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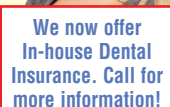
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Friday, September 17, 2021

# Tantasqua shows second-half improvement in loss to Spartans

UXBRIDGE — Although the first half of play for Tantasqua Regional's varsity field hockey team versus Uxbridge High was a little shaky, the Warriors performed at a much higher level once the second half started in a game played last Thursday, Sept. 9.

Tantasqua head coach Shelby Green used the five-minute halftime break to provide motivation for the team, and it seemed to have worked.



Nick Ethier

**Samantha Naples of Tantasqua tries to keep the ball away from an Uxbridge defender.**

"I think we played much better in the second half. I think the girls were able to connect a little bit better," she explained. "I think that there's definitely some things we need to work on, but I'm hopeful for our team this year."

The Warriors trailed at the half, 5-0, and were out-

Turn To **FIELD HOCKEY**, page **A17**

## Selectmen back renovating Senior Center

BY GUS STEEVES  
CORRESPONDENT

STURBRIDGE — A standing room only public hearing on the long-awaited senior center feasibility study was mostly focused on the pros and cons of one site, 70 Cedar St.

But when it was all done, the selectmen voted unanimously to support a different option – renovation and expansion of the current center at 480 Main St., despite initially saying they wouldn't make a decision that night.

The key arguments came mostly from Selectman Mary Dowling, who said, "Our current location has a lot of positive attributes," and the study showed its expansion can meet the senior community's needs going forward. Doing that, she added, "stands a good chance of passing" at Town Meeting, without triggering the opposition other sites have.

She specifically objected to some residents' proposals to look into buying privately-held parcels and restarting the analysis process, which has already been underway since 2015.

"I don't know how that's economically a more prudent course of action," she observed, noting it would only increase the total cost. The study estimated costs for its three proposals – renovate/expand 480 Main, or build anew at 70 Cedar or 80 Haynes – as being roughly equal, between \$9.7 - \$10 million. But to Dowling, either of the new sites would

Turn To **SENIOR CENTER**, page **A12**

## Ninth annual Shawna Shea Film Festival does a COVID merge of 2020 and 2021

STURBRIDGE — The 2021 Shawna Shea Film Festival (SSFF) will host indie filmmakers from around the world Sept. 21-25, Tuesday through Saturday, at the Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center, 366 Main St.

SSFF2021 will also host an afternoon of panel discussions relevant to filmmakers and movie lovers alike at the historic Publick House, 277 Main St. in Sturbridge, at 1 p.m. and at 3 p.m.

We're excited to present more than 50 locally

Turn To **FILM FESTIVAL**, page **A12**

# Federated Church Pumpkin Patch is back!

STURBRIDGE — Organizers at the Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale are busy putting the final touches on this year's Fourth Annual Pumpkin Patch Fundraiser, which is slated to open on Saturday, Sept. 25 on the front lawn of the church at 8 Maple St., Sturbridge.

According to committee chair Tom Mapplebeck, the annual fall event made its first appearance in 2018 as a fundraiser that benefits church operations and numerous regional ministries, with a significant benefit going to the Navajo Nation in Farmington, NM where Pumpkin Patch Fundraisers employs more than 700 Native Americans during the harvest months of September and October. They also have a full time off-season NM staff that is comprised of entirely Native Americans. This has a positive and lasting impact on a region with 42 percent unemployment.

Courtesy

(Right) Simone Germaine will demonstrate pumpkin carving on Saturday, Oct. 16 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.



ment.

"Now our Pumpkin Patch has become so popular that residents from Sturbridge and surrounding towns look forward to the arrival of the tractor trailer truck that delivers the pumpkins and gourds from New Mexico and the activities that follow throughout the month of October," Mapplebeck adds.

Once the pumpkins go on sale, volunteers from the Pumpkin Patch Committee and other church and community members will be on hand to assist with sales Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on weekends from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weather permitting. Masks may be required depending on current Massachusetts guidelines.

Mapplebeck says the committee would welcome volunteers from other local community groups to help unload the initial order of pumpkins when they arrive at 8 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 25. Additional volunteers are also needed to help

Turn To **PUMPKIN PATCH**, page **A12**



# Old Sturbridge Village hires Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility

STURBRIDGE — Old Sturbridge Village has hired Jasmin Rivas to fill a new position at the Village, as Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility. In this role, Rivas will work with the Village, as well as Old Sturbridge Academy and Coggeshall Farm Museum, to connect the stories being told through historical interpretation to the surrounding communities they serve.

Rivas was born in New Haven, Conn. and raised in Southbridge. She attended Michigan State University and later graduated with a bachelor's degree from Worcester State University, as the first person in her family to go to college. She later got her MFA in Creative Writing from Bay Path University.

Rivas' career has included time as a reporter with the Southbridge Evening News, a Victim/Witness Advocate and Forensic Interviewer with the Worcester County District Attorney's Office, and a Program Coordinator for the Voices With Choices Program. She has also worked in the Southbridge Public Schools as a Family Liaison and District Coordinator.

She joined the Board for the Old Sturbridge Village Academy after seeing the passion and commitment of the work being done there. In this new role, she hopes to help the Village, Farm, and Academy grow and learn about the people, culture, food, language and beauty within the community – and open up access and opportunity for new groups to engage with the experiences being offered.

"I want to help others understand that creating diversity, equity, inclusion and access enriches us all. That we are better when we share spaces and opportunities with others who are different than ourselves," says Jasmin Rivas. "I also hope that at the end of the day, we learn that we really aren't that different after all."

"We are thrilled to welcome Jasmin onto the Old Sturbridge Village team," says James Donahue, President of Old Sturbridge Village. "We believe that by incorporating this new position, we can further support DEIA strategies and implementation for long term transformation at the museum. We look for-



Jasmin Rivas

Courtesy

ward to Jasmin's vision and fresh approach."

To learn more about the mission of Old Sturbridge Village, visit: <https://www.osv.org/about/mission-narrative/>.

## Upcoming events at the Joshua Hyde Library

STURBRIDGE — The Joshua Hyde Library, 306 Main St., Sturbridge, is pleased to announce the following upcoming programs.

Friday, Sept. 17: Drop-in Story time. Join us on the library front lawn for stories, songs, rhymes and a take-and-make craft. All ages welcome with adult partner. Only held if weather permits. Sponsored by the Friends of JHL. 10:45 a.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 21: Drop-in Story time. Join us on the library front lawn for stories, songs, rhymes and a take-and-make craft. All ages welcome with adult partner. Only held if weather permits. Sponsored by the Friends of JHL. 10:45 a.m.

Friday, Sept. 24: Drop-in Story time. Join us on the library front lawn for stories, songs, rhymes and a take-and-make craft. All ages welcome with adult partner. Only held if weather permits. Sponsored by the Friends of JHL. 10:45 a.m.


Saturday, Sept. 25: Fish & Chips Story Time! Join us for fishy stories, songs, craft, and a snack! All ages welcome with adult partner. Pre-registration is required. Free. Sponsored by the Friends of JHL. 11 a.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 28: Drop-in Story time. Join us on the library front lawn for stories, songs, rhymes and a take-and-make craft. All ages welcome with adult partner. Weather permitting only. Sponsored by the Friends of JHL. 10:45 a.m.

## Joshua Hyde Library welcomes author Ted Reinstein

STURBRIDGE — The Joshua Hyde Public Library and the Friends of JHPL are pleased to welcome Ted Reinstein for an author event on Tuesday, Oct. 5 where he will present his book, "Before Brooklyn: The Unsung Heroes Who Helped Break Baseball's Color Barrier." Join us at





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at 7 p.m. at the Senior Center, located at 480 Main St. in Sturbridge, as the author speaks about a story of heroes who fought segregation in baseball—from communist newspaper reporters to the Pullman porters who saw to it that black newspapers supporting integration in professional sports reached homes of blacks throughout the country.

Ted Reinstein has been a reporter for "Chronicle," WCVB-TV/Boston's award-winning—and America's longest-running, locally-produced—nightly news magazine since 1997. In addition, he has been a contributor for the station's political roundtable show and sits on WCVB's editorial board. He is also the author of "New England Notebook" (Globe, 2013) and "Wicked Pissed" (Globe, 2016).

Sponsored by the Friends of Joshua Hyde Public Library. This is part of the You Belong Here initiative and all are welcome. Registration is required prior to the event date and is per person.

To register for this event, or for more information on this event or any other event, please visit our website at [www.sturbridgelibrary.org](http://www.sturbridgelibrary.org) or on Facebook @sturbridgelibrary.

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# 19-year-old from Southbridge youngest graduate at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy

CHARLTON — The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a mental and physical toll on many healthcare heroes and yet, Angeley Santa, 19 years old from Southbridge, is now an LPN (Licensed Practical Nurse).

