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Thursday-Friday, June 13-14, 2024

Sturbridge approves \$42.7 million budget with new moderator

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

STURBRIDGE — This Meeting was a non-controversial affair, with year's Annual Town

very large majorities approving every item with only a handful of questions.

The only real novelty was the new moderator, Leigh Mapplebeck, who was elected a couple weeks ago to replace Mike Caplette, who was stepping down after 23 years in the role. She's the town's first female moderator, and noted she didn't expect to do it as long as he did. She implemented a "traffic light" system, handled by a couple of students, by which speakers would

know how much time they had left of their four minutes – yellow meant one minute, red meant they were done.

As usual, the night's big item was the \$42.7 million fiscal 2025 budget. Some of its key areas are \$22.3 million for education, \$4 million for police, \$2.2 million for fire, \$1.4 million for DPW, \$612,600 for the library, and \$5.5 million for the "unclassified" budget (including insurance and the like).

The only one of them that even drew a "hold"

for questions was the veterans' services item. Eric Reynolds, a former veterans' services officer in Auburn, sought clarity that they were talking about Chapter 115 benefits. When told they were, Reynolds expressed concern that another item hiring someone to help promote low-income and veterans' housing will probably draw more vets to town needing services over the next few years. In Auburn, he said, "Chapter 115 almost tripled unexpectedly" do-

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Charlton selectmen implements new code of conduct

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — The Charlton Board of Selectmen has adopted a new Code of Conduct Policy that holds any elected or appointed representative of the town accountable in relation to their interactions with other officials, town employees, volunteers, and members of the public.

The policy was recommended by Board of Selectman Chairman Peter

Lancette and drafted by Town Administrator Andrew Golas who brought it to selectmen on May 28 for consideration. Golas explained the basic concept of the policy and how it was put together.

"The Code of Conduct outlines the manner in which both elected and appointed officials on town boards are expected to conduct themselves in the performance of their duties," said Golas. "The draft was based on recom-

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Opacum Land Trust selected as 2024 TerraCorps Service Site

BRIMFIELD — The Opacum Land Trust is excited to announce that they have been selected as a 2024 TerraCorps service site. TerraCorps places AmeriCorps members in 11-month service terms across a network of land-based community nonprofits working towards equi-

table land use, food justice and environmental sustainability. Opacum Land Trust is now recruiting for a Land Stewardship Coordinator position. Land Stewardship Coordinators (LSC) build the long-term capacity of their Service Sites by creating networks of volunteers to

support hands-on stewardship of community lands. TerraCorps service members receive a stipend for their service.

TerraCorps is an environmental nonprofit working at the intersection of land conservation, sustainable ag-

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Courtesy

JACOB EDWARDS LIBRARY WELCOMES "BANJO PICKIN' GALS"

On Thursday, June 13, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., the Jacob Edwards Library is pleased to present Paula Bradley and MaryLou Ferrante, a.k.a. Banjo Blue. They will present an acoustic musical program with historic content. All welcome! The program is free and open to the public, and is supported by a grant from the Southbridge Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. This program showcases groundbreaking female banjo players from 1920-1940's, their stories, songs and struggles. Artists featured include: Bertie Mae Dickens, Cousin Emmy, Matokie Slaughter Lily Mae Ledford, Samantha Bumgarner, Ola Belle Reed, Maggie Parke-Hammons and Maybelle Carter, among others. Both Bradley and Ferrante are devoted to learning and sharing traditional American music, and their program, "Banjo Pickin' Gals," explores female banjo players in song and story, with a little flatfoot dancing to boot!



Gus Steeves

Brooke Roberts, right, talks to visitors of her Wardrobe on Wheels truck at Southbridge Common Saturday.

Wardrobe on Wheels completes clothing cycle locally

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

STURBRIDGE — For Brooke Roberts, living a life in Los Angeles and New York City television wasn't enough.

"I told myself once I do that for a while, I'll start my own charity," she said.

And she did. A few months ago, her dream turned into reality as Wardrobe on Wheels – a truck full of donated clothing to give out to people in need in our area. After a couple of public collection days (and a lot of stuff dropped at her house), Roberts started distributing her supply last Saturday

at Southbridge Common, where Well-storm was having what they hope is the first of many game days.

Wardrobe on Wheels aims to solve a problem a lot of people experience more-or-less under the radar: As the economy tanks, people with fewer means end up having to spend more on things like food, rent and health care, leaving less for more discretionary purchases like clothing.

According to an August 2023 article at finmasters.com by Ruchi Gupta (<https://finmasters.com/how-much-do-we-spend-on-clothing/#gref>), the cost of clothes differs a lot between

Turn To **WARDROBE** page A14

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Gus Steeves

Visitors talk while looking over Paulette Renaud's "Dawn."



Gus Steeves

Cas Reyes talks about their fiber art.



Gus Steeves

The show's artists included John Polakowski, Mara DeWitte, Gabby Gonzalez, Michele Fontaine, Karen Ryker, Laura Cenedella and Cas Reyes.



Gus Steeves

Laura Cenedella talks to a couple friends on the edge of the show.

Artistic Pride on view at Jacob Edwards Library

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE — LGBTQ+ pride was in evidence last Thursday at Jacob Edwards Library, as a couple dozen area residents turned out to support their peers' artistic creativity for the annual Pride Group Show.

While mostly paintings, the display also features drawings, fiber art and other media. Some are wholly from the mind of their creators, some pay homage to places and past artists, and a significant number show reverence for nature.

The latter is particularly true for Laura Cenedella's submissions, many of which are based on photos. She said she's "intrigued by the ocean" and nature, with "so many colors and tex-

tures" and the "kaleidoscope" of how light plays through trees, among other things.

Yet she admits her art environments tend to be "kind of moody," in part because she loves taking photos and painting in the evenings and mornings "when things come alive."

Although their art is less traditional, Cas Reyes said it's also often nature-inspired. Their centerpiece in this show is a large fiber piece centered on three different kinds of crystals they noted represent chakras, ties into their reiki practice and "helps me tap into spirituality."

Reyes said their mother encouraged

art by giving supplies, but they didn't really find their own style until Covid. That meant tapping into a different relative, grandmother, who had taught them to sew, knit and do macrame. Later, they saw ideas in friends' homes, on Youtube, and elsewhere.

"Art was an outlet for me to be myself," they said. "I liked painting, but the final product never looked the way I wanted it." But fabrics did, becoming "my baseline skill."

For Michele Fontaine, Europe is a major inspiration. She often visits a friend in France and shows it in images of the town of Rousillon, her impression of a French parfumerie, and

other scenes. Some of them are based on Robert Adams photos.

When asked what about France inspires her, Fontaine said, "Mostly the light. It's really really clear, and a really really nice contrast with shadows and colors."

For John Polakowski, similar inspiration comes from Cape Cod, where he also often paints from photos.

"James Patterson got the pride thing going" about eight years ago, he said. "This is a good thing for a small town."

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

Cornerstone Bank pledges \$125,000 to Our Bright Future

SOUTHBRIDGE — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with locations throughout Central Massachusetts, recently pledged its ongoing support of Our Bright Future, Inc., by donating \$25,000 a year through 2028—a total donation of \$125,000. The Southbridge-based organization is committed to empowering children and developing future leaders through science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) initiatives.

"We have long been impressed with the people, programs and progress at Our Bright Future," said Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman. "Committing our support for five years will make it easier for the organization's team to plan with confidence. The

funds will help the organization maintain and enhance its STEM programs and ultimately extend its reach to more students."

Last year, Cornerstone's \$25,000 donation was earmarked for two programs within the organization: the STEMing Into Sports Summer Program and the Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) STEM After-School Program. In 2022, Cornerstone's \$25,000 donation supported the purchase of a van to help children and teens get to and from the organization's summer camp and after-school programs.

Our Bright Future Inc. was established in 2016 to empower youth and develop bright leaders through robotics, 3D printing, sports training and guidance in academics. Through various programs, it incorporates education, empowerment, discipline, leadership, diversity and respect to help students shape the future. To learn more about Our Bright Future Inc. or to make a tax-deductible donation, visit ourbrightfutureinc.org.

About Cornerstone Bank

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



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Jalexia is a happy child with a vibrant personality. Jalexia is spunky, very free-spirited and will capture your heart. She enjoys riding her bike, playing outside, swimming, watching movies, playing games on her tablet, and participating in different community activities. Jalexia is extremely resilient and loves to be the center of attention. She has a very outgoing personality, is accepting of everyone in her foster home and is actively engaged with her foster family in all the activities that they do. She enjoys taking classes in Tae Kwon. She does well in school, is performing at grade level and gets very good grades.

<https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/8336>

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.

☂ ☂ ☂ ☂ ☂ ☂

Charlton City UMC launches food pantry

CHARLTON — Charlton City United Methodist Church recently launched a food pantry to serve members of the local community who don't know where their next meal is coming from.

Called Manna, the new program operates Saturdays 10 a.m. to noon at the church at 74 Stafford St. in Charlton. A variety of staple foods are available, from canned food to pasta to cereal, along with household supplies like toilet paper and tissues.

While most people take for granted being able to eat when they're hungry, there are those in the community cannot do that: their cupboards are bare, or nearly so, and food insecurity has become a daily struggle for individuals and families.

Manna one of several community outreach ministries to fulfill the Charlton City UMC's mission of "being a scriptural 'good neighbor'" and serve as a resource for the people in the community.

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Local officials team up with DEA for new drug awareness campaign

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — Several area officials recently teamed up with the DEA in a unique new drug awareness campaign.

The New England Field Division of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) partnered with local law enforcement agencies and college e-sports teams to host the debut One Pill Can Kill Game Over Tournament.

Event organizers are using the increasingly popular e-sports platform to help educate young people about the dangers of fentanyl.

“We were excited to partner with the DEA



Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis attends a recent awareness program.

New England Division and the Worcester County Sheriff's Office for the One Pill Can Kill Game Over Tournament at All Systems Go MA,” read a statement released by the Worcester County District Attorney's Of-

ice.

Each week, 22 New England teenagers between the ages of 14-18 die from drug poisoning or overdose events, according to a recent study conducted by the New England Journal of Med-

icine.

At the One Pill Can Kill Game Over Tournament held on June 6, participating college teams included Worcester Polytechnic Institute, the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, Boston University, Emerson College, Post University, the University of New Hampshire, and the University of Southern Maine.

“With an overwhelming 97 percent of Americans between the ages of 12 and 17 engaged in video gaming, the DEA is looking to reach young people where they often spend time—in the virtual world,” read a statement released by the DEA.

The One Pill Can Kill Game Over Tournament was hosted by Clark University.

“The One Pill Can Kill campaign aims to educate young people about the dangers of the current drug supply,

with laced street drugs and counterfeit pills,” read the statement released by the DA's Office.

Fentanyl, a synthetic opioid, is involved in the majority of drug poisonings and overdose deaths across the country.

