible places need to be "within the view of the windshield" along town streets, because the intent is to improve the area's appearance, Dean noted.

On top of that, she said she'd like to consider using some funds for downtown beautification, namely painting light poles, replacing benches and trash cans, and the like.

Turn To CDBG page 13



Nursing students celebrate 100 days of school

CHARLTON — "Let's celebrate 100 days!" exclaimed Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, Academy Director to the PN Class of 2025. So, on Jan. 16, the Nursing Students on campus and at their respective clinical sites celebrated the 100th day of nursing school in their own unique ways.

To commemorate the event, several professors contributed on their own ways. Professor Shannen Sherman brought 100 days cardboard crowns and flowers for her students at Harrington Hospital while Professor Angela McGrath brought healthy snacks.

"Celebrating the 100th day is celebrating the learning and growing and incorporating some fun," said Bolandrina. "Nursing school is busy, life is busy, but our nursing students enjoy

the build up to this day, and it is amazing to see their progress over the preceding months."

Originally, the academic premise behind the 100th day is to integrate learning to count with fun activities that encourage young children to explore their environment while applying what they've learn in the classroom. This is the first time that the Practical Nursing Academy celebrated the 100th day with the adult learners.

Photo shows members of Team Harrington from left: Elizabeth Achayo of Worcester, Gorret Rusoke of Springfield, Delene Sarsfield of Charlton, Maria De Amorim Hentschke of Worcester, Chalinant Desrosiers of Oxford, and Emily Bamberger of Wales.

Latino poetry: “a legacy that is part of our nation”

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE — With the vast majority of US citizens being immigrants or descended from them, there's a lot of common ground to find in Latino poetry.

That was the big take-away from Worcester State professor Naida Saavedra's recent Jacob Edwards Library on that topic, which especially addressed border-crossing, juggling cultures and languages, and melding them into a new home.

“Latinos are really part of the discourse of the United States, and part of what the US means as a nation,” she said, noting Latinos have been here since the earliest colonial days.

But there's also not just one kind of Latino. Food types vary (even when they have the same name), attitudes vary, and the Spanish or Spanglish spoken by people from various places is often only partly comprehensible to other Latinos. That's because the Native cultures in those places were different, as were the local US subcultures and flows of foreign peoples from Europe, Africa and elsewhere, including different parts of Spain itself.

That comes out in the poetry. Saavedra's talk was specifically focused on a recently released anthology called “Latino Poetry: Places We Call Home,” which incorporates work from more than 180 people with different backgrounds. Some were born here; some came here as im-



Before her talk started, Naida Saavedra, right, introduced herself to Margaret Morrissey.

(Left) Worcester State professor Naida Saavedra talks about the anthology she holds in her hand.

migrants, refugees and exiles, with various life paths while here. Some are able to visit their original homeland, others cannot.

As she put it, “When they come here, their identities change,” and all of them “have unique experiences of shaping that identity.” “Multiplicity is one of the characteristics that will connect the writers.”

Saavedra showed a brief video of the book's editor, Rutgers professor Rigoberto Gonzalez. In it, he said Latinos “need to be proud of who we are, especially now that there are so many ways we're being told we don't belong. ... [We are] part of the American family.”

The poems she read highlight the variety Latinos represent. First came “the Newyoric tradition of performance poetry” of Miguel Pinero, talking about his love of his home and wanting his ashes spread on the Lower East Side despite its violence and other issues.

He contrasted with Julia Alvarez, a Dominican novelist also in New York City, who explored how identity is expressed in language and

appearance. Two of Alvarez's lines stood out for those ideas: “Would tristeza even feel the same as sadness with its Saxon sound?” and “Long after I'd lost my heavy accent, my face showed I had come from somewhere else.”

To Saavedra, who hails from Venezuela, that's a common occurrence, and she raised the question of what an American looks like. The answer can only depend on who you are when Black, White, Latin, Native, Asian, Arab, many others and many mixtures make up the US gene pool.

Chicano poet Gloria Anzaldúa, a resident of the Tex-Mex borderland where the borders have moved as much as the people have, writes about that. “In the Borderlands, you are the battleground where enemies are kin to each other,” she states. Elsewhere in the same poem, she described people there as “carrying all five races on your back.”

Saavedra said she has friends in that region who don't identify as being “from Texas” but as “from the Border.” In most cases, they have family on both sides of that

imaginary line and cross it routinely. “It is a way of living and what makes them people,” she said.

The inherent mixing of such cultural components into one personality is described by Miami's Cuban-born poet Gustavo Perez-Firmat by analogy to one of his culture's soups – ajiaco. Saavedra described that as a dish with Indigenous origins plus Spanish and other ingredients, “a mixture of cultures in a bowl.” Perez-Firmat's work “plays with the language a lot,” and thus explores “what it means to live between those two realities,” she said.

The discussion after her last poem explored that idea some more, with participants commenting on their own experiences and those of ancestors from Puerto Rico, Portugal, Scotland and elsewhere. Even where ancestors spoke English, it's not quite the same language – British English is diverging from US English, just as English spoken in Dixie is different from that here in New England.

Despite the longevity of Latin presence here, Saavedra noted Lati-

no literature is still typically taught in the Foreign Language, Ethnic Studies, or similar departments as an elective, rather than where she'd like to see it – a core part of American Literature. She personally teaches it, and writes fiction in Spanish.

“This is a legacy that is part of our nation,” she said, later adding “but there's always this sense Latino literature will be on the margins, not in the center of the discussion.”

People will get another chance to share their own poetry, plus some music, at part two of this event on March 27, also at Jacob Edwards Library. They're happening under a grant from the Library of America, which is promoting events around this issue between September 2024 and April 2025.

The library has copies of the anthology, and more information's available at its Web site, LatinoPoetry.org.

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

SOUTHBRIDGE POLICE LOG

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Jan. 6-13.

A 28-year-old male from Southbridge received a summons in lieu of arrest on Jan. 6 for Failure to Yield at an Intersection, Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of license, operating an Uninsured and Unregistered Motor Vehicle, and a Number Plate Violation to Conceal ID.

Malikye Puello Coates, age 19, of Southbridge was arrested on Jan. 6 for operating a motor vehicle after suspension of license, Carrying a Firearm Without a License, Possession of Ammunition Without FID Card, Possession of a Large Capacity Firearm, Carrying a Loaded Firearm Without a License, Improper Storage of a Large Capacity Firearm, and a Firearms Violation with Two Prior Violent/Drug Crimes. Adreianna Marie Brown, age 19, of Worcester was arrested during the same incident for operating an Unregistered and Uninsured Motor Vehicle, Carrying a Firearm Without a License, Possession of Ammunition Without FID Card, Possession of a Large Capacity Firearm, Improper Storage of a Large Capacity Firearm, and in connection with a warrant for Assault & Battery. A juvenile, age 16, was also arrested during this incident for Carrying a Firearm Without a License, Possession of a Large Capacity Firearm, Possession of Ammunition Without FID Card, Carrying a Loaded Firearm Without a License, and Improper Storage of a Large Capacity Firearm.

A 27-year-old female from Southbridge received a summons in lieu of

arrest on Jan. 6 for Malicious Damage to a Motor Vehicle.

Demettrious Abbott, age 58, of Southbridge was arrested on Jan. 7 for Domestic Assault and Battery and Intimidation of a Witness, Juror, Police Officer, or Court Official.

A 38-year-old female from Southbridge received a summons in lieu of arrest on Jan. 7 for Receiving a Stolen Motor Vehicle.

A 49-year-old female from Southbridge received a summons in lieu of arrest on Jan. 9 for Larceny Under \$1,200.

Juliana Mavis Tandoh, age 49, of Southbridge was arrested on Jan. 10 in connection with a warrant for Shoplifting By Asportation.

A 63-year-old female from Southbridge received a summons in lieu of arrest on Jan. 10 for Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle and operating a motor vehicle with No Inspection Sticker.

Kevin Dejesus, age 27, of Southbridge was arrested on Jan. 10 for Tampering with a Fire Call Box, Disturbing the Peace, Disorderly Conduct, and multiple counts of Carrying a Dangerous Weapon.

David Delgado, age 33, of Southbridge was arrested on Jan. 10 for operating a motor vehicle after suspension of license, Operating Under the Influence (alcohol), Improper Operation of a Motor Vehicle, Possession of a Class B Drug, and Possession of an Open Container of Alcohol in a Motor Vehicle.

A 27-year-old from Brimfield was taken into protective custody on Jan. 10.

A 22-year-old female from South-

bridge was taken into protective custody on Jan. 12.

A 32-year-old from Southbridge received a summons in lieu of arrest on Jan. 12 for a Number Plate Violation to Conceal ID and operating an Uninsured and Unregistered Motor Vehicle.

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Bay Path Community's act of kindness featured in Woman's World magazine

CHARLTON — Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Director Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, RN, CRRN submitted a story about the Bay Path community's Act of Kindness to the publication, the national magazine Woman's World Magazine.

Kindness takes on many meanings. Everyone knows the Golden Rule: Treat others how you would like to be treated and most everyone would like to be treated kindly. Bolandrina be-



lieved that sharing the story is likened to telling the world how valuable an act of kindness is. Bolandrina said, "I am in awe at all the acts of kindness of our practical nursing students, alumni, staff, and faculty." Bolandrina adds, "even the littlest acts of kindness make a difference in people's lives."

The submitted work of Bolandrina published by Woman's World Magazine was about the Bay Path community's acts of kindness. In an email to Bolandrina by the Woman's World Magazine Circle of Kindness Editor, it was expressed how they love the story!

Below is the story as it appeared in the December issue of Woman's World:

"In our small post-secondary practical nursing school, bags and boxes of uniform scrubs, books, feminine hygiene supplies, and non-perishable food are sent by alumni for current students in need- the environmentally challenged, the food insecure, the poor, the hungry, and the vulnerable. There are no public acknowledgments, huge announcements, or videos to capture the acts. It is simply a gesture of kindness, goodwill, and service. Nurses pass forward acts of kindness with compassion and humility. This continued quiet kindness serves as a powerful reminder that true kindness and generosity often, and sometimes go unseen, yet the impact is tremendous and deeply felt."

