



# Sterling MEETINGHOUSE NEWS

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November 21, 2015

## Nutcracker carries on tradition

by Chelsea Dill

“One, two, three, four,” counts dance instructor Paula Meola, clapping her hands to keep dancers in time to the lively music of Tchaikovsky’s The Nutcracker ballet. Rehearsing for the annual production of Paula Meola Dance’s The Nutcracker, the young dancers practice the party scene. There’s magic in the air.

“Our production is an annual tradition,” says Meola, owner and teacher at Paula Meola Dance (PMD), 50 Leominster Road, Sterling. A dancer all her life, she danced in Boston Ballet’s production of The Nutcracker at the old Worcester Auditorium. This year, Meola is staging her fifteenth annual production, and every year she feels pride and honor at bringing the holiday classic to loyal audiences that return every year, and introducing it to new ones.

Meola’s The Nutcracker began as a small group traveling to local schools and performing in cafeterias. After purchasing the studio 14 years ago, she boosted the production to a professional level. “We have a lot of talented dancers,” says Meola, who recruits dancers from Providence’s Festival Ballet for the male leads. “Our girls deserve to have professional partners because they’re able to work at that level.”

While main roles are performed by teenage dancers, all students are given a part in The Nutcracker, including dancers as young as six. Over 140 dancers are taking part, including 15-year-old Kristen Lambert in the role of the Sugar Plum Fairy. Meola and ballet faculty member and Bolshoi Ballet graduate Sasha Lunev teach her variation choreography, as well as the original classic steps by famed choreographer Marius Petipa.

“The choreography we do is what you’ll see in every ballet company throughout the world,” says Meola. Teaching students traditional choreography gives them an

NUTCRACKER, page 11



Paula Meola (far right) leads dancers in the Christmas party scene.

PHOTO by Chelsea Dill



Ballerina Kristen Lambert rehearses for “The Nutcracker” with faculty member Sasha Lunev.

PHOTO by Chelsea Dill

### SterlingMeetinghouseNews.com

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## LETTERS

### Thank you, Y.A.H.O.O.

Thanks to the Y.A.H.O.O. group of youngsters from grades 7 through high school who give up five of their Saturdays in the spring and fall to help the elderly clean up their properties. They rake leaves, spread mulch, and weed flower gardens – all work we seniors can no longer do. We call them our “orange angels” because that is just what they are. These youngsters ask for no monetary compensation, just the smiles and thanks they get from those they help.

The program was originated about 15 years ago by Kevin Beaupre and his team, and is now run by Sean McDonough, who saved it as it became too much for others to carry on. We are ever so grateful to him and his staff.

It's such a joy to hear the kids laughing and chatting as they work, and they show such respect when addressing us. Their parents should be very proud of them.

When you drive by and see a gang of kids wearing orange shirts, honk your horn to let them know you're aware of what they are doing.

Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Irene E. Camerano  
Beaman Road, Sterling

### Council on Aging says thank you

A great big thank you goes out to the many volunteers that helped to make our September yard sale a great success. Thanks, too, for the many donations and saleable food items. It's a beautiful thing when we all work together! The proceeds will help enhance future programs in our new location. Great job!

Sharon Bloom  
Chair, Council on Aging

### Letters to the Editor

Letters should be no more than 350 words, and must include your name, address, phone number and signature. Send email to

lex@sterlingmeetinghousenews.com or mail to:

Sterling Meetinghouse News,  
PO Box 914, Sterling, MA 01564.

*We reserve the right to edit letters for length.*



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## EDITOR'S NOTE

It's been a strange autumn for many of us. For some, it's been a sad time. For others, it's been profoundly confusing. I'm always fascinated by the cyclical nature of life, and how a group of people interconnected by blood, circumstance, or location, can have similar experiences at the same time. It's called synchronicity, defined as the simultaneous occurrence of events that appear significantly related but have no discernible causal connection. To my mind, this is one of the great mysteries of life. The number of friends and family members that are enduring hardships and challenges at this moment in time is well into the double digits. As the saying goes, when it rains, it pours. On top of all of these simultaneous but apparently unconnected occurrences, our sad world has taken another hit with terrorist atrocities in Paris, Beirut, and other places. As I wrote recently on my Facebook page, "Can the merry-go-round please stop? I'd like to get off now." Let's take the Thanksgiving weekend as an opportunity to step off that relentless merry-go-round, at least for a few days. Perhaps a bit of rest, peacefulness, and unity with family and loved ones will help us all fight the good fight a little longer, and maybe even figure out that some fights are little more than self-indulgence in this strife-wracked world.

-- Lex Thomas



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## Wachusett Food Pantry November distribution

The WFP provides monthly emergency food to any family with either a short- or long-term need. Food distribution takes place on the third Friday of the month for seniors, and the third Saturday of the month for everyone else. Residents of Sterling, Holden, Paxton, Princeton, and Rutland are eligible. Proof of residency is required. Located in the Cream Crock Distribution Building, 50 Worcester Road (Route 12), Sterling. Distribution Friday, November 20 for seniors, and Saturday, November 21 for the public, 9 to 11 a.m. Donations of non-expired food items, personal care products, and paper goods are gratefully accepted. Clean, intact plastic bags are also required. For information, call 978-563-1064, email [wfp@wfp1995.org](mailto:wfp@wfp1995.org), or visit [wfp1995.org](http://wfp1995.org).

## Brush dump schedule

Residents are encouraged to consider home composting of yard waste or dispose of it at the brush dump located behind the Sterling Police Department on George Peeso Lane, open 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, November 21.

## Thanksgiving curbside trash pickup

Due to the Thanksgiving Day holiday, Thursday and Friday trash and recycling curbside routes will be picked up one day later during the week of November 23. Residences whose regularly scheduled pickup day is Thursday will have curbside pickup on Friday, and residences whose regularly scheduled pickup day is Friday will have curbside pickup on Saturday.

## Care of animals during the holiday season

Animal Control Officer Louis Massa reminds Sterling pet-owners that there are significant potential dangers to family pets and animals during the holiday season. Warm automobile engines are dangerous for cats and small wildlife. Parked vehicles can attract small animals that may crawl under the hoods of vehicles seeking warmth. To avoid injuring animals that may be hiding, bang on your car's hood to scare them off before starting your engine.

## Keep pets away from holiday greens and other toxins

Holiday plants can be toxic for pets, and may cause severe illness or even death if ingested. Keep animals away from poinsettias, mistletoe, holly, and philodendrons.

