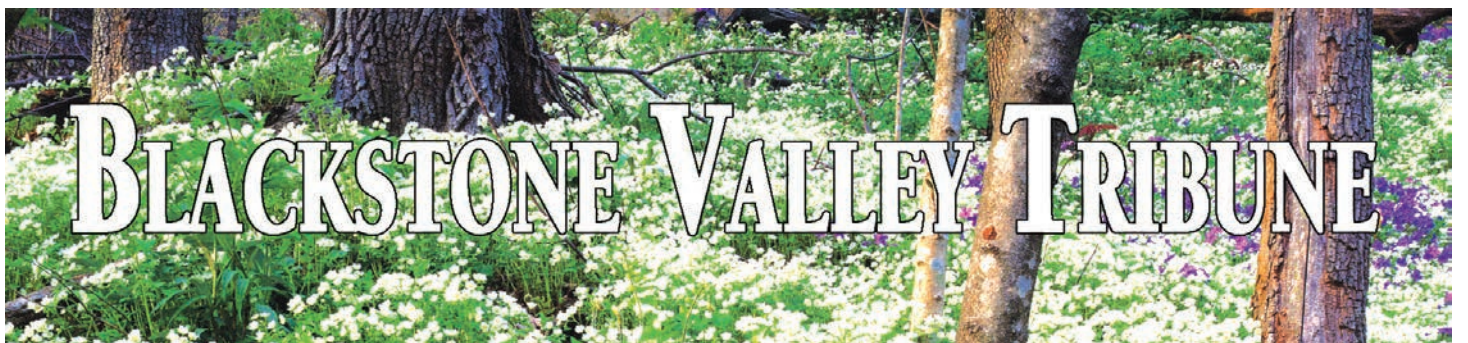


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SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO NEWS@STONEBRIDGEPRESS.NEWS

Friday, September 6, 2024

Sense of community is strong in Douglas

BY LYNN PARESKY
 DOUGLAS COMMON PRESERVATION SOCIETY, INC.

DOUGLAS — One of the things that makes living in a small town like Douglas so special is the strong sense of community displayed by its residents. Three local business owners, Matt Hadley of Hadley Electric, Chris Staruk of Staruk Trucking and Excavation, and Ryan Leshinski of Clear Factor Co., all come to mind as shining examples while supporting the Douglas Common Preservation Society, Inc.

When the Douglas Common Preservation Society, Inc., a Douglas-based nonprofit organization, hired Matt Hadley to do an electrical job at the

Common, Matt offered his labor as a donation, greatly reducing the cost to the Society. Between his donation and the donations of many others in the community who responded to the Society's Spring Fund Drive, this project was able to be completed this year. The project entailed running the electrical wire in piping underground, installation of hardwired LED spotlights to illuminate the Soldiers Monument as well as the flag, and installation of new plugs and timers.

When discussing his quote for the project, Matt said "I live in Douglas and would like to do something to benefit our Town." His kindness and generosity was a huge help to us and shows the

sense of community that makes Douglas a special place to live.

Local business owner, Chris Staruk of Staruk Trucking and Excavation, is another shining example. Last year when the Society reached out to the community to ask for help getting mulch for the Common gardens, Chris came forward and offered his help. And he helped in a huge way, donating and delivering more than 25 yards of hemlock mulch to be spread in all the Common garden beds.

Staruk said, "I want to give back by helping out with my donation."

This past spring, the Society contacted Staruk to see if he would be

willing to help out with mulch again this year, and he very generously supplied us with the 20 yards we needed to get the job done. His continued kindness and generosity show the community spirit evident in Douglas.

Ryan Leshinski of Clear Factor Co. and Bright Factor, showed his willingness to support the community when he was hired by the Society to add the holiday lights to the trees and on the gazebo roof at the Common. Leshinski threw in more than \$1,000 of extras beyond what we were able to pay for, saying "I want to do what I can to make this special." With his

help, our Common looks truly fabulous during the holidays. Leshinski extended his support this past Spring to include power washing the roof and floor of the gazebo at no expense to the Society. His kindness and generosity will continue as we move forward with preparations for the fantastic holiday lights later this year.

Comprised completely of volunteers, the Douglas Common Preservation Society itself is another example of people from the community working together to benefit the town by beautifying and maintaining the Town-owned Douglas Common. Only with funding from

the community is the Society able to offer the seasonal beauty at the Common each year, finishing up the year with the magical holiday lights and decorations. If you would like to support our efforts, please send your tax-deductible donation to Douglas Common Preservation Society, Inc., 76 NW Main St., Douglas, MA 01516. We will be acknowledging all donors on the banner posted in December. Memorial Donations will also be acknowledged, so please include your Memorial Message as well. Together, we can show the sense of community that makes Douglas such a special town.

Pout Pond Rec Committee accepting entries for Fourth Annual Cardboard Boat Race

UXBRIDGE — It's that time again - get that cardboard ready! The Pout Pond Recreation Committee is excited to be hosting our Fourth Annual Cardboard Boat Regatta (It's a race. In a boat. Made of cardboard! What!? Yes!). You know you want to get in on this event.

The ace will be held on Sunday, Sept. 8. Registration will begin at 10am, boats heading into the water for timed trials at 10:45 a.m. Once completed, surviving boats from each age category will be offered the chance to compete in a group race.

2024 Rules and Regulations:

Having fun is mandatory! * This is really the most important rule

- Crew costumes are highly encouraged.

Safety

- Competitors must be seated while paddling once a race has started until crossing over the finish line.

Boat design

- The entire main frame of the boat must be made from cardboard — no wood, metal, or plastic

- Boat design is left to the builders. Let your imagination take over; make your boat look like a race car, flying saucer, dragon, etc. as long as the decoration does not aid in the floatation.

- Boats and paddles must be made prior to the race

- You must provide your own oar or the paddle. The paddle may only be used to propel the boat. Oars may be made of any material.

- When a boat has finished the race, the team must remove the boat and any leftover cardboard debris from the water area and dispose of it at the designated trash area.

The Boat Race will be followed by a performance with Molly-Jane Gain, as part of our Music on Pond series, generously sponsored by the Uxbridge and Millville Cultural Councils.

Judging will be in four age categories: 7 and under, 8-12, 13-17, and 18 and over. Boats will also be judged on creativity and sea-worthiness.

See you at the pond!



Courtesy

Pictured are Kim Wagner, assistant to the director, and Ken Levesque, executive director, both of a local Veterans Association, standing with Michael Shain, president, and Jared Ontiveros, vice president, Thanks To Yanks, after a successful collection of items for veterans in need they traveled to the veterans association to make a donation of food items, personal hygiene items and items for military service dogs. Thanks To Yanks, a local charity, has as its core mission to support veterans that need a hand up. For more information, visit Thanks to Yanks on Facebook.

Blackstone Valley Gardeners to host Sept. 12 open house

WHITINSVILLE — Join the Blackstone Valley Gardeners and their special guest speaker Christie Dustman at an Open House on Thursday evening, Sept. 12 at 6:30 p.m. The club meets at the United Methodist Church, 61 Linwood Ave. in Whitinsville. For ease of access, enter the parking lot behind Domino's Pizza on the south side of Church Street. Use the rear entrance to the church. All interested gardeners are welcome at this meeting free of charge.

Christie Dustman is a life-long gardener and an acclaimed Boston garden designer. Over more than two decades she has grown her

company from a solo operation to one with fifteen employees, offering expertise in garden design, installation and maintenance.

Dustman says, "My love of plants and people drives my passion for gardens, good design, and making outdoor spaces that feel just right."

She spent the early years of her career as a licensed social worker, and feels that experience gives her a unique perspective which allows her to work successfully with her clients and employees.

Dustman has a passion for conifers and often incorporates just the right evergreen into her designs

as a living sculpture. Her program on Sept. 12 is entitled "Getting to Know the Misunderstood Conifer." It is sure to be both informative and entertaining, for Dustman says she uses images to illustrate the thought process of design rather than show "a lot of pretty photos." She also promises to discuss "a few missteps and failures."

Mark your calendar for Thursday, Sept. 12 at 6:30 p.m. Get to know your fellow gardeners from several Valley towns and enjoy the wisdom (and wit!) of Christie Dustman as she takes us through the world of the often misunderstood conifer.

Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Director attends UMass Boston film screening

BOSTON — Greheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN of Dudley (formerly of Douglas), Academy Director for Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy of Charlton enjoyed a night at the movies. The screening of multifaceted mosaics – film project 2024, "Filipino American Experience," was held at the University of Massachusetts Boston (UMass Boston), campus center ballroom.

The film screening showcased films created by UMass Boston's Filipino American Beacon Voyages for Service 2023-2024 team. The film screening was hosted by UMass Boston's Filipino Cultural Club: Hoy! Pinoy! The films highlighted the members' service trip to the West Coast and their vulnerable connections with their Filipino American and greater identities. The common



Courtesy

Pictured from left: Fasha Banson, Evelyn Dusaban, BSN, RN, and Greheline Bolandrina.

theme explored at the "by invitation only event" was "what does it mean to be Filipino."

"Filipino American Experience, at UMass Boston," explained Dr. Bolandrina, "resonates with our efforts at the Academy for our practical

nursing students to honor and celebrate diversity."

She is grateful to Fasha Banson, President, and Performance Coordinator for Hoy! Pinoy! for the invitation to attend the screening.

According to Banson, "The intention of these

films are to demonstrate and honor the diversity found within the context of Filipino American Identities. These films are products of a larger experience-an educational immersive trip that blossomed from the need and desire for Filipina/x/o

American studies within the UMass Boston Asian American studies program."

Further, Banson adds, "The trip, was hosted under UMass Boston's OSLCE Beacon Voyages for service program. The students experienced unforgettable moments of deep learning, reflection, and affirmation while engaging with inspirational Filipino high school youth, expert teachers/mentors, elected officials, and residents of the I-Hote."

Banson is a nursing student at UMass Boston.