Evangelidis mulls run for governor's office

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — After receiving waves of support from across the state following the release of a petition urging him to make a gubernatorial run in 2026, Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis said he will carefully consider his options before reaching a decision on his political future.

Posted to Change.org late last month, the online petition titled "Draft Lew for Governor" thrust the longtime Sheriff into the statewide spotlight. Prior to its release, Evangelidis didn't even know of the petition's existence, but he quickly became aware of the strong support when his phone started ringing.

Over the past week-plus, Evangelidis (R—Holden) has received calls and emails from Republicans and Democrats throughout the Commonwealth encouraging him to pursue a campaign for governor in 2026.

"People have contacted me not only to express their support, but also to share their frustrations with the track we're on," said Evangelidis, who has served as Sheriff for the past 14 years. "I want Massachusetts to do better. Right now, we are going down an unaffordable, unsustainable path."

In a summary posted to the Change.org page, the organizers of the online petition described several frustrations shared by Massachusetts residents and officials, including issues with affordability and disapproval of Democratic Governor Maura Healey's immigration policies.

"With Maura Healey's dangerously liberal policies that have contributed to the crippling debt, overburdened our

healthcare system, and prioritized illegal immigrants over hardworking taxpayers in the Bay State, the time has come for change," the petition read in part.

The organizers also cited rising crime in their summary, which Evangelidis confirmed as a major problem in Worcester County. He told the New Leader he is receiving calls and emails daily from residents and officials seeking a change in the state's leadership.

Looking ahead, Evangelidis doesn't plan to rush into any decisions. He is committed to continuing conversations with officials statewide and monitoring conditions as the new year progresses.

"I am also going to continue raising awareness that we have a bad situation right now," said Evangelidis, who opposes the Governor's handling of the migrant shelter crisis, calling for major changes to policies. "I haven't made my mind up yet [on a potential run for governor]. I am flattered to receive such strong support."

Evangelidis said he will take time to review how a potential run would align with his family situation. He appreciates the many residents and officials who have reached out to express their support. Many callers conveyed praise for his leadership as Sheriff since his election in 2010.

"I love being Sheriff. I enjoy it every day," Evangelidis said.

Evangelidis previously served as a state representative for eight years. He represented the First Worcester District.

Healey has not announced whether she plans to run for re-election to a second term in 2026.



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Charlton Library announces new seed library

CHARLTON — You probably already know that Charlton Public Library lends books, movies, audiobooks, games, and a wide assortment of items in our Library of Things. Now we are pleased to announce we will also be offering garden seeds as of Feb. 1! How will our seed library work? Stop by the main level of the library, choose your seeds, and plant them! When you harvest your crop later in the year, save some seeds, bring them to the Library, and we will add them back to our “growing” collection.

Seed collecting is the age-old process of harvesting and preserving seeds from one’s garden or local environment. It is based in indigenous

tradition and deeply tied to cultural preservation, agricultural practice, and community building. Sharing seeds collected from plants in our neighborhoods increases our access to resilient plants. The seed library aims to support our local ecosystem and combat food insecurity.

We have a variety of easy-to-grow vegetable, herb, and flower seeds as well as many books on seed collecting and gardening available to borrow. Seed selection may vary and will be available while supplies last. The Seed Library is possible through the generous support of Friends of the Charlton Library, Eden Brothers, Sow Right Seeds,

Baker Creek Heirloom Seed Co., High Mowing Organic Seeds, Prairie Moon Nursery, Blackstone Valley Veggie Gardens, and the Charlton Garden Club.

Save the date for these upcoming workshops at the Charlton Library with Blackstone Valley Veggie Gardens (register by visiting our event calendar at charltonli-

brary.org):

- Tuesday, Feb. 4 at 6 p.m.: Life Cycle of Seeds
- Tuesday, March 4 at 6 p.m.: Seed Swap
- Tuesday, April 15 at 6

p.m.: Seed Starting

Charlton Public Library is located at 40 Main St. in Charlton.

Students named to President's List at Western New England University

SPRINGFIELD — Western New England University (WNE) takes immense pride in recognizing the outstanding academic achievements of over 640 students who have been named to the President's List for the Fall 2024 semester. The following local students were named to the President's List:

- Elise Palfreman of Charlton
- Ellen Butler of Charlton
- Braylon Casinghino of Brimfield
- Cole Crosby of Brimfield
- Courtney Farrell of Sturbridge
- Emily Moran of Holland
- Jack Leland of Brimfield
- Kallie Laflamme of Sturbridge
- Kaylin Tietz of Brimfield
- Makenna Matczak of Wales

Tess Chevalier of Brimfield

Students are named to the President's List for achieving a semester grade point average of 3.80 or higher.

Western New England University (WNE) is a private, nationally ranked, comprehensive institution with a focus on preparing work-ready and world-ready graduates. Founded in 1919 in Springfield, Massachusetts as a division of Northeastern College, WNE's 215-acre suburban campus serves more than 3,700 students, including more than 2,500 full-time undergraduates. More than 47,000 alumni have earned degrees through its more than 90 undergraduate, graduate, and

professional programs at Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, and Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and School of Law. Students come from 39 U.S. states and territories and 23 countries. Of 45,104 living alumni, 30 percent remain within the region, residing in the four Western Massachusetts counties and northern Connecticut.

WNE is classified among nationally ranked universities in US News and World Report, and among the Top 100 Undergraduate Engineering programs, and in the Doctoral/Professional Universities category in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

Local residents named to Dean's List at Saint Michael's College

COLCHESTER, Vt. — The following local students were named to the Dean's List at Saint Michael's College for the Fall 2024 semester. Students who complete at least 12 credits of classes and achieve a grade point average of at least 3.5 in a particular semester are cited on the Dean's List for that semester.

Austin C. Brush of Charlton

About Saint Michael's College

Saint Michael's College, founded on principles of social justice and leading lives of purpose and consequence, is a selective, Catholic college just outside Burlington, Vermont, one of the country's best college towns. Located between the Green Mountains and Lake Champlain, our closely connected community guarantees housing all four years and delivers internationally respected liberal arts together with an innovative Purposeful Learning Program, preparing students for fulfilling careers and meaningful lives. Young adults here grow intellectually, socially, and morally, learning to be responsible for themselves, each other, and their world.

Hitchcock Brown Bag Speaker Series reinstated

BRIMFIELD — Due to demand, Hitchcock is proud to announce the revival of a popular, long-missed series of Brown Bag speakers. The series kicks off at noon on Jan. 29 with a talk about “Brimfield Heroine” and “Mother of Oregon” Tabitha Moffat.

Join local historian and Hitchcock Trustee Mike DeFalco for a talk about “Brimfield Heroine” Tabitha Moffat. Moffat was born in Brimfield in 1780 and later in life (in her 60s) journeyed with her children on the Oregon Trail. Once there, she started a school for children that later became Pacific University. She

wrote a letter to her family back in Brimfield talking about her experiences on the Trail which became known as the “Brimfield Heroine Letter.” It described attacks by Native Americans, near starvation and other assorted dangers. In the 1970s, the Oregon State Legislature proclaimed her the “Mother of Oregon.”

The talk will also include the story of Moffat's husband Clark Brown who arrived in town in the 1790s to serve as the Congregational Church pastor and

immediately became part of a major controversy which resulted in an ecclesiastical trial known as the Brown Church War.

These accounts are also mentioned in The Brimfield Historical Commission's “101 Things to Know About Brimfield.”

Reservations are required (Registration closes Jan. 27 at 6 p.m.) and there is a \$10 fee per person. Lunch begins at noon and the talk at 12:30. Registrants can choose to bring their own lunch or for an additional \$10 (includes half

sandwich, soup, and beverage. The talk will run approximately an hour.

This program is presented with support from The Shirley Frye Memorial Fund.

Hitchcock Academy is a community center located at 2 Brookfield Rd. in Brimfield, serving the community with educational, recreational, and cultural programming. More information can be found at www.hitchcockacademy.org.


Employment Opportunity
Town of Brimfield
Public Access Television Coordinator, Part-time

The Town of Brimfield is seeking a community-oriented individual to lead a local access television operation that includes a studio, staff assistant and videographers. Public and Government Access channels plus liaison with our Educational Access channel are included in the scope of work. Reporting to the Select Board, this individual will promote an informed and closer community through production and scheduling of cable programming by and for the residents of Brimfield. The Local Access Coordinator is the primary town employee responsible for government and local access channel operations as well as cooperating to provide local educational access programming when possible. The coordinator will be responsible for:

- Working in concert with the Select Board to set and meet local access television goals, plans and budgets.
- Coordinating public, government and educational access productions.
- Scheduling and coordinating staff videographers and the work of an office assistant.
- Coordinate with a clerk/assistant to assure updating of televised announcements.
- Schedule programs.
- Update and revise the Public Access WordPress website at www.brimfield.tv
- Maintaining the studio and video facilities;
- Seeing to proper functioning, repair or upgrading of equipment as needed.
- Encouraging public participation in creating local video productions by training and assisting them to utilize town-owned equipment and facilities.
- Oversee lending of town equipment to the public for such productions;
- Working within and suggest revisions to public access TV policies;
- Assisting in any negotiations or matters of liaison with Cable TV providers, currently Charter/Spectrum.
- Planning future spending and equipment needs.
- Related tasks as specified by the Select Board.

Knowledge and experience with videography, video editing and interest in a public-civic environment are required. Overall communications skills and the ability to accommodate various town departments and the public's need for televised communication are essential. The successful applicant should be or become comfortable working with Castus Cablecasting and TriCaster studio systems. Hours are generally flexible; some evening availability is required. The position is up to 12 hours weekly at a salary of \$21.65 per hour. Please forward résumé with references and a letter of interest to the Select Board either by email at selectboard@brimfieldma.org, or by mail to the Brimfield Select Board, 23 Main St., Brimfield, MA 01010. The Town of Brimfield is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate against any applicant because of race, color, religion, sex, marital status, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or any other class protected by federal, state, or local law. Resumes will be accepted until the positions have been filled.

Friday's Child



Hi! My name is Christian and I love being active!