In a message to Gretheline Bolandrino, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN Academy Director, Santa shared that she “passed my test!” which is the NCLEX-PN (National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nursing) and that she is grateful to the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, stating “Thank you for all your help throughout this journey!”

Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy graduate, Angeley Santa, credits her parents for her success. Her mother Susan Torres (Susie) is a PCA.

Santa said, “My mother has always been interested in the health field; she previously completed CNA and phlebotomy programs, but she devotes most of her time to taking care of her family, so she really never finds the time to go back to school.”

Her father, Juan Santa, Jr. (known to family and friends as Al), graduated from Bay Path’s Automotive program in 1990 and owns Al’s Automotive in Southbridge. Although both Susie and Al were born in the USA, he in Massachusetts and she in Connecticut, both trace their heritage back to Puerto Rico. Angeley proudly wore a Puerto Rico stole during graduation.

Lovingly, Al and Susie wrote to their daughter Angeley, who “started school at Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School and began to explore the shops they had to offer. Angeley has always been driven towards fashion and I had a feeling that she would automatically sign up for Cosmetology (it was one of her top choices); however, after finishing exploratory we were very surprised to hear that she wanted Health Tech as her shop of choice. Angeley did very well in her class and went on to tell us that she wanted to continue in the health field but was not sure which way to go. Shortly after, Angeley applied to several colleges but still was confused about what she wanted to do until she heard of the nursing program at Bay Path. Angeley was very determined to get into this program and planned out how she would be



able to juggle this fast-paced course, along with her job and social life, but Angeley is one to set goals for herself and is very organized and determined. Angeley was able to get into the nursing program at Bay Path and it was a lot of hard work, but Angeley was able to complete the course. Angeley just graduated nursing school on June 25, 2021, and on September 3, 2021, Angeley took her NCLEX and passed! Angeley became an LPN at the young age of 19 and we couldn’t be any prouder!”

While a student at Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School’s Health Technology program, Santa was inducted into the National Honor Society. She participated in SkillsUSA and was a member of the Steering Committee. As a Health Technology Trade student, her impressive clinical experience line-up included Webster Manor, Accord Eldercare, All Saints Academy, St. Anne Elementary

School (all of Webster), the Goddard School (Auburn), Radius Healthcare, and Harrington Memorial Hospital (both of Southbridge), and the Overlook (Charlton).

While a student at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, Santa became certified in Mental Health First Aid, certified in Dementia Care with the distinction of obtaining 94 percent which is the highest score for the class of 2021. She was an attendee for the COVID-19 Contact Tracing at Johns Hopkins University. She was a judge for the SkillsUSA State competition and a member of the Admissions Panel. All while maintaining employment at Harrington Memorial Hospital as a Dietary Aide. She participated in Clinical observation at the Wound Clinic in Charlton and spent two days as a School Nurse at Bay Path

RVTHS. Most recently became certified in Infusion Therapy/ Central Line Care Program through the Intravenous Edu.

Santa graduated from the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy at 19-years-old, one of the youngest ever to do it.

She has been accepted to the Quinsigamond Community College Advanced Placement LPN and nothing will stop her from making a difference in this pandemic, one patient at a time.

## STURBRIDGE VILLAGER

### ACCURACY WATCH

The Sturbridge Villager is committed to accuracy in all its news reports. Although numerous safeguards are in place to ensure accurate reporting, mistakes can occur.

Confirmed fact errors will be corrected at the top right hand corner of page 3 in a timely manner.

If you find a mistake, call (508) 909-4106 or email [news@stonebridgepress.com](mailto:news@stonebridgepress.com). news during normal business hours. During non-business hours, leave a message in the editor’s voice mailbox. The editor will return your phone call.

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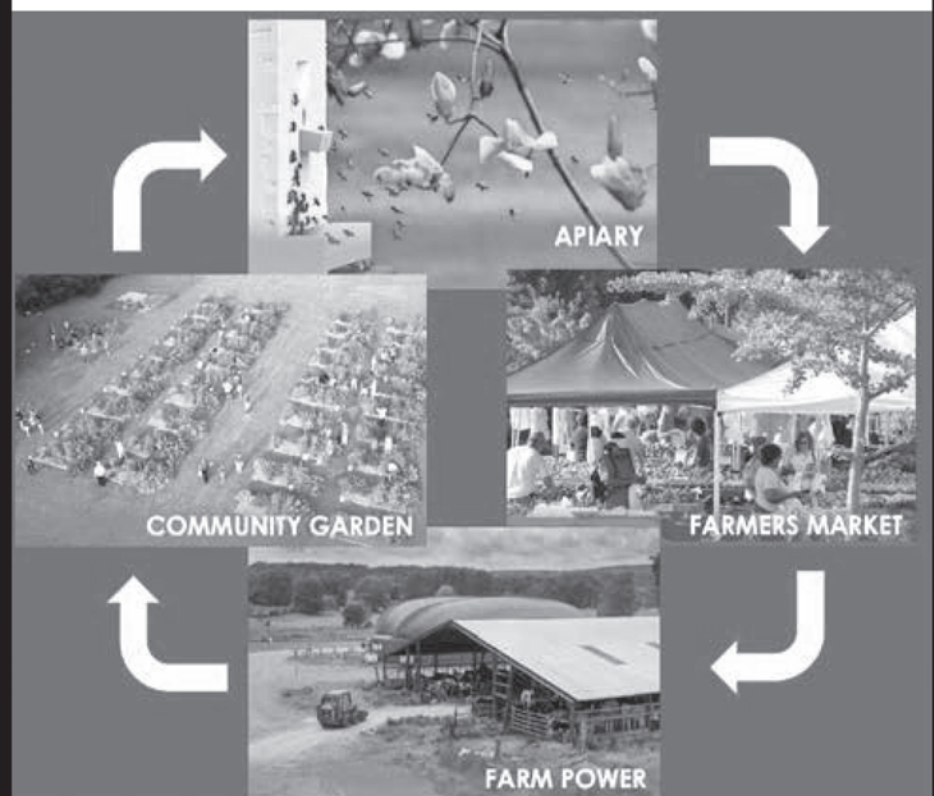
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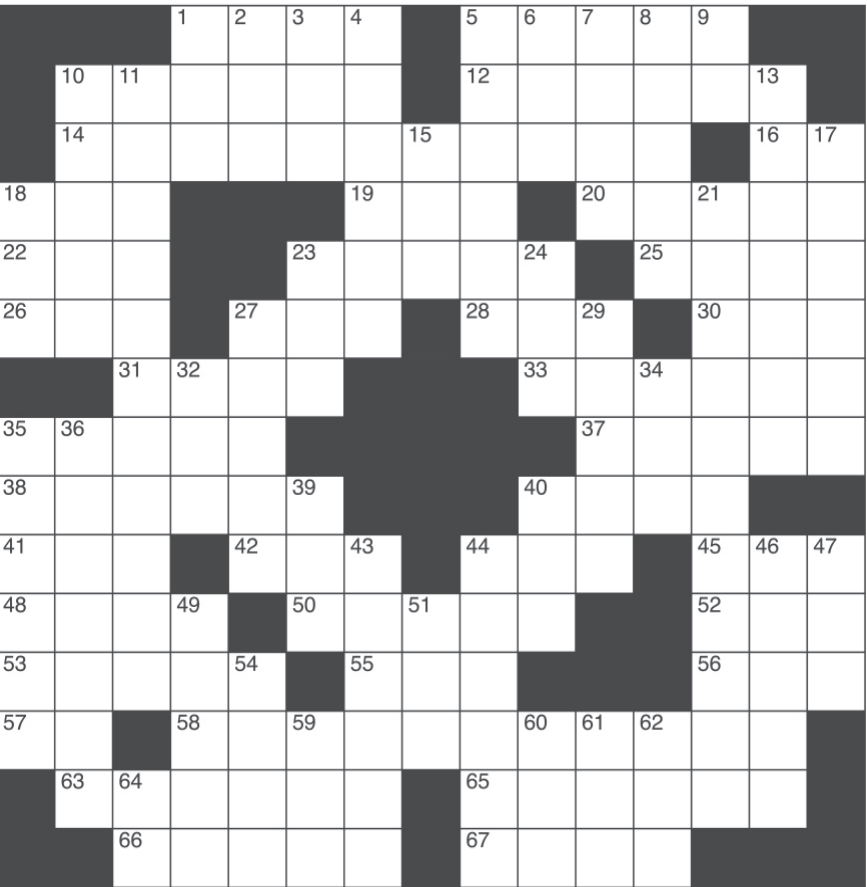


# Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Mass. & Metrowest hire new Chief Executive Officer