"Perhaps, the invitation extended to me will include the Bay Path Practical Nursing community next time," said Bolandrina. "Also, the practical nursing students at Bay Path are active with community service and service learning. Seeing this come together will be

truly inspiring. I enjoyed this opportunity to gain experience and insight about the challenges, experiences, and anxieties of the younger Filipino Americans, reflect upon my identity, the nursing profession, and celebrate as a community."

Banson introduced the screening and thanked all the attendees. After she spoke, and upon viewing her film segment, "Kagandahan (Beauty)," which she wrote, directed, and produced, all were in awe of her work.

"It took me a long time to realize that what it took to feel that way was within me all along. A journey of self-discovery and reclaiming one's identity in the face of societal pressures," Banson concluded.

To learn more about their work and view the films visit their YouTube Channel: <https://lnkd.in/eqBYA345>.

Fall brings return of local fairs and festivals

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — As temperatures slowly drop and the first colors of autumn greet central Massachusetts, residents are looking forward to the return of beloved fall festivals.

Several local towns host fairs and festivals that have attracted thousands of guests for decades. The pandemic shutdowns in 2020-21 made residents even more appreciative of their fall traditions, and they can't wait for another season of

crafting, contests, seasonal foods, and live entertainment. Leicester will help get the festival season started with the town's annual Harvest Fair on Saturday, Sept. 21. The festival will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the

Town Common. Festivities will include music and food; children's activities; appearances from local organizations; seasonal crafting selections; and demonstrations of various trades and skills. Area businesses, officials, and municipal agencies will also get involved.

Also on Sept. 21, the Autism in my Pocket organization will run the sixth annual Harvest Festival in Brimfield. The location is Brimfield Winery (35 Main Street). Set for 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., the event

is expected to feature 70 vendors; music and food; children's games; and several other activities.

Admission to this event is free. Shifting over to Brookfield, the 45th annual Apple Country Fair will take place on Saturday, Oct. 12, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event will bring thousands of guests to the Brookfield Town Common for a day of fun and festivities.

Highlights will include fundraisers; crafters; food trucks; and the famous apple pie contest.

"Fairgoers can browse and buy hand-knit sweaters and blankets, carved wooden bowls and décor, beaded jewelry, specialty soaps and lotions, hand-crafted toys, locally-produced honey, and more," read a statement released by event organizers.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Brookfield Community Club, a charitable organization that awards grants to enrich community life.

To learn more about the festival and how you can get involved, visit

www.applecountryfair.com.

Meanwhile, central Massachusetts officials urge residents to think local this shopping season and support vendors at area festivals. As we look deeper into the fall, additional craft fairs will take place at Tantasqua Regional High School in Sturbridge (Nov. 9), Oxford High School (Dec. 7), and Auburn High School (Dec. 14).

Leicester High School will also host its holiday craft fair on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

An array of local church fairs will also take place this fall season. Contact your area church leaders for more information on autumn fairs and holiday festivals.

And don't forget the many antique shows, town tag sales, and other events scattered throughout the area, highlighted by the final leg of the Brimfield Antique Show this month (located on Route 20).

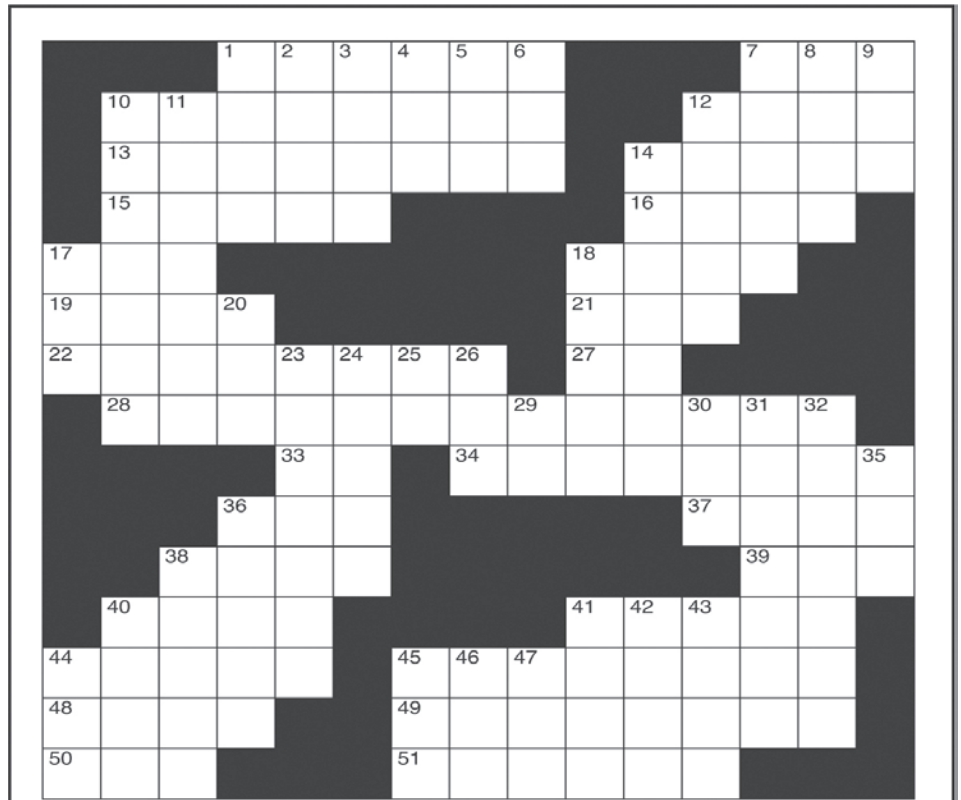
Information on other local events can be found on town Web sites and social media pages.

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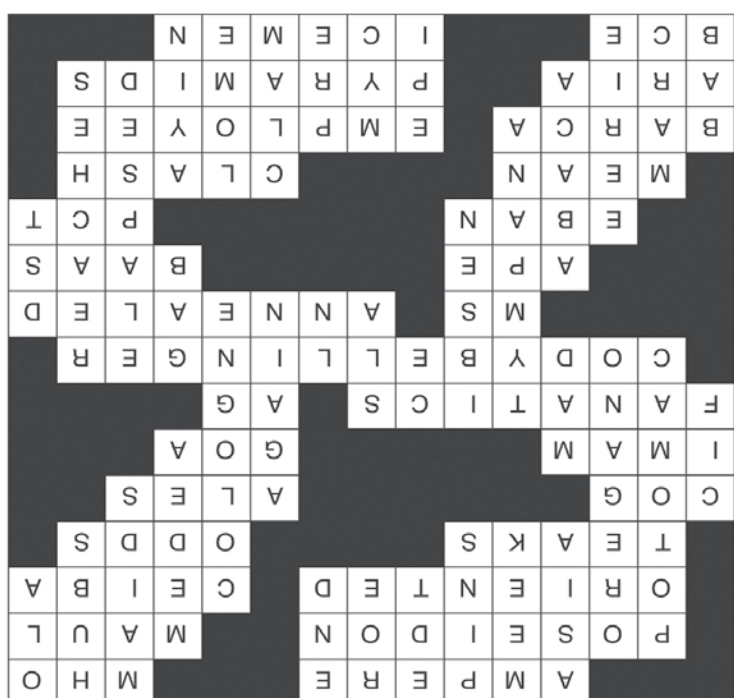
CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Current unit | 33. Title for women |
| 7. Reciprocal of an ohm | 34. Heated and allowed to slowly cool |
| 10. God of the sea | 36. Copycat |
| 12. A way to disfigure | 37. Sounds |
| 13. Positioned | 38. One-time Israeli diplomat Abba |
| 14. Tall tropical American tree | 39. Part of (abbr.) |
| 15. Large deciduous trees | 40. Hateful |
| 16. ___ and ends | 41. Collide |
| 17. Part of a machine | 44. European football heavyweight |
| 18. Brews | 45. One who works for you |
| 19. One who leads prayers in a mosque | 48. Song |
| 21. Indian state | 49. Ancient marvels |
| 22. Partisans | 50. Bridge building degree |
| 27. Top lawyer in the land | 51. Delivery boys |
| 28. Former Dodgers MVP | |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Continent | 24. Norwegian playwright and poet Henrik |
| 2. Submissive | 25. Atomic #58 |
| 3. There's a lot in a bowling alley | 26. Patti Hearst's captors |
| 4. Sun up in New York | 29. Natural logarithm |
| 5. Court decision ___ v. Wade | 30. Talk incessantly |
| 6. Finish line | 31. Went by |
| 7. Young women | 32. Strives |
| 8. Hives of activity | 35. Fall back |
| 9. Hyman Roth's right-hand man Johnny | 36. Manila hemp |
| 10. Eastern U.S. river | 38. Not easily explained |
| 11. Popular cooking ingredient | 40. Former "Double Dare" host Summers |
| 12. Greek mythological princess | 41. Mollusk |
| 14. Scent for men | 42. Capital of Togo |
| 17. Cost, insurance and freight (abbr.) | 43. Letter of Semitic scripts |
| 18. Once more | 44. Founder of Babism |
| 20. Irate | 45. Indicates near |
| 23. Triangular spaces above a door | 46. Family of regulator genes |
| | 47. Indicates before |

PUZZLE SOLUTION



Douglas Sunshine Club to journey to Scotland and England

D O U G L A S — The Douglas Sunshine Club is planning a trip to explore the British landscapes in September 2025! We will be traveling with Collette Travel for an adventure starting in Edinburgh,

Scotland, and then down through England, completing our tour in London.

Anyone interested is welcome to join us for a special travel presentation on Sept. 18 at 6:30 p.m. with a Collette repre-

sentative who will describe the itinerary and travel arrangements at the Douglas Adult Social Center, located at 331 Main St.

This will be a 10 day tour Sept. 7-16, 2025, with a pre-night option

in Edinburgh, a post-night option in London and a tour extension in Paris. Please call the center to sign up for this presentation at 508-476-2283 and for more information about the tour call Pam at 508-476-4474.

Plummer Place Home of the Northbridge Senior Center

(508) 234-2002
Plummer Place Café is catered by The Neighborhood Kitchen right here in Northbridge. We will serve delicious meals on Tuesdays for \$8.00 per meal right here at Plummer Place. You must call to sign up, space is limited. Please note we are no longer serving lunch on Mondays.