Christian is a sweet boy who loves to be on the go. He loves doing anything outside and being active. Christian recently started gymnastics and loves learning new skills. He likes anything to do with cars and trucks. He is an animal lover, especially when it comes to dogs. He is always helping out in the kitchen with meal preparation or cleaning up. Christian hopes to become a firefighter or a veterinarian one day!

Christian
Age 13
Registration # 6521

<https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/6521>

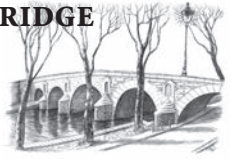
Can I Adopt?

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.

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



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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Staying grounded in the age of social media

It happens to all of us. You're scrolling through your social media feed, and a post grabs your attention — something outrageous, dramatic, or too good to be true. Before you know it, you've shared it, commented on it, or brought it up in a conversation. But how often do we stop to ask ourselves: Is this actually true? Or, more importantly, why is this being shown to me?

Social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and Twitter (or X) are marvels of modern technology, but they're also powerful, profit-driven machines. Behind every post, video, or ad you see lies an algorithm, a set of rules designed to keep you engaged. These algorithms know more about you than you might think: your likes, your dislikes, your habits, even the time of day you're most likely to scroll. They're built to serve you content that aligns with your interests, but also content that provokes strong emotions, because emotion equals engagement, and engagement equals profit.

The problem is, emotions like outrage, fear, or excitement can cloud our judgment. This is how misinformation thrives. Social media algorithms aren't designed to prioritize truth, they're designed to prioritize clicks. This means that sensationalized or extreme content often rises to the top, not because it's accurate, but because it grabs your attention. Over time, you might find yourself in an echo chamber, exposed only to ideas that reinforce your existing beliefs while opposing views are filtered out.

This can have real-world consequences. Extremism, divisiveness, and distrust grow when we stop engaging critically with information and simply accept what's fed to us. And it's not just about politics. Think about the misinformation around health, science, or even history that spreads unchecked because it's wrapped in a flashy headline or a viral meme.

So, how do we navigate this algorithm-driven world without losing our grip on reality? The answer lies in slowing down, staying skeptical, and taking responsibility for what we consume and share.

Before hitting that share button, take a moment to verify the information. Check the source: Is it reputable? If it's a website you've never heard of, does it provide evidence or just emotional appeals? Cross-reference with trusted outlets. A quick Google search can save you from spreading misinformation.

Know that your feed isn't a random collection of posts, it's curated for you. If you find yourself feeling angry, overly excited, or even validated after seeing a certain type of content, ask yourself: Is this manipulating my emotions? Algorithms don't care about truth; they care about keeping you scrolling.

Social media platforms often show you content you agree with, which can feel comforting but limits your perspective. Make a conscious effort to follow people or organizations with diverse viewpoints. This doesn't mean you have to agree with everything, but exposing yourself to different ideas helps build critical thinking.

If a post seems overly dramatic, divisive, or paints an entire group of people as "good" or "evil," it's worth questioning. Extremist content often thrives on oversimplifying complex issues, using inflammatory language to provoke a reaction. Real solutions and truths are rarely found in black-and-white thinking.

The online world is just one part of the bigger picture. Building relationships, discussing issues in person, and relying on community engagement can help you stay grounded. Social media is a tool, not the whole world.

Social media is a double-edged sword. It can connect us, inform us, and even inspire us. But it can also mislead, divide, and manipulate us if we're not careful. The algorithms may be powerful, but so are we. By staying wide-eyed, curious, and critical, we can take control of our online experience and ensure that we're not just passive consumers but active participants in seeking truth and understanding.

OPINION

Valentine's Day

Like with many of the early Church Fathers and saints, mystery and fiction cloud St. Valentine's life story. While we cannot reliably know much about St.

Valentine, we can, I think, assume that some of the legends have an association with the truth.

Family histories often exaggerate, for instance, but usually the exaggerations are based in reality. In my family, I've heard that a great, grand uncle was once chased down a mountain on his bicycle by a wildcat after he collected blueberries, so his blueberries were bouncing all over the mountain. Fact? I doubt it. Yet I'm certain my grand uncle once tried, at least, to ride his bicycle as fast as he could down the mountain while carrying blueberries. The wildcat was added in later, probably, to explain why he had so few blueberries at the bottom.

So it is with St. Valentine. And the story I most appreciate about him that also makes sense of his connection with romance is that he secretly married couples so that the husband could avoid military service. At the time, Christians technically weren't allowed



BEYOND
THE PEWS
REV. JOHN H.D. LUCY
CHARLTON CITY
UMC

to serve in the military, and the Roman emperor had a policy that newlyweds couldn't be sent to a war's frontlines. Rome needed soldiers, though, so the emperor was none too happy when Valentine kept purposely limiting the ranks. A good "stick it to the Man" story.

We could take away a number of lessons from that story, as well as the others attributed to St. Valentine. For me, the point is that Valentine's Day shouldn't be reduced to merely expressing our love to a beloved, because romantic love itself can and should serve a purpose. Those of us who are lucky enough to be in a loving romantic relationship should not stop at merely loving one another. Our love can and should take a step further; take us a step further, so that we together, empowered by our love, can help right wrongs in society.

I invite us, then, to celebrate Valentine's Day this year not with flowers or chocolate but with service. Is there an injustice, a tyranny in our community, country, or world that you and your beloved can inspire one another to address?

Democracy calling! Please answer the phone

Last Monday, we saw yet another transfer of power in Washington, as the White House changed hands from Joe Biden back to Donald Trump.

As usual, there was a lot of rhetoric on both sides about it that mostly obscured, rather than enlightened, anyone on what's likely to happen. Trump partisans extoll him to Mars; his detractors demonize him. The same thing has happened to Biden. Both sides largely ignore their commonalities — the fact both are henchmen of the oligarchy.

What happens in D.C. has largely become a game for the super-wealthy elite and corporate interests that affects most everyday Americans almost by accident (usually negatively).

Honestly, to me, it's an issue of "been there, done that." But it should also be a wake-up call for us to remember that if good people don't get involved in government, we will be ruled by the more selfish and venal people who see government as a path to enrich themselves at our expense.

By that, I am not talking about just voting. While a key part of the democratic process, it's also, quite frankly, the laziest.

If we want democracy to regenerate from the oligarchy it's fast becoming, we need people with good ideas and community spirit to run for office. Most importantly, we need people active on the local level, where a few people and a few votes can truly make a difference.

With the change to the new year, most of our towns made nomination papers for local offices available. Most towns require a fairly similar number of signatures to get on the ballot (typically around 50), although their deadlines vary widely depending on when

EARTHBORN

BY GUS
STEEVES

their town elections are.

In Southbridge, the town election is on June 10, with nomination papers due to the Town Clerk in late April.

The three councilors with terms ending are Jasmin Rivas, Mike Marketti and Mike Montigny. Beyond that, three school committee seats are available, with Andrew Murch's term ending and two members recently resigning: Kathy Lapriore and John Shaw. (The committee and council are now seeking applications to fill those seats until the election; they'll meet jointly to choose on Feb. 3.) Also, Helen Lenti's Bay Path School Committee term is up, as are those of Diane Servant on the Housing Authority, Arthur Martin on the Redevelopment Authority, and Diane Kokozka on the Board of Assessors.

Additionally, there's been talk of putting a charter change question before voters this year, but that depends on whether the Legislature finishes it in time. The council actually approved several changes a couple of years ago, but only one of them was deemed significant enough to need voter approval.

Chances are, we won't know whether any of those officeholders want to seek re-election for some time, but let's ensure this year's elections all have a full slate of candidates. All incumbents should face opposition. That gives the good ones a chance to explain what they've done, and gives the public an alternative to the bad ones.

Having unopposed elections is not good for democracy, and we see far, far too many of those. According to Ballotpedia, only 30 percent of last year's elections (at all levels nationwide) had multiple candidates to choose from. Of the 76,902 elections they tracked, 53,485 were uncontested, "the highest rate Ballotpedia has covered in a year since data collection began in 2018."

Granted, six years is not a long track record, but it's a terrible precedent and one that accords very well with what many of us have seen for many years. That website found the ratio was even worse here in Massachusetts, where 84 percent of races went uncontested. Our state was tied at the bottom with Louisiana.

By contrast, New Jersey had the most contested races — 75 percent. While I feel leaving a quarter of incumbents unchallenged isn't a good thing, that number shows actual democracy is more active in Jersey than here.

Let's change those ratios as much as we can on the local level this year! Doing that right means we need at least six council and six school committee candidates, plus at least two for each of the other

You can put more into your 401(k) this year



FINANCIAL
FOCUS
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NIELSEN

Once you retire, you'll likely need to draw on a variety of financial sources — and one of the most important ones may be your 401(k). And for 2025, you can put even more money into your plan than ever.

You can invest in your 401(k) in one of two ways, depending on your employer's plan. With a traditional 401(k), you contribute pre-tax dollars, which can lower your taxable income, and your money can grow tax deferred. If you have a Roth 401(k) option, you can contribute after-tax dollars, which aren't deductible, but your eventual withdrawals will be tax-free if you've had your account at least five years and you're at least 59 and a half.

For either a traditional or Roth 401(k), as well as similar plans such as a 457(b) (for government employees) or a 403(b) (for educators and employees of some nonprofit groups), the contribution limit has increased by \$500 for 2025, to \$23,500. If you're 50 or older, you can contribute an additional \$7,500, for a total of \$31,000. And under the SECURE 2.0 legislation, if you are between 60 and 63, you have a higher catch-up contribution — \$11,250, instead of \$7,500, for a total of \$34,750.

If you can afford to contribute the full amount to your 401(k) or similar plan, consider doing so. Of course, not everyone is in that position. If you're a younger worker, you may well have other financial obligations, such as paying off student loans. And even if you've been in the workforce for a while, you may be putting away money for other things — such as your children's education — as well as your own retirement. But even if you can't "max out" on your 401(k), try to contribute at least enough to earn your employer's matching contribution if one is offered.

