



# STREAMline

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VOLUME 2, ISSUE 4

MAY NEWSLETTER

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## Corrections

The March/April issue of the STREAMline Newsletter contained a typo. Our apologies to Senator Jennifer Flanagan as her name was entered incorrectly within one of the articles.

## This Month in STREAM...

The month of May started out with a trip to the Gardner Museum. What a wonderful place to visit. The trip brought us back in time with plenty of antique's on display for us to enjoy. Some of the old artifacts on exhibit were old firefighter equipment such as masks, hoses and fire hydrant's. After viewing the older, outdated items we all agreed that the new fire equipment is much better! We also saw some old gas stoves, an old punch clock from Simplex and many old pictures and chairs showing us what life was like back before our time. Everyone that went said they were excited to come back and see more.

Volunteering at outdoor locations started up again in May with the coming of the nicer, warmer weather. We went back to True North Holistic Center & Retreat located in Hubbardston, MA which is scheduled for every Tuesday from 10:00 am - 1:30 pm for the rest of the spring, summer and early fall. True North is a very beautiful place to go. We help keep it clean by raking leaves, picking up sticks and removing trash from the gorgeous manicured grounds. STREAM member Melissa C. says she likes the staff there, and she has lots of fun. John H. says it has a very peaceful atmosphere. True North is definitely one of the STREAM programs favorite places to volunteer at and we look forward to helping out this season! Another volunteer site and new to the STREAM program this year is the Gardner Municipal Golf Course. We help out by picking up stray golf balls along the tree line that their machine can not reach. We enjoy getting together with friends and helping others at the same time. What a great combination! In addition to the golf course and True North we also returned to the Wachusett Wildlife Sanctuary located in Princeton, MA. It is part of the Mass Audubon and yet another beautiful place to visit. In volunteering there, we help clear the trails of fallen debris. We also make sure that all of the trail markers are clear to see for

the visiting tourists and hikers. On our first visit back, the staff delivered some good news, they are in the process of making wheelchair accessible trails that should be completed within the next couple of weeks! Mike R., a STREAM member and frequent volunteer at this location, says "its kind of great to get fresh air and see the wildlife all while helping out."

The month of May brought back some favorite offsite activities and introduced some new volunteer sites, it also offered some new fun and educational classes in house as well. STREAM started a Writing Club, helping some members learn different styles and ways to write, including creating our very own fictional stories. What a great way to exercise our imaginations! We started out with a fun exercise writing a Mad Lib story about the Stream Program and it ended up being real funny! We all look forward to taking more of these classes. Another new addition to the curriculum was a Trash to Treasure group where we make things out of recyclable materials that we can then sell at the Farmers Market. So far we have made flowers out of empty toilet paper rolls, buttons, and old water bottles. We also made Cow Magnets out of flattened soda cans, googlie eyes and black with pink felt pieces. We also made piggy-banks out of two liter bottles and paper mache. A Drama Club group was also added per the request of some STREAM members. During the first class we learned and acted out short skits to get an idea of what Drama is all about. The second class we talked about the special sound effects and how music plays a big roll in Drama. It has been a lot of fun learning about acting.

With the arrival of the warmer weather, we have been going outdoors whenever possible for activities such as the Walking Club, Photography Class and Gardening Club. Everyone is enjoying

getting out into the fresh air. For Gardening, we transplanted some of our hearty vegetable plants into the ground. Our Gardening Club is doing a wonderful job watering, weeding and caring for these plants.

Some other activities that occurred during the month included a craft project in which we made hand held fans to keep us cool for the upcoming weather. We made them with tongue depressures and decorated paper. We also made our own cards for all the special women in our lives for Mothers Day. STREAM celebrated May Day by making our own "May Day baskets" to give to friends & family. Nichole L. said "It was fun", Denise C. said she enjoyed making them as well and Cheryl C. said "I think they are lovely." A Job Skills class was another new addition to the program. This new class is teaching us all there is to know about going on an interview for a job such as how to dress, cleanliness, appropriate language, behavior and most importantly to be punctual. We also learned when you can and cannot use your phone during work hours. There is a lot to learn and we look forward to it. Good luck to all of you seeking jobs!

