

Feds cut funds for new bridge to reopen roads closed since 2021

A \$2.5 million federal funding request before Congress in May 2024 was to pay for a temporary bridge that would reopen the Brandon Road/Hill Street crossing over the French River.

Congressman Richard E. Neal submitted the funding request to the House Committee on Appropriations as an important community project in the Massachusetts First Congressional District.

In a message from Neal's office on March 24, the town was informed that President Trump signed an ACT (H.R.1968), which eliminated the funding this year.

"We understand that this is disappointing news and is certainly not the outcome we had hoped for. We will be starting our process for FY26 soon, and you are more than welcome to reapply for this project," wrote Abby McGovern of Neal's office.

The bridge that spans the French River on the Dudley and Webster town line has been inaccessible since June 2021 because an adjoining dry bridge on the Dudley side, known as the Mill Race Bridge, was deemed unsafe by MassDOT, and ordered closed.

Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda said, "It's unfortunate that years of work to replace a small bridge in Dudley were invalidated by the federal chopping block, especially after it failed to gain state funding support in the years leading up to Monday's notice. We are working to identify other funding sources and if necessary, will apply for the federal grant again in FY26.



Reopening that road remains a priority."

In his May 10, 2023, letter to the committee Congressman Neal advocated for approval calling it "an appropriate use of taxpayer funds," and noting that the bridge closure has restricted access between the towns of Dudley and Webster, resulting in traffic congestion, longer response times for emergency vehicles, and has harmed local businesses.

Dudley allocated state funding budgeted for routine road repair to demolish the bridges so the site was "shovel ready," while town officials sought funds to erect a temporary bridge and continued work toward a permanent fix.

Had the funding been approved by the appropriations committee,

the \$2.5 million Community Project grant would have funded the installation of a temporary modular bridge that would be borrowed from MassDOT, until a permanent bridge could be installed.

The proposed permanent solution would eliminate the Mill Race Bridge by re-grading the area to replicate its primary purpose, which was flood control capacity.

In a January 2023 letter, MassDOT deemed the permanent bridge work eligible for funding and approved the estimated cost of \$6,235,000. At the time, it was reported that state and federal money would fund the \$6.2 million project, while Dudley would be responsible for the costly and time-consuming process of right-of-way acquisitions.

Webster Town Admin Concerned About Project Funding

BY JANET STOICA
jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com

Rick LaFond, Webster Town Administrator, has plenty on his mind at this time of year with his first priority being the town budget for fiscal year 2026. LaFond also expressed concern for two ongoing water projects including PFAS (long-lasting carcinogenic chemicals) filtration at the Bigelow Road and Memorial Beach treatment plants and water main replacements for Route 16 and Sutton Road. Both projects should be completed by November 2026 and July 2027, respectively. Federal funds are involved with both major projects.

"Governor Healey has noted that there will be \$100 million in grants for public health," said LaFond, "we are awaiting more information about these grants to be used for substance abuse, mental health, and regional health grants. We'd like to know what the future funding will be. This is just the beginning. We are waiting to learn what the impact will be on school grants as well."

The Dudley French River bridge project has now been canceled by the trump administration when the president signed Act H.R.1968 slashing \$2.5 million of federal funds.

"This canceled project prevents public safety access and fire mu-

tual aid, and has an impact on our water and sewer facility which is located at the Hill Street passage," said LaFond, "these funding cuts will definitely have an impact on our infrastructure. Someone has to pay for these necessary upgrades or they will just continue to deteriorate and will cost more later. Our current water and sewer management has served the town well but I am concerned with impacts over the next 5-10 years. I'm very concerned about the funding we have come to depend on including those important funds for our schools."

"Our Veterans Building located on Veterans Way will soon have a new roof installed courtesy of a local foundation that wishes to remain anonymous. Rudnicki Roofing a local contractor has been selected as the roofing provider."

Webster's Town Warrant closed on April 4. A Special Town Meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, May 12 immediately followed by the Annual Town Meeting at 7 p.m. on the same day. The meetings will be held at the Park Avenue Elementary School, 58 Park Avenue.

Warrant articles will seek to continue cooperative funding between the Webster Lake Associa-

WEBSTER FUNDING

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Webster Schools Ask for a 3.65% Budget Increase Layoffs Expected

BY JANET STOICA
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Special education budgets have increased and transportation costs have risen dramatically for many schools in the Commonwealth and Webster's needs are no different. According to Webster School Superintendent Monique Pierangeli and School Business Manager, Lisa Kontoes, special education costs include services for special physical needs and emotional/social needs. If

students require staff services that Webster does not offer internally, students are transported out of the district.

"Costs associated with these services include tuition to other schools and any therapeutic-related services, needs like speech occupational therapy and physical therapy, and one-on-one challenges," said Pierangeli, "For fiscal year 2026 we require nine additional Applied Behavioral Analysts (ABA) to support our autistic students and two nurses

for medically-fragile needs. It's the highest number of needs we've had in Webster and we are financially obligated to be responsible and compliant to our students' needs. In fiscal year 2020 we had 27 ABAs and for fiscal year 2026 we will need 46.2 ABAs."

Webster is a very attractive community with lots of multi-family housing, Pierangeli noted.

"When Worcester rents increase and become unaffordable, families look to other commu-

nities for their homes. Public education is for everyone," said Pierangeli, "and students' needs must be met. It is beyond our control and we must support all students and be compliant with state and federal laws. There are many, many towns in the same category as Webster and they are struggling in the same way as we

WEBSTER SCHOOLS

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WEBSTER SCHOOLS

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are. When we look at our local education budget, we also review our federal funding for special education and Title grants which all towns have come to rely on."

"Five personnel contracts are currently being negotiated," said Pierangeli, "including teachers, deans and assistant principals, custodial, administrative assistants, and ABAs. We carefully examine our entire budget looking for savings and how to reduce costs while also being transpar-

ent about those costs. We're very cognizant of our student needs as well as our taxpayers. There is no padding in our budget, none. We want to thank our Town Administrator, Rick LaFond, and Town Accountant, Tim Bell, for working closely with us. We're trying to keep layoffs to a minimum. Next year may be even more challenging than this year."

Business Manager Kontoes said "the state will be re-evaluating our funding formula. This is the budget that Governor Healey has put forward and our legislators are currently working on the final status."

Finally, a Visit to the Samuel Slater Museum

BY JANET STOICA
jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com

Well, it's been three years since the Slater Museum first opened its doors and even though it's in my area, I've taken this long to finally see its wonderfulness. I really was truly impressed, captivated, and spellbound by what goes on in the former Webster Armory located at 31 Ray Street in Webster. Actually, the correct name is the "Samuel Slater Experience" and experiences are what you will enjoy once you set foot inside this remarkably refurbished place of education and involvement.

