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# Tantasqua Junior High hosts annual Public Safety Day

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

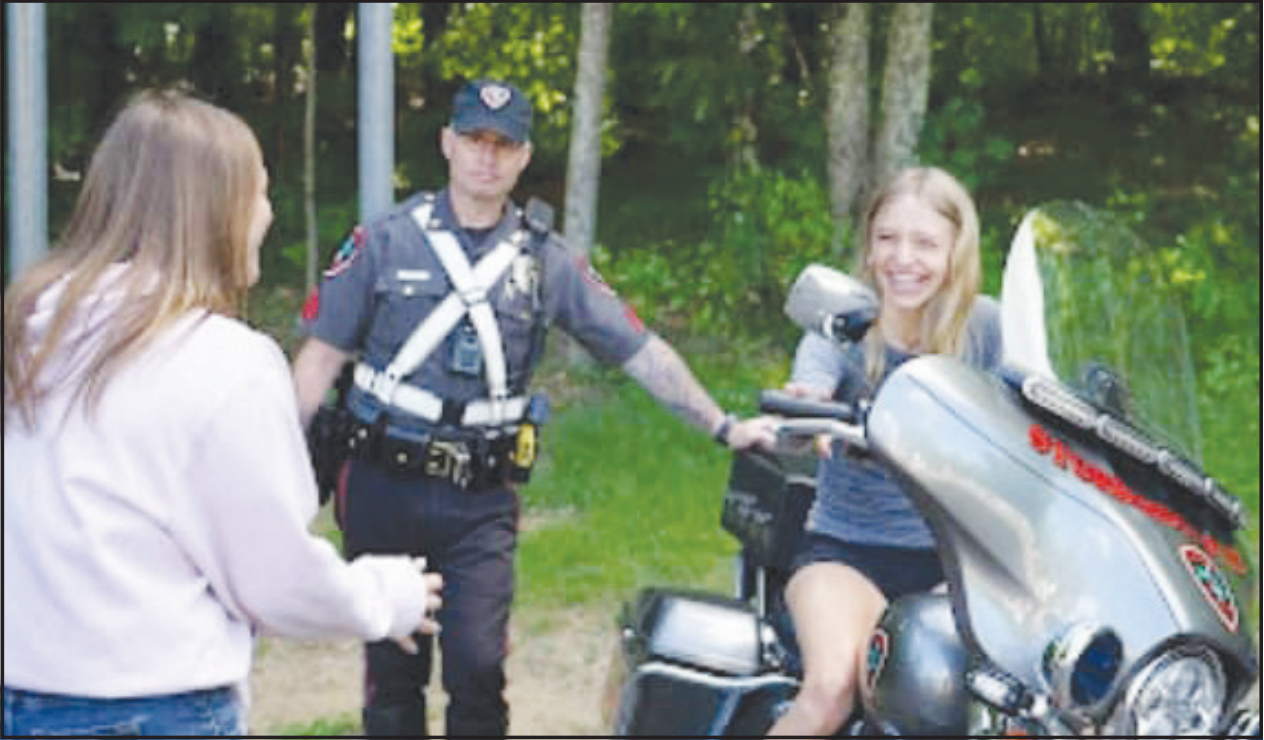
STURBRIDGE — First responders from several local departments attended Tantasqua Regional Junior High School’s fourth annual Public Safety Day.

Each year, Sturbridge Police Officer Mardirosian, better known around TRJHS as School Resource Officer Nick, collaborates with school staff members to host the program for seventh and eighth graders.

The event serves as a great opportunity for students to connect with public safety officials and learn about their jobs. Many students expressed interest in possibly having a job in public safety one day.

“Public Safety Day is part of our community policing programs aimed at fostering positive interactions with our students,” read a statement released by Sturbridge Police Chief Earl Dessert. “During the event, students not only interact and ask questions of the officers and firefighters, but they also try on equipment, climb through cruisers and fire trucks, and sit on motorcycles and various off-road machines.”

The following departments and agencies are thanked for taking part in this year’s safety fair: the Sturbridge Fire Department, Sturbridge Police De-



ourtesy

Turn To **SAFETY** page A13 Tantasqua Regional Junior High School students meet local first responders at the school’s annual Public Safety Day.

# Charlton officials provide update on Amazon project

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — The new Amazon warehouse on Route 20 in Charlton is taking full shape as major construction nears its end over two years after the town approved a TIF agreement with the company, essentially welcoming them to town. However, it could still be some time before the warehouse is fully operational.

Charlton Town Administrator Andrew Golas revealed that, as the town understands, the Bluewater Property Group and their contractors are finishing up the major portions of the construction work and preparing to petition for temporary occupancy of the building with the Planning Board and Building Commissioner. However, Golas clarified that there is still plenty of work to be done before

the warehouse will officially open.

"At this time, we do not have a firm timeframe as to when the facility will be fully operational. Bluewater and Amazon have been working diligently with our inspectional divisions to move the project towards completion," said Golas.

Expectations were for the building to be open as early as 2023, but Golas said it now appears those estimates weren't

realistic.

“Considering the size, scale and magnitude of the Amazon Project in Charlton, I do not believe that an earlier timeframe of completion could have been feasible in hindsight,” Golas said. “Many of the initial projected timelines for the building construction were based on best case scenarios and unknown site conditions. The logistical challenges of the project were on a massive scale and done during a time

when supply chain issues influenced all areas of the economy. As Bluewater moves towards officially turning over the building to Amazon, we should get a better understanding as to when they plan to officially launch operations.”

According to the “Amazon Project” page on Charlton’s town Web site, the site at 53 Sturbridge Rd. will host a 2.8 million square foot facility serving as a robotics sortation warehouse for the online retail giant. Golas

explained the property is also creating changes to Route 20, which is currently seeing a larger scale overhaul beyond the Amazon site. This has included studies and enhanced systems to improve traffic flow along the corridor in both the present and future.

“The signalized intersections along Route 20 provide capacity to accommodate the increased traffic with consideration of improvements being imple-

Turn To **AMAZON** page A11

# Bay Path vocational programs team up to honor Bob Wilby with Eyeglass Receptacle

CHARLTON — Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School has undertaken a unique project to honor Bob Wilby, a dedicated Lions Club member and School Committee member who passed away this past Fall. The initiative involved a collaborative effort from five of the school's technical programs to design, build and display an eyeglass receptacle station. This project not only commemorates Wilby's contributions as a Lion's Club member, advisor and friend to Bay Path's Leo Club and his role as a Bay Path School Committee member but also serves a practical purpose, providing a place for community members to donate used eyeglasses.



Courtesy

Mrs. Nancy Wilby donating the first pair of eye glass into the receptacle that honors her late husband, Bob Wilby.

The receptacle is the result of teamwork among students and their instructors in the following programs: Advanced Manufacturing, Automotive Collision Repair & Refinishing, Drafting, Graphic Communications and Mason & Tile Setting reflecting the school's commitment to career and technical education and service to the community. This initiative highlights the school's commitment to

blending hands-on learning with community service, demonstrating the students' skills and the strong cooperative culture of the school's programs. Bob Wilby's legacy of community service is honored through this initiative, exemplifying the importance of giving back to the community.

The eyeglass receptacle was dedicated on May 23, during the Memorial Day Ceremony at Bay Path Regional Vo-

cational Technical High School. This event also honored Bay Path Senior students, Marc Watroba (Automotive Collision Repair & Refinishing) and Kyle Sylwanovicz (Automotive Technology) entering the Army National Guard and Marine Corp branches respectively and paid tribute to Bob Wilby. The receptacle is now permanently located near the entrance of the Bay Path Hilltop Restaurant.

# National nonprofit Petco Love invests in Here Today Adopted Tomorrow

BRIMFIELD — Here Today Adopted Tomorrow (HTAT) has received a \$3,500 grant investment from national nonprofit Petco Love in support of their lifesaving work for animals in Brimfield and surrounding communities.

Petco Love is a national nonprofit leading change for pets by harnessing the power of love to make communities and pet families closer, stronger, and healthier. Since its founding in 1999, Petco Love has invested nearly \$400 million in adoption and other lifesaving efforts. And Petco Love helps find loving homes for pets in partnership with Petco and more than 4,000 organizations—like ours—across North America, with 6.8 million pets adopted and counting.

“Our investment in HTAT is part of more than \$15M in investments recently announced by Petco Love to power local organizations across the country as part of our commitment to create a future in which no pet is unnecessarily euthanized,” said Susanne Kogut, president of Petco Love. “Our local investments are only part of our strategy to empower animal lovers to drive lifesaving change right alongside us. We launched Petco Love Lost, a national lost and found database that uses patented image-recognition technology to simplify the search for lost pets.”

“Right now, many people are struggling to afford basic necessities like cat food. Petco Love’s lifesaving investment will go directly to supporting our pet food pantry, so pet parents who need financial help have the resources they need to feed their pets,” said Rachael Max, HTAT’s executive director.

HTAT is a local nonprofit committed to finding loving homes for cats and kittens and to helping community cats through its trap-neuter-return program. HTAT also helps pet parents in southeastern Hampden and southwestern Worcester counties manage economic and emotional challenges that arise from pet food insecurity, prohibitively expensive or inaccessible spay/neuter services, and cat behavioral issues. In operation since 2012, HTAT now helps more than 1,500 pets and their families annually.

For more information about HTAT, visit [heretodaysanctuary.org](http://heretodaysanctuary.org). Learn more about Petco Love here: [petcolove.org](http://petcolove.org).

## About Here Today Adopted Tomorrow

Here Today Adopted Tomorrow (HTAT) is a no-cage, no-kill shelter for cats and kittens serving Brimfield, Mass. And surrounding towns, including Holland, Monson, Palmer, Southbridge, Sturbridge, Wales, Ware, and Warren. Barbara Horn and her daughter Rachael Max founded HTAT and opened its cattery in 2012 to ensure that cats become well adjusted and are as comfortable as possible awaiting adoption into forever homes. HTAT also provides medical and behavioral support to cats that otherwise might seem unadoptable, giving them the opportunity to flourish. HTAT’s commitment to animals extends beyond the shelter and into their homes through many additional resources, including a pet pantry, free cat behavior assistance, and TNR (trap, neuter, return) and

Turn To **PETCO** page A11



# COUNCIL RACE 2024

## Lazo: “Taking care of our own problems from within”

BY GUS STEEVES  
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE — “People say I’m a good ol’ boy. Yeah, you’re right. I am a good ol’ boy,” Scott Lazo willingly admits. “I want that business to open, that sidewalk fixed. ... That’s how government’s supposed to work: You call your friends and have your friends call me.”

That, in a nutshell, describes Lazo’s philosophy of government – “people talking to people,” which he sees as the crux of leadership. To get things done, he said, “you’ve got to open the door” and show people with concerns where to go in town to address them.



Scott Lazo

Lazo, a building contractor, seeks his second term of this stint on the Town Council June 11. He’s one of four running for three seats, with the others being fellow incumbent John Daniel, former councilor Jackie Ryan, and attorney Steve Kelly. There are also four candidates seeking two School Committee seats this year: incumbent Martena Shea, engineer Maria Torres, IT specialist Stephanie Rivers and social worker Brittany Davison.

He’s definitely not a newcomer to local government, having been somehow involved in town affairs since 1985. He’s previously been on the Council, School Committee and Building Committee, and said he got his ideas of how things are done working with a long list of old-time Southbridge political figures (some of them his family), the Elks, and years coaching Pop Warner.

Lazo has a reputation for being in-your-face when it comes to debates on the council floor or in forums, but he says it’s “not personal.” To him, it can be a “full-blown floor fight on the issues,” but once the vote’s taken, “it’s done.”

“We all agree on the final outcome – to make Southbridge a better place to live,” he noted.

While he agrees that local government will usually have some qualified out of town people, the critical

part of that is restoring local control in most aspects. That’s a key reason he wanted to bring in lifelong resident Jack Jovan as manager last year. To Lazo, that and other local hires are an aspect of “taking care of our own problems from within.” As long as residents are willing to communicate when they see problems, they’ll get fixed, but he points out “you’ve got to call. We can’t fight what we don’t know.”

As an example, he noted a resident recently sent the town dozens of photos of the bad condition of Dennison Drive. Because of that person’s outreach, paving Dennison will be a high priority this year.

In general, Lazo said he hopes voters give him a chance to “continue a lot of the projects we’re doing and reorganizing some departments to operate in a more efficient manner.” He’s particularly proud of the recent changes toward fixing town finances and how DPW’s being run now, but other departments are in the wings.

One major one is the schools. Lazo sees the state and town as being “on the same page to accomplish this mission,” when they had not been previously. That’s in large part due to a change in Boston, because now-Acting (and Lazo hopes soon-to-be permanent) Education Commissioner Russell Johnson “gets what’s going on in Southbridge.”

But Lazo admits there’s a lot of work to be done, and when receivership’s formally over, the state will probably “maintain oversight for a little bit” to make sure the system runs well.

Physically fixing the schools will itself be a task.

Lazo said he feels the town should have kept the Building Committee going to oversee other necessary projects after completing the middle/high school 10 years ago, but it didn’t. But he’s skeptical of the receiver’s cost estimate for the repairs, noting that’s from an educator, not a builder. As an example of what could be done, he points to the middle/high school, which didn’t increase taxes because the town sold some buildings to fund its share, he said.