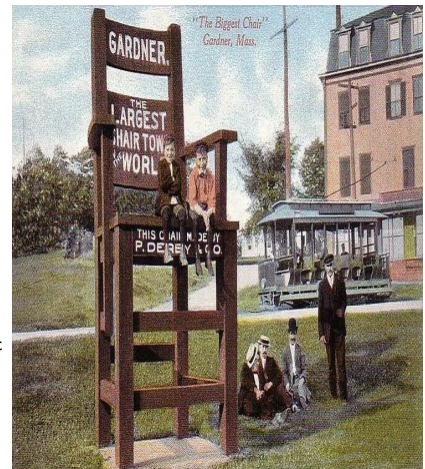
STREAM ended the month with a Pizza & a Movie day. On May 28, 2015, some STREAM members went to the Gardner Senior Center for pizza and a free movie. We had the option of buying pizza for \$3.00 or bringing our own lunch from home. The pizza choices were: plain, pepperoni or veggie. Staff member Lisa E. said that she really enjoyed the veggie pizza. After lunch was served we saw the movie called "The Blind Side" starring Sandra Bullock. It was based on a true story. Everyone enjoyed seeing the movie. We thanked the staff for inviting us and headed back to GAAMHA. May was certainly a great month for all!

## STREAMlining our Local History

This new History Class offered in the STREAM program has taught us all about the local history in our hometown of Gardner as well as the surrounding areas of Athol, Orange, Leominster, Fitchburg, and Winchendon. The picture located to the right of this article represents that Gardner is the "Chair City of the World". In 1976, The Big Chair was donated to the city of Gardner by the Gardner Rotary Club to celebrate the Bicentennial or 200th Anniversary. The town was named in honor of Col. Thomas Gardner who was born in 1724 and died July 3, 1775. He was an American Political figure and soldier. He was the second-highest ranking American Officer killed at the Battle of Bunker Hill. We also learned that Athol means "Pleasant Place" and it's known for making quality precision tools. This gave Athol the nickname "Tool Town". The town of Orange

was named after William, Prince of Orange. They had two big company's in town. One was a sewing machine company and the other was an automobile company. The City of Leominster was officially incorporated on July 4, 1740 and was a farming community in the 18th century but the economy quickly shifted into a manufacturing town because of the Fitchburg Railroad. The town of Winchendon was originally the country of the Pennacook Indians, and the Nipnet/Nipmuck Tribe. The company well known in town was Converse and it was known for their great variety of toys which gave Winchendon the nickname "Toy Town". The City of Fitchburg is named for John Fitch. It is situated on both the Nashua River and the Railroad Line. Originally operated by water power, large mills produced machines, tools, clothing, paper, and firearms. We loved learn-

ing all these interesting facts about our communities and hope you did too!

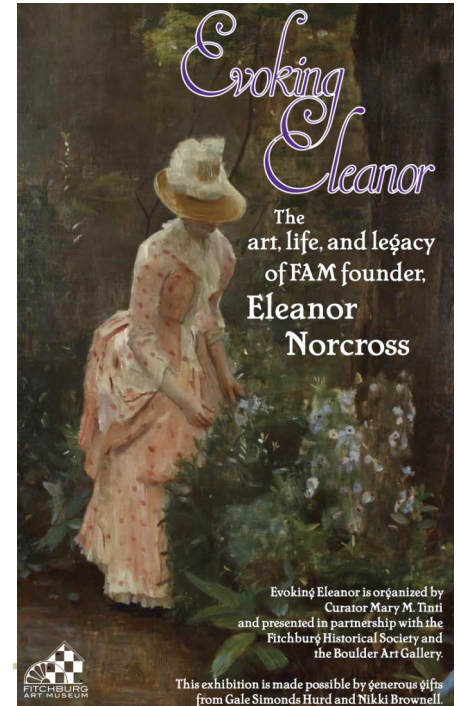


## What's New: Fitchburg Art Museum

This month they introduced a new exhibit on the third floor. It's all about the founder of this Museum, Eleanor Norcross and her father Amasa Norcross. Eleanor was born June 24, 1854 as Ella Augusta Norcross. She grew up in Fitchburg MA. Her father, Amasa, was a lawyer, the first Mayor of Fitchburg, a State Senator, and was eventually elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Eleanor's mother was Susan Wallis who was a school teacher in the Fitchburg area and during the Civil War she was a leader of the Ladies Soldiers Aid Society. Eleanor had a younger brother that died at the age of 3 in 1863 of scarlet fever and her mother died at the age of 38 in 1869 from consumption. Eleanor and

