

Auburn News

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Auburn resident helps to promote local artists

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

AUBURN – In her uniquely rewarding occupation, a lifelong resident is helping to maximize exposure for local artists.

The owner of Sbrogna's Artistic Promotions, based out of her home in town, Linda Sbrogna has become an invaluable resource for artists seeking to get their work seen. She is currently

promoting a photography exhibit for Ron Rosenstock, of Holden, whose work can be seen at Auburn Public Library (369 Southbridge Street).

Many talented local photographers never find venues to share what they captured, but Sbrogna takes pride in serving as a bridge connecting artists and the public.

"My inspiration in promoting photography is to bring images of our beautiful world to our community,"

said Sbrogna, an Auburn High School graduate. "We are now showing images of Ireland and will have future exhibits of botanicals, Scotland, Japan, Vinalhaven, Maine, and recent works from around the world."

Sbrogna has operated her business for five years, and her current promotional project will run for eleven months. She enjoys promoting photography by Rosenstock, who has captured compelling images on camera since the

1950s. He has traveled the world and brought back countless images for central Massachusetts residents to view. Ireland has always been one of his favorite places to photograph.

"Ireland possesses a special kind of mystery," Rosenstock said. "One can sense the secrets of time in the ancient

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Planning Board granted access to special counsel

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – The Planning Board in Charlton has been granted permission to hire special town counsel to defend themselves in an appeal filed by Valley Green Grow in Land Court.

This is the second time special counsel was granted to the Planning Board in 2019 to defend against an appeal by the marijuana growing company in Land Court. The first appeal called for the reversal of a vote in January by the Planning Board to reject a site plan for the proposed marijuana growing operation on the Charlton Orchard property on Old Worcester Road. This new appeal attempts to reverse action taken by the Planning Board in March rejecting the subdivision plan for the project. It's the Board of Selectmen's responsibility to hire legal counsel to defend town boards and entities in legal matters. Mark Bobrowski, who defended the Planning Board in the first appeal by Valley Green Grow, has declined to represent them a second time in battling the latest appeal.

The appeal was submitted to court on April 1, and on April 2, a request was sent by the Planning Board to Board of Selectman Chair John McGrath requesting legal counsel. McGrath said there was a slight waiting time in order to make a motion,

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Courtesy Photo

MASONS COLLECT FOOD FOR YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

On Saturday, April 6, the members of Joel H. Prouty Masonic Lodge of Auburn conducted a food drive to benefit the Auburn Youth & Family Services. Six carriages of food were delivered at the end of the day. This marks the 25th year that the Joel H. Prouty Lodge has conducted food drives, each spring and fall, in support of Auburn Youth & Family Services.

Auburn Chamber welcomes Worcester Red Sox President

AUBURN — Please join the Auburn Chamber of Commerce on April 30, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. to hear from Dr. Charles Steinberg, the President of the Pawtucket Red Sox and the future Worcester Red Sox.

Steinberg is in his fourth year as President—and in his 44th year in baseball. In a vast career in which he has been the longtime Executive Vice President of the Boston Red Sox, the native of Baltimore

also worked with his hometown Baltimore Orioles, and the San Diego Padres, Los Angeles Dodgers, and Baseball Commissioner Allan H. (Bud) Selig. Wherever he has been, "Dr. Charles" has been known for pioneering innovations to the fan experience in the ballpark and outreach in the community. In the ballpark, Dr. Charles has been instrumental in the creation and writing of ceremonies at Fenway Park,

ranging from Opening Days to World Series parades. In the community, he has created the Padres Scholars Program, the Red Sox Scholars Program, and the PawSox Scholars Program. He was instrumental in creating the annual Jimmy Fund Radiotelethon, and in helping Major League Baseball to "Go Gold" for childhood cancer research each September.



Dr. Charles Steinberg

Pasture Prime Players stage original play

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – The journey to finding love and happiness can be a rocky one involving many losses and different chapters of life. It's an inevitable truth that we will all lose ourselves over the course of life only to find ourselves again in

a new beginning. This is the reality that has inspired a new original play being produced by the Pasture Prime Players later this month.

"Lost and Found" is an original production written and directed by Ed Humphries and it focuses on the jagged journey love and life takes us on through the good and the bad.

First produced several years ago during a special limited production, "Lost and Found" will get the full stage treatment by Humphries himself later this year. Humphries is an experiences actor and playwright who has penned two previous productions starting in 2012. For his latest work, described as a contemporary

romantic comedy, he sought to present a story with something positive to say based on his personal experiences after a divorce back in 2011.