Samuel Slater emigrated from England in the 1700's after becoming a tradesman in the English textile industry. Most tradesmen were never expected to take their craft to the upstart colonies of America as England surely didn't want their competition nor did they want to lose their experts of industry. But, Samuel sailed off to what would become his dream of success. He worked in Rhode Island initially but then migrated to the area of Dudley/Oxford. Upon establishing a growing textile fac-

tory, specifically where Webster's Price Chopper supermarket now stands, he became very prosperous and associated with Congressman Daniel Webster. In 1832, Slater wanted to honor Rep. Webster and managed to carve out parts of

has put together for history buffs is nothing short of amazing! Mind-boggling? Yes! Astounding? Definitely another Yes!

This is not a dusty, quiet, quaint exhibition hall. This is a boisterous, energetic, and animated innova-



the towns of Dudley and Oxford thereby establishing the town of Webster while revering his good friend.

As most locals are aware, the Slater Experience premises was previously a nondescript building that once housed the Webster Armory, and its back parking lot held military vehicles while the inside appeared to be a large open area with offices sprinkled along the outside walls. What the town's benefactor Christopher Robert,

tion of energy right here in Webster. You are greeted by a guide who will escort you to one of the first exhibits which is an antique wooden loom. Quite impressive as you stand alongside a giant bale of cotton ready for spinning.

Soon you are invited up an intentionally creaky ramp to board a large ship like that which Slater

MUSEUM

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Charlton Lions Scholarship Applications Now Open

Lions are community members who join together, roll up their sleeves and take action to make their community better. It's a beautiful thing—and an incredible feeling for everyone involved. That's why the motto "Where there's a need, there's a Lion" exists. The Charlton Lions Club supports many local initiatives, assists local residents who are in need, encourages youth development

and pays special attention to the sight or hearing disabled and those with diabetes. The Charlton Lions Club has been helping these causes for 50 years. The annual Lions Scholarship program is now open for graduating youth who reside in Charlton and who will further their education next fall. The Charlton Lions Club is keenly interested in young people who are actively involved in

our community and who demonstrate the traits of Lions - integrity, service, energy and compassion. Three \$1000 scholarships will be awarded. Students may find digital applications on the Charlton Lions Website (charltonlionsclub.com) or may access printed application in their guidance offices or by emailing thecharltonlions@gmail.com. Applications are due by April 30.

WEBSTEDR FUNDING *continued from page 1*

tion (WLA) and the town for lake management. The warrant will request \$25,000 of funding from the town for lakeweed treatment. The WLA has historically provided \$80,000 annually and last year the state provided approximately \$75,000. According to LaFond, the lake management plan will study and determine future monetary needs.

The town will also be looking for state funding to fix the entrances to town hall includ-

ing the west end near the senior center and the east side near the library to re-grade the sloping area and to address the drainage issues contributing to the water pooling that floods that side of the town hall.

Town elections will be held on Monday, May 5. There are 2 seats for Selectmen, 2 seats for Trustees of the Public Library, 2 seats on the Housing Authority, and 1 seat each for Webster School Committee, Bay Path Regional Vocational School Committee, Finance Committee, and Board of Health.

MUSEUM

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might've taken to America. As you duck under the wooden yard arms with their thick ropes and large sails, the walls depict videos of what it would be like to sail the sea on such a ship complete with thunder, lightning, and misty drops of the sea and drafts of wind as you listen and see Samuel talking to a fellow shipmate. Very Disneyesque, indeed.

Another wonderful treat comes towards the end of your tour where you may board an antique trolley

car that bumps and wriggles as you ride the Webster route in the early 1900's right down Main Street. So unique, so exclusive, so educational. Don't wait, you might miss something!

There are many other interactive exhibits for young and old alike but this last description is all I will write about as it's now up to you to take a little time to visit The Experience for yourself.

C'mon now, you won't believe it! Dates/times, etc. and everything else you might want to know are on their website www.samuelslatereexperience.org Or call them at 508 461-2955.

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Memory Cafe to Support Individuals with Memory Loss and their Families

In a heartfelt commitment to enhancing the lives of individuals living with memory loss, Dementia Friendly Charlton is proud to announce the first monthly Friends Memory Cafe in the Charlton Senior Center on Tuesday, April 15 from 3-4 p.m. These gatherings will continue monthly on the third Tuesday of the month from 3-4 p.m. at the Senior Center. The Friends Memory Cafe will offer a safe, comfortable environment where participants can enjoy meaningful social interactions, creative activities, and light


refreshments. Caregivers and family members are also invited to join in, offering them an opportunity to connect, share experiences, and gain helpful resources and support. To mark the launch of this new initiative on April 15, the event will feature a short introduction of Dementia Friendly Charlton, followed by refreshments, games, and conversation. April's sponsor is Life Care Center of Auburn who will be providing ice cream! There is no cost to attend. Charlton Senior Center is located in Town Hall, 37 Main Street, Charlton, MA.

What's a Memory Cafe? Bèrre Miesen, a Dutch psychiatrist, is credited with creating the first memory café in the Netherlands in the late 1990s to raise awareness of and fight stigmas associated with dementia and to provide support for patients and their caregivers. After spreading across Europe, the concept took root in the United States in 2008, according to Dave Weidderich, founder of the Memory Café Directory, which catalogs and provides information on such meeting spots. Weidderich's site now lists more than 1,000 in-person and virtual memory cafés across the U.S. and in four

other countries. They are held in restaurants, coffee shops, hospitals, libraries, museums, schools, colleges and universities, community and senior centers, senior living communities, and faith-based organizations. All offer socialization, and many hold events centered around history, music, dancing and other subjects. Memory cafés are not a form of respite care. Rather, they offer a place where caregivers and care recipients can socialize and connect with others in similar situations.

Dementia Friendly Charlton is a Town of Charlton initiative that began back in 2021 and has grown to include other organizations as well. We officially became a 501c3 in 2024. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 2:30 p.m. in the Library. Those interested in hearing more about this initiative, or wishing to sponsor a Memory Cafe, can contact Michelle Drumm at the Senior Center at 508-248-2231. Our meetings are also open to the public. Visit our website at: www.townofcharlton.net/579/Dementia-Friendly-Charlton for more information. We are always interested in how we can best serve the needs of the Charlton community!

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Mood Music for the Silent Movies

A presentation featuring the music that accompanied Chaplin, Keaton, Valentino and Pickford, April 25, at Samuel Slater Experience

Curious about silent movie mood music? Silent movie entertainer and pianist Richard Hughes returns to the Samuel Slater Experience on Friday, April 25, for a presentation featuring the music that accompanied the very best films of the time, which starred Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton, Harold Lloyd, Douglas Fairbanks, Rudolph Valentino and Mary Pickford.

Before 1927, when sound engineers finally figured out how to synchronize voice to film, the craft of pantomime acting was used to express actions and feelings on screen. What hooked audiences into coming back to these movies without dialog? They could understand emotions such as love, hate, sadness, and fear by merely looking at the ac-

tors' faces.

Mr. Hughes will demonstrate how musical accompaniment added emotional support to the silent films. He will play some examples of "mood music" before screening the movie clips, which will include Douglas Fairbanks in "The Black Pirate," Rudolph Valentino in "The Son of a Sheik," Mary Pickford in "My Best Girl."