Regardless of how much you contribute to your 401(k), consider these suggestions on managing the money within your plan:

Create a portfolio that fits your risk tolerance. Most 401(k) plans offer up to a dozen investment options, while some plans offer many more. You obviously want to increase your 401(k) balance as much as possible, but that doesn't necessarily mean putting all your 401(k) dollars into the most aggressive funds available. Instead, consider spreading your 401(k) contributions among a range of investments, which can help you lower your risk level while still giving you opportunities for long-term growth. Everyone's risk tolerance is different, though, so you'll want to evaluate yours when constructing your 401(k) portfolio.

Adjust your portfolio as needed. It's a good idea to review your 401(k)'s investment mix at least once a year to see if it's performing as you'd hoped. But be patient — one "down" year doesn't necessarily mean you must make changes. However, as you approach retirement, you may want to lower the risk level of your 401(k) by moving some of your dollars into more conservative vehicles. Still, even when you're retired and have started drawing money from your 401(k), you might want to keep some growth potential in it to help you stay ahead of inflation.

By contributing what you can afford to your 401(k), and by carefully managing the investments within your plan, you can help maximize the value of this powerful retirement savings vehicle — and give yourself a key asset to help you enjoy your retirement years.

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.

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.

Eight days a week

POSITIVELY SPEAKING

TOBY MOORE

Sometimes, life feels so busy I dream of having one more day in the week. How great would that be? Eight days a week - just like that Beatles song! It sounds great, but let's think this through.

It could be a day of leisure: no emails, errands, or to-do lists. Just sleep in, read a book, or spend hours binge-watching your favorite show without guilt. It could revolutionize how we approach self-care and mental health.

It could be the day you finally learn to paint, start that podcast, or bake croissants from scratch! Imagine having dedicated time for personal growth—no interruptions, just you and your creative spark.

Imagine the extra family time. You could host family dinners, volunteer in your community, or reconnect with old friends!

You could catch up on everything you didn't finish earlier in the week. Grocery shopping, home projects, errands—you name it. We could call it the "Get your life together" day!

It sounds great, but adding an eighth day might plunge the world into chaos.

Holidays would go rogue. Weeks wouldn't align with months, so Christmas might land in February, and New Year's could appear in July.

Imagine singing "Jingle Bells" in a heatwave or explaining to your kids why Thanksgiving dinner now involves sunscreen and barbecue grills instead of turkey and mashed potatoes. Santa might quit in protest!

Payroll would be a nightmare—when is payday? Who knows! HR would give up entirely, and accountants would cry themselves to sleep.

Solstices and equinoxes, those dependable markers of seasons, would go completely out of whack. Farmers wouldn't know when to plant crops. Benjamin Franklin, who started the Farmer's Almanac, might come back to write a pamphlet titled: "Leave the Calendar Alone, You Fools!"

Your circadian rhythm—already clinging to life thanks to caffeine—would give up entirely. Owls would start hooting at rush hour, your cat would decide 3 p.m. is now breakfast time, and your smartwatch would scream, "I don't know what day it is!"

Okay, eight days - bad idea. Still, seven doesn't feel like enough.

Let's flip the scenario: what if we lived in a world where the week only had six days? You don't know what you got until it's gone.

Suddenly, the seven-day week we take for granted would feel like a luxury. That seventh day—the one we rely on for rest, errands, or just catching our breath—would be gone. Imagine the chaos of squeezing everything we currently do into fewer days.

Without the seventh day, weekends would shrink, leaving little time to recover from the grind of the workweek. Rest wouldn't be optional—it would become a desperate need. Perhaps we'd have to find new ways to recharge during the week, taking shorter, more deliberate breaks to avoid burnout.

Losing the seventh day would make finding time for hobbies or creative pursuits even harder. Gone are the lazy afternoons spent painting, writing, or tinkering with a new project. Play and creativity would need to be crammed into the workweek, likely pushed aside by more "urgent" demands.

Family dinners, game nights, and community events would become a rarity. Without the seventh day, many of us would feel perpetually rushed, sacrificing time for relationships, and the value of connection would become clearer, but finding the time for it would be even harder.

Life without that seventh day means laundry piles up, errands get delayed, and "to-do" lists spill into the rest of the week. Chaos would become the new normal as we struggle to fit everything into an already packed schedule.

If the world switched to a six-day week, the chaos would be equally absurd as eight days a week but in reverse!

Einstein might remark, "Yes, time is relative, but this is ridiculous!"

Okay, maybe the problem isn't with the number of days. It's not about

Turn To **POSITIVE** page 13

Transportation memorabilia – Part 2



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES
WAYNE TUISKULA

though. A 1970 Plymouth Satellite that needed restoration sold for over \$13,000 in 2023. Another project car, a 1954 Corvette, sold for nearly \$23,000 and a 1962 Corvette in better condition went for over \$30,000 in 2021.

Other automobile memorabilia also has collector appeal. We sold a small metal building that was part of an Auburn, Mass., gas station several years ago. After paying close to \$3,000, the winning bidder relocated it to New Hampshire where he was recreating an old-time gas station. We also sold some signs from the former gas station that brought figures in the hundreds.

Other auto-related pieces can bring even higher returns. A 1920s Wayne Roman Column Five Gallon Pump in restored condition sold for \$18,000 at auction in 2020. I'm sure some readers of this column remember "Flying A" gas stations.

The brand was used until 1970 when it became part of Getty. An embossed porcelain 62 inch "Flying A" sign brought \$5,500 last year. Another sign that many of you will be familiar with is the Mobil Oil Pegasus. The Pegasus was part of Mobil Oil's advertising from 1932 into the 1960s. An older Pegasus neon sign went for \$24,000 at auction in 2015.

Some people prefer to get somewhere faster and travel by air. We sold two collections of aviation memorabilia in our January 2024 auction. An Admiral Byrd flights over Arctic & Antarctica commemorative bronze medal sold for \$660. The other collection of airline memorabilia came from a Pan Am flight attendant (then called stewardess) who was on the crew with presidents. Her cap and badges brought over \$400. Three silver appreciation coins she received from President Eisenhower reached nearly \$2,900. A piece of fabric from the Hindenburg with documentation sold for nearly \$800 in one of our auctions last year. Airline travel posters are also desirable. A circa 1940s Pan Am Clipper airplane poster promoting Caribbean travel soared to \$2,500 in a 2023 auction. The winning bidder might have liked



the graphics or maybe it was a New Englander dreaming about escaping the cold weather for a Caribbean vacation.

We will be offering some travel posters from a Boston estate in our late spring/early summer major auction. In the meantime, we are cataloging a Civil War memorabilia auction, a Beacon Hill online estate auction, and a comic book, sports memorabilia, and collectibles auction. We are always accepting consignments of estate jewelry, sterling silver, art, coins, and other items in our top 10 list. Please visit our Web site, <https://centralmassauctions.com>, for links to upcoming events.

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

Be a weather watching gardener



GARDEN MOMENTS
MELINDA MYERS

with local nature centers, botanical gardens, and extension services for gardening calendars. Many include information on significant weather

events in your area. You can then add your observations for future reference. Refer to this information as needed in the future to help diagnose plant problems that may result from these extremes.

Large trees and other established plantings are often overlooked when weather extremes occur. Extended dry periods, temperature extremes, and flooding can stress and weaken these plants making them more susceptible to insect pests, diseases, and decline in the coming years.

Always select plants suited to the growing conditions and start watching for those that appear to be more tolerant of extremes. Visit local public gardens and consult with your University Extension specialists and other plant experts when selecting new plants for your gardens.

Adapt your landscape main-



Melinda Myers

Rain barrels can help manage the water on your property and provide water to use in your gardens.

tenance and design to reduce the negative impact of flooding, drought, and temperature extremes. Protect plant roots from temperature extremes with a layer of organic mulch. Incorporate organic matter into the soil to improve drainage and increase the water-holding ability of fast-draining soils. Cover the soil with plants and mulch to help protect the soil

Turn To **GARDENING** page 13

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FrOST holds annual ice sculpture contest

STURBRIDGE — The Friends of Sturbridge Trails (FrOST), with support from the Sturbridge Tourist Association, is holding its annual ice sculpture contest on Saturday, Feb. 15, starting at 11 am.

Ice sculptures will be set out along the Grand Trunk Trail located on the Riverlands, 52 Stallion Hill Rd. In addition to ice sculpture judging, there will be family/kids' games of ice golf, ice bowling and an ice obstacle course. Also, an ice carving demonstration will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

If you would like an ice block to sculpt, the theme is snowman and snowflakes. Ice blocks are free for the first 12 entries, additional entries will cost \$20/block. Ice blocks must be reserved by Tuesday, Feb. 7 by emailing Jen Scherer at Jenchris27@aol.com. Ice blocks will be available for pick up on Tuesday Feb. 11 at 5 p.m. at the Riverlands parking lot, 52 Stallion Hill Rd.

The ice block set out will be Saturday, Feb. 15 from 8 to 10 a.m., along the Grand



Trunk Trail on the Riverlands open space property located at 52 Stallion Hill Rd. Volunteers will be available to assist in set out.

Judging of the ice sculptures will start at 11 a.m. Ice sculptures will be on display until they melt! The grand prize is a gift card to a local restaurant.

Workshops to warm your winter days

Make a mosaics, create an illuminated sea glass heart wreath, or decorate a woodland cake at Hitchcock

BRIMFIELD — Winter days can be cold and long, but they also offer an opportunity to dig into a creative project, or to learn a new craft. Hitchcock is offering three such opportunities in its ongoing series of hands-on workshops led by expert craftspeople. Beginners are welcome!

On Jan. 30, join The Art Lab & Gallery for a "delightful" workshop in creating a 10-inch illuminated sea glass heart wreath to warm your door or your wall. The instructor will assist you in navigating the steps from beginning to end and everything you need with be provided, including two string lights that run on batteries and an assortment of tumbled colored glass, mostly red and pink. Participants are also free to bring their own objects to add.

On Feb. 18, Let's Cake Decorate brings its next installment in its popular series: a Woodland Cake. Sue Gaulin leads this fun workshop for adults (adult/child pairs age 8+ can also work together on one cake under one registration at no extra cost). Participants will learn to level, torte, and fill a cake with buttercream, pipe chocolate buttercream bark on the side of the 'tree stump', use premade edible moss to decorate, and then use fondant to create mushrooms, frogs, and gnomes as adornments. No decorating experi-



ence necessary, step-by-step instructions are provided, as are all supplies. Students will use Sue's decorating tools and an apron during class. A six-inch vanilla cake, buttercream, fondant, cake board and carry home box will be provided.