We are accepting donations for our Plummer Place Café. Heavy duty plasticware utensils, heavy duty plates large and small, bowls, napkins, plastic cups, crystal lite packs, bottled water either large or small, creamers, decaf coffee and regular coffee, Shaw's gift cards. We appreciate all

donations to help our café run successfully!

Calling all singers: starting Thursday, September 5th at 2:30pm, join our first ever Plummer Place Singers Group. Raianne Richards will lead you as a group, to develop your skills, to enjoy the camaraderie, and to perhaps sing for others. If you would like to join this group, please call the Center to sign up. They will meet weekly, and the cost is \$5 per week.

Pitch League will start back up on Monday, September 9th at 9:00am. They are looking for new players! \$2/week, call Plummer Place with any questions.

Women on the Move, our women's group at Plummer Place, will meet on Wednesday, September 11th at 9:30am. Call for more information.

Unibank presents, "A Financial Seminar on Fraud", Thursday, September 12th at 9:30am. Learn about current fraud trends and how you can protect yourself and your loved ones from financial fraud and abuse. The seminar will be followed by a question-and-answer session by Unibank's Fraud Experts. Call to sign up.

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"Writing Your Way" will begin meeting on Thursday, September 12th from 2:00-3:30pm. They will meet every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. All writers are welcome, share your writing with others, get motivated to write your story, and get feedback from fellow writers! Lori Gannon is the instructor for this class, call the Center for more information.

"What's Cookin'?", Plummer Place Recipe Club will meet on Friday, September 13th at 10:30am. Call Amy for more information.

Millbury Senior Center

ELVIS CONCERT WITH ROBERT BLACK

Friday, September 20th at 6 P.M.
DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT TOWN MANAGER

Join us on Thursday, September 12th 11 - 12 P.M.

Meet with Town manager Karyn Clark to Find out what is happening in town Available for any questions you may have Stay for lunch serving Chicken Pot Pie call to reserve!

HEALING PATHWAYS FOR CHRONIC WOUNDS

Monday September 23rd 10 A.M.
Learn ways to speed up recovery through effective treatments for difficult to heal wounds

YOU TUBE FOR SENIORS

Wednesday, September 18th 11 A.M.
Learn how to set up custom profiles on You Tube based on your interests

No computer needed to participate!
ENTERTAINMENT WITH STEVEN GEORGE

Wednesday, September 11th at 11 A.M.
Enjoy entertainment along with lunch, serving Hot Dogs

Call the center to sign up
ACTIVE LIVING EVERY DAY

YMCA program to help Seniors get moving and stay moving

Every Tuesday beginning July 9th and ending September 27th 1 P.M. - 3 P.M.

stop by to register!
CRAFT CLASS

Wednesday, September 18th 12:30 P.M.
Class is \$10 per person

Price may vary based on project
Call or stop by the center to RSVP 508-865-9154

FLORAL ARRANGMENT CLASS

Thursday, September 26th 1-1:30 P.M.
price is \$20

Call the center to sign up!

BETTER BREATHERS CLUB

Tuesday, September 24th 10:30 - 11 A.M.
SENATOR MOORE'S OFFICE

Meet with a representative from Senator Moore's office!

Wednesday, September 4th
First Wednesday of the month between 11 - 12 P.M.

All are welcome to meet and discuss issues of importance or looking for assistance

Any questions please call 508-865-9154
TRANSPORTATION

All appointments will be accepted by the WRTA

Millbury Seniors 60 and older / those with ADA services call 508-752-9283 in order to register with the WRTA in advance if they need transportation

Transportation Hours are Monday through Thursday from 8 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. & Fridays 8 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.

Rides have to be scheduled by 4:30 P.M. the day before by calling 508-752-9283

For more information on regards to transportation call the center at 508-865-9154

SENIOR CENTER EXERCISE CLASSES!

ZUMBA CLASSES

Mondays at 1 P.M. (Class is \$3)
LIGHT EXERCISE CLASSES

Mondays and Fridays 9:30 A.M. - 10:15 A.M. (Free!)

TAI CHI

Tuesdays 9:30 - 10:30 A.M. (class is \$3)

LINE DANCING CLASSES

Wednesdays at 10:30 A.M. (Class is \$3)

YOGA

Thursdays 9 - 10 A.M. (Class is \$3)

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES!

MAHJONG

Mondays at 12:45 P.M.

CRIBBAGE

Monday through Friday 8:30 A.M.

BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC

Every Tuesday from 9 A.M. - 10 A.M.
SOCIAL BINGO

Wednesdays at 1 P.M.
Bring your pennies!

PITCH

Thursdays 1 - 3 P.M.

COLORING

Thursdays at 10 A.M.

Lunches are served Monday through Thursday 12 P.M. Friday 11:30 A.M.

The menu is available on the town website, www.townofmillbury.org

Or our Millbury Senior Center Facebook page.

A 48 hour reservation is required. Call the center at 508-865-9154

"MEMORY CAFE"

Please join us on Thursday, September 26th at 11 A.M.

Refreshments will be served

A Memory Café is a monthly gathering for people with memory loss / challenges and their care partners. It is a time to socialize, make new friends, and have a good time

Our Outreach worker, Julie Fitzgerald, is happy to answer any questions, call to RSVP 508-865-9154!

SNAP APPLICATIONS (Food Stamps)

Our appointments are on Tuesdays & Thursdays 10 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Call for an appointment & required documentation 508-865-9154

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bankHometown named among most charitable companies in Massachusetts

OXFORD — bankHometown has received the 2024 Corporate Citizenship Award from Boston Business Journal, recognizing the bank as one of Massachusetts' top corporate charitable contributors. It's the fifth year in a row that bankHometown has received the honor.

The Business Journal annually publishes this list to showcase companies that promote and prioritize giving back to their communities. Through its sponsorship and charitable giving program, The Giving Tree, bankHometown and the Hometown Bank Community Foundation support non-profit organizations and causes throughout Worcester and Windham Counties. In 2023, The Giving Tree donated nearly \$400,000 and over the last decade has donated more than \$2.7 million.

"It is with honor that we present our list of the Top Charitable Contributors in Massachusetts — companies who gave \$100,000 or more to Massachusetts-based in charities in 2023. Collectively, they gave \$362 million in cash contributions—a true example of the business community coming together to help those in need," said Boston Business Journal Market President and Publisher Carolyn Jones.

"We're so proud to be recognized once again as a good corporate citizen, because it's truly a reflection of our core values," said bankHometown President & CEO Robert J. Morton. "We strive to unlock potential in the communities we live and work

in and hope we can solve our biggest problems by working together."

This year, 100 companies have qualified for the distinction by reporting at least \$100,000 in cash contributions to Massachusetts-based charities last year as noted above. The honorees this year include companies from such industry sectors as financial and professional services, health care, technology, retail, and professional sports.

About bankHometown Founded in 1889, bankHometown is headquartered in Oxford, Massachusetts. We have \$1.4 billion in assets and offer a complete line of consumer and business deposit and lending products and services through 16 branches located throughout Central

Massachusetts and northeast Connecticut. We're proud to fulfill our community banking mission—providing individualized financial support, a suite of comprehensive products and services, and smart banking technology—all to ensure our customers can unlock their potential and build a successful future. Through our sponsorship and

charitable giving program, The Giving Tree, bankHometown and the Hometown Bank Community Foundation support non-profit organizations and causes throughout Worcester and Windham Counties. In 2023 alone, The Giving Tree donated nearly \$400,000 and over the last decade has donated more than \$2.7 million. bank-

Hometown is proud to be named a Corporate Citizenship Award winner by Boston Business Journal for the past five years. For more information, visit bankhometown.com.

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September 7th and 8th

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EDITOR

EDITORIAL

A salute to workers

As we fire up the grills, enjoy the last days of summer, and maybe even hit the beach one more time, let's learn a bit about the origins of Labor Day.

This holiday isn't just an excuse for a three-day weekend (though we'll gladly take it!). It's a day to celebrate the contributions of workers who have built this country, brick by brick, and to honor the labor movement that fought for the rights many of us enjoy today.

Labor Day has its roots in the late 19th century, at a time when the average American worked 12-hour days, seven days a week, just to make ends meet. Sounds exhausting, right? The labor movement emerged from these tough conditions, with workers organizing for better hours, safer workplaces, and fair pay. In 1882, the very first Labor Day parade was held in New York City, where 10,000 workers took unpaid leave to march for their rights. This courageous stand laid the foundation for the national holiday we now celebrate on the first Monday of September.

But let's not get too bogged down in history. Labor Day is also about appreciating the present and looking forward to the future. It's a time to relax, spend time with family and friends, and enjoy the fruits of your hard work. Whether you're taking a mini-vacation, hosting a backyard BBQ, or just chilling at home, remember that this holiday is a tribute to you—the worker.

We hope that while our readers enjoyed their well-deserved day off this past Monday, they haven't forgotten that there is an important election coming up on Nov. 5. After all, what better way to honor the spirit of Labor Day than by exercising your right to vote? It's a chance to have your say in who represents you and to ensure that those in office continue to fight for the rights and interests of all workers.

We hope you enjoyed your Labor Day weekend, everyone—but don't forget that part of getting back to work now is to get out and vote!

To the Editor:

I wasn't going to write about Trump's ghastly – even for him - exploitation of the Arlington National Cemetery for a photo-op publicity stunt, to aid his failing campaign, but...

Trump's team was told he could attend only in his personal capacity and that campaign staff members were not allowed. A handout titled "Rules Governing Conduct" was provided, stating, "political campaign or election-related activities within the cemeteries are prohibited." Yet, several of Trump's top campaign staffers attended Monday's event despite the rules. Also in attendance were several Republican politicians, including Governor Spencer Cox of Utah, now under fire for using a photo of the event in a re-election campaign fundraising email. Trump's political operatives also shot campaign videos and photos with their malignant candidate standing over a gravestone, grinning and flashing a "thumbs up." (In what culture is a big grin and a 'thumbs up' the proper decorum at a gravesite?) Trump's staffers verbally abused and pushed aside an Arlington employee who unsuccessfully tried to stop them.