In a related area, Lazo said he wants to see the schools return to being community buildings, as they were intended. The middle/high school includes a theater that organizations like Gateway Players could use, but the district now charges too much, so it’s underused, he argues.

On the side of regulations, Lazo also wants to see things become more “user friendly. We want bylaws that make people do things,” not impede them. Specifically, he’s referring to economic development, where he said the processes need to be “easy and accountable” to make Southbridge a “town of opportunity for each and every resident.” He hopes to see a town where residents don’t have to travel to eat, the streets are well-maintained, the arts are promoted, and recreational opportunities attract families. He points to the rail trail as probably sparking a lot of those improvements because it “activates the back sides of commercial buildings” and is already drawing small-business interest before even starting.

“What you put in your town

is the magnet for the type of citizen you’ll get,” he said.

To him, that’s a reason not to build more subsidized and/or “low-income” housing; he sees that as drawing people from Worcester, rather than housing Southbridgians. Lazo voted against a recent proposal to submit a “letter of interest” regarding more apartment development at the AO complex. Instead, he wants to see grants fix the public roads and facilities, not private ones, and promote business development.

By contrast, he points to the slowly evolving Cournoyer Blvd development as “the kind of development you want to see come in.” (It’s mostly single-family with one phase being condos.)

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# SCHOOL RACE 2024

## Shea: “Kids in Southbridge deserve the best”

BY GUS STEEVES  
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE — To Martena Shea, communication and honesty are key to bringing the School Committee, receivership and town together. She sees it as being “not a perfect group of perfect people, but a group of people who really care about our kids. It’s the one thing we have in common.”

Until recently, though, she said she felt that the state was looking for “the perfect School Committee,” and was trying to make Southbridge into “Newton or Wellesley, but they’re not.” Now, “we have people who are listening to us” in Boston, in part, she thinks, because the state nearly took over Boston schools too and they saw up close it wasn’t working.

“The kids in Southbridge deserve the best they can get, and I have high hopes for them,” she said.

A retired teacher/librarian and former union president, Shea is one of four candidates seeking two School Committee seats in this year’s town election June 11. She seeks reelection to a third term against IT professional Stephanie Rivers engineer Maria Torres, and social worker Brittany Davison. There are also four people running for three seats on the Town Council: incumbents John Daniel and Scott Lazo, former councilor Jackie Ryan, and attorney

Steve Kelly.

“I’ve been accused of trying too hard to work with the receiver [Jeffrey Villar],” she notes, agreeing that she does try to get as much information from him as possible and tries to approach things cooperatively. “Nobody responds well to being yelled at.”

That said, she also feels the receivership provides little information, but also doesn’t attend meetings “because we have not been welcoming.” The committee never sees budget changes in process, never learns why teachers were hired or fired, “we don’t know what textbooks we use or why we use them,” and “would love to know what our curriculum is doing,” she noted. She admits a lot of what she gets (outside of her chairperson’s meetings with Villar) about how things are working comes from Facebook.

“When I got home [from meeting with Villar], I’d send it to the whole team. That’s my management style,” she said. “[Those meetings] were much better than I thought it would’ve been.”

Historically, Shea said she thinks the committee “made a big mistake” when the state took over: “We folded our arms and said we’re not going to play.” By contrast, Holyoke kept acting as if they still had power, discussing the budgets and policies,



Martena Shea

updating their training, and even voting on recommendations to their receiver.

Today, the new leadership of the state’s education department is willing to pay for training Southbridge’s committee in various areas the committee oversees, particularly budgeting. Shea likes that, observing the committee voted unanimously to go forward with the plan. But she also notes their report has no timeline and “no sentence saying ‘If you complete this, receivership will end.’”

“In some senses, the receiver and business manager have done a good job,” she said. “... But they’re not good about communicating with the community. They’re not community centered.”

She sees that expressing itself in various ways, including more of a focus on test scores than the kids themselves. She’s not a big fan of standardized tests, noting they’re “not designed by fourth grade teachers for fourth graders,” and preferring to “educate them to think.” In various subjects,

that means looking at history for things to avoid repeating, at math for basic skills as well as major scientific issues, and in general “creating a base, a framework to think off of.”

To her, it prepares kids for college and the work world when done right. Unlike in some countries where tests steer you to one or the other, Shea noted “One thing I’ve always liked about the US is you can always go back to school. ... Even 80-year-olds can go to school here.”

Shea herself started Southbridge school in kindergarten and “got a wonderful education from some amazing teachers.”

In many cases, teachers then had “generational stability,” teaching for decades and seeing kids of their previous students in class, she recalled. (She taught 30 years, in Southbridge for 12.) Today, “nobody’s going into teaching” for various reasons; teachers rarely stay even five years and “much of the administration is brand new.” Years ago, people would teach 10-15 years, then become vice principal, principal, etc., she said.

To her, the School Committee also needs experience, and that’s why she wants to stay.

“I want to see us be a real, functioning School Committee again.”

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# COUNCIL RACE 2024

## Ryan: Leaders “should hold themselves to a higher standard”

**BY GUS STEEVES**  
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE — To Jackie Ryan, the key to Southbridge's future is fairly simple – attracting and keeping young people here. That means a lot of things, including economic development, good quality inexpensive housing, transit, and more.



Jackie Ryan

“What I was looking for this year was a candidate representing my generation's concerns,” she said. “...But I didn't see anyone in the field fighting for issues I and my generation care about.”

So she ran again. Ryan seeks to return to the Town Council June 11 after losing her reelection bid last year. She's one of four running for three seats, with the others being incumbents John Daniel and Scott Lazo and attorney Steve Kelly. There are also four candidates seeking two School Committee seats this year: incumbent

Martena Shea, engineer Maria Torres, IT professional Stephanie Rivers and social worker Brittany Davison.

Ryan served on both the council and school committee in town, plus on Tantasqua's school committee before moving here. Over the last year, she said, the council “has taken a turn away from the trajectory we'd been working on the last 10 years” and now has “a lack of transparency.”

She specifically points to what she terms a “flawed” process to hire Manager Jack Jovan, arguing the council did everything in just one night, while it took three nights to conduct interviews for his predecessor Michael McCall. She also decried the fact the council didn't set specific goals for his first year, claiming that “hurt the long-term success of this town.”

Beyond that, Ryan said she thinks

“the growth in central office is inappropriate,” specifically meaning the extra financial staff the town has hired, which she sees as “a main part of the contract of a town manager.”

“He's doing the best he can with the tools he has,” she said, noting “it's very hard to jump to the top without being second-in-command” and also hard to switch from being council chair to manager.

“We need to be hiring the best and brightest, not just those who are friends of those in charge,” she said. Later, she noted she feels “the turnover in the last year is unmatched in the last decade” in part because of “the way they treat volunteers.”

“People don't want to deal with the politics of it,” she said. “Local government should be boring and mundane.”

Ryan said her goal is to “bring everybody to the table” and “lift all boats rather than those already connected to and at the top.” As an example, she points to her work on the WRTA board. She rides the bus to work daily, and

sees a broad range of people on it, mostly seniors going to medical appointments, students to college and workers to jobs; getting those perspectives will help make for better decisions, she said.

One issue that might be helpful for is housing. Ryan said she'd like to see the town create a partnership between local business, landlords and the state to use grant money for housing and employment programs. She points to opioid settlement money as a potential resource for this, noting if the town helps do that “the chance of you going back to addictive practice goes down.”

For housing more generally, she notes the state's population has fallen about 10 percent over 10 years. She feels a big part of that is the fact that the amount of money someone must earn to afford a first home is above median income, and hers is the first generation to make less than their parents. At the same time, housing, food and other basic costs have risen “dramatically.”

While a lot of money is going into what's officially termed “affordable housing” (in reality, subsidized housing), there is “no actually affordable housing” for people not on assistance, Ryan noted. She said she thinks the

Turn To **RYAN** page A13

# SCHOOL RACE 2024

## Torres: “Reach that common ground and build that bridge”

**BY GUS STEEVES**  
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE — Maria Torres sees the schools from two perspectives – that of a parent, and that of an engineer.

The former is sparked by three kids in very different schools, one at West St, two at the middle/high school.



Maria Torres

From her experience there, Torres said she feels West St administration “does a great job. They work together and te communication's great.” But at the middle/high school, “there's always room for improvement,” especially in promoting parent and student involvement to “know more of the back story” regarding why absences and other issues happen.

Regarding engineering, she'd love to be involved in management of some of the school construction projects coming down the pike and “complete what needs to get done. ... I'm glad [the receiver] is focusing on the infrastructure of our schools and brought it to our attention.”

She is one of four candidates seeking two School Committee seats in this year's town election June 11. She faces incumbent Martena Shea, IT professional Stephanie Rivers, and social worker Brittany Davison. There are also four people running for three seats on the Town Council: incumbents John Daniel and Scott Lazo, former councilor Jackie Ryan, and attorney Steve Kelly.

Torres has shown an interest in both boards. Last year, she ran for Council with one of her issues being the schools. That prompted her to join the Education & Human Services sub-committee after she lost, and she hopes to “continue to serve my community in areas that are needed.”

“It's not a competition,” she said. “Our goal needs to be to reach that common ground and build that bridge.”

By that, she means several things in the realm of “collaborating and advocating for our public schools.” To her, the system needs better communication between committee and receivership; between committee and council; with the committee; and among administration, committee, parents and students. Thus, the launch of DESE's new plan promoting such collaboration is “something good,” she noted. Such things are a key part of doing any of the “backlog of things” the schools need to do, and we won't “get results overnight,” she said.

“If our goal is the same goal, it shouldn't be this difficult” to cooperate, she noted, specifically referring to the receivership. “... We're here to support everybody, but need him to meet us halfway.”

Regarding family issues, she noted many need to know what's available to help them.

“Some families might not have the proper needs for food and clothing; transportation is huge, too,” she said. She also noted some have disabilities, language barriers, and housing issues that will affect their students, and the district needs to know what they need and expect.

“I'm a firm believer in taking any opportunity to learn new things,” she added. “If the state is willing to train us, I'm open to that opportunity.”

Years ago, Torres saw the education process from within as part of Ashland High School's “Green Circle” program, a student-run effort teaching diversity and tolerance. Upon going to college, she continued in that vein as a permanent substitute shifting among several schools and grades. That gave her insight into differences in how schools run, she said: “Some schools were awesome, happy-go-lucky” while another was “very quiet.” In them, she most recalled the “long-lasting teachers” who were still there when she visited years later, and hopes to recreate that stability in

Turn To **TORRES** page A13

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Friday's Child

Edwin  
Age 14

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Edwin is enrolled for the 2023-2024 school year and will receives some assistance with social needs. He tends to seek out peer approval which at times has lead to poor decision making but he has made gains in this area. He would benefit from a positive male role model in his life to follow.

Edwin engages appropriately with his social workers, the staff at his program and teachers in school. He can struggle with trusting others but with patience and consistency he is beginning to look toward adults for guidance. He can struggle at times with peer relationships but he has made great strides in this area over the past year. He would benefit from structure and routine in his daily life.

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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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# Sixty reasons to visit Brimfield on June 8

BRIMFIELD — It's almost time for one of Brimfield's biggest annual shopping events - and it's not the flea market. It's the 14th annual Town-Wide Tag Sale presented by Hitchcock Academy on Saturday, June 8 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Slather on the sunscreen, put on some comfortable shoes, and stay hydrated for six hours of bargain hunting, and more on Sunday at participating locations.

More than 60 sales are currently registered for this year's sale, selling a huge range of goods, including collectibles, vintage household items, antiques, clothing, drones, books, tools, primitives, office supplies, textiles, ski and snowboarding gear and other sporting equipment, radios and parts, baby goods, household appliances, jewelry, toys, games, gardening items, holiday decor, camping gear, craft supplies, exercise equipment, indoor & outdoor furniture, records & DVDs and much more. A lemonade stand is also noted on the growing list.

Patrons are encouraged to start the day at Hitchcock where there will be six on-site tag sales and printed tag sale maps available for purchase for just \$2. A PDF of the map will also be available to download free on Hitchcock's website. The map will include a full list of tag sale locations, indicating some of the items that will be sold at each, and which sales will continue into Sunday. This is a rain-or-shine event and is one of the several annual fundraisers to support the non-profit community center.

The Brimfield Farmers' Market will be set up for its usual Saturday market in the Hitchcock parking lot from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Baked goods and cupcakes make a great snack to go, or bargain hunters can bring some farm fresh goodies home along with their tag sale finds.

The Tag Sale kicks off the summer season at Hitchcock, which includes the Hitchcock Summer Concert Series running Wednesdays at 6 p.m. from July 17 to Aug. 21 on the Brimfield Town Common as well as the community center's Summer Days youth program packed with arts & crafts and sports & games activities for grades K-2 and 3-5. New to this year's summer youth programming are tennis lessons for grades 4-9 and Summer Youth Yoga for ages 11-16, both led by Tantasqua district educators. Classes and workshops for



all ages will continue through the summer at Hitchcock in fitness, arts & crafts, music, and enrichment.

