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Thursday-Friday, May 16-17, 2024

“There's nowhere you can't get inspiration”



Gus Steeves

Janine Laliberte focuses on one of her paintings while talking about it.

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE — For Janine Laliberte, art is basically life.

But for a while, getting into computer-based graphic design separated her from that source of inspiration. Over time, that led her to a “deep depression” in 2013, and she “had to find my art to help me out.”

Today, it shows in bright colors, birds, flowers and the unexpected juxtaposition of steampunk and Native American imagery. All of those things

are on display at Jacob Edwards Library until the end of the month.

“There's nowhere you can't get inspiration,” she said, noting she'll get it from music, clothing and other things seen at random, but especially from hiking. That became even more inspirational when she moved from Georgia to Massachusetts several years ago.

“Holy cow. We don't get seasons in the South,” she recalled. “All those colors [of fall] are my color palette. I love it.”

Turn To **INSPIRATION** page A14

Charlton Town Meeting set for May 20

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — The taxpayers of Charlton

have been called to the spring annual town meeting on May 20 where an 18-article warrant will address the May 4 election results, zoning by-laws, and local budgets.

The most pressing decision of the night, as usual, will be the town budget which proposes a \$40.4 million spending plan for Fiscal Year 2025 that Town Administrator Andrew Golas called a “zero-based budget.” The budget includes \$18.5 million for the Dud-

ley-Charlton Regional School District contribution and \$2.4 million for Bay Path Regional Vocational School District. A full breakdown of the proposed budget is available on the Town of Charlton website. The warrant will also address the stabilization fund, the water and sewer budgets, cemetery perpetual care expenses, the revolving fund, inter-departmental transfers, and other capital items

Turn To **CHARLTON** page A14

Historical Society presents “The Publick House in World War II”

STURBRIDGE — WWII saw American society rally behind the war effort as the nation geared up to be the “arsenal of democracy.” All communities experienced changes as citizens and businesses did their part.

On May 23 at 7 p.m. at the Publick House, Wally Hersee of the Sturbridge Historical Society will discuss the role of the Publick House in WWII. Initially, the Inn became the Defense Center for the training of civilians and the State Guard. Eventually it became the 1st Service Command Tactical School for the training of Army officers in guerrilla tactics. The presentation will also look at the 366th Regiment, the Women's Defense Corps, and the type of training they underwent. The second half of the program will be the showing of a newly enhanced film of the Sturbridge Defense Center's Dedication on Oct. 25, 1941, including the “Battle of Sturbridge” that was presented for the townspeople and dignitaries on that day.

Wally Hersee grew up in Medfield, where he refined his interest in local history. Having moved to Sturbridge it was only a matter of time before he took an active part in Sturbridge history. A photographer for more than 45 years, his 2017 book, “Follow the Light,” tells of his photographic journey. Wally retired as a registered nurse in 2019. Today, he lives in Town with his wife, Mary, and is active on Town

boards, volunteers at Tanglewood, and writes for the Sturbridge Historic Society on their Facebook page.

The program is free and open to the pub-

lic, and is generously hosted by the Publick House.

The program is free and open to the pub-



A couple farmers await customers on opening day of the Charlton Farmers Market.

Gus Steeves

Farmers markets kick off season

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — Despite a fast-moving thunderstorm hitting just after it started, Charlton Grange kicked off its outdoor Farmers' Market season in good spirits last Wednesday.

Somewhat damp visitors had the choice of various crafts, baked goods, products made from recycled items, honey and more, alongside a ballot question petition. It will return every Wednesday from 4-7 on the Common and shifts to indoors at the Grange during winter.

This market is just one of many opening up for the year, and some that never closed for the winter. Most of them are depicted on the MassFarmersMarket.org website, which includes hundreds of places “where farmers could get the highest and best return for their investment” in their farms, said Edith Murnane, the nonprofit's director. “Our goal is to make sure farmers markets are as vibrant as possible for the farmers who attend.”

She was speaking at the State Grange's Agricultural Expo at Holy Cross a couple weeks ago.

“A lot of people don't think of Massachusetts as an agricultural state, but we have a lot that people don't realize,” ob-

served Mass Department of Agricultural Resources spokesman Rick Leblanc the same day. “... Our farms are fabulous in this state. They do so many things.”

Leblanc runs the MassGrown Web site, which is basically a database of all kinds of agrarian things, some well-know, some obscure. On it, visitors can find local breweries and vineyards, a long list of specialty crops, dairies, sheep farms, pick-your-own farms, CSAs (community supported farms that sell crops by subscription), mobile and fixed markets, and many other things. He noted they're often trying to expand their listings and categories; for example, they just added mushroom growers and nurseries selling native plants.

The map is “open to anybody who wants to sell to the public,” so it might not include some small producers or those growing just for themselves, he added.

Leblanc said MDAR is now working with the Department of Conservation and Recreation on a “Growing Wild” program to promote pollinator gardening with native plants specifically to “combat all the invasives.” He noted there's also rising interest in edible wild plants, and the Mass Nursery Association is trying to promote eating the weeds and native

Turn To **FARMERS** page A14

COUNCIL RACE 2024

Daniel: "Give the plant an opportunity to blossom"

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE — For John Daniel, re-electing him is a chance to help make sure the town "will keep improving and keep it the good town it is."

"If people see we're trying in a directed, educated sense, the perception of the town will change," he said. Without that, "the perception is that we

don't know what we're doing."

Daniel, a retired high school principal, seeks his third term on the Town Council June 11. He's one of four running for three seats, with the others being fellow incumbent Scott Lazo, 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, long-time activist parent Stephanie Rivers and fellow parent Brittany Davison.

The News will be profiling all of them over the next few weeks, with one council and one school candidate each week.

If elected, Daniel said he hopes to "see people a little less angry and more pleased with improvements made in town." He cites several - various roads, sewer plant upgrades, plans to renovate Town Hall, the Rail Trail project, the fire station. But he admits they're not always easy to see when slow, and sometimes people need to look backward "and see you've traveled a distance."

"There are a lot of projects in the wind

and only so many of us on the council and department heads [to do them]," he said.

Of course, one of the really big ones is also the hardest - improving the schools. Daniel notes the council only has an "indirect impact" on that, but particularly needs to take time to "see all sides of the issue. There's been a problem of kneejerk reactions in the last few years."

He sees that to some degree on both sides - people challenging the administration but also the state's receivership takeover itself. Even the law creating receivership "needed to be thought out more on what it can accomplish and what it can't," he noted. It's time for "thoughtful discussion" between the state, town and parents, but there have been unsuccessful attempts to start such talks from both sides over the years.

"The state has been reluctant to be a partner in the conversation" until recently, and it's still unclear "what the state needs to do to hold up their end of the bargain," he said.

In part, that's because the "turnaround plan" is laden with jargon the people do not understand, Daniel said. The



John Daniel

state needs to be clearer with people and more forthcoming.

For Daniel, the schools, renovations and other issues mostly point to one key metric for a town's success: quality of life. He said those need to be handled one at a time, and some will

take more than three years.

A case in point is business development, some aspects of which have been controversial. He noted he recently supported an item seeking to submit a "letter of interest" to the state to have the state review whether the American Optical redevelopment project would be worthy of millions in public grant money. "I wish that had gone the other way," he said. "... We need to support businesses of all sizes ... I think we said no too soon, and didn't give the plant an opportunity to blossom."

On the other hand, he admitted he wasn't sure how to change things to make it easier for small businesses to thrive, noting just that it "needs some government oversight to make sure things are done well."

Since Daniel is now the "senior councilor," he sees himself as being a sense of history for the council, and believes in using Councilor's

Forum as a time to highlight quality of life projects. But he also believes the council should discuss what it wants that to look like over the next 10-plus years.

For him, that ties into a need to be better at "educating the people about the inner workings of government." People feel government fails them, but the issue is often that the government is bad at being clear what has actually been completed. Although there are always some naysayers, he added, "We need to go after the many, and if they feel good about it, we've done our job."

One aspect of that could be having human resources and some experienced town board member create a program to look at what the various departments and boards do, and how to get involved.

In his case, he knew some aspects of town governance from years working in the Webster school system. But exposure to Southbridge's way of doing things came mostly from a year as a citizen member of the Education and Human Services subcommittee and his first six months or so on the council, with lots of conversations with Yvone Tortis, then-manager Ron San Angelo, and then-Council Chair (now manager) Jack Jovan.

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

PROPERTIES FOR RENT
Prince Edward Island, Canada
Summer/Fall Weekly Cottage Rental
2-bedroom newly constructed oceanfront cottage that sleeps 8. Sweeping views of the pond, ocean and lighthouse. Enjoy kayaking, bicycling and beach walking.
\$900/wk. Contact Scott at 603-254-5032 or scottm@plymouth.edu
TYBEE ISLAND, GEORGIA
YEAR-ROUND SHORT-TERM RENTAL
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Contact Oceanfront Cottage Rentals at 800-786-5889 or <http://www.oceanfrontcottage.com/listings/218-bay-breezes>

St. Joseph's Parish
Indoor/Outdoor
Yard Sale
Date: Saturday, May 25th
Time: 8am - 3pm
Location: 28 Mt. Pleasant St., North Brookfield
Featured items include - Household, furniture, small furnishings, decorative items, and attic treasures
Proceeds to benefit St. Joseph's Church

BOY SCOUT TROOP 273
SPRING YARD SALE
Saturday, May 25th
Universal Tag Parking Lot, 36 Hall Road, Dudley
Early Birds (8am to 9am) \$10.00 per person fee
9am until 3pm FREE We accept CREDIT CARDS!
24,000 sq.ft. of yard sale items ONE DAY ONLY
Pick your items and Make an offer!
Grouped Items: Electronics - stereos, speakers, etc. (no TVs) **Tools** - hand tools, lights, flooring etc.. **Furniture** - Tables, chairs, bed frames, cabinets, hutches, etc.. **Housewares** - glassware, dishes, pictures, mirrors, bowls, cups, small appliances **Sporting goods** - Bikes, skis, baseball equipment, golf, exercise equipment **Clothes** - shirts, pants, jackets, shoes, bags **Kids toys and baby items** - high chairs, bouncy, games, Antiques

Worcester Polytechnic Institute students complete intensive research projects

WORCESTER — At Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), all undergraduates are required to complete a research-driven, professional-level project that applies science and technology that addresses an important societal need or issue. About two-thirds of students complete a project at one of the university's 50-plus off-campus project

centers, which are located around the world. A signature element of the innovative undergraduate experience at WPI, the project-based curriculum offers students the opportunity to apply their scientific and technical knowledge to develop thoughtful solutions to real problems that affect the quality of people's lives-and make a difference before they graduate.

"The WPI project-based curriculum's focus on global studies brings students out of the classroom and their comfort zones and into the global community to apply their knowledge and to solve problems," said Professor Kent Rissmiller, professor of Integrative & Global Studies and associate dean of The Global School. "Students are immersed in all aspects of a different culture, from the way people live and work to the values they hold to the foods they eat - all valuable perspectives for surviving and thriving in today's global marketplace. They also learn the meaning and magic of teamwork; make a real and meaningful difference in their host community; and gain a

competitive edge for any resume, or graduate or professional school application."

The following students were part of a team that completed an intensive project:

Rebecca Schultz, class of 2025, majoring in Environmental Engineering from Sturbridge, was part of a project titled Automatic Rainwater Collection and Storage System

Louis Desy, class of 2024, majoring in Biomedical Engineering from Brimfield, was part of a project titled The Environmental Crisis: The Loss of Biodiversity

Luke Hoy, class of 2024, majoring in Robotics Engineering from Fiskdale, was part of a project titled Recycling Our Own Waste in WPI via Robotic Systems

Patrick Hussey, class of 2024, majoring in Data Science from Brimfield, was part of a project titled Do Goats Vote?