“Fentanyl is 50 times more potent than heroin, and just two milligrams—the

amount that can fit on the tip of a pencil—can be deadly,” the DEA statement read. “Often, people buy what they think is a legitimate prescription pill like Percocet or Xanax on social media, but it turns out they've unknowingly purchased a fentanyl pill.”

In 2023, the DEA seized approximately 15.7 million potentially lethal doses of fentanyl in New England alone.

For local officials and DEA leaders alike, it's exciting to launch a new strategy for reaching teenage audiences.

“I am thrilled we are able to team up with these amazing e-sports teams to host this One Pill Can Kill Game Over Tournament in New England and increase awareness about the dangers of fentanyl,” said DEA Associate Administrator Jon DeLena.

The DEA thanks All Systems Go, The Rendon Group, participating colleges, and the e-sports community for their support of the tournament.

“We look forward to continued collaboration with the DEA and the Worcester County Sheriff's Office to attack this crisis. Thank you to everyone that joined in support of these efforts,” read the statement issued by the DA's Office.

Looking ahead, local officials are eager to continue working with community partners to combat the crisis.

“We are blessed to have the DEA actively working in our area and calling attention to the One Pill Can Kill campaign to educate all ages on the dangers of counterfeit pills,” read a statement released by the Worcester County Sheriff's Office.

Folk troubadours offering daily hikes, free concerts throughout Hampden County

REGION — Since 2010, singer-songwriters Mark Mandeville & Raianne Richards have organized a grassroots bipedal trek annually to raise awareness of recreational greenspace throughout the state and create folk coffeehouse-style musical events in each town. This June, sponsored by the Massachusetts Cultural Council and Blackstone Valley Music & Performing Arts Collaborative, the 13th Annual Massachusetts Walking Tour will offer a series of daily public hikes and free community concerts, while walking with their backpacks and instruments from Holland to Wilbraham.

Hiking properties featured include Westville Dam, Stevens Brook Sichel Community Forest, Lucy Stone Park, Midura Family Conservation Area and Rice Preserve/Sunrise Peak. Most days include an option for a short hike with the group and then each evening a free community concert. The concert venues include the Holland Community Center, Hitchcock Academy in Brimfield, Lucy Stone Park in Warren, Second Congregational Church in Palmer and Wilbraham Public Library. For complete details, visit www.masswalkingtour.org.

The Massachusetts Walking Tour has performed more than 135 concerts in 120 towns across the state, partnering with the Nation-

al Parks Service, Mass Audubon, Trustees, DCR, Freedoms Way and AMC to hike sections of the Appalachian Trail, Mid-State Trail, New England National Scenic Trail, Bay Circuit Trail, Cape Cod Rail Trail, South Coast Bikeway and many of the region's smaller recreational greenspaces. In 2017, Senator Ed Markey officially recognized the Massachusetts Walking Tour in the congressional record for an annual commitment to promoting trails, arts and culture throughout the state.

“Our intention is simply to help people understand the importance of greenspace in our busy lives by inviting them out for a walk, to see younger and older folks hiking together, sharing thoughts on a nice day out in the woods,” states co-founder Mark Mandeville. “As for the concerts, we do our best to create a respectful listening environment which highlights local performers, artists and folks with good work to announce – in that way, each concert is unique.”

Aside from organizing the Massachusetts Walking Tour, performing and recording their original

compositions, Mandeville and Richards have served for over a decade as music teachers in central MA and this year in 2024 the couple helped form the nonprofit Blackstone Valley Music and Performing Arts Collaborative to assist

the operation of their music school, continuing all the great programs there such as individualized music lessons, Rock Band Camp and Community Coffeehouse nights.

June 21
Daily Hike: Westville Recreation Area 9 a.m.
125 Wallace Rd., Sturbridge

Concert: Holland Community Center, 6 p.m.
40 Brimfield Rd., Holland

June 22
Daily Hike: Stevens Brook Sichel Community Forest 10 a.m.
1 Blodgett Rd., Holland

Concert: Hitchcock Academy 6 p.m.
2 Brookfield Rd., Brimfield

June 23
Daily Hike and Concert: Lucy Stone Park 3 p.m.
199 Old West Brookfield Rd., Warren

June 24
Daily Hike: Midura Family Conservation Area Noon
568 Old Warren Rd., Palmer

Concert: Second Congregational Church 6 p.m.
1080 Pleasant St., Palmer

June 25
Daily Hike: Sunrise Peak/ Rice Preserve Noon

Concert: Wilbraham Public Library 6 p.m.
25 Crane Park Dr., Wilbraham

Friends of St. Luke's holding “virtual car wash” fundraiser

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Friends of St. Lukes will be holding a “virtual” car wash during the month of June. This fundraiser will enable us to continue the wonderful work that we are doing at St. Luke's Guesthouse.

Since the car wash is “virtual,” you will not be getting a clean car; however, we would

like you to donate as if you were. Donations can be made via the website, our Facebook page, personal or business check, or tithe.ly. We thank you in advance for your generous support.

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Alpine Drive dog hearing taken “under advisement”

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE — The town council took “under advisement” evidence surrounding two potentially dangerous dogs on Alpine Drive last week, with Chair Scott Lazo saying they’ll issue their decision in writing.

The hearing stemmed from two incidents in March and December 2023 in which the McGarry family reported having dogs owned by Darryus Bass come into their yard and attack their dog and themselves.

“They’ve been traumatized by this,” said sister Jen Gatzke of Webster. “This is absolutely a public safety concern.”

Specifically, she said her sister, Lauren McGarry, usually stays home with their dog Harper because she has a “highly compromised” immune system, and is at serious risk of infection if bitten. “That’s what we worry about all the time.”

Bass said his dogs now have shock collars, but Gatzke said she once had

two foxhounds with such collars that didn’t work. She did note the Bass family have been “good neighbors” and willingly paid earlier treatment bills.

“We need a guarantee this is not going to happen again, period,” she added. “We can’t afford to have it happen again.”

In both incidents, Bass admitted, his dogs (Niko and one who was not identified) ran into the McGarry’s yard after Harper while he wasn’t home. He speculated one happened when his father came to visit, the other when a child opened the door because “they get excited to see people.” The McGarrys said his dogs injured them when they tried to pull Harper to safety.

After the first one, Animal Control Officer Kaitlyn Jewell visited and advised Bass erect a “four-sided containment system” (fences that would prevent the dogs from escaping his land if doors were left open). But she noted she didn’t have the authority absent a Town Council order to require

such work, and Bass only built a fence along part of his boundary. The second incident involved the dogs simply going around it.

After that, Bass said, he added fencing and extra gates from both doors so that the dogs would have to get through. He gave the council photos, but Jewell said she had not been there to verify it.

The McGarrys noted a third incident happened during which Bass’s dogs came over, but they

and Harper were indoors.

As with previous dog hearings, Jewell noted the law gives the council authority to declare these dogs either a “nuisance” or “dangerous.” If the former, the town has a lot more leeway in what to order in the hopes of preventing future incidents and can step up to “dangerous” at a future hearing. If the latter, the law is very restrictive, with five specific requirements potentially including euthanasia. She

noted she tried an “educational approach” after the first incident, then issued a 21D ticket the second time.

Town Manager Jack Jovan said the McGarrys filed their complaint in February, but various issues prevented it from being slated for a hearing until now.

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

Joshua Hyde Library announces virtual, in-person events

STURBRIDGE — On Tuesday, June 18 at 6:30 p.m., the Joshua Hyde Public Library presents “Summer Night Sounds.” What makes those amazing songs we hear outside our window during the warm summer nights? Join Hands on Nature as they teach us how to decipher which fascinating creatures make each sound. Great for all ages. Registration is not required.

Thursday, June 20 at 7 p.m., the library presents an evening with TikTok sensation Mercury Stardust. Join us virtually as Mercury Stardust - The Trans Handy Ma’am talks about her book ‘Safe & Sound’, followed by a moderated Q&A. Ages 13 and older. Registration is required. Go to sturbridgelibrary.org.

REAL ESTATE

BRIMFIELD

\$850,000, 55 Lyman Barnes Rd, Salomone, Mark E, to Nelson, Nicholas P, and Nelson, Anne E.

\$370,000, 1494 Dunhamtown Brimfield Rd, Morales, Arellis O, to Rivera-Diaz, Jorge A.

\$340,000, 73 Hollow Rd, Weston, Linda, to Tunney, Alexis. \$24,000, Saint Clair Rd #6, Williams Robert F Est, and Neal 3rd, Edmond A, to Bixby, Tannya M.

CHARLTON

\$585,000, 24 S Charlton Shore Rd, South Charlton Shore Rt, and Sanchez, Pablo, to Balkman Ft, and Balkman, Irving P.

\$510,000, 52 J Davis Rd, Thibaud, William E, and Thibaud, Ann M, to Gutman, Alexander.

\$440,000, 73 Blood Rd, Aquafresca, Sarah, to Daou, Simon, and Daou, Joseph.

\$378,000, 244 Brookfield Rd, Morang, Derek R, to Aubin, Joseph, and Wetherbee, Erika.

\$210,000, 162 Sandersdale Rd, Wood Prudence A Est, and Montigny, Michelle M, to No Limit Assets LLC.

HOLLAND

\$310,000, 5 Wood Ln, Hampden Solutions LLC, to Huff, Tina M.

\$251,000, 2 Old County Ln, Ellis George R, and Skoczylas, Jenny M, to Figueroa-Mendez, Carlos.

SOUTHBRIDGE

\$350,000, 14 Beech St, Moriarty, Stephen F, to Hunter, Christopher T, and Hunter, Justina.

\$340,000, 849 Lebanon Hill Rd, Jarvis, Amanda L, and Vega, Felix J, to Sellers, Brendan.

\$80,000, 19 Red Oak Ln, Pinto Ft, and Pinto, Jose C, to Biagiarelli, Cheryl, and Pinto, George.

\$40,000, Alpine Dr, Willow Tree Prop Mgmt LLC, to Morris, Higor M.

STURBRIDGE

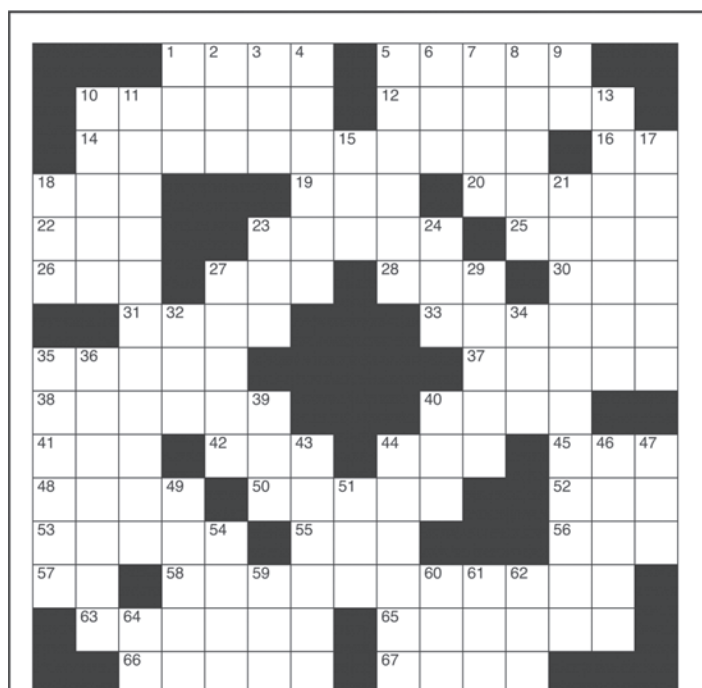
\$560,000, 33 Glendale Rd, Main, Jason, and Main, Lori, to Ventola, Ariana, and Mcquillen, Alexander.