On Feb. 19, join master stained glass artist Chris Lyons for a Mosaics workshop in which participants will each make their own tile.

Mosaics are one of the oldest art forms and can be made from just about any type of material including pebbles, seashells, gems, ivory, glass and ceramic tile. The workshop will include a quick look at the history of Mosaics and a walk through the construction process and then each participants will

create a simple Mosaic coaster project using glass & ceramic tile.

Chris also regularly offers Stained Glass Suncatcher workshops at Hitchcock. Anyone interested is encouraged to follow Hitchcock for upcoming dates.

For more information or to register for any of the winter workshops mentioned, visit www.hitchcockacademy.org.

Hitchcock Academy is a community center located at 2 Brookfield Road in Brimfield serving the community with educational, recreational, and cultural programming. More information can be found at www.hitchcockacademy.org.

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JAMES GLICKMAN
Principal

508-769-5007

jglickman@glickmankovago.com



JONAH D. GLICKMAN
Vice President

508-868-3765

jdglickman@glickmankovago.com

Students named to Dean's List at Western New England University

SPRINGFIELD — Western New England University (WNE) takes immense pride in recognizing the outstanding academic achievements of over 750 students who have been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2024 semester. The following local students were named to the Dean's List:

- Ashley Figueroa of Charlton
- Austin Ayotte of Charlton
- Stephen Ngaruiya of Charlton
- Jack Dalton of Charlton
- Roger Leland of Brimfield
- Evan Thomas of Wales
- Kaylee Cain of Sturbridge
- Jaden Darnell of Southbridge

Students are named to the Dean's List for achieving a semester grade point average of 3.30 or higher.

Western New England University (WNE) is a private, nationally ranked, comprehensive institution with a focus on preparing work-ready and world-ready graduates. Founded in 1919 in Springfield, Massachusetts as a division of Northeastern College, WNE's 215-acre suburban campus serves more than 3,700 students, including more than 2,500 full-time undergraduates. More than 47,000 alumni have earned degrees through its more than 90 undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs at Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, and Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and School of Law. Students come from 39 U.S. states and territories and

23 countries. Of 45,104 living alumni, 30 percent remain within the region, residing in the four Western Massachusetts counties and northern Connecticut.

WNE is classified among nationally ranked universities in US News and World Report, and among the Top 100 Undergraduate Engineering programs, and in the Doctoral/Professional Universities category in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.



CCUMC to host Dynamic Cards, Collectibles and Craft Show Feb. 1

CHARLTON — On Saturday, Feb. 1, Charlton City United Methodist Church will once again host Dynamic Cards, Collectibles and Craft Show at 74 Stafford St., Charlton. Two full floors of Trading Cards, Collectibles and Crafts of all kinds! The show will be jam-packed with 60+ tables offering items to add to your collection or begin a new one.

Sports cards: These are among the most popular, featuring athletes from baseball, basketball, football, and more

Trading card games (TCGs): Games like Pokémon, Magic: The



Gathering, and Yu-Gi-Oh!

Entertainment cards: These include cards from movies, TV

shows, and other pop culture phenomena such as collectible cards for Star Wars and Marvel.

Historical and vintage cards: These cards often feature historical figures, events, or vintage designs.

They can be quite valuable and are cherished by collectors for their historical significance.

Unique and homemade items: bags, art, glassware, jewelry

In addition to a very large variety of vendors and crafters, we'll also have lunch and baked goods for sale. Partial proceeds help support many local community causes. You win with all the sellers, and the world wins when you come to support the show. Admission is free. There is plenty of parking and the building is handicap accessible.

Components failures to blame for Heritage School boiler issue

BY JASON BLEAU CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — The Dudley Charlton Regional School District has determined the cause of boiler failures at Her-

itage School which required maintenance just as the cold snap was beginning to impact the region in early December.

Last month, Joseph DeSantis, Director of Finance and Operations

for the DCRSD, revealed that multiple vendors had been brought in to examine the boilers at Heritage School after a malfunction. At that time, it was recommended that the tanks

be cleaned at the cost of between \$12,000 and \$13,000; however, the district decided to seek an internal solution to minimize the financial impact. In the meantime, school officials have also sought answers as to the primary source of the failure. DeSantis provided an update to the School Committee in early January that revealed a likely cause.

"It was found the oil tank cover and certain tank components are the problem causing the leak. Our facilities director has contacted

multiple companies to get quotes in order to move forward," said DeSantis. "As of today, we heard back from one of the companies for repair components and related construction would be \$6,350. We're hoping to get several more quotes before moving forward, but we are confident that this will provide a solution to the situation that's occurring with the temporary tanks, and we can move forward from that point."

DeSantis's report included with the Jan. 8 School Committee

meeting agenda named CommTank, Holden Mechanical, and Dependable Petroleum as the contacted vendors. He did not specify which of these companies had already submitted the existing estimate.

Currently, installed secondary tanks will continue to serve as alternative energy source until quotes are obtained and evaluated. This temporary solution is expected to take the school through the winter months until a permanent fix has been established.

Bay Path Nursing student coordinates flower bulb distribution

CHARLTON — Thirty-six members of the Practical Nursing Class of 2025 were recipients of premium flower bulbs from Achille Agway of Keene, New Hampshire. Hundreds of tulips and daffodil bulbs were donated to Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy and distributed to the Practical Nursing students as part of self-care efforts and in collaboration with the UNICEF Club. Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy was one of many non-profit organizations chosen to receive bags of premium flower bulbs. The same bulbs are sold online and at the Keene, NH location of Achille Agway.

According to Greteline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, Academy Director, "Going to nursing school is a busy time. Like nursing, flower bulb planting is both an art and a science."

Bolandrina stated, "The care one takes in planting is both therapeutic and stress relieving. It is a beautiful form of self-care."

Loise Ngigi of South Grafton, a member of the PN Class of 2025 and UNICEF Club officer graciously coordinated the distribution of the flower bulbs.

"I like doing it," said Ngigi with a smile.

Ngigi is a compassionate Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and certified home health aide (HHA) whose knowledge is based on the accumulation of seven years of direct experience as a certified HHA and CNA. She obtained her nursing assistant certification through the 3 Dimensions College (Worcester) in 2017. She obtained her high school diploma from Moi Girls Kamangu High School in Kenya (2012). As a practical nursing student at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, she has completed her Dementia Care certifi-



Loise Ngigi

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Curry College announces Dean's List

MILTON — Curry College congratulates over 800 students who were named to the Fall 2024 Dean's List.

Isabella Leneau of Brimfield

Madie Kuchnicki of Charlton

Savannah Pelletz of Charlton

Karen Dmohowski of Southbridge

About Curry College
Curry College, founded in Boston in 1879, is

a private, co-educational, liberal arts-based institution located on 131 acres in Milton, Massachusetts. The College extends its educational programs to a continuing education branch campus in Plymouth. The College offers 24 undergraduate majors in specialized and liberal arts programs, as well as graduate degrees in accounting, business, education, criminal justice, and nursing to a

combined enrollment of nearly 2,500 students. The student body consists of 1,700 traditional students and nearly 800 continuing education and graduate students. The College offers a wide array of co-curricular activities ranging from 16 NCAA Division III athletic teams to an outstanding theatre and fine arts program. Visit us on the Web at www.curry.edu.

Eastern students make Dean's List

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. — Eastern Connecticut State University recently released its Dean's List for the fall 2024 semester, in which more than 1,300 students were recognized for maintaining high GPAs.

Among them are:

Jordyn Szretter of Charlton, a senior who majors in Economics.

Hannah Johnson of Holland, a sophomore who majors in Physical Education.

Cristal Hernandez of Southbridge, a sophomore who majors in Communication, Film, & Theatre.

To qualify for Dean's List, full-time students must complete a minimum of 12 credits in letter-graded courses with an average GPA of 3.5 or higher in the semester. Part-time students are eligi-

ble if they've accumulated 15 or more credits of letter-graded coursework with an average GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Eastern Connecticut State University is the state of Connecticut's public liberal arts university, serving upwards of 4,000 students annually on its Willimantic campus. A residential campus offering 41 majors and 68 minors, Eastern offers students a strong liberal arts foundation grounded in a variety of applied learning opportunities. Ranked among the top 25 public institutions in the North by U.S. News & World Report in its 2024-25 Best Colleges ratings, Eastern has also been awarded 'Green Campus' status by the Princeton Review 15 years in a row. For more information, visit www.easternct.edu.

Rachel Gormley named to Western Carolina University Chancellor's List

CULLOWHEE, N.C. — Congratulations to Rachel Gormley, of Charlton, for being named to the Western Carolina University Fall 2024 Chancellor's List.

Gormley was among more than 2,000 students to achieve this honor. To qualify for the Chancellor's List, students must earn a GPA of 3.8 or higher while completing a minimum of 12 credit hours. Students named to the Chancellor's List are also named to the Dean's List.

As the westernmost institution in the University of North Carolina System, WCU attracts students

from around the globe for its nationally ranked programs, affordability through NC Promise and exceptional student support. Recognized as a top adventure college and surrounded by the Blue Ridge and Great Smoky Mountains, students can explore the region's vast natural diversity through unrivaled experiential learning and recreational activities. Offering residential, hybrid and online programs for undergraduate and graduate degrees at our main campus in Cullowhee, WCU in Asheville located at Biltmore Park, and wherever students are through distance learning.

Amy Loin of Southbridge named to Provost's List at Hofstra University

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — Amy Loin of Southbridge achieved a perfect 4.0 GPA during the fall 2024 semester, earning a spot on the Provost's List at Hofstra University.

Loin's major is Exercise Physiology.

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

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

SNHU announces Fall 2024 Dean's List

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Fall 2024 Dean's List. The fall terms run from September to December.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped

in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Emma Keith of Brimfield
Nasheen Gagner of Charlton
Matthew Hall of Southbridge
Alonza Searer of Southbridge

Katelyn Halley of Southbridge

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit, accredited institution with a 92-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults.