Ryan Malone, class of 2025, majoring in Mechanical Engineering from Brimfield, was part of a project titled Designing a Model Com-

Turn To **WORCESTER** page A11

Friday's Child

Hi! My name is Marie and I love dancing!
Marie, whose pronouns are she, he, they/them, is kind, engaging, and resilient. Marie's foster family and teachers describe them as friendly, playful, and affectionate. Marie loves dancing and will dance for hours in the afternoon but is shy to show off their dance moves. They also enjoy going on daily walks for fresh air. Marie's favorite restaurants include Chinese buffets and McDonalds and their favorite meal consist of fried chicken sandwiches with coke products.
<https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/6138>
If you're at least 18 years old, have a stable source of income, and room in your heart, you may be a perfect match to adopt a waiting child. Adoptive parents can be single, married, or partnered; experienced or not; renters or homeowners; LGBTQ+ singles and couples. As an adoptive parent, you won't have to pay any fees, adoption from foster care is completely free in Massachusetts.
The process to adopt a child from foster care includes training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you. These steps will help match you with a child or sibling group that your family will fit well with.
To learn more about adoption from foster care visit www.mareinc.org. Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) can give you guidance and information on the adoption process. Reach out today to find out all the ways you can help children and teens in foster care.

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SCHOOL RACE 2024

Rivers seeks to be “troubleshooter” for schools

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE — To Stephanie Rivers, it's time for the School Committee to step up and lead, and feels it's time for her to help that process.

“I'm an information person and a troubleshooter,” she said. “When there's a problem, they send me in and I get to work.”

She's under no illusions that'll be easy, though.

“I don't see us leaving receivership anytime soon,” she said, noting the committee has had “no voice and no ability to vote on policy or curriculum” for eight years now. Its members have largely “been just going through the motions of meeting and adjourning.”

An IT professional, parent and local activist, Rivers is one of four candidates seeking two School Committee seats in this year's town election June 11. She faces incumbent Martena Shea, engineer Maria Torres, and fellow parent 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.

The News will be profiling all of them over the next few weeks, with one council and one school candidate each week.

For Rivers, the springboard for becoming a candidate was seeing the recent protests of the students over “how they were being treated. They

wanted to talk to the principal to promote changes.” That refers to student and teacher allegations earlier this year of various kinds of mistreatment plus a spring 2023 gun-in-school issue and other more recent concerns revolving around cheerleaders, yearbook, student monitoring in bathrooms and more.

“These are all issues were working on as a community, real-time issues,” Rivers said. “The lack of communication [from the administration] needs to be addressed and corrected.”

As most people know, Southbridge isn't alone in trying to work a way out of receivership. Rivers said she has followed what's happening in the other two communities – Holyoke and Lawrence – and even turned that material into a “feasibility report” for one of her college classes over how receivership operates. She said she compared the towns' stage of the process toward exiting, their improvement plans' key points, and various related data.

“Southbridge shows they're not improving, and actually failing in some areas,” she said.

To help fix that, she wants to both dig into the data and start asking people questions.



Stephanie Rivers

For example, she wonders why kids who drop out aren't asked why they're leaving and what would keep them in school. She'd also ask why kids skip school and other things.

“It's the students that are number 1,” she added. “But to the receivership, it seems they aren't number 1 and are pushed to the back of the bus.”

She'd also like to dive into data on GEDs, MCAS, budget, graduation rates and other issues (she claimed she hasn't seen GED numbers since the first receiver's tenure).

Regarding guns in school, Rivers said she strongly supports installing metal detectors despite the cost. But she also notes the schools need to look into what's happening in kids' lives that promotes fear, violence, gang membership and related issues. “Home life is usually the root source,” she noted.

“School's not the safest place to be now, and if it can be made safer, it needs to be done,” she said. “...It doesn't look like they can control [the risk of violence] because it keeps happening.”

(The district currently has a fairly high number of counselors of various types.)

Regarding the school com-

mittee itself, Rivers said she wants to see it recreate the old subcommittees – budget, transportation, maintenance, special ed and curriculum – and start relearning those roles. Right now, though, she feels it lacks organization, and changing that is a “moving process.”

If elected, she said she hopes to see the district “in transition to return to the school committee and that receivership has ended” by the end of a three-year term. That would ride along with improved metrics in dropout rates, graduations, test scores, safer buildings, and having teachers who are

“more comfortable and able to teach in a more supportive environment,” she said.

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

Estate/Yard Sale
Saturday and Sunday,
May 18th and 19th,
9:00 am - 3:00 pm
110 Leland Hill Road
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Southbridge candidate forum coming May 23

SOUTHBRIDGE — For the first time in years, the June 11 town election ballot will have two races, with four candidates vying for three Town Council seats and four seeking two School Committee seats.

Running for the council are incumbents Scott Lazo and John Daniel, attorney Steve Kelly, and former councilor Jackie Ryan. Seeking school seats are incumbent Martena Shea, engineer Maria Torres, long-time local activist Stephanie Rivers, and parent Brittany Davison.

All of them will get their chance to field questions on the issues Southbridge faces on Thursday, May 23 starting at 6 p.m. in the Town Hall, with live and subsequent broadcast on cable access and the town's YouTube and Web site video pages.

People with concerns they'd like to see raised can email forum organizer Gus Steeves at gus.steeves2@gmail.com with suggestions.

Last call to attend Tantasqua reunion

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Tantasqua Regional High School Class of 1974 is putting a last call to alumni to attend its 50th reunion June 15 at Cohasset Country Club, Southbridge. A buffet

dinner will be served at 6 p.m. Cost \$60 per person.

Please contact Denise ASAP to RSVP at THSClass1974@yahoo.com or call (508) 344-2567.



Tarentino Strong
www.tarentinocharitablefund.org

Please join us for the
2024 Tarentino Strong 5K held in
memory of Officer Ronald Tarentino, Jr.
Sunday, June 9th @ Auburn Elks
Kids Fun Run @ 9:30

5K @ 10:00 with chip timing and finish line photos
Family Fun Event with DJ, Emergency Vehicles,
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100 We Made The Choice So Simple 100 Visit Our Huge Showroom
100 Best Price! Best Selection! Best Service!

Charlton Garden Club to hold Plant Sale June 1

CHARLTON — The Charlton Garden Club is holding its annual Plant Sale on Saturday, June 1 on the Charlton Common from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Stop by for a choice selections of plants from annual and perennials to vegetables and woody plants. Come chat with our members. A Massachusetts Master Gardener Association volunteer will be on hand to test your soil's pH and make limestone recommendations if necessary. Bring a half cup of soil for free testing. When collecting your soil sample, take several subsamples from the soil surface down 4 to 6 inches. Mix these together and place about half a cup of soil in a container to bring to the plant sale.

Plant sale proceeds are used for program support, community activities like Earth Day and the Old Home Day Flower Show, and town beautification projects such as the Common plantings. We appreciate your support!

The Charlton Garden Club was founded in 1937 so we are celebrating our 87th year! The Club's purpose is "To create interest in gardening in all its branches and encourage the beautification of home and community." Anyone with an interest in gardening at any level is welcome to join. Meetings are typically held the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Charlton Library.

Our June 10th meeting will feature apiarist, Ken Warhol, who has been keeping bees for more than 70 years and will give a presentation on Honeybees in our Environment. Meetings are free and open to all. Whether you're a novice or accomplished gardener, the Charlton Garden Club is a great place to meet other gardening enthusiasts, learn about plants and planting, and to share your gardening tips and experiences. This meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at the Charlton Public Library.

If interested in joining the Garden Club, please contact Co-Presidents, Virginia Charette at (508) 248-7300 or Marcia Liedigk at (508) 434-0506.

Charlton Lions Club to hold membership drive

CHARLTON — The Charlton Lions Club is holding a membership drive this spring, beginning with an informational Wine and Cheese Reception on May 22 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Great Room at The Overlook, 88 Masonic Home Rd., Charlton.

Charlton's most respected community service organization invites interested Charlton residents to join them for refreshments and conversation and to learn about the important work the Club members do to serve our community.

The Club provides Charlton citizens with assistance in securing sight, hearing and health needs, handicap ramps, scholarships, disaster relief, and gift cards at Christmas for needy families. It collects used eyeglasses and hearing aids for reconditioning and donation. For youth, it sponsors annual speech and Peace Poster competitions. Where there is a need, the Lions respond. Funds are raised through food booths at various events, such as Charlton Old Home Day and public collections.

The Charlton Lions are part of Lions Clubs International, the largest service organization in the world. All funds raised are donated to charitable causes, with a majority used in Charlton. Since 1917, Lions have strengthened communities through humanitarian projects.

For more information about the May 22 event (including a map to the event location) and about the local Club or to make a donation, please visit thecharltonlions.com or send email to thecharltonlions@gmail.com.

UnderGround Wednesday screenings continue with "The Passion of Joan of Arc"

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Shawna Foundation presents UnderGround Wednesdays, free screenings of classic movies at starlite, 39 Hamilton St., Southbridge, on the last Wednesday of every month.

Matt McLaren on drums.

The screening and performance is on May 29, and starts at 7 p.m. It is free!

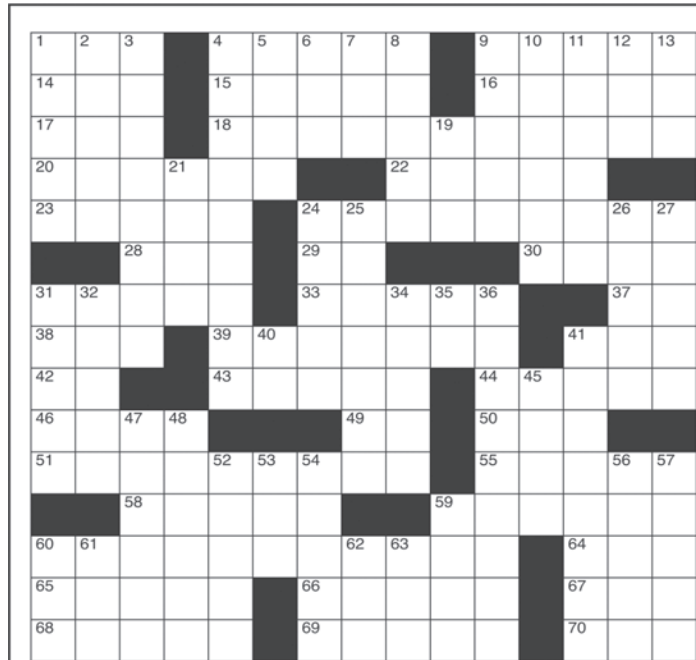
The Shawna E. Shea Memorial Foundation, Inc is a 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit who believes the arts and education are essential to creating a vibrant, healthy community and world.

This month's screening is the classic silent film "The Passion of Joan of Arc" (1928) by Carl Theodor Dreyer and stars Renée Jeanne Falconetti as Joan. It is widely regarded as a landmark of cinema, especially for its production, Dreyer's direction and Falconetti's performance, which is often listed as one of the finest in cinema history. The film summarizes the time that Joan of Arc was a captive of England, depicting her trial and execution.

The mission of the Shawna Foundation is to equitably promote and support students through scholarship and showcase artists in filmmaking, performance arts, poetry and other creative endeavors with a focus on underrepresented communities.

Accompanying the movie will be live music performed by SWRM featuring Alec K. Redfearn on synth and with

This program is supported by a grant from the Southbridge Cultural Council, a local agency funded by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.