\$250,000, 527 Main St, Toning Management Inc, to Cedric LLC.

\$250,000, 531 Main St, Toning Management Inc, to Cedric LLC.

\$140,000, 355 Leadmine Rd, Rigatti, Marc J, and Wagner, Nicole L, to Oliver, Wesley, and Mckendall, Shana.

\$70,000, 379 New Boston Rd, Zukas, Peter, and Zukas, Lynn, to Countryside Hm Bldrs Inc.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Native American people
- 5. Very long periods of time (Brit.)
- 10. Schoolboard accessory
- 12. Rods
- 14. One who renews
- 16. Sculpted body part
- 18. Chatter incessantly
- 19. King Cole, musician
- 20. Plates on a turtle's shell
- 22. University of Utah athlete
- 23. The world of the dead
- 25. Singer Redding
- 26. Former Yankee great Mattingly
- 27. Prefix indicating wrongly
- 28. Unhappy
- 30. Anger
- 31. Dark brown or black
- 33. Restaurants have a lot of them
- 35. Made a mistake
- 37. Damp
- 38. Type of gasoline
- 40. Actor LeBlanc
- 41. Perform in a play
- 42. One's mother
- 44. Prohibit
- 45. Swiss river
- 48. Part of a banana
- 50. Indian hand clash cymbals
- 52. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- 53. Agave
- 55. Noted journalist Tarbell
- 56. Computer firm
- 57. Type of record
- 58. Bacterium that can cause infection
- 63. Sheaths enclosing the spinal cord
- 65. A narrow opening (as in a rock wall)
- 66. Pattern
- 67. Very eager to see something

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Witch
- 2. Utilize
- 3. Writing utensil
- 4. Places to perform
- 5. Subsidies
- 6. Consume
- 7. Athleisure clothing brand
- 8. California town
- 9. Atomic #50
- 10. The Muse of lyric and love poetry
- 11. Creates anew
- 13. Humorous commentaries
- 15. Cool!
- 17. Most ignoble
- 18. Soggy dirt
- 21. Designed to be useful
- 23. Hebrew unit of liquid capacity
- 24. High schoolers' test
- 27. One-time internet accessory
- 29. City in India
- 32. Furniture
- 34. You have likely chatted with one
- 35. Pass or go by
- 36. Proof of purchase
- 39. A digital tape recording of sound
- 40. More (Spanish)
- 43. Disfigured
- 44. White (Spanish)
- 46. Building occupied by monks
- 47. Georgia rock band
- 49. Device that generates intense beam of light
- 51. State of agitation
- 54. Make by braiding
- 59. Local area network
- 60. Unit of work or energy
- 61. Indigenous person of Thailand
- 62. Liquefied natural gas
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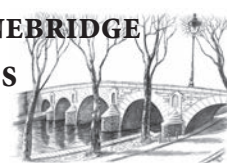
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STONEBRIDGE PRESS
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER
FRANK G. CHILINSKI
860-928-1818 EXT. 103
frank@stonebridgepress.news

BUSINESS MANAGER
RYAN CORNEAU
860-928-1818 EXT. 102
ryan@salmonpress.news

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
JIM DI NICOLA
508-764-6102
jim@stonebridgepress.news

EDITOR
BRENDAN BERUBE
508-909-4106
news@stonebridgepress.news

PRODUCTION MANAGER
JULIE CLARKE
860-928-1818, EXT. 305
julie@villagernews.com

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Tel 508/764-6365; Worship 10:00 A.M.

• **Charlton Federated Church**, 64 Main St., 508- 248-5550, Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. Summer worship is 9:30 a.m.
www.charltonfedchurch.org

• **Charlton Baptist Church**, 50 Hammond Hill Road, 248-4488, www.charltonbaptist.org, Sunday worship 10 a.m.

• **Charlton City United Methodist**, 74 Stafford St. 248-7379, web site: CharltonCityUMC.org
Sunday worship and Children's church 10am

• **St. Anne St. Patrick Church**, 16 Church St., Fiskdale (508) 347-7338
www.stannestpatparish.com
Saturday Vigil Mass at 4 pm, Sunday 8 am, 10 am, 12 noon, Youth Mass (September to May) 5 pm. Daily Mass Mon - Thurs 7:30 and 10 am, Fri and Sat 7:30 am

• **St. Joseph's Church**, 10 H. Putnam Ext, 248-7862, www.stjosephscharlton.com, Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 p.m., Sunday Mass 8 a.m., Sunday Family Mass 10 a.m., Sunday LifeTEEN Mass 5 p.m., Weekly Mass Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30 a.m.

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

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

• **Living Word Church of Charlton**, 10 Main Street - Grange building 1st Floor, Charlton, MA 01507, Pastor Craig Bellisario, (508) 233-8349
Sunday Service 10:00am.
www.livingwordcharlton.com
info@livingwordcharlton.com

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

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

Overlook announces new partnership in ongoing effort to bring new vision to community

CHARLTON — The Masonic Health System of Massachusetts and The Overlook are proud to announce another meaningful partnership as part of the organization's new vision and repositioning to a multigenerational mixed-use, pedestrian-friendly campus. The partnership with Baystate Mobile Veterinary Clinic will bring veterinary services to the campus, which currently is home to more than 400 older adults, many with beloved pets.

Excited about this

new partnership, The Overlook's President and CEO Tameryn Campbell shares, "We think it makes perfect sense for a veterinary clinic to be part of a senior living community. As a pet-friendly organization, The Overlook views its partnership with Baystate Mobile as a natural and synergistic choice. Dr. Carolyn Selavka and her veterinary team share our Guiding Principles and values and possess synergies that will continue to enhance the campus, helping us forge a destina-

tion location – a village center and community within a community – in the heart of Charlton."

This partnership comes at a time when The Overlook is expanding upon its singular focus of largely serving older adults both in Charlton and across the state of Massachusetts, to a more robust and energized view of senior living. The Overlook has embarked upon an ambitious Master Plan, which includes renovating and repositioning its continuum of health care, services and amenities, in-

cluding the possibility of adding a restaurant open to the public; a brewery featuring The Overlook's "Senior Moment" speciality craft beers; a banquet and events center; select retail operations; an amphitheater; additional housing options; improved health and wellness venues; and a variety of other amenities, services and enrichment programs that promote living well at all ages and stages of life.

These plans and goals also tie in with their partnership with the UK's National Innova-

tion Centre for Ageing as the first "City of Longevity" in the United States.

Helping Hand Society announces summer yard sale

CHARLTON — The Charlton Helping Hand Society Inc. announces its Summer Yard Sale dates and time. Location is the Dodge Chapel, 81 Hammond Hill Rd., Charlton. Saturday, June 22, Friday, July 19 and Saturday, June 18 and Saturday, Aug. 17. All sales are from 8 am to noon. Selections, bargains and fellowship await.

Charlton Public Library presents gardening workshop with Bemis Farm

CHARLTON — On Friday, June 21, from 2-3:30 p.m., Charlton Public Library welcomes back Tina Bemis, owner of Bemis Farm Nursery, to guide participants through the making of a succulent driftwood "planter" that

can be hung on a wall. This class is limited to 20 participants and requires registration and a non-refundable copay of \$10. Please visit the adult circulation desk to register and pay. All materials are included.

Bemis Farms Nursery was started in 1915, and serves as both a garden center and plant nursery. They've been doing workshops since 1996, and every year, they do roughly 1,200 workshops all over the region in libraries, senior cen-

ters, schools and at private organizations.

Charlton Public Library is located at 40 Main St. in Charlton. Additional parking is available across the street at Town Hall.

Collectibles, Cards, and Craft Show coming to Charlton

CHARLTON — On Saturday, Aug. 3, Charlton City United Methodist Church will once again host Dynamic Collectibles, Cards, and Craft Show. Planned as a quarterly event, the show will be jam-packed with vendors and feature lunch, baked goods, and other goodies. The previous show, held in May, attracted more than 150 people.

Entrance is free, but purchases support a number of non-profit organizations partnered with Charlton City UMC. Partial proceeds will support Abby's House in Worcester, a heat fuel assistance program for Charlton seniors, and UMCOR (the Methodist disaster relief agency). Donations will also be collected at the door for Target ALS.

The upcoming show takes place at Charlton UMC (74 Stafford St., Charlton) Saturday, Aug. 3, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Further information, including vendor inquiries: Joe Dupont. joedupont@dynamiccardcollectors.com.

Pasture Prime Players to hold auditions for "Blithe Spirit"

CHARLTON — Pasture Prime Players, Inc. is pleased to announce open auditions for "Blithe Spirit" by Noel Coward. The production will be directed by Stephen Jean.

Auditions will be held Sunday, June 30 at 6:30 p.m. and Monday, July 1 at 7 p.m. at the Charlton Arts & Activities Center, 4 Dresser Hill Rd., Charlton. Performances will be held Oct. 25, 26 & 27 and Nov. 1, 2 & 3. This

play is produced by special arrangement with Concorde Theatricals, Inc., New York, N.Y.

Novelist Charles Condomine invites the eccentric medium Madame Arcati to his house to conduct a séance, hoping to gather material for his next book. The scheme backfires when his temperamental first wife, Elvira, manifests herself. She continually attempts to disrupt Charles's marriage to his

second wife, Ruth, who cannot see or hear her.

There are roles for 5 women 20's - 50's and two men 30's-50's. Auditions will be cold readings from the script. Please be prepared to audition using a British accent. We are also looking for people to fill non-performing roles. For more information, contact us at pasture.prime.players@gmail.com.

SOUTHBRIDGE POLICE LOG

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of June 3-10.

Shayne Bryan Tabbi, age 46, of Southbridge was arrested on June 3 in connection with a warrant for Operating a motor vehicle after revocation of registration.

Maria Del Carmen Leon, age 39, of Southbridge was arrested on June 7 in connection with a warrant for Keeping a Noisy & Disorderly House.

A 40-year-old male from Southbridge was taken into

protective custody on June 7.

A 23-year-old female from Southbridge was taken into protective custody on June 8.

A 30-year-old female from Southbridge was issued a summons in lieu of arrest on June 8 for Vandalization of Property.