"When I wrote this play, I wanted to aim for something a bit more hopeful. I wrote the ending first and then wrote the rest towards a happy ending," Humphries said, noting that the play is not autobiographical, but was influenced by his own journey towards moving on after a breakup. "I wanted something more hopeful. I always pull from my own history and back in 2011 I got divorced and when that happened there was this whole notion of that second chapter – Over time you start to have feelings that it's time to move on to a new chapter so I think when I wrote this I was trying to capitalize on somebody that goes through something that can be considered personally traumatic to them, but that's not the end. There's always hope for the next chapter."

The play includes a large cast of 12 performers representing three different groups of characters as the two leads find each other, and a new romance, when they least expect it. Humphries explained that there's a lot that goes on in the play, but it all comes back to how new and old friendships help with the

healing process and moving on to new stages of life.

"It's about two people who don't know each other who are both fleeing relationships that are sour. They return to a common town in their own pasts. They think they're all done with love and their friends have beckoned them back to the town. Everyone goes to this tavern that's having a contest over the next year. The two characters join the competition with their individual groups of friends and then there's a third group, as I like to call them the townies there to start trouble, and all three groups are locked in competition. Over the course of this, when they least suspect it the two main characters start to find those romantic feelings they thought might be lost forever. A lot of it has to do with that healing power of friendship. There's some poignancy to the story and we get into the dynamics they have

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Courtesy Photos

Stars Angie Grove & Joe Sawyer rehearse for "Lost and Found."



Springtime anglers hit Wallum Lake



THE GREAT
OUTDOORS
.....
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TRUE

This past weekend, fishing took center stage for many anglers. The opening at Wallum Lake had a light turnout. Mass. Fish & Wildlife continued to stock local lakes and ponds in the valley, and some rivers also received a good stocking of fish. The big news was the size of the brown trout that were stocked at Webster Lake this past week. One local angler had a Mass. Fish & Wildlife stocking truck roll up to the ramp at the town beach in Webster, & stock some heavy duty brown trout. After the truck left, he started fishing and caught and released more than a dozen browns. He brought home a couple of them to cook, but not before he called this writer to come over to take a look at the super size browns.

After looking at the fish, my first remark was that I hope they stocked some of the browns into Wallum Lake. Most of the browns were in the 16 to 17 inch class. My hopes were dashed when I visited Wallum this past weekend and talked to a few anglers that had just got done fishing. Not only did they not catch any brown trout, but a few did not catch a single fish. In talking with a ranger at the park he mentioned that a couple thousand rainbow trout were stocked by both Mass. &

Rhode Island prior to opening day. Reports of many trout feeding on the surface on the Rhode Island side of the lake were hard to catch. Trolling a black wooly bugger fly should have done the trick, but most anglers were using lures, power bait, and live bait.

As mentioned in previous columns that the state could not stock rainbow trout because of the high acidic levels in the lake more than 20 years ago, the introduction of tons of lime corrected the problem and has continued to stay at levels needed to sustain the rainbow trout stocking. Unfortunately for sportsmen, they are losing out on some great brown trout fishing at Wallum because of Mass. & Rhode Island unwillingness to work together to make Wallum Lake a trophy brown trout pond. It is still not too late for Wallum Lake to receive some big browns this year from either state, and I do hope that they are planning to do so. Sportsmen deserve no less. Reports of huge schools of alewives (baitfish) at the lake this past summer will provide the feed necessary to grow big browns.

Reports of tick bites in the area during the past week on dogs and residents is a sure sign that they are on the move. Most outdoorsmen now realize that deer tick bites can be very serious for both animals and humans, and are a constant threat to their health. Most tick bites are not found before the 24 hour time for most infections, and



require immediate attention to insure the infection does not spread to other parts of the body. Lyme disease has caused the death of many humans and pets over the past 20 or more years and it is becoming a larger problem every year. All insect bites are serious, including bee stings and spider bites.

This past week, the Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club honored the late Wally Pasickniak of Uxbridge during a brief ceremony at the club's trout pond prior to their fishing derby this past Saturday. A granite seat was placed at the big oak tree on the South side of the pond

engraved with his name, to remind all members of the club of the sacrifices Wally made during his many years at the club. Without these hard working dedicated members we all would not be enjoying the club as we do today. Many other club members in the valley now enjoy the hunting and fishing opportunities today because sportsmen like Wally realized there sport may not survive in the coming years, if Rod & Gun Clubs did not exist. Thanks Wally and all of the other members that kept the club together during hard times.