Chocolate contains theobromine, a xanthine compound which, in large doses, is toxic to dogs, affecting both the nervous and cardiovascular systems. Symptoms of toxicity include excitability, increased heart rate, restlessness, increased urination, muscle tremors,

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

vomiting, and diarrhea. The toxic dose for cats is marginally lower, as cats are unable to taste sweetness.

Ice melts and anti-freeze can be toxic to pets when they lick their paws. Pet owners should store ice melts and anti-freeze out of the reach of pets, and wipe their pets' paws after they have been outdoors.

**Post these emergency numbers near your phone.**

**These emergency veterinary clinics are open 24/7.**

**Tufts Veterinary Hospital, Grafton 508-839-5302**

**Wachusett Animal Hospital, Westminster  
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**Reach the APCC/Animal Poison Control Hotline  
888-426-4435**

## Wachusett Food Pantry needs your help for the holidays

WFP needs your help throughout the holiday season. Volunteers are needed for monthly food distribution days (Fridays and Saturdays), 9 to 11 a.m. New volunteers arrive at 8:30 a.m. for orientation. Volunteers

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## Sterling-Lancaster Community TV

### Broadcast Schedule Nov. 21st to Nov. 27th, 2015

Comcast Channel 8

| Saturday                                       | Genre         |
|--|---------------|
| 12:00 AM The Steve Katsos Show - Ep 170        |               |
| 6:00 AM The Steve Katsos Show - Ep 170         | Variety       |
| 6:30 AM Barbara and You                        | Interview     |
| 8:00 AM Village Church Service                 | Religion      |
| 10:00 AM AUC College Church Service            | Religion      |
| 12:00 PM Contemporary Science - Clive Hamilton | Educational   |
| 1:00 PM InFocus - The Forensic Scientist       | Documentaries |
| 2:00 PM Color In Your Life - Dave Behrens      | Hobby         |
| 3:00 PM Contemporary Science - Clive Hamilton  | Educational   |
| 4:00 PM Culinary Kids - Omelettes and Flan     | Children      |
| 5:00 PM Paperchase at Slaters                  | Music         |
| 7:00 PM InFocus - The Forensic Scientist       | Documentaries |
| 8:00 PM Color In Your Life - Dave Behrens      | Hobby         |
| 9:00 PM Contemporary Science - Clive Hamilton  | Educational   |
| 10:00 PM Barbara and You                       | Interview     |

| Sunday  | Genre         |
|---|---------------|
| 12:00 AM The Steve Katsos Show - Ep 170       |               |
| 6:00 AM The Steve Katsos Show - Ep 170        | Variety       |
| 7:00 AM Trinity Bolton Church Service         | Religion      |
| 9:00 AM ECC Service                           | Religion      |
| 11:00 AM Trinity Lutheran Church Service      | Religion      |
| 1:00 PM InFocus - The Forensic Scientist      | Documentaries |
| 2:00 PM Color In Your Life - Dave Behrens     | Hobby         |
| 3:00 PM Contemporary Science - Clive Hamilton | Educational   |
| 4:00 PM Culinary Kids - Omelettes and Flan    | Children      |
| 5:00 PM Paperchase at Slaters                 | Music         |
| 7:00 PM InFocus - The Forensic Scientist      | Documentaries |
| 8:00 PM Color In Your Life - Dave Behrens     | Hobby         |
| 9:00 PM Contemporary Science - Clive Hamilton | Educational   |
| 10:00 PM Barbara and You                      | Interview     |

| Monday-Friday                                | Genre         |
|--|---------------|
| 12:00 AM The Steve Katsos Show - Ep 171      |               |
| 6:00 AM The Steve Katsos Show - Ep 171       | Variety       |
| 7:00 AM Barbara and You                      | Interview     |
| 9:00 AM Tina Cooks - Turkey and Gravy        | Cooking       |
| 10:00 AM Physician Focus                     | Health        |
| 11:00 AM Color In Your Life - Michael Upton  | Hobby         |
| 12:00 PM Contemporary Science Ancient Humans | Educational   |
| 1:00 PM InFocus - Syrian Refugees            | Documentaries |
| 2:00 PM Church Services                      | Religion      |
| 4:00 PM Scuba Jack - Tides                   | Children      |
| 5:00 PM Nashoba Regional Fall Band Concert   | Music         |
| 6:00 PM The Song - Michael Behm              |               |
| 7:00 PM InFocus - Syrian Refugees            | Documentaries |
| 8:00 PM Color In Your Life - Michael Upton   | Hobby         |
| 9:00 PM Contemporary Science Ancient Humans  | Educational   |
| 10:00 PM Barbara and You                     | Interview     |

### Broadcast Schedule Nov. 28 to Dec. 4, 2015

Comcast Channel 8

| Saturday                                       | Genre         |
|--|---------------|
| 12:00 AM The Steve Katsos Show - Ep.171        | Variety       |
| 6:00 AM The Steve Katsos Show - Ep.171         | Variety       |
| 7:00 AM Barbara and You                        | Interview     |
| 8:00 AM Village Church Service                 | Religion      |
| 10:00 AM AUC College Church Service            | Religion      |
| 12:00 AM Contemporary Science - Ancient Humans | Educational   |
| 1:00 PM InFocus - Syrian Refugees              | Documentaries |
| 2:00 PM Color In Your Life - Michael Upton     | Hobby         |
| 3:00 PM Contemporary Science - Ancient Humans  | Educational   |
| 4:00 PM Scuba Jack - Tides                     | Children      |
| 5:00 PM Nashoba Fall Concert                   | Music         |
| 7:00 PM InFocus - Syrian Refugees              | Documentaries |
| 8:00 PM Contemporary Science - Ancient Humans  | Educational   |
| 9:00 PM Color In Your Life - Michael Upton     | Hobby         |
| 10:00 PM Barbara and You                       | Interview     |

| Sunday  | Genre         |
|---|---------------|
| 12:00 AM The Steve Katsos Show - Ep.171       | Variety       |
| 6:00 AM The Steve Katsos Show - Ep.171        | Variety       |
| 7:00 AM Trinity Bolton Church Service         | Religion      |
| 9:00 AM ECC Service                           | Religion      |
| 11:00 AM Trinity Lutheran Church Service      | Religion      |
| 1:00 PM InFocus - Syrian Refugees             | Documentaries |
| 2:00 PM Color In Your Life - Michael Upton    | Hobby         |
| 3:00 PM Contemporary Science - Ancient Humans | Educational   |
| 4:00 PM Scuba Jack - Tides                    | Children      |
| 5:00 PM Nashoba Fall Concert                  | Music         |
| 7:00 PM InFocus - Syrian Refugees             | Documentaries |
| 8:00 PM Contemporary Science - Ancient Humans | Educational   |
| 9:00 PM Color In Your Life - Michael Upton    | Hobby         |
| 10:00 PM Barbara and You                      | Interview     |