The final part of the program will focus on the lives of the three best pantomime "clowns," Charlie Chaplain, Buster Keaton and Harold Lloyd.

"Mood Music for the Silent Movies" is a free program, supported with a grant from the Webster Cultural Council. It will take place on Friday, April 25, from 5:30 to 7:00. To register, go to <https://samuelslaterexperience.org>, email admin@samuelslaterexperience.org, or call 508-461-2955. Snacks will be available with a donation.

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Charlton Annual Town Election

The annual town election will be held on Saturday, May 3 from 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. at Heritage School, 34 Oxford Road, Charlton.

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3 YEARS/VOTE FOR 1
Michael Joseph Kavorkian
91 Freeman Rd
Karen A. Spiewak
187 Sunset Dr

ASSESSOR
3 YEARS/VOTE FOR 1
Nancy E. Landry
22 Lelandville Rd (candidate for re-election)

CEMETERY COMMISSIONER
3 YEARS/VOTE FOR 1
Kristen L. Russell-May
5 Bond Rd (candidate for re-election)

WATER/SEWER COMMISSIONER
3 YEARS/VOTE FOR 2
Robert H. Coleman
22 W Applewood Dr
Thomas J. Coleman
22 W Applewood Dr

WATER/SEWER COMMISSIONER
2 YEARS (to fill vacancy)/VOTE FOR 1
Erik J. Grotton
57 Dresser Hill Rd

PLANNING BOARD
5 YEARS/VOTE FOR 1

PLANNING BOARD
2 YEARS (to fill vacancy)/VOTE FOR 1
Robert J. Beringer
24 Curtis Hill Rd

RECREATION COMMISSIONER
3 YEARS/VOTE FOR 1
No candidate has filed

BOARD OF HEALTH
3 YEARS/VOTE FOR 1
Jonathan L. Sanborn
12 Jennings Rd
Candidate for re-election
Lori Fontaine
19 Pineland Dr

LIBRARY TRUSTEE
3 YEARS/VOTE FOR 2
Cheryl L. Meskus
72 H Foote Rd
Candidate for re-election
Lance Russell Morin
72 Main St
Candidate for re-election

DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
3 YEARS/VOTE FOR 1
Kelly Szela
50 Partridge Hill Rd
Candidate for re-election

DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
1 YEAR/VOTE FOR 1
Nicole Enberg
17 Smith Rd
Candidate for re-election
Anthony Aube
89 Haggerty Rd

CONSTABLE
3 YEARS/VOTE FOR 2
Michael T. Baniukiewicz, Sr.
456 Stafford St
Candidate for re-election

Bradford Charles Howard
148 Gould Rd
Candidate for re-election

HOUSING AUTHORITY
5 YEAR/VOTE FOR 1
Michael J. Sullivan

58 Freeman Rd
Candidate for re-election

HOUSING AUTHORITY
1 YEAR (to fill a vacancy)/VOTE FOR 1
Bonnie Seifert
197 Center Depot Rd

Cultural Council to Host Art Exhibit

The Charlton Cultural Council is pleased to announce its 2025 Art Exhibit at the Charlton Public Library. The Exhibit will be held over the course of two weeks from May 5 through May 16. Please join us for our opening reception will be held on May 8, from 6-7 p.m. in Dexter Hall at the Charlton Public Library.

Art submissions can include: fiber arts; digital photography/ media/video; drawing -pastel/charcoal/pencil; painting – oil/acrylic/ watercolor; sculpture and ceramics; mixed media; remembrance pieces; special art – ability and other mediums not listed here. Register online at <https://charltonlibrary.org/Pages/Index/228901/charlton-cultural-council-art-show-2025>.

Artwork will be displayed on multiple floors of the Charlton Public Library over the course of the exhibition. Matt York will play the songs of Johnny Cash at the opening reception.

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Charlton Celebrates Earth Day

Charlton residents of all ages are invited to participate in a town-wide road clean-up and fest in celebration of Earth Day on Saturday, April 26 from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Residents may sign up online at www.townofcharlton.net/238/Earth-Day-Committee to claim a road, or portion of a road to clean. Online registration began April 1; residents may also sign up in person at the event.

Residents who commit to a road will receive sturdy yellow plastic bags, protective gloves, grabbers, safety vests, and boxed water on the Town Common beginning at 8 a.m. the day of the event. Grabber supply is limited; please reuse grabbers from previous years if you have them. Collected trash should be brought to a dumpster, donated

by Casella Waste, located behind Town Hall. The Charlton DPW is available to pick up bags for residents who are unable to deliver them to the dumpster; residents need to notify the Earth Day Planning group at cjolicoeur64@yahoo.com of the exact location.

Participants are urged to use gloves to protect themselves from sharp objects and to wear bright clothing or a safety vest so drivers can see them easily. Residents are cautioned to never open containers of unknown substances. Contact Charlton Police to dispose of any needles or syringes – do not touch or place them in bags with other refuse.

While most roads in town need cleaning, some of the worst are the

most traveled and therefore more dangerous to address. If you are up for the task, but not for children,



these roads are hot spots: Route 31, Brookfield Road, Route 20 traffic lights, and Saundersdale Road.

To encourage participation from children, Erin Anderson, fifth-grade science teacher at Charlton Middle School held a contest for students to design a tee shirt based

on this year's Earth Day theme: "Our Power, Our Planet." Fifth grader Stella Webb submitted the winning design.. Millenium Power Company has generously donated tee shirts with Stella's design, available on a first come, first serve basis, one per person.

In addition to a town-wide clean-up, Charlton can enjoy Earth Fest on Saturday, April 26 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event will feature live music, food trucks, and vendors promoting environmentally sustainable lifestyle choices.

The Earth Day Planning Group invites residents to enjoy the festivities, while learning ways to help the earth, its animals, and plants.

Earth Fest vendors include AnnieMike's Honey, Buffumville Army Corps of Engineers, Charlton Garden Club, Charlton

Heritage Preservation Trust, Eric's Aviaries, Local 4 Life, Keep Charlton Beautiful Committee, The Last Green Valley, the Opacum Land Trust, and Second Chance Animal Shelter.

Cara Smick Photography, Charlton Heritage Preservation Trust, Cornerstone Bank, The Last Green Valley, and Millenium Power Company have generously agreed to sponsor the event.

The Wormtown Mugwumps, Worcester's premier purveyors of jug band music, and Grey Whisker Pickers will provide entertainment. The event will also feature food trucks: 3 Kings BBQ, Fry'd Guys, and Toasted Roasters.

Funding for Charlton Earth Day is generously provided by The Last Green Valley.