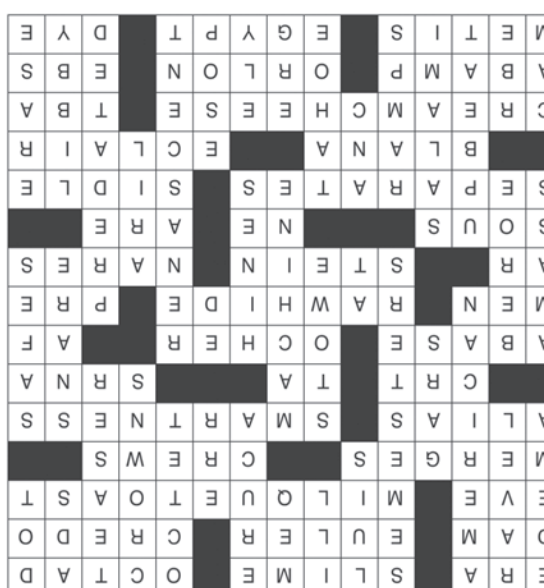
CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Geological time
- 4. Ooze
- 9. A set of eight
- 14. Obstruction
- 15. Swiss mathematician
- 16. Philosophy
- 17. The night before
- 18. A timid person
- 20. Unifies
- 22. Gangs
- 23. Alternative name
- 24. Acumen
- 28. Cathode-ray tube
- 29. Tantalum
- 30. Soluble ribonucleic acid
- 31. Humiliate
- 33. Earthy pigment
- 37. Air Force
- 38. Adult males
- 39. Stiff untanned leather
- 41. Before
- 42. Atomic #18
- 43. Beer mug
- 44. Nostrils
- 46. Type of chef
- 49. Midway between north and east
- 50. They ___
- 51. Splits
- 55. Walk in a timid manner
- 58. Preserved animal skin with hair
- 59. Popular donut shop item
- 60. You smear it on bagels
- 64. Don't know when yet
- 65. Equal to 10 amperes
- 66. Synthetic acrylic fiber
- 67. One point south of due east
- 68. Of mixed ancestry
- 69. Home of the Pyramids
- 70. A way to change color

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues
- 2. Untangle
- 3. One from the U.S.
- 4. Academic terms
- 5. San ___ Obispo, in California
- 6. Not healthy
- 7. Self-assessment questionnaire (abbr.)
- 8. Arugula genus
- 9. VIII
- 10. Makes a monarch
- 11. Tormentor
- 12. Commercials
- 13. Sprinkle
- 19. Make a mistake
- 21. Freshwater fishes
- 24. Vermont town
- 25. Man-made device
- 26. Entrap
- 27. Places to store important things
- 31. Accumulate
- 32. Greek mythological nymph
- 34. Gregory __, American dancer
- 35. Denotes past
- 36. Becoming popular again
- 40. Indicates position
- 41. Came before
- 45. An extra seed-covering
- 47. Cheerful
- 48. Deli sandwich staple
- 52. Skateboarders love them
- 53. Mandela's party
- 54. Sierra lake
- 56. Nickname for Elizabeth
- 57. Remove from record
- 59. Employee stock ownership plan
- 60. Former NFLer Newton
- 61. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- 62. Work unit
- 63. Town in Cambridgeshire

PUZZLE SOLUTION



REAL ESTATE

- BRIMFIELD**
\$45,000, Warren Rd #9, Sosa, Ruben, to Jackson, Genise.
- CHARLTON**
\$585,000, 5 Gale Rd, Packard, Michael, and Packard, Ellen M, to Stone, Abigail, and Smith, Gage.
\$550,000, 5 Mckinstry Cir, Horne, Michael E, and Horne, Kerry A, to Manoharan, Yuvaraj A.
\$440,000, 34 A F Putnam Rd, Thibaudeau, Paul, to Packard, Michael J.
\$125,000, 70 Jennings Rd, Bourdeau, James E, to Kendall Homes Inc.
- HOLLAND**
None
- SOUTHBRIDGE**
\$625,000, 15 Dennison Ln, Qs Lending T, and Ross, Steven A, to Amoah, Prosper E, and Boatemaa-Agyenim, Akua.
\$460,000, 142 Pleasant St, Ramirez, Carlos H, to Perez, Angel F.
\$185,000, 833 Main St, 833 Main St Corp, to Southbridge Rentals LLC.
\$185,000, Main St, 833 Main St Corp, to Southbridge Rentals LLC.
- STURBRIDGE**
\$286,000, 3 Shepard Rd, Cooper Sonja Est, and Cooper 3rd, John T, to Cooper, John T, and Cooper, Emily M.

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Tel 508/764-6365; Worship 10:00 A.M.
- **Charlton Federated Church**, 64 Main St., 248-5550, Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. www.fedchurchcharlton.org
- **Charlton Baptist Church**, 50 Hammond Hill Road, 248-4488, www.charltonbaptist.org, Sunday worship 10 a.m.
- **Charlton City United Methodist**, 74 Stafford St. 248-7379, web site: CharltonCityUMC.org
Sunday worship and Children's church 10am
- **St. Anne St. Patrick Church**, 16 Church St., Fiskdale (508) 347-7338
www.stannestpatparish.com
Saturday Vigil Mass at 4 pm, Sunday 8 am, 10 am, 12 noon, Youth Mass (September to May) 5 pm. Daily Mass Mon - Thurs 7:30 and 10 am, Fri and Sat 7:30 am
- **St. Joseph's Church**, 10 H. Putnam Ext, 248-7862, www.stjosephscharlton.com, Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 p.m., Sunday Mass 8 a.m., Sunday Family Mass 10 a.m., Sunday LifeTEEN Mass 5 p.m., 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, Office hours Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- **Living Word Church of Charlton**, 10 Main Street - Grange building 1st Floor, Charlton, MA 01507, Pastor Craig Bellisario, (508) 233-8349
Sunday Service 10:00am.
www.livingwordcharlton.com
info@livingwordcharlton.com
- **New Life Fellowship A/G, SNED Chapel**, 307 Sturbridge Road, Rt. 20, Charlton, MA, Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
- **Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale** - 8 Maple St. Sturbridge, 774-304-1021
www.sturfed.org
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
- **Bethlehem Lutheran Church**- 345 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566
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Master Masons host recognition night for veterans and first responders

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE
QUINEBAUG MASONIC LODGE

SOUTHBRIDGE — On Monday night, May 6, family and friends and guests gathered at Quinebaug Masonic Lodge in Southbridge to honor their Veterans and First Responders. The lodge was packed with Brethren in all kinds, past and present uniforms to represent their branch of service. There were individuals from the Army, Marines, Navy, Coast Guard, Airforce, National Guard, along

with Firefighters, Paramedics, Emergency Response personnel. Special guests included representatives from the Boy Scouts of America, Charlton Troop 165, and Charlton Troop 338. These young men are Americas future, there motto is duty to country and duty to citizenship. Wow what a sight to see, all these brethren and guests showing their pride in some type of uniform or article of clothing to represent their service. The best part of the

evening was watching the Color Guards march into the room to a standing ovation holding the flag of their branch of service. A roll call of names was read of 32 Master Masons veterans and 1st responders. Their branch of service and ages ranging from 90 years young to 37 years of age all are active members of the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge. We are proud to continue this tradition for our veterans and 1st responders of our lodge. If you would



Courtesy

Master Masons in some type of article of clothing representing their branch of service. Also, special guest representatives of the Boy Scouts of America Charlton Troop 165 and Troop 338 standing proudly with the Masons with the Color Guard flags in the background.



Courtesy

PULLED BARBEQUE PORK DINNER SATURDAY

On Saturday, May 18, Charlton City United Methodist Church is hosting a Pulled Barbeque Pork dinner with potato salad, coleslaw, baked beans, corn bread and peach cobbler with whipped cream. Come and enjoy food and fellowship with friends and neighbors. As always, between 5 and 7 p.m., there will be continuous serving and take-out. Price is still \$15 for adults and \$7 for children, free for children under five. Tickets may be purchased at the door although reservations are appreciated. Call the church office at (508) 248-7379 for information and reservations. The building is handicap accessible with ample parking and located at 74 Stafford St., Charlton.

like more information go to www.massfree-lodge.com a lodge nearest you. about Freemasonry, masonry.org and find

Badger & Nault to perform at Jacob Edwards Library

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Jacob Edwards Library presents Badger & Nault live in concert on Thursday, May 30 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. This event is free and open to the public.

Badger & Nault are an old-time acoustic duo based in central Massachusetts featuring banjo, accordion and vocal harmonies.

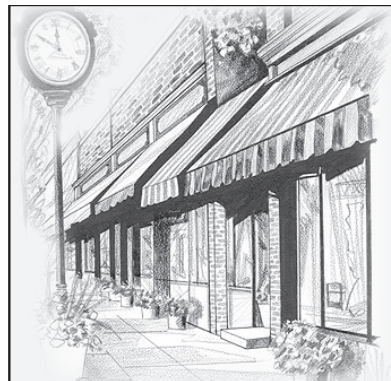
Freddy Badger is an old-time banjo player, guitarist, and singer in the America/Western European roots music tradition. While he is a native of Ashland, based on his musical style, you could easily believe he is from somewhere in the Appalachian Mountains circa 1920. He released his debut EP, "Good Time People," in the spring of 2022.

Bridget Nault is an accordion player, guitarist and singer out of Holden. She is a Berklee educated musician who has appeared all over

the state (and beyond) playing her original songs and performing in a variety of duos and bands. She released a solo record, "A Future and A Past," in June 2023.

Together, this duo will play a selection of old-time and traditional songs spanning from the 16th century through the early 20th century, with a focus on the Scotts, Irish and English music that was brought to Appalachia during that time period. Along with the music itself, Badger & Nault are passionate about the song histories, and will discuss the origins of the music they play throughout the performance.

This program is supported by a grant from the Southbridge Cultural Council, a local agency funded by Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.



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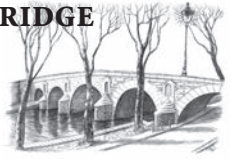
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EDITOR

Embracing nature's flourish: The case for No Mow May

As we wind down the month of May, a rare opportunity has presented itself, with a chance to change our relationship with our lawns and embrace the beauty of nature's unruly charm. "No Mow May" is a movement that encourages homeowners and communities to refrain from mowing their lawns for the entire month. While it may initially sound unconventional, this initiative carries several benefits for both our environment and our well-being.

No Mow May supports biodiversity. By allowing our lawns to grow freely, we create habitats and food sources for a variety of insects, birds, and small mammals. Native wild flowers, clovers, and grasses flourish, attracting pollinators such as bees and butterflies that are crucial to our ecosystem's health. Through this simple act of not mowing our lawns, we actively contribute to the preservation of local flora and fauna, helping to restore balance to our landscapes.

No Mow May presents an opportunity for us to reconnect with nature and foster a sense of wonder in our surroundings. As we witness the transformation of our lawns into vibrant meadows, we are reminded of the cyclical nature of life and the beauty found in untamed spaces. Stepping outside and immersing ourselves in these naturally evolving environments can be a source of inspiration, relaxation, and a respite from the demands of our daily lives.

Further, No Mow May holds significant environmental benefits. By refraining from mowing, we reduce our carbon footprint and conserve valuable resources.

Critics may argue that unkempt lawns present a sense of neglect or an invitation for pests. However, it is important to distinguish between neglect and intentional cultivation of natural spaces. No Mow May encourages us to redefine our perception of what a "perfect" lawn looks like, allowing for a shift in aesthetics that prioritizes the health of our ecosystems over conforming to conventional norms.

Let your lawn be a canvas for nature's masterpiece, even if just for a few weeks!

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

We're all "built differently"

Whenever we see individuals excelling in their fields, people who are highly skilled—whether in athletics, business, stock trading, acting, writing, culinary arts, scientific research, medicine, education, or trades—we often dismiss their success with a wave of the hand and a remark: "Well, they're just built differently."

Of course, in certain cases, that might hold some truth. For instance, I once had the privilege of getting to know an Olympic Gold Medal-winning swimmer, the fastest man in the world at the time. I assumed his success

POSITIVELY SPEAKING

TOBY
MOORE

mainly stemmed from his meticulous diet, rigorous supplement regimen, and relentless training routine.

I was surprised to learn I was only partially correct. Indeed, he was built differently in many ways, possessing the physical and mental attributes that few can claim.

While it's good to recognize the greatness in others and to admire their natural advantages, the core of their success often lies in relentless perseverance and an unwavering commitment to their goals.

Consider how there may have been others with the raw talent of Tom Brady, but without his extraordinary work ethic and dedication, they never reached similar heights.

I can't help but think that sometimes, when people remark, "They're just built differently," they are perilously close to crafting excuses for

Turn To **POSITIVELY** page A12

TO THE EDITOR

Facts are facts

To the Editor:

People often ask "Why is no one interested in running for seats in local town elections?" Look no further than this last election in Charlton for at least a partial answer.