WORCESTER — The Board of Directors of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Mass & Metrowest is pleased to announce the appointment of Connie Askin as its new CEO, effective Sept. 7. Connie earned an MBA from Olin Graduate School of Business and spent her undergrad years at Harvard University. She has held senior level positions in both business and non-profit organizations, including City Year and Year Up. Margaret Sullivan, Chairperson



Courtesy



CLUES ACROSS

1. Religion native to some in China

5. Nursemaids

10. Coats a porous surface

12. Garment of long cloth

14. Containing a broader message

16. University of Dayton

18. Patti Hearst’s captors

19. Insane

20. Bristlelike structures in invertebrates

22. Taxi

23. Trainee

25. Comedian Carvey

26. Some couples say it

27. Belong to he

28. High schoolers’ test

30. Young goat

31. You drive on one

33. Denotes a time long ago

35. Space between two surfaces
37. By and by

38. A way to sell

40. A line left by the passage of something

41. Indicates near

42. Where wrestlers compete

44. Prosecutors

45. Body part

48. Soluble ribonucleic acid

50. Indicates silence

52. NFL’s Newton

53. Ancient Roman garments

55. Drunkard

56. Expression of satisfaction

57. Thus

58. Noisy viper

63. Plants of a particular region

65. Communicated with

66. Latches a window

67. Swarm with

CLUES DOWN

1. Split pulses

2. Brew

3. Ask humbly

4. Distinctive smells

5. Digressions

6. Partner to cheese

7. Father of Araethyrea

8. Made a cavity

9. Tin

10. Appetizer

11. Presenting in detail

13. Compound in guano and fish scales

15. Cool!

17. “\_\_ than a doornail”

18. Popular literary form \_\_ fi

21. Be the most remarkable

23. “Final Fantasy” universe character

24. Buffer solution

27. Muslim physician using traditional remedies
29. Fantastical planet

32. S. American plant

34. Domesticated animal

35. The tops of mountains

36. Expression of disapproval

39. Skeletal muscle

40. Game show host Sajak

43. One’s interests

44. Identify the existence of

46. Partner to “oohed”

47. Does not accept medical help (abbr.)

49. Hammerin’ Hank

51. Lowest point of a ridge between two peaks

54. Elaborately draped garment

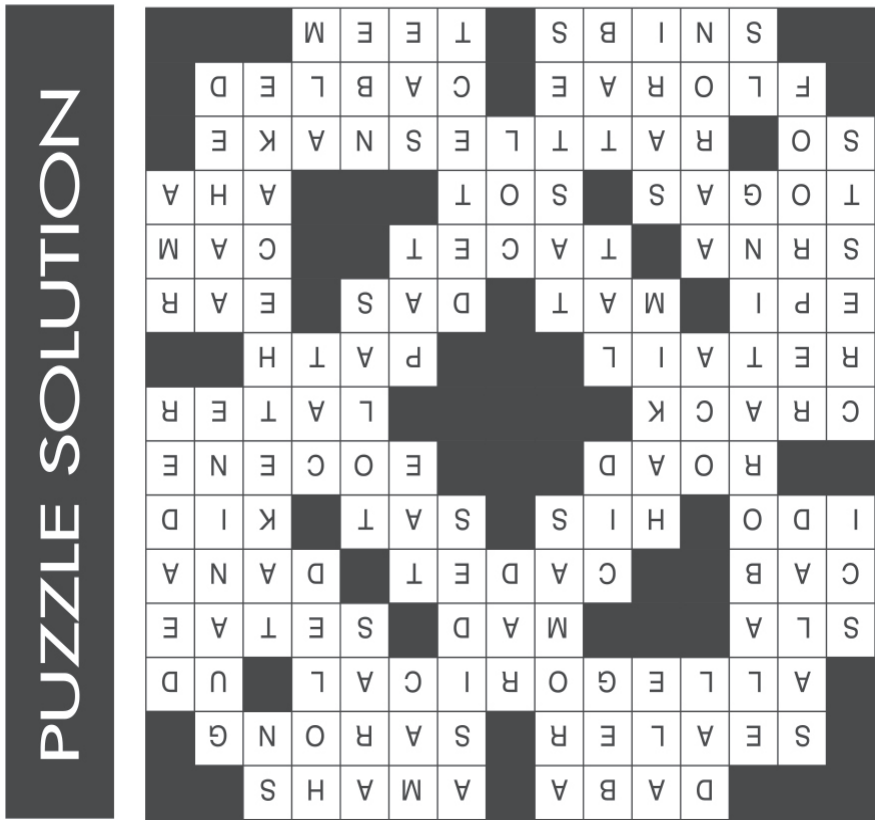
59. Check

60. Car mechanics group

61. One point east (clockwise) of due north

62. Austrian river

64. A command to list files



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Connie Askin of the Hiring Committee, said “Connie is a mission-driven leader who embraces our goal of “providing children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one relationships that change lives for the BETTER, FOREVER”.

Connie said “The past year and a half has been so challenging for children and families. As a relentless believer in silver-linings, I am excited to be part of a team that is actively helping alleviate some of that stress by matching caring adults and children in our communities who will benefit from this kind of actionable optimism.”

Jack Hoehlein, Chairman of the Board of Directors, said “everyone who has had the opportunity to meet with Connie has great confidence that Connie’s demeanor and prior business experience including high level positions with nonprofit agencies will serve the staff, Bigs/Littles and all stakeholders very well! In addition, he said “Connie’s extensive fundraising experience will be invaluable to reaching our goal of reducing or eliminating the wait list for “Bigs” by generating more revenues to increase the number of matches of mentors to mentees from approximately 1,000 to 1,500 over the next two years.”

About Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Mass & MetroWest

The mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Mass & MetroWest is to create professionally supported mentoring relationships, empowering youth to realize their potential and build brighter futures. Children’s lives are enhanced when they have a mentor in their lives to celebrate their successes. To learn more about Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Mass & Metrowest, please visit [www.bbbscm.org](http://www.bbbscm.org).

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**Making sure  
“every household gets a fair share”**

**BY GUS STEEVES**  
CORRESPONDENT

REGION – In an era when most of the economic talk is about austerity, some are willing to argue that there really is enough for everyone. The problem is that it's not at all distributed equally.

That was the gist of a Yes! Magazine forum last week online, which drew attendees from all over the nation to hear Chan Phap Dung, Chuck Collins and Stan Cox talk about how to do it right.

For Cox, one of the biggest parts of sustainability is energy rationing. He noted the United States' per capita consumption is now about 9,000 kilowatts, but he's proposing a "ceiling" of about 1300 KW – roughly what Cuba or Jamaica use. Done right, he argued, "every household gets a fair share."

He didn't state this, but federal Energy Information Agency statistics (U.S. electricity flow, 2018 (eia.gov)) show that a vast quantity of the energy is actually wasted, even just taking electricity generation into account. In 2018, the US used 38.8 quadrillion BTUs of fuel (mostly fossil fuels) to generate electricity, with 23.8 quadrillion BTUs of that being "conversion losses" (mostly heat) and another 0.94 quadrillion BTUs lost in transmission. Just 13.4 quadrillion BTUs makes it to end users (who often waste it in some way, too).

"There's a very steep reduction we have to make in emissions and in use of oil, gas and coal," Cox observed, saying there need to be "statutory declining caps" on energy use. "...We are not going to create a new society like this one without those fossil fuels."

Although Cox feels “technical details need to be worked out,” he said it can be done without “power cutoffs.” Electricity is not as big an issue as is “dealing with the loss of liquid, solid and gaseous fuels,” which will probably require nationalizing the fossil fuel industry, replacing private energy corporations with public cooperatives, and large-scale land redistribution, he said.

Collins agreed, quoting Gandhi by saying "there's enough for everyone's need, but not for everyone's greed." He sees the need to address the fact that about \$30 trillion is being held in off-shore tax havens. Collins is not a poor man; he is himself a millionaire, but makes his living advising younger generations of wealthy families how to "be a good ancestor."

"The wealthy people I've been talking to are surrounded... by the mythology of scarcity, even among the wealthy," Collins said, noting in many cases their wealth prevents them from having a connection to community. Some younger people inheriting fortunes want to use the money to fix problems and promote greater equality, he added.

To Chan, a Buddhist monk in San Diego, many people today “have a sense of lack” and an “unhappiness that creates a consumptuous filling-up of the lack” in both capitalist and communist cultures. He sees that as a “spiritual crisis,” and noted the COP-21 climate change conference was the first to include discussion of the spiritual impact of the changes Earth faces.

Although he agreed with Cox's point about rationing, he argued it needs to happen in conjunction with a widespread conversation about "purpose." "Not everyone will want to share," Chan said, but many are "waking up

to the idea there's a cost to everything" and that "all things have a toxic effect somewhere."

"We need to revisit what is true security," he said. To him, that's participating in "the simple joys of being alive," not in having larger homes, which only require more security cameras.