Hitchcock will also act as a host of the 2024 Mass Walking Tour on June 22, providing a location for one of the event's

## SOUTHBRIDGE POLICE LOG

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Police Department reported the following arrests from May 20 to June 3.

Ashley Nicole Whittaker, age 29, of Southbridge was arrested on May 20 in connection with a warrant for Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle.

Melaney Joy Mathieu, age 24, of Southbridge was arrested on May 21 for Assault & Battery (Domestic), Disorderly Conduct, Carrying a Firearm Without a License, and Resisting Arrest.

Eric M. Boudreau, age 68, of Southbridge was arrested on May 21 in connection with a warrant for Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol.

William V. Cowden, age 76, of Webster was arrested on May 22 for Violation of an Abuse Prevention Order.

Krystle A. Martin, age 37, of Southbridge was arrested on May 23 for Operating a Motor Vehicle after Suspension of License, Failure to Stop for Police, driving at a rate of speed exceeding the posted limit, Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and a Marked Lanes Violation.

Michael Diaz-Torres, age 20, of Southbridge was arrested on May 24 in connection with a warrant for Possession of a Firearm Without a Permit.

A 30-year-old from Southbridge was issued a summons in lieu of arrest on May 24 for operating an Uninsured and Unregistered Motor Vehicle.

Jonathan Pagan, age 37, of Southbridge was arrested on May 24 for Possession of a Class B Drug.

Jonathan Armand Poulin, age 26, of Southbridge was arrested on May 25 for Assault & Battery, Assault with a Dangerous Weapon, and Discharging a Firearm Within 500 Feet of a Building.

A 21-year-old from Southbridge was issued a summons in lieu of arrest for Operating a Motor Vehicle after Suspension of License and driving at a rate of speed exceeding the posted limit.

A juvenile was issued a summons in lieu of arrest on May 26 for Receiving Stolen Property.

Ismael Caraballo Vargas, age 47, of Southbridge was arrested on May 26 for Armed Assault with Intent to Murder, Armed Assault with a Knife with Intent to Murder, and multiple counts of Assault & Battery with a Dangerous Weapon resulting in Serious Bodily Injury.

A 20-year-old from Southbridge was issued a summons in lieu of arrest on May 27 for Operating a Motor Vehicle after Suspension of License.

A 39-year-old from Worcester was issued a summons in lieu of arrest on May 27 for Malicious Destruction of Property valued at less than \$1,200.

Timothy Mitchell Benjamin, age 28, of Southbridge was arrested on May 29 for Violation of an Abuse Prevention Order.

Jovani Abdias Luna, age 19, of Charlton was arrested on May 30 for Nighttime Felony Breaking & Entering into a Building, Vandalization of Property, and Larceny from a Building.

Nicholas L. Bergeron, age 56, of Southbridge was arrested on May 31 in connection with a warrant for Permitting Abuse against an Elder or Disabled Person and a warrant for Assault.

Salvador Serrano, age 60, of Southbridge was taken into protective custody on June 1 and subsequently arrested for Violation of an Abuse Prevention Order.

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evening concerts to complement its daytime walking tours. In addition, Hitchcock can be found at Old Home Day on July 27 at the Brimfield Winery, and the organization is pleased to be a beneficiary of the first ever Good Times Festival on Aug. 3 at the New England Motel.

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

## VILLAGER ALMANAC OPEN TO CLOSE

### SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN HALL

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

### JACOB EDWARDS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Monday: 9 a.m.-8 p.m.  
Tuesday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Wednesday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Thursday: 9 a.m.-8 p.m.  
Friday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

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

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

#### Office Hours:

Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays  
7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Tuesdays..... 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Friday..... Closed

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

Individual offices may vary  
PUBLIC LIBRARY (248-0452)

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

### POLICE DEPARTMENT (248-2250)

Monday to Friday..... 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
For emergencies, dial 911

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Charlton Elementary School  
..... (508) 248-7774 or (508) 248-7435

Heritage School ..... (508) 248-4884  
Charlton Middle School..... (508) 248-1423

Shepherd Hill Regional High School  
..... (508) 943-6700

Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical  
High School (508) 248-5971 or (508) 987-0326

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1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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

### STURBRIDGE 508-347-6463

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

### BRIMFIELD: 413-245-3451

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

### WALES: 413-245-9808

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

## CHURCH LISTINGS

• **Central Baptist Church**  
256 Main St., Southbridge, MA 01550  
Tel 508/764-6365; Worship 10:00 A.M.

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

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

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

Sunday worship and Children's church 10am

• **St. Anne St. Patrick Church**, 16 Church St., Fiskdale (508) 347-7338  
[www.stannestpatparish.com](http://www.stannestpatparish.com)

Saturday Vigil Mass at 4 pm, Sunday 8 am, 10 am, 12 noon, Youth Mass (September to May) 5 pm. Daily Mass Mon - Thurs 7:30 and 10 am, Fri and Sat 7:30 am

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

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

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

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

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

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

• **Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale** - 8 Maple St. Sturbridge, 774-304-1021  
[www.sturfed.org](http://www.sturfed.org)

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

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

Phone 508-347-7297

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

Services - Sunday 9:00 am

Pastor Dan Purtell

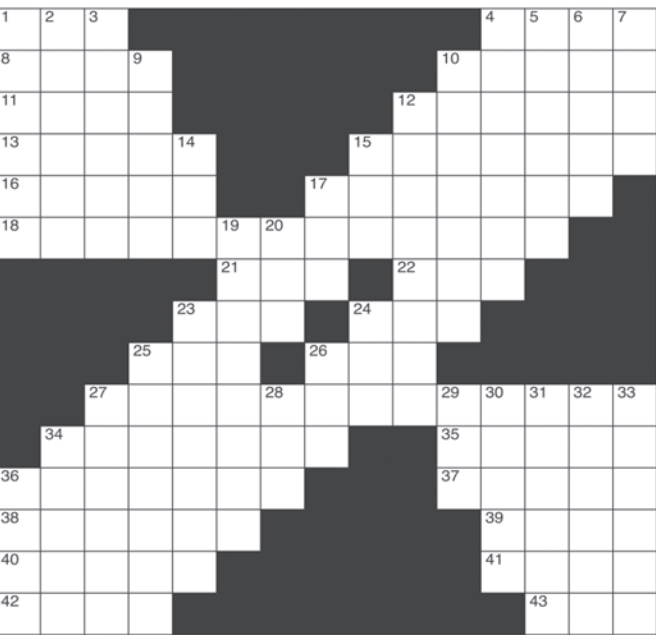
• **Holland Congregation Church**

"Where the Bible is preached."

11 Sturbridge Road, Holland, 413-245-9926  
[Hollandchurch.org](http://Hollandchurch.org)

Sunday Service @ 10:00 am

Pastor Dan Maketansky



### CLUES ACROSS

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Baby's dining accessory                    | 24. Your physique                      |
| 4. Something free                             | 25. Family of regulator genes          |
| 8. Ancient Egyptian deity                     | 26. LA football player (abbr.)         |
| 10. Set-like mathematical categories          | 27. "The Blonde Bombshell"             |
| 11. Top-quality                               | 34. Charity                            |
| 12. Expansive                                 | 35. Bluish greens                      |
| 13. Seizure                                   | 36. Examined closely                   |
| 15. People with congenital absence of pigment | 37. A type of equation                 |
| 16. Gains                                     | 38. Stretched uncomfortably            |
| 17. Mocked online                             | 39. Indian religious god               |
| 18. Clint's son                               | 40. Clocks                             |
| 21. Body part                                 | 41. Slowly leak through                |
| 22. Humor                                     | 42. Witnesses                          |
| 23. Code number                               | 43. Midway between south and southeast |

### CLUES DOWN

- |                                   |                                  |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Nestlings                      | 19. Evoked a response            |
| 2. Induces vomiting               | 20. French river                 |
| 3. A place to eat                 | 23. Shiny yellow minerals        |
| 4. Partner in the air             | 24. Make illegal                 |
| 5. Offered one's take             | 25. U.S. military branch         |
| 6. Nobel-winning French biologist | 26. River in France and Belgium  |
| 7. Farm animals                   | 27. A woman of refinement        |
| 9. Prevent from growing           | 28. Male child                   |
| 10. Sensationalist periodical     | 29. Type of medication           |
| 12. Soft-bodied beetle            | 30. German city                  |
| 14. Very fast airplane            | 31. Animal disease               |
| 15. Imaginative creation          | 32. Mediterranean dietary staple |
| 17. Recipe measurement (abbr.)    | 33. Sneak out                    |
|                                   | 34. Radioactivity unit           |
|                                   | 36. Performs on stage            |





# “These kids train like Olympians”

## Town honors champion cheerleaders

SOUTHBRIDGE — Parents, some school staff and some town officials gathered on the Common Saturday afternoon to honor the Southbridge Middle/High cheerleaders for recently winning both state and national titles for the first time in years.

They'd gotten there in a long, honking and flashing rolling rally from the old high school, the students and a few others riding in a “duck boat” on the back of a flatbed truck. A smattering of people along the route took photos and cheered

them on.

In early May, the coed squad took top honors at the One Global finals in Florida, with coach Brianaliz Colon noting it was the culmination of improvement marked by “a lot of heartbreaks and a lot of downfalls” since 2016.

“These kids train like Olympians; they really do,” she added. “... I'm in awe to see everybody come together to do this for us.

She thanked several people, including Receiver Jeff Villar (who wasn't present), saying, “At the end of the day, we were asking for



The team. In no order, the members are high schoolers Hannah Gendron, Kariann Ortiz, Yadiel Colon-Martinez, Nathaniel Dipaolo, Alex Bermudez, Jenielys Bermudez, Hailee Prendiville and Nataliz Cruz, and middle schoolers Isabella Vinuela, Alexandria Romero and Janisley Guzman. Coaches are Brianaliz Colon, Trinity Periera and Angelica Perez.

the impossible, and he made it possible for us.”

Senior Nathaniel Dipaolo said it was his first year on the team, but he always wanted to come to practice.

“It's been a crazy ride,” he said. “It couldn't have been with anyone else but you guys, because you're what makes a team.”

Fellow senior and team captain Kariann Ortiz said she “wanted to make it happen, not only for myself, but also for the younger cheerleaders” plus family, friends and community.

Several folks from the community spoke on the teens' behalf, with commendations from Rep John Marsi and Sen Ryan Fattman. With everything going on in the world now, Marsi noted, “It's always great when we focus on the positivity.”

Fattman's aide Amanda Galonek attended in her mom's 1980s-era “Southbridge cheerleader swag.” She said she “literally idolized” the cheerleaders in school.

Town Manager Jack Jovan recalled knowing cheerleaders while in school (he graduated 1980) and through his daughter's involvement later.

“If we all come together with a little communication, we can make it happen,” he said.

# American Optical workers diagnosed with cancer secure cash benefits

SOUTHBRIDGE — Plant workers employed before 1981 diagnosed with various cancers are entitled to special benefits. Lung cancer; esophageal cancer; laryngeal cancer; pharyngeal cancer; stomach cancer; colon cancer; rectal cancer; and mesothelioma are frequently caused by asbestos exposure. Asbestos-laced products were used for decades at American Optical. Neither employees nor management were aware of the asbestos risk.

Asbestos is a mineral that in its natural state is harmless. It becomes harmful when it is pulled apart or ground up into flexible fibers. Then, when inhaled or swallowed, microscopic asbestos fibers may be permanently affixed to body tissue. Over many years, these fibers may cause genetic changes that can lead to cancer. According to the National Cancer Institute, “It can take from 10 to 40

years or more for asbestos-related cancers to appear.”

To compensate cancer victims and the families of deceased cancer victims, Federal Bankruptcy Courts have required asbestos manufacturers to set aside hundreds of millions of dollars in private trusts. Through these trusts, cancer victims can receive money damages by the filing of timely, detailed, and accurate claims.

Norris Injury Lawyers has announced a specific initiative to assist American Optical employees in recovering money set aside for them in these asbestos trusts. Cancer victims or the families of deceased victims who worked at the plant before 1981 may call 800-478-9578 for a free evaluation of their claim. Additional information is available at [getnorris.com/asb](http://getnorris.com/asb).

# Charlton Library to host genealogy presentation, “Shamrocks in Cyberspace”

CHARLTON — On Thursday, June 6, from 6-7:30 p.m., the Charlton Library Genealogy Group will be host to professional genealogical researcher Michael Brophy. He will present his program “Shamrocks in Cyberspace: Irish Genealogy Databases.” Information about our Irish ancestors is exploding on the internet. The best Web sites for Irish research will be explored and analyzed by Mike in his presentation. Registration is requested, but not required. To register, visit our event calendar at [www.charltonlibrary.org](http://www.charltonlibrary.org) or call the Library.

Michael Brophy is a nationally known, professional genealogical researcher, heir search specialist, and lecturer from the Boston area. He has served as Program Director and Publicity Director for the Massachusetts Genealogical Council. He was featured on the Irish TV series Dead

Money, a genealogy TV show about heir searchers. In 2010, Brophy was hired to conduct research for the NBC television program “Who Do You Think You Are?” on an episode dedicated to the family history of actress Gwyneth Paltrow. Mike has lectured on a wide variety of genealogy subjects worldwide and specializes in New England and Irish genealogy subjects.