So many strange and disheartening things happened, not the least of which involved the race for the one-year school committee seat. Rumors abounded about the incumbent not being interested in running again, but in the meantime, a second candidate stepped into the race. Ultimately, the incumbent got herself on the ballot, then almost immediately publicly announced that she was quitting the race, and did no open campaigning. The second candidate did campaign, including putting himself through the stress and scrutiny of a public Q&A at the Candidates Forum, where it was also announced that the incumbent had quit the race. Then nonsense was spread about "Woke policies" and how "Title IX was going to be voted on in our schools." Title IX is a federal civil rights law that was enacted in 1972! More rumors ran rampant about what the incumbent would do if she won the race. We now know. She has put her true character on display for all to see by accepting the position. Do we really want a quitter who doesn't want the job? And is this the example Charlton is proud to set for our children? That I don't want to put in the work, but given the opportunity, I will take the job from someone who does?

A second race gone bad involved the Selectboard Seat 2. You don't typically see dirty politics at this level, at

least not out in the open. But in this race the incumbent decided that creating attack videos about his opponent and using money from the Republican State Party to send out nasty, inaccurate mailers to voters was an A-OK way to get elected in Charlton. It is oft repeated by these "powers that be" in our town government, that town elections are non-partisan because there are no D's or R's next to their names. Well, that has been blown to smithereens, and it remains to be seen what it will now bring to our elections in the future. Perhaps it is that unfairness and nastiness that local voters want, not unlike national politics. The hypocrisy ran deep with town leaders who endorsed this behavior. However, even with all these smear tactics this race came down to one vote and as a result we can expect a recount. Never again do I want to hear someone say, "Why vote? My vote doesn't matter anyway."

Believe it or not, there is more. Candidates are always discouraged by the lack of voter participation in town, and this election was no different. There are over 10,000 registered voters and only 1,838 came out to vote. People are not engaged. But some are also so uninformed as to vote for someone who has quit the race and to vote for someone in two races, one of which they are not running in.

I'm sure some will say this is just sour grapes because my chosen candidates did not win, and I won't deny that I'm disappointed by the results, but facts are facts.

Pat Stockwell
Charlton

Your vote matters

To the Editor:

This is to all those residents of Charlton who didn't think their vote would count. The recent election between two candidates for the Select Board was within one vote. In other words, if you didn't vote, and your favorite candidate lost, it was your fault.

I've seen this happen a number of times over the years in local elections, and if you care about your town and

how it is run, you must get yourself out there and cast your vote. I believe most people do care and then simply forget or assume your candidate will win, or "life gets in the way" and so they don't vote. Don't allow this to happen to you — it only takes ten minutes, and then there will be no regrets.

Kathleen Walker
Charlton

Jill Stein is running for a nonviolent future

To the Editor:

In this world of violence and lack of empathy toward other Earthlings, one may wonder, is there a presidential peace candidate? There is: Jill Stein. She's running for our nonviolent future.

Peace is what we need right now. We don't need any more of our hard-earned tax dollars going to war. We need that money to build community here, on American public transportation, health care, local food, fortifying infrastructure, and education. I heard a great discussion between Jeffrey Sacks and Jill Stein specifically

talking about the genocide on Palestinians. Can those tax dollars be better spent on Americans? I think so. And so does Jill Stein.

To learn more, please see www.jillstein2024.com and sign the petition that is circulating to get her on the ballot in Massachusetts. Please call me (508-764-8042) with questions or to sign. Let's give MA residents a chance to vote for People, Peace, and Planet!

Have a good day!
Peace,

Maureen Doyle
Southbridge

Younger workers must balance financial priorities



FINANCIAL
FOCUS

TREVOR
NIELSEN

If you're a younger worker just starting out in your career, you've got tremendous personal and professional opportunities ahead of you. But this is also when you will need to make some key decisions — especially about your financial priorities.

When considering your priorities, you may find it helpful to look at these three areas:

Paying off debts – If you're like many young working people, one of your biggest debts may be your student loans — and paying these down is, by necessity, a priority, because falling behind on your student loan payments can lead to late fees and other problems. So, if you haven't done so already, you may want to enroll in autopay, which will help you stay current on your loan and possibly earn a rate reduction.

Saving for short-term goals – At this stage of your life, you may be thinking about saving for at least one or two significant short-term goals, such as a wedding or a down payment to a house — or perhaps both. Obviously, your ability to save for these goals will depend on your income, your current cost of living and your debt situation. But if a wedding or a new home is indeed a priority for you, you'll want to look at what's possible, in terms of putting money away. Since you know you'll need a certain amount of money at a given time, you may want to automatically move a set amount from your checking or savings account each month to a low-risk account whose principal is essentially protected. You might not earn a lot on such an account, but at the same time, you won't have to worry about a drop in value just when you need to take out the money.

Saving for retirement – Even though you may just be at the beginning of your working life, it's not too soon to begin preparing for its conclusion. You could spend two, or even three, decades in an active retirement, so you will need to accumulate considerable financial resources. Fortunately, here's an area in which you may be able to get some help, starting right away. If you work for a mid-size or large company, your employer may well offer a 401(k) or similar retirement plan. Your pre-tax salary deferral contributions are generally not taxable, so the more you put in, the lower your taxable income. Plus, your earnings can grow on a tax-deferred basis. (If your employer offers a Roth 401(k), your contributions will be taxable, but withdrawals will be tax-free, provided you meet certain conditions.) These days, even many small employers often offer some type of retirement plan, so it's likely to your benefit to take full advantage of it by contributing as much as you can afford.

Prioritizing these long-term savings goals, and striving to meet them with the appropriate solutions, can certainly be challenging. But as a young worker, you have the greatest — and most irreplaceable — asset on your side: time. So, make the most of it. Think carefully about your needs and options and take the steps that enable you to keep making progress toward all your objectives.

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.

Toms are looking for love

Turkey hunting is starting to improve as toms start to find new areas to look for love. Many hens are already sitting on their eggs. More sightings of turkeys roaming fields and side roads, are a sure sign that toms are on the hunt for romance with a new lady.



THE GREAT OUTDOORS

RALPH TRUE

Freshwater fishing for trout, and numerous other species of fish have anglers becoming more serious about their sport. Wachusett Res is providing better action for lakers, salmon and as this week's second picture shows smallmouth bass.

Local ponds and rivers are also producing some nice trout for anglers to enjoy catching. Mass. will continue to stock trout until Memorial Day in most areas, and will stock areas a bit later if the trout become available.

Deer are also having their young this month, and residents are asked not to get too close to a young deer, or attempt to pick it up if they think the fawn is abandoned. The mother is not too far away and often hides their young as they do every year.

Waterfowl are also having a very good year hatching out their young. Local geese have been spotted with a good family of goslings, and ducks also seem to be having a good hatching of their young.

Numerous ospreys in the Uxbridge area have been

spotted catching fish in local ponds and carrying them off to feed their young. Ospreys were nearly wiped out locally when the DDT poison was used to kill mosquitos and other insects. Watching ospreys diving into the water at high speeds to catch fish is extremely entertaining, and they can dive down up to three feet to catch a fish.



Peter with a nice smallmouth bass from Wachusett Res recently!

Wildlife is in good shape locally & with the help of sportsmen's money, they should stay that way.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!



This week's second picture shows Alex with his first turkey ever. Nice bird!

Readers Share Favorite Hacks and Hints

It's time to take a peek into the Take the Hint! snail mail and virtual mailboxes. Thanks to all the readers who have taken time from their busy schedule to send in their great tips for dealing with the little nuisances in life. And remember readers, your tip puts you in the running for a three course dinner for two at the Public House!

From reusing common items to adding creativity to keeping the bird-bath clean, the following tips from readers are sure to make the season's hassles a little easier to handle!

** A reader offers her tried and true strategy (using an unexpected household item) to safely remove ticks:

Warmer weather is right around the corner and so are the ticks! A friend told us to put toothpaste on area as soon as you discover a tick biting. You will soon see movement of the tick as they willingly escape the

dreaded toothpaste. My husband and both had success with this method last summer. It really works. Good luck and stay safe!

Nancy Asplund
Brimfield, MA
**

This medley of creative reuse and recycling tips save time and money!

1. Dryer wipes: I don't use them in the dryer, I put them in plastic totes when I store clothes, Christmas items, curtains, etc. They give a pleasant smell to the clothes.

Then when I remove the wipes from the totes, I use them to clean the bathroom sink and tub and/or use them dry on a Swiffer (use two and push into holes on back) for a quick pick up.

2. Used tissue paper: I cut it up into a convenient size and use to wipe grease out of pans and as a quick way to clean the kitchen floor when food drops there,



TAKE THE HINT

KAREN TRAINOR

3. Alcohol pre-moistened towels: Restaurants sometimes give these out with messy foods. Use to wipe your hands after making meatballs, meatloaf, cutting chicken up, etc. I wet the ones that have dried up. They also can be used for doing a quick kitchen counter or floor pickup.

These ideas enable one to recycle items normally discarded after one use.

Cynthia Vlasaly
Whitinsville, MA
**

This reader's tip uses copper's natural algicide properties to solve a common garden challenge:

Love birdbaths but hate potential mosquito infestation due to stand-

ing water? Toss three or four copper pennies into your birdbath, it keeps the water clean, clear, and mosquito free!

Note: Pre 1982 pennies were made of copper,

KJE
No address submitted
**

Talk about Yankee Ingenuity! From a quick fix to a creative keepsake, this reader always comes up with useful ideas:

Here's a solution I found for when the hard plastic ring on a new pump shampoo bottle cracked: Luckily, in my odds and ends drawer, I always tuck in one spare pump from a previous empty bottle just for such emergencies. I was able to remove the broken and put on the replacement in seconds! Time to watch for a new spare. This works for hand lotion or glass or kitchen cleaners too!

**

I recently dug into my sewing and craft basket to embellish a child's book. I simply attached a heart of craft fur to a Baby Animal book with open and peek windows. This easy addition offered a touch sense to go along with the peek and surprise to the story book. Personalize it more by writing a personal inscription.

Viola Bramel
Northbridge, MA

**

Prize Winner
Congratulations to Nancy Asplund, whose name was drawn for Dinner for Two at the Public House. She shared her tick removal method above.

**
Win Dinner for Two at the Public House

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

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

Latest antiques and collectibles auction news

Before I discuss the latest auction news, I'd like to thank Dotti Durst and everyone from the Learning in Retirement group who attended my presentation on downsizing hosted at Quinebaug Valley Community College in Danielson, Conn. last week.



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES

WAYNE TUISKULA

Now diving into recent auctions news, a piece of history from a tragic event from over 100 years ago recently set an auction record. John Jacob Astor IV was the great grandson of John Astor, the fur trader that founded the family fortune, according to Britannica. Astor IV was on the board of several corporations and founded

several restaurants including the Astoria, which later became the Waldorf Astoria. He was the wealthiest man aboard the Titanic when the ill-fated ship sank in 1912. Astor IV perished when the ship hit an iceberg. When his

body was recovered, he had a Waltham 14-karat gold "pocket watch, diamond ring, gold and diamond cufflinks, 225 pounds in English notes, and \$2,440," according to CBS. Astor IV was in his 40s and had married an 18-year-old woman in 1911. The couple went on an extended honeymoon in Europe and Egypt while waiting for gossip about their marriage to



die down. They were on their way back to New York when the Titanic sank. Astor IV reportedly asked if he could join his wife on a lifeboat because of her "delicate condition." When he was told that he needed to wait for women and children first, he is said to have thrown his gloves to his wife and lit a cigarette while the ship sank. Astor IV's watch sold for \$1.46 million last month, an auction record for any object from the Titanic.

Some rare collectibles

are now being offered in an online auction that ends on June 1st, according to Fox News. A wide variety of collectibles are already reaching impressive figures with three weeks of bidding remaining. A 1986 Nintendo NES Entertainment System unopened in the box is at \$17,000. An engraved silver and gold-plated belt buckle worn by Harry Houdini has already reached \$27,000. A painting by Bob Ross, who taught painting on his "Joy of Painting" television

show, has a current bid of \$45,000.