| Monday-Friday                                | Genre         |
|--|---------------|
| 12:00 AM The Steve Katsos Show - Ep 172      | Variety       |
| 6:30 AM The Steve Katsos Show - Ep 172       | Variety       |
| 7:30 AM Barbara and You                      | Interview     |
| 9:00 AM Tina Cooks - Turkey Tetrazzini       | Cooking       |
| 10:00 AM Holistic Health - Breast Feeding    | Health        |
| 11:00 AM Color In Your Life - Kelli McGregor | Hobby         |
| 12:00 PM Contemporary Science - Bacteria     | Educational   |
| 1:00 PM InFocus - Bangkok Heroes             | Documentaries |
| 2:00 PM Church Services                      | Religion      |
| 4:00 PM Adventures of Scuba Jack             | Children      |
| 5:00 PM HonkFest 2015                        | Music         |
| 7:00 PM InFocus - Forensic Scientist         | Documentaries |
| 8:00 PM Color In Your Life - Kelli McGregor  | Hobby         |
| 9:00 PM Contemporary Science - Bacteria      | Educational   |
| 10:00 PM Barbara and You                     | Interview     |

**Please note this schedule is subject to change.  
Refer to [www.slctv.us](http://www.slctv.us) for any updates.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

are also needed for monthly food sorting dates, sorting donated foods to ensure quality. Adults and high school youth are welcome. No pre-registration needed. For more information about times and requirements, contact WFP at 978-563-1064, email [wfp@wfp1995.org](mailto:wfp@wfp1995.org), or visit [wfp1995.org](http://wfp1995.org).

### Recycling Center seeking volunteers

The Wachusett Watershed Regional Recycling Center needs your help. Hours are Monday evenings, Tuesday mornings or Wednesday afternoons for 2-hour shifts and the third Saturday morning of the month. Regular

or occasional volunteers are welcome. For information or to volunteer, visit [wachusettearthday.org](http://wachusettearthday.org), or contact Colleen Abrams at 508-479-2123.

### Donate holiday gifts for veterans

The Hiram O. Taylor American Legion Post 189 is assembling Christmas boxes for local veterans living in assisted living and care facilities, and is seeking donations of clothing, lap blankets, books, toiletries, hats, gloves, socks, t-shirts, sweatshirts, stationary, and other items to make Christmas happier for dozens of deserving veterans. Donations of cash (enabling post members to shop for items) or items are gratefully accepted. Send donations to Hiram O. Taylor Post 189, P.O. Box 245, 32 School St., Sterling, MA 01564 (indicate Christmas Drive on check). Donated items can be delivered to 32 School St., Sterling, or call Russ Fitch at 978-870-6813.

### 2016 dog licensing begins in January

The New Year means new dog licenses. The Animal Control Board reminds dog owners that all dogs must be licensed according to local and state laws. The licensing period begins January 1. Residents over 70 are exempt from any dog licensing fee. Proof of rabies vaccination is required for dog licensing.



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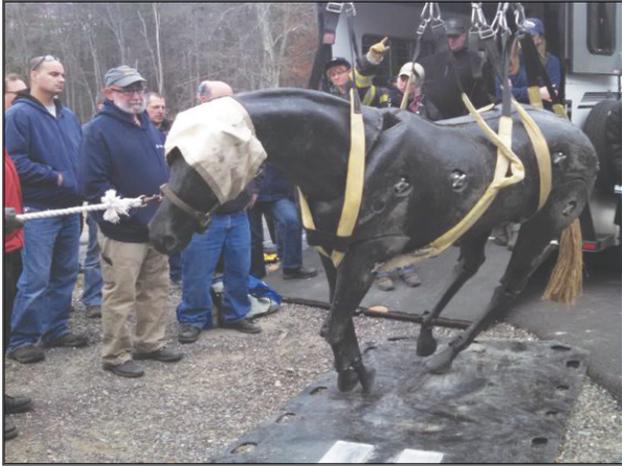
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# Large animal rescue resources available in Sterling



Contributed PHOTO

Lucky, the rescue horse model, being lifted in an Anderson sling from the Rescue Glide.

On Saturday, November 7, Sterling Animal Control Officer Louis Massa and Animal Control Advisory Board members Terri Sadler and Anne Marie Catalano attended a large animal training program taught by Roger Lauze, Equine Rescue and Training Coordinator from the MSPCA Nevins Farm. Lauze has worked for the MSPCA for

30 years and is internationally recognized as an expert in large animal rescue. Training covered key components of large animal rescue based on national standards. Several scenarios were presented for participant training, including rescuing a horse from a trailer accident and getting a downed horse out of a stall. The equipment used was the Rescue Glide, developed by the MSPCA and Chip Fisher. The glide is a backboard or stretcher for horses that allows the animal to be secured and then moved to a safe location. For rescues where the horse needs to be lifted up or down, the UC Davis Large Animal Lift and the Anderson sling were demonstrated. Due to the large number of horses stabled in Sterling, owners should be aware these rescue resources are locally available.

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## Toys for Tots collection underway

Sterling Police Chief Gary Chamberland has announced that the Sterling Police Department, together with the United States Marine Corps, is collecting new, unwrapped toys and check donations for the 2015 Toys for Tots campaign. Donations may be dropped off at the Sterling Police Station until December 14. Make checks payable to "Toys for Tots." For more information, call Toys for Tots coordinators Detective David Johnson or Officer Scott Johnson at 978-422-7331.

## Sterling gets a flag drop box



Contributed PHOTO

Sterling's flag drop box.

The Sterling Light Department replaced their payment drop box in October. In future, the box, which has been refitted by the Monty Tech welding class and auto body shop, will be used to fill the void of a service once provided by George Pape, a former SMLD commissioner, until his death last year. Pape collected discarded flags in order to properly dispose of them at a service provided by the American Legion Post 189. Pape took great pride in his country, having served in the USMC. The flag drop box presented in his memory is located in front of the Sterling Fire Department on Main Street.