The Charlton Library Genealogy Group is a friendly group of people who share

Turn To **SHAMROCKS** page A13

## REAL ESTATE

### BRIMFIELD

\$80,000, 293 Brookfield Rd, Douai, Said, and Mhachi, Rachida, to Talavera, Carlos, and Herrercastro, Alma L.

\$70,000, 293 Brookfield Rd, Macumber Dan L Est, and Macumber, Frank L, to Douai, Said, and Mhachi, Rachida.

### CHARLTON

\$715,000, 126 Oxford Rd, T Reardon Builders Inc, to Puleo, Brian, and Ricard, Samantha.

\$310,000, 28 Southbridge Rd #202, Tomasi, Luca, and Lesperance, Kristen, to Lucia, Joseph N.

### HOLLAND

\$250,000, 155 Mashapaug Rd, Simonson Jr, John L, to Labonte Jr, Raymond, and Labonte, Phattiva.

### SOUTHBRIDGE

\$4,800,000, 365 Hamilton St, Pine Vw T Remaind T, and Erskine, Matthew F, to Wps Southbridge 50 LLC.

\$4,800,000, 385 Hamilton St, Pine Vw T Remaind T, and Erskine, Matthew F, to Wps Southbridge 50 LLC.

\$4,800,000, 43 Oliver St, Pine Vw T Remaind T, and Erskine, Matthew F, to Wps Southbridge 50 LLC.

\$3,215,716, 105 Cross St, Gjd LLC, to 68 Southbridge LLC.

\$3,215,716, 59 Cross St, Gjd LLC, to 68 Southbridge LLC.

\$3,215,716, 61 Goddard St, Gjd LLC, to 68 Southbridge LLC.

\$3,215,716, 658 Main St, Gjd LLC, to 68 Southbridge LLC.

\$3,215,716, 76 Pine St, Gjd LLC, to 68 Southbridge LLC.

\$3,215,716, 79 Cross St, Gjd LLC, to 68 Southbridge LLC.

\$3,215,716, 83 Pine St, Gjd LLC, to 68 Southbridge LLC.

\$3,215,716, 88 Pine St, Gjd LLC, to 68 Southbridge LLC.

\$2,054,659, 165 Pleasant St, Kline, Michael S, to 68 Southbridge LLC.

\$2,054,659, 33 Union St, Kline, Michael S, to 68 Southbridge LLC.

\$2,054,659, 40-42 Cross St, Kline, Michael S, to 68 Southbridge LLC.

\$2,054,659, 41 Union St, Kline, Michael S, to 68 Southbridge LLC.

\$2,054,659, 43 Union St, Kline, Michael S, to 68 Southbridge LLC.

\$2,054,659, 45 Union St, Kline, Michael S, to 68 Southbridge LLC.

\$2,054,659, 47 Union St, Kline, Michael S, to 68 Southbridge LLC.

\$2,054,659, 50-52 Cross St, Kline, Michael S, to 68 Southbridge LLC.

\$2,054,659, 60 Cross St, Kline, Michael S, to 68 Southbridge LLC.

\$1,000,000, 1 Heather Ln, Saparnis, John A, and Saparnis, Carol S, to Trunk, Francisca, and Trunk, Zachary.

\$804,133, 113 Cross St, 12-14 Tirrell Street LLC, to 68 Southbridge LLC.

\$804,133, 538 Main St, 12-14 Tirrell Street LLC, to 68 Southbridge LLC.

\$804,133, 98 Cross St, 12-14 Tirrell Street LLC, to 68 Southbridge LLC.

\$650,000, 45 River St, 45 River-5 Oliver St Rt, and Ardan, Mary E, to Kbg Realty Properties LLC.

\$650,000, 5 Oliver St, 45 River-5 Oliver St Rt, and Ardan, Mary E, to Kbg Realty Properties LLC.

\$525,000, 99 Breakneck Rd, Hollywood Sr, Bobby J, and Ramsey, Mayra, to Gray, Zachary, and Leblanc, Nicole.

\$505,000, 426 Alpine Dr, Fraga, Marcio M, and Fraga, Jucileila S, to Sorl, Kylin.

\$450,000, 37 River St, 37 River Street Rt, and Ardan, Mary E, to Kbg Realty Properties LLC.

\$450,000, 79 Hamilton St, 79 Hamilton Street-Off Rt, and Ardan, Mary E, to Kbg Realty Properties LLC.

\$300,000, 15 Twine Hurst Pl, 15-17 Twinehurst Place Rt, and Ardan, Mary E, to Kbg Realty Properties LLC.

\$300,000, 23 Twine Hurst Pl, 23-25 Twinehurst Place Rt, and Ardan, Mary E, to Kbg Realty Properties LLC.

\$275,000, 103 Eastford Rd, Cej Lt, and Jones, Mark N, to Tremblay, Michele A, and Tremblay, Marc S.

**STURBRIDGE**

\$454,000, 35 Bushnell Rd, Waters, Karen A, to Cozza, Patrick, and Cozza, Grace.

\$350,000, 15 Main St, Rambet Re Investment Inc, to Baxter, Mary M.

# AMERICAN OPTICAL

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PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE  
EDITOR

# Supporting family and friends: A pillar of well-being

The importance of supporting family and friends cannot be overstated. Family and friends serve as our emotional anchors, grounding us during times of turmoil and lifting us during moments of triumph. The presence of a supportive network can make a significant difference in how we cope with life's challenges. For example, the comforting words of a parent or the encouragement from a friend can transform a daunting situation into a manageable one. This emotional support helps build resilience, allowing us to navigate life's ups and downs with greater ease.

Actively supporting our loved ones not only benefits them but also strengthens the bond you have with them. When we invest time and energy in the well-being of our family and friends, we create a reciprocal relationship built on trust and mutual respect. This investment pays off in the form of deeper, more meaningful connections. Celebrating successes, offering a shoulder to cry on, or simply being present during life's mundane moments can all contribute to a stronger, more cohesive network of relationships. When we model supportive behavior, we set a standard for others to follow.

Supporting family and friends can take many forms, from grand gestures to small, everyday acts of kindness. Here are a few practical ways to show support:

Active Listening: Sometimes, the most valuable thing we can offer is our attention. Truly listening to someone's concerns or joys shows that we care about their feelings and experiences.

Acts of Service: Helping with tasks, whether it's running an errand or lending a hand with a project, demonstrates a willingness to share the load and make life easier for others.

Words of Encouragement: Simple words of encouragement can boost someone's confidence and morale. Letting others know we believe in them can have a powerful impact on their outlook.

Quality Time: Spending quality time together, free from distractions, reinforces the importance of the relationship and provides opportunities to deepen connections.

Being There: Sometimes, just being there in times of need, whether in person or virtually, provides immense comfort and reassurance.

It's important to recognize that supporting family and friends is not a one-way street. The act of giving support often brings about a sense of fulfillment and purpose. Knowing that we have made a positive difference in someone's life can enhance our own sense of well-being.


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

## Fishing for seabass with Mel



THE GREAT  
OUTDOORS  
.....  
RALPH  
TRUE

The great weather continued last week and this week, giving fishermen the opportunity to enjoy catching some impressive sea bass in both Mass. & Rhode Island. The problem with fishing Rhode Island was the two fish limit and Mass. allowing four fish daily. We chose to fish Mass. on "Fish Net" Charters last week and were pleasantly rewarded with limits of Sea Bass. We needed to weed through numerous shorts but in the end it was all worth the effort.

One of Captain Mel's fishing buddies made a call to him while we were fishing, reporting fast action on stripers. We were soon on our way to hopefully catch a few. After a half hour run to the area, it seems we were a bit late, as the school of fish had moved out of the area. That is the way it goes! We fished for stripers for a short time with no success, so we headed back to our fishing hole that had numerous seabass still feeding! Anglers fishing in Buzzards Bay area also caught limits of seabass along with many nice size sculp.

On the freshwater scene, my brother Ken and his wife Deb fished the Quabbin Res. last week, taking advantage of the nice weather and the \$25 fee for a boat rental, six gallons of gas which included admission fee. Unfortunately, the day only gave up one fish, but fishing in perfect weather, and watching wildlife made it all worth the trip.

Locally, anglers are catching some nice largemouth bass on shiners and lures, with some large pickerel mixed in.

As the forest fires rage on in parts of California, destroying thousands of acres of land and many homes, I find it hard to believe the devastation to people and wildlife in that area of the country.

Domestic animals like dogs and cats are also being impacted from the fires, and will more than likely need new homes. They are being shipped to other areas of the country, and will hopefully be adopted by new families in our area. This is a good time to go to one of the shelters in your area and



Courtesy  
Rob Mac from Uxbridge with a large striped he caught recently on the Cape.



This week's second picture shows Captain Mel True of "FISH Net" Charters with a nice seabass he caught while fishing with this Writer and Matt Fontaine of Uxbridge last week! He likes to catch fish also.

adopt one for your family! You will be glad you did.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

## Grow fast, fun, and easy microgreens



GARDEN  
MOMENTS  
.....  
MELINDA  
MYERS

Have fun growing some delicious and nutritious microgreens on your kitchen counter, in a sunny window, or under lights any time of the year. In as little as a week to ten days you'll be making your first harvest to use as a garnish, snack, or add to your favorite sandwich or salad.

Simply purchase seeds of lettuce, greens, mustard, radishes, beets, peas, and even sunflowers. Buy organic

Turn To **MICROGREENS** page A7



Photo  
Courtesy — True Leaf Market  
Any microgreens can be grown in soil and most varieties can also be grown hydroponically.

## TO THE EDITOR

### Thanks to all who supported No Mow May

To the Editor:

Thanks to all who participated in No Mow May this year!

Similar to giving a human baby a good start, flying, pollinating insects need a good start by those grasses and flowers that are allowed to grow in your yard, garden plot, container, etc. We have recently learned how important undisturbed nature is to our society so it is good that this simple action can provide a boost in that direction. According to Plantlife.org.uk, since No Mow May began in 2019, those participants have provided a feast for pollinators, reduced urban heat extremes, and kept carbon underground (and I think you saved a few bucks, too, as well as saved the carbon expelled by your lawn mower!).

Looking out over your beautiful wildflowers and colorful butterflies,

maybe you dusted off your painting supplies or camera to capture the flitting butterflies and arrangements of asters, poppies, daisies.

If you don't participate in NMM, are you worried about ticks? There is always something to be worried about (especially when money is being made off our fears!). Yes, ticks are potentially bad; but look how much worse we have made our environment through our fears? Each evening, do a thorough tick check and keep your shirt and pants tucked in when in taller grass and wildflowers. Wear a hat to protect your scalp from ticks and sun overexposure.

Let's hear it for biodiversity and head the famous words of Lady Bird Johnson, "Where flowers bloom, so does hope!"

Maureen Doyle  
Southbridge

## How is your retirement income taxed?



FINANCIAL  
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.....  
TREVOR  
NIELSEN

Once you're retired, you will likely need to draw on several types of income for your living expenses. You'll need to know where these funds are coming from and how much you can count on, but you should also be aware of how this money is taxed — because this knowledge can help you plan and budget for your retirement years.

Here's the basic tax information on some key sources of retirement income:

Social Security – Many people don't realize they may have to pay taxes on their Social Security benefits. Whether your benefits will be taxed depends on how much other taxable income you receive from various sources, such as self-employment, stock dividends and interest payments. You'll want to check with your tax advisor to determine whether your income reaches the threshold where your Social Security benefits will be taxed. The lower your total taxable income, the lower the taxes will be on your benefits. The Social Security Administration will not automatically take out taxes from your monthly checks — to have taxes withheld, you will need to fill out Form W-4V (Voluntary Withholding Request). Again, your tax advisor can help you determine the percentage of your benefits you should withhold.

Retirement accounts – During your working years, you may have contributed to two basic retirement accounts: an IRA and a 401(k) or similar plan (such as a 457(b) plan for state and local government employees or a 403(b) plan for educators and employees of some nonprofits). If you invested in a "traditional" IRA or 401(k) or similar plan, your contributions may have been partially or completely deductible and your earnings grew on a tax-deferred basis. But when you start taking withdrawals from your traditional IRA or 401(k), the money is considered taxable at your normal income tax rate. However, if you chose the "Roth" option (when available), your contributions were not deductible, but your earnings and withdrawals are tax-free, provided you meet certain conditions.

Annuities – Many investors use annuities to supplement their retirement income. An annuity is essentially a contract between you and an insurance company in which the insurer pays you an income stream for a given number of years, or for life, in exchange for the premiums you paid. You typically purchase a "qualified" annuity with pre-tax dollars, possibly within a traditional IRA or 401(k), so your premiums may be deductible, and your earnings can grow tax deferred. Once you start taking payouts, the entire amount — your contributions and earnings — are taxable at your individual tax rate. On the other hand, you purchase "non-qualified" annuities with after-tax dollars, so your premiums aren't deductible, but just like qualified annuities, your earnings grow on a tax-deferred basis. When you take payments, you won't pay taxes on the principal amounts you invested but the earnings will be taxed as ordinary income.