"Even the wealthiest in our culture don't feel they have enough," Collins said, noting encouraging them to be good ancestors helps counter that. "There's a hunger for community around redistribution."

As an example, he said there really is no housing shortage in the US, “but we have a housing distribution crisis” caused largely by “speculative investment, gentrification, [and] people buying three houses before some people have one.” In general, Collins argued, “A grotesque imbalance of income and wealth... is driving the social and ecological crisis,” and solving it needs to include taxing the wealthy and moving the money to people who need it.

Cox said he thinks effectively addressing the ecological and climate emergency will create conditions “under which capitalism can’t survive. The economy will stop growing, either because of catastrophic world events or because we take control of it.”

Chan agreed, saying we need to start questioning the need for constant growth and learn to cherish what we have. That can be difficult, because “we love sweets, we love stimulation,” and rampant advertising plays on that.

"Maybe we're a little bit overgrown as a country and recession is a good thing," he said.

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

*Historical Society  
to meet Sept. 23*

STURBRIDGE — The Sturbridge Historical Society will hold its first program of the 2021-2022 season on Thursday, Sept. 23 at 7 p.m. at The Publick House Historical Inn on the Sturbridge Common.

The guest speaker will be Tom Kelleher, Museum Historian and Curator of Mechanical Arts at The Old Sturbridge Village. Kelleher's talk will be on How The Old Sturbridge Village came to be.

He will tell the story of its founding and early years illustrated with power point slides. Old Sturbridge Village is the largest outdoor historical museum in New England and is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year.

In his role at The Old Sturbridge Village, Kelleher has worn many

hats both literally and figuratively for many years and has taught and demonstrated at museums and historical societies around the country. He holds a Master's degree in history from The University of Connecticut and has written for a variety of magazines and journals including *Early American Life*.

Historical meetings are free of charge with dessert and meeting room provided by Michael Glick, Publick House Innkeeper.

Society annual dues are \$10 which helps support the cost of the speakers. Meetings are held September through May on the fourth Thursday of the month except November and December. November's meeting is held the first Thursday in December. All meetings start at 7 p.m.

# Class of 2025 enrolls at Nichols College

DUDLEY — Nichols College has welcomed the newest members of our herd, the class of 2025.

Eric Desorcy of Wales  
Michael Peloza of Brimfield  
About Nichols College

Nichols College is a college of choice for business and leadership education as a result of its distinctive career-focused and leadership-based approaches to learning, both in and out of the classroom, and through impactful research and

professional education. Students thrive in a learning and living environment that is supported by an experiential business curriculum and a strong liberal arts foundation aimed at transforming them into tomorrow's leaders. Nichols also offers master's degrees in business, leadership, accounting, and counterterrorism, as well as a range of certificate programs, to promote career advancement for today's professionals.

# Ruth Wells Center for the Arts to host live exhibit

**SOUTHBIDGE** — The Ruth Wells Center for the Arts, also known as the Quinebaug Valley Council for the Arts and Humanities, will host a live art exhibit Sept. 18-Oct. 17 at their gallery at 111 Main St., Southbridge.

Gallery hours will vary, so call 508-764-3341 for information. The Ruth Wells Center is very excited to feature a variety of local artists after a Covid-induced period of isolation. The exhibit will include photos, oils, acrylic and watercolor pieces. Many will be offered for sale. The Ruth Wells Center for the Arts is located in the historic Ammidown house donated by Ruth Wells in 1978 to establish a culture corner in

Southbridge. A well attended Kids Arts Camp was held last month, a drawing class is held weekly, as well as an informal painting group. Call the Center for more information.

An ongoing art and craft sale may be found at the website, [ruthwellscenter.com](http://ruthwellscenter.com). The Ruth Wells Center Facebook page offers current events and information, videos and photos, and new members are always welcome.

Do plan to visit the gallery- the works displayed will bring joy and contemplation to a world that sorely needs beauty and peace. Call 508-764-3341 and your call will be returned in a timely fashion.

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# Friday's Child

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Photo by Kathryn Morgan

**Hi! Our names are Nacari and Nikira and we want to be adopted together!**

Nikira and Nacari are siblings of African-American descent who are looking forward to finding their forever home together! Nikira is a likable and friendly girl who gets along well with both adults and her peers. Her favorite activities include yoga, cooking, singing, dancing, and painting. She also enjoys going to church and loves being a part of her Girl Scouts troop. When she grows up, Nikira would like to be a teacher because she enjoys reading on her own and to others. Nikira is on the Autism spectrum, and her teachers describe her as intelligent, talkative, and able to follow directions and form relationships with others.

Nacari describes himself as shy, quiet, likable and well-behaved. Others describe him as a sweet, smart and loving boy. His favorite activities include playing basketball and video games. Nacari is on the Autism spectrum and interacts well with his peers. Nacari does well in class with extra supports and loves going to school.

Nikira and Nacari will do best in a loving but strong family that is able to provide the siblings with support and set appropriate limits and boundaries. Their social worker is open to exploring homes with a mother and a father, two mothers, or a single mother. The siblings will do best in a home where they can be the youngest or only children. Nikira and Nacari are legally freed for adoption.

**Who Can Adopt?**

Can you provide the guidance, love and stability that a child needs? If you're at least 18 years old, have a stable source of income, and room in your heart, you may be a perfect match to adopt a waiting child. Adoptive parents can be single, married, or partnered; experienced or not; renters or homeowners; LGBTQ singles and couples.

The process to adopt a child from foster care requires training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you, and if so, to help connect you with a child or sibling group that your family will be a good match for.

To learn more about adoption from foster care, call the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) at 617-964-6273 or visit [www.mareinc.org](http://www.mareinc.org). The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have a permanent place to call home.

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# Town officials continue single tax rate trend

BY GUS STEEVES  
CORRESPONDENT

STURBRIDGE — Selectmen unanimously voted to continue the town's policy of having a single tax rate last week, making it one of the first area towns to do so this fall.

According to Chief Assessor Ann Murphy, the fiscal 2022 rate will be \$19.27, an increase of 25 cents over last year's rate. But homeowners will see a bigger hike in their actual

taxes than that suggests, as investors and corporate interests bid up home values nationwide.

In Sturbridge specifically, the average home value is rising from \$264,300 to \$286,300, with a tax hike of about \$490.

Part of this year's rate is the fact the town is using \$632,000 of its American Rescue Plan Act funding "just to close the gap" in tax income lost due to Covid, Town

Administrator Jeff Bridges said.

By doing that, he said, "we're not digging a hole and the tax rate's not really escalating."

Finance Director Barbara Barry noted the town has received \$1.4 million in ARPA money so far, and should get a second tranche of the same amount next summer. Under the law, towns can use up to 4.1 percent to cover lost revenue, but Sturbridge's total was just 2.16 percent.

The rest of the funding is discretionary, with some restrictions. For example, it can be used on infrastructure projects that include water and sewer improvements, or it's available for towns to help local businesses, among other things.

Having the extra \$800,000 available "opens up a lot of doors," Bridges said.

During her regular annual presentation, abbreviated due to the selectmen's long agenda, Murphy said Sturbridge has 4231 residential and 787 commercial/industrial prop-

erties. As they do every year, the selectmen vote not on the rate itself, but on whether to split it between the two major groups. (Sturbridge once did that, but has not for years; in our area, only Auburn and Worcester still split them.) Additionally, they vote on three potential exemptions: an open space discount of up to 25 percent, a residential discount of up to 35 percent; and a small commercial exemption of up to 10 percent. They rejected all three.

Murphy said all of the privately-held open space in town now is "already getting a substantial discount" by participating in some aspect of Chapter 61/61A as agricultural, timber or recreational land. Regarding the commercial exemption, she said the break goes to "the person who owns the property, not the small business," and the town has no way of telling whether such landlords pass the break on to their tenants.

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

## Imagine 2050: A Vision for Central Massachusetts

WORCESTER — The Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) is excited to announce the launch of "Imagine 2050: A Vision for Central Massachusetts." A region-wide comprehensive planning initiative, "Imagine 2050" will establish long-range strategies for the 40-community region. Working with residents, business owners, governments, and institutional partners, CMRPC will facilitate development of the community-driven plan. The project aims to identify the resources, problems, possibilities, and needs of the region; these findings will inform a plan to improve the welfare and prosperity of those who live, work, and visit Central Massachusetts.

Imagine 2050 is intended to help local, regional, and state actors make informed public policy and investment decisions. Community needs and preferences will be identified through robust community engagement processes. Recommendations will derive from community surveys, listening and visioning sessions, data and trend analysis, and scenario planning. This represents the region's first comprehensive planning effort in more than 20 years.

In 2000, CMRPC released the CMRPC Development Framework, a regional plan for population, infrastructure, environment, and economy. Imagine 2050 updates this framework and incorporates other timely and cross-cutting topics, including: social equity, land use and housing, civic and municipal capacity, environment, economic development, mobility, and public safety.