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Photography Show at Booklovers' Gourmet

The featured local artist for April at Booklovers' Gourmet in Webster is photographer Don McCallister, whose work will be on display and for sale in the cafe gallery through April 30. The show may be viewed during regular business hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5p.m. and Wednesday 10 a.m.-6p.m. Booklovers' Gourmet is located at 72 East Main Street, Webster. Statement from the Artist: «The month of April is a welcome sight after a New England winter. It holds the hope that from that pile of leaves will spring a cluster of wildflowers; a clump of



"Promise of Spring" by photographer Don McCallister will be one of the works on display as well as for sale at Booklovers' Gourmet this month.

barren twigs will sprout leaves and develop into a flowering shrub; the green spiral at the end of a fuzzy stem will unwind into a intricate multi-cut fern. Sunrise stirs the winter moisture lurking in the ground into a fog that the morning dissipates into a blue sky day. Mornings seem to linger and the

still low slanting sun illuminates the warm promise of the day. These are some of the things that I have tried to capture in my photographs. Perhaps some of the hope embedded in the sights of spring will make its way to the viewers of this collection."

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Webster Democrats to Elect Delegates to 2025 Democratic State Convention

On Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at 7:00 PM, Democrats in Webster will convene in person in the Local History room at the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library, 2 Lake St., Webster MA, to elect 7 delegates and 4 alternates to represent Webster at the 2025 MA State Democratic Con-

vention. The 2025 convention will be in person at the MassMutual Center in Springfield, MA on Saturday, September 13th 2025.

Webster residents aged 16 and above who have registered or pre-registered as Democrats in Webster by Saturday, March 29th,

2025 may vote and be elected as delegates or alternates at the caucus. Youth (Age 16 to 35), people with disabilities, people of color, veterans, members of the LGBTQ+ community not elected as delegates or alternates are encouraged to apply to be add-on delegates at the

caucus or by visiting: massdems.org/massdems-convention.

For more information about the caucus and to get involved with the Webster Democratic Town Committee contact or text Tom Klebart at 860-614-6135 or email tomkleb@sbcglobal.net.

WHAT: Webster Caucus to elect Democrats to the 2025 State Democratic Convention

WHEN: Tuesday, April 15 2025 at 7:00 PM

WHERE: In person meeting at Gladys E. Kelly Public Library, 2 Lake St., Webster, MA

Charlton Lions Looking for Talent – Is It Yours?

If you are a Charlton resident, here's your chance to shine. We know our talented citizens can sing, dance, perform magic tricks or simply wow us with your natural talents. For the first time, the Charlton Lions Club will hold a "Charlton's Got Talent" show at

the Charlton Middle School on May 31. We are looking for people who love to entertain and have always wanted a crack at the big stage. You can be a solo act or part of a group. We are excited about the array of different acts and displays of talent that Charlton

has to offer.

The Lions Club will hold auditions on Saturday, May 10 from 2 - 5p.m. at the Charlton Middle School. Your act should be three minutes or less to showcase your talent.

More information about the

Talent Show and Audition Rules, and the Participant Registration Form, can be found at www.thecharltonlions.com. All registration forms must be submitted by April 25 and can be emailed to kgagent9958@gmail.com. The Top 20 acts from the auditions will

advance and be featured at the talent show on May 31 from 2 - 5:00 p.m.

Direct questions about the talent show, your act, or if you would like to volunteer to help with the show, to Kathy Gallant at 774-230-7078.

Scholarship Opportunity

The Webster Lions Club is currently accepting applications for the George Sellig Memorial Scholarship. The recipient will be selected based on the students academic performance, community service and financial need. The \$1,000 award is presented each year to a graduating high school senior, who is a resident of Webster

and will be continuing his or her education in an accredited college program.

The scholarship is named in honor of former Webster Lions Club president, George Sellig. Mr. Sellig was once a teacher at Tourtellote Memorial High School, a Webster Selectman and a superintendent of the former Webster-

Dudley School Union.

Applications are available at the Bartlett High School and Bay Path Regional Technical High School Guidance Departments or by contacting Dr. John Kalinowski at 508-943-7434 or jkalinowski100@aol.com. Applications must be received by May 1, 2025.

American Landscapes at the Charlton Public Library

The last of a three-part art lecture series by noted art historian Martha Chiarchiaro will take place on Saturday, April 19, from 11a.m.-12p.m. in Dexter Hall. Landscape painting was the first uniquely American art beginning with Hudson River School artists such as Cole and Kensett. Among others, Martha will explore the Luminist paintings of Heade and Lane reflecting the coast of New England as well as the landscapes of Homer and Bellows illustrating the expressiveness of the late 19th and 20th centuries.

Martha Chiarchiaro has brought history to life through the art of the times for more than 30 years. She received her Masters' Degree in History of Art from Williams College and provides a variety of art history presentations for the Worcester Art Museum, for WISE (the Worcester Institute for Senior Education) libraries, garden clubs, senior centers, and other organizations. As noted on her Seeing History website (seeinghistory.org), Martha's specialty presentations related to specific periods, artists, and activities provide an in-depth look at the life and times of people



through their art.

Register for this fascinating program by visiting our event calendar

at www.charltonlibrary.org or call the library at 508-248-0452.

These programs are free and open to the public. Registration is requested but not required. This program is supported by a grant from the Charlton Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

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



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SPORTS

Moving Back To Her Position

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Having begun t-ball as a youngster, Emily Hultgren found that she enjoyed the sport and, after playing it for some time, she decided to join a club team. In the fifth grade Hultgren joined the Charlton Wildfire, a travel softball team where she would begin playing shortstop.

"I loved playing the position because there was a lot of action there and balls were constantly hit to me," she said. "I just loved the position."

Although she was enamored by the shortstop position she would soon make a move from the Wildfire to the Metro West Doubles, out of Medway, to play in a more competitive league. Unfortunately, upon her arrival she found that the team already had a shortstop and she was relegated to play second base instead. She would rather be playing shortstop, but the absence from the position she had grown up in only gave her motivation to work and play that much harder to get her position back.

During her final year in middle school, Shepherd Hill Regional High School did not have enough players to field a softball team so they applied for an exception waiver. It was here that Hultgren and a few other eighth graders would be pulled up to the high school team.

"Playing on the varsity team as an eighth grader was tough; the competition was more than I had ever encountered," Hultgren said. "But I found that the higher



competition helped me develop my game on the field. The older girls were intimidating at first, but I'm glad that I went through it; it has made me a better player."

As that young eighth grader Hultgren knew that she had the ability to play on the varsity level, but she was really surprised that she was actually asked to be on the team.

"I had no idea what it was going to be like to play with the varsity team, I wasn't even in high school yet and the girls were all older so I didn't really know anyone," she said.

According to Coach John Snyder, Shepherd Hill got the waiver to help the team and Hultgren

was part of a group that was lucky enough to be on the varsity team that year.

"As an eighth grader she started for us right way at second base. She was pretty good, got 10 or 11 hits and had a few doubles that year and gave us hope going forward," the Rams coach said. "She still improved as an eighth grader and was going up against some talented pitchers. So it was not easy at times, but she hung in there and has grown over the years."

Looking back to that first year Hultgren remembers being nervous the first time that she stepped into the batters box for Shepherd Hill squaring off against an older pitcher.