Jorge I. Torres, Jr., age 36, of Southbridge was arrested on June 8 for Vandalization of Property and Malicious Damage to a Motor Vehicle.

Valeria Rodriguez Rodriguez, age 27, of Webster was arrested on June 8 for Operating a Motor Vehicle with a Suspend-

ed License and Speeding in Violation of a Special Regulation. Rodriguez Rodriguez was arrested again on June 9 for Resisting Arrest and Assault on a Family or Household Member.

Richard R. Karol, Jr., age 71, of Southbridge was arrested on June 9 for Violation of an Abuse Prevention Order and in connection with a warrant.

A 23-year-old male from Sturbridge was issued a summons in lieu of arrest on June 9 for a Number Plate Violation and Operating a Motor Vehicle with a Suspended License.

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EDITOR

Fathers come in many forms

Father's Day is more than just a date on the calendar; it's a heartfelt recognition of the men who have shaped our lives in ways both profound and subtle. This special day, celebrated on the third Sunday of June in many countries, offers a chance to express our gratitude for the fathers, grandfathers, and father figures who have provided us with guidance, support, and love.

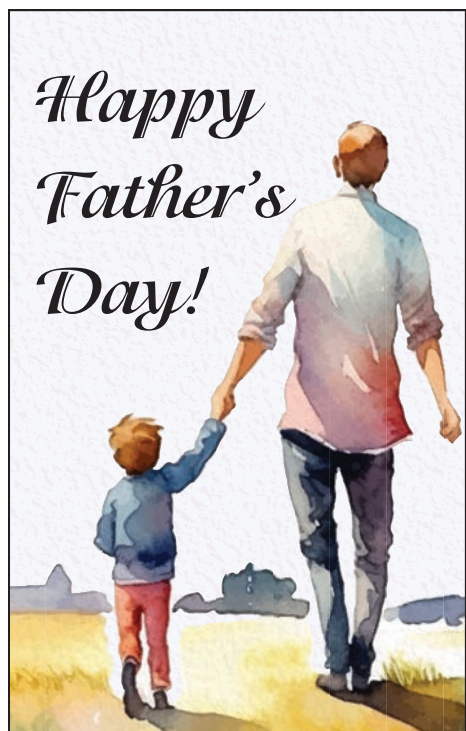
Fathers come in many forms. Some are biological, others are adoptive, and still others step into the role without any formal recognition, providing the same support and love. It is in the patience shown during countless homework sessions, the strength provided during difficult times, and the joy shared in moments of triumph.

Fathers are nurturers, educators, and partners. A good father is involved in every aspect of their children's lives, from changing diapers to attending school plays, from coaching little league teams to helping with science projects.

Father's Day is an opportunity to acknowledge those who may not have a traditional father figure but have found guidance and support from other sources—single mothers, uncles, mentors, and family friends. It's a day to celebrate the concept of fatherhood in its broadest sense, recognizing all those who have stepped into the role and made a positive impact.

A simple phone call, a heartfelt card, or a shared meal can mean the world. It is these moments of connection that truly honor the spirit of fatherhood.

In a world that is often hurried and disconnected, Father's Day serves as a poignant reminder to slow down and cherish the relationships that form the foundation of our lives. It is a day to honor the men who have helped us become who we are, to thank them for their sacrifices, and to celebrate the unique bond that we share.



Letter submission policy

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

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

OPINION

Make people feel important

Alright, gentlemen, bear with me for a moment—this one starts with a nod to make-up, but I promise there's something here for everyone. Let's talk about Mary Kay Ash, the cosmetics queen herself.

You know Mary Kay, right? I'm sure you've seen those iconic pink Cadillacs cruising through town, driven by an Independent Sales Director who made it big in Mary Kay cosmetics sales.

Mary Kay Ash faced many hardships in her life, from gender discrimination to financial struggles, and through it all, she managed to build an empire worth half a billion at the time of her death in 2001. What was the secret to her success?

I'm sure many factors contributed to her success, and while researching her life story, I discovered something I'd heard before but didn't know was attributed to her—a simple yet profound philosophy that seems to be one of the primary keys to her success.

Mary Kay Ash often spoke about how her mother played a crucial role in shaping her outlook on life. As a young girl, Mary Kay's mother was a constant source of encouragement, often saying, "You can do it, Mary Kay!"

This unwavering support instilled a deep sense of self-worth and confidence

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that motivated her to pursue her dreams. She discovered that part of achieving success in life was putting people first and instilling in them a sense of encouragement and self-worth. This foundational lesson became a cornerstone of her business philosophy and personal interactions.

She once said, "Pretend that every single person you meet has a sign around his or her neck that says, 'Make me feel important.' Not only will you succeed in sales, but you will succeed in life."

Let's explore that for a moment. It is generally true that when people feel important, they thrive. They tend to become more motivated, engaged, and willing to contribute positively to their surroundings.

Have you ever had one of those bosses who made you feel bad about yourself? Maybe you deserved it, maybe you did a horrible job and screwed things up. But when you were yelled at, demeaned, and condescended, it made you feel less than important.

Or maybe you've experienced another time when you didn't do as well as you could have, yet your boss took the time to give you another chance, encouraging you and letting you know they believed in you, making you feel

Turn To **POSITIVE** page A11

New choices for business owners



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If you own a business and you offer a 401(k) or similar retirement plan to your employees, you'll want to stay current on the various changes affecting these types of accounts. And in 2024, you may find some interesting new developments to consider.

These changes are part of the SECURE 2.0 Act, enacted at the end of 2022. And while some parts of the law went into effect in 2023 — such as the new tax credit for employer contributions to start-up retirement plans with 100 or fewer employees — others were only enacted this year.

Here are some of these changes that may interest you:

New "starter" 401(k)/403(b) – If you haven't already established a retirement plan, you can now offer a "starter" 401(k) or "safe harbor" 403(b) plan to employees who meet age and service requirements. These plans have lower contribution limits (\$6,000 per year, or \$7,000 for those 50 or older) than a typical 401(k) or 403(b) and employers can't make matching or nonelective contributions. These plans are low-cost and easy to administer but the credit for employer contributions doesn't apply, as these contributions aren't allowed, and since start-up costs are low, the tax credit for these costs will be correspondingly lower than they'd be for a full-scale 401(k) plan.

Matches for student loan payments – It's not easy for young employees to save for retirement and pay back student loans. To help address this problem, Congress included a provision in Secure 2.0 that allows employers the option to provide matching contributions to employees' retirement plans (401(k), 403(b), 457(b) and SIMPLE IRAs) when these employees make qualified student loan payments. Of course, if you offer this match for student loan payments, your costs will likely increase, although these matching contributions are tax deductible. In any case, you may want to balance any additional expense with the potential benefit of attracting and retaining employees, particularly those who have recently graduated from college.

401(k) eligibility for part-time employees – Part-time employees who are at least 21 years old and have at least 500 hours of service in three consecutive years must now be eligible to contribute to an existing 401(k) plan. The inclusion of part-time employees could lead to higher business expenses for you, depending on the amount of contributions you may make to employees' plans. Again, though, you'd be offering a benefit that could be attractive to quality part-time employees.

Emergency savings account – Many people, especially those who don't earn high incomes, have trouble building up emergency funds they can tap for unexpected costs, such as a major home or car repair or large medical expenses. Now, if you offer a 401(k), 403(b) or 457(b) plan, you can include a pension-linked emergency savings account (PLESA) that allows non-highly compensated employees to save up to \$2,500, a figure that will be indexed for inflation in the future. PLESA allows for tax-free monthly withdrawals without incurring a 10 percent tax penalty. PLESA contributions are made on an after-tax (Roth) basis and must be matched at the same rate as other employee contributions.

You may want to consult with your tax and financial professionals to determine how these changes may affect what you want to do with your retirement plan. The more you know, the better your decisions likely will be.

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.nielson@edwardjones.com.

Latest antiques and collectibles auction news



Courtesy

The infamous "door" from "Titanic."

Today's column will feature some recent auction results, beginning with the collection of a Rock and Roll legend.

Over 900 items from Elton John's collection were sold earlier this year. ArtNews reports that "a pair of silver leather platform boots adorned on either side with John's initials in a vivacious red" sold for \$94,500. The sale also featured other pieces that the musician had worn, but many of the items were art, photographs, and jewelry that John had collected over time. There were 350 photographs including a nude of Nastassja Kinski with a snake coiled around her that sold for \$201,600. An untitled 1982 painting by pop artist Keith Haring went for \$756,000. Banksy's "Thrower Triptych" from 2017 brought nearly \$2 million dollars. The auction reached \$20.5 million in total.

In more auction news, a pop culture collectible toy set an auction record this month. In 1979, Kenner Toys produced a hand-painted Boba Fett Star Wars 3.75-inch action figure with a rocket launcher. The toy was supposed to be a giveaway for people who had purchased at least four other action figures, according to the Smithsonian Magazine. The missile launching system was deemed to be a choking hazard and the Boba Fett figure never went into production. Some Kenner employees saved the prototypes, but only two of the figures are known to exist. The Boba Fett figure brought \$525,000. The previous toy auction record was for a one-of-a-kind Barbie designed by Stefano Canturi. The doll had a diamond necklace and sold for \$236,000.

In my last column, I discussed a pocket watch belonging to John Jacob Astor IV, who perished on the Titanic, that

sold for \$1.46 million at auction last month. Another piece of Titanic memorabilia also brought strong results last month, this time a movie prop. The "floating door" from James Cameron's 1997 "Titanic" film was part of an auction of memorabilia from Planet Hollywood restaurants. The floating door that Rose (Kate Winslet) clung to at the end of the movie has received much Internet scrutiny. People claim that the piece would be big enough for Rose and Jack (Leonardo DiCaprio) to fit on, according to the Robb Report. Others noted that the "door" they were on isn't really a door and instead part of the door frame above the ship's first-class lounge entrance. The design for the prop is believed to be based on one of the largest pieces of debris from the ship. The film creators didn't come up with the name the "door scene" so that helps quell some of the criticism about it being a door frame and not a door. The controversy didn't seem to hurt the bidding, though. When the "door" closed at auction it slammed shut at \$718,750.



ANTIQUES,
COLLECTIBLES
& ESTATES
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WAYNE TUISKULA

Central Mass Auctions has some auction news to report as well. Our sports memorabilia, sports cards, and comic books online auction is underway and will end on June 26th. We are currently accepting consignments of coins, art, gold jewelry, sterling silver, historical items, advertising signs, and other antiques for our summer online auction. 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).

TO THE EDITOR

Dabrowski Memorial Scholarship recipients announced

To the Editor:

The Emily Dabrowski Memorial Scholarship Committee would like to announce the recipients of the 2024 scholarships. This is the eighth year that funds have been generously provided by participants in the 'Dad's Swatfest' Golf Tournament, Jason O'Regan's fund raisers and members of our community.