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

*Opinion and commentary from
the Blackstone Valley and beyond*
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Another game of hide-and-seek?

To the Editor:

In 2020, "Hide'n Biden" conducted a successful presidential campaign from his basement. In 2024, the Vice President, having assumed his vacated spot on the ticket, has adopted a similar tactic of avoidance. This is a timeline of recent events, absent gory details to spare those already aware of such political machinations and too lengthy for most to bother reading anyway.

Since the mid-July 'bloodless' coup when the President agreed to end his own reelection run, he has been 'on vacation' after his DNC farewell appearance in mid-August. For 40-plus days, the newly anointed candidate for the Presidency (a.k.a. the sitting VP) has been (mostly) silent and/or absent from the White House as well. With both elected leaders unavailable to press and general public in any meaningful way, one must inquire who's minding the

store. While "Rome burns" in hotspots around the world, spokespersons from various pivotal departments "fiddle" on camera to offer (cold) comfort to those at home and elsewhere.

Even the fawning media express concern over 'no-answers' to reasoning behind her flip-flops on issues espoused since arrival in Congress in 2017, and about the resume/accomplishments of her "coach," now governing Minnesota. Surely, voters deserve specifics about 'how and why' of her/his decision-making. Solidly connected as she is to happenings on the Biden-Harris watch, it is likely political expediency provides 'answers': forget or ignore the actual record; reject long-held ideas outright; make unrealistic promises; plagiarize opponent's points.

"Joy and good vibes" are insufficient reasons to elect this ticket. A 'scripted,' pre-taped (a.k.a. 'edited') CNN interview

was no help in judging her/his ability to be 'in-charge' of anything, much less as Commander-in-Chief. Because the Democrat candidate proposed changes to previously-agreed-upon rules, the only scheduled Presidential debate (Sept. 10) may/may not occur. Those who care may be left to examine her/his records independently to make a truly informed decision.

Early voting begins in less than one month! The hide-and-seek campaign of 2020 ushered in the Biden-Harris term. Are eyes and minds now open in 2024? On Nov. 5, close the curtain on the encores theatrics of the 'Harris-Walz show' now playing in communities across America. (These days, some Letters to Editor are interminably long; so many thanks for your perseverance to the end of this one!)

*Jane F. Keegan
Uxbridge*

Harris and Wolz fear the truth

To the Editor:

"Governments and Oppressors do not fear lies. They fear the Truth."

So said JFK Jr., in the best Kennedy tradition of saying memorable things.

Biden Democrats and the Fake Media feared the truth about Biden would get out. It did. Kamala and the Fake Media fear the truth about her will get out. It has.

She is a word salad low IQ woman, not capable of being Vice President, let alone President. She knows she has risen according to the Peter Principle [failing up the career ladder] and she is nervous. No eye contact with interviewer Dana Bash. Eye contact means you are saying the Truth. Eye contact avoidance means: lies.

Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook learned the hard way: Biden-Harris ordered him to suppress information which resulted in election interference in 2020. Covid vaccine side-effects were suppressed. The truth about masks was suppressed. Hunter Biden's laptop was called Russian dis-information. Biden is sharp! Kamala is for Joy! Lies, lies and more damn lies.

Therefore, here are reasons why voting this November is so important:

War: Under President Trump, we had no wars, no billions wasted on Ukraine, and the bad guys stayed under rocks where they belong. Iran was broken, broke, and could not fund the Hooties and the Tooties, Hamas and the Hell-Bolah-Boolahs.

Under Biden-Harris? Thirteen Service members killed in the Vietnam-like chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan. Biden knew better and refused to listen to the advice

of his military. And Kamala bragged that she was the "last person out of the room" on that Disaster decision. Under Biden-Harris, Russia invaded Ukraine. The Middle East blew up on Oct. 7 right after Hillary Clintonite Jakey Sullivan bragged in a TV interview how Biden-Harris brought peace to the Middle East.

Prosperity: Under President Trump, from 2016 to 2020, inflation was 1.4 percent. Unemployment was at its lowest level in 40 years for all categories, including women, hispanics and black persons. Homes were affordable. Cars were affordable with interest rates to match. Oil exports soared along with the economy. Families could go out to dinner and take vacations.

Under Harris-Biden, Inflation roared to a full 20 percent. The rate of inflation is now 3 percent, but it means that prices continue to rise, only more slowly. The cost of eggs is up. Gas has never come down to Trump Era levels: \$2. While Harris-Biden brag about the monthly new jobs report, fully a third to half are government jobs. Government jobs do not produce wealth. They produce control. Many of the "new" jobs in the private sector are second jobs: part-time waitressing, bartending, hotel work, and hospital work, to supplement main income.

Under AWOLZ in Minnesota, car insurance has gone up by 64 percent. Yay! Kamala doesn't even know what "price gouging" is. She cannot even pronounce it! My question: "What exactly is price gage-ing, Madame Vice President?"

Border: We all know that under President Trump, the border was as secure as he could make it with one

arm tied behind his back by Dems. He was building a wall. Border Patrol was enthusiastically working with him to keep illegals out. Under Trump, we had the lowest levels of illegal immigrants sneaking over the border.

Under Harris-Biden, the southern border is an open sewer with all manner of criminals, drugs, sex traffickers, and who knows what else pouring in like sewage from a broken sewer pipe. Ten million? Twelve million? Homeland Security has no clue. And oh, they lost 300,000 unaccompanied minor children. Do not know where they are. Who cares? Not Kamala. She's all about the joy... of what?

Under Biden-Harris, big Dem cities are swamped by homelessness, street crime, open drug use, and South American gangs, while illegals live in luxury hotels.

Abortion: Did you know that after the Dobbs decision by the U.S. Supreme Court, overturning Roe v. Wade, tossing abortion law back to the states, per the Constitution, there have been more abortions than ever? Under Harris-Biden, abortions reached a record high in 2023.

While birth control is available like candy on every street corner, young women are somehow incapable of exploiting it. If they demand control of their bodies, why don't they?

Tim AWOLZ said: "There's no guarantee to free speech on misinformation or hate speech." I got news for AWOLZ. Fake News spreads misinformation all day and night, and no one stops them because they are lies.

Kamala, AWOLZ and the Dark State do not fear lies. They fear the truth. Don't be fooled.

*Bev Gudanowski
Uxbridge*

The Trump Chronicles

In a statement Thursday, Army officials said the employee "acted with professionalism" when she sought to enforce regulations that prohibit partisan political activity on cemetery grounds. The employee has decided not to press charges due to fear of retaliation from Trump supporters. In true Trump fashion, he is now lying and blaming everyone else, including the Easter bunny, for this travesty.

"We are witnessing the downward spiral of a weak man," writes journalist and professor, Steven Schloss. "The issue here is that this man who despises dead soldiers felt it necessary to pretend to care."

Reminds me of Lafayette Square, where Trump, during his presidency, had peaceful protesters tear gassed so he could stand in front of a church holding a bible. P.T. Barnum would be proud.

While I enjoyed reading Jim K's history of "a past mistake," I couldn't help but wonder how he missed the most salient point of the abortion issue: government should have no say when it comes to a women's bodily autonomy - not at the federal, nor the state level. His argument is simply a diversion from a faulty premise - that any government entity should be making rulings on abortion. Abortion became a national topic when Dixie Democrats - now the Republican Party - promised to make it a political issue in exchange for the support of southern Evangelical preachers. The preachers, in addition to fleecing the flock of their hard-earned money, promised to bring the sheep - aka the 'faithful' - into the ranks of what is now the GOP. Religion thus got its parasitic tentacles into our government, with predictable results. And with Project 2025, this is only the beginning.

Re "We're not buying what Kamala is selling"... apparently, someone is! To the tune of over \$500 million in new donations, and a surge in the polls. But let's not let 'joy' salve Bev's grievance fever. I'm still waiting for her to admit what she sees in Trump that is worth debasing herself every week. Is it the lies? The racism? The treachery? The corrup-

tion? The narcissism? The adultery? The sexual abuse? The fraud? The abject stupidity? The hypocrisy? The total lack of humanity? Being a felon? The comb-over and orange skin? The lifts in his shoes and Depends in his drawers? All of the above? C'mon Bev, your disciples need to know which of these a true Christian lady most values in her supreme leader.

Now for something completely different.... a personal bugbear of mine is Medicare Advantage Plans. (Another is Bounty of Nature Fruit and Vegetable pills, produced by a podiatrist-led Scientology cult in Idaho. A topic for another time.) I started writing about these too-good-to-be-true plans - "extra benefits, no premiums, free dental, see if you qualify, we have licensed agents waiting to take your call" - back in the days when Joe Namath and Jimmy JJ Walker were touting them on cable networks. Two has-beens, making a buck by helping to rip off consumers. It's the American way! I did some research, and used social media to warn people of what I learned. I was a voice in the wilderness, until now. A new study, reported in the Boston Sunday Globe, July 28, 2024, details how one of these Medicare Advantage companies, United Health, has been buying up group physician practices and implementing a coding system that has served to overcharge Medicare to the tune of billions of dollars each year. At the same time, the quality of care provided by these practices has significantly eroded, and the promises have failed to materialize. If you wonder why the Medicare system is running out of money, look no farther than United Health, Humana, and others like it. (A company run by Tom Scott, Republican senator from Florida, was fined \$1.7 billion for Medicare fraud, which, just like Trump's criminal acts, apparently don't matter to his constituents.) The long-term goal, of course, is to bankrupt Medicare, and achieve one of the Republican Party's wet dreams - get the government out of the health care business: make us all prey of the pharmaceutical,

insurance, and private health care industries. Imagine health care costs - assuming you could even get coverage - and the quality of treatment that you would receive, with no government involvement! Remember 'previous conditions,' and sky high deductibles? Why are we the only first world country without National Healthcare?