"I don't remember what I did during my first at bat, but I know that I was really nervous and shaking as I got into the batters box," Hultgren said. "I still find myself getting nervous to this day when I'm at the plate."

The nervousness is not because she is overwhelmed, but self-inflicted. Hultgren gets the jitters because she wants to hit with confidence and do good for her team. She sometimes tends to run things too much in her head as she is walking to the plate.

As she enters her fourth season with the Rams varsity squad, the now junior who has been at second base for Shepherd Hill will get the opportunity to over back to her original position.

"I hope that I don't put too much pressure on myself, but I want to level up to our old shortstop, Grace Garon," Hultgren said. "I want the team to be able to rely on me and hope we have a good season."

Snyder obviously has faith in Hultgren as he is not only moving her back to shortstop but is sliding her down from her number two spot into the power position where she will bat either third or fourth in the Rams lineup this spring.

"We lost a lot of big bats with the seniors graduating and I am hoping that Emily can pick up some of that slack for us this year," Snyder said. "She started hitting balls deeper last year with more consistency and had a few homeruns, so I'm sure she'll do fine."

During her first three years with the team Hultgren has been named to two Mid-Wach All-Star teams,

something that totally took her by surprise. This year she is also going to be one of the team's four captains and although she wants the team to be able to have a successful season, she is also hoping that they have fun while competing.

Hultgren expects she can help the Rams get to the tournament and proceed further than they have in the past three seasons. Over that time, Shepherd Hill has made the Division 2 State Tournament all three years, making it to the Round of 32 and twice to the Round of 16. During all three runs, the Rams had the misfortune of getting knocked out by the eventual State Champion (Westfield, Burlington and Walpole).

As Hultgren gets ready to put on her cleats for her junior campaign, Coach Synder noted that she currently has 63 career hits and is expecting her to reach that 100-hit plateau sometime in the early part of her senior season. Hultgren herself was unaware of her possible accomplishment.

"This (goal) is something that I have never thought about, I wasn't even sure that I had this many hits," she said. "My parents don't like me looking at my stats as it makes me nervous. Good or bad, either way, they could get into my head and do damage."

Hopefully the hit total will not become a distraction to Hultgren and she can just continue to take to the field and help her team win. She would love nothing more than to go further than the Round of 16 and maybe even be the team that is talked about as a State Champion.

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TALES FROM BEYOND

tomdagostino.com

Foss Hill Cemetery

BY THOMAS D'AGOSTINO

Foss Hill, located on a knoll in Middletown Connecticut's Wesleyan University, has a unique site not seen in most facilities of higher education. Nestled between the Van Vleck Observatory and the Nicolson and West College dormitories sits a small graveyard. The burial ground was not there when the college was founded but instead, put there for the specific purpose of burying the university's teachers, staff and scholars who wished to be an eternal part of the institution. The graveyard is quite intriguing and to some, quite scary.

It was originally called "Wesleyan's God's Acre" when the university was a Methodist college. The cemetery was considered by the early founders a place for students to reflect on nature, their role in the history of the facility and the future of things to come. What started out in 1832 as a collection of partridge trees for students to study under, became in 1837, the burial that now graces the

land. Since then, past presidents, professors and students have been interred in the small lot.

In August of 1925, Charles Colard Adams, class of 1859, published an article in the Wesleyan University Alumnus in regard to the burial ground,

"An emotion of pathos is experienced as one discovers that twelve Wesleyan students lie buried in the college cemetery."

The first interment took place in 1837 with most recent in 1980. Among the 40 or so graves are the university's first president, Wilbur Fisk, and third president, Stephen Olin, their families, two members of the original faculty, two early trustees, faculty sons and daughters who died in childhood, several students who died while on campus, and several alumni. One corner contains several burials of students who died in 1918 and 1923, a few of them foreign students from China.

Of the many stories that circulate about the burial ground and it being haunted includes a tidbit of television history. Joss Whedon,

class of 1987, lived in the West College Up-Four dormitory overlooking the burial yard. He would later go on to create the famous series, Buffy the Vampire Slayer. Popular belief is that the small graveyard became an inspiration for his creation.

Another story tells of students digging up the bodies in the 1960s, but leaving the burial markers. Because of this legend, the lot is sometimes called the cemetery with no bodies. The claim is mostly unfounded, but the fact that the spirits of those who were buried there still remain has become quite established.

Students tend to avoid walking through the graveyard, especially after the sun has set below the horizon and darkness blankets the campus. A popular sentiment is that the spirits of the burial ground do not like anyone cutting through their final resting place. This is probably an aftermath of former students cutting a well worn path past the graves over the centuries. Many feel the presence of the spirits in the Foss Hill

graveyard lingering about them as they pass through its confines, especially around Halloween when the veil between the living and the dead is at its thinnest. One student claimed that the ghost of a Civil War veteran tried to proposition her while she was passing by his grave one night. She made a comment in regard to the lack of "politeness of its occupants." The aforementioned Mr. Adams had an encounter with a few of the eternal tenants buried there. According to his account,

"I was drawn to the college cemetery where I was in commu-

nion, as it were, with the spirits of Fisk and Olin."

Another legend is that of the Wesleyan Grim Reaper who haunts the graveyard looking for those who wander through its confines at a certain time of the year when the veil is thin and his ability to reap a soul is more powerful than usual. It may be a legend, but it is still told when tours are given where the stories are brought to life. Whether they are wholly accurate or not, may be a matter for you, the reader to decide.

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LIVING WITH LUKE

amyleclaire@hotmail.com

Luke's Spots Remain

BY AMY LECLAIRE

I'm not only a dog person, but also an animal person. I love the winged and fringed, the clawed and pawed, the burly and curly, and the whiny and tiny of creatures. Animals are fascinating. Have you ever noticed how certain animals seem to match our personalities? Some of us possess the free spirit of a bird and, others, the fearlessness of a lion. Some hold the luck of a ladybug, while others sting like a scorpion. The idiom that a leopard can't change its spots pertains to the belief that people are unlikely to change their fundamental characteristics. What about the chameleon, who thrives in many colors? Animals teach us about behavior, adaptation, survival and instinct.

Luke, also an animal person, has fallen in love with the guinea

pig.

"I know they're here. This way. Hurry up." Leashed and ecstatic, he pulls me towards the glass case at the back wall of the pet store. The guinea pigs are reliably present. Luke stares through the window of their cluttered living room and smiles. One guinea pig nestles inside of a tube. "Woo woo!" Luke is annoyed that he hides, but not for long.

"Who are you?" His nose twitches. "What are you?" A guinea pig with bed head pops up as though to announce spring.

"I'm Luke, of the dog species, a pedigree golden retriever with a thirst for knowledge." His dimpled smile is curious yet calm. He wants to keep things casual and check out the behavior of the Northeast guinea pig. Bed Head, satisfied, skitters to his water bottle and nibbles at a small pipe. Luke startles to the movement then freezes, on guard. Clearly, he is unaware of the disparity of size between them. "Bro, you move fast." Deep indents crease his leonine head and face. His ears lift like miniature tents. His con-



tunity seems responsible.