We've looked at some general rules governing different sources of income, but you should consult your tax professional about your specific situation. Ultimately, factors such as your goals, lifestyle and time horizon should drive the decisions you make for your retirement income. Nonetheless, you may want to look for ways to control the taxes that result from your various income pools. And the more you know about how your income is taxed, the fewer unpleasant surprises you may experience.

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



# Best Times to Bag a Bargain

It's obvious that some people are better shoppers than others. But the best bargain hunters are not necessarily those who have a knack for a good deal. It may be that, like any good investor, savvy shoppers know when to take action. Traditionally certain times of year are better than others to save money on particular purchases with both in store and online purchases. This week's column will review some classic calendar sales throughout the year.

**\*\* Groceries**  
Everyone has to buy groceries, but savvy shoppers know when to buy and save money all year long! Throughout the year grocery stores hold sales on specific department or aisle items, such as specials on frozen foods or soft drinks. Here are some guidelines:

**Dairy:** June is National Dairy Month, so look for exceptional sales on milk, cheese, ice cream and specialty dairy foods during June.

**Frozen Food:** Many supermarkets celebrate Frozen Food Month in March with rock bottom prices on a wide variety of frozen goods.

**Canned Goods:** February has been deemed National Canned



TAKE  
THE  
HINT  
  
KAREN  
TRAINOR

**Foods Month.** Canned goods typically go on sale in January and February. Since canned foods can be kept for a long period of time, it pays to stock up for the whole year on drastically reduced items.

**Snacks:** Late August, when kids are gearing up to go back to school, is an ideal time to stockpile snack foods and drink boxes. Lunch box fillers are at their lowest prices at this time.

**Condiments:** As cook-out season kicks off in June, the prices of mustard, relish, ketchup, barbecue sauce, pickles and other condiments drop in price. Smart shoppers buy enough to last throughout the warm weather season.

**Soft Drinks:** There's no better time to stock up on soda than around the holidays. Typically six and 12 packs will be on sale during warm weather holidays like Memorial Day and 4th of July; while two liter bottles are often on special during Thanksgiving and Christmas.

**B a k i n g Products:** Baking supplies such as flour and sugar, as well as cake and bread mixes, pie crusts, pudding mix, etc. are marked down in time for holiday baking. Look for sales on these items, from November through December.

**\*\* Gas**  
With gas prices fluctuating on a daily basis, getting a buying edge can be a challenge. Consumer watchdogs offer the following money saving advice: Time your trip based on whether prices are rising or falling, and purchase gas during the early morning or late evening on a weekday.

The reason is gas stations typically change their prices between 10 a.m. and noon. So it makes sense to buy early in the morning to take advantage of lower prices when gas is on the rise. If gas prices are coming down, wait until later in the day.

**\*\* Cars and Trucks**  
There is much debate on when is the best time to snag a bargain on the car lot. Here is some advice on timing the best deals: Consumer pundits tout weekday mornings in September as the prime bargain

time. They say since the next year's models are in, car dealers are in a rush to move out the current year's stock.

Others say springtime can yield the best price all year, since spring is typically a slow season for dealerships. And some penny pinchers swear shopping for a car on a rainy day can cut the price down to size. Still others claim the end of any month or the end of a year-quarter is best, since salespeople are desperate to make quotas. Using all this information, it appears the optimum time to drive away with the best price would be a rainy weekday morning at the end of March or September.

**\*\* Electronics**  
Black Friday and back to school season are the best times to snag a deal on computers and electronics. Also some com-

puter review sites claim you can snap up a super bargain on computers and electronics if you buy just after a new model is introduced (some in January). They say prices will immediately drop on the previously best-selling model as a new one takes its place.

**\*\* Heads Up on Monthly Sales**

Want to pocket savings the whole year long? Here is a list of months, with items that are typically offered at a discount during those times.

**January:** Canned goods, white goods (towels, sheets, linens), appliances, Christmas items, costume jewelry, indoor plants, carpeting, shoes, furniture, toys, storewide pre-inventory sales.

**February:** Presidents' Day Sales on big ticket items such as cars,

trucks and furniture. Also save on sports equipment, electronics, housewares, mens clothing, canned goods. Valentine Day specials.

**March:** Luggage, shoes, coats, shoes, appliances, pre season garden supplies, spring bulbs.

**April:** Paint, wallpaper, home decor, dresses, suits, garden adornments and tools. Sales on Easter holiday foods such as ham, pies, eggs, candy, etc.

**May:** Fabrics, outdoor furniture, tires and auto accessories, electronics, summer sport equipment, perfume, pocketbooks. Mother's Day specials.

**June:** Air conditioners, outdoor furniture, building materials, flooring, shoes, tools, Father's Day sales.

**July:** Clearance summer clothing, luggage, furniture, electronics,

Turn To **HINT** page A11

## Stay with your dream

POSITIVELY  
SPEAKING

TOBY  
MOORE

Achieving a dream can take a long time. Some dreams are so big that, over time, you might start to question if you truly want it. Maybe you've gotten used to life as it is, and transitioning into that dream life, even though you've worked and believed in it for many years, feels like stepping out of your comfort zone. You've settled into your current routine and wonder if you really want things to change. Spending years working on something without it becoming your main source of income is enough to make anyone consider giving up.

But when you think about giving up, you feel a bit lost and without purpose. At the same time, so many years have passed that your dream might need some adjustments. If that's the case, many people feel like they failed, but history shows us that sometimes, those with big dreams had to modify them.

Walt Disney comes to mind. In the beginning, his passion was animation, a new technology that hit the silver screens and changed cinema forever. It was such a new form of media that only a few people were doing it. Walt started his journey in Kansas City, running a small animation studio called Laugh-O-Gram Studio.

However, the studio struggled and eventually failed. Walt desperately wanted to make it work in Kansas City, but he realized he had to modify his dream to succeed.

Instead of giving up, he moved west to Hollywood, where he believed more opportunities existed.

In Hollywood, he continued to pursue animation but with a new vision that evolved even further, leading to the creation of feature-length animated films and, eventually, Disneyland, transforming him from an animator to a pioneer in the entertainment industry.

Walt's story shows how modifying a dream can lead to even greater success.

Or consider Ernest Shackleton. This explorer's dream was to be the first to reach the South Pole and return home with all of his men. He made several attempts, each filled with challenges and setbacks. His last attempt, the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition, found him and his crew stuck in the ice on their ship, Endurance, in conditions you wouldn't wish on your worst enemy.

Shackleton was forced to modify his dream. Instead of reaching the South Pole, his new goal was getting his men back home alive. Despite the harrowing conditions and incredible odds, Shackleton led his crew to safety, living out one of the greatest adventure stories ever. His story shows that modifying a dream can lead to an achievement as great, if not greater, than the original goal.

What about George Washington? Washington's dream was to retake New York City after the British conquered it in the summer of 1776. This goal became Washington's obsession. He believed that recapturing New York was crucial

for the American cause. However, as years passed and circumstances changed, he realized that directly retaking New York wasn't the best strategic choice. Washington had to modify his dream.

Instead of focusing on New York, he decided to strike the British in Virginia. In 1781, he led a decisive campaign in Yorktown, Va., where his forces, along with French allies, besieged the British.

This led to the surrender of British General Cornwallis and effectively ended the Revolutionary War. Although Washington had to change his original vision, he still accomplished his overall objective of defeating the British and securing American independence. In many ways, this strategic shift allowed him to fulfill his dream in a way that ensured long-term success for the new nation.

Sometimes, the original vision needs to be modified, and that's okay.

I heard somewhere: "Stay strong with your dream and be okay with how it unfolds." Your dream can often look a little different than you had originally planned.

The next time you feel like giving up or settling for what you have, I hope this inspires you to stay strong, keep going, and remain flexible about how it happens.

Stay the course, adapt as needed, and trust that you are still on the path to achieving something great. Your journey might have twists and turns, but every step brings you closer to your goal.

### MICROGREENS

continued from page 6

seeds or those labeled for sprouting or use as microgreens to ensure they have not been treated with harmful chemicals. Or purchase a microgreen kit that contains all you need to get started.

You can grow any microgreens in soil and most hydroponically. Sunflowers, peas, buckwheat, chard, beets, and cilantro grow best in soil. Soak the seeds in cold water for 12 to 24 hours for faster and greater sprouting. Plant the seeds in a shallow container with drainage holes filled with a moist well-drained planting or seed starting mix. Gently tamp the planting mix to remove air pockets and create a flat surface for planting. Mist the soil surface and evenly sprinkle the seeds over the soil. Gently tamp the seeds or mist them to ensure good seed-to-soil contact. Planting seeds this way makes harvesting a bit less messy. Or you can lightly cover the seeds with soil.

Use a fast food container you've cleaned and added drainage holes to or invest in a kit like True Leaf Market's Organic Mini Microgreens Kit to get your microgreens off to a great start. Then make additional plantings every few weeks to have a constant supply of fresh microgreens to

enjoy.

Set the container on a tray to protect the surface below. Once planted, cover the container with a lid to boost humidity and reduce the need to water. Some gardeners use an opaque cover to trap humidity and keep the seeds in the dark for sprouting. Check soil moisture daily and spritz with water as needed. Remove the cover in two or three days once the sprouts break through the soil. Then move it to a bright location or under artificial lights.

Or skip the planting media and go hydroponic using a growing pad instead. This makes harvesting clean and easy and works well for broccoli, kale, arugula, cabbage, cauliflower, mustard, and radish seeds.

Cut the grow pad made of jute, bamboo, or similar material to fit the container as needed. Thoroughly moisten the grow pad fabric. Sprinkle the seeds evenly over the pad's surface, leaving about twice the size of a seed between each. Use a spray bottle to water and firm the seeds in place.

Use an opaque cover over the top of the tray to provide the needed darkness for the seeds to sprout. Check the seeds twice a day and mist them as needed. Remove the cover in three to five days once the seeds sprout and start growing. Move the

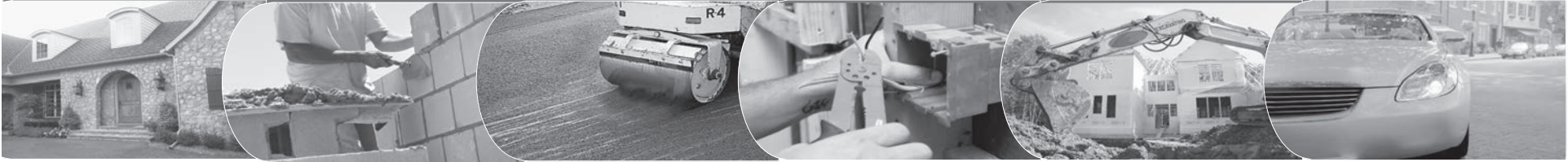
sprouts into a bright location, a sunny window, or under artificial lights, and continue to water as needed.

Your microgreens are ready to harvest when the microgreens are two to four inches tall and the first set of true leaves – those that resemble the leaves of the mature plant – are just starting to emerge. This is usually seven to ten days but may be longer depending on the seeds you grow. Use a sharp knife or scissors to cut the greens about ¼" above the soil or grow pad. Gently rinse and spin dry the greens and enjoy.

Have fun as you grow a variety of microgreens to enjoy and share with friends and family.

Melinda Myers has authored over 20 gardening books, including Small Space Gardening and Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video and DVD series and Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by True Leaf Market for her expertise in writing this article. Her Web site is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).

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Courtesy

On June 16, Elm Street Congregational Church will hold an outdoor worship service in the gazebo on the Southbridge Town Common, 1 Mechanic St., at 10 a.m. The service is free and open to the public- just bring a chair. Chris Rubenacker, church organist, will provide worship music.

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Ed the Wizard  
to appear at  
Joshua Hyde  
Library

STURBRIDGE — Ed the Wizard's "Reading is Magic" performance will appear at the Joshua Hyde Public Library on Wednesday, June 26 starting at 2 pm.. Enjoy this family friendly interactive magic performance full of comedy and suspense as Ed the Wizard weaves together the importance of building and maintaining one's reading skills.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Sturbridge Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.



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# OBITUARIES

## Christine L. Bacener, 74

Southbridge - Christine L. (Christian) Bacener, aged 74, passed away on Saturday, May 18, after being set free from Alzheimer's disease, she departed peacefully at home. She is survived by her loving family including her daughter Ann Marie Guiou of Southbridge, her siblings Robert Christian of Vermont; Sandy Mozdzierz of Florida, Louise Julian of North Carolina, Cathy Christian of Southbridge and predeceased by her sister Lucille St. Laurent. Christine had 3 grandchildren Nicole, Brandon and Michael, along with 4 great grandchildren Connor, Cecilia, Ethan and Eloise who she loved spending time with. She also had a hand full of nieces and nephews. Christine was able to be at home with her loving daughter who took excellent care of her 24/7. Despite facing the difficult challenges of her disease, Christine was still able to be happy and make memories with her family.

Christine was born on October 16th, 1950, to the late Alfred H. and Cecilia B. (Frechette) Christian of Southbridge, Ma. After attending Tantasqua Regional High School, Christine attended Fanning Trade School and St. Vincent School of



Nursing. Christine worked hard to become a dedicated nurse specializing in geriatric care, Christine devoted her career to working in various nursing homes in the Worcester area.