While Imagine 2050 is just getting underway, prior planning efforts help set the stage. A long-range transportation plan (Mobility 2040) is in place. The Southern Worcester County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (2019) is in the implementation phase. Land Use for Regional Resilience, a region-

wide land use and zoning analysis, is ongoing. CMRPC youth planners recently completed We Hear You(th), the first regional plan focused on the Central Massachusetts' young people. Sub-regional plans covering all constituencies date within the last 10 years. Imagine 2050 will update and synthesize prior efforts, with community in a front and central role.

At CMRPC's September Quarterly Commission Meeting, Executive Director Janet A. Pierce called on residents and other stakeholders to get involved: "Imagine 2050 is an opportunity to help define the future of Central Massachusetts. If you love where you live, you should participate. If there are things you would like to see changed about the region, you should participate. Whether you live in heart of Worcester or the heart of New Braintree, we are asking for your insights and your preferences. Please join us in charting a path for all of Central Massachusetts."

**About the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission**

CMRPC is the designated planning entity for Central Massachusetts. Founded by the Legislature in 1963, CMRPC provides a variety of planning services to our constituencies and bring a regional perspective to planning and development. One of 13 Regional Planning Agencies in Massachusetts, CMRPC serves the City of Worcester and 39 surrounding communities in the southern two-thirds of Worcester County. CMRPC's programs include Regional Collaboration and Community Planning, Transportation, Homeland Security, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and other services.

For more information on future opportunities to participate, please email CMRPC at [IMAGINECentralMass2050@googlegroups.com](mailto:IMAGINECentralMass2050@googlegroups.com) or visit the Imagine 2050 Web site at <https://bit.ly/ImagineCentralMA>.

## Harrington Physician Services welcomes new practitioner

STURBRIDGE — Sorin Herscovici M.D. has joined Harrington Physician Services' Endocrinology and Diabetes Care practice in Sturbridge, providing specialized care to patients with all types of endocrine disorders and illnesses including diabetes management, obesity management, adrenal disorders, metabolic diseases, reproductive endocrinology, thyroid disease and more.

Dr. Herscovici has been practicing medicine for more than 30 years and has specialized in endocrinology, diabetes and metabolism for more than 20 years. He has presented on the treatment of diabetes at international conferences and conducted research on the role of certain hormones in the endocrine response to fasting. He was also presented with New England Medical Center's Oliver Smith Award for extraordinary service and care.

Dr. Herscovici is board certified in

Internal Medicine and in Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS), and is a member of The Endocrine Society, the International Endocrine Society and the European Society for the Study of Diabetes.

He earned his Doctor of Medicine from University Carol Davila in Bucharest, Romania, and completed a residency in Internal Medicine at Metro-West Medical Center in Framingham followed by an Endocrinology Fellowship at Tufts Medical Center in Boston.

Dr. Herscovici joins Robert Cooper, MD and Jessica Locke, NP at the Endocrinology and Diabetes Care specialty practice located at 198 Charlton Road in Sturbridge. To learn more about endocrinology and diabetes care at Harrington, and to request an appointment, visit [harringtonhospital.org](http://harringtonhospital.org) or call (508) 347-7585.

## Nicholas Crowley named to SNHU Dean's List

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — Nicholas Crowley of Holland has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's summer 2021 Dean's List. Eligibility for the Dean's List requires that a student accumulate an academic grade point average (GPA) of 3.5-3.699 and earn 12 credits for the term.

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, non-profit institution with an 89-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 150,000 learners

worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 accredited undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH. Recognized as the "Most Innovative" regional university by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner. Learn more at [www.snhu.edu](http://www.snhu.edu).

### Socially Speaking...

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## LEGALS

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Worcester Division**  
**Docket No. W020P2215EA**  
**Estate of:**  
William Steibel  
**Date Of Death: April 14, 2020**  
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**PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Teresa Steibel of Monterey MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate

**Teresa Steibel of Monterey MA** has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

September 17, 2021

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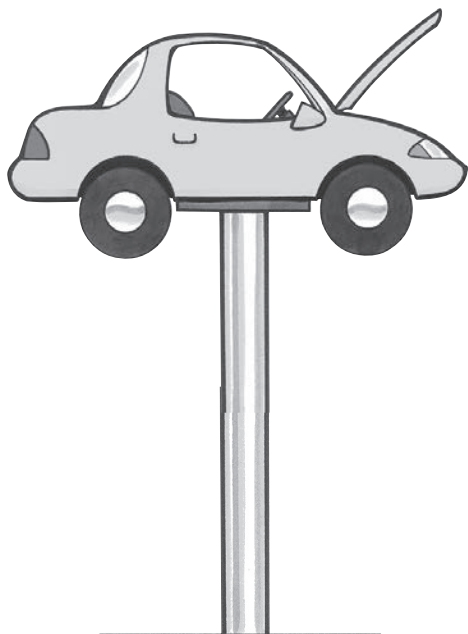


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EDITOR

## EDITORIAL

# There is more to the labor shortage than laziness

All around the country, we've seen businesses reducing hours, restaurants reducing menu items and help wanted signs everywhere. "People just don't want to work!" is the excuse we here uttered by anyone who hasn't done their homework.

While it's true there are some who don't want to work, this certainly has not caused the labor shortage. Please note that since the dawn of history, there have always been those who don't want to work. At the end of the day, if someone is able bodied enough to work and isn't independently wealthy for some reason, and chooses not to work, well they end up unfortunately facing their own issues.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, job openings are at 9.3 million. Extended unemployment benefits have run out, so that argument is no more. In fact, only 3 percent of unemployed people earned enough with the extended benefits country wide to warrant not returning to work. Only 14 percent were earning more than they did prior to the extended benefits. The cessation of those benefits will send some people back to work, but not enough to make a dent. Experts say worker's rights could have more to do with it.

Low pay is one reason for the shortage. In 1968, the federal minimum wage was \$1.60 per hour. Factoring in the rate of inflation since, that would be the equivalent to \$12.38 per hour in 2021; however, the federal minimum wage is just \$7.25 per hour in 2021. Walmart is now starting employees at \$17/hour, and McDonald's restaurants in many New England states start their employees at \$15/hour. Lowes has just advertised to start paying \$18/hour. This is not good news for smaller local businesses who don't have the backing of being a corporation.

Employees are also seeking better working conditions. Those in the restaurant business who rely on tips are sexually harassed at a much higher rate, and because of mask mandates, those workers are often asked to police rude and belligerent people who refuse to comply for either personal or political reasons.

The COVID lockdown has allowed many to re-evaluate what is really important and meaningful, and working a job where you're harassed and underpaid just isn't worth it. Flexibility that provides work life balance is what many are looking for. Remote work has allowed this to become more of a reality. Remote work has also allowed many companies to function with less employees. Workers without digital skills are out of luck as far as remote work goes until more training is available. There are some companies who do offer such training such as Google and Amazon.

Many Americans are also in a position where they need to stay home to care for vulnerable individuals including young children. While many schools and daycares are open, many have closed due to COVID outbreaks, leaving parents without childcare. The opening and closing is unpredictable, and will remain that way until the pandemic is under control.

# OPINION

VIEWS AND COMMENTARY FROM STURBRIDGE, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND AND WALES

## Tips to Plant Fall Bulbs

Following a long New England winter, few signs of spring are more welcome than the first sprouts of green popping up in a barren garden. The promise of a season of beautiful blooms, the tiny shoots are the gardeners reward of a past autumn spent preparing and planting.

Experts agree fall offers ideal conditions to plant perennials. In fact, this season is the preferred time to plant spring blooming bulbs. The following are tips to preparing, planning and planting bulbs now for a flourish of flowers come spring.

Planting time varies depending on location, but here in the northeast it ranges from September until as long as the soil can be worked, usually around the end of October.

Prepare your bed by making sure the soil is properly fertilized. Be sure to dig out the soil to the proper depth. Loosen the soil and if you choose, add a bulb booster to the soil. Bulbs should be planted with pointed side up. Place them firmly, yet gently, into the ground. Cover the bulbs loosely with soil, water lightly and add a layer of mulch. Typically, bulbs should be planted three times as deep as the bulb is wide. In sandy soils, you can plant a little deeper, and in heavy soils you can dig a slightly shallower hole. Bulbs should be spaced approximately a width twice the diameter of the bulb.

Note: Tulips should be planted one inch or so deeper as deep rooting can prolong the effective life of the tulip bulb.

If you are selecting bulbs in bulk, such as loose bulbs offered at discount garden centers, it's important to follow a few rules of thumb. Typically, big bulbs produce the largest blooms and may yield more flowers, therefore, it may be worth the cost to pay a bit more for good sized, healthy bulbs. However, if you are on a budget and have the time to wait, smaller bulbs will eventually increase in size and bloom each year.