Other pieces from that sale are expected to bring even more. In 1953, Marilyn Monroe appeared on the cover of the first issue of Playboy magazine. The highest graded copy at a 9.6 out of 10 is expected to sell for half a million dollars. A jersey that Mickey Mantle wore during his 1957 MVP season is expected to bring in the millions. A high-grade Michael Jordan rookie card sold for over \$1 million in 2022. A newer but rarer Michael Jordan card surpassed that mark. Only one 2003-2004 Upper Deck Logoman (NBA logo) patch card with a Michael Jordan signature was ever printed. It's expected to sell for between \$3 million and \$5 million. It's been over 20 years since Mi-

chael Joran played in the NBA and he's still setting records.

Our sports memorabilia, sports cards, and comic books online auction begins soon. There is still time to consign coins, art, gold jewelry, sterling silver, historical items, advertising signs, and other antiques for our summer online auction. Please visit our website <https://centralmassauctions.com> for links to upcoming events.

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

Got Space? we do.
Contact Mikaela Today
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mikaela@stonebridgepress.news



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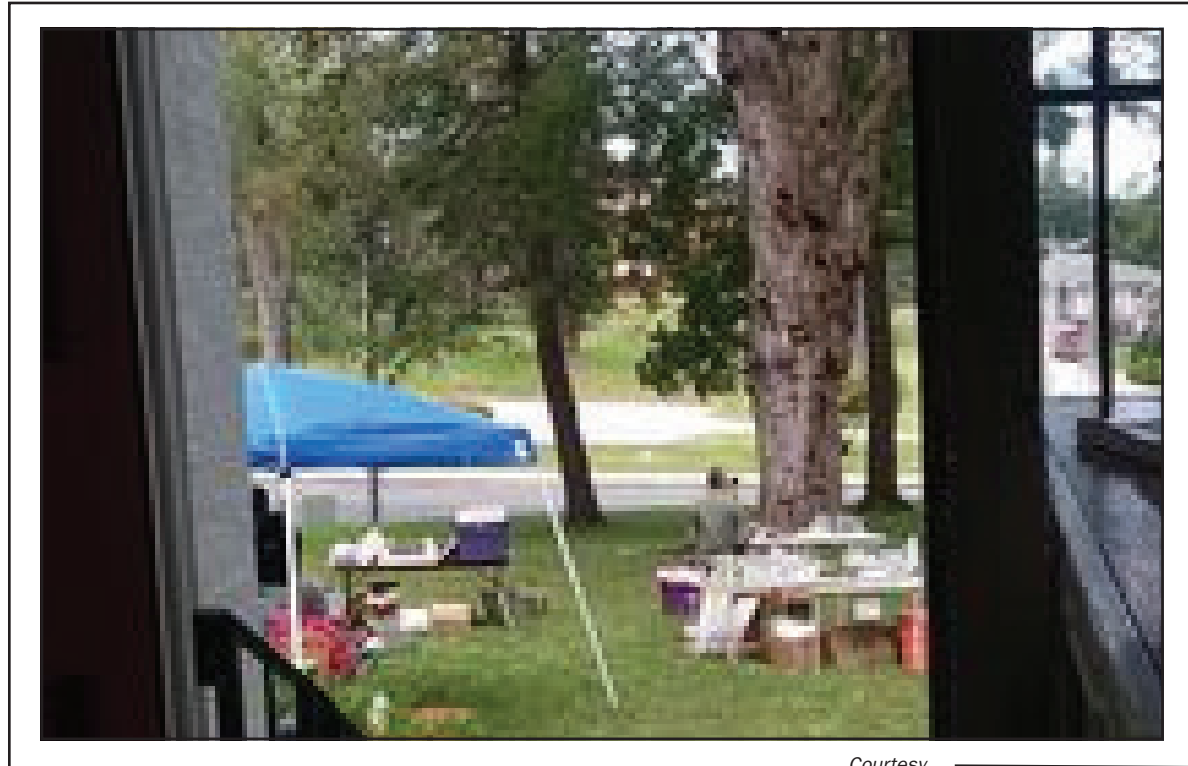
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¹DETAILS OF OFFER: Offer expires 5/31/2024. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Get 20% off your entire purchase and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry/patio doors between 5/1/2024 and 5/31/2024. Additional \$500 off your purchase, minimum purchase of four (4) required, taken after initial discount(s), when you purchase by 5/31/2024. Military discount applies to all active duty, veterans and retired military personnel. Military discount equals \$500 off your entire purchase and applies after all other discounts, no minimum purchase required. Subject to credit approval. Interest is billed during the promotional period, but all interest is waived if the purchase amount is paid before the expiration of the promotional period. Financing for GreenSky® consumer loan programs is provided by federally insured, federal and state chartered financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, or familial status. Savings comparison based on purchase of a single unit at list price. Available at participating locations and offer applies throughout the service area. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. License number available upon request. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. "ENERGY STAR" is a registered trademark of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. ²It is the only warranty among top selling window companies that meets all of the following requirements: easy to understand terms, unrestricted transferability, installation coverage, labor coverage, geographically unrestricted, coverage for exterior color, insect screens and hardware, and no maintenance requirement. Visit renewalbyandersen.com/nationsbest for details. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of their respective owners. ©2024 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. ©2024 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved.



Courtesy

The Ruth Wells Center for the Arts is holding their annual spring tag sale on the grounds, 111 Main St. in Southridge, on Saturday, May 11 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The rain date is May 18. The spacious front lawn will be covered with all kinds of collectibles and treasures- all at attractive prices. Plan to stop in to see what bargains are available. For more information, go to the Web site, ruthwellscenter.com, or call 508 764 3341. The Ruth Wells Center started in 1977, and serves the community as a cultural corner, offering art and music opportunities.

VILLAGE GARDEN CENTERS
 389 Main Street, Spencer (across from Ahearn's equipment)
 508-885-3560 (Open 7 days a week)

11" Hanging Baskets

2 for \$39
 Reg. \$23.99 ea.

10" Dahlia Bulbs

2 for \$25.00
 Reg. \$19.99 ea.

Charlton Public Library presents "The Basics of Bees and Beekeeping"

CHARLTON — On Saturday, May 18, from 10-11 a.m., Charlton Public Library welcomes John Hedly, local beekeeper and member of Worcester County Beekeepers Association.

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

Dean College announces Spring 2024 honor society inductees

FRANKLIN — Dean College is pleased to announce that Lia Zajas of Uxbridge has been inducted into the following honor societies for their academic achievements: Golden Key International Honour Society.

Founded in 1865, Dean College is a private, residential college located in Franklin Massachusetts, 45 minutes

from Boston, Massachusetts, and Providence, Rhode Island. Dean College offers baccalaureate degrees, associate degree programs, as well as a robust schedule of part-time continuing and professional education credit and certificate programs throughout the calendar year.

Relay for Life returns June 15

SOUTHBRIDGE — The 27th Relay For Life of Southern Worcester County will take place on Saturday, June 15 from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. at Mcmahon Field, 25 Cole Ave, Southbridge.

We would like to invite and survivors to our continental breakfast which will happen after our opening ceremony and the Survivor lap. We also invite them to have dinner with us at 5 p.m.

during the day.

Our one-pound auction is happening at 1 p.m.

There will be a hula hoop lap, two legged lap, crazy hat lap, tutu lap, purple slime bucket challenge and more.

For more information, please visit our Web site, www.relayforlife.org/swc.

Survivor T-Shirts will no longer be available at the Relay, we ask that survivors either register on the Relay website www.relayforlife.org/swc or to call 1-800-227-2345. Please allow a few weeks for delivery.

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MATTRESS SALE!	5 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER TWIN: \$199 (REGULARLY \$299) FULL: \$269 (REGULARLY \$499) FULL: \$299 (REGULARLY \$599)	FRIGIDAIRE DISHWASHER #7150 \$299⁹⁹ WAS \$599.99	18 CU. FT. REFRIGERATOR \$599⁹⁹ WAS \$699.99	MAYTAG DISHWASHER #MDB4949SKZ \$549⁹⁹ WAS \$849.99	STAINLESS STEEL BOTTOM FREEZER \$899⁹⁹ WAS \$1295.99	DELUXE WHIRLPOOL WASHER \$499⁹⁹ WAS \$699.95
	FRIGIDAIRE SIDE-BY-SIDE REFRIGERATOR \$999⁹⁹ WAS \$1,599.99	AMANA WASHER OR DRYER \$469⁹⁹ WAS \$599.99	MAYTAG DRYER OR WASHER \$569⁹⁹ WAS \$699.99	WHIRLPOOL FRENCH DOOR BOTTOM FREEZER \$1599⁹⁹ WAS \$2,699	10 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER \$499⁹⁹ WAS \$599.99	20 CUBIC FOOT UPRIGHT FREEZER \$799⁹⁹ WAS \$999.95
	LG TOP FREEZER 18 CU. FT. \$699⁹⁹ WAS \$899.99	AMANA GAS RANGE #AGR1533CBAS • Stainless Steel \$599⁹⁹ WAS \$699.99	GE FRONT LOAD WASHER #GFW550SSNWW \$749⁹⁹ WAS \$999.99	20 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER \$899⁹⁹ WAS \$1099.99	LG SMOOTH TOP ELECTRIC STOVE \$729⁹⁹ WAS \$999.99	OVER THE RANGE MICROWAVE \$199⁹⁹ WAS \$279.99

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LEGALS

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family
Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508)831-2200
Docket No. WO24C0215CA
CITATION ON PETITION TO
CHANGE NAME**

In the matter of:
Angela Jean Jaillet
A **Petition to Change Name of Adult** has been filed by **Angela Jean Jaillet of Charlton MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Angela Jean Navaroli
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 08, 2024
Stephanie Fattman, Register of Probate
May 16, 2024

**Town of Southbridge
Invitation to Bid
Quinebaug Valley Rail Trail
Improvements**

Sealed bids for Quinebaug Valley Rail Trail Improvements (QVRT) will be received by the Town Manager's Office, 41 Elm Street, Southbridge, MA 01550 until 9 AM EST on June 14, 2024, at which time the bids received will be publicly opened and read in the Town Council Chambers. The bid specifications can be found by going <https://www.ci.southbridge.ma.us/Bids.aspx>. Documents are only available electronically.
Quinebaug Valley Rail Trail Improvements will include construction of a new 5-mile segment of the QVRT multi-use trail including approximately 21,000 linear ft. along an abandoned rail line and approximately 5,250 LF on-road as a separated path with sections of "share the road" bicycle lane accommodations with associated improvements and site furnishings. A pre-bid meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 22 at 2:00 PM EST outside of the old train depot on Larochelle Way in downtown Southbridge. Any potential bidders interested in a pre-bid meeting are welcome to attend.
This project is being funded using federal EDA grant funds, Project Number: 01-79-15218.
The Town reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to negotiate any and all contract terms with the successful proposer, or to cancel this proposal at any time if it is in the Town's best interest to do so. Any contract agreement must be approved by the Southbridge Town Council.
May 16, 2024

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
Docket No. 23 SM 004270
ORDER OF NOTICE
TO: Michael J. Murphy, SR**
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):
The Secretary, United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in 90 Woodycrest Ave Southbridge, Ma 01550, given by United States of America, acting through the Farmers Home Administration, United States Department of Agriculture to The Secretary, United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development dated October 15, 2004, and recorded in Register of Deeds in Book 34836, Page 114, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/ Defendants' Servicemembers status. If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before 06/17/2024 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of non-compliance with the Act.
Witness, GORDON H. PIPER Chief Justice of this Court on 5/2/2024
Attest: Deborah J. Patterson, Recorder
May 16, 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. WO24P1416EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
Luis Armando Perez
Also known as: Luis Perez
Date of Death: 12/15/2021**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Jessica M O'Keefe of Marlborough MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that:
Jessica M O'Keefe of Marlborough MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before:
10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/04/2024.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: May 07, 2024
Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate
May 16, 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. WO24A0089AD
CITATION G.L.c. 210, § 6
In the matter of:
Ava Lynne Boyle**