## Jump to support a great cause

A fundraiser to benefit Houghton Elementary School will be held on Thursday, December 10, from 3 to 8 p.m., at Sky Zone Westborough, located at 290 Turnpike Road, Route 9, Westborough, Massachusetts. An indoor trampoline park, Sky Zone offers open jump, Foam Zone, 3-D dodgeball, and Sky Slam basketball courts. Suitable for all ages. Jump passes range from \$9 to \$23, and Sky Zone will donate 25 percent of revenue raised from the sale of jump passes to Houghton Elementary School. Jumpers are encouraged to guarantee their jump times by purchasing tickets in advance. For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit [skyzone.com/westborough](http://skyzone.com/westborough), or call 508-870-5867

## Entrance exams for Monty Tech's Practical Nursing Program

Those interested in enrolling in Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School's Practical Nursing Program for Fall 2016 are required to take the TEAS (Test of Essential Academic Skills) entrance exam. The exam will be given at the school from 6 to 10 p.m. on December 7, January 4, February 8, March 7 and 28, and April 25. For more information, visit [montytech.net](http://montytech.net). Applicants may register for the exam at [atitesting.com](http://atitesting.com)

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## Applewild School open house

The school will hold its Fall Open House on Saturday, November 21, at 1 p.m. The event will include student-led campus tours and hands-on class activities with Applewild teachers. Located at 120 Prospect St., Fitchburg. To pre-register for the open house, visit [applewild.org/open](http://applewild.org/open).

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**Business NEWS**

**Small business counseling available**

Free one-on-one counseling and technical assistance is available to entrepreneurs and existing businesses in North Central Massachusetts through a partnership between the North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce and the Massachusetts Small Business Development Center Network Central Regional Office at Clark University.

The MSBDC operates a satellite office at the North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce. Cheryl Miller, Senior Business Advisor from the MSBDC is available by appointment to meet with any prospective or existing small businesses at the Chamber office.

Services available include assistance with developing business plans, marketing plans, securing financing, cash flow, and other areas critical to ensure a successful venture. Clientele includes start-up, early stage, expanding and troubled businesses. The MSBDC also works with prospective buyers of businesses. All programs are offered at no charge, on a non-discriminatory basis, and are handicapped accessible.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 978-353-7600, ext. 222.

**Habitat for Humanity joins global #GivingTuesday movement**

Habitat for Humanity North Central Massachusetts has joined #GivingTuesday, a global day of giving that harnesses the collective power of individuals, communities and organizations to encourage philanthropy and celebrate generosity worldwide, and particularly in the north central region of Massachusetts.

Habitat NCM is hoping to raise \$2,500 toward the cost of insulating the insides of homes currently under construction on Central Street in Ayer. Habitat is seeking individual donations, as well as matching funds.

#GivingTuesday is held annually on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving. For more information or to donate, visit [ncmhabitat.org](http://ncmhabitat.org),

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## LOCAL HAPPENINGS

# Nutcracker carries on tradition

Continued from page 1

edge for future auditions and keeps the spirit of classical ballet alive for new generations.

PMD's The Nutcracker has evolved into a tradition not only for Meola and her dancers, but also for the community. "For a lot of people, their holiday season begins with our Nutcracker."

In addition to two public performances at Montachusett Regional Technical School, Meola hosts two free shows for local schools, a significant experience for the cast, as well as the audience. "It's rewarding to know that we touch so many lives outside of the people that dance here," she says. For many in the student audience, The Nutcracker marks their first theater and ballet experiences. Meola ensures the atmosphere is welcoming for the new audience. Cast members answer questions about the production and the audience is encouraged to participate by cheering for the Nutcracker and jeering the Mouse Queen.

In rehearsal, the dancers walk by a bulletin board displaying handwritten notes and drawings from the public and local students who attended last year's performances. This reminds cast members that the production reaches far beyond the theater walls. "We're providing something that means so much to the general public, and we sell every seat at Monty Tech," Meola says. Every seat filled means dancers have an audience of 4,000 over the four performances.

Every year, soon after the event, big manila envelopes stuffed with letters fill Meola's studio. Dancers gather together and read the heartfelt words of praise. "The Nut-

cracker gives the school a common thing to celebrate," Meola says, emphasizing that everyone—dancers, faculty, craftsmen, and parent volunteers—come together to put on the best show possible.

In the studio, Meola leads dancers as they shake shiny gold gift boxes, as if trying to figure out what's inside. If the excited expressions on the young dancers' faces are any indication of the high energy of the final performance, the audience is in for another spectacular show. "I'm grateful that my parents allowed me to experience performing in The Nutcracker when I was growing up," Meola says, "It creates good memories. I think our production will stay with our dancers for a long time."

Public performances December 5 and 6, 2 p.m., at Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School, 1050 Westminster St., Fitchburg. For tickets and more information, call 978-422-6989, or visit paulameoladance.com.



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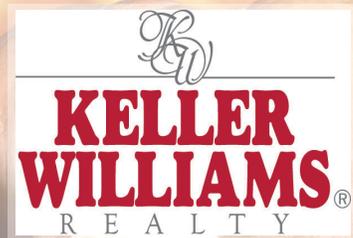
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## LOCAL HAPPENINGS

# Stitching together a holiday tradition

by Chelsea Dill



PHOTO by Chelsea Dill

Seamstress Cathie Ryan mends a tutu for the *Waltz of the Flowers*.

Working in her studio, seamstress Cathie Ryan is using 75 yards of tulle for the pastel-hued “Waltz of the Flowers” costumes for PMD’s *The Nutcracker*. She has bolts of fabric stacked on shelves and every sewing notion imaginable neatly organized around her workhorse sewing machines. For weeks, she has refitted and mended dozens of costumes for this year’s production. Costumes are displayed on dress forms, and she keeps the tulle specially earmarked for flowers, flowing skirts, and sashes, critically analyzing how each appliqué looks on child-sized bodices.

Every year, as the number of dancers in each produc-

tion grows, so do the number of costumes, already in the hundreds, that Ryan stitches. “Sometimes I just do alterations, sometimes I make a costume from the bottom up, and sometimes I have to make a copy of an older costume. That can be tricky because you have to find the right material,” says Ryan.

She became involved with the production when her own daughter danced in PMD’s *The Nutcracker*, and has been with the production team for the past 11 years. “We try to make something that looks really good on stage, but fits the budget,” she says. The Mouse Queen’s warrior garb and Clara’s dress are two of Ryan’s original designs still actively used in the show. Fabric choices are critical, since costumes must look good on stage, and allow dancers comfort and freedom of movement.

While working in her studio, she views each costume with the keen eye of a grand couturier, conscious of color, design, movement, and construction. Ensuring that tutus hang at just the right level, scaling the bow on the back of a sash, and adjusting each costume by mere inches to obtain an accurate fit, are just a few aspects of Ryan’s detailed sense of design.