"Well, hello there." A pet store boss wearing a blue vest appears. I presume he thinks otherwise. Is it against store policy for a dog to stare at a guinea pig? "Let's go, Luke." I decide to cut our rejection losses. I tug on the leash, but





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centration to learn, to question and analyze runs deeper than a scientist's. "Look how tiny their hands are, Luke!" I egg him on though, truthfully, I take the time to respond to text messages on my phone. I feel like a Dog Mom using the hamster tank as a Day-

care provider. I look up from my phone. No change. Luke fixates on the guinea pigs with a loving smile. I imagine them in my yard together. Luke would never catch a rodent on the run, much less study one. Allowing him a few minutes to soak up a rare oppor-

he resists. "I just want to watch her come out of the little shed. One more minute." Luke isn't a kid in a candy store. He's a dog obsessed with a guinea pig. I'm about to say, "My dog is a bit weird. He loves to learn about other animals."

Instead, I'm in luck. Blue Vest tosses me a bone.

"His name is Luke? —what a great name. He's awfully curious." His acceptance shines down on me. I think about past rules.

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"Did you see the sign?"

"No dogs allowed, unfortunately."

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"What a great store this is," I say back with a snuffle.

"Come here, buddy." A good man lures Luke to his lap and

Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagamaugg



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LUKE

continued on page 11

REAL ESTATE

What you need to know about homeowner's insurance

Homeowner's insurance is a must-have to protect what's probably your biggest investment, your home. While you never want to think about worst-case scenarios, the right coverage



BY MARK MARZEOTTI

Covers Repairs and Rebuilding Costs: If your home is damaged by fire, storms, or other covered events, your policy helps pay for repairs or even a full rebuild.

Protects Your Belongings: Many policies can also cover personal items like furniture, electronics, and clothing if they're stolen or damaged.

Provides Liability Coverage: If someone gets injured on your property, homeowner's insurance can help cover medical bills or legal expenses.

In the simplest sense, it gives you peace of mind. Knowing you

have protection against unexpected events helps you worry less. And with such a big purchase, having that reassurance is a big deal. While your first insurance payment will be wrapped into your closing costs, you'll want this to be a part of your budget beyond closing day too. That's because it's a recurring expense you'll have once you get the keys to your home.

Here's what you need to know to help you budget for this important part of homeownership today.

Costs and Claims Are Rising. In recent years, insurance costs have been climbing. According to Insurance.com, there are four big reasons behind the jump in premiums: More severe weather events and wildfires are leading to higher claims. Insurance companies are pulling out of high-risk areas, reducing options for homeowners in some states. Past rate increases haven't kept up with the rise in claims. The cost to rebuild or repair homes has gone up due to higher material and labor costs. Basically, disasters are happening more often, repairs cost more, and insurers have to adjust their rates to keep up. Data from ICE Mortgage Technology helps paint

the picture of how the average yearly premium has climbed over the last decade (see graph below):

What you can do about it? Homeowner's insurance is a must to protect your home and your investment. But with costs rising, you'll want to do your homework to balance the best coverage you can get at the best price possible. Homeowner's insurance rates vary widely based on location, provider, and coverage. Shop around and compare quotes before settling on a policy. Don't forget to ask about discounts. Things like security systems or bundling with auto insurance could help lower your insurance costs.

When you're planning to buy a home, it's important to look beyond just your mortgage payment. You'll also want to budget for your homeowner's insurance policy. It gives you a lot of protection against the unexpected. While it's true those costs are rising, there are things you can do to try to get the best price possible. Yes, The Marzeotti Group is more than just what can we help you buy, sell or invest, we are fully immersed in the entire transaction from the beginning to the end.



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LUKE

continued from page 10

gives him a head rub. Luke licks his hand and chin. "Thank you for accepting me. You smell so good, kind of like a crunchy milk bone." Then he returns to Mission Possible for the longest guinea pig stare ever recorded.

"Are you familiar with our App? It doesn't cost anything and allows you to see all our good deals." The question comes out of nowhere. Loading another App on my phone feels heavier than the sixty-five passwords I haven't

written down. "An App? Um..." I stammer, "No, I haven't done that."

"It will only take three minutes."

I gaze down at Luke. He has three hours, thanks to the man with the blue vest who did not try to change his spots.

"I'd be happy to do that," I say back.

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THE CAR DOCTOR

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Brake Engaged, but Car Accelerates on its Own

Q. I own a 2006 Nissan Altima with 70,000 miles. During the last 5 years or so when I am stopped at a stop light, with my foot on the brake, my car will accelerate forward into the car in

front of mine. It accelerates rather quickly. The more I press on the brake the faster it goes. My problem is that out of nowhere with my foot on the brake it will just accelerate. I have brought the car to my local Nissan dealer and my local Goodyear shop where I get my repairs done. I am always told there is nothing wrong with the brakes. (As I said, it does not happen all the time. It may be months or over a year before it happens again. I am at a stop light, with traffic ahead of me and my foot on the brake waiting for the light to change). I have been fortunate there is always a car in front of me and have never gone out into traffic. Have you ever heard of this happening? If there is nothing wrong with the brakes, what else could the problem be? Hoping you can give me a solution.

A. Doing a little research there are no known problems with these vehicles with unattended acceleration. Typically, when we see this the issue is related to the fuel system. The engine can get a false signal and

the car's computer speeds the engine up to compensate for what is perceived as extra load. Other issues are the throttle itself, or even a floor mat that gets caught up in the pedals. In nearly every car that I road tested the brakes are able to overcome the throttle. Although anything is possible, I will say, the cases that I have researched on this issue have usually been traced back to the driver. Pedal misapplication or the unintentional or accidental pressing of the wrong pedal. At this point since no one can find anything wrong it would be wise to report the issue: <https://www.nhtsa.gov>.

Q. I wrote to you a while back concerning a "whistling noise" issue with my 2025 Hyundai Tucson. Although you did not have an answer, the advice of taking someone from the dealership on a demonstration ride solved the problem. The whistle was caused by the roof rack cross bars. Like clockwork, when my vehicle reached 60 MPH, the whistling would occur. I think it may have been compounded by the fact that when I purchased the vehicle, that the dealership had installed the cross bars incorrectly.

A. Thanks for the update. You may also find your fuel economy goes up slightly. We tested several vehicles years back and saw a decrease in the fuel economy by up to 10 percent with roof rack cross bars installed.

Q. My windshield broke in the last snowstorm. It seems to be an internal break and does not meet the surface outside or inside. If I do not get a new windshield, is it dangerous to drive? Also, is it illegal to drive it this way in Massachusetts?