To:
Justin Boyle
any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth.
A petition has been filed by said court Cameron Meece of Charlton, MA Ashley Jason of Charlton, MA requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to **Ava Lynne Meece**
IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERE-TO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT: **Worcester ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00AM) ON: 06/04/2024**
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 27, 2024
Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate
May 2, 2023
May 9, 2023
May 16, 2023

**(SEAL)
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
20 SM 001237
ORDER OF NOTICE**

TO:
John Connor
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (et seq): Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Sturbridge, numbered 244 Cedar Street, given by John Connor to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for HomeBridge Financial Services, Inc., dated April 30, 2019,

recorded at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 60347, Page 242, as affected by a judgment dated March 27, 2024 and recorded at said Registry in Book 70413, Page 100, and now held by the plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.
If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **June 24, 2024** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the grounds of noncompliance with the Act.
Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on May 7, 2024.
Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
May 16, 2024

Town Of Brimfield
The Brimfield Planning Board will hold a public hearing on June 05, 2024, at 7:00 PM at the Hitchcock Center (2 Brookfield Rd) regarding the town meeting articles regarding proposed zoning by-law changes. The proposed zoning by-law changes will affect Zoning Bylaw 3.7: **to add 3.7.4 to allow Duplex/Multi (8 units max), Family residential dwellings in Business District.**
May 09, 2024
May 16, 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. WO23P2896EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
Nicholas Worth
Date of Death: 01/26/2020**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Fredrick C. Rushton of Worcester MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that:
Laura Larose, Esq. of Leominster MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before:
10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/04/2024.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: May 08, 2024
Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate
May 16, 2024

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

June 1, 2008; recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, Book 43128, Page 139, and by Assignment dated August 18, 2017; recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, Book 57770, Page 79, and by Corrective Assignment dated October 6, 2017; recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, Book 57875, Page 375, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction at 1:00 PM, on May 30, 2024**, on the premises known as **345 New Boston Road, Sturbridge, Massachusetts**, the premises described in said mortgage, together with all the rights, easements, and appurtenances thereto, to wit:
The land with the buildings thereon, situated on New Boston Road, Sturbridge, Worcester County, Massachusetts as *Lot 101 on a Plan entitled "Plan of Lots in Sturbridge, Massachusetts surveyed for Frederick E. LaVergne and Gail P. LaVergne dated March 3, 2004, and recorded in the Worcester Registry of deeds in Plan Book 807, Plan 98, more particularly bounded and described as follows:

Lot #101
Beginning at an iron pin in a corner of walls at the southeast corner of tract herein described on the northerly side of New Boston Road at the southwest corner of land, now or formerly of Susan J. Hawkins;
Thence South 47 degrees 42' 51" along a stone wall on the northerly side of said New Boston Road a distance of 150.00 feet to a re-rod in said stone wall;
Thence North 57 degrees 08' 26" West along Lot 102 a distance of 32.52 feet to re-rod;
Thence North 44 degrees 29; 27" West along said Lot 102 a distance of 359.86 feet to a re-rod at Lot 345R;
Thence North 23 degrees 16' 06" East, along 345 R a distance of 60.63 feet to a re-rod at said Hawkins land;
Thence South 57 degrees 59' 18" East along said Hawkins land a distance of 432.25 feet to the point of beginning.
The above described lot 101 contains 1.0000 acres.
This conveyance is subject to and with the benefit of easements, restrictions, rights of way and other matters of record insofar as now in force and applicable.
*Due to typographical error, the Lot was inadvertently referred as being Lot 103 in one line of the description attached to the mortgage.
Terms of Sale: These premises are being sold subject to any and all unpaid real estate taxes, water rates, municipal charges and assessments, condominium charges, expenses, costs, and assessments, if applicable, federal tax liens, partition wall rights, statutes, regulations, zoning, subdivision control, or other municipal ordinances or bylaws respecting land use, configuration, building or approval, or bylaws, statutes or ordinances regarding the presence of lead paint, asbestos or other toxic substances, sanitary codes, housing codes, tenancy, and , to the extent that they are recorded prior to the above mortgage, any easements, rights of way, restrictions, confirmation or other matters of record.

Purchaser shall also bear all state and county deeds excise tax. The deposit of \$10,000.00 is to be paid in cash or bank or certified check at the time and place of the sale, with the balance of the purchase price to be paid by bank or certified check within forty-five (45) days after the date of the sale, to be deposited in escrow with Guaetta and Benson, LLC, at 73 Princeton Street, Suite 208, North Chelmsford, Massachusetts.
In the event that the successful bidder at the foreclosure sale shall default in purchasing the within described property according to the terms of this Notice of Sale and/or the terms of the Memorandum of Sale executed at the time of the foreclosure, the Mortgagee reserves the right to sell the property by foreclosure deed to the second highest bidder or, thereafter, to the next highest bidders, providing that said bidder shall deposit with said attorney, the amount of the required deposit as set forth herein within five (5) business days after written notice of the default of the previous highest bidder.
Other terms, if any, are to be announced at the sale.
Dated: May 2, 2024
Present holder of said mortgage, Wilmington Trust, National Association, as Successor Trustee to Citibank, N.A., as Trustee for First Franklin Mortgage Loan Trust, Mortgage Loan Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2005-FF12 by its Attorneys, Guaetta and Benson, LLC, Peter V. Guaetta, Esquire, P.O. Box 519, Chelmsford, MA 01824
May 9, 2024
May 16, 2024

WORCESTER

continued from page 2

munity Food Security Collaborative
Najum Soofi, a member of the class of 2025 from Southbridge, was part of a project titled Game Analysis Wiki

Michaela Cluett, class of 2025, majoring in Business from Charlton, was part of a project titled Informing a Potential CBDC Pilot Study in New

Zealand Ethan Lilley, class of 2025, majoring in Electrical and Computer Engineering from Charlton, was part of a project titled Comparing Representations of Macedonian Identity in Museums

Jocelyn Hinchcliffe, class of 2025, majoring in Biology and Biotechnology from Uxbridge, was part

of a project titled Hydroponic Gardening and Food Insecurity in Gandul, San Juan

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute WPI, a global leader in project-based learning, is a distinctive, top-tier technological university founded in 1865 on the principle that students learn most effectively by

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Gardening helps grow healthy, happy kids



Corona Tools — Courtesy

Research has shown that gardening and spending time in nature is beneficial to kids, including but not limited to better vision, increased focus, and a stronger immune system.

Gardeners know and research is proving that gardening, even viewing a garden, as well as spending time in nature is good for the mind, body, and spirit. It improves strength and flexibility, lowers blood pressure, and elevates our moods.

This is also true for the youngsters in our lives. Recent studies found that school-aged children who participate in outdoor activities have better

vision than those who spend most of their time indoors. Children who engage in nature and gardening are more focused, score better on exams, and are less likely to develop or exhibit symptoms of ADHD. And kids who play outside and get a bit dirty also have stronger immune systems.

Help get the kids in your life involved in gardening. There are a variety of ways to get youngsters involved no matter how much space or time you have.

Consider giving each child their own garden space or a container garden to design, plant, and tend. Containers are a great option when planting space and time are limited. And just about anything can be grown in a pot. An old 5-gallon bucket or washtub with holes drilled into the bottom, recycled nursery pots, or a colorful raised planter make great gardens.

Provide them with some kid-sized tools and equipment. The tools' smaller scale will be easier for them to handle



GARDEN MOMENTS

MELINDA MYERS

and having their own tools that match yours makes gardening even more special.

Consider investing in a set of kids' gardening tools including hand tools, long-handled tools, and even a wheelbarrow like those at Corona Tools USA (coronatools.com).

Keep in mind the goal is for kids to have fun and develop an interest in gardening. You may need to bite your tongue when their combinations are rather unique, or plants are spaced improperly. Provide some guidance but be prepared to let them experiment and learn from their failures as well as successes.

Kids like to water even at an early age. The biggest challenge is getting the water to the plant but that will come with time, practice, and a few water-soaked outfits. Your efforts will be rewarded when your child takes over watering your container gardens.

You may notice kids often find bugs and worms more in-

teresting than plants. Use this as a gateway into gardening. Get kids involved in worm composting or hunting for earthworms in the compost pile. They will have fun on the worm hunt while helping you turn your compost pile.

Use the "Pluck, Drop and Stomp" method to manage garden pests. Point out the bad guys and the damage they do. Be sure they know to watch for the good guys and leave them be to help the garden grow. Then have the children pluck the bad bugs off the plant, drop them to the ground, and stomp on them. This eco-friendly pest management strategy also burns some of that excess energy.

Include lots of color in the garden and containers. Michigan State University surveyed kids before creating their children's garden. They found kids were much more excited and likely to participate when a garden is filled with color.

And as the flowers are maturing and your family is over-run with vegetables, consider sharing the harvest and a few bouquets of flowers. Giving helps children grow into caring, well-rounded adults. And

food pantries in your community are always in need of fresh produce. Most of the food-insecure people in our communities are kids and seniors who greatly benefit from fresh nutritious vegetables.

Be sure to end the growing season with a harvest party. Use your homegrown produce to prepare a picnic or fancy dinner for family and friends. Then use some of those beautiful flowers you grew to decorate the table.

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

'Afternoon of Brass' Concert Series returns to Boston, Worcester Memorial Day Weekend

WORCESTER — Building on critically and commercially acclaimed shows since 2019, the team at Northbridge Brass Endeavors is proud to present the Afternoon of Brass #3 concert series. Concert goers and volunteer musicians will experience an unforgettable afternoon filled with the rich sounds of brass music. Three afternoon concerts are planned: May 24 and May 25 at the Old South Church in Boston and May 26 at Mechanics Hall in Worcester. New for this year is a call for volunteer singers and brass players who will join forces with the professional brass onstage at Mechanics Hall.

Featuring WGBH/WCRB's Brian McCreath as emcee, Lawrence Isaacson as resident conductor, Stephen Bulla as guest conductor and selected Boston Symphony Orchestra and Pops brass players, the concert series will be nothing less than ... spectacular! Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity to experience the power and beauty of brass music live in person either as a participant or spectator.

Paying homage to the spirit of the Memorial Day holiday, the program begins with "Taps" and "Retreat" (Butterfield) arranged for "The President's Own" United States Marine Band brass by former USMC arranger Thomas Knox. The program includes some of the most demanding works ever written and arranged for brass including: "Festive Overture" (Shostakovich), "Polovtsian Dances from Prince Igor" (Borodin), "Arrival of the Queen of Sheba" (Handel), "Grand March from Tannhäuser" (Wagner) and "Pictures at an Exhibition" (Mussorgsky). While all concerts feature "Adventures on Earth from E.T." (Williams), "Elsa's Procession to the Cathedral" (Wagner) and "Gathering of the Armies on the River Scheldt" (Wagner), only the final concert at Mechanics Hall will feature the volunteer musicians onstage with the professional brass ensemble.

Volunteer singers will add operatic glory to "Adventures on Earth." Guest conductor Stephen Bulla leads the musical adventure with his unique ar-

range for brass, chorus and piano. Volunteer brass players will add reinforced power to "Elsa's Procession to the Cathedral" and "Gathering of the Armies on the River Scheldt" under the direction of producer, conductor, and trombonist Patrick Smith. "We've got about a hundred volunteers so far and we have room for another hundred," said Smith who added "to register and receive more information just complete the Interest & Availability form at our website." Volunteer musicians must be at least 13 years of age.

For tickets and more information go to Afternoon of Brass #3: Memorial Weekend Spectacular. There is no option for cash at the door. Tickets must be purchased in advance online. Discounted tickets are available to active-duty military and veterans, first responders, dependent family members, as well as EBT, WIC, and CC cardholders, and residents of towns

Positively

continued from page 6

their lack of success. This mindset undermines their potential and creates a barrier to personal achievement by attributing success solely to inherent qualities rather than effort and determination.

If, by "built differently," you mean athletes who meticulously analyze game footage to improve their tactics, who spend extra hours practicing beyond team ses-

sions, and who focus on both mental and physical conditioning, then yes, they're built differently.