As each costume is ready, Ryan is eager to see the dancer come alive as he or she tries it on for the first time. “I look for the smile on the dancer’s face,” she says. “That’s how I know I got it right.”

Clothes might make the person, but Ryan’s costumes make the dancers.

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### Holiday Tree Lighting

The Sterling Recreation Department will host the Holiday Tree Lighting at Memorial Park, behind the Sterling Fire Station on Sunday, December 5 at 3:30 p.m. Bring the family to enjoy holiday treats, a sing-along, hayrides, and a visit from Santa. Conant Public Library’s Children’s Librarian Angela Cote will read *The Night Before Christmas*.



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## LOCAL HAPPENINGS

# Local rescue dog walks the red carpet

by Jamie Chase Galvin

A local rescue dog named Nikita is somewhat of a celebrity around town. Nikita, who was originally rescued from Puerto Rico and placed at the Sterling Animal Shelter, recently found fame on the PBS series Shelter Me: Partners for Life and made his big screen debut at the Hanover Theatre in Worcester on October 20.

Nikita, or Niki for short, was initially placed at the Sterling Animal Shelter as a puppy in partnership with All Sato Rescue, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives, and reducing the numbers, of abandoned dogs in Puerto Rico. Nikita went on to partner with the Worcester County Sheriff's Office as an active and intelligent police dog.



Contributed PHOTO

(Left to right) Angela and Lt. Thomas Chabot, Sterling Animal Shelter Executive Director Leigh Grady with Nikita, Sheriff Lewis Evangelidis, External Affairs Director Kim Roy, and the show's producers.

"The sheriff's department had several dogs that were ready to retire and they were in need of a couple of new dogs to be trained to continue the services," says Sterling Animal Shelter Executive Director Leigh Grady. "When Lt. Tom Chabot contacted our shelter, I told him to come on down. We rescue puppies and dogs every week from different areas through partnerships that go back more than a decade. Tom came to the shelter, walked through the kennel, and something made him notice Niki."

Nikita was a perfect candidate and excelled as a police dog. "After Niki's eight weeks of training, on his first day on the job, he found heroin and narcotics that were being smuggled into the House of Corrections," says Grady. "About a year later, the Sheriff's Department had so much success with Niki that they came back to our shelter and we donated another dog, Jaxx, who was also a rescue from Puerto Rico."

Nikita's story, and his many wonderful qualities, captured the attention of the producer of Shelter Me: Partners for Life after reading a press release written by Kim Roy, Director of External Affairs at the Worcester County Sheriff's Office. Niki and his story were so positive and so unique that Roy's press release went national. Shelter Me producer Steven Latham contacted her about featuring Niki in an uplifting story about shelter pets.

A few weeks later, all of the hard work by the Sterling

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## LOCAL HAPPENINGS

Animal Shelter, the Worcester County Sheriff's Office, and Nikita himself, came together with the red carpet premiere of Nikita on the big screen.

For Grady, it was a surreal moment. "Seeing one of our dogs that was rescued from the cruel streets of Puerto Rico where he'd be destined to live a short sick life begging for scraps of food, walking the red carpet was super emotional for me and I pretty much cried through his entire segment on the big screen," she says, adding that Niki barked at all the right moments. "The audience really got a kick out of that and clapped for him."

Niki is still an active police dog and works currently all over central Massachusetts with public outreach, narcotics detection, vehicle stops where drugs are suspected, and educational outreach programs. Grady hopes Nikita's story will encourage anyone looking to adopt a pet to consider their local shelter. "People should always consider adopting a shelter pet," she says. "We take pride in the shelter and the care we give the animals and it shows. We always get great compliments about how happy our animals are, and our staff and volunteers are so friendly and welcoming. We are here to make lifelong matches with pets and families."

For more information about the Sterling Animal Shelter, located at 17 Laurelwood Road, Sterling, visit [sterlingshelter.org](http://sterlingshelter.org) or call (978) 422-8585.

### Time to renew your Wachusett Greenways membership

It's time to join or renew your membership with Wachusett Greenways for 2016. To join or renew your membership, visit [wachusettgreenways.org](http://wachusettgreenways.org) or send your contribution to Wachusett Greenways, P.O. Box 121, Holden, MA 01529. Memberships are \$30 per person, and \$40 per family. Every additional dollar contributed helps build and maintain more of the rail trail from Sterling to Barre.



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## LOCAL HAPPENINGS

### Chemical and paint collection

Wachusett Watershed Regional Recycle Center will hold a collection for a fee of chemicals and paints on Saturday, November 21, 8 a.m. to noon. Reuse, recycling, electronics and bulk items will also be accepted, some with fees.

Items accepted and offered free for reuse include sporting goods, crafts, containers, baskets, toys, bicycles, medical equipment, home goods and more. Currently, the Recycle Center is seeking sporting goods, pots and pans, silverware, wool yarn, and craft supplies.

Modest fees are charged for TVs, appliances, lawn mowers, furniture, rugs, toilets, sinks, mattresses, large children's toys, outdoor furniture, household project debris, car tires, and propane tanks.

No fee for paper, cardboard, glass, plastic, separated #6 styrofoam, metal cans, returnable bottles and cans, all batteries, mercury thermostats, thermometers, fluorescent tubes, bicycles, clothing, books, linens, small household goods, electronics, printers, and computer parts (except monitors, which have a fee). Visit [wachusettearthday.org](http://wachusettearthday.org) for updates, hours, and directions.

### Annual Holiday Greens Sale

The Sterling Garden Club's Annual Holiday Greens Sale will take place on Saturday, December 5, 9 to 11:30 a.m., at the Sterling Historical Society Barn, located on the corner of School and Maple streets. The barn will be filled with elegantly decorated wreaths, kissing balls, door swags, centerpieces, table arrangements, boxwood trees, mailbox swags, birch log bundles, and outdoor arrangements handmade by club members. Boxes filled with greens will also be available. Prices range from \$10 for birch log bundles to \$35 for a mailbox swag, with the average price around \$25. No two items are alike, but matching wreaths, kissing balls and door swags can be pre-ordered by calling Pat Thomas at 978-422-3566 by November 24.

Because only fresh-cut greens are used, an abundance of greens is needed. If you would like to donate greens, club members will trim shrubs and trees at your home and remove the trimmings. For more information on donating greens, call Pat Thomas at 978-422-3566 before November 24.