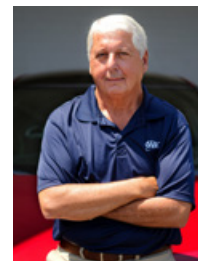
A. Is it dangerous? The windshield is laminated glass, so it is really only an issue if something else hits the windshield because it is now weaker. Is it illegal? Yes. Cracks or chips cannot be larger than a quarter or will fail

inspection, cracks within wipers path would also fail. In some cases, a crack can obstruct your view of the road or cause glare. A police officer could potentially ticket you for unsafe equipment. I would try to get it repaired ASAP. In Massachusetts if you have glass coverage as part of your insurance the repairs are covered by your optional comprehensive insurance.

Q. I have a 2013 Mercedes Benz ML-350. The Blind Side Indicator is more often unavailable than available.

The new car dealer I use occasionally wanted over \$3,000 to repair. Sometimes it is available on startup, sometimes not. Often it will fail during a drive. Is it an electronic control or sensor issue? Is there an alternative such as isolation/replacement of a defective part?

A. No easy answer on this, the system is intertwined with the collision warning sensor, so it has many parts, and they are all connected through a CAN (computer network). The first thing that needs to be performed is a scan of all the modules and see if there is a code (this will not show up as a check engine light). It could be anything from a faulty sensor in the bumper to a front collision sensor that is misaligned due to a slight parking lot bump with another car. You need to start with the module scan first. There are a dozen interconnected modules. The problem is the issue may not be anything that makes sense. Recently I was looking at a VW. The car had several warnings on the dash, one was for the passen-



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CAR DOCTOR
continued on page 13

TIPS ON FINANCIAL PLANNING

dennis.antonopoulos@edwardjones.com

How to cope with market volatility

The financial markets always go through periods of instability. And we may see more of that now, given concerns about tariffs, inflation and the economy. As an investor, how can you deal with this volatility?



BY DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

Some investors try to take advantage of market ups and downs by attempting to follow the age-old advice to “buy low and sell

high” — that is, they seek to buy stocks when they feel prices have bottomed out and they sell stocks when they think the market has reached a high point. In theory, this is a great idea, but in practice, it’s essentially impossible, because no one can really predict market highs and lows.

Rather than trying to anticipate highs and lows, your best strategy for coping with the price fluctuations of the financial markets is to diversify your investment portfolio by owning a mix of stocks, bonds and other types of securities.

Different types of financial assets can move in different directions at any given time — so, for example, stocks may be up while bonds are down, or vice versa. If you only owned one of these types of assets, and the market for that asset class

was down, your portfolio could take a bigger hit than if you owned a variety of asset types.

And you can further diversify within individual asset categories. Stocks can be domestic or international, large-company or small-company — and these groupings can also move in different directions at the same time, depending on various market forces. As for bonds, they too don’t always move in a uniform direction, or at least with the same intensity — for instance, when interest rates rise, bond prices tend to fall, but longer-term bonds may fall more than shorter-term ones, which are closer to maturity with fewer interest payments remaining. Conversely, when rates are falling, longer-term bonds may be more attractive because they lock in higher yields for a longer time. Consequently, one diversification technique for bonds is to build a “ladder” containing bonds of varying maturities.

Some investments, by their nature, are already somewhat diversified. A mutual fund can contain dozens, or even hundreds, of stocks, or a mixture of stocks and bonds. And different mutual funds may have different investment objectives — some focus more on growth, while others are more income-oriented — so, further diversification can be achieved by owning a mix of funds.

Furthermore, some investors achieve even greater diversification by owning alternative investments,

such as real estate, commodities and cryptocurrencies, although these vehicles themselves are often more volatile than those in more traditional investment categories.

While a diversified portfolio is important for every investor, your exact level of diversification — the percentages of your portfolio devoted to stocks, bonds and other securities — will depend on your individual risk tolerance, time horizon and financial goals. You may want to consult with a financial professional about creating the diversified investment mix that’s right for your needs.

Ultimately, while diversification can’t guarantee profits or protect against all losses, it can help you reduce some of the risks associated with investing and better prepare you to deal with the inevitable volatility of the financial markets — two key benefits that can help you over the many years you’ll spend as an investor.

You must evaluate whether a bond or CD ladder and the securities held within it are consistent with your investment objectives, risk tolerance and financial circumstances. Including callable bonds may increase the interest rate risk of a bond ladder. Bonds may be called prior to maturity, which could result in lower yields with new investments.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

Please contact Dennis Antonopoulos, your local Edward Jones Advisor at 5 Albert Street, Auburn, MA 01501 Tel: 508-832-5385 or dennis.

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CAR DOCTOR

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ger side airbag. The issue was the antilock brake sensor was faulty. When this happened, it pulled down communications with the CAN. Always best to diagnose first and not guess.

Q. Our 2019 VW Beetle is developing a whistling sound at highway speeds. We do not know which door / window is

the culprit. Before I bring it to the dealer’s attention on my next visit, I would much rather hear possible cause from you first, thus avoiding possible runaround from dealership.

A. There is no known or common cause of a wind noise on this model. So, some diagnosis is necessary, and you could try to do it yourself. Start the car and with the heater fan set to high close all the doors and windows. Now take a spray bottle

of very sudsy soapy water and spray around the doors, windows, windshield and look for small bubbles. Find the bubbles find the leak. If it has a sunroof, look at that too. I have had good luck using this method.

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NOTE: Community bulletin board-type items are welcome for inclusion in the *Happenings!* section of the *Xpress* newspapers. Please allow enough lead time for publication. Email your calendar or event notice to news@theyankeeexpress.com.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12
• Former science teacher David Hagberg will offer a talk on tower clocks and why he has one in his house. At 2 p.m. Willard House and Clock Museum, 11 Willard Street, North Grafton.
• The United Church of Christ, 4 Church Street, Webster invites the community to a Bunny Brunch from 12 – 2 p.m. Activities will include an egg hunt, Easter cookie decorating, crafts, a prize wheel for all participating and a “bunny-licious” brunch. The Easter Bunny will be around for pictures and all children will receive a treat bag! Entrance is free.

SUNDAY, APRIL 13

• The Uxbridge Historical Society will present the story of the 250 year old Cornet John Farnum House – Past, Present and Future – at the Community House of the First Evangelical Congregational Church, 8 Court Street, Uxbridge.

THURSDAY, APRIL 17
• “Rendezvous with Rachel Revere” presented by History at Play, LLC at Blaxton Hall, 9 Main Street, Sutton at 6:30 p.m. Presented by the Sutton Historical Society. The play will highlight the decisions and concerns of Rachel Revere, wife of Paul Revere in the days after his famous ride to warn of the arrival of the British.

SATURDAY, MAY 10
• The Millbury First Congregational Church, 148 West Main Street, Millbury is sponsoring a Flea Market and Craft Fair from 9 a.m. to 2p.m. Anyone wishing to reserve table space, please call Jeri Stead 508-865-5371. The \$25 inside area consists of a large supper table plus a card table. Inside tables can be organized the night before. An outside reservation is \$15, and those chancing the weather need to provide their own table. “The Kitchen” will be selling refreshments and at lunch time, hot dogs will be served. There will also be a Bakery Table, and a Church Flea Market Table.