When choosing a bulb, look for those that are firm and plump. Hold them in your palm and select bulbs that feel heavy for their size. Avoid bulbs with bruises, spots or signs of mold. And steer clear of soft, mushy and lightweight bulbs. Sprouting bulbs may indicate a bulb that has been in storage for a long time.

A little thought and preparation go a long way in reaping the benefits of a successful spring and summer flower garden. The planning you take time for in the fall will be apparent when the flower garden plantings burst with color and texture next year.

Know your flowers before you plan to plant. While most bulbs require an area where there is full sun, other varieties such as the iris and crocus enjoy some shade after blooming. For best results select a location in full sun or sun with morning shade only. Well drained soil is a requisite for flower bulbs. If you have poor soil, raised flower beds may be an effective alternative.

For best results, design your garden with pen and paper first, mapping out the size of the beds and the flowers to scale. Keep in mind color, texture and fragrance are all important factors when deciding on a particular flower garden plan.

Plotting a garden plan is an exciting chore, and there are some basic rules that ensure a pleasant mix of color for a showy display. Notice how a clump of daffodils and tulips are much more charming than a tidy row of the spring-



TAKE THE HINT  
KAREN TRAINOR

time flowers? The eye is drawn toward the burst of color when these flowers are situated in generous groups of plantings.

Be sure to take an accurate bulb count of such large splashes of plantings. Your layout plan should also include using flower bulbs as accents in perennial beds, or to fill in rock gardens or as an interesting border to greenery. Be sure to plan for extra bulbs to fill in areas or to add as landscape accents.

For an interesting mix, merge short plants with tall specimens to give variety and depth as well as differing textures. And don't underestimate the power of fragrance! Nothing is more delightful than a pathway of floral scents welcoming visitors to your door.

Scaling plants to the bed is another important factor when plotting your plan. A simple rule to follow is to keep in mind the tallest plant in an island flower bed should have a mature height that is equal to about half the width of the bed. Place these plants in the center, so they can be viewed from all sides. Also remember to take into account plants that grow and expand quickly.

Color is another major consideration when planting your bulbs. If you want your garden to be a showcase all season, select a variety of bulbs that flower during early, middle and late spring and summer for a continuous burst of color.

Just as in the home, in the garden bed cool colors seem to recede and warm colors appear to come forward. To make a small garden area appear larger and more spacious, plant flowers in cool, light colors. As a general rule white goes a long way in a garden bed, but if you use a lot of white flowers in an area, consider adding a dramatic splash of bright red or bright pink or purple for visual contrast.

Dreading the long, cold winter ahead? Forcing bulbs indoors allows the impatient gardener to enjoy spring-time blooms during the winter season! Certain bulbs, such as the narcissus and hyacinth lend themselves to forced budding. To do: Drop a bulb into a glass jar and fill with water and small pebbles until the water level reaches the base of the bulb. Position the jar in a sunny window. Water must remain at the same level, so add moisture as needed. To prevent mold, change the water periodically.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House – Contest has resumed!

Your tips can win you a great three course dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renowned restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I'm in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I'm counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

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

## Worries

POSITIVELY SPEAKING  
TOBY MOORE

All kinds of stresses and pressures will come to us in this life. Worries will come about our parents, careers, children, health, finances, relationships, death, sickness, and more.

It seems there is a never-ending stream of things we can worry about— nail-biting worry, worry that makes our head and heart hurt.

Thankfully, our imaginations usually make things seem much worse than they are. Too often, we imagine the worst possible outcome, outcomes that generally never come to pass; if they do come to pass, often they aren't as bad as we imagined them to be.

A little bit of worry can be good when that worry propels us to action so we can solve the problem before it gets out of hand.

Worry is bad if we allow fear to par-

alyze us, never taking the necessary steps to solve the problem.

Worry affects us all in different ways. Most of us have at times been so worried we become consumed with fear. Our hands tremble, and anxiety overwhelms all of our senses. Paralyzed with fear, often all we can do is lay down and fall asleep or pace back and forth, mumbling incoherently until exhaustion takes hold.

Some of us can only see a negative outcome and are angry and irritable at those trying to convince us that a good result may be possible.

Some of us turn into complainers, taking on the victim mentality and telling everyone how dire our situation is and how things will never get better.

## Prepare yourself financially for illness... just in case



FINANCIAL FOCUS  
JEFF BURDICK

All of us hope to live long, healthy lives, so we do what we can to take care of ourselves through proper diet, exercise and avoiding unhealthy activities. However, none of us can predict our future, so it pays to be prepared for anything – including a serious physical illness or the onset of some type of mental incapacity, such as Alzheimer's disease.

Of course, you may never face these infirmities, but you should be aware that they could upset your long-term financial strategy and place considerable stress on your loved ones. What steps can you take to head off these threats?

First, make sure you know what your health insurance covers and how much you might have to pay out of pocket for treatment of illnesses such as cancer or kidney ailments. If you're on Medicare (supplemented with Medigap) or Medicare Advantage (Medicare Part C), you'll want to know all about deductibles, copayments and coinsurance. However, if Alzheimer's or another type of dementia is involved, Medicare may not cover the costs that could be incurred in an assisted living facility, so you may want to consult with a financial advisor, who can suggest ways of protecting yourself from long-term care costs, which can be quite high.

Your next move is to make sure you have adequate liquidity. It's hard to predict how many out-of-pocket costs you could incur when coping with a serious illness, but it's a good idea to have enough cash readily available, rather than dipping into your 401(k) or other retirement accounts. So, if you're retired, you might want to keep up to a year's worth of living expenses in a liquid, low-risk account.

Here's another important step: Update your estate plan. Hopefully, if you have a serious illness, you'll be able to recover. But it's still a good idea to review your estate plan to ensure everything is in order, such as your will and your living trust, if you've created one. If you've kept up your life insurance, you'll also want to ensure your premiums are still being paid. And don't forget to review your beneficiary designations on your 401(k), insurance policies and other financial documents, since these designations can supersede the instructions in your will.

As part of your estate planning, you may want to include a durable power of attorney for finances, which allows you to name someone to manage your financial affairs if you become incapacitated, and a durable power of attorney for health care, which lets you name someone to make medical decisions for you if you're unable to do so yourself. You may also create a health care directive or living will to express your wishes if you don't have a power of attorney for health care, or the person named in a power of attorney for health care can't be reached in an emergency. And since estate planning can be complex, you'll certainly want to work with a legal professional, and possibly your tax and financial advisors, as well.

You might think it's somewhat grim to prepare yourself financially in case you become seriously ill or if your life is touched by Alzheimer's or another mental infirmity. But it's a positive move – you're protecting yourself and your loved ones from whatever life may throw at you.

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Jeff Burdick, your local Edward Jones Advisor in Sturbridge at 508-347-1420 or jeff.burdick@edwardjones.com.*



# Fall is in the air



THE GREAT  
OUTDOORS  
.....  
RALPH  
TRUE

The feeling of fall is in the air! My two dogs also feel the cooler temperatures, and are running around like a couple of puppies. My Yellow Lab TWIG knows what the cool temperatures mean. Hunting! The Massachusetts pheasant season opens on Oct. 16 in the Central District. Mass. Fish & Wildlife no longer raises pheasant, and shut down their pheasant raising pens years ago. It is a lot cheaper to buy them during the season from New York & Vermont, and stock them throughout the pheasant season. Unfortunately, the valley area has lost a couple of prime hunting covers over the years, which prompted the state to reduce the number of birds, that are stocked in our area.

Some local hunters are not happy with the situation, but take numerous trips to the Brookfield area to hunt birds with their dogs. They have found a few great spots to hunt birds and often find their limit of two birds on each trip. Unfortunately, the grouse population continues to dwindle in the valley area, and reports from sportsmen north & west of the valley are reporting the same situation. The loss of prime habitat is the main reason, and is also affecting the woodcock populations in our area. Ground nesting birds have a lot more predators to contend with also.

A report from a resident that lives on Henry Street in Uxbridge last week, about the possible siting of four bears that were spotted in his yard, was the first report of multiple sightings in Uxbridge. He was not too sure about what he had actually seen until he observed a number of large foot prints on his lawn. He showed me the picture of one print that was no question, made by a black bear.

Upstate New York salmon fishing is improving every day on the Salmon River. If you want to watch anglers fishing on the Salmon River on live cam, log onto Fat Nancy's Web page and click on their 24 hours live cam, showing anglers fishing the Salmon River. You can also get there daily hour by hour fishing report and water temperature in the river. If you are planning a trip to Upstate New York, the time is quickly approaching. On the 16th of this month, anglers fishing the Salmon River reported a large school of coho salmon working their way upstream. There were also some kings mixed in.