Now serving more than 200,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH. Recognized as one of the "Most Innovative" regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner.

OBITUARIES



Terrance L. Grant



Southbridge: Terrance L. Grant, 76, passed away on January 13, 2025, at his home, after a brief illness.

He is survived by his sons, Tim C. Grant and his wife Jocelyn of Sturbridge and Jamie Grant and his wife Colleen of Westbrook, ME; his sisters, Sharon Roy and her husband Steven of Holland and Kim Grant-Bryda and her husband Bob of Enfield, CT; his grandchildren, Maureen Grant, Lily Grant, Ella Grant, Finneas Grant and Lila Grant.

Terrance was born in Orient, ME, the son of Leroy Forest and Charlotte L. (Dwyer) Grant.

A graduate of Tantasqua Regional High School, Terrance was a decorated Army veteran stationed in Frankfurt, Germany during the Vietnam war. After the war he graduated with a bachelor's degree from Nichols College before starting work as a computer programmer at State Mutual Life Insurance.

Throughout his life he spent countless hours volunteering his time. He coached his sons' teams in baseball,

basketball, and soccer, also serving as president of Sturbridge Little League and co-founder/President of the TRY Soccer League in Sturbridge. Terrance was a proud member of Lions Club International in Sturbridge for over 50 years. He held the position of District Governor for the Lions Club and participated internationally in Japan.

Above all else he loved being with his family. Terrance cherished time with his 2 sons and 5 grandchildren. Whether it was watching them in sports and other activities, or getting together for family celebrations he loved getting to share time with them. He would tell anyone he met about the lives of his kids and grandkids and how proud he was of them.

A calling hour for Terrance will be held on Thursday, January 23rd, from 11:00am to 12:00pm in the Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, with a funeral service to follow at 12:00pm in the funeral home. Burial in ME will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Sturbridge Lions Club, PO Box #1, Fiskdale, MA 01518.

Students named to Dean's List at Fitchburg State

FITCHBURG — Fitchburg State University President Donna Hodge has announced the students who qualified for inclusion on the Dean's List for the Fall 2024 semester.

A student is placed on the Dean's List for the semester if an average grade of 3.20 or better is attained, and the student is attending the universi-

ty full time.

Fitchburg State University enrolls day and evening students in more than 50 programs of undergraduate and graduate study. The university was established in 1894. Learn more at fitchburg-state.edu.

Brimfield
Gabriel A. Rice

Charlton
Jordan A. Goulas

Fiskdale
Horel Love Kentsa
Shandeep S. Wahra

Southbridge
Eridon Mehmeti

Sturbridge
Mitchell W. Curboy
Grace Hope K. Kentsa
Vanshika S. Patel

Local residents earn Dean's List honors from MassBay Community College

WELLESLEY HILLS — The following local residents have been named to the MassBay Community College Dean's List, achieving this outstanding academic honor for the fall 2024 semester.

Charlene Stubbert of Charlton, who studies General Studies.

Brandon Thorn of Southbridge, who studies Cyber Security.

To be eligible for the MassBay Dean's List, students must complete at least six credits of college-level courses, be in good standing with the College, and earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

Roger Williams University announces Dean's List

BRISTOL, R.I. — Select students have been named to the Fall 2024 Dean's List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I. Full-time students who complete 12 or more credits per semester and earn a GPA of 3.4 or higher are placed on

the Dean's List that semester.

Christopher Davey of Charlton
Cam Hackett of Charlton

Mason DeSimone of Sturbridge
Drew Lemansky of Sturbridge

About RWU
Roger Williams University is a comprehensive university with a liberal arts core and professional programs, with campuses on the coast of Bristol and in the state capital of Providence, Rhode Island. Across eight schools of study, we provide real-world learning focused on social and environmental justice, small classes, and direct access to faculty and staff. Our students create powerful combinations of degrees, credentials,

research and internship opportunities, study-abroad programs, and involvement in clubs, student organizations, and athletics. Our Northeast location facilitates a strategic network between New York and Boston for community-engaged research and career opportunities for our students and alumni. Graduating with a unique skill set and the passion to make an impact in their careers, our students become the changemakers and leaders our world needs next.



SNHU announces Fall 2024 President's List

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Fall 2024 President's List. The fall terms run from September to December.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the

reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Hannah Burke of Charlton
Makenzie Woods of Charlton
Loriauna Graika of Charlton

Helen Salce of Southbridge
Karla Maldonado of Southbridge
Marysol Cruz of Southbridge
Pearl Lutta of Southbridge
Daysia Forbis of Southbridge
Sandy Jones of Sturbridge
Courtney Plainte of Sturbridge

Southern New Hampshire

University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit, accredited institution with a 92-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 200,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, New Hampshire. Recognized

as one of the "Most Innovative" regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner.



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LEGALS

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO25P0087EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**
Estate Of:
**Genessee Marie Alicea
Date of Death: 11/20/2024**

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 02/04/2025.** This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: January 10, 2025
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
January 23, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508)831-2200
Docket No. W025C0019CA
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE
NAME**

In the matter of:
**Maureen Anne Gulekxon
A Petition to Change Name of Adult** has been filed by **Maureen Anne Gulekxon of Southbridge MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: **Maureen Reardon Gulekxon**
IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 02/11/2025 at 10 a.m. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: January 14 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
January 23, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. WO25P0079PM
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF
PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT
OF CONSERVATOR OR OTHER
PROTECTIVE ORDER PURSUANT
TO G.L.c. 190B, § 5-304 & § 5-405
In the matter of: Robert Hall
Of: Charlton MA
RESPONDENT**
(Person to be Protected/Minor)

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Tonya Landry of Charlton, MA**, in the above captioned matter alleging that **Robert Hall** is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that Sara Spooner of Auburn, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve **With Personal Surety** on the bond. The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file

with this court.
You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **02/11/2025.** This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
January 08, 2025

Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate
January 23, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. WO25P0076GD
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF
PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF
GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED
PERSON PURSUANT TO
G.L. c. 190B, §5-304
In the matter of:
Robert Hall
Of: Charlton, MA
RESPONDENT**

Alleged Incapacitated Person
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Tonya Landry of Charlton, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that Robert Hall is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Sara Spooner of Auburn, MA** (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.
The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.
You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **02/11/2025.** This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
January 8, 2025
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate
January 23, 2025

**MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF
REAL ESTATE**
By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Joseph M. Sena and Rebecca J. Racine to First Franklin A Division of Nat. City Bank of IN dated September 23, 2005 and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 37385, Page 365, as assigned by Assignment of Mortgage dated November 7, 2005; recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, Book 37850, Page 87, and by Assignment dated June 1, 2008; recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, Book 43128, Page 139, and by Assignment dated August 18, 2017; recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, Book 57770, Page 79, and by Corrective Assignment dated October 6, 2017; recorded in Worcester County

(Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, Book 57875, Page 375, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction at 12:00 PM, on February 6, 2025,** on the premises known as **345 New Boston Road, Sturbridge, Massachusetts**, the premises described in said mortgage, together with all the rights, easements, and appurtenances thereto, to wit: The land with the buildings thereon, situated on New Boston Road, Sturbridge, Worcester County, Massachusetts as *Lot 101 on a Plan entitled "Plan of Lots in Sturbridge, Massachusetts surveyed for Frederick E. LaVergne and Gail P. LaVergne dated March 3, 2004, and recorded in the Worcester Registry of deeds in Plan Book 807, Plan 98, more particularly bounded and described as follows:
Lot #101
Beginning at an iron pin in a corner of walls at the southeast corner of tract herein described on the northerly side of New Boston Road at the southwest corner of land, now or formerly of Susan J. Hawkins;
Thence South 47 degrees 42' 51" along a stone wall on the northerly side of said New Boston Road a distance of 150.00 feet to a re-rod in said stone wall;
Thence North 57 degrees 08' 26" West along Lot 102 a distance of 32.52 feet to re-rod;
Thence North 44 degrees 29; 27" West along said Lot 102 a distance of 359.86 feet to a re-rod at Lot 345R;
Thence North 23 degrees 16' 06" East, along 345 R a distance of 60.63 feet to a re-rod at said Hawkins land;
Thence South 57 degrees 59' 18" East along said Hawkins land a distance of 432.25 feet to the point of beginning.
The above described lot 101 contains 1.0000 acres.
This conveyance is subject to and with the benefit of easements, restrictions, rights of way and other matters of record insofar as now in force and applicable.

*Due to typographical error, the Lot was inadvertently referred as being Lot 103 in one line of the description attached to the mortgage.
Terms of Sale: These premises are being sold subject to any and all unpaid real estate taxes, water rates, municipal charges and assessments, condominium charges, expenses, costs, and assessments, if applicable, federal tax liens, partition wall rights, statutes, regulations, zoning, subdivision control, or other municipal ordinances or bylaws respecting land use, configuration, building or approval, or bylaws, statutes or ordinances regarding the presence of lead paint, asbestos or other toxic substances, sanitary codes, housing codes, tenancy, and , to the extent that they are recorded prior to the above mortgage, any easements, rights of way, restrictions, confirmation or other matters of record.
Purchaser shall also bear all state and county deeds excise tax. The deposit of \$10,000.00 is to be paid in cash or bank or certified check at the time and place of the sale, with the balance of the purchase price to be paid by bank or certified check within forty-five (45) days after the date of the sale, to be deposited in escrow with Guatta and Benson, LLC, at 73 Princeton Street, Suite 208, North Chelmsford, Massachusetts.
In the event that the successful bidder at the foreclosure sale shall default in purchasing the within described property according to the terms of this Notice of Sale and/or the terms of the Memorandum of Sale executed at the time of the foreclosure, the Mortgagee reserves the right to sell the property by foreclosure deed to the second highest bidder or, thereafter, to the next highest bidders, providing that said bidder shall deposit with said attorney, the amount of the required deposit as set forth herein within five (5) business days after written notice of the default of the previous highest bidder.
Other terms, if any, are to be announced at the sale.
Dated: January 9th, 2025
Present holder of said mortgage, Wilmington Trust, National Association, as Successor Trustee to Citibank, N.A., as Trustee for First Franklin Mortgage Loan Trust, Mortgage Loan Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2005-FF12 by its Attorneys, Guatta and Benson, LLC, Peter V. Guatta, Esquire, P.O. Box 519, Chelmsford, MA 01824
January 16, 2025
January 23, 2025
January 30, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO25P00115EA
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**
Estate Of:

**Judith M Holewa
Also Known As:
Judith Holewa
Date of Death: March 02, 2024**
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of :
Petitioner **Joseph E. Holewa of Charlton, MA**
A Will has been admitted to informal probate.
Joseph E. Holewa of Charlton, MA has been informally appointed as Personal Representative of said estate to serve **without** Surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
January 23, 2025

**Sturbridge Planning Board and Sturbridge Tree Warden
Notice of Public Hearing for Scenic Road Application for Tree Removal
Monday, February 10, 2025
Town Hall, Veteran's Memorial Hall –
308 Main Street
Sturbridge, MA 01566
National Grid
Podunk Road**

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 87 and Ch. 40, § 15C and the Sturbridge General Bylaws, Chapter 230 – Scenic Roads, and Chapter 270 - Trees, the Sturbridge Planning Board and Sturbridge Tree Warden will hold a joint public hearing at the Center Office Building, 301 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA on **Monday, February 10, 2025 at 6:35 p.m in the Town Hall, Veteran's Memorial Hall and/or by virtual means** if circumstances warrant, in accordance with applicable law; on the Scenic Road Application of National Grid of 939 Southbridge Street, Worcester, MA for property located along Podunk Road in Sturbridge. The applicant requests a Scenic Roads Special Permit for the removal of approximately 110 town owned trees, and 9 trees that are town and privately owned (trees are located on the property line). National Grid wants to conduct the tree removal to accommodate the upgrade of overhead electrical equipment by installing taller poles and spacer cable.
The trees are located on Podunk Road and Walker Pond Road (One 21" Ash tree near 2 Walker Pond Road). The following trees between 2 Walker Pond Road and Putnam Road marked for removal include 8 Ash (4"-22" DBH), 2 Birch (8"-10" DBH), 4 Cherry (5"-13" DBH), 1 Elm (9" DBH), 1 Hemlock (20" DBH), 9 Maple (9"-40" DBH), 1 Norway Maple (15" DBH) and 21 Oak (6"-40" DBH).
Additionally, the following trees which are located between Pole 76.5 and 79 on Podunk Road marked for removal include 14 Ash (4"-21" DBH), 2 Cherry (6"-7" DBH), 1 Elm (17" DBH), 12 Maple (3"-20" DBH), 10 Oak (4"-14" DBH), 28 Pine (4"-19" DBH), 2 Poplar (11"-16" DBH), and 1 Spruce (11" DBH).
Each tree is posted. A complete list of the proposed tree removal locations, species, size and photographs can be found on the Sturbridge Town Website <https://www.sturbridge.gov/planning-board/pages/recent-filings> or arrangements can be made to view the application packet by contacting the Sturbridge Planning Department at (508) 347-2508 or by email at jlacy@sturbridge.gov.

Any person wishing to be heard should appear at the time and place designated.
Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting will be conducted in person and may be conducted via remote means if circumstance warrant, in accordance with applicable law. This means that members of the public body as well as members of the public may access this meeting in person, or via virtual means.
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/472675877>
In the event the meeting is also held via remote means, every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post of the Town's website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of the proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.
Charles Blanchard
Chairperson
January 23, 2025
January 30, 2025

Any person wishing to be heard should appear at the time and place designated.
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Charles Blanchard
Chairperson
January 23, 2025
January 30, 2025

Bulbs

continued from page 9

in BLS/HCP/CPR (Basic Life Support, Health Care Provider Card-

pulmonary Resuscitation), Medical Administration Program (MAP),

and Mental Health First Aid. She was a CNA at River Terrace Rehabil-

itation and Healthcare Center (Lancaster) and is currently a direct sup-

port professional at Venture Community Services (Sturbridge).

CBSG

continued from page 7

Much of the discussion with the hearing's one resident, Kevin Buxton, revolved around other housing issues and the rail trail.

Dean said the "fair market rent" in our area is defined by Worcester County standards and set as \$1,200/\$1,600/\$2,000/\$2,200 for one to four bedrooms, respectively. As of the 2020 census, Southbridge had about 7,800 housing units, and has since added the Wells and 5 Case Street projects, she said.

To Buxton, those have "risen significantly" in recent years, and many people confuse "affordable" with "sub-

sided" housing. "For a \$1,200 apartment, you'd have to bring home \$3,600" a month to stay below the official 30 percent standard, he said. (In reality, many pay far more than that, since the standard is supposed to include utilities and many rents don't.)

Regarding the rail trail, he said he expects people to "have an outcry of why don't you have a bridge" when they start using it. That refers to the rotary, where the trail cuts down to the sidewalk on East Main Street and follows the surface to Walnut Street, where it returns to the railbed because the grant funding the trail construction (which is not CDBG) doesn't include bridging

the rotary. Instead, for now, the trail will dead end on both sides there as overlooks.

Buxton also cited a parcel across from Big Y as potentially being worth obtaining in trade for town-owned land elsewhere. While he feels that's not big enough for a strip mall, it can be used for smaller businesses tied into the rail trail (which runs behind it) and a crossing to the plaza. Furthermore, clearing some of it will enable passers-by to see the arch bridge there.

In general, he opined that "these areas are going to bloom" because of the trail. Construction is slated to begin this spring, and the Conservation Commission recently walked key parts

of it in preparation for their public hearing in February.

Regarding past projects, Starkey said the fiscal 2021 McCann Fields work "helped transform that area," but drainage and the retention ponds for the ADA-access trail to Capillo Park still need work because they "didn't work." Dean noted the town tried to get Mechanic Street funded by CDBG, but the state rejected it on the grounds Southbridge couldn't clearly show it would benefit the people living there more than the commuters using it.

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

Gardening

continued from page 7

from compaction and erosion during heavy downpours. Healthy soil is the key to growing plants that are better able to tolerate environmental stresses.

Manage water that falls on your property. Check with your local municipality for any restrictions or support for these efforts. Create

rain gardens to capture, clean and direct rainfall to groundwater to help manage water where it falls. These also support pollinators and provide added beauty to your landscape. Enlist the help of rain barrels, if permitted, to capture rainwater to use on ornamental plantings and containers when needed.

Take this interest one step further and volunteer to be part of

a network of volunteer weather watchers. The Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS) is a non-profit community-based network of volunteers that provides daily measurements of rain, hail, and snow that fall in their backyards.

The goal of the Network is to provide more localized weather information to scientists, researchers, resource

managers, decision makers and more. The data is used for natural resource, educational and research applications.

Weather watching is a great project for the family or classroom. It helps boost gardening success while increasing our awareness and knowledge of what's happening around us.

Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, includ-

ing Midwest Gardener's Handbook, Revised Edition, and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" in-

Positive

continued from page 7

having more or less time; it's about making the time I already have more meaningful.

If you're like me, wishing for more time in the day or more days in the week, it's not about getting that extra time; it's about making the time we have work better.

The solution isn't in more days—it's in making the ones we already have truly count.

Earthborn

continued from page 6

seats.

But don't stop there. Democracy

requires more than just numerical choices, it requires actual differences in views and ideas that we get a chance to weigh. All too often, when we do

have multiple candidates, they come from the same factions, leaving key segments of town unrepresented and potential solutions unspoken.

Southbridge, let's prove our democracy matters to us in 2025. Don't just get out and vote – get out and run for office.

LEGALS

Public Notice

Notice is hereby given of a public hearing to be held in the George Parent Community Room, second floor of the Town Hall on Tuesday, February 12, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in regards to the application of Mechelle Bibeault d/b/a Ted's Auto, 100 Central St., for the issuance of a Class II License. Those wishing to speak regarding this application will be given an opportunity to be heard.

This notice is also published electronically on www.stonebridgepress.com and on www.masspublicnotice.org

TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE
John D. Jovan Jr., Town Manager
Licensing Authority
January 24, 2025

**TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE
PUBLIC NOTICE
FLOOR COATING WTP**

The Town of Southbridge invites qualified contractors to submit sealed bids for Floor Coating of the Water Treatment Plant. Sealed bids will be received by the Town of Southbridge Town Hall, 41 Elm Street, Southbridge, Massachusetts until 10:00 AM on Wednesday February 12, 2025, for Floor Coating WTP and at that time opened and publicly read. Bid documents are available on the Town Website.

Bidding is per MGL Chapter 30 s39M. Prevailing wage rates per MGL c149 s26 to 27D inclusive issued by Dept. of Labor Standards.

A walk-through of plant will be held beginning at the Water Treatment Plant, 511 Breakneck Road, Southbridge, MA 01550 on Wednesday January

29, at 10:00 AM. A representative of the Town will be available to address questions.

Envelopes must be clearly marked "Bid – Floor Coating WTP". A 5% bid deposit shall be included with sealed bids. The successful Bidder will be required to provide a 50% payment bond.

The Town shall award a contract to the lowest responsible and eligible bidder. The Town reserves the right to reject any or all bids if in the public interest to do so, and to waive any informalities in the bids. Late bids will not be accepted.

Town of Southbridge
Jack Jovan
Town Manager
January 16, 2025
January 23, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200**

**Docket No. WO25P0127EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**
Estate Of:
**Margaret A Sorenson
Date of Death: 10/15/2024**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Garry F Fleming of Rochester MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal
De- c r e e

and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that:

Garry F Fleming of Rochester MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 02/11/2025.**

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 15, 2024
Stephanie K. Fattman,

Register of Probate
January 23, 2025

Pursuant to Mass General Laws Chapter 105A, the contents of the following spaces:

H109 (Crystal L Wimbish) & H155 (Michael J Johnson) & H167 (Isabel G Mazzone) located at 25 Brimfield Road, Holland, MA will be sold to satisfy the owners lien of Storage Plus. Sale date is February 12, 2025 @1:00 PM. Inspection between 12:30 PM and 1:00 PM on February 12, 2025. Sealed bids must be hand delivered by 1:00 PM on February 12, 2025. All goods must be purchased with cash as is, 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.
January 23, 2025
January 30, 2025

**TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE
TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The Town of Southbridge Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on February 3, 2025, at 6:30 PM, in the Town Council Chambers, 41 Elm Street, Southbridge, MA, in accordance with MGL, Chapter 140, Section 157, to hear a dog complaint against Julio Guzman and to obtain an order with respect to the control or disposition of dogs found to be uncontrollable by their owner or keeper.