SUNDAY, APRIL 27
• New England Country Music Club Dances at the Progressive Club, 18 Whitin Street, Uxbridge. Live band “Borrowed Time” at the New England Country Music Club Dance, Progressive Club, 18 Whitin Street, North Uxbridge. Doors open at 12:15 p.m., music 1-5 p.m. \$11 for non-members. Doors open at 12:15 p.m. Music plays 1-5 p.m. Snacks may be brought in, cash bar for beverages.

THURSDAY, MAY 15
• Historical Portrayals by Lady J presents “Farm Girl on the Front Lines: Deborah Sampson’s Secret” highlighting the story of this Patriot who disguised herself as a male to serve her young country. At 1p.m. in the Sutton Senior Center, 9 Hough Road, Sutton. Presented by the Sutton Historical Society.

SATURDAY, MAY 3
• St. Patrick’s Church, 1 Cross Street, Whitinsville will hold a recycling event from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. in the church parking lot. Paper shredding 9-11 a.m. only. Electronics and shredding for a fee. Bottles & cans, clothing and textiles, books and media are collected without a fee. For more information, email officesupport@mystpatrickss.com

SATURDAY, MAY 17
• Join the 10th Annual Family Fun Fishing Day at Riverbend Farm, 27 Oak Street, Uxbridge from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Fishing goes until 1 p.m. with awards at 1:20 p.m. There will be activities for the whole family and food and ice cream will be available

HAPPENINGS!
continued on page 15

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Bartlett High School's Adam Phillips Receives Academic Excellence Award

Adam Phillips
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-Oscar Wilde

Bartlett High School student, Adam Phillips, was chosen as the Superintendent's Academic Excellence Scholar. His award was presented at Holy Cross College's annual ceremony in the fall. Phillips' award criteria was based on class ranking, three-year cumulative grade averages, and personal selection by the School Superintendent. Kudos to Adam Phillips, and best wishes for continues success.

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FOR ADULTS

Tuesday Movie Matinees

Tuesdays at 1 p.m. - Dexter Hall - No registration (check the event calendar for movie details)

April 15 : September 5 (2024)

Rated R- 91 minutes.

April 29 : A Complete Unknown (2024). Rated R-140 minutes.

April 22 : All day Space Movie Marathon to celebrate Massachusetts Space Week:

10:30 a.m.- Space Buddies (2009) G 84 minutes

11 a.m.- Space Jam (1996) PG 87 minutes

1 p.m.- The Martian (2015) PG-13 141 minutes

4 p.m.- Muppets From Space (1999) G 88 minutes

6 p.m.- Spaceballs (1987) PG 96 minutes

Threaded Together Fiber Arts Group (formerly Silver Needles Knit & Crochet Group)

Thursdays from 1-3:p.m. Upstairs Reading Room. No registration required.

Bring your current project and relax with friends. All are welcome regardless of skill level.

Art Lecture Series No 3: American Landscapes Through the Centuries

Saturday, April 19, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Dexter Hall. Registration requested but not required.

Today's lecture explores how landscape painting was the first uniquely American art beginning with the Hudson River School artists such as Cole and Kensett.

Indoor Seed Starting

Tuesday, April 15, 6 - 7p.m. Community Meeting Room. Registration requested but not required. Blackstone Valley Veggie Gardens will talk about starting seeds indoors.

Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group

Thursday, April 17, 6-7:30 p.m. Community Meeting Room. No registration required

Co-sponsored by Charlton Library, Dementia Friendly Charlton, and Tri-Valley.

Intro to Astrology Workshop with Laura Campagna

Wednesday, April 23, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Community Meeting Room - Registration required (Ages 12+) Check our event calendar online for details and to register.

FOR YOUTH

Storytimes

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10-10:45 a.m. Story Time Room. First come first served

April 14 at thebrwa.org/familyfishing2025. The event is free, but pre-registration is required. Contact Joanne Holahan with any questions at 508-278-5200. The rain date is May 18.

THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH

• Coin Show at the VFW Post 1385, 13

Pokemon Club

Tuesday, April 15, 4- 4:30 p.m. Story Time Room. Registration required (Ages 6-12)

Enjoy a variety of Pokemon activities, trade cards, or try your hand at playing the game on our new play mats!

Crafternoon for Kids

Friday, April 18, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Story Time Room. No registration required (Ages 5-10)

Drop by the Storytime Room and make a fun craft!

Me and My Mini with Sunflower Movement Therapy

Tuesday, April 22, 11 - 11:45 a.m. Community Meeting Room. Registration required (Ages birth - 2.5)

The focus is on adult and baby spending quality time together, fostering attachment, and baby interacting with others their age. Get groovy to upbeat music with props, instruments, and a story!

Intro to Astrology Workshop with Laura Campagna

Wednesday, April 23, 11 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. Community Meeting Room - Registration required (Ages 12+)

Check our event calendar for details and to register.

Storytime with Strega Mama: Bluey!

Thursday, April 24, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Community Meeting Room - Registration required

Cross Road, Uxbridge, 3-7 p.m. Free admission, free appraisals.

Join Strega Mama for a fun-filled storytime with songs, games, and activities featuring Bluey!

The Poop Museum - Part 2: EVEN MORE POOP!

Friday, April 25, 10 - 10:45 a.m. Dexter Hall - Registration is required

Children will learn many fantastic, fabulous, and fun facts about human, animal, and insect poop, many of which truly amaze and surprise! This program goes down the sewer, into space, under the sea, and back in time to the dinosaurs. See our event calendar for

more information and to register.

Drop-In Sensory Play

Saturday, April 26, 10 - 11 a.m. - Children's Room (Ages 4+) - No registration

Please join us for sensory open play! Different stations will be set up for your child to explore

Doodle Art for Kids & Tweens

Tuesday, April 29, 5:30 - 6:15 p.m. - Story Time Room (Ages 6-11) - Registration is required

Join us to learn fun doodles for your notebooks or journals! Beginner level, no drawing experience necessary!

HAPPENINGS!

continued from page 14

for purchase from Joey D's Wingz'n Thingz and Sweet Wise Ice Cream Truck. All ages and abilities welcome. Fishing poles, bait and instruction will be available when you pre-register. Participants are also welcome to bring your home. Pre-registration opens

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March 28 - Fender Road

\$10 cover charge for bands unless receipt of same day liquor and/or food purchase from the Tuttle.

ALL Are Welcome! Membership Not Required!

Monday - Saturday: 11:00-1:00
Sunday: 11:30-close

MEAT RAFFLE

EVERY SATURDAY

12:30 -4pm - 6 tables

Don't Be A Chicken. There's A Lot At Steak.

Tiny Tim's at the Tuttle

serving food Tues - Fri: 11:00-8:00; Sat. 4:00-8:00
Sunday - Monday the kitchen only is closed

Phone: (508) 832-2701

For Hall Reservations: (508)-721-5142
or email TinyTimsCatering@gmail.com

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Karaoke every Saturday

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