The tackle shop was quick to say that the big push of salmon has not started, but do expect it to start any day now. Get your rods and gear ready, and tell the boss you are going fishing. The Salmon River is



Courtesy

The first picture shows a large black bear ,and the second shows a file photo from Fat Nancy's Tackle shop in Pulaski, N.Y. of a young lady with a nice salmon caught a few years ago on the Salmon River.

only five hours away from the valley. This week's picture shows an angler with a nice salmon from the Salmon River, and the fishing is only going to get better.

Goose hunting has been slow because of standing corn in most fields. Hunters that have a golf course to hunt on, or a grassy field that has been cut are harvesting a few geese locally.

Do not forget the Whitinsville Fish & Game Clubs annual field day this Saturday, Sept. 18, at their club headquarters on White Court in Douglas. Fun and games, along with



shooting on all ranges, and great food will be available all day. The grounds open at 11 a.m. with plenty

of free parking. Take a Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

## Help for weather-stressed lawns



GARDEN  
MOMENTS  
.....  
MELINDA  
MYERS

The extreme heat and drought of 2021 across much of the country has turned many lawns brown. Damaged lawns may be thin, contain dead patches or are overrun with weeds.

Fall is a good time to improve the health and appearance of a weather-worn lawn. Start the process by evaluating the damage. Then plan a course of action and be prepared to follow through as needed with proper care.

Fall fertilization can help improve thin lawns and those with numerous small dead patches the size of a baseball or smaller. Apply fertilizer in early September to help lawns recover from summer stress while encouraging denser growth and deeper, more drought tolerant roots. Those in warmer climates growing grasses like centipede, Bermuda and zoysia should make sure the last fall application is at least one month prior to the average first killing frost. Use a low nitrogen, slow-release fertilizer that won't harm stressed lawns and young seedlings if repairing or overseeding the lawn.

Continue to mow high as long as the grass continues to grow. Taller grass produces deeper, more drought tolerant roots. Mow often, removing only a third of the total height. This is less stressful on the lawn and results in shorter clippings that can be left on the lawn. The clippings return moisture, nutrients, and organic matter to the soil.

Use a sharp blade for a cleaner cut that closes more quickly, reducing water consumption and risk of insects and disease while leaving the lawn looking its best. You'll also save time as sharp blades cut more efficiently and reduce fuel consumption by as much as 22 percent.



Melinda Myers

Fall is a good time to improve the health and appearance of a stressed lawn.

Improving a lawn's growing conditions will help it recover more quickly and equip it to better manage environmental stress. Core aerate lawns that have more than one half an inch of thatch, those growing in compacted soils, or before overseeding. By removing plugs of soil, you will break through the thatch and create channels for water and fertilizer to reach the grass roots. For best results, core aerate the lawn when its actively growing; fall for cool season grasses and spring or early summer for warm season grasses.

Hand removal of weeds is the most environmentally friendly option. Organic broadleaf weedkillers with the active ingredient Fehedta or Hedta is another option. Spot treat problem areas to minimize the use of chemicals and reduce the stress on already stressed lawns. As always, read and follow label directions carefully whether using traditional, natural or organic chemicals.

Repair dead and bare patches in cool season lawns that are the size of a soccer ball or larger as needed. Those growing warm season grasses will have the best results when seeding in spring through early summer.

Rake away dead grass and debris roughening and exposing the soil below. Spread grass seed over the area and lightly rake to ensure seed-to-soil contact. Or mix a handful of grass seed in a bucket of compost or potting mix. The organic matter helps conserve moisture and promotes seed sprouting. Spread the mix over the soil surface. Water these areas often enough to keep the soil surface moist until the grass seed sprouts. As grass begins to grow, water more deeply and less often to encourage a robust drought tolerant root system.

Proper maintenance and a bit of cooperation from nature will help transform your lawn from a disappointment to an asset in your landscape.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including *The Midwest Gardener's Handbook* and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* DVD series and the nationally-syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Her Web site is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).

### MOORE

continued from page A8

Drugs and alcohol sometimes become the temporary solution; Waking up with a hangover, but the problem is still there.

Some might turn to healthier solutions like exercise, prayer, and meditation to calm the worried mind.

Napoleon Hill said, "Worry is a state of mind based upon fear. It works slowly, but persistently. It is insidious and subtle. Step by step it "digs itself in" until it paralyzes one's reasoning faculty, destroys self-confidence and initiative. Worry is a form of sustained fear caused by indecision; therefore, it is a state of mind which can be controlled."

I believe Napoleon Hill was correct. Worry is based on fear; it paralyzes our reasoning faculty, destroys our initiative, it's caused by indecision, and therefore it is a state of mind that can be controlled.

How can we control it? According to Napoleon Hill, worry is caused by indecision. The proper response to anxiety might then be to decide on a course of action. We need to remove the hesitation and choose! Sometimes just figuring out what path to take is all that's necessary to stop the worry.

What if you're having trouble deciding what to do? Talk to your friends, get advice, pray, meditate, think it over. If you're focused on what path you need to take, an answer will come.

Once you choose what the best course of action is, it is essential not to worry if you made the right choice. If you find yourself worrying whether or not you made the right choice, then it's ok to modify your course of action as the days pass. Whatever you do, keep moving forward.

Wherever you are right now, whatever you're going through, maybe you're nervous, worried, stressed, and afraid. Try to be thankful, think of all the positive things in your life as you make your decision, count your blessings. Moving forward with gratitude and thankfulness is crucial and can often make for a better outcome.

You don't have to make a decision; you get to make a decision. Be thankful that you can choose. Keep a smile on your face; you're capable of great things!

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# Harrington Auxiliary to host Lucky Duck and Family Fun Day Saturday

SOUTHBIDGE — Save the date! The Harrington Auxiliary will hold its 29th annual Lucky Duck and Family Fun Day, in conjunction with Southbridge Business Partnership's AutumnFest, on Saturday, Sept. 18. The event takes place on the Southbridge Common from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Lucky Duck tickets will be available for purchase that day. One duck is \$5; a "6-quack" is \$25; a flock of 13 ducks is \$50. Awards include \$1,000, \$500, \$300, \$200 and \$100 for first, second, third, fourth and fifth prize, respectively. The drawing takes place at 2 p.m.; winners do not have to be present.

To purchase tickets now or for more

information, please call the Volunteer office at 508-765-6472.

Thanks to generous supporters of the Lucky Duck event in the past, the Auxiliary has been able to provide much-needed equipment, programs and support for Harrington Hospital. For example, the Auxiliary has conducted educational programs and projects that promote patient safety and has given new and/or updated equipment to several hospital departments.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, Sept. 18 for the Harrington Auxiliary Lucky Duck and Family Fun Day.

The Harrington Auxiliary has been "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" since 1932.



## Joan Light named to SNHU President's List

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — Joan Light of Sturbridge has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's summer 2021 President's List. Eligibility for the President's List requires that a student accumulate an academic grade point average (GPA) of 3.7-4.0 and earn 12 credits for the term.

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit institution with an 89-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more

than 150,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 accredited undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH. Recognized as the "Most Innovative" regional university by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner. Learn more at [www.snhu.edu](http://www.snhu.edu).



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**The Pumpkins are Coming!**

Spread the word that the best place to get your fall decorations is the Sturbridge Federated Church in Sturbridge, where the finest pumpkins and gourds will be on sale from September 25th – October 31st.

Proceeds will benefit various local and regional charities as well as the Navajo Indian Reservation. Covid-19 Restrictions May Apply.

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# OBITUARIES

## Basil P. “Billy” Michael, 88

Sturbridge: Basil P. “Billy” Michael, 88, of Sturbridge, died in the Broward North Hospital, FL on Friday, August 27.

He was born in Southbridge, MA, son of the late Alki and Katena (Manthue) Michael on September 10, 1932. He is survived by his wife, Patricia (Hall) Michael; two sons: Christopher Michael MD, and his partner, Lena Anmei Goldsmith ESQ of Franklinville, NY; Jonathan Michael, his wife Mallory, and their children Emerson and Amelia, of Brunswick, ME; his siblings: Barbara (Michael) Gianaris, her husband, Zachary Gianaris, and their son Zachary, of Webster, MA; his brother, Michael Michael ESQ, his wife Joyce, of Boylston, MA; and former daughter in law, Shannon Smiley MD, of Eagle River, AK. He also leaves brother and sister-in-laws Jeffery and Judith Tryba, of Fiskdale, MA, brother-in-law Bruce Hall, of Bolton, CT, and many nieces and nephews.