her father became very close and remained close throughout their lives. Eleanor was an American painter who studied under William Merritt Chase and Alfred Stevens. She lived most of her adult life in Paris, France as an artist and collector and spent the summers in her hometown of Fitchburg. Eleanor painted Impressionist style and Still Life works of art and is better known for her Genteel Interiors. When we walked around the exhibit, we felt like we were in a fancy home in Paris. It displays her beautiful art work along with some of her antique furniture. It is a wonderful exhibit and one that we recommend visiting.

Written by Curt G.



Pictured above are some of our **STREAM** volunteers hiking the trails at The Wachusett Wildlife Sanctuary in May. The program helps keep the trails clear of debris and ensures that they are clearly marked for future hikers.

### FRIDAY LUNCH CLUB'S BURGER KING VS MCDONALDS CHALLENGE

The Debate over McDonalds vs Burger King is over! The winner with 14 votes is McDonalds!!

Burger King got 6 votes.

The service was friendly at both places with McDonald's having faster service and taking the win!

Pictured below is the winner of the Burger King vs McDonald's challenge.



## Friday Lunch Club Review

The Restaurant of choice for the month of May was KFC-Taco Bell. John H said he bought some chicken, potato's with gravy, coleslaw and a chocolate chip cookie. He said "Its finger-licking good". Denise C. got the big chicken breast, mashed potato's with gravy and a chocolate chip cookie. She says "Overall, I thought it was really good except they didn't

have any Coffee!" Michael H. had 2 soft shell Taco's with lettuce, tomato's and sour cream. He said "On a scale from 1-10, it was a 10!!!" Barbara L. had one hard shelltaco, 2 soft shell taco's, and a chocolate chip cookie. She said "I give a rating of an 11!" Mike bought the \$5.00 meal deal which had chicken, mashed potato's, a biscuit, a drink and a

cookie. Curt had chicken nuggets, mashed potato's with gravy, coleslaw, a diet Coke & a chocolate chip cookie and raves that "It was out of this world!!!" Overall everyone agreed that KFC/ Taco Bell had it all, good food, great prices and fast, friendly service!! The STREAM program will definitely be returning to this location again soon!

## Upcoming Birthdays

- Travis M. - May 2
- Denise C. - May 6
- Glen S. - May 15
- Melissa C. - May 19
- Gray G. - May 20
- Cheryl C. - May 27
- Mark B. - June 3
- Kayla S. - June 18

## STREAM Word Search

P	W	Z	D	C	I	T	S	I	L	O	H	H	X
G	M	L	X	R	O	N	A	E	L	E	W	B	X
G	G	N	I	K	I	H	B	W	B	I	Y	U	E
S	S	S	M	T	S	C	E	O	G	T	X	S	F
G	O	L	A	P	I	C	I	N	U	M	O	I	I
O	Q	T	S	F	R	L	Y	Q	Z	S	R	R	L
L	B	H	R	N	G	W	A	Q	V	E	A	B	D
F	N	E	B	A	T	Z	Q	K	A	V	G	E	L
B	O	T	X	L	I	X	T	Y	H	P	P	D	I
A	B	X	D	D	F	L	B	F	P	Z	R	P	W
L	U	M	L	A	N	D	S	C	A	P	E	W	T
L	D	X	L	B	R	E	E	T	N	U	L	O	V
S	U	A	Z	H	T	R	O	N	E	U	R	T	X
Q	A	H	U	D	B	T	P	V	F	W	W	Y	F

AUDUBON  
DEBRIS  
ELEANOR  
GOLF BALLS  
HIKING  
HOLISTIC

LANDSCAPE  
MUNICIPAL  
TRAILS  
TRUE NORTH  
VOLUNTEER  
WILDLIFE