Christine took great pride in her sunroom plants and in her beautiful garden in her free time. Christine loved the deer and different birds that would visit her backyard. In her younger years Christine loved shopping with her best friend Ann and visiting with her sister Louise in North Carolina often. She also adored her cat Coco who will miss her greatly. Christine will be missed by her family and friends who will forever remember how wonderful she was. May she rest in the sweetest peace.

A funeral service to honor Christine's life will take place at Noon, on Saturday, June 8, at the Belanger-Bullard Funeral Home on 51 Marcy St., Southbridge.

Following the service, she will be laid to rest at Oak Ridge Cemetery. Prior to the service, calling hours will be held from 10AM to Noon.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Massachusetts Alzheimer's Research Center online at <http://bwhgiving.org/ca>

## Lynnda Lea LaCroix, 72

Southbridge ~ Lynnda Lea (McCarthy) LaCroix, 72, died Friday, May 17, 2024 at Agawam West Rehab and Nursing Care Facility in Agawam, MA.

Born in Worcester, MA, on August 4, 1951, Lynnda was the daughter of the late Florence Sjoblom and William McCarthy. She attended Auburn High School. She worked on the wait staff at the Golden Greek in Southbridge, and later in her life as a medical secretary for many years, until her retirement in 2015.

Lynnda is survived by her two adult children: Stevie LaCroix of Florence MA, and Michael LaCroix of Oakland CA. She is also survived by her five



grandchildren: Anna LaCroix, Eliza LaCroix, Aibhlinn McCarthy, Saoirse Mulkerrins, and Silas Mulkerrins. Other survivors are her two nephews, Liam McCarthy and DJ McCarthy; and her best friend/chosen sister since the mid 1980's, Kimberly Calcutt. She is predeceased by her sister, Pamela Sjoblom, who passed away on September 7, 2023.

All funeral services are private for family only. Sansoucy Funeral Home, 40 Marcy Street, Southbridge, MA has been entrusted with Lynnda's care.

## Frederick J. Beaudette, 83

29, 2024, in his home with his family by his side. He is survived by his wife of 22 years, Linda M. (Worcester) Beaudette of Webster; six children, William Beaudette and his wife Kelly of Webster, Theresa Beaudette of Uxbridge, Katherine Rossacci and her husband Michael of Milford, Donna Theis and her husband William of Northbridge, Carolyn Beaupre and her husband Ronald of Thompson, CT; and Frederick Beaudette Jr. and his wife Michelle of Oxford; two stepchildren, Michael Hitt of Worcester, and Cara Coles and her husband Troy of Shrewsbury; four sisters, Patricia Plante of Shrewsbury, Diana Groleau of North Oxford, Anna Denham of Indiana, and Debra Lentz of Indiana; 18 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

He was born in Worcester, son of



the late Frederick and Anna M. (Leighton) Beaudette, and lived most of his life in Webster.

Mr. Beaudette was a diesel mechanic at Creative Packaging for 10 years. He enjoyed working on vehicles, hunting, woodworking, and loved to ride his Harley.

The family would like to thank the VNA Care Hospice for their exceptional care during his illness.

Memorial calling hours are Thursday, June 6, 2024, from 6-8 p.m. at Paradis-Givner Funeral Home, 357 Main Street, Oxford. A private graveside service will be held at a later date at St. Roch's Cemetery in Oxford. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the VNA Care Hospice, 100 Trade Center Drive, Woburn, MA 01801.

## Gerald G. LaFrance, 73

SOUTHBRIDGE: Gerald G. LaFrance, aged 73, passed away on Monday, May 20, at Brookside Rehab & Nursing Facility in Webster. He was born in Plattsburg, NY to the late John and Clara (Bechard) LaFrance. Gerry is survived by his brother Donald LaFrance of Johnson City, TN; his sister Jeanette Georges of Johnson City, TN; sister-in-laws Sue LaFrance, Holly LaFrance, Paula LaFrance; nieces and nephews Michelle Durham, Michael LaFrance, Jeremiah LaFrance, Kim Gray, Rick Georges, Nicole Bowen, and Jonathan LaFrance.

He was predeceased by his wife beloved wife Georgeanne LaFrance, brothers Andrew LaFrance (9/22/1992), Norman LaFrance (10/15/1995), Robert LaFrance (1/27/2022), and brother-in-law Rich George (3/1/1996).

Gerry graduated from Our Lady



of Victory High School in 1969 and later enlisted in the US Navy where he served as a machinist mate for 6 years. Known for his lovable character, Gerry had a keen eye for high fashion clothing. He found joy in music and had a passion for string art.

Calling hours were held on Friday, May 31, from 5 to 6:30 PM at the Belanger-Bullard Funeral Home on 51 Marcy St. Southbridge. The funeral service followed at 6:30 PM after the calling hours.

He will be laid to rest at The Massachusetts Veterans Cemetery in Winchendon.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Brookside Nursing and Rehab at 11 Pontiac Ave in Webster, MA 01570 or Brookhaven Hospice, 114 Turnpike Rd., suite 206, Westborough, MA 01581.

An online guestbook is available at [www.BelangerFuneralHome.com](http://www.BelangerFuneralHome.com).

## John (Jack) D. Santilli

John (Jack) D. Santilli passed away peacefully on Wednesday, May 22, 2024. Jack was predeceased by his parents, George and Maureen, and leaves behind his sisters Marianne, Cathleen (Dale), and brother Jimmy (Karen), as well as several cousins, nieces, nephews and one grand-nephew. Jack embraced the Florida lifestyle with



his love of offshore fishing, boating, kayaking, and golf. There will be a celebration of life in Southbridge in the fall of 2024.



# Community Connection

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- Roll the account over to an individual retirement account (IRA)
- Cash it out, which is subject to potential tax consequences

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Trevor Nielsen  
Financial Advisor  
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Sturbridge, MA 01566  
508-347-1420

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# Annual car show feeds need for family driven activities

CHARLTON — The Charlton Baptist Church will host a Car Show, Saturday, June 15 at 50 Hammond Hill Rd., from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Come and see cars to recapture a memory or experience a dream car.

This free family event will also feature food, car demonstrations, and activities for children.

The car show was established three years ago by CBC’s Evangelism and Outreach Team that also organizes the church’s presence on Charlton Common during the Old Home Day festivities, as well as the Nativity Drive-through event in December.

“We were intentional about having a family focused event on Father’s Day weekend,” said team member April Goodell. “This allows families to bring or accompany their dad while feeding their dads.”

In the past two years, the event has grown.

“The event’s Kid Zone has grown each year to include activities such as a bouncy house, face painting, wooden car painting and a photo booth,” said team member Joy Coleman. “This year, there will be two inflatable bounce structures, one for older children and one for toddler age children.”

It might surprise those who attend such events that it’s not all about the vintage Model Ts and other such relics anymore.

“We have found the car shows and or cruise nights are not just for vintage car owners anymore,” said Goodell.

Coleman agreed, noting “It’s very common to see cars from all generations from vintage, classic to modern.”

For those who enter their cars in the show it is a chance to share their experiences with ownership and restoration.

“We restore our antique cars as a way of preserving history while doing it as a hobby,” said Art Furtado of Charlton. “At car shows, the visitors often ask questions about how old the cars are and what it was like driving in them. Sometimes the visitor is someone restoring the same type of car as mine and will ask many questions about how mine was done. I often share how many years I’ve been restoring it and how that driving it is a pleasure.”

Curtis Renner, who has exhibited his car at CBC, agrees, adding “I like when people show an interest in my car and want information about it. Also, hearing their stories or memories of their cars.”

## VIRTUAL EVENTS AT THE JOSHUA HYDE PUBLIC LIBRARY

306 Main St., Sturbridge  
508-347-2512  
mayent@cwmars.org

MONDAY, JUNE 10 at 7:00pm. Author Caitlin Cass discusses her book "Suffrage Song: The Haunted History of Gender, Race and Voting Rights in the U.S." Part graphic novel, part map of the suffrage movement, this book tells the story of the fight for the right to vote by women from the very beginning. VIRTUAL. Registration is required. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Ashland Public Library and they are thrilled to be collaborating with a multitude of MA Libraries to bring this program to our communities. Go to [sturbridgelibrary.org](http://sturbridgelibrary.org).

TUESDAY, JUNE 11 at 6:30pm. Author Christopher Castellani. Go behind the scenes of Christopher Castellani's critically-acclaimed novel, Leading Men. Set in 1950s Italy as well as contemporary Boston. Leading Men dramatizes the tempestuous relationship between Tennessee Williams, his longtime partner Frank Merlo, and their protégé, an aspiring Swedish actress named Anja Bloom. It is currently being adapted to film by the producer-director team that made Call Me By Your Name. Sponsored by the Friends of the JHPL, the Charlton Public Library, and the Jacob Edwards Library. Registration is required. Go to [sturbridgelibrary.org](http://sturbridgelibrary.org).

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12 at 6:30pm. LGBTQ+ Inclusion 101. Knowledge can empower individuals to make cultural change. This program encourages individuals at all levels of understanding to learn about what it means to be LGBTQ+ and how to be stronger allies so our entire community feels welcome to be their authentic selves. About the presenter: Ali Kane, of ALK Consulting, is a Queer nonprofit leader and lifelong learner committed to creating an inclusive, equitable, and accessible world for individuals with diverse identities and experiences. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Joshua Hyde Public Library, the Charlton Public Library and the Jacob Edwards Library. We are pleased to be partnering with a multitude of MA libraries for this event. Registration is required. Go to [sturbridgelibrary.org](http://sturbridgelibrary.org).

## Alzheimer’s support at Charlton Public Library

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

**Memory support collection**

Charlton Public Library is pleased to offer a Memory Support Collection specifically designed for those with memory-related issues as well as their caregivers, family and friends. The collection consists of Memory Kits (books, games, puzzles, and other materials on a set theme), as well as individual books (for all ages), videos, music CDs, even a couple of “companion pets” (batteries included!)-all designed to provide comfort, spark reminiscence, and encourage conversation. The items are available for checkout with a valid library card!

**Monthly Caregiver Support Group**

This monthly Dementia/Alzheimer’s Caregiver Support Group is held on the third Thursday of every month from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Community Meeting Room. It is facilitated by Tri-Valley and the Alzheimer’s Support Network of South Central Massachusetts. Led by an experienced professional, attendees will obtain information, resources, and strategies specific to caring for someone with Alzheimer’s and other dementias at all stages along with support for transitioning to different care settings. This is a drop-in group and pre-registration is not required. For more information, contact Alzheimer’s Support Network at 1-800-286-6640, ext. 3123, or [info@alzsupportnet.org](mailto:info@alzsupportnet.org).

### HINT

*continued from page 7*

4th of July specials.

August: Paper goods and other back to school sales, swimwear, school clothes, electronic gadgets, bicycles, fans, clearance air conditioners, clearance summer merchandise, including grills and pool supplies.

September: Clearance garden goods, school supplies, hardware, outgoing model vehicles, china, fall fashions, fabrics.

October: Major appliances, fishing/sports merchandise, furniture, clearance fall clothing, coats. Check out Columbus Day sales.

November: Blankets, used cars, men’s suits and

coats, shoes, winter clothing, Thanksgiving food sales, turkey, feast fixings. Look for day after Thanksgiving sales, held to jump start the holiday shopping rush.

December: After Christmas sales on most items. Stock up on wrapping paper, tape, gift bags, gift sets, ornaments, and holiday decor items.

\*\*

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renowned restaurant, located on Route 131 across

the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I’m in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I’m counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

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

### PETCO

*continued from page 1*

low-cost spay-neuter programs. Collectively, these community assistance resources help more than 1,500 animals and their families annually. The cattery, located at 180 Sturbridge Road in

Brimfield, is open for visitors from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and by appointment during the week. To learn more, visit <http://www.heretodaysanctuary.org> and follow us @heretodaysanctuary on

Facebook and Instagram.

#### About Petco Love

Petco Love is a life-changing nonprofit organization that makes communities and pet families closer, stronger, and healthier. Since our founding in 1999 as the

Petco Foundation, we’ve empowered animal welfare organizations by investing nearly \$400 million in adoption and other lifesaving efforts. We’ve helped find loving homes for more than 6.8 million pets in partnership with Petco and or-

ganizations nationwide. Our love for pets drives us to lead with innovation, creating tools animal lovers need to reunite lost pets, and lead with passion, inspiring and mobilizing communities and our more than 4,000 animal welfare

partners to drive lifesaving change alongside us. Is love calling you? Join us. Visit [PetcoLove.org](http://PetcoLove.org) or follow us on Facebook, Instagram, X, Threads, and LinkedIn to be part of the lifesaving work we lead every day.

### AMAZON

*continued from page 1*

mented as a part of the project. The implementation of an Adaptive Traffic Control system along the corridor is designed to continually monitor the flow of traffic from the project. A post-development traffic monitoring program will be implemented in order to evaluate the success of the traffic improvements and to refine the elements of the approved Traffic Demand Management Program and to validate the trip projections for the project,” said Golas. “The monitoring program commences 6 months after the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy for the Project and will be conducted annually thereafter for a period of five years.”