Proceeds from the sale support civic beautification projects in Sterling, education enrichment programs for students and other activities sponsored by the Sterling Garden Club.

### Boy Scouts Christmas tree sale

Boy Scouts Sterling Troop 1 will hold their 4th annual Christmas tree sale on Friday, December 4, 1 to 7 p.m.; Saturday, December 5, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Sunday, December 6, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Butterick Municipal Building, 1 Park St., Sterling. Fresh cut Nova Scotia balsam fir trees, wreaths, swags, and table decorations will be available.

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## SPECIAL FEATURE

# Gratitude is an attitude

by Susan West

Every year around Thanksgiving we reflect. We try especially to be grateful for all the good in our lives rather than dwelling on what might be missing. I like to think about the single thing I'm most grateful for and why.

The fathers I knew during the 1950s and 60s were a special bunch. They had to transition from an era of tough love and the authoritarian style of child rearing, to hippies and flower power busting at the seams a decade later. They learned to go with the flow while trying to provide guidance for their children. In a rapidly changing world, their love was steadfast.

My father was a good provider. He was a long-haul truck driver and teamster for 30 years, an auto mechanic who graduated from Boys Trade High School, and a self-taught carpenter and roofer. There wasn't much he couldn't do. He mended, repaired or built everything himself. He kept order in the home and made my mother the happiest woman alive. That's just the way it was.

My friends and I complained about the boys we dated when we came of age. Our dates didn't open car doors. Some girls were asked to split the meal tab and lamented over how hard it was to find a good dance partner. Newlywed friends were often dumbfounded that their husbands couldn't fix a leaky faucet or do an oil change. "Where are the men like dad?" we wondered.

I often ask my own husband where he was when his father was installing gutters on the garage or rewiring the kitchen. Had he ever refinished wood floors or cleaned lint out of the dryer vent? His father was a master electrician, but my husband hardly ever follows the wattage recommendation when he replaces a light bulb.

Some folks meet my husband and tell me how lucky I am and others ask how I put up with him. When it comes to attitude, it's all about attitude. You look more at the

good stuff and less at what's lacking.

Thanksgiving is a good time to make some adjustments in our thinking process.

Maybe my husband can't fix anything, but he did learn some valuable lessons from his father, like how to remove spiders from any room, anytime I need him to. He carries everything heavy without complaining and he always opens my car door for me. He helped raise two stepchildren, expenses and all, and he works hard at a stressful job while reminding me to have fun and treat myself to a day off every now and then. He makes us all very happy.

I'm grateful for our wonderful children that have grown up to be caring, talented adults, for living in a house that has become a home, and for enjoying a good life. But mostly, I'm grateful for the guy whose reward is sometimes only the biggest piece of chicken at dinnertime, and he feels that's enough.

Who are you most grateful for in your life? Take the time to thank them for all the good things they do and for being who they are. Remember why you chose to be with them in the first place. I like knowing that even if my husband doesn't expect it, ask for it, or even recognize it sometimes, I'm so grateful to have him in our lives. He may not be my dad, but I know he's got a plan and he's great in his own way.

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## Children's events at the library

There's fun for kids of all ages at Conant Public Library, located at 4 Meetinghouse Hill Road, Sterling. Call 978-422-6409 to register for programs.

**Drop-in craft** – Tuesday, November 24, from noon to 3 p.m. in the Children's Room. Fun turkey crafts. All ages welcome. No registration required.

**Milk and cookies storytime** – Thursday, December 10, 2 p.m., in the Baker Room. Grades K to 2. Enjoy delicious cookies and milk during this seasonally themed story hour.

**Children's matinee** – Tuesday, December 15, 1 p.m., Baker Room. Youth of all ages, accompanied by their caregiver, are invited to join us for two animated holiday classics, *The Snowman* and *A Charlie Brown Christmas*.

**Family movie night** – Tuesday, December 15, 6 p.m., Baker Room. *Minions*, the summer's hit animated comedy features the voice talents of Steve Carell, Sandra Bullock, Jon Hamm, Michael Keaton, and many others. Sure to be a laugh-filled night.

**Snowman storytime** – Wednesday, December 16, 10:30 a.m., for ages 18 months to 3 years, and Thursday, December 17, 2 p.m., for ages 3+. Baker Room.

## Adult coloring program

Conant Public Library is offering an adult coloring program. Discover the stress-reducing and relaxing benefits of coloring. Monday, November 30, at 6:30 p.m., in the Baker Room. No registration required.

## Classics Book Club

The Classics Book Club meets on the first Wednesday of every month, 1 p.m., in the Baker Room. Selection for the book club meeting on Wednesday, December 2, is *Go Set a Watchman* by Harper Lee, available at the library. No registration required.

## Holiday Cookie Swap

Conant Public Library will host a Holiday Cookie Swap on Thursday, December 10, at 6:30 p.m. Bake seven dozen of your favorite holiday cookies – one dozen to enjoy during the exchange and six dozen to everyone to take home. Call 978-422-6409 to register and let us know which type of cookie you plan to bring. Bring a large container to take home all your fresh, home-baked cookies.

## What's cooking at the Cookbook Club?

Conant Public Library's Cookbook Club will be making recipes from *The Complete Vegetarian Cookbook* by

America's Test Kitchen on Wednesday, December 16, at 6:30 p.m. Choose a recipe from this beautiful and healthy cookbook, prepare the dish, and bring it with you to the library for an evening of good food and great conversation. Cookbooks are available at the library for checkout. To register, call 978-422-6409.

## Contemporary Book Club

The Contemporary Book Club meets on the third Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m., in the Baker Room. Selection for the book club meeting on Thursday, December 17, is *The Art of Hearing Heartbeats* by Jan-Philipp Sendker, available at the library. No registration required.

## Fall fun with Sterling Rec

Sterling Rec has lots of great programs to help all ages to stay in shape throughout the festive season. For more information, visit [SterlingRec.com](http://SterlingRec.com) to learn more about all our programs and to register online, or call 978-422-3041, email [recreation@sterling-ma.gov](mailto:recreation@sterling-ma.gov), or stop by the office at 31 Main St., Sterling.

## Active Kids

**Kids Zumba/Yoga** – Grades 1 to 4. Thursdays, December 17 to January 21, 4 to 5 p.m. 1835 Town Hall. \$35/4-week session.

**Sterling Rec Basketball** – Grades 1 to 8. Season begins mid-November and ends February/March 2016. Grades 1 to 5, \$105. Grades 6 to 8, \$95 by November 24 or Eagle selection date, \$105 after. Family cap \$240. Coaches needed!