Anyone wishing to be heard should appear at the time and place designated.
January 23, 2025



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We Want Your Listings!

Featured New Listing - Coming Soon!!



OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY 12:00-2:30PM
WEBSTER - 61 PARK AVENUE

First Time Offered!! This Unique, Impressive, Well Maintained Custom Built Ranch Style Home! Incredible Functionality & More! Built in 2001 & offers 1,462 sf +/- of One Level Living, 3 BRs, 2 Full Baths! Fabulous Split Floor Plan w/2 BRs & a Full Bath w/Double Walk In Shower, & a Private Main BR Suite w/Private Full Bath, Walk-in Closet. Spacious Entry Foyer. Lg Triple Casement Windows overlooking rolling Landscape!
\$469,000

* June Cazeault * Laurie Sullivan * Lori Johnson-Chausse * William Gilmore II * Maureen Cimoch * Bryan Pelletier

SOUTHBRIDGE - 140-152 HAMILTON



ON DEPOSIT

13 Units - 4 Well Maintained & Updated Multi-Family Buildings with 2 Commercial Spaces! Located within the "Central Core" District of Downtown Southbridge!! ... Mixed Use Zoning !! Heated Garage Space - Room enough for up to 18 Vehicles!!
\$1,300,000

Featured New Listing - Coming Soon!!

WEBSTER - 25 SLATER ST



Location! Location! This Oversized & Well Maintained 2 Family offers 2,472 sf Total! Apt 1 ->1st Floor Unit ->has 1,052 sf, 3 BRs & 1 Bath! Apt 2 ->2nd & 3rd Floor Unit has 2 levels ->1,420 sf, 5 BRs, 2 Baths. Corner lot w/.30 acre, 22'x22' Two Car Garage! 12'x16' Concrete Patio. Apartments fully occupied. PLEASE DO NOT TRESPASS onto the Property.
\$559,900

DUDLEY 3 PRINCE CIRCLE



SORRY, SOLD!

Come to Pierpont Estates! Young 2100 Sq Ft +/- Colonial on 1+ acre! Featuring 8 rooms, 4 Bedrooms! Master Bed w/Master Bath & Walk-in Closet! 2 Baths and 1/2 Bath! Cozy propane gas fireplace. Hardwood flooring & carpeting. Central air. 2 Car Garage. Yr. 2024 Taxes \$5448 .
Assisted sale. \$620,000

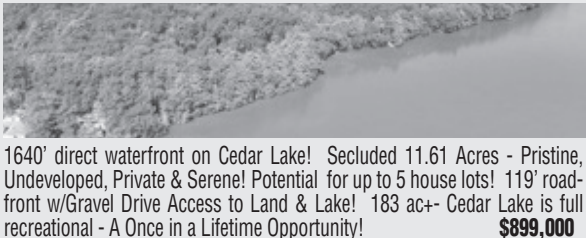
OXFORD - 25 SUTTON AVENUE



ON DEPOSIT

Location - Location! Move-in ready Commercial Office &/or Retail Space ! Ideal for >>> Small Businesses, Companies looking to expand, Banks, Medical facilities etc...2 Level Free Standing Building on a Corner Lot - Located in an Active area of Restaurants & Retail 1 Minute to Rt 395 & Rt 20...Zoned GB 10 units - .71 Acre - 26 Parking Spots
\$1,150,000

STURBRIDGE - 66 WESTWOOD DR
1640' FRONTAGE - 11.61 ACRES! WATERFRONT LAND



1640' direct waterfront on Cedar Lake! Secluded 11.61 Acres - Pristine, Undeveloped, Private & Serene! Potential for up to 5 house lots! 119' road-front w/Gravel Drive Access to Land & Lake! 183 ac- Cedar Lake is full recreational - A Once in a Lifetime Opportunity!
\$899,000



SORRY, SOLD!

WEBSTER - 38 COLONIAL RD. LAKE RESIDENTIAL

Webster Lake Area! Investors take notice! Charming Ranch with possible extra buildable lot! Home has 2 bedrooms, 1 Bath. 1 Car Garage. Recent Furnace and Ductless Mini-Split System. Vinyl Siding, Replacement Windows. 100CB. Interior needs updating*
\$399,900

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagogmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg



WATERFRONT


Webster Lake - 237 Thompson Rd.

FOR RENT...1st floor 1 Bedroom Apartment! Sliders to large deck with outstanding views! Located in the mid section of the Lake.


Catch the sunrises!
Heated by fuel efficient Natural Gas forced hot air. Enjoy Lake living!

Let's talk Webster Lake!

There are very few waterfront homes available for sale & many Buyers waiting for an opportunity to purchase. Call us at the Hope Real Estate Group for a no obligation consultation. If you are thinking of selling a Waterfront home on Webster Lake, please contact us to discuss private showings to pre-approved Buyer prospects.



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Diane Luong 774-239-2937
Maria Reed 508-873-9254
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Vicki Bennett, Client Coordinator
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OXFORD NEW LISTING



* 2 bedrooms each unit* 1st floor vacant
* new septic system* garage with storage
9 Quobaug Ave \$425,000



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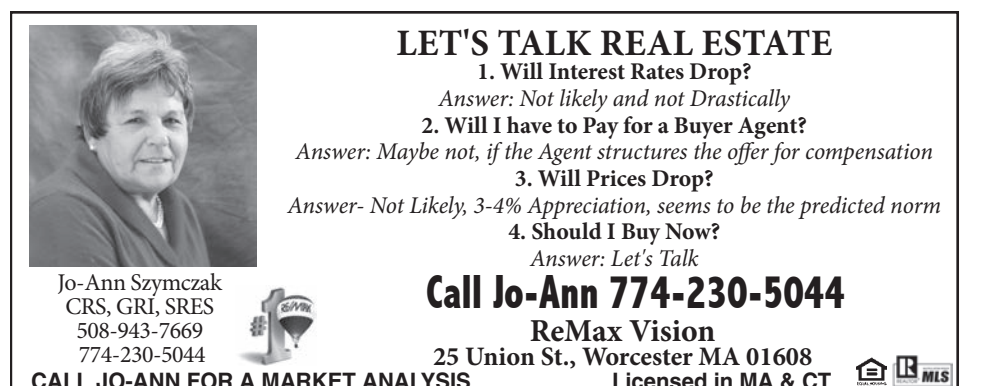
Contact Mikaela Today
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mikaela@stonebridgepress.news



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I look forward to serving you in all of your real estate ventures!
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• Selling
• Investing

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sandigrzyb@aol.com

65 Southbridge Street, Auburn, MA 01501



LET'S TALK REAL ESTATE

1. Will Interest Rates Drop?
Answer: Not likely and not Drastically
2. Will I have to Pay for a Buyer Agent?
Answer: Maybe not, if the Agent structures the offer for compensation
3. Will Prices Drop?
Answer: Not Likely, 3-4% Appreciation, seems to be the predicted norm
4. Should I Buy Now?
Answer: Let's Talk

Call Jo-Ann 774-230-5044
ReMax Vision
25 Union St., Worcester MA 01608
Licensed in MA & CT

kids' corner

What's the Difference?

Find the four differences between these pictures.



Answers: 1. Missing glue 2. Red piece on boat is larger 3. Red tool in background is missing 4. There is a second black scrubber in back right

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1848: James W. Marshall finds gold at Sutter's Mill near Sacramento.

1908: The first Boy Scout troop is organized in England by Robert Baden-Powell.

1984: The Macintosh personal computer is made available to American consumers.

NEW WORD

PASTIME

activity done regularly for enjoyment

Body FACT:



Hobbies can keep this part of the body stimulated.

Answer: Brain

How they say that in...

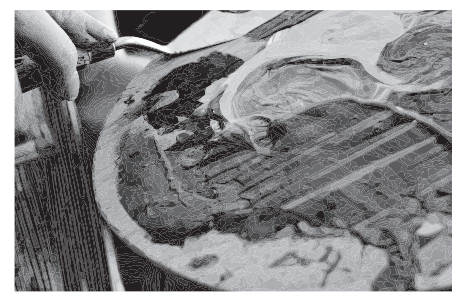
- English:** Hobby
- Spanish:** Hobby
- Italian:** Hobby
- French:** Passe-temps
- German:** Hobby

Did You Know?

Sewing, like other hobbies, can relax a person by focusing the mind on the task and not on other things in your life.



Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Paint palette

Winter CLEARANCE SALE!

SAVE 20-60%

We are in the process of selling out some of our current stock to make room for new 2024 models.

Because of this, we are offering savings throughout the store!

- ❖ Bedrooms
- ❖ Living Rooms
- ❖ Recliners
- ❖ Occasional Pieces
- ❖ Entertainment Centers
- ❖ Sealy Mattresses

Some items are one of a kind floor samples. *No orders will be taken on these items. Floor Sample Clearance items are sold on a first come first serve basis.

www.sundeenfurnitureinc.com

Sundeen Furniture

241 Providence Rd., Whitinsville • 508-234-8777

FREE Delivery & Removal • FREE Financing Available
M.T.W. 9:30-6:00; TH., FRI. 9:30-7:00; SAT. 9:30-6:00; SUN 11-5

MAXELL LUCIANO'S BANQUET CENTER

LUCIANO'S COTTON CLUB
presents

St. Valentine's Day Serenade

Sinatra

Featuring Michael Dutra as

SINATRA

and his 9 Piece Swing Band!

START SPREADING THE NEWS!

SINATRA RETURNS TO UNION STATION

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 14TH

TICKETS
\$75
Per person

Cocktails
6:00 - 7:30

Includes:
Sit Down Dinner
Choice of NY Sirloin,
Stuffed Chicken,
Veg Lasagna
or Salmon, Dessert
Tax, Tip and Show

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For Tickets and Reservations

2025

maxwelllucianos.com
Storm Date: Sunday February 16th