Another aspect of Amazon’s commitment to Charlton is specific planned contributions to the town to help enhance the local community which Golas said are already in progress even as the building awaits its opening. A Community Partnership Agreement was signed laying out specific investments like a \$1 million pedestrian a roadway improvement on the Main Street corridor; \$400,000 to support recreational opportunities, and \$780,000 to support Fire Depart-

ment operations including \$650,000 for the replacement of Rescue 1. Other projects that will be supported by Amazon include ADA improvements at Maynard Field, resurfacing the Charlton Middle School tennis courts for use as pickleball courts, supporting STEM programs in the Dudley Charlton

Regional School District, supporting facility improvements and an outdoor performance center; and added pedestrian and roadway improvements although these are all dependent on the issuance of a temporary occupancy permit.



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LEGALS

TOWN OF BRIMFIELD  
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT  
**Request for Bids  
FY2025 Heating Oil, Diesel,  
Gasoline and Boiler Maintenance**  
Sealed bids, appropriately marked, will be received by Monday, June 17, 2024 at 10:00AM. Sealed bids will be publicly opened and read on Monday, June 17, 2024 at 10:15AM. in the Brimfield Town Annex, Select Board Office, 23 Main Street, Brimfield, MA. The following items for Fiscal Year 2025 will be awarded by the Select Board on Monday, June 24, 2024 at their duly posted meeting.

I. **Fuels: \*Must hold an  
Ultimate Vendor’s License**

- 1. Heating Fuel  
1,000-gallon capacity
- 2. Diesel – Ultra Low Sulphur  
2,000-gallon capacity
- 3. Gasoline – Unleaded  
2,000-gallon capacity
- 4. Boiler Maintenance  
*See Below\**

*\*Boiler Maintenance:* The Town of Brimfield has a total of four (4) furnaces/boiler systems in its municipal buildings (Town Hall, Town Hall Annex Building and Library) that require annual cleaning and periodic repairs. Bids are to include the per hourly labor rate for this work. Materials will be paid for as necessary.

**The Town of Brimfield will consider  
bids based only upon “mark up over  
daily rack price”**

Bid specifications will be available for pickup beginning May 29, 2024 at the Brimfield Highway Department, 34B Wales Road, Brimfield, MA from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday - Thursday or by emailing the Chief Procurement Officer at selectboard@brimfieldma.org. All questions must be submitted in writing to the Chief Procurement Officer. All questions/answers and addendums will be distributed to all bid package holders.  
Envelopes must be clearly marked IFB2024HWYFLS01 FY2025 Heating Oil, Diesel, Gasoline, and Boiler Maintenance and include the bid opening date. All bids must be submitted on the Town of Brimfield Bid form (included in the bid packet). No bids will be accepted after the time and date specified. Executed Certificates of Non-Collusion and Tax Compliance (attached) and Corporate Authority must be included in all bid submissions. Duration of bid is for Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025); otherwise, please state on bid sheet any exceptions. Payment Terms: Net term, 30 days. Prevailing Wage Rates have been established by the Department of Labor and Industries under the provisions of Provisions of Chapter 149, M.G.L., section 26-27D. Bids submitted for heating oil, diesel and gasoline are subject to the provisions of the Prevailing Wage law where applicable. The Select Board reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids or accept that bid deemed to be in the best interest of the Town of Brimfield.  
Zachary Lemieux  
Highway Surveyor  
Brimfield, MA 01010  
(413) 245-4103  
May 31, 2024  
June 7, 2024

Town of Brimfield  
Highway Department  
**Request for Bids  
Various Road Materials, Equipment  
Rentals, and Bituminous Concrete  
Type-I for Fiscal Year 2025**

Sealed bids, appropriately marked, will be received no later than Monday June 17, 2024, by 11:00 AM. Sealed bids will be publicly opened and read on Monday June 17, 2024 at 11:15 a.m. in the Brimfield Town Hall Annex, 23 Main Street, Brimfield, MA. The following items that will be purchased for Fiscal Year 2025 will be awarded by the Board of Selectmen at their duly posted meeting on June 24, 2024:

- I. Various Road Materials
  - II. Equipment Rental with Operator
  - III. Bituminous Concrete – Type I
- Bid specifications will be available for pickup beginning Thursday May 30, 2024 at the Brimfield Highway Department, 34B Wales Road, Brimfield, MA from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday or by emailing the Chief Procurement Officer at selectboard@brimfieldma.org. Questions related to this bid invitation are to be emailed to the Chief Procurement Officer. All addendums, questions and answers will be sent to all bid package holders.  
Envelopes must be clearly marked “IFB2024HWY01 – FY2025” and include the date and time of the bid opening. Where required, bids must indicate a single square yard multiplier

(dollar amount per square yard) on the appropriate bid form attached. All bids must be submitted on the Town of Brimfield Bid forms (included in the bid packet). No bids will be accepted after the time and date specified. Executed Certificates of Non-Collusion and Tax Compliance (attached) and Corporate Authority must be included in all bid submissions. Bituminous Concrete-Type I bids must indicate all prices, both pick up at plant (*not more than 15 miles of the Brimfield Highway Garage, 34B Wales Rd*) and to be delivered to the Town of Brimfield, Town Yard, or to the job location in the Town of Brimfield. Bids shall include the current period price (May 2024) of \$665 per ton for liquid asphalt. The price adjustment of hot mix asphalt mixtures containing liquid asphalt shall apply as per scheduled posted on Massachusetts Highway Department website: www.mass.gov/mhd and “Special Provisions” as attached. Contractors intending to bid on Bituminous Concrete – Type I, must be pre-qualified by the Massachusetts Highway Department and the pre-qualifying form from the State must be presented at the time the bid package is picked up from the Town of Brimfield. The classification of work is “Resurfacing” The total cost of project(s) is estimated to be \$511,080.80 NOTE: Award is subject to the Fiscal Year 2025 Chapter 90 appropriation and release. A bid deposit of 5% of the total price bid must be submitted.

Prevailing Wage Rates have been established by the Department of Labor and Industries under the provision of Chapter 149, M.G.L., Section 26-27D. Bids submitted for Bituminous Concrete -Type I, are subject to the provisions of General Laws, Chap 534, 30B, Section 30M inclusive as amended, (Public Works Construction). Allwork/itemsmustmeetMassachusetts Department of Transportation, highway standards specifications. Executed Certificates of Non-Collusion and Tax Compliance (attached) and Corporate Authority must be included in all bid submissions. Minority percentage rate must not be less than 5%. Duration of the bid contract is July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025; otherwise, please state on bid sheet any exceptions. Payment terms: Net term, 30 days. The Select Board reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids, or, accept that bid deemed to be in the best interest of the Town of Brimfield.  
Zachary Lemieux  
Highway Surveyor  
Town of Brimfield  
Brimfield, MA 01010  
(413) 245-4103  
May 31, 2024  
June 7, 2024

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

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

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

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

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

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

1995 FORD RANGER (GREEN)  
VIN:1FTCR14AXSTA32886

LAST REGISTERED OWNER:  
Bailey W Levine  
65 QUARRY RD  
GRANDBY CT 06035

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

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE FOR RECORDS  
DESTRUCTION**

School Administrative Unit 24  
(Henniker, John Stark and Weare School Districts)  
Notice to all persons born in or prior to 1997 who attended John Stark Regional High School, Weare School District or Henniker Community School, and was identified as a Special Education student or received special education services or was identified as a 504 student, or to their parents/guardians:  
The John Stark School District may have special education records and 504 records in its possession for those students and will destroy such records after August 1, 2024. If you would like to have these records rather than having them destroyed, please contact the main office secretary at 618 N. Stark Highway, Weare, NH 03281, 603-529-7675 or email at Kathryn.cyr@sau24.org prior to July 31, 2024, to make arrangements for obtaining these records.  
\*The school district shall maintain, permanently, a record of a student’s name, address, phone number, grades, attendance records, classes attended, grade level completed, and year completed. \*  
5/20/2024  
June 6, 2024  
June 7, 2024

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
FAMILY COURT  
NOTICE OF ADVERTISEMENT  
Case Number PJ24-0017322**

J.Joseph Garrahy Judicial Complex  
Providence/Bristol County  
One Dorrance Plaza  
Providence RI 02903  
(401) 458-3290

FOR PUBLICATION:  
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND FAMILY COURT JUVENILE CLERK’S OFFICE, PROVIDENCE/BRISTOL COUNTY. Notice to the father of a child born to MELANEY MATHIEU AKA MELANIE JOY on 7/6/2023 and any and all parties in interest. A case has been brought in the Family Court to decide whether you have any parental rights to this child. If you do not appear at a hearing about this matter at the Family Court, One Dorrance Plaza Providence RI 02903 on 6/26/2024 at 10:00 AM, an order will enter without your consent that you no longer have any rights to this child, and the child may be adopted. This Notice of Advertisement was generated on 4/26/2024.  
/s/ Ronald J. Pagliarini  
Administrator/Clerk  
June 6, 2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Worcester Division  
Docket No. WO24P1132EA  
Estate of:  
Giuseppe L. Lombardi  
Also Known As:  
Giuseppe Lombardi  
Date Of Death: 02/26/2024  
INFORMAL PROBATE  
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above-captioned estate by Petition of Petitioner  
**Joseph Lombardi of Hollard MA**  
a Will has been admitted to informal probate.  
**Joseph Lombardi of Hollard MA**  
has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives

appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.  
June 6, 2024

**CHARLTON CONSERVATION  
COMMISSION  
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on June 12, 2024, at 7PM on the application of Syed Khan. The applicant has submitted a Request for Determination of Applicability for the construction of a single-family home, driveway, well, septic system, and associated grading. The project location is: Lot 45 Jennings Road, Charlton, MA.  
Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Charlton Conservation Commission will be conducted in person and via remote means. Members of the public who wish to participate can access the meeting remotely, via Zoom Conferencing by calling 1-646 558 8656 and using meeting ID # 892 9898 0343 Passcode 458971 or using the link below https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89298980343?pwd=VjIMZGIhU GRnYzRkR1c2eT-JTL3lWZz09  
Copies of the RDA may be examined at the Conservation Office by appointment during business hours.  
Thomas O’Malley  
Chair, Charlton  
Conservation Commission  
June 6, 2024

**CHARLTON CONSERVATION  
COMMISSION  
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on June 12, 2024, at 7PM on the application of Syed Khan. The applicant has submitted a Request for Determination of Applicability for the construction of a single-family home, driveway, well, septic system, and associated grading. The project location is: Lot 46 Jennings Road, Charlton, MA.  
Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Charlton Conservation Commission will be conducted in person and via remote means. Members of the public who wish to participate can access the meeting remotely, via Zoom Conferencing by calling 1-646 558 8656 and using meeting ID # 892 9898 0343 Passcode 458971 or using the link below https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89298980343?pwd=VjIMZGIhU GRnYzRkR1c2eT-JTL3lWZz09  
Copies of the RDA may be examined at the Conservation Office by appointment during business hours.  
Thomas O’Malley  
Chair, Charlton  
Conservation Commission  
June 6, 2024

**Town of Brimfield  
Conservation Commission  
Public Hearing Notice**

In accordance with the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Brimfield Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on Wednesday June 26, 2024, at 6:00 PM to review a Notice of Intent submitted by McClure Engineering, Inc. c/o Doug Findlay. The Notice of Intent requests to build a Self-Storage Facility.  
**Project Location:**  
49 Palmer Road, Brimfield, MA (Assessor’s Map (13-A-8)  
**Meeting Location:** Public Participation will be In-Person at Hitchcock Academy at 2 Brookfield Road, Brimfield, MA 01010 on June 26, 2024, at 6:00 PM.  
Any person(s) interested or wishing to be heard on this request should appear at the time and place designated. A copy of the permit application and plan may be inspected at the Brimfield Town Annex in the Conservation Commission Office, Salisbury Annex Building, 2nd Floor, 23 Main Street, Brimfield, MA 01010 or contact the office at 413-245-4100 ext. 1101.  
Roger deBruyn & Joseph Venezia Co-Chairs  
05/29/2024  
CC: Planning Board  
June 6, 2024

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**RYAN**  
*continued from page 3*

new governor is working to change that by focusing on “housing affordability,” and Ryan sees a need to make the process “more supportive.”

“I can work 80 hours [a week] and barely afford to live,” she noted.

Ryan sees an opportunity to fill the housing gap with the town's numerous vacant mill buildings, but “a whole bunch of that property is sitting there and rotting.” She favors con-

necting the owners to state funding to renovate them.

“While we can't change everything at the local level, we can do the groundwork to show the state and local leaders this is how it's done,” Ryan said, pointing to fare-free buses as an example of what works.

On the other hand, she feels the council “dropped the ball” on the trash issue last year, and thinks “it's crazy we still haven't touched that \$10 million bond for roads” three years after

the council approved it. She wants to “prioritize the investment into infrastructure and roads,” noting every \$1 invested in infrastructure brings \$1.10 in economic benefits.