If it refers to a businessperson who relentlessly networks and fosters relationships, always the first to arrive and the last to leave the office, continuously scouting new market trends and innovations to stay ahead—yes, they're built differently.

If you're talking about artists or writers who commit to daily practice, constantly seek

feedback, find new inspirations, and balance their intuitive gifts with a rigorous work ethic to hone their craft—indeed, they're built differently.

Or perhaps you mean the entrepreneur who is a perpetual learner, not deterred by failure but using it as a stepping stone, managing to keep their passion ignited, driving innovation, and inspiring others. Then, absolutely, they are built differently.

Sometimes, people

are simply willing to do whatever it takes to reach the next level. They're what you might call go-getters.

Many times, their only natural gifts are drive and desire and their willingness to put their ego aside and continue to learn.

But does that mean they're built differently because they possess the drive that others lack?

Perhaps, but it's not always so clear-cut.

Many behaviors, choices, addictions, and

habits can severely undermine motivation. I'm sure we've all experienced this in our way. While I generally consider myself a motivated go-getter, I've learned that engaging in certain behaviors zaps my willpower.

These actions trigger what feels like a chemical imbalance that leaves me struggling to get out of bed, moping around with a bitter attitude, and wondering what the point of it all is.

For me, specific be-

haviors can devastatingly impact my motivation, plunge me into depression, and rob me of the desire to engage with life.

It's easy to make excuses, succumb to bitterness, feel tired, angry, or depressed, and convince yourself that you don't have what it takes, but at the end of the day, being 'built differently' can be a choice.

The fundamental difference between someone who is seen as 'built differently' and someone who is caught up making excuses often lies in their mentality.

Ultimately, being 'built differently' means choosing to be different. It means choosing the harder path, the one less traveled, and the one that leads to genuine, hard-earned success.

The next time you admire someone who seems effortlessly successful, remember that we all possess unique capabilities. Each of us has the potential to excel in ways that are distinctly our own. We're all built differently, and embracing that fact allows us to unlock our own paths to greatness.

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Coast Guard offers boating safety checks

REGION — Get your free 2024 Vessel Safety Check and enter to win a Safe Boating Award at the Memorial Beach Boat Ramp Saturday, June 15 at Nipmuc Cove, Webster Lake, and the Wallum Lake Boat Ramp Saturday, June 22 at Douglas State Forest.

Bring any type of watercraft from kayaks, canoes, PWCs, sailboats, cabin cruisers, to ski & pontoon boats for a stern to stern check of equipment for compliance to federal and state safety regulations. Vessels can be inspected on a trailer as well as afloat.

Trailer vessels, not having Webster access sticker and not launch-

ing, can be examined at the entrance gate to Memorial Ramp. Personal Watercraft, not allowed to launch at the Wallum Lake Ramp on weekends, can also be examined at the gate. Both locations can accommodate boats arriving by water. The stations will be active from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at both the locations, with the following Sundays as rain-dates if needed.

Vessel Examiners are qualified and experienced to answer any boating related questions or concerns along with being trained to spot any potential problems. They will award your vessel with a 2024 VSC decal if it meets Auxiliary

standards on items such as: registration & hull numbering, life jackets, fire extinguishers, expiration dates on flares (if required), working navigation lights, overall vessel condition, etc. A VSC is conducted only with your consent; no reports are filed with any law enforcement agency. There are no citations, legal obligations, or penalties on violations or potential problems found. A VSC decal might result in a boat insurance discount and will indicate to law enforcement on the water that your vessel complies with safety regulations. The Examiner will give the vessel owner options and information on cor-

recting any issues. Often a quick trip to the nearest boating supply vendor is all that is necessary to obtain missing safety items and easily pass a re-inspection, sometimes on the same day.

Coast Guard Auxiliary Vessel Examiners will be around the local lakes at various, un-scheduled times during the boating season; they are few in number and not readily available inland. Cannot make it to the station... schedule a VSC online at the link below, or you can connect with a Tri-State Examiner by call or text to (508) 864-0782.

Best to take advantage of this scheduled opportunity and start your

boating season with a visit to our station, a 2024 VSC Decal, and a chance to win one of several great rewards.

As a reward for getting a VSC from one of our Tri-State Examiners or at one of our two stations this year, you will be entered to win one of several gift certificates from local marinas, venues, and restaurants. One entry for each vessel examined, winners will be determined and contacted following a drawing on September 24 at our flotilla meeting. It is a WIN for knowing that your boat is equipped properly, and a possible WIN for dinner, or boating equipment & services.

Safe Boating Supporters for this reward program are: Hazard Marine, Lakeview Marine, Indian Ranch. Restaurants: Point Breeze, Eighty Ates Bistro,

Waterfront Mary's, & Saloon No. 6 in Webster.

Lakeside Kids Event at Memorial Beach

Thursday, June 6, 4 - 7 p.m.

Sponsored by Lakeview Marine this event has been planned to introduce the kids of our community to the fun that can be had on and around the water! Learn the many ways to enjoy our beautiful lakes - sign up for swim lessons, try out a kayak, learn fishing casting techniques, "Touch a Boat" get up close to recreational & public safety boats from the police and fire departments. The Coast Guard Auxiliary Tri-State Flotilla will have a boating safety tent with information, handouts, and CG coloring books for kids.

The posted activities are subject to change based on weather conditions and vendor availability.

bankHometown to host second annual clothing drives for Veterans Inc., Veterans Base Camp

OXFORD — bankHometown supports non-profit organizations and causes throughout Worcester and Windham Counties through a bank-wide program called The Giving Tree. One of the pillars of this program is community - supporting programs that enhance the quality of life in the communities where its banks call home. bankHometown is planning its second annual in-branch clothing and food drive to support two veterans organizations in Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Veterans Inc. in Worcester is hosting a Veterans Stand Down event on Friday, June 21. The Veterans Inc. Stand Down initiative connects veterans with the assistance programs they need to live healthy and fulfilling civilian lives. The 19th annual Stand Down event on Friday, June 21 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. will have more than 100 service providers ready to accommodate veterans' needs. In preparation for this event, bankHometown will be collecting clothing donations at all its Massachusetts branches starting Friday, May 24. Veterans Inc. has a specific need for women's spring and summer clothing, including undergarments and socks. All clothing donations are welcome.

In support of a separate initiative in Connecticut, bankHometown will be collecting food donations at all its Connecticut branches starting Friday, May 24. This drive will support Veteran's Base Camp in Chaplin, Conn., an organization that provides transitional housing for veterans in need, as well as a food pantry for area veterans. Non-perishable items needed include local store/grocery store gift cards; gas gift cards for food bank pickups; condiments such as mustard, mayo, ketchup, and relish; baking supplies such as sugar, flour, baking soda, baking powder and sugar substitutes; pasta; tuna; peanut butter; jelly; macaroni and cheese; toilet paper; paper towels; baby wipes and diapers; and pet food.

About Veterans Inc.

Veterans Inc. is a national leader in ending homelessness among veterans. They have one of the highest rates in the nation - 85% - for transitioning veterans out of homelessness. A 501(c)3 nonprofit headquartered in Massachusetts, Veterans Inc. is the largest provider of support services to veterans and their families in New England. Since 1990, They have helped more than 90,000 veterans in need, and today operate offices and programs in all six New England states. For more information, visit veteransinc.org.



About Veterans Base Camp

Veterans Base Camp is a grassroots A 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to providing resources needed by Veterans, First Responders, Caregivers, and those members of our community who are most vulnerable. The Veterans Base Camp team is a collaborative of: Veterans, First Responders, Caregivers, Social Workers, Clinicians, for profit and non-profit alliances, private citizens and government agencies working together to achieve their mission. For more information, visit veteransbasecampinc.org.

About bankHometown

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

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

Webster Five, Community Legal Aid partner for expanded access to justice

AUBURN — Webster Five recently marked a significant milestone by enrolling as a Massachusetts IOLTA (Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts) Leadership Institution with the support of local nonprofit Community Legal Aid.

The mission of the MA IOLTA Committee is to increase access to justice for all residents of the Commonwealth by funding organizations that provide civil legal services to low- and moderate-income residents. One such organization is Community Legal Aid (CLA), a nonprofit that offers free legal services to elderly and low-income residents in Central and Western Massachusetts.

When searching for a new banking provider, Community Legal Aid was determined to choose a financial institution that understood and supported their cause. Webster Five's decision to enroll in the MA IOLTA Leadership Program highlights the bank's proactive approach to supporting their customers and initiatives that benefit the community.

Leadership Institutions agree to pay the higher of 75 percent of the Federal Funds Target Rate, or 1 percent net interest, on all IOLTA Funds and are recognized by the IOLTA Committee as going above and beyond to support expanded access to justice.

"By choosing to partner with Webster Five, our team is not only securing essential banking services but also aligning with an institution that shares our values and commitment to the community," said Jonathan Mannina, Executive Director, Community Legal Aid. "With the support of Leadership Institutions like Webster Five, we can continue ensuring that everyone has access to the legal services they need, regardless of financial hardships."

"The partnership between Webster Five and Community Legal Aid goes beyond the typical banking relationship," said Don Doyle, President/CEO, Webster Five. "We're honored to support Community Legal Aid's mission of accessible legal services as a MA IOLTA Leadership Institution and its main banking provider."

Webster Five has previously supported Community Legal Aid with grant funding through the Webster Five Foundation. Most recently, the Foundation awarded \$9,000 to support CLA's Language Access Project, which provides necessary and free legal services to low-income and elderly residents who primarily speak a language other than English.

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INSPIRATION

continued from page 1

That doesn't mean she knows what a spark will become, because she doesn't plan out the projects. She'll start by layering acrylic paint, textiles, feathers, joint tape, molding paste, and various other tactile things, and "I'll see a shape it'll turn into. ... I never know where it's going to lead me."

In the process, though, she likes falling back on several core images – a lot of circles (often three at a time, symbolic of her and her two daughters), dreamcatchers, flying beings, Roman numerals and clockwork, and nature. Although she's not Native American, Laliberte said the spirituality and ideas from that culture are "something I hold close to my heart."

Liek most artists, the ideas often bubble up from inside. She points to a piece titled "Solitude" as an example. It's about "getting away from a toxic world and toxic people," she said. Its core image, a single bird, is alone but "still happy."

Although she's always been around art of some form since her dad was a carpenter and mom a floral designer, Laliberte said she started by drawing Garfield – a lot.

"I could draw Garfield in my sleep," she said.



Gus Steeves

Detail from one of her steampunk and dreamcatcher-themed pieces.

By 10th grade, she knew she'd go to the Savannah School of Art & Design, but had already developed a love of tactile elements in her art. Over the years, that has sometimes meant experimenting with ways to keep unusual objects from falling off the canvas.

At one of her Atlanta shows, she recalled, a mother told her son not to touch anything.

"And what does mom do? She went up and touched everything. I want you to do that," she said.

As a Tantasqua art teacher, Laliberte knows "95 percent of them will never touch art again after high school, because they're not forced to." But she still encourages them to maintain art journals – pages they can play around on "not for anybody to look at but you. But it might lead to something."

She has seen her students' art lead to her own. When they discard pieces, she'll sometimes salvage them, clip a favorite part, and use it in a later collage.

She always creating something, and works "on about three canvases at a time," often to a soundtrack of "something loud, hard rock, angry. I'm always dancing when I'm painting." Typically, she'll let one dry and put it aside (that's a big reason she likes acrylics – it dries fast, because she doesn't have the patience for oils), then play with another. "That keeps me going until [the image] starts forming" on one of them, she said.

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

CHARLTON

continued from page 1

which are all standard procedure for the annual town meeting.

The meeting will also seek to confirm the appropriation of \$18.5 million for the new Charlton Fire Department Station 2. The proposed building will replace a severely

aged substation currently utilized by the department with a new facility on the corner of Oxford Road and Heritage Drive. Voters approved a debt exclusion for \$13.1 million of the cost during the annual town election on May 4, but the town meeting is expected to address the full cost of

the building and how the town will proceed with covering the difference. The plan includes utilizing \$1.5 million in Capital Stabilization Funds, \$98,000 in Bond Premiums, and \$3.8 million from the tax levy limit.