The scholarships are in memory of my daughter, Emily, who died during her senior year at Shepherd Hill. We seek to acknowledge and reward students who have shown kindness to others, animals and a history of volunteering in our community. This year's winners have shown extensive volunteer work and it was great to recognize them.

The 2024 Winners of the Emily Dabrowski Memorial Scholarship are:

- Vanessa Baclawski
- Kelsey Brown
- Jada Franzen
- Grace Garon
- Rachel Gormley
- Daniel Gronck
- Sofia McCarty
- Maggie Mullaly
- Adrien Roach

Congratulations to all recipients! To make a donation or to participate in the years' golf tournament on July 20, please reach out to Diane Dabrowski at DianeD@ERAKey.net.

Thank you,
Diane Dabrowski
Charlton

The fishing report

Summertime is here, but many of the things we like to do or eat are dangerous to our health. Pollution in our local freshwater ponds and lakes continues to get worse every year. Runoff of fertilizers from lawns, waterfowl feces & other pollution are posing a real threat to our everyday lives. Numerous spills from some of our sewage treatment plants seem to occur more often. It all eventually ends up in our bay. The ocean does not need any more pollution, but that too is closing numerous beaches to swimming, and other saltwater sports.

Eating freshwater fish is also on the list of unhealthy things to eat, along with other species of saltwater fish. Becoming a vegan is a choice many residents are considering, but even that food supply has many unhealthy



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issues. Pollution is a huge problem here and around the world, and little is being done to change it!

Mass. Fish & Wildlife has pretty much stocked their spring trout allotment, although some limited trout stocking could be done. There were some tiger trout stocked in local waters this year which should create some interest among anglers.

The tiger trout is a sterile intergeneric hybrid brown trout & the brook trout which has the trout easy to identify because of the stripes on the body of the fish. They sure are interesting and fun to catch. With very few broodstock fish available to stock to date this year, the tiger trout kind of creates more

interest in the fishing public, hoping to catch one of these fish.

On the saltwater scene, anglers are still catching limits of seabass on the Cape and this writer's brother Ken managed to catch a legal striper last week on the canal. Many anglers are catching some impressive stripers, but most need to be released. Charter boat captains are noticing a drop in their charter boat reservations this year. Could it be because of the ridiculous fish limits? Anglers paying \$200 or more each on six pack boats, are reluctant to pay that for two seabass in Rhode Island and four fish in Mass.!

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

Courtesy

Ken True with his legal size striper caught while fishing at the canal! I cannot tell you exactly where he was fishing because it is kind of a secret spot!



Celebrate Local Produce Offerings

The pleasures of a New England garden are the rewards of enduring the long, hard winter. Red, ripe tomatoes heavy on the vine; green bean tendrils spiraling skyward, and corn stalks waving in the wind, hold the promise of a healthy summer harvest. But it's not necessary to grow your own fruits or vegetables to reap the many benefits of home grown goodness. Freshly picked produce is as close as area farm stands and farmer's markets. The Stonebridge Press environs boast numerous open air markets that feature a variety of healthy and affordable garden offerings. Area farmers market events are a favored destination for weekend shoppers, and many families make the trip to the open air markets a seasonal ritual. With fresh food, friendly chat, the piece of mind of buying locally sourced food and the satisfaction of knowing your purchase is supporting small farms, it's a win-win situation for both buyers and growers.

Benefits of Buying Local: While enjoying fresh fruit and produce may be what draws people to a farmers market, the benefits of buying directly from local growers go far beyond taste. From reducing food contamination risks and environmental waste to boosting the local economy and social interaction, neighborhood food markets play an important role in community health, wealth and happiness.

Peak of Nutrition: Growers typically sell their produce within a day of harvesting, with many offerings picked



TAKE THE HINT
.....
KAREN TRAINOR

the morning of the market. Not only does the food taste better when it's fresh, its nutrients are at peak levels. Fruits and vegetables purchased at grocery stores may have been shipped from distant states and other countries. Studies show such produce travel an average of 1,300 miles, delaying their arrival at the store for up to two weeks!

Save Money: Fruits and vegetables purchased as they're picked is a pleasure that typically saves the consumer money. Because the grower is selling directly to the consumer, there are no middleman costs, and savings can be passed on to the shopper. In addition, farmers market host sites usually charge just a nominal fee for the farmer to set up, resulting in lower purchase prices.

Earth Friendly: Shopping for locally grown foods is an earth friendly choice that doesn't sacrifice quality. Industrial farming is a major source of water pollution due to contamination from chemical fertilizers, pesticides and animal waste. In addition, goods sold in the same community as they are grown drastically reduces fuel transportation energy and costs. Buying locally from growers who use sustainable practices is a responsible choice you

can feel good about.

More Variety: Offerings from local farmers not only afford the consumer a wide variety of produce, but it also allows for the purchase of lesser known, tastier varieties that might not meet commercial requirements. Since grocery stores typically sell produce grown to endure long transport trips and maintain expanded shelf life, the old fashioned strains and heirloom varieties of fruits and vegetable are often absent from the supermarket shelves. Plus, buying locally offers piece of mind if shoppers are concerned about genetically modified foods.

Less Waste: Buying at a farmers market can radically reduce waste in more ways than one. Purchasing freshly picked produce from the grower eliminates the need for protective waxes, identifying labels, or fancy packaging. Bringing a sturdy cloth bag to tote produce and recycled cardboard cartons for eggs further reduces waste. Food waste is also lessened because freshly harvested goods arrive at the table with a longer window of freshness.

Boost Local Economy: The dollars you spend at a local farmers market are more apt to remain in the area, giving a boost to the local economy. In addition, studies show visitors to farmers market sites typically patronize other businesses in the area. In fact, one study estimates every dollar spent on local foods results in up to one dollar more in

local economic activity.

Try these recipes that spotlight fresh, local produce:

Creative Recipes Spotlight Fresh Foods

Zucchini Dip
Zucchini and chives are two plentiful offerings at farmers markets. The inexpensive ingredients mixed with cream cheese, make an impressive dip. To increase the impression factor, serve in a crusty boule bowl.

Ingredients: 1 (8 ounce) brick of cream cheese, softened; three tablespoons milk; one cup shredded zucchini; 1/4 cup fresh chives, chopped; salt to taste.

Directions: Blend cream cheese and milk together in a bowl. Mix in the zucchini, chives and salt to taste. Chill before serving.

Garden Salsa
Freshly picked corn, tomatoes, peppers and onions form the basis of this sensational salsa!

Ingredients: 4 medium ears of fresh corn, husked; 2 cups grape or cherry tomatoes, quartered, 3 medium tomatoes, peeled and coarsely chopped; 1/2 cup chopped green red sweet pepper; 1/2 cup finely chopped celery; 1/4 cup snipped fresh cilantro; 1 to 2 tsp. chopped canned chipotle chile peppers in adobo sauce; 2 cloves garlic, minced; 2 tsp. olive oil; 1/4 cup lime juice; one tsp. salt

Directions: Cut kernels off corn cob to make two cups (include juices); Saute corn and

garlic in olive oil until lightly browned. Allow to slightly cool, then stir in tomatoes, sweet pepper, celery, cilantro, lime juice, chipotle chile peppers and salt. Cover and refrigerate at least two hours. Note: Use kitchen gloves when chopping chile peppers.

Potato, Pepper, and Onion Casserole
Here's a budget friendly side dish that spotlights garden peppers. Use a combo of red and green peppers for additional eye appeal.

Ingredients: four medium potatoes; four medium peppers; one large sweet onion, two tablespoons olive oil; salt and pepper to taste.

Directions: Peel and cut potatoes into one inch pieces. Cut peppers into two inch chunks. Peel onion and cut coarsely. Place potatoes, peppers, and onions into a casserole dish. Pour olive oil over vegetables and mix slightly. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Top with grated cheese if desired. Bake for at 425 for a half hour or until vegetables are tender.

Cucumber Soup
This cucumber soup has a bright, garden taste. It is a delicious and creative way to use up an overabundance of garden cukes.

Ingredients: 3 cups of cucumbers, peeled, seeded and sliced; 1 onion, sliced, four tablespoons fresh parsley, chopped; 1/4 tsp. Salt; 1/2 tsp dill; 2 tablespoons oil; two tablespoons cornstarch; 2 cups of water; 2 cups milk; 1/4 tsp pepper.

Directions: Pour oil into a large pan and sauté cucumbers, onion, and parsley. Add salt and dill and cook until vegetables are translucent. Meanwhile mix water and cornstarch in a bowl. Pour into pan and stir on medium heat until thickened. Slowly add milk and continue to stir until soup is creamy. Allow to simmer for a few minutes. Add freshly ground pepper and garnish each bowl with fresh dill before serving. Makes four hearty servings.

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

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

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Courtesy

From left to right our newest members in white aprons are Brother Jason Macgillivray of the Quinebuag Masonic Lodge, Southbridge Brother Will Proper, Brother Johnathan Neitz, Brother Paul Davidson, newest members with white aprons Brother Joshua Jzski of Webster Masonic Lodge and Brother Tyler Adolfo of Webster Masonic Lodge.

Masonic lodges band together to raise three new members

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WEBSTER — On Saturday, June 8, brethren family and friends gathered at the Webster Masonic Lodge in Webster to witness and congratulate three young men who were raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. They are Brother Jason Macgillivray of the Quinebuag Masonic Lodge, Southbridge, Brother Joshua Jzski of the Webster Masonic Lodge and Brother Tyler Adolfo of the Webster Masonic Lodge. These men, along with other men, have followed this path and joined this great fraternity because of “Who We Are.” We’re men, each trying to be the best version of ourselves. We find it’s easier to do that when we’re with other men who share the same values. We’re there for our brothers no matter what life may bring, and our brothers are there for us. We help others, not just because it’s the right thing to do, but also because it helps us grow. We value honor and integrity. We believe there’s always more to learn. As Freemasons we thrive to make good men even better.

What we do know is that Freemasonry in our community has continued to grow and make good men even better. This is because we value our old traditions, and we think this is what attracts this younger generation of men. These men want to see and learn how it used to be and what it is like to value honor and integrity. If you would like more information about Freemasonry and to find a lodge nearest you, visit our

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STURBRIGE

continued from page 1

ing something similar.

That didn't change the vote, however; it still passed 140-12. Such a tally was pretty typical for the night, with the highest 'no' total being 44 votes (111-44).

That item, curiously, was for the part-time housing coordinator Reynolds had mentioned. When that came up, the key concern was raised by Janet Garon, who said she hasn't "seen a lot of progress

in this category," with "a lot of elderly going to live in their cars." She noted she was an original Community Preservation Committee member; that's where the funds were coming from to pay this person.

Garon also raised concerns about an item to fix the Stallion Hill water tower. She and another person wanted to make sure the projected was being funded by water system users, not general taxes, "because 60 percent of the town does not have access to

town water." It was the FinCom chose that route (thus adding \$1.58 to the water rate) contrary to previous wishes of the Board of Selectmen, who had noted the tower is also used for fire suppression by several businesses in town.