On key point for her is finishing the fire station soon, because “inflation is out of control.” Private inflation rates are 3-4 percent, but public project rates are 5-8 percent, so “if we don't pick this up now, our kids will be dealing with it,” Ryan said. To do it, she advocates several

things: expanding the economic base, getting federal and state grants, and if necessary tapping the town's long-term reserves, since those are “for one time projects during tight times.”

“There are plenty of funds available to help offset the cost of these projects” without a big tax hike, she said. But she also noted that she can't promise no tax hikes while maintaining town services because “costs go up.”

That said, though, Ryan said she does see a

need to look at the town's reliance on property taxes. She feels the property tax is “one of the most regressive ways to fund a community, because it pits communities with less money against communities with more money.” Instead, she'd like to see a partnership between local and state leaders to change the way grant aid comes to town to handle education, leaving policy decisions in local hands. That would free up local money for infrastructure, public safety and

health care, she said.

In general, Ryan said “people have to be able to trust the ethics of the people who are elected.”

“People [in office] should hold themselves to a higher standard, not a lower standard. We need more people to be honest and upfront and not playing games,” she said. “... If elected, I'll use that passion to fight for this community as I always have.”

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

**TORRES**  
*continued from page 3*

Southbridge.

“My heart wanted to be a teacher, but I was led to engineering,” she said, adding she especial-

ly “liked teaching younger students” and “got to see what [the teachers] go through.”

She said she's open to using her engineering experience “to focus on the maintenance of our

schools.” As an example, she noted West Street School dates to 1933 and needs to be brought up to modern code; doing that would be “better for the kids and for our investment.” But she agrees

funding will be a balancing act between multiple needs, and said she thinks the town could “see if business can contribute to the other things,” such as road repair funding.

Tying it all together, Torres noted, “who doesn't want to see our kids be future astronauts, scientists, engineers and social workers?”

If we all work together, we'll be alright.”

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

**SAFETY**  
*continued from page 1*

partment, Brookfield Police Department, Brimfield Police Department, Wales Police Department, UMass Police Department, and the Massachusetts State Police.

“I really enjoy this event. It gives us a great opportunity to interact with the students and provides them with a comfortable environment where they can ask us questions about our

jobs and start to form positive interactions with public safety personnel,” said Brookfield Police Chief Michael Blanchard.

In addition to meeting police and fire officials at the event, students also viewed demonstrations provided by several local K-9 units.

“The students also had the opportunity to pet a horse from the UMass Mounted Unit,” Chief Dessert's state-

ment read. “The Sturbridge Police Department would like to extend its gratitude to everyone who helped and participated this year.”

Special thanks goes to Officer Mardirosian for his leadership in helping organize the event.

“Thanks again to Officer Nick for all the effort he put into making this event a success,” the Chief's statement read.

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

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# LEGALS

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND FAMILY COURT NOTICE OF ADVERTISEMENT**  
**Case Number** PJ24-001732  
J. Joseph Garrahy Judicial Complex  
Providence/Bristol County  
One Dorrance Plaza  
Providence RI 02903  
(401) 458-3290

FOR PUBLICATION:  
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND FAMILY COURT JUVENILE CLERK'S OFFICE, Providence/Bristol County. Notice to MELANEY MATHIEU AKA MELANIE JOY and any and all parties in interest. In re: MATEO JOY born on 7/6/2023 Case Number PJ24-001732. The Department of Children, Youth, and Families has filed a Petition in the Rhode Island Family Court to terminate your parental rights. The Petition is scheduled for a hearing at One Dorrance Plaza Providence RI 02903 on 6/26/2024 at 10:00 AM. If you do not appear on 6/26/2024 at 10:00 AM an Order will enter terminating your parental rights to the child(ren). Ronald J. Pagliarini, Administrator/Clerk, 4/26/2024 his Notice of Advertisement was generated on 4/26/2024.  
/s/ Ronald J. Pagliarini  
Administrator/Clerk  
June 6, 2024

**LEGAL NOTICE MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE**

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Wilfred J. Borey and Sandra J. Borey to James B. Nutter & Company, dated September 25, 2008 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 43621, Page 193 (the "Mortgage") of which mortgage GITSIT Solutions LLC is the present holder by Assignment from James B. Nutter & Company to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as designated nominee for Reverse Mortgage Funding LLC dated September 25, 2017 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 58465, Page 173, and Assignment from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Reverse Mortgage Funding LLC, its successors and assigns to Secretary of Housing and Urban Development dated August 13, 2020 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 63274, Page 282, and Assignment from Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to GITSIT Solutions, LLC dated January 26, 2024 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 70229, Page 339, for breach of conditions of said mortgage

and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 24 Marcy Street, Southbridge, MA 01550 will be sold at a Public Auction at 1:00 PM on July 1, 2024, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

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

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

The premises will be sold

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

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

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

GITSIT Solutions LLC  
Korde & Associates, P.C.  
900 Chelmsford Street  
Suite 3102  
Lowell, MA 01851  
(978) 256-1500  
Borey, Estate of Wilfred J. and Estate of Sandra J. Borey, 24-044742  
June 6, 2024  
June 13, 2024  
June 20, 2024

**Town of Brimfield Conservation Commission Public Hearing Notice**

In accordance with the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Brimfield Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on Wednesday June 26, 2024, at 6:00 PM to review a Notice of Intent submitted by McClure Engineering, Inc. c/o Doug Findlay. The Notice of Intent requests to build a Self-Storage Facility.

**Project Location:**  
49 Palmer Road, Brimfield, MA (Assessor's Map (13-A-8))

**Meeting Location:** Public Participation will be In-Person at Hitchcock Academy at 2 Brookfield Road, Brimfield, MA 01010 on June 26, 2024, at 6:00 PM.

Any person(s) interested or wishing to be heard on this request should appear at the time and place designated. A copy of the permit application and plan may be inspected at the Brimfield Town

Annex in the Conservation Commission Office, Salisbury Annex Building, 2nd Floor, 23 Main Street, Brimfield, MA 01010 or contact the office at 413-245-4100 ext. 1101.  
Roger deBruyn & Joseph Venezia Co-Chairs  
05/29/2024  
CC: Planning Board  
June 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. WO24C0182CA**

CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

In the matter of:  
**Chelsea Lynn Ferguson**  
**A Petition to Change Name of Adult**  
has been filed by  
**Chelsea Lynn Ferguson of Charlton MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:  
**Chelsea Lynn Gardner**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 06/11/24. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: May 23, 2024  
Stephanie Fattman, Register of Probate  
June 6, 2024

**TOWN OF STURBRIDGE Board of Selectmen Public Hearing**

National Grid has made a petition to the Sturbridge Board of Selectmen to install four (4) JO Poles on Podunk Road beginning at a point approximately 1500' feet northeast of the centerline of the intersection of Podunk Road and Highway 49 and continuing approximately 5100' feet in a north direction. Installation of new poles 22-50, 40-25, 44, and 44-50. National Grid also requests permission to lay and maintain underground laterals, cables, and wires in the above or intersecting public ways. The pole hearing will take place on **Monday, July 1, 2024 at 6:35 p.m.** at the Sturbridge Town Hall, 2nd floor, Veteran's Memorial Hall located at 308 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566.  
June 6, 2024



# 13th Annual Al DiPietro Memorial Golf Tournament a huge success

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Lions Club would like to thank all the golfers who joined us at Heritage Country Club on Friday, May 17 for our 13th Annual Al DiPietro Memorial Golf Tournament. Proceeds from the golf tournament are returned to the community in the form of scholarships, which are offered to deserving, graduating seniors each

spring, as well as people in need in our community.

This tournament is successful each and every year because of the generosity and support that we receive from members of the local community including Ed Galonek and All Star Incentive Marketing, Heritage Country Club, Bob and Denise Clem-

ence of Hyde Tool, Kate Roy, CEO of the Southbridge Credit Union, Dave Penttila of Dave's Pest Control, Justin Cournoyer of Big Bunny, all of our tee hole sponsors, and the Lions volunteers who work the event throughout the day. Thank you to everyone that participated and we look forward to seeing you next year.



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Why 8 Benjamin Lane, Shrewsbury? This delightfully quintessential Cape home will fulfill your needs & expectations! 2600sf +/- offers open floor space for gathering w/family &/or entertaining friends but at the same time offering a comfortable, quiet, & restful vibe. The great room is just that! You want formal, there are formal Dining & Fireplaced Living rooms. 3 very appealing BRS! 2 Baths. Finished LL! **UNIQUE DECK** w/deck swing & "Versa Court" patio! **\$820,000.**

\* June Cazeault \* Laurie Sullivan \* Matthew Ross \* Lori Johnson-Chausse \* William Gilmore II \* *Bryan Pelletier*



**DUDLEY 3 FILO RD**

Need Your Own Space? \*~\* Come Home to this Exceptionally Spacious 1,800 sf+ Ranch ~ situated on a Private 0.35 acre on a 'Dead End' Country Road! 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, year-round Sun-room, 19'x25' Great Room w/cathedral ceilings, hardwood floors, large private rear deck & backyard **\$465,000**

**WEBSTER- 22 HALL RD**

1st Time Offered!! This one can be your's! Young 2200+ Sq ft Cape/ Split 7+ Room, 4 bdrs. 3 full baths! Master bed/ Bath! Bonus unfinished 2nd floor. 3/4 Acre of land mostly Landscaped. Kitchen w/Island & dining room. Hardwood, ceramic, & carpet flrs. So much more! **NOW \$559,900**



**ON DEPOSIT**

**WEBSTER 17 BRODEUR AVENUE**



**BEING BUILT!!**  
**SPRAWLING 2000 SF RANCH HOME!**  
1/2 acre Lot! OPEN FLOOR PLAN. Living room, dining room, upscaled kitchen with 7' island, 3 bedroom, 2 baths, Beautiful Hardwood Floors! central air. 2 car garage **On Deposit \$614,500**

**WEBSTER - 18 EASTERN AVE**

This property offers a whole lot more than meets the eye! 2 BRs & 1 Bath, 1st flr. 1-2 Brs & 1 Bath 2nd flr. A rear open porch provides a private space & scenic views has DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL. **\$375,000**



**ON DEPOSIT**

**WEBSTER- 38 RAY STREET UNIT#3**



Condominium Don't Miss this one!! Beautiful & Large! 2 bedroom - 2nd & 3rd floor! Corner Lot. Land area 19,000 Sq. Ft. +/- **ON DEPOSIT NOW ONLY \$219,900.**

**WEBSTER 96 CHASE AVE**

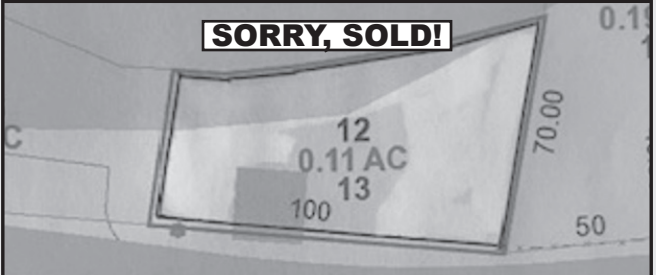
New to the Market - Owner Occupied 2 Family Extremely Well Cared For - Many Important Updates. Don't Miss This One! **\$359,900**



**On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg**

*Webster Lake*  
**13 South Point Rd.**

100' of frontage on the water & road. An old cement block garage is located on the property.. Land area surveyed, DEP approval to build. Property suitable for small craft dockage/off season storage. Town Water & Sewer available **\$195,000**



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\* 3 Bedroom \* 2.5 Baths \* 24' Livingroom  
\* Formal Dining Room or Family Room  
\* Kitchen with Island  
\* Lower Level Game Room Possible  
\* Expandable Attic for Additional Living Area  
\* 2 Car Attached Garage  
\* Babbling Brook and Nearby 1 Acre Lot  
**91 Blood Road \$499,900**

**CHARLTON- Step Down Living Room**



\* 2400 Sq. ft.  
\* .3 Acres  
\* Fireplace  
\* 1st Floor Office  
\* 2.5 Baths

**93 Haggerty Rd \$659,900**

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## Rosemary Picard elected to Massachusetts Bankers Association Board of Directors

SOUTHBRIDGE — Rosemary Picard, President & CEO of Savers Bank has been elected to the 20-member Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Bankers Association (MBA) at its Annual Meeting in May.

Founded in 1905, the MBA is the only Association representing FDIC-insured community, regional and na-

tionwide banks serving consumer and business clients across the Commonwealth.

“As a dynamic industry, it is essential that the Association have perspectives of banking leaders like Rosemary Picard who provide expertise and experience that enable us to achieve our priorities of providing exceptional resources, advocacy and thought leadership for our members, strengthening them as they serve their clients and communities, according to MBA’s President and CEO Kathleen Murphy. “The market knowledge that Rosemary brings enables the Association to anticipate and respond to emerging banking needs and trends that help our members as they serve a

very large consumer and business footprint across the Commonwealth.”

“I am pleased to serve on the Association’s Board of Directors and grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with such a talented group,” stated Rosemary Picard. “The Association has been an important partner and a steadfast representative of the banking industry since its founding 120 years ago. It’s an incredible honor to represent Savers Bank and the needs of our community banking industry as we work in concert fulfilling our mission to serve and support our members,

clients, and communities as the rapidly changing bank environment.”



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