This week's picture shows Wally Pasickniak, Jr. with his wife Donna & family member Mark Kuras.

Opening at Wachusett Res. this past Saturday had a lot of small lake trout being caught, with one six pound being registered. The Laker's stomachs were full of small perch, small bass, but no smelt. The Quabbin Res. opens this Saturday. Be sure to have your boat washed at a registered site prior to fishing.

Take a Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending.

PLAY

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with their friends and family members," Humphries explained.

Humphries said there's a certain challenge and pleasure to adapting his own work. He has seen his plays presented with third party directors at the helm and found it fascinating how performers and the audience reacted to the characters and dialogue. However, this time he gets to control his own interpretation of his play and bring his vision to life as her, himself, intended.

"Being able to adapt my own work allows me to really fully bring my vision to



The cast of "Lost and Found" rehearses for the big show.

life," Humphries said. "I went to school for journalism and there's always been

this desire to tell stories. For many years, I had been toying with that - Once I wrote

something, I realized that I liked that intimate nature of trying to create something really from a blank page and watch my words be brought to life by the actors and the crew. The big thing is then to be seeing it in front of an audience."

"Lost and Found" will have six showings over the final week of April and first weekend of May. The show Dates are April 26 and 27 and May 3 and 4 at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays April 28 and May 5 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for general admission and \$12 for students and seniors. Shows will be held at 4 Dresser Hill Road in Charlton.

BOARD

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but that selectmen did in fact see the need for legal representation.

"We did have to wait until we were served the notice of the appeal. We're doing it in a timely fashion and not having to wait for something," McGrath said.

With the Board of Selectmen approving the use of legal counsel and Attorney Bobrowski choosing not to represent the board a second time the Planning Board will be consulting Town Counsel Jim Cosgrove to find a lawyer specializing in land use.

Both appeals, the site plan appeal which was originally filed in Superior Court and the subdivision appeal, will be heard by Judge Robert Foster in last court this month.

ARTISTS

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stones, in the power of the sea, and in the ever-changing light. It is this light which holds me, this light which hints of creation and higher knowledge."

For Sbrogna, the positivity and uplifting messages evoked by photos is one of her favorite aspects of promoting those who take them.

"The inspiration of this project is in hopes to rekindle memories of travel near and far - and simply spark joy and happiness to the people," Sbrogna added. "I am looking to connect with activity directors, businesses, and assisted living facilities to schedule travel log programs by Ron Rosenstock."

Having grown up in Auburn, it means a lot for Sbrogna to inspire the community through her work. After graduating



Courtesy Photo
Auburn resident Linda Sbrogna enjoys promoting local artists through her business.

from Auburn High School, she attended college at Worcester State University and has enjoyed working in her hometown.

Sbrogna and Rosenstock are excited about the Auburn exhibit and the ability for residents to view international photography from the comfort of their home-

town.

"I continue to photograph our beautiful world and exhibit my work in hopes of inspiring others," Rosenstock said. "At every moment in our history, we need reminders of what's really important, what is lasting and not fleeting."

Rosenstock's current exhibit will be on display until May 8, whereupon his botanicals exhibit will take center stage until June 18.

"Art on the walls of the Auburn Public Library transforms the room into a sacred space - a space where viewers can be transported to sense the beauty within themselves and in all that surrounds us," Rosenstock added.

To learn more about Rosenstock and his photo exhibits, visit www.ronrosenstock.com.

GARDENING

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canna, and Calliope® Medium Dark Red geranium to create a festive atmosphere.

Bring the garden to the party with a few edible containers for a bit of interactive dining. Encourage guests to harvest herbs and vegetables as they create a salad, season their dinner or flavor their favorite drink. Then dress up the meal with edible flowers like calendulas and Baby Rose nasturtium with its peppery flavored flowers and

leaves.

Make any outdoor wedding, reception or rehearsal dinner at your home memorable by creating planters that complement the bride's color scheme. Include white flowers, like Summer Jewel White salvia, Mont Blanc nierembergia, Starlight rose zinnia and Gypsy White Improved gypsophila. White is the perfect neutral and lights up any evening celebration.

Once you experience the difference specially-designed containers can make, you'll be looking for more opportunities to host

events and grow more planters.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* gardening DVD series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio segments*. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by AAS for her expertise to write this article. Myers' web site is www.melindamyers.com.

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