Many of the night's other items were also Community Preservation fund projects. Among them were extending the rail trail from Farquhar Road to Haynes Street, continuing the historical survey, building an honor

roll monument and the easement on the Riverlands property. One such plan was the only item the meeting passed over, regarding the Lucy Danforth Coleman property. Mapplebeck said the Finance Committee recommended doing that to get more information; they "think it's a worthwhile project, [but] want some parameters, some guidelines set," she said.

The item sparking the most discussion was one to put money into the Fire Vehicle Stabilization Fund, a new ac-

count specifically to buy such vehicles. Voter Jeff Ardiss noted a previous capital spending article included \$1.4 million for a fire truck and wondered what this would be used for.

FinCom Chair Kevin Smith said the idea was to offset future equipment costs, noting he thinks the next on the list is a pump truck next year. This year's purchase is a heavy rescue vehicle that carries all of the department's emergency equipment (Jaws of Life and the like), but is not a

"front-line vehicle."

Town Administrator Robin Grimm said the town recently created a vehicle replacement policy for all departments because of the long delays in getting such vehicles after ordering them. Ambulances, for example, are on a seven year cycle, and the town's goal is to always have two running, but Chief John Grasso said they now take 24-30 months to get.

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

CHARLTON

continued from page 1

mendations provided by our insurance carrier."

Commenting on the policy, Selectman Bill Borowski said while he believes the elected and appointed officials in town are "all adults" he didn't see a problem with putting something in writing. Selectman Stephen Koronis asked if there were any specific incidents or concerns that led to the creation of the policy. Lancette said he didn't want to provide any specific details

in a public forum but felt the document would hold town officials more accountable for how they present themselves and interact with individuals in town.

"I think this is a valid Code of Conduct, how elected officials should behave both when they're in meetings and out of meetings. It's just some general guidelines and principles reminding people that the citizens of Charlton did put you in these duly elected positions to do a role," said Lancette.

Golas confirmed that the policy is compliant with Mas-

sachusetts General Law and that many other towns have implemented similar policies in the wake of "public upheaval" during the COVID-19 pandemic. Charlton's policy was created utilizing recommendations provided by the state to all municipalities. Selectmen adopted the policy in a unanimous vote.

The new Code of Conduct document, which is on file in the Town Administrators office, provides a list of general conduct guidelines in relation to the community, other elected and appointed officials, the

Town Administrator, and town staff. Among the bullet points are safeguarding confidential information, conducting oneself to maintain public confidence in local government, never purporting to represent the opinion of the board or committee as a whole, conforming to anti-fraud, anti-harassment, and anti-discrimination policies, treating other board or committee members respectfully despite any differences in opinions, recognizing the chain of command in relation to the Town Administrator, and refraining from public-

ly criticizing individual town employees or departments among other requirements. The document also provides details of how the policy will be enforced, which includes the involvement of third-party firms to investigate alleged misconduct. It should be noted that no town official has indicated in a public forum that the requirements laid out in the Code of Conduct are directly related to any specific incidents recorded by boards or committees.

OPACUM

continued from page 1

riculture, and food justice to grow the next generation of environmental leaders. They operate as an AmeriCorps program intermediary and administrator, facilitating access to federal resources that are often out of reach for small, community-based nonprofits. TerraCorps helps community nonprofits leverage the AmeriCorps national service model. Each year, they recruit a new cohort of up to 60 AmeriCorps Service Members and place them at a service site organization within their network of more than 40 nonprofit partners throughout Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Service members are paired

with a site supervisor, an experienced professional, who provides them guidance and mentorship while they learn to manage community programs and projects throughout their service term.

TerraCorps cultivates an ecosystem of people and organizations that center community land ownership, access, and stewardship to support a diversity of interests that benefit human health and environmental sustainability. They value the power of local nonprofits to best understand and serve their communities. TerraCorps's goal is to help them succeed by providing them access to the AmeriCorps national service model to build organizational capac-

ity. The program is funded in part by a grant provided by AmeriCorps, a federal agency, and administered in Massachusetts by the Massachusetts Service Alliance.

Do you love being outdoors? Are you interested in gaining valuable experience in land stewardship, volunteer coordination, and education? Interested candidates can apply today to be a Land Stewardship Coordinator through the TerraCorps Service Program and help Opacum Land Trust to expand our stewardship program.

Land Stewardship Coordinators (LSC) build the long-term capacity of their Service Sites by creating networks of

volunteers to support hands-on stewardship of community lands.

Some potential LSC projects might include:

1. Setting up Landscape software to track stewardship needs on Opacum properties and establish property monitoring protocols.
2. Coordinating educational walks on our properties about environmental stewardship, or educational activities on environmentally conscious practices.
3. Establishing a volunteer stewardship program to assist with property monitoring including coordinating property workdays for trail improvements, habitat management,

and maintenance.

Interested applicants should complete an application at <https://terra Corps.my.site.com/terra Corps/s/available-member-positions> and choose Opacum Land Trust as your preferred service site.

Opacum Land Trust is a mostly volunteer nonprofit conservation organization in south-central Massachusetts whose mission is to protect local land, water, and wildlife for current and future generations. To date, Opacum Land Trust has protected more than 3,800 acres of land with another 1,000 acres in the process of being protected. For more information, visit their Web site at www.opacumlt.org.

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POSITIVE

continued from page 6

and understand like an essential member of the team.

Putting people first and making them feel special isn't about being fake or manipulative; it's about creating environments where everyone can flourish.

Mymomanddadalways told me, "Everything in life is sales." I thought about that a lot through the years. Is everything indeed sales?

Well, when you're trying to get that new job

or promotion you've been wanting, you're selling yourself and your abilities. If you're trying to win over a significant other, you're selling them on why you're the one. When convincing your kids to eat their vegetables, you're selling them on the benefits of healthy eating.

When selling a new product or service for your business, creating a bond with your clients and making them feel special can be life-changing.

Mary Kay Ash also said, "When you take the time to make someone

feel important, you create a bond that goes beyond just selling a product. You build a relationship based on trust and respect. This is the key to selling make-up and creating lifelong customers."

When selling makeup, you may think it's easier to make someone feel important because you're enhancing their look, empowering them, and making them feel more beautiful. However, this principle of success applies to all products, services, and organizations.

What are some ways to make people feel import-

ant? Active listening, personalized compliments, expressing gratitude, remembering important details, quality time, encouragement, thoughtful gifts, empathy, and understanding, and celebrating achievements, to name a few.

When doing these things, let them come from the heart. Be yourself. When you do this, you'll be on your way to embodying the spirit of Mary Kay's philosophy. You'll succeed in your goals while building lasting relationships that enrich your life and the lives of others.

Springfield College recognizes Dean's List students

SPRINGFIELD — Springfield College has named Brian Lavoie from Charlton to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2024 spring semester.

Lavoie has a primary major of Health Science. Springfield College has named Andrew Sweet from Charlton to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2024 spring semester.

Sweet has a primary major of Physical Education & Hlth/FCS.



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LEGALS

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

Household & Misc. Items
Unit 069
Andy Palermino
174 Upper Gore Rd.,
Webster MA 01570
Lien Sale will be held 06-26-2024
Location: 94 Brookfield Rd.,
Charlton MA 01507
June 14, 2024

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Under G.L. c.255 Sec.39A
Notice is hereby given by
Cruise Control Transportation Inc. Pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, Section 39A. that on or after MARCH 9,2024 at Cruise Control Transportation Inc. the following motor vehicle/s will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle
2022 Ram 2500 (Black)
VIN: 3C6UR5CL6NG249858
LAST REGISTERED OWNER :
ALL RELIABLE SERVICES
159 HAMPTON POINT DR. STE 3
SAINT AUGUSTINE FL.35242

2007 Lincoln NAVIGATOR (WHITE)
VIN :5LMFU285X7LJ21341
LAST REGISTERED OWNER:
Fabien B Seguinot,
44 LONGUE VUE AVE,
NORTH PROVIDENCE, RI 02904

2009 VOLVO S40
VIN:V1MS390392460085
LAST REGISTERED OWNER:
Oscar Otero
89 PLEASANT ST
MEDFIELD, MA 02052

2012 KIA SPORTAGE
VIN:KNDPBCA29C7228357
Melissa Dragon
64 WINDBROOK DR
AUBURN MA 01501

2018 HYUNDAI TUCSON(RED)
VIN:KM8J33A48JU640395
LAST REGISTERED OWNER:
SYNDA MARIA ROJAS
19 PLEASANT ST
SPENCER MA 01562

2006 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER(BLUE)
VIN:JTEEW21A260026627
LAST REGISTERED VIN:
KATHRYN BOLDUC
107 LOWELL RD,APT 308
NORTH READING MA,01864

1995 FORD RANGER (GREEN)
VIN:1FTCR14AXSTA32886
LAST REGISTERED OWNER:
Baley W Levine
65 QUARRY RD
GRANDBY CT 06035

2012 NISSAN SENTRA (GRAY)
VIN:3N1AB6AP9CL771726
LAST REGISTERED OWNER:
Adam R Ham,
18 NELSON ST, APT 2
WEBSTER, MA 01570

2022 HYUNDAI KONA (BLUE)
VIN:KM8K3CA30NU798277
LAST REGISTERED OWNER:
Arturo E Morales,
339 PLYMOUTH ST
MISSOULA, MT 59801
JUNE 7,2024
JUNE 14,2024
JUNE 21,2024

Town of Brimfield Conservation Commission Public Hearing Notice

In accordance with the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Brimfield Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on Wednesday June 26, 2024, at 6:00 PM to review a Notice of Intent submitted by Michael Koprowski, Inc. The Notice of Intent requests to construct a driveway for a single-family home within a 100-foot buffer zone.

Project Location:192 Warren Road, Brimfield, MA (Assessor's Map (2-D-4.4))

Meeting Location: Public Participation will be In-Person at Hitchcock Academy at 2 Brookfield Road, Brimfield, MA 01010 on June 26, 2024, at 6:00 PM. Any person(s) interested or wishing to be heard on this request should appear at the time and place designated. A copy of the permit application and plan may be inspected at the Brimfield Town Annex in the Conservation Commission Office, Salisbury Annex Building, 2nd Floor, 23 Main Street, Brimfield, MA 01010 or contact the office at 413-245-4100 ext. 1101.

Roger deBruyn & Joseph Venezia
Co-Chairs
06/05/2024
CC: Board of Health
June 14, 2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate

and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. W024P1887EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
Donald R. Pion
Date of Death: 03/06/2024

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Raymond E. Pion, Jr. of Plymouth 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:
Raymond E. Pion, Jr. of Plymouth 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 07/09/2024.** This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

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

Date: June 05, 2024
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
June 13,2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Division
Docket No. W024P1127EA
Estate of:
Howard B. Seifert, Sr.
Also Known As:
Howard B. Seifert, Sr.
Date Of Death: 09/05/2023
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all persons
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will, with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Judith Ann Maskell of Charlton MA**

The Petitioner requests that:
Judith Ann Maskell of Charlton 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 07/02/2024.