Other items to be addressed later in the meeting include accepting a

pair of Massachusetts General Laws concerning tax exemptions. One would provide an exemption twice the state minimum for blind persons, veterans, surviving spouses, and seniors who are eligible for tax exemptions from their properties. The second would increase the maximum

income limit for seniors who qualify for property tax exemptions. The closing articles will seek the transfer of funds to purchase parcels off Bay Path Road to be utilized as a source of potable water for the town's water supply and address zoning bylaw revisions and amendments.

Charlton's annual town meeting will be held on May 20 at 7 p.m. in the Charlton Middle School on Oxford Road. A full warrant has been made available on the Town of Charlton website while breakdowns of each article have been provided on the town's Facebook page.

FARMERS

continued from page 1

plants.

"We are incredibly fortunate that we're in a state that values farming and farmers markets," Murnane said, noting the Bay State is in the top five in terms of farmers markets per capita. Regarding the MFM site, she added, they aim to make it "as easy as possible to navigate."

Massachusetts also tries to encourage less-well-off people's participation in such markets and access to fresh food. Many accept WIC and/or SNAP benefits (those who do are listed on the website).

The latter program automatically offers what's called the HIP (Healthy Incentive Program) benefit. People using SNAP get an additional \$40-\$80 a month specifically for use at such markets, which "basically makes it free for them to get fruit and vegetables," Murnane said. (That's a good thing, since farmers market produce tends to be more expensive than the same pro-



Gus Steeves

Lynda and Madelyn Shoup of Webster display their recycled crafts.

duce in a supermarket, but most of it also isn't being shipped from California, Iowa or some foreign country, especially during the spring

and summer markets. Some producers are organic, some are not.)

In our area, the Regional Environmental Coalition's mobile market has stopped for now, but will reopen in three locations every Wednesday starting June 26. It's in Southbridge's Central Street lot from 10-11:30 a.m., followed by two sites in Webster – the Housing Authority's Golden Heights complex Building 19 from 1:30-2:30 p.m., and at Town Hall from 3:30-4:30 p.m. The REC also has several sites in Worcester itself.

Starting the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend, the Big Bunny Farmer's Market resumes in the supermarket's parking lot in Southbridge. Next door in Sturbridge, the farmers' market on the Common opens every Sunday from June 2-Oct 13 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Several other markets are also open, or resuming soon, across the region.

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

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A bachelor's degree in accounting or related field is required, master's degree preferred. An understanding of GAAP and GASB and knowledge of Massachusetts municipal finance laws and MA. General Laws. Also, familiar with municipal financial software applications and Uniform Massachusetts Accounting Standards (UMAS). Knowledge of VADAR Systems a plus.

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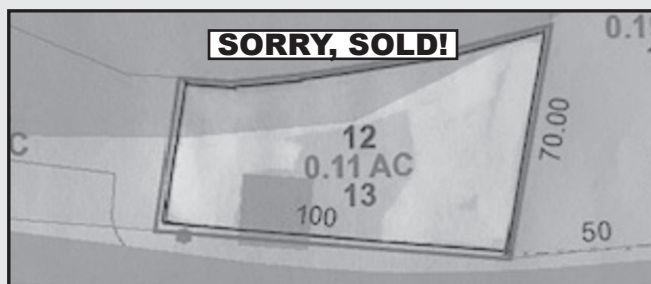
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Charlton Lions participate in Earth Day cleanup

CHARLTON — The Charlton Lions Club participated in Charlton's Annual Earth Day Cleanup on Saturday, April 27. The Club was assigned to clean up Bond Road and members did an exemplary job picking up trash and litter along the road. About 15 bags of debris was sent to the dumpster, helping

make our community a better place in which to live. Lions Clubs are made up of service-minded volunteers providing services and programs to make our communities better places in which to live. We support eye research and treatment and diabetic camps for local children. Peace Poster and speech competitions

are supported for local children, and holiday gifts for families in need, and scholarships are provided for our schools. All funds raised from our community activities are 100 percent put back into the community. The Charlton Lions Club meets the second and fourth Wednesday



Courtesy

Left to right: Lions Michele Piergallini, Shelley Yeager-Doucette, Cindy Young, Patrick Husereau, Kathy Gallant, Dana Gould, Carole Duquette. Missing from photo: Lion Jim Stoddard and Steve Doucette.

evenings, except July and August, at The Overlook. If you would like to join us, or would like more infor-

mation, please contact us at thecharltonlions@gmail.com, or by mail to PO Box 1072, Charlton City, Charl-

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“There's nowhere you can't get inspiration”



Gus Steeves

Janine Laliberte focuses on one of her paintings while talking about it.

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE — For Janine Laliberte, art is basically life.

But for a while, getting into computer-based graphic design separated her from that source of inspiration. Over time, that led her to a “deep depression” in 2013, and she “had to find my art to help me out.”

Today, it shows in bright colors, birds, flowers and the unexpected juxtaposition of steampunk and Native American imagery. All of those things

are on display at Jacob Edwards Library until the end of the month.

“There's nowhere you can't get inspiration,” she said, noting she'll get it from music, clothing and other things seen at random, but especially from hiking. That became even more inspirational when she moved from Georgia to Massachusetts several years ago.

“Holy cow. We don't get seasons in the South,” she recalled. “All those colors [of fall] are my color palette. I love it.”

Turn To **INSPIRATION** page A14

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Turn To **CHARLTON** page A14

Historical Society presents “The Publick House in World War II”

STURBRIDGE — WWII saw American society rally behind the war effort as the nation geared up to be the “arsenal of democracy.” All communities experienced changes as citizens and businesses did their part.

boards, volunteers at Tanglewood, and writes for the Sturbridge Historic Society

ety on their Facebook page.

The program is free and open to the pub-

lic, and is generously hosted by the Publick House.

On May 23 at 7 p.m. at the Publick House, Wally Hersee of the Sturbridge Historical Society will discuss the role of the Publick House in WWII. Initially, the Inn became the Defense Center for the training of civilians and the State Guard. Eventually it became the 1st Service Command Tactical School for the training of Army officers in guerrilla tactics. The presentation will also look at the 366th Regiment, the Women's Defense Corps, and the type of training they underwent. The second half of the program will be the showing of a newly enhanced film of the Sturbridge Defense Center's Dedication on Oct. 25, 1941, including the “Battle of Sturbridge” that was presented for the townspeople and dignitaries on that day.

Wally Hersee grew up in Medfield, where he refined his interest in local history. Having moved to Sturbridge it was only a matter of time before he took an active part in Sturbridge history. A photographer for more than 45 years, his 2017 book, “Follow the Light,” tells of his photographic journey. Wally retired as a registered nurse in 2019. Today, he lives in Town with his wife, Mary, and is active on Town



Gus Steeves

A couple farmers await customers on opening day of the Charlton Farmers Market.

Farmers markets kick off season

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — Despite a fast-moving thunderstorm hitting just after it started, Charlton Grange kicked off its outdoor Farmers' Market season in good spirits last Wednesday.

Somewhat damp visitors had the choice of various crafts, baked goods, products made from recycled items, honey and more, alongside a ballot question petition. It will return every Wednesday from 4-7 on the Common and shifts to indoors at the Grange during winter.

This market is just one of many opening up for the year, and some that never closed for the winter. Most of them are depicted on the MassFarmersMarket.org website, which includes hundreds of places “where farmers could get the highest and best return for their investment” in their farms, said Edith Murnane, the nonprofit's director. “Our goal is to make sure farmers markets are as vibrant as possible for the farmers who attend.”

She was speaking at the State Grange's Agricultural Expo at Holy Cross a couple weeks ago.

“A lot of people don't think of Massachusetts as an agricultural state, but we have a lot that people don't realize,” ob-

served Mass Department of Agricultural Resources spokesman Rick Leblanc the same day. “... Our farms are fabulous in this state. They do so many things.”

Leblanc runs the MassGrown Web site, which is basically a database of all kinds of agrarian things, some well-known, some obscure. On it, visitors can find local breweries and vineyards, a long list of specialty crops, dairies, sheep farms, pick-your-own farms, CSAs (community supported farms that sell crops by subscription), mobile and fixed markets, and many other things. He noted they're often trying to expand their listings and categories; for example, they just added mushroom growers and nurseries selling native plants.

The map is “open to anybody who wants to sell to the public,” so it might not include some small producers or those growing just for themselves, he added.

Leblanc said MDAR is now working with the Department of Conservation and Recreation on a “Growing Wild” program to promote pollinator gardening with native plants specifically to “combat all the invasives.” He noted there's also rising interest in edible wild plants, and the Mass Nursery Association is trying to promote eating the weeds and native

Turn To **FARMERS** page A14



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Thursday-Friday, May 16-17, 2024

“There's nowhere you can't get inspiration”



Janine Laliberte focuses on one of her paintings while talking about it.

Gus Steeves

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Turn To **CHARLTON** page A14

Historical Society presents “The Publick House in World War II”

STURBRIDGE — WWII saw American society rally behind the war effort as the nation geared up to be the “arsenal of democracy”. All communities experienced changes as citizens and businesses did their part.

On May 23 at 7 p.m. at the Publick House, Wally Hersee of the Sturbridge Historical Society will discuss the role of the Publick House in WWII. Initially, the Inn became the Defense Center for the training of civilians and the State Guard. Eventually it became the 1st Service Command Tactical School for the training of Army officers in guerrilla tactics. The presentation will also look at the 366th Regiment, the Women's Defense Corps, and the type of training they underwent. The second half of the program will be the showing of a newly enhanced film of the Sturbridge Defense Center's Dedication on Oct. 25, 1941, including the “Battle of Sturbridge” that was presented for the townspeople and dignitaries on that day.

Wally Hersee grew up in Medfield, where he refined his interest in local history. Having moved to Sturbridge it was only a matter of time before he took an active part in Sturbridge history. A photographer for more than 45 years, his 2017 book, “Follow the Light,” tells of his photographic journey. Wally retired as a registered nurse in 2019. Today, he lives in Town with his wife, Mary, and is active on Town

boards, volunteers at Tanglewood, and writes for the Sturbridge Historic Society on their Facebook page. The program is free and open to the public, and is generously hosted by the Publick House.

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A couple farmers await customers on opening day of the Charlton Farmers Market.

Gus Steeves

Farmers markets kick off season

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — Despite a fast-moving thunderstorm hitting just after it started, Charlton Grange kicked off its outdoor Farmers' Market season in good spirits last Wednesday.

Somewhat damp visitors had the choice of various crafts, baked goods, products made from recycled items, honey and more, alongside a ballot question petition. It will return every Wednesday from 4-7 on the Common and shifts to indoors at the Grange during winter.

This market is just one of many opening up for the year, and some that never closed for the winter. Most of them are depicted on the MassFarmersMarket.org website, which includes hundreds of places “where farmers could get the highest and best return for their investment” in their farms, said Edith Murnane, the nonprofit's director. “Our goal is to make sure farmers markets are as vibrant as possible for the farmers who attend.”

She was speaking at the State Grange's Agricultural Expo at Holy Cross a couple weeks ago.

“A lot of people don't think of Massachusetts as an agricultural state, but we have a lot that people don't realize,” ob-

served Mass Department of Agricultural Resources spokesman Rick Leblanc the same day. “... Our farms are fabulous in this state. They do so many things.”

Leblanc runs the MassGrown Web site, which is basically a database of all kinds of agrarian things, some well-known, some obscure. On it, visitors can find local breweries and vineyards, a long list of specialty crops, dairies, sheep farms, pick-your-own farms, CSAs (community supported farms that sell crops by subscription), mobile and fixed markets, and many other things. He noted they're often trying to expand their listings and categories; for example, they just added mushroom growers and nurseries selling native plants.

The map is “open to anybody who wants to sell to the public,” so it might not include some small producers or those growing just for themselves, he added.

Leblanc said MDAR is now working with the Department of Conservation and Recreation on a “Growing Wild” program to promote pollinator gardening with native plants specifically to “combat all the invasives.” He noted there's also rising interest in edible wild plants, and the Mass Nursery Association is trying to promote eating the weeds and native

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