We can always just wait for Trump's "I can't believe it isn't butter!" 'new and improved' health care plan! I know that the Republican Party will unveil it any day now... it's only been 10 years since Trump waived that large binder of blank pages before our eyes. In the meantime, Democrats gave us the Affordable Care Act, and passed a bill lowering and controlling the cost of the most expensive and critical lifesaving drugs on the market. Remember that when you go to the polls. For now, ditch your Medicare Advantage plan - it is depleting Medicare, and your health care coverage will only get worse. There are many reputable Medicare Supplement plans like Tufts and Blue Cross/Blue Shield that are affordable, keep their promises, and do no harm.

Adam Kinzinger, upon being asked to speak at the DNC: "Accepting the invitation wasn't about agreeing with every policy position of the Democratic Party. It was about uniting with those who still believe in the fundamental principles of our nation: the rule of law, the sanctity of our elections, and the peaceful transfer of power. These are the cornerstones of our democracy, and they are worth defending, no matter the political cost." You Trump supporters may want to take notice.

This just in - Trump has planned a 'January 6 Award Gala' at Mar-A-Largo, on September 5, to honor the Jan. 6 insurrectionists, "who have shown great courage and sacrifice"...in trying to overthrow a fair and valid presidential election. I'm sure that Don the Con will be looking for donations - to cover his personal legal bills - not those of the Jan. 6 defendants. Just Trump being Trump.

*Rick Bevilacqua
Whitinsville*

An Array of Late Summer Tips

It's the end of the summer, and time to gear up for another season of tips and tricks to make life a little easier! From late season lawn and garden tips to keeping corn fresh and herbs bright, the following roundup offers an array of timely tips:

And remember readers, send in your favorite hints and you will be in the running to win a three course dinner for two at the Publick House in Sturbridge!

Herb Helpers: Harvesting herbs from the fall garden? When chopping fresh herbs such as basil and tarragon, sprinkle the leaves with a few drops of olive oil. This effectively slows the darkening of the chopped leaves.

And, if you want to enhance the flavor of dried herbs, simply chop up some fresh parsley with them!

Citronella - It's Not just for Bugs: Before you toss this season's supply of (essential, not fragrance) citronella oil, take note: Skin-safe citronella oil is effective in soothing aches and pains. The oil produces a subtle sensation of warmth when diluted in a massage oil and applied to the skin. Dilute three drops of skin safe citronella essential oil per teaspoon of massage oil. Try using this mixture in a friction massage to bring relief to painful joints. Note:

Only use skin-safe (derived from plants) essential oil on skin.

Cool Corn: Want that newly picked ear of late season corn to stay fresher longer? Pick ears early in the morning, immediately husk and plunge in an ice bath, until the ears are cooled to 37 degrees. Then place the corn in plastic bags in the refrigerator where they should stay fresh and sweet for up to two weeks.

Fall Lawn Tips: Proper watering can be the key to a fantastic fall lawn. Lawn experts claim a healthy lawn with a good root system doesn't require watering more than one to three times per week. The bottom line? Your lawn needs about an inch of water once every seven to ten days to grow strong roots.

Divide and Conquer: Not sure if it's time to divide your perennials? It is if they start taking over other plants, the center of a plant looks weak, or when blooms are smaller than they have been in previous years. Spring blooming perennials are best divided in the fall. Mid-summer or fall blooming perennials should be divid-

ed the next spring.

Lure in the Big One: It's still peak fresh water fishing weather, and all it may take is a few spices from the cupboard to up your odds of catching a big one! Try this

old time recipe: Mix together four ounces ground fennel seed and one ounce ground allspice. Sprinkle in two drops oil of cloves. Jar it up to cure for a day or two. Then just put a drop on fish bait, and reel 'em in!

Sizzling Steak Secrets: Firing up the grill for a sizzling steak? New York Times 'Minimalist' and cookbook author Mark Bittman claims the five best steaks for grilling are: rib eye, skirt, sirloin, t-bone and flank steaks, one inch thick. His secret? Dry the steaks with paper towels then grill them without turning for three minutes

Pep Up Indoor Plants: Has your indoor plants taken a back seat to your summertime gardening chores? Now's the time to give them some TLC! To make your dull indoor plants glow, feed them a tablespoon of castor oil, mixed with water.

And did you know that simply dusting the leaves of your indoor plants exposes them to more beneficial light?

More Plant Pointers: If you are using



TAKE THE HINT
KAREN TRAINOR

The staircase of Loretto

We've all had those moments in life when we turn to prayer. Whether it's a whispered plea in a crisis, a silent wish for something better, or even a habit formed in childhood, prayer seems to be a universal human instinct.

But after the words are spoken, or the thoughts drift off into the void, it's natural to wonder—does it actually do anything? Is anyone or anything really listening? Or is it just a comforting ritual that we hold onto because it makes us feel less alone in an unpredictable world?

While skepticism about prayer's efficacy is common, prayer has been studied extensively.

One study by Dr. Herbert Benson at Harvard Medical School found that heart surgery patients who were prayed for, even without their knowledge, experienced fewer complications and smoother recoveries. This suggests that prayer may play a role in healing, possibly through the mind-body connection.

Similarly, research led by Dr. Harold Koenig at Duke University showed that regular prayer is associated with lower levels of stress, anxiety, and depression. These studies indicate that prayer could positively influence both physical and mental well-being, even if the exact mechanisms remain unclear.

We could sift through all the scientific data, but where's the fun in that? Sometimes, the real power of prayer is best seen in the mysterious and miraculous—like the legendary staircase at the Loretto Chapel in Santa Fe, N.M.

In the late 19th century, a small group of nuns from the Sisters of Loretto faced a perplexing problem. Their beautiful new chapel in Santa Fe, New Mexico, was nearly perfect. Still, as the final touches were added, one glaring issue became apparent—the choir loft, perched high above the main floor, was inaccessible.

The nuns consulted local carpenters and architects, but each delivered the same grim assessment: building a staircase in such a confined space was impossible.

In their despair, the nuns turned to the one source they knew could offer hope. They began praying for nine days and nights.

Their prayers were simple but earnest, asking for a solution allowing them to

POSITIVELY SPEAKING

TOBY MOORE

access the choir loft without marring the chapel's elegance.

Just as the sisters were losing hope, a mysterious figure arrived at their doorstep on their final day of prayer.

The man was a humble carpenter, and his appearance was as unassuming as his request. He carried only the most basic of tools with him, yet he claimed he could solve their problem.

The carpenter asked for just one condition—complete privacy while he worked. For days, he toiled behind closed doors, the sounds of sawing and hammering echoing through the chapel.

When the work was finally done, the nuns were called in to see the result, and what they found took their breath away. The staircase the carpenter had built was unlike anything they—or anyone—had ever seen.

Spiraling gracefully upward in two complete 360-degree turns, it seemed to float in mid-air without any visible support or central column.

It was constructed using a rare wood that no one could identify, and astonishingly, it was held together without a single nail. The wood was joined entirely by wooden pegs and intricate craftsmanship that defied explanation.

Word of the miraculous staircase spread quickly, drawing architects, engineers, and curious onlookers from far and wide. Each visitor examined the staircase, and all came to the same conclusion: it should not be standing.

Adding to the mystery, the carpenter who built the staircase vanished without a trace as soon as his work was completed. He left behind no name, no request for payment, and no indication of where he had come from or where he was going. The nuns searched for him, wanting to thank him for his miraculous gift, but he was never found.

To this day, the Loretto Chapel remains a pilgrimage site, attracting those who wish to witness the staircase and ponder its origins. Some visitors are drawn by the architectural mystery, others by the spiritual implications.

While the Loretto staircase may not provide definitive proof that prayer works, it certainly leaves you with a sense of wonder and a reminder that some mysteries are best left to faith.

Failure to plan: Is it planning to fail?

Benjamin Franklin once said, "If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail." But as you chart your financial course, what steps should you take to help you keep moving forward to where you want to go?

Consider these suggestions:

- Establish and quantify your goals. Throughout your life, you'll have short-term goals, such as an overseas vacation or a home renovation, and long-term goals, the most important of which may be a comfortable retirement. You'll want to identify all your goals and put a "price tag" on them. Of course, it's not always possible to know exactly how much it will cost to achieve each goal, but you can develop reasonably good estimates, revising them as needed.

- Create an investment strategy to achieve your goals. Once you know how much your goals will cost, you can create the appropriate savings and investment strategies to potentially help you reach the needed amounts. For your retirement goal, you will likely need to contribute regularly to your IRA and 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. But for shorter-term goals, you may need to explore other types of investments. For all your investment moves, though, you'll need to consider your risk tolerance. You won't want your portfolio to have such a high-risk level that you're constantly uncomfortable with the inevitable fluctuations of the financial markets. On the other hand, you won't want to invest so conservatively that you jeopardize your chances of achieving the growth you need to reach your goals.

- Control your debts. We live in an expensive world, so it's not easy to live debt-free. And some debts, such as your mortgage, obviously have value. But if



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you can control other debts, especially those that carry high interest rates, you can possibly free up money you can use to boost your savings and investments.

- Prepare for obstacles.

No matter how carefully you follow the strategies you've created to achieve your goals, you will, sooner or later, run into obstacles, or at least temporary challenges. What if you incur a large, unexpected expense, such as the sudden need for a new car or a major home repair? If you aren't prepared for these costs, you might be forced to dip into your long-term investments – and every time you do that, you might slow your progress toward achieving your goals. To help prevent this, you should build an emergency fund containing several months' worth of living expenses.

- Review your strategy. When you first created your financial strategy, you might have planned to retire at a certain age. But what if you eventually decide to retire earlier or later? Such a choice can have a big impact on what you need from your investment portfolio — and when. And your circumstances may change in other ways, too. That's why it's a good idea to review your strategy periodically to make sure it still aligns with your up-to-date objectives.

None of us can guarantee that our carefully laid plans will always yield the results we want. But by taking the right steps at the right times, you can greatly improve your chances.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Dennis Antonopoulos, your local Edward Jones Advisor at 5 Albert St., Auburn, MA 01501 Tel: 508-832-5385 or dennis.antonopoulos@edwardjones.com.