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

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

Stephanie Fattman, Register of Probate
June 13, 2024

LEGAL NOTICE MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Wilfred J. Borey and Sandra J. Borey to James B.

Nutter & Company, dated September 25, 2008 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 43621, Page 193 (the "Mortgage") of which mortgage GITSIT Solutions LLC is the present holder by Assignment from James B. Nutter & Company to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as designated nominee for Reverse Mortgage Funding LLC dated September 25, 2017 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 58465, Page 173, and Assignment from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Reverse Mortgage Funding LLC, its successors and assigns to Secretary of Housing and Urban Development dated August 13, 2020 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 63274, Page 282, and Assignment from Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to GITSIT Solutions, LLC dated January 26, 2024 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 70229, Page 339, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 24 Marcy Street, Southbridge, MA 01550 will be sold at a Public Auction at 1:00 PM on July 1, 2024, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

All that certain parcel of land situated in the Borough of Southbridge, County of Worcester, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, being known and designated as being located in Worcester Southern District, and being more fully described as a Metes and Bounds property. Being the same property as conveyed from Pauline V. Talisman and Michael R. Talisman to Wilfred J. Borey and Sandra J. Borey, Husband and Wife, as tenants by the entirety, as described in Deed Book 18557 Page 32, Dated 01/21/1997, Recorded 01/22/1997 in Worcester County Records. The parcel is more particularly described in said deed recorded in book 18557 page 32 as follows: The land in said Southbridge, with the buildings thereon, situated on the Westerly side of Marcy Street, bounded and described as follows, to wit:-BEGINNING at the Northwesterly corner thereof, at said street; THENCE Westerly, seven (7) rods, and seven (links) to a bound; THENCE Southerly about ten (10) feet to an iron pin; THENCE Westerly, sixty-nine (69) feet; THENCE Southerly eighty-four (84) feet; THENCE Easterly about sixty-five (65) feet to a bound at an oak tree, all of said courses being on lands of Notre Dame Parish; THENCE continuing Easterly along land of H.L. Bedard, to the line of said street; and THENCE Northerly along the line of said street to the bound and point of beginning, same being one hundred ten (110) feet. BEING the same premises conveyed to us by deed of Billy A. Tittle et ux. dated January 13, 1959 and recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds at Book 4000, Page 310. SUBJECT to an easement over 80 square feet of said lot located at the Southwesterly corner thereof granted to Harrington Memorial Hospital, Inc. as shown on a plan recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds at Plan Book 710, Plan 13.

For mortgagor's title see deed recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 18557, Page 32.

The premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and other municipal assessments and liens, and subject to prior liens or other enforceable encumbrances of record entitled to precedence over this mortgage, and subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, reservations and conditions of record and subject to all tenancies and/or rights of parties in possession.

Terms of the Sale: Cashier's or certified check in the sum of \$5,000.00 as a deposit must be shown at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify as a bidder (the mortgage holder and its designee(s) are exempt from this requirement); high bidder to sign written Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid; balance of purchase price payable by certified check in thirty (30) days from the date of the sale at the offices of mortgagee's attorney, Korde & Associates, P.C., 900 Chelmsford Street, Suite 3102, Lowell, MA or such other time as may be designated by mortgagee. The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

GITSIT Solutions LLC
Korde & Associates, P.C.
900 Chelmsford Street
Suite 3102

Lowell, MA 01851
(978) 256-1500
Borey, Estate of Wilfred J. and Estate of Sandra J. Borey, 24-044742
June 6, 2024
June 13, 2024
June 20, 2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. W024P1762GD
CITATION G.L.c. 190B, § 5-304
In the matter of:
Michael L. Cloutier of Southbridge, MA

RESPONDENT

Alleged Incapacitated Person
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has Worcester Probate and Family Court been filed by **Department Of Developmental Serv of Worcester, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that Michael L. Cloutier is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **TLC Trust Inc of Fitchburg, 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 06/25/2024. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date. by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

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

Date: May 23, 2024

Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate

ORDER OF NOTICE

It is **ORDERED** that a copy of this citation be:

Served, with a copy of the petition, in hand to **Michael L. Cloutier** by a disinterested person at least Fourteen (14) days prior to the return date; **and** Served on the Department of Developmental Services and/or the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs, if interested, and served on all other interested persons as defined in G.L. c. 190B, §5-304, at least **Fourteen (14)** days prior to the return date by delivering in hand or by mailing by certified, registered, or first-class mail as described in G.L. c. 190B, §1-401; or by publishing a copy of the citation once in Southbridge Evening News, publication to be at least **Seven (7)** days prior to the return date.

See Standing Order 03-09: Notice in Guardianship of Incapacitated Persons and Conservatorship Matters
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court.

Date: May 23, 2024

Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
June 13, 2024

TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE WATER/SEWER RATES

The Town Manager of the Town of Southbridge will hold a public hearing on Monday, June 24,2024

at 5:00PM in Town Council Chambers. Hearing to be conducted on the proposed rate changes for Water and Sewer changes effective with bills issued July 1, 2024.

Those wishing to speak on this matter will be given the opportunity to do so. The proposed rates are on display on the Town's website www.ci.southbridge.ma.us

June 14, 2024

OBITUARIES

Nicola "Nick" Trifone, 82

Dudley- Nicola J. "Nick" Trifone, 82, passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family after an illness, on Saturday, June 1st, in the UMass Memorial Medical Center, University Campus, Worcester.

He was born in Southbridge the eldest child of the late Eustachio "Tiny" and Rita (Mancuso) Trifone. He leaves his longtime companion and love of his life of 40 years, Sylvia A. Gamache of Dudley; his siblings, Anthony M. Trifone and his wife Barbara of Dudley, Rita R. Sporbert of North Adams, Leonard A. Trifone of Southbridge, Victoria G. Richards and her husband Paul of Southbridge and Joseph Trifone and his wife Janice of Dayville, CT; Sylvia's children, Kenneth G. Gamache and his wife Carol of Mystic, CT, Kim Gamache of Southbridge, Kathleen Gamache of Auburn and Kevin Gamache and his wife Melissa of Northfield; many nieces and nephews; and his daughter Concetta M. Trifone.

Nick graduated from the former Mary E. Wells in Southbridge. After high school, he enlisted in the US Air Force and served four years stationed in Greenland during the Vietnam War era. He went on to graduate from North Adams State College. Nick worked for the U.S. Postal Service in Shrewsbury as a plant steward for many years, retiring many years ago. He was active Fourth Degree Member



of DeTriana Council 199 of the Knights of Columbus in Southbridge. He was also active with the CMAL-APWU and the Southbridge Historical Society.



Nick was knowledgeable on many subjects and liked to talk a lot about finances, religion, history, government, politics and sports, especially his favorite team the NY Yankees. He was proud to have met President Kennedy when Kennedy was a US Senator for Massachusetts. He later worked on some local campaigns. Nick was a devout Catholic a parishioner of St. Mary's

Parish in Southbridge and later St. Louis Parish in Webster. Nick was also a devoted attendee at the Blessed Sacrament Adoration Chapel in Webster.

His funeral was held on Friday, June 7th, from the Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, with a Mass at 11:00am in St. Mary's Church of the St. John Paul II Parish, 247 Hamilton St., Southbridge. Burial was in Oak Ridge Cemetery, Southbridge. Calling hours in the funeral home will be held on Thursday, June 6th, from 5:00 to 7:00pm. www.morrillfuneralhome.com

Florence C. Corriveau, 91

Sturbridge- Florence C. (Provost) Corriveau, 91, passed away peacefully in her home, on Monday, June 3rd, surrounded by her loved ones.

Florence's husband, and the love of her life, J. Normand Corriveau, predeceased her in 2020, after 69 years of marriage, along with her beloved dog, Zeke.

Florence leaves a son, David Corriveau and his wife Cecile of West Brookfield, two daughters, Jane Corriveau of Holland, MA, Gail Hickland and her partner, Stephen McKeon of Holland, MA, two sisters, Madeleine Ingram and Lucille Mills, of Sturbridge, MA, two brothers, Rolland Provost and his wife Dorothy of Sturbridge, MA, and Hector Provost, Jr. and his wife Mary of Clearwater, FL. She also leaves a grandson Peter Drake and his wife, Suzy, of Holland, MA, a granddaughter, Jessica Rockhill and her husband Phillip, of Gansevoort, NY, her great-grandchildren Dillon Drake and his wife, Vanessa of Sturbridge, MA, Amber Drake and her husband, Julio Costa, of Worcester, MA, Reid and Porter Rockhill of Gansevoort, NY, and great-great-grandchildren, Oliver Drake Costa and Camila Florence Costa of Worcester, MA. She was predeceased by her brother Gilles Provost and her sister Therese Augusto.

Florence was born in Saint-Hyacinthe, Quebec, Canada, the daughter of Hector and Annette (Hebert) Provost and moved to the United States at a very early age. Florence remained in this area for the remainder of her life. Florence dedicated her life to cre-



ating a loving and caring home for her family. She never hesitated to share her numerous talents as a seamstress, hairdresser, gardener, decorator, painter and counselor with the entire family and her friends. Florence enjoyed spending time with her family playing cards, attending family reunions and cookouts, having dinner together, reminiscing and telling beautiful stories and caring for her loving dog, Julie.

Anyone who met Florence was always made to feel comfortable and welcomes. Florence's greatest joy was being the Matriarch of her family, which included FIVE generations. Florence was a devoted member of St. Anne/St. Patrick's Parish. Florence will be missed by all that had the privilege of knowing her.

The family would like to thank the Hospice Staff of Overlook Nursing Care of Charlton, MA, for the exceptional care and support they provided to Florence and her family.

A Memorial Mass will be held at 10:00AM, Saturday, June 15th, at St. Anne/St. Patrick's Parish, 16 Church Street, Fiskdale, MA. Burial will follow immediately follow at Holland Cemetery, 29 Brimfield Road, Holland, MA.



Take a Tromp Through the Swamp with Tom Sieling

CHARLTON — Tom Sieling, widely acclaimed singer and guitar, banjo, and drum machine player, will perform a free family/children's program called "Take a Tromp through the Swamp!" at the Charlton Public Library, 40 Main St., Charlton, on Thursday, June 27 at 10 a.m.

Sieling has delighted tens of thousands in over thirty years of performing - 78 Summer Reading programs in 2023. Every show is a top-ten lineup of the most fun, participatory kids' and camp

songs he can dig up and adapt - many are even a bit athletic! He accompanies himself on guitar, banjo, and harmonica and adds a drum machine to keep things upbeat and easy to move to.