**After School Ski program** – Grades 3 to 12. Mondays, January 11 to February 29, 3:15 to 8 p.m. \$118/6-week pass, available at [Wachusett.com](http://Wachusett.com). Transportation \$80.

**Saturday Ski program** – Grades 3 to 12. Saturdays, January 9 to February 20, 8:15 a.m. to 3 p.m. \$220/7-week pass, available at [Wachusett.com](http://Wachusett.com).

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### Arts, Creativity and More

**Holiday Ornament and Card Making** – Grades 1 to 4. Mondays, December 7 and 14, 4 to 5:30 p.m. Houghton Elementary School. \$25.

### Active Adults and Teens at 1835 Town Hall

**Booty Barre** – Thursdays until January 7, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. \$13/class.

**Gentle Yoga** – Thursdays until January 14, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. \$13/class.

**Yoga for All** – Thursdays until January 14, 7 to 8 p.m. \$13/class.

### Pick-Up Basketball

**High School Pick-Up Basketball** – Grades 9 to 12. Mondays, December 7 to March 28, 7:15 to 8:30 p.m. Chocksett Middle School gym. \$25/season Sterling residents, \$30/season non-residents. Must be registered by parent or guardian if under 18.

**Men's Pick-Up Basketball** – Wednesdays, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Chocksett Middle School gym. \$25/season, Sterling residents only.

**Women's Pick-Up Basketball** – Mondays, 6 to 7:15 p.m. Chocksett Middle School gym. \$25/season Sterling residents, \$30/season non-residents.

### Naga Fitness with Gina at 1835 Town Hall

All classes are \$10 each or any 10 classes/\$90 paid in advance.

**Kettlebells** – Wednesdays, 7 to 8 p.m., and Saturdays 8 to 9:15 a.m.

**Power Yoga** – Saturdays 9:30 to 10:45 a.m.  
**Beginner/Intermediate Yoga** – Wednesdays, 5:30 to 6:45 p.m.

### GPS Passes

Season passes for Wachusett Mountain Ski Area. Ages 6+. Bronze: \$369, Silver: \$429, Gold: \$659. Group name: Sterling GPS, Coordinator: Kristen Dietel.

### Senior Center happenings

The Sterling Senior Center is located in the Butterick Municipal Building at 1 Park St. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Monday to Thursday, and 8:30 a.m. to noon on Friday. For more information or to register for programs call 978-422-3032. There is an answering machine available 24 hours a day.

We serve lunch every day at the Center. Anyone over 60 is welcome to come and eat. Call 978-422-8022 for a reservation the morning before you want to come. Home meal delivery available daily. \$3 suggested donation.

**Thanksgiving** – Thursday, November 26, and Friday November 27. Senior Center closed.

**Destress Your Life talk** – Monday, November 30, 12:30 p.m., by Sharon Nolli from Summit Elder Care. The holiday season is almost upon us. Learn how to take better care of yourself during this stressful time. Nolli will offer ideas about how to make healthy choices, laugh, socialize, be thankful, take care of yourself, exercise, and eat a healthy, mood-boosting diet.

**Movie** – Thursday, December 3, 1 p.m. Come for a holiday movie to start the month off with some holiday cheer.

**Senior breakfast at Chocksett School** – Friday, December 11, 8:45 to 10:30 a.m. A popular annual event, Chock-




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## Senior Center NEWS

sett students entertain seniors during a free breakfast. Call 978-422-6552 to sign up by Tuesday, December 8.

**Wachusett Area Rotary senior breakfast** – Saturday, December 12, 8:30 a.m., at The Manor Restaurant, 42 W. Boylston St., West Boylston. Reservations required. Call the Holden Senior Center at 508-210-5570.

**Christmas party** – Sunday, December 13, 1 p.m. 13th Annual Senior Center Christmas Party. Seasonal music by Roger Tinknell. Refreshments and gifts, and a visit from Santa.

**Veterans Aid and Attendance Benefit** – Monday, December 14, 12:30 p.m., presented by Comfort Zone Home Care. Many veterans are unaware of the eldercare benefits available. If you or your spouse is a veteran, come for this informational program.

### Every week:

**Monday**—Coffee hour, 9 a.m.; Senior Fitness, 10 a.m. Free. Sponsored by Oriol Health Care.

**Tuesday**—Game day, 12:15 p.m.

**Wednesday**—Computer class, 9 a.m. Chair yoga, 9:30 a.m., \$5 per class.

**Thursday**—Gentle yoga for strength and flexibility, 9 a.m., 1835 Town Hall. \$5 per class.

**Friday**—Pilates for Seniors, 9:30 a.m., bring a mat. \$5 per class.

### You have to see Kitchen Associates New Showroom! It is room after room of beautifully designed kitchens.

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## New senior center on track for spring opening



PHOTO by James Barbato

*Sterling's new Senior Center is expected to be ready for occupancy in early spring 2016.*

At the midway point of construction, the new senior center project is on time and on budget, according to Senior Center Building Committee Chair Maureen Cranson.

"Walls are up, and door framing, electricity, heat, and water are pretty well completed," she says. "The septic is close to being finished, and the area is ready for a base coat for the parking lot." Hydro seeding and basic landscaping will take place shortly thereafter, stabilizing the area for winter.

Cranson adds that as the building is pretty well "but-toned up," work will be able to proceed on the interior throughout the winter, regardless of weather conditions. Interior and exterior lighting, interior painting, and installation of flooring and kitchen equipment are expected to take place over the next month.

"At this point, we're ahead of the original timeline," says Cranson. She is hoping building occupancy will begin in February or March, followed by a "soft" opening in April, and a grand opening in May.

"I'm so excited to see this project come to fruition," she says. "Soon our seniors will have a bright space to enjoy the socialization, nutrition, and programming so very important to senior living, and the community will have another space to utilize for meetings and other events. The project should be a symbol of pride for Sterling. It's testimony that shows we care for those who have cared for us."

## Corrections

On page 17 of the November 7 issue, the date published for the Annual Holiday Greens Sale was incorrect. The correct date is Saturday, December 5.

On page 1 of the November 7 issue, the article "Sterling resident contends for Miss Massachusetts title" was incorrectly attributed to Chelsea Dill. The article was written by Lex Thomas.

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## Conant Public Library Arts & Crafts Show

The Friends of the Conant Public Library is holding its annual craft fair on Saturday, November 21, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the First Church in Sterling, 6 Meetinghouse Hill Road.