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Foraging from trees and shrubs

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — As any farmer knows, autumn is the harvest season. But for foragers, it's only one of the harvest seasons, which last all year long.

At Charlton Library last week, Karen Monger, who has been foraging for food 19 years, talked about a long list of food that's naturally-available in our forests for free.

(This is part one of two. Part two, on mushrooms and ground-hugging plants, will be next week.)

She started off with a little warning about the information available. "I'm not your mom, and I'm not the foraging police," she said before noting there are a very wide variety of written resources on foraging out there. AI is writing "a lot of bad things to sell on Amazon," so people need to make sure the writer is a real human with some experience foraging.

Nut trees

Her first food was a major mainstay of the food supply for humans and many other animals until about a century ago — the chestnut. Their nuts are distinctive: a "very painfully spiky" exterior, but it splits by itself when ripe. When that happens, Monger notes. "the only way to beat the squirrels" is to collect in the morning. Cooking them requires slitting the nut itself "or they will violently explode in your oven." But they can be eaten raw, cooked in many dishes and pastries (she likes a "chestnut nutella" spread) and vacuum-packed to freeze. (They do spoil quickly if not eaten, cooked or refrigerated fast, though.)

On the other hand, the far more common horse chestnut is not edible. It has "very, very toxic nuts" that produce a paralytic poison and is used in some laundry detergents, she said.

Today, the chestnuts that grow long enough to have nuts are mostly a Chinese variety, since the chestnut blight wiped out billions of American chestnuts. Store-bought nuts are mostly from Italy. (Because



Maureen Doyle and Melissa Morneau look over the table of tree samples and books after the talk.

chestnuts grow from rootstocks, we still find some of the American variety in the woods, but they invariably catch the blight and die after a decade or so. There are efforts to hybridize the two and to breed the very rare immune trees that exist.)

Several other native nut trees are also edible. Black walnuts, which grow to "tennis-ball size" are ones "you either love it or you don't like it at all," she said. Those have very hard shells — to open them, you basically have to "run these over with your car slowly." But don't eat them immediately; let them "rest" four to six weeks so the nut meat will shrink and make it far easier to get out of the shell. She noted immature nuts are also useful — they can be tinctured into a medicinal walnut liqueur.

The visually-distinctive shagbark hickory's nuts have green husks



Gus Steeves

A chestnut, once one of the most common nuts in American forests.

with seams, making it easy to open. She advised not to eat those found on the ground and still green — "the tree knows there's something wrong with the nut" and let it fall to avoid putting energy into it, she said. Once collected, she also advised letting them age a little before cracking; they're in the pecan family and have a similar taste.

Monger later noted her daughter's gotten to be so good at identifying healthy nuts "she can just say 'nope, not this one'" by just looking at it.

Even more common are acorns, which have an undeserved bad reputation. She noted they're often considered "poisonous, which is only a little bit true" — consuming a lot of tannins will bind iron in the blood and cause anemia (drinking a lot of tea can do that, too). Those will leach out when shelled, ground and soaked long enough in water. Monger said she puts the grindings in a large jar, shakes it periodically, and changes the water daily until it stays clear (it'll be brown for several days). After that's done, they can be turned into a flour for baking (a very common Native American food), but she recommended mixing it with some wheat flour, since acorns have no gluten and thus the flour doesn't stick together as well. Once made, the flour should be frozen; "Don't let your acorn flour go bad. Trust me on that," she noted.

Of the many oak species, white oaks — recognizable by their leaves' "softened, rounded lobes" — have the lowest tannin content.

Other trees

Many areas were once farmed, and its common to find feral apples and pears in the wild. "These fruits are ugly ... but they're free fruit, and they're everywhere," she said. She tends to cook them slightly, then run them through a fruit mill, and noted not to eat the seeds of either species (they contain cyanide).

Another human-planted fruit tree that's unintentionally become even more common is the "very invasive" autumn olive. An Asian species, it's also called the silverberry because its red berries have silvery spots and leaves a silvery underside. Monger notes the state used to give them away, saying "birds love these fruits. They do — they eat them and spread the seeds everywhere."

When ripe, the berries have a rather bitter/astringent taste at first (especially if picked soon after ripening), but their sweetness comes afterward. Their seeds are edible —



Gus Steeves

Library Director Karen Wall and forager Karen Monger talk after the presentation.

she noted they have Omega-6 in them — and the fruits themselves have fiber and lycopenes (like tomatoes) with antioxidant properties. They can be eaten raw, used in baking, turned into "fruit jerky" or jelly, and made into a form of ketchup, among other things.

For non-fruit trees, the sassafras is native and "incredibly common." It's the source of the original root beer flavor, now made chemically because the US government claimed sassafras contains a precursor of the street drug ecstasy. They declared it "carcinogenic" after seriously overdosing rats with it, she said. Wild sassafras, however, is most notable for its roots, which can be ground and simmered into a decoction, although bark and leaves can also be used. (If that sounds odd, Monger noted that's what people do to get cinnamon, too. She also noted commonly available file powder (aka gumbo file) is made from the dried and powdered leaves.)

Bushes & vines

Dropping a little farther in elevation, Monger cited several edible bushes. One is in many gardens — roses. Their rosehips (the red fruit after the flowers fall off) are very seedy, but if you scoop out the seeds and the little hairs inside, they're high in vitamin C. They don't have much meat, though, and are often best used in teas and a rosehip butter; she noted they taste "like a really nice ripe apricot." The biggest hips are from the non-native, invasive (and super-spiky) Rugosa roses; the also-invasive multifloras have probably the smallest ones.

By contrast, others are native. Grape vines exist in about eight varieties that hybridize in nature very easily. They're usually identifiable by smell, but you should also take time to look for the tiny tendrils that attach it to other plants, trace the vine to its woody root, and make sure the fruit has multiple tear-drop-shaped seeds. (There are plants with similarly-colored fruit with just one seed; those are toxic. One example is the Virginia creeper, which is a vine, but looks nothing like a grapevine.) As many know, grapes are edible raw, but they do contain tartaric acid that will precipitate out of juice as a white powder if left to sit a little while.

Spicebush is common in hardwood forests. It's mostly used for making teas from the leaves and twigs; its red berries are edible but only one at a time — she noted if you eat more "your head would probably explode" from the flavor's intensity. (She likes letting one sit in her mouth while hiking, giving it a little nibble periodically.)

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

From dental assistant to LPN



Courtesy

Photo shows Kaitlin Miliauskas holding a celebratory sign as she was honored by (from left): Courteney Lindberg, ADON, Carrie Bourgeois-Lopez, HR, Merlin Versaint, RP, Rene Maynard, RP, Carrie Lindberg, DON, and Patty Murray, RP.

CHARLTON — Becoming an LPN changed the career trajectory for Kaitlin Miliauskas, LPN of Worcester. She completed her dental assisting training at the New England Dental in Worcester (2012). Her past work experience includes being an insurance coordinator.

In June of 2024, Miliauskas completed the rigorous ten-month practical nursing program at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy. She passed the NCLEX-PN on her first try shortly thereafter. She is set to embark as a real-world-ready LPN.

"I was a certified dental assistant trying to make her way for 11 years, I wanted to help make a difference in the world, a better life for my growing family," said Miliauskas. "I got the opportunity of going to Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy where it challenged me to realize is this really what I want to do?"

While at Bay Path, she participated in the Walk to End Alzheimer's with the Bay Path Practical Nursing Team and was the lead for pink ribbon distribution during breast cancer awareness month. She is certified in Mental Health First Aid, Healthcare Provider/BLS Provider CPR, and Dementia care. Miliauskas completed summer workshops I & II, Domestic Violence Seminar, and volunteered for screenings at Shepherd Hill and Charlton Middle School. She

is a MassHire grant recipient.

Shortly after graduation Miliauskas graciously took packages of socks from Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy for donation to the Worcester Rehab at 119 Providence St., in Worcester.

According to Practical Nursing Academy Director, Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, "This is a voluntary decision at the Academy, our students, and alumni as they become more aware of the importance of community need and donating, continue to participate and take leadership roles in worthy initiatives."

"My nursing journey was not easy," shared Miliauskas. "It was a tough year, my dad passed away in the middle of the program, but I kept my head up and kept pushing, gave me more inspiration to do better, try harder, and be a better nurse! So, I studied harder, graduated, and passed the NCLEX-PN on the first try."

"The strengths of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy are the staff always willing to help the students thrive and succeed," Miliauskas said. "The best part of the program is making new friends/support system with new experiences and memories." She declares, "I have my first job as an LPN, in my profession I was born to be in!"

bankHometown promotes Henrichon to senior assistant branch manager

MILLBURY — bankHometown recently promoted Kimberley Henrichon to senior assistant branch manager, based in its 109 Elm St., Millbury office.

Henrichon, of Millbury, has more than 35 years of banking experience. She started her career in banking as a teller at Millbury Savings Bank in 1989 and has held various retail and customer service roles at bankHometown throughout her time with the bank.

Henrichon studied business at Quinsigamond Community College and Becker College and has a certificate in Finance/Banking from the American Institute of Banking's Banking School. She is currently a member of the Elks Club of Auburn.

About bankHometown

Founded in 1889, bankHometown is headquartered in Oxford, Massachusetts. We have \$1.4 billion in assets and offer a complete line of consumer and business deposit and lending products and services through 16 branches located throughout Central Massachusetts and northeast Connecticut. We're proud to fulfill our community banking mission—providing individualized financial support, a suite of comprehensive products and services, and smart banking technology—all to ensure our customers can unlock their potential and build a successful future.

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Kimberley Henrichon charitable giving program, The Giving Tree, bankHometown and the Hometown Bank Community Foundation support non-profit organizations and causes throughout Worcester and Windham Counties. In 2023 alone, The Giving Tree donated nearly \$400,000 and over the last decade has donated more than \$2.7 million. bankHometown was proud to be named a 2023 Corporate Citizenship Award winner by Boston Business Journal. For more information, visit bankhometown.com.