In keeping with the "Read, Renew, Repeat" Summer Reading theme, Sieling has included the coolest, most interesting New England animal and habitat facts and pictures he can find. His program offers lots of encouragement for lifelong participation in reading, music, out-

door adventures, and library usage. There will even be a chance for the kids to get a quick try playing the instruments at the end of the program if they'd like. All ages are welcome, and registration is not required. For more information, please visit www.charltonlibrary.org.



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JONAH D. GLICKMAN
Vice President
508-868-3765
jdglickman@glickmankovago.com

LEGALS

Public Meeting Notice
 In accordance with the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Brimfield Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, June 26, 2024 at 6:00 pm to review a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) permit application submitted by Stephen Soper, C/O Cassidy Connolly to determine if the proposed project to repair a septic system at 98 Hollow Road, (Assessor's Map: 18-A5) is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act (as amended) and if a Notice of Intent is required.
 Project location: 98 Hollow Road, Brimfield, MA (Assessor's Map: 18-A-5)
 Meeting Location: Public Participation will be In-Person at Hitchcock Academy, 2 Brookfield Road, Brimfield, MA at 6:00 PM.
 Roger deBruyn & Joseph Venezia, Brimfield Conservation Commission Co-Chairs

06/05/2024
 CC: Board of Health
 ne 13, 2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
 The Trial Court
 Probate and Family Court
 Worcester Probate
 and Family Court
 225 Main Street
 Worcester, MA 01608
 (508) 831-2200
 Docket No. WO24P1884EA
 CITATION ON PETITION FOR
 FORMAL ADJUDICATION
 Estate of:
 Hazel M. Lantz
 Date of Death: 11/06/2002**

To all interested persons:
 A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Raymond C. Lantz, Jr. of South Dartmouth MA** requesting that the Court enter a for-

mal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that:
Raymond C. Lantz, Jr. of South Dartmouth 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 07/09/2024.**
 This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day,

action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
 A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
 Date: June 04, 2024
 Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate
 June 13, 2024

Winning perennial plant adds color and fragrance

Add long-lasting beauty and pollinator appeal to your garden with this year's Perennial Plant of the Year, Jeana garden phlox (*Phlox paniculata* 'Jeana'). Selected for its tall sturdy habit and fragrant dense flower heads it is a welcome addition to perennial, meadow, and pollinator gardens as well as mixed borders.



GARDEN MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA MYERS

1990 and you can find out more about past winners on the Perennial Plant Association website.

Grow this perennial phlox in full sun with a bit of afternoon shade in hotter climates. It is hardy in USDA zones three to eight, growing and flowering best in moist, fertile, and well-drained soil.

The Perennial Plant of the Year (PPOY) is selected by members of the Perennial Plant Association for its suitability to a wide range of climatic conditions, low maintenance, relative pest and disease resistance, availability, and multiple seasons of beauty. This program began in

This cultivar of the North American native *Phlox paniculata* was discovered growing along the Harpeth River near Nashville, Tenn. It was named for the woman, Jeana Prewitt, who discovered this plant. It was a stand-out with its mildew-resistant foliage. Jeana is the head gardener at Bedside Manor in Brentwood, Tenn. She took cuttings of the plant and began propagating it. In time, it was declared to be a new cultivar and has been available for several years.

Mt. Cuba Center, a botanical garden in Delaware, found it to be the best-performing phlox in their trials and it attracted more butterflies than the other garden phlox in the two-year study. Fifteen volunteers from the Pollinator Watch Team conducted weekly observations of 94 different phlox over two years. Jeana had 539 butterfly visits – way more than any other phlox in the study – and is especially attractive to eastern tiger swallowtails.

Enjoy the lavender-pink flowers with wine-colored eyes that cover the plant from mid-summer to fall. Although each flower is smaller than other garden phlox, the dense cone-shaped flower head is made up of hundreds of individual petals providing a beautiful show. Removing faded flowers, also known as deadheading, promotes continued bloom and prevents the self-seeding of inferior seedlings.

Combine this three-to-five-inch-tall plant with other perennials like Amsonia, Shasta daisies (*Leucanthemum x superbum*), Iron Butterfly ironweed (*Vernonia lettermanii* 'Iron Butterfly'), coneflowers (*Echinacea*), and switch grass (*Panicum virgatum*). Or use it as a backdrop for shorter plants like alliums and woodland sage (*Salvia nemorosa*).

Look for places to add this late-season bloomer to your gardens and landscapes. You'll enjoy the flowers and butterflies that stop by for a visit.

Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, including *Midwest Gardener's Handbook*, 2nd Edition and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses* "How to Grow Anything" instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* radio program. Myers is a columnist



Melinda Myers

Jeana garden phlox (*Phlox paniculata* 'Jeana') is the 2024 Perennial Plant of the Year.

and contributing editor is www.MelindaMyers.com. Myers' Web site

Alzheimer's support at Charlton Public Library

CHARLTON — June is Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month, and Charlton Public Library, in collaboration with Dementia Friendly Charlton, offers support for those living with Alzheimer's or another dementia. Our friendly and helpful staff are all trained Dementia Friends and ready to welcome you to our Library.

Memory support collection Charlton Public Library is pleased

to offer a Memory Support Collection specifically designed for those with memory-related issues as well as their caregivers, family and friends. The collection consists of Memory Kits (books, games, puzzles, and other materials on a set theme), as well as individual books (for all ages), videos, music CDs, even a couple of "companion pets" (batteries included!)—all designed to provide comfort, spark reminiscence, and encourage conversation.

The items are available for checkout with a valid library card!

Monthly Caregiver Support Group This monthly Dementia/Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group is held on the third Thursday of every month from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Community Meeting Room. It is facilitated by Tri-Valley and the Alzheimer's Support Network of South Central

Massachusetts. Led by an experienced professional, attendees will obtain information, resources, and strategies specific to caring for someone with Alzheimer's and other dementias at all stages along with support for transitioning to different care settings. This is a drop-in group and pre-registration is not required. For more information, contact Alzheimer's Support Network at 1-800-286-6640, ext. 3123, or info@alz-supportnet.org.

WARDROBE

continued from page 1

American men and women. An average man spends \$212 per year, but an average woman spends \$389, with the highest spending in the age 25-34 bracket. But clothes aren't in the top five cost areas; one chart notes housing, transportation, food, insurance, health care, entertainment and donations are all higher on average.

Gupta notes average Americans wear a piece of clothing just seven times before discarding it, while the global average is 120 times (and even that has fallen since 2000, when it was 200 times). At the same time, textile recycling has also fallen, to just

14.7 percent, with two-thirds being landfilled, while clothing sales have doubled globally.

That leaves a big gap for people like Roberts to fill.

"My initial thought was 'What if I bought a bus and transformed it into a clothing store?'" she said. She looked into the idea, found buses aren't cheap, but could afford a trailer, so she went with that. Her husband Kyle helped, putting some carpentry into it to make racks and such.

She said her parents were deeply involved in nonprofits – one worked for United Way – and she volunteered at a food bank as a youth. That gave her a chance to see that there's a lot of



Gus Steeves

Women and children browse through the Wardrobe on Wheels stockpile.

effort around food, but she didn't recall seeing much around clothing. She said she did recall one group doing something similar to what she's now doing in California. (There are places like Salvation Army, the Restore and Goodwill, but they re-sell clothes, not give them away.)

"So many things still

have tags on them and shoes that haven't been worn," Roberts said. "... People have been bringing stuff to my house – bags of clothing. They keep saying I don't like putting my clothes in a bin and not knowing where it's going."

There's good reason to worry about that. A July 2023 article in

GQ by Oliver Franklin-Wallis (excerpting his book "Wasteland"; www.gq.com/story/oliver-franklin-wallis-wasteland-excerpt) covers his effort to track donated clothing to its destination. He found a lot of it goes to Africa, noting, "with the onslaught of fast fashion, these donations are too often now another means of trash disposal—and the system can't cope."

One of the largest places handling such donations is in Kantamanto, Ghana, which handles "15 million garments" a week, he wrote. The flood of our discards caused local textile manufacturing to collapse, and, over time, the quality of the

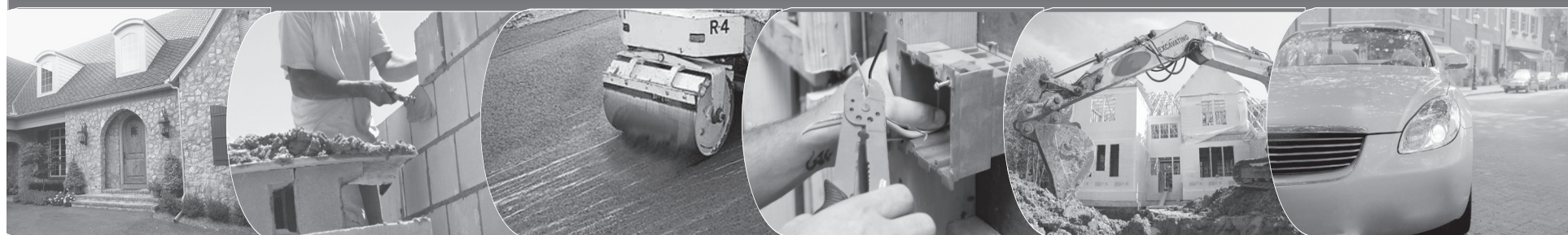
discards they're getting is also falling. The lowest quality stuff is from the US and Canada, and "as much as 40 percent of the clothing arriving at Kantamanto immediately becomes waste," he wrote.

By doing something locally, Roberts is helping stop some of that waste flow.

"There's such a need for this. We, as a country, have so much, but some people have nothing," she said. "For a lot of moms without the means, this could be a day out."

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

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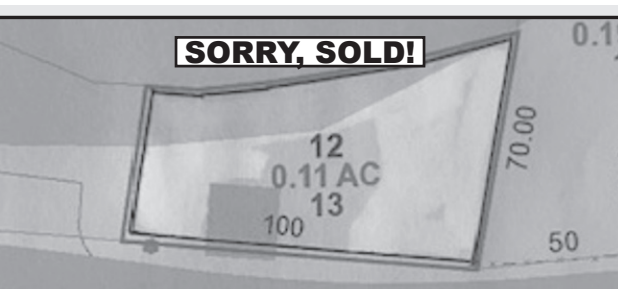


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CCUMC hosting Vacation Bible School

CHARLTON — Charlton City United Methodist Church is looking forward to hosting Vacation Bible School (VBS) from Monday, July 22 through Thursday, July 25.

Our time of VBS is 6-8 p.m. each day because our leaders work all day but also because we know you parents work all day, too, and it can be nice to have a week off from coming home to bored kids. Give your bored kids to us!

We'll give them some fun time but also teach them about God and being a good person. Then send them back to you ready for bed. Sounds perfect!

Contact our director at karenlee830@charter.net or Pastor John at john@cc-umc.org for more information or to register your kid(s). Looking forward to summer! CCUMC is located at 74 Stafford St. in Charlton.



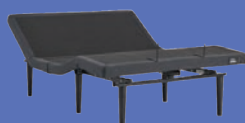
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