Crafters will offer a broad range of high-quality gift items, including photography, jewelry, glass beads, knitted and crocheted items, doll clothing, children's clothing, teddy bears, alpaca apparel and fiber, hand-dyed batik clothing, cards, handbags, dog collars, wood bowls and ornaments, blown glass, hand-painted glass ornaments, Victorian pinecones, wreaths, dish gardens, and watercolor paintings and cards. Event includes a lunch café, bake sale, and raffle. Proceeds from the fair support the library's Summer Reading Program for children.

## Craft & Greens Fair

Townsend Congregational Church, UCC, is holding its 14th Annual Holiday Craft & Greens Fair on Saturday, November 21, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at 3 Brookline St., Townsend, Massachusetts. Crafters, holiday greens, raffle baskets, bistro, Santa, and children's craft area.

## Holiday Farmers Market in Westminster

Looking to buy fresh and local for your holiday dinners, parties and gift giving? Westminster Farmers

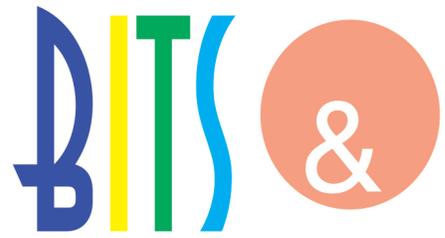
Market is holding a holiday market on Saturday, November 21, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the American Legion Hall, 127 Main St., Westminster. Come join the fun and stock up for the holidays.

## Small Works Holiday Marketplace

Hundreds of fine art and artisan-made, affordable gift items are available at Princeton Arts Society's 2015 Small Works Holiday Marketplace & Show. Friday, December 4, 6 to 9 p.m.; Saturday, December 5, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Friday December 11, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and Saturday, December 12, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. PAS Gallery, Princeton Center Building, 18 Boylston Ave., Princeton, Massachusetts. For more information, call 978-464-2051, email [PASMarketplace@gmail.com](mailto:PASMarketplace@gmail.com), or visit [PrincetonArts.org](http://PrincetonArts.org).

## Christmas Faire in Leominster

Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC, is holding a Christmas Faire on Saturday, December 5, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at 26 West St., Leominster. Wreaths, decor, gifts, a quilt raffle, Mrs. Claus's Attic, and a soup lunch served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Stop by enjoy the fair and lunch. Have your photo taken with Santa's elf while enjoying the Leominster Winter Stroll in downtown Leominster.



## Holiday Spectacular at Hanover Theatre

Several dancers from Sterling are part of 150 cast members of an upcoming production of The 5th Annual Holiday Spectacular at The Hanover Theatre for the Performing Arts in Worcester. The production, written and produced by Diane Kelley, owner of Diane Kelley Dance Studios, is about an elf named Snap who Santa dispatches to Worcester to make certain there is enough holiday spirit.

A great show for kids of all ages, "Holiday Spectacular" includes dancing gingerbread men, twirling snowflakes, a kick line of reindeer and Santa Claus

Performance is Saturday, December 5, at 6 p.m. Tickets \$23 to \$32, group discounts available. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit [thehanovertheatre.org](http://thehanovertheatre.org), or call 877-571-7469.

## Master Illusionist Lyn Dillies coming to area

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# PIECES...

of Lyn on Saturday, December 5, 7 p.m. at the Wachusett Regional High School Auditorium. Proceeds will benefit Wachusett DECA, a business club that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, hospitality, finance, and management, and the Britney Gengel DECA Scholarship. Tickets \$17 for adults, and \$10 for students and seniors, available at the school's main office, or contact [peter\\_crowley@wrsd.net](mailto:peter_crowley@wrsd.net).

## American Legion meeting

There will be a regular meeting of the Hiram O. Taylor Post 189 of the American Legion on Monday, December 7, 7:30 p.m., at the post hall, 32 School St., Sterling.

## Historical Society calendars make great gifts

Sterling Historical Society 2016 calendars are now available, Back in the Day and Images of Walley Pottery. \$10 each, at the Sterling Historical Society Museum, 7 Pine St., Sterling. Open Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to noon. For more information, email [loret.schur@gmail.com](mailto:loret.schur@gmail.com), or call the Museum at 978-422-6139. Mailing is available for a small additional fee.

## Nar-Anon support group

A Nar-Anon family support group meets every Thursday, from 7:15 to 8:30 p.m., at St. Richard's Downstairs Chapel, 4 Bridge St., Sterling. Nar-Anon is a 12-step group for family and friends of those addicted to drugs.

Holiday fair to benefit Houghton School.

The Houghton Elementary School PTO will hold its holiday fair on Saturday, December 12, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Houghton and Chocksett school cafeterias on Boutelle Road. gift items, concessions, raffles, homemade holiday cookies, and photos with Santa from 10 to 11 a.m.

## Meet Cacciatori



Contributed PHOTO

*Cacciatori*

Cacciatori is a 5-month-old all black male with big gold eyes and a winning personality. He is super playful and will want plenty of attention. He'll make a wonderful addition to any family. His veterinarian work is completely up to date. He's

leukemia negative, neutered, and has a microchip. The adoption fee is \$150. All cats are placed as indoors-only pets. For more information, or to schedule an appointment to meet Cacciatori or any of the kitties, email [Marilyn@neadycats.org](mailto:Marilyn@neadycats.org), or call 978-422-5116.

## Celebrate the holidays at NEADY Cats

The 14th Annual Lights of Love event will be held at the NEADY Cats shelter on Saturday, December 12, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The shelter is located at 305 Redemption Rock Trail South (Route 140) in Princeton near the Sterling line.

The public is invited to visit with the kitties. Your admission ticket is an item from the shelter's wish list, which is available at [neadycats.org](http://neadycats.org). Items include toy balls and furry mice, Purina Complete adult dry food, canned cat food (favorites are salmon, mixed grill, and ocean white fish), paper towels, and Temptations treats.

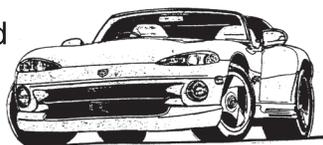
A special holiday tree will be decorated with Lights of Love. The ornaments (you provide pet's name) will be hung on the holiday tree when you order a light in honor or in memory of your pet. One hundred percent of your donation will go to the shelter kitties.

For more information, call Marilyn at 978-422-5116.

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Septic systems are maintained through preventative maintenance, such as septic pumping. When performed on a regular basis, pumping will protect the system and cost dramatically less than a repair or replacement. Without regular septic pumping, solids build up and enter the leaching field, which will lead to clogged pipes and system failure.