Don't let frost end your garden season



Melinda Myers

No matter where you garden there never seems to be enough time to grow and enjoy all your favorite vegetables. Start preparing now to extend your growing season and continue enjoying garden fresh vegetables even after the first frost.

Some vegetables like cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, kale and Brussels sprouts tolerate frost and even taste better after a slight chill. Most of these can tolerate temperatures as low as 24 to 28 degrees Fahrenheit.

Leeks are another vegetable that thrives in cooler temperature. Many tolerate temperatures as low as 20 degrees Fahrenheit. Just mound some protective mulch around the plants and continue harvesting.

Take advantage of the chilly winter temperatures to store some of your carrots, turnips and parsnips in the ground for winter. Just cover the soil with straw or evergreen boughs after it lightly freezes. Dig as needed or during a winter thaw. You will enjoy their wonderfully sweet flavor.

Those first few fall frosts are often followed by a week or more of mild temperatures. Protecting frost sensitive plants from the first few fall frosts is one way of extending your season. Cover the plants with old bed sheets, mattress pads, or similar items in late afternoon and remove them as soon as the temperatures climb above freezing. Keep these handy and be ready to cover whenever frost is in the forecast.

Make it easier by using floating row covers. The spun material allows air, light and water through while protecting the plants from frost. You will find different weights of row covers that provide different levels of temperature protection. Just loosely cover the plants

Floating row covers protect plants from frost while allowing light, air and water through.

and anchor the edges with stones, boards or garden pins. You only need to remove the fabric to harvest ripe vegetables. Otherwise, it can stay in place until the vegetables stop producing or you decide it is time to end the season.

Create a high tunnel over garden beds filled with large plants. Use hoops and row cover to allow easy access for harvesting while protecting the plants.

Cloches have long been used to jump start the season or extend it beyond the first fall frost. You'll find a variety of shapes and sizes available. Select one large enough to cover your plants and protect them as needed. Look for those with vents to prevent plants from overheating and those that allow water through while trapping in the heat.

Don't let unripe tomatoes go to waste if you are unable or unwilling to protect them from frost. Harvest any that are starting to show color before the killing frost and finish ripening them indoors. The bottom of the tomato should be greenish white or starting to color up.

Store your green tomatoes in a cool (60 to 65 degrees) location to extend their storage life.

Spread out the tomatoes on heavy paper or wrap them individually in newspaper so the fruit do not touch each other. They'll ripen over the next few weeks. Speed up the process by moving a few tomatoes to a warm bright location a few days before they're needed. Enjoy green tomatoes fried, in relish, salsa, pies or many other ways.

And when your season ends, begin planning for next year. Enlist some of these strategies to jump start the season for an earlier harvest.

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 and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

Martel celebrates 10-year work anniversary at Bay Path



since 1973. Anna Maria College is a Leader in Educating Knowledgeable Professionals in the Work Force. Martel completed her Associate degree in Nursing at Quinsigamond Community College.

While raising four children, Martel held several jobs including private hospice care and home health aide. Once her children became young adults, she pursued her passion and career goal of becoming a Registered Nurse. Martel was a member of the outpatient/inpatient registration working independently to complete assigned tasks including inpatient and outpatient registration, computer entry of outpatient testing appointments, and other related tasks including switchboard operator, charge counting, and preparing same day surgical charts.

CHARLTON — Barbara Martel of Sturbridge celebrates her 10-year work anniversary at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy. She joined Bay Path as part-time faculty in 2015.

For more than 20 years, Martel worked as a bedside nurse on a medical-telemetry-surgical unit. She regularly participated in the orientation of new hires as well as served as the preceptor assigned to nursing students. She served as unit resource nurse, participated in planning patient discharge, engaged as a member of various nursing and organizational committees, and collaborated with other hospital care units for staffing and bed assignments.

"I remember and understand the awesome sense of pride, responsibility, and privilege felt by the fledging nurse and believe I can help educate, guide, prune, and nurture the nursing students as they prepare to enter the profession of nursing," said Martel.

Martel obtained her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree at Anna Maria College in Paxton, with the honor of Summa Cum Laude. Anna Maria College, a private Roman Catholic college in Paxton, Massachusetts, was founded in 1946 as a women's college, but has been coeducational

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OBITUARIES

Leona M. Pimentel, 74

UXBRIDGE- Leona M. (Demrest) Pimentel, 74, of Uxbridge, passed away peacefully with her daughters, Heather and Tracy, by her side at UMass Medical Center on August 14, 2024 after a long, courageous battle with kidney disease.

She leaves behind her three daughters, Heather Charbonneau and her husband, John, of Northbridge and their children Lindsay (John) Grice, Hayley (Stephen) Lamb and Jake Charbonneau along with her great-grandson Oliver Lamb; Tracy Montgomery of Uxbridge and her sons Samuel and Daniel Noel; and Donna Mulvey of Dedham and her children Matthew and Meghan Mulvey.

Lee also leaves her sisters Barbara Bell of Arizona, Earlene Allen of Maine and brothers Edward Demrest of California, Richard Demrest of Uxbridge, and Earl



Demrest of Maine plus many nieces and nephews. She also leaves her dear friend and "partner in crime" Deb Legere of Sutton.

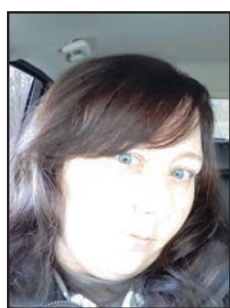
Lee was born October 24, 1949 in Worcester, MA to the late Edward Sr., and Viola (Cheever) Demrest. She attended Uxbridge High School and worked many years as a CNA and personal caregiver.

She served as the President of the New England Country Music Club for many years, a position that she was proud of. She also enjoyed crocheting, cooking and hosting dinner parties at her home for family and friends. Leona was a very giving person and felt her best when she was taking care of others even when she was sick. Her family and friends will miss her dearly.

A memorial service will be private and held at the convenience of the family.

Heather L. Woodman, 41

UXBRIDGE - Heather L. Woodman, a compassionate spirit and beacon of kindness, passed away at the age of 41 on August 26, 2024. Heather was born to Debra A. Woodman and the late Tracy Woodman on May 9, 1983. Her passing, following a sudden illness at her home, has left a void in the hearts of all who knew her.



Heather's early life was filled with the warmth of a close-knit family, including her loving mother, Debra; her sister, Sharlene Woodman and her companion, David Desrosiers of Douglas; and her cherished grandmother, Jeannette Pouliot of Whitinsville. Her extended family of aunts, uncles, cousins, and the multitude of friends she made along the way, all played a significant part in her life story.

A proud alumna of UMASS Lowell, Heather earned her bachelor's degree and channeled her education into her passion for helping others. She dedicated her professional life to working as an Applied Behavior Analyst (ABA) at Taft School, where she touched on the lives of countless special needs children. Heather also brought joy and magic to her community through her work at Touch of Magik, a testament to her belief in the power of kindness and imagination.

Heather's interests were as diverse as they were heartwarming. She had

an exceptional talent for crocheting, creating intricate and beautiful pieces that were often gifted to those she loved. Her love for the beach was more than a simple pastime; it was where she found peace and connected with nature. True to her caring nature, Heather was a staunch advocate for special needs children, tirelessly working to ensure they received the love and support they deserved.

Those who knew Heather will remember her for her boundless generosity and her willingness to give anything she could to anyone in need—no matter how big or small. Her kindness was her signature, leaving an indelible mark on the world. Her laughter, her selflessness, and her ability to make every person she met feel valued will be deeply missed and forever cherished.

Calling hours for Heather were held on Tuesday, September 3 from 4-7 PM at Buma Funeral Home, 101 N. Main Street, Uxbridge.

A funeral service was held on Wednesday, September 4 at 11 AM in the funeral home.

Interment private. In lieu of flowers, donations in Heather's name may be made to the Special Olympics 512 Forest St., Marlborough, MA 01752. www.bumafuneralhome.com



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Northbridge Cultural Council seeks grant applications

NORTHBRIDGE — The Northbridge Cultural Council (NCC) is accepting grant applications from local artists, performers, teachers, and nonprofit organizations through Oct. 16.

Potential funding (usually ranging from \$250-\$1,000) will be awarded for events or workshops supporting the arts, humanities, and applied sciences in the Northbridge community, to take place throughout 2025. The application and the NCC's funding priorities can be found on both massculture.org and at northbridgemass.org/cultural-council.

The NCC is a local agency funded by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. The NCC is part of the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, the Local Cultural Council (LCC) program of the Mass Cultural Council. The LCCs enrich the cultural life of all cities and towns in Massachusetts. Led by municipally appointed volunteers, LCCs award \$7.5 million every year, supporting 7,500 cultural programs that include everything from field trips to lectures, festivals, and dance performances.

Mendon Historical Society delves into Nipmuc history

MENDON — The Mendon Historical Society is happy to announce a program about our Indigenous ancestors. The program will be presented by Pam Ellis, a Natick Nipmuc citizen, Tribal historian and Genealogist of the Natick Nipmuc Council.

The program will be a history of the Native Americans families in our area and a look into their genealogy; it speaks to the "Invisible and Eraser of Indigenous People" and what that means. The program will be held on Saturday, Sept. 28 at 3 p.m. in the Mendon Unitarian Church. The presentation will take place

at 3 p.m. followed by a period of Q & A and reception.

We recommend that you make reservations by emailing mendonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com or by calling 508-244-7849.

This is a free presentation which will be funded by the Mendon Cultural Council. Donations will be accepted.

Pasta & meatball dinner at St. Peter Parish Hall

NORTHBRIDGE — St. Peter Parish in Northbridge is having a Pasta & Meatball Dinner on Saturday, Sept. 14 starting at 5:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Bring your family and friends for a wonderful meal and meet some new friends.

Tickets are \$15 per dinner, and include salad and dessert. To go meals will be available for pick up at 5 p.m., and all orders must be purchased in advance.

Please call the parish office at 508-234-2156 or email parishoffice@stpeterrockdale.org to purchase tickets or if you have any questions.

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<https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/8311>

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

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Country Bank VP Jodie Gerulaitis recognized as Community Hero by Worcester Red Sox

WORCESTER — Country Bank is excited to announce that Jodie Gerulaitis, its Vice President of Community Relations, has been honored as a Community Hero by the Worcester Red Sox. This recognition highlights Jodie's commitment and unwavering dedication to serving the local community. Gerulaitis' passionate advocacy for educa-

tors and local non-profit leaders through Country Bank's partnership with the WooSox Foundation Programs has had a profound impact on the community.

Her support in recognizing leaders and educators throughout the region is evident through the Most Valuable Teacher Program and The WooStars initiative. The Most Valuable Teacher Program cele-

brates the achievements of nine exceptional teachers at their schools and the park. Similarly, The WooStars Program recognizes the outstanding work of nine local non-profit leaders. These programs, championed by Jodie, exemplify her passion, dedication, and desire to make a meaningful difference in the community.

"One of the most rewarding aspects of our

work in the community is our work with Country Bank," said WooSox President Dr. Charles Steinberg. "Constantly, at the heart of each program, is the omnipresent Jodie Gerulaitis. Wherever we are in the region, trying to make an impact, she's there already, welcoming us to join her. Her passion and pursuit of community impact is inspiring."

For more information

about Country Bank and its community initiatives, please visit www.countrybank.com.

About Country Bank Country Bank is a full-service \$1.8B mutual community bank serving Central and Western Massachusetts with 14 offices in Ware, Palmer, WestBrookfield, Brimfield, Belchertown, Wilbraham, Ludlow, Leicester, Paxton, Charlton, Springfield and

Worcester. With a commitment to personalized service and community involvement, Country Bank offers individuals, businesses, and municipalities a comprehensive range of banking products and services. Country Bank is a member of FDIC, DIF, and the SUM network. Country Bank can be reached at 800-322-8233 or online at countrybank.com.

LEGALS

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 32 Glendale Avenue, Uxbridge, MA 01569

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Gilbert Grenon to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for First Horizon Home Loan Corporation, and now held by **The Bank of New York Mellon f/k/a The Bank of New York as Trustee for First Horizon Alternative Mortgage Securities Trust 2004-AA7**, said mortgage dated November 23, 2004 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 35165, Page 312, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for First Horizon Home Loan Corporation to The Bank of New York Mellon, as Trustee for First Horizon Alternative Mortgage Securities Trust 2004-AA7 by assignment dated March 27, 2015 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 53521, Page 349; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on October 7, 2024 at 10:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The land in said Uxbridge, with the buildings thereon, on the easterly side of Glendale Avenue, easterly of the easterly side of North Main Street, which is Lot numbered 69 as shown on a plan of Uxbridge Gardens, made by F. T. Westcott, C.E., dated May 1917 and recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 31, Plan 7, which lot is more particularly bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at a point on the easterly line of Glendale Avenue at the southwest corner of the lot herein described; THENCE easterly 80 feet, more or less, along the line of Lot 70 as shown on said plan to a point at land now of formerly of Providence and Worcester Railroad; THENCE southerly by said land now or formerly of said Railroad, 40 feet more or less to a point; THENCE westerly along the line of lot 68 as shown on said plan, 80 feet, more or less, to a point on the easterly line of Glendale Avenue; THENCE northerly along the easterly line of Glendale Avenue, 40 feet, more or less, to the point of beginning. Also granting hereby a triangular trace of land adjoining the first described tract and being a portion of Lot No. 70 as shown on said plan, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at a corner of Lot No. 69 aforesaid on the easterly line of Glendale Avenue; THENCE easterly by the line of Lot No. 69, 80 feet to the railroad, THENCE westerly by land now or formerly of Ernest A. Lane, 80.15 feet to the line of said street; THENCE by said street line southerly, 5 feet to the place of beginning. Together with a right to pass and repass over land of said Lane adjoining the granted premises to and from said Glendale Avenue to the of said premises. For title reference see deed from Savers Co-Operative Bank date February 2, 2000 and recorded at Book 22473, Page 367. Property Address: 32 Glendale Avenue, Uxbridge MA

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated February 2, 2000 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 22473, Page 367.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC
23 Messenger Street
2nd Floor
Plainville, MA 02762

Attorney for The Bank of New York Mellon f/k/a The Bank of New York as Trustee for First Horizon Alternative Mortgage Securities Trust 2004-AA7 Present Holder of the Mortgage (401) 217-8701
September 6, 2024
September 13, 2024
September 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. W024P2942EA**

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate of:

Carol Ann Zani

Also known as:

Carol Zani

Date of Death: 06/22/2024

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Monica A Zani of South Portland ME** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that:

Monica A Zani of South Portland ME 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 10/01/2024**.

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: August 26, 2024

Stephanie K. Fattman,

Register of Probate

September 6, 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. W024P2809EA**

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate of:

Frederick Michael Ferriter

Also Known As:

Frederick Michale Ferriter

Date of Death: 12/29/2022

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Leah N Ray of Whitinsville 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:

Leah N Ray of Whitinsville 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 09/17/2024**.

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: August 15, 2024

Stephanie K. Fattman,

Register of Probate

September 6, 2024

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 29 Louis Street, Northbridge, MA 01525

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Robert Menard Jr and Cheryl A Menard to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for First Horizon Home Loans, a division of First Tennessee Bank, N.A., and now held by **U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as trustee for the RMAC Trust, Series 2016-CTT**, said mortgage dated June 3, 2008 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 42944, Page 23, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for First Horizon Home Loans, a division of First Tennessee Bank, N.A. to JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association by assignment dated July 11, 2012 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 49372, Page 248; said mortgage was assigned from JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association to Secretary of Housing and Urban Development by assignment dated January 16, 2014 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 52003, Page 254; said mortgage was assigned from Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Legal Title Trustee for LVS Title Trust I by assignment dated April 21, 2014 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 52716, Page 112; said mortgage was assigned from U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Legal Title Trustee for LVS Title Trust I to UMB Bank, National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Legal Title Trustee for MART Legal Title Trust 2015-NPL1 by assignment dated July 22, 2015 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 54564, Page 323; said mortgage was assigned from UMB Bank, National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Legal Title Trustee for MART Legal Title Trust 2015-NPL1 to U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Trustee for the RMAC Trust, Series 2016-CTT by assignment dated October 26, 2016 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 56621, Page 43; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on September 23, 2024 at 09:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

Property Address: 29 Louis Street, Northbridge, MA

The land with buildings thereon situated in said Northbridge on the east-

erly side of the main road leading from Linwood Village to Plummers Corner, described as follows: Beginning at N.W. corner of other land now or formerly of Nolet; Thence S. 19° E. one hundred (100) feet to a stone bound; Thence N. 73° E. two hundred and eighteen (218) feet to a stone bound at a right of way, to the northeast corner of Nolet land; Thence S. 7° 30' W. two hundred thirty-eight and thirty-three hundredths (238.33) feet to point of beginning. For Title See Book 34452 Page 302

For clarification, the 3rd and 4th bounds on the above description should be:

Thence N. 73° E. two hundred and eighteen (218) feet to a stone bound at a right of way;

Thence 8° W. one hundred (100) feet with said right of way, to the northeast corner of Nolet land.

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated August 25, 2004, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 34452, Page 302. See also deed recorded in said Registry in Book 37665, Page 330.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC
23 Messenger Street
2nd Floor
Plainville, MA 02762

Attorney for U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as trustee for the RMAC Trust, Series 2016-CTT Present Holder of the Mortgage (401) 217-8701
August 23, 2024
August 30, 2024
September 6, 2024

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT**

Docket No. 24 SM 003070

ORDER OF NOTICE

TO: Stephen J. Amaral

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):

Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. as Trustee for Mortgage Assets Management Series I Trust

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Auburn, numbered 6 George Street, given by Mary J. Amaral to Financial Freedom Senior Funding Corporation, a Subsidiary of IndyMac Bank, F.S.B., dated March 28, 2007, and registered at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry District of the Land Court as Document No. 92126 and noted on Certificate of Title No. 19137, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before 10/07/2024 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of non-compliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER Chief Justice of this Court on 8/26/2024

Attest: Deborah J. Patterson, Recorder

August 30, 2024



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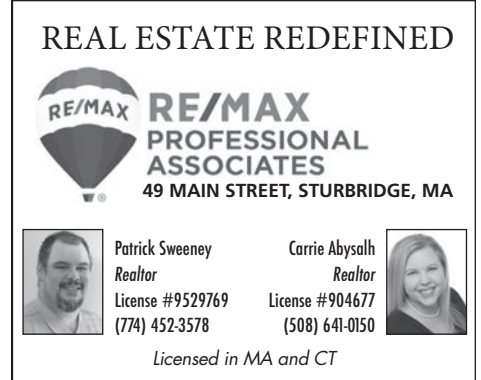
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Coloring contest commemorates "We, the People"

UXBRIDGE — Sept. 17 marks the 237th anniversary of the signing of the United States Constitution. Like the Declaration of Independence and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, the opening words of our Constitution are engrained in hearts and minds of everyone living in this great Nation.

First ordained by federal order in 1955, Constitution Week has been celebrated annually from Sept. 17 to 23. Further, since 2004 a day of instruction on the Constitution had been mandated in public schools on its 'signing' date of Sept. 17. Once again, the Uxbridge Select Board has issued a Proclamation to celebrate this milestone in American history.

Since its



founding in 1890, cornerstones of the mission of the Daughters of the American Revolution have been education and patriotism. For a seventh year, the Deborah

Wheelock Chapter is pleased to co-sponsor, with the Uxbridge Public Library, a coloring/drawing contest centered on the important mean-

ing behind the signing of the US Constitution.

Colorful posters in the Library children's section encourage young patrons to learn more American history. Rules for the "Celebrate the Stars and Stripes Forever" coloring/drawing contest, open to ages six to 19, are available there. First prizes will be presented and all entries, judged by Library staff, will be displayed.

Over one million members of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution have been committed to volunteer community service focused on historic preservation, civic education and patriotism. Inquiry about membership is welcome. Contact www.massdar.org/deborahwheelock.

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