Billy graduated from Mary E. Wells High School, Southbridge, MA in 1950 and earned his Associate's Degree from Nichols College, Dudley, MA in 1952. Through this time, he worked for his family business, the California Fruit Company, of which he later served as owner and CEO until his



retirement in 1992. Basil married Patricia in 1966, moved to Sturbridge in 1967 where they raised their family. He served on the Board of Directors of the Southbridge Savings Bank and was the Chairman of the local Selective Service Board. Basil was active with the YMCA, a member of the Rotary Club, the Lion's Club, and Elk's Club. He was also instrumental in organizing the

Sturbridge Pop Warner football program and coached his sons' Friday Night Basketball team. Billy was a passionate New England Patriots and Boston Celtics fan, an avid golfer and lifetime member of Cohasset Country Club. He was a loving husband, father and grandfather who enjoyed spending time with his family and extended family and friends locally and in Pompano Beach, FL.

A celebration of life will be scheduled at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations be made to the American Cancer Society, 30 Speen St., Framingham, MA 01701 or to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 417005, Boston, MA 02241.

The Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge is directing arrangements.  
www.morrillfuneralhome.com

### FILM FESTIVAL

continued from page A1

produced feature length and short films.

For the full schedule, movie programming and tickets, visit [www.shawnasheaff.org](http://www.shawnasheaff.org).

Big news this year: Robin Lane will perform on Friday, Sept. 24, at 8:30 p.m. following the screening of her biopic documentary “When Things Go Wrong: The Robin Lane Story” by Tim Jackson. We are very excited to have Robin, a well known Boston rocker, with us. She is the founder of the non-profit Songbird Sings, working with domestic violence victims using music as a healing tool.

Another very special segment of SSFF2021 is the screening of all past Women in Film Fellowship movies, including our most recent Women in Film Fellowship filmmakers Christine Celozzi, Emma MacKenzie and Molly Lindsey. The Fellowship is a program of the Shawna E. Shea Memorial Foundation, Inc. which supports first-time women filmmakers with financial and mentor support. The Fellowship film block will screen Saturday, Sept. 25, at 7:30 p.m.

SSFF2021 will also screen cult Italian movie director Luigi Cozzi's film “The Battle of Rome:” the Ryan Bliss film “Alice Fades Away;” the Charles Vuolo & Andre Phillips film “Lupe;” the Joe Badon film “Sister Tempest;” and “The Ventures: Stars

on Guitars, a documentary by Staci Layne Wilson, the daughter of one of the iconic Ventures guitarist Don Wilson.

Our very popular Horror Shorts block is back with a vengeance as well as our favorite, the Experimental film block which includes “Darling Pet Monkey” by filmmaker Jim McDonough.

Even as we follow state guidelines, masks will be mandatory to enter the screening rooms and adjacent lobbies. After each screening and Q&A, we will be wiping and disinfecting the screening rooms.

About SSFF:

The Shawna Shea Film Festival celebrates independent films and the people who make them. Established in 2012 as a program of the Shawna E. Shea Memorial Foundation Inc., SSFF honors Shawna's unique independent spirit by bringing audiences films that share the same quality. [www.shawnasheaff.org](http://www.shawnasheaff.org). All proceeds benefit the Shawna E. Shea Memorial Foundation, Inc.

About the Shawna E. Shea Memorial Foundation, Inc.:

A 501(c)(3) public charity, the Shawna Foundation supports people, especially women, in filmmaking, performance arts and other artistic and cultural endeavors through financial assistance, collaborative fellowships, mentoring and educational opportunities. Visit [www.shawnafoundation.org](http://www.shawnafoundation.org) to learn about all our programs.

in 1974 in North Carolina with three acres of pumpkins and a partnership with one church. They agreed to let the church sell the pumpkins and they would share the proceeds. There was no contract, no legal proceedings...just a handshake and trust in each other. Richard and Janice Hamby have been growing pumpkins and adding partners ever since.

It's a wonderful partnership of trust. More than 1,000 churches and non-profit organizations, including the Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale, trust Pumpkin Patch Fundraisers to grow and deliver 1,200 acres of great, hardy pumpkins, and they, in turn, trust those organizations to be diligent in selling their pumpkins, honest in reporting their sales, and attentive to paying a percentage of sales toward all of the costs associated with growing, harvesting and shipping.

For additional updates, please go to the Sturbridge Federated Church Facebook page, visit the Church website at [sturfed.org](http://sturfed.org), or call the Church office at (774) 304-1021.

## “New England on Parade” exhibit opens at Old Sturbridge Village

STURBRIDGE — Old Sturbridge Village (OSV) is unveiling a new exhibit on Saturday, Sept. 11 called New England on Parade, examining the history of parades and parade traditions in New England from 1776 to 1940. Inspired by the Village's 75th Anniversary Celebration and an authored work by former OSV Board Member and Trustee Jane Nylander, this newly imagined showcase will be one of the largest to come to the Village in recent times – spanning multiple buildings across the OSV campus.

New England on Parade invites the public to learn about parades of the past, which brought communities together for public celebrations and commemorations, and were often used to generate support for social and political causes. Each display space will tell a unique piece of the story:

- The Gallery in Old Sturbridge Village's Visitor Center – Reflects the typical processional order of a 19th-century New England parade – as well as the history of the “Antiques and Horribles” satirical parades beginning in the 1850s.

- The Countryside Gallery – Explores the ways in which parades have been used to advocate for political and social causes, with sections dedicated to temperance, suffrage, fraternal (Freemasons), and political parades.

- Gallery Row (in the existing Armed & Equipped Gallery) – Explores themes related to militia involved in parades and celebrations.

The Village will also host several parades across the Commons and OSV campus as part of the program.

Nylander's book, “The Best Ever!

Parades in New England, 1788-1940” stands as the primary inspiration for the new exhibit. Nylander worked at Old Sturbridge Village from 1969-1986 in the collections department, at one point holding the title of Senior Curator. She later became a trustee of the Village and served three consecutive terms on the Old Sturbridge Village Board.

Inspired by the Old Home Day parades she and her family have enjoyed year after year in Freedom, New Hampshire, Nylander began researching the origin of parades across New England. Her work offers never-before-seen images of actual parades, including floats and banners that have mostly disappeared over the years, and stories around the evolution of one of New England's favorite traditions.

“I'm thrilled to be working with the Village on this exhibit and to be able to bring the history of parades and their impact into the public eye,” says Nylander. “I hope this opens the door for people to pay more attention to the parades of today, and to bring back some of the magnificence – to see our creativity and spirit shine once again.”

New England on Parade opens at Old Sturbridge Village on Saturday, Sept. 11. It can be viewed during OSV's normal operating hours and is included with standard daytime admission. The exhibit will run through July 2023.

“The Best Ever! Parades in New England, 1788-1940” by Jane Nylander and published by Old Sturbridge Village in partnership with Bauhan Publishing, is available for pre-order at the Miner Grant Store at Old Sturbridge Village. The work goes on sale on Oct. 18.

## High School Notebook

Aug. 31

East Longmeadow 166, Tantasqua 177 — The Tantasqua Warrior varsity golf team played their first match of the season at Hemlock Ridge. They faced Western Mass. rival, the East Longmeadow Spartans. Medalist honors go to Kyle Fisk of East Longmeadow with a 38 on the par 36 layout. Low Warriors were Nathan Wright and Drew Howard who both shot 43.

Sept. 8

Tantasqua 179, Northbridge 200 — The Warriors' varsity golf team faced off against the Rams at Shining Rock Country Club. Medalist honors go to Northbridge's Will Piatt, who shot a 42 on the par-36 layout along with junior Aubyn Phillips, who shot a 42 for Tantasqua. Phillips made an eagle 3 on the par-5 ninth hole to cap off his round. Tantasqua is now 1-1.

Tantasqua 7, Northbridge 1 — The JV soccer team handled the Rams, with Owen Stattenfield notching a hat trick. Ethan Parker, Daelan Ahearn, Emile Escobar and a header goal by Levi Shepard were the other scorers.

Assisting on the goals were Joseph Chidster, Alex Kenney, Parker and Stattenfield. In goal splitting the duties were Ahearn and Brandon Phillips. The JV team is now 1-0-0.

Sept. 10

Tantasqua 173, Uxbridge 190 — The Warriors's golf team hosted the Spartans at Hemlock Ridge, with Tantasqua winning the match. Medalist honors go to junior Aubyn Phillips, who shot a 41 on the par-36 layout. Tantasqua is now 2-1.

North Brookfield 4, Worcester Tech 0 — Junior Ty Babineau had two goals to lead the host Indians past Worcester Tech in field hockey. Sophomore Angie Fritze had a goal and assisted on a goal scored by senior Eve Tonks. Tyler Warner had the shutout with 15 saves as North Brookfield improved to 2-0.

Marlborough 27, Tantasqua 0 — The Warriors' football team opened its season hosting the Panthers, but they were unfortunately shut out on the scoreboard. Marlborough scored a touchdown in each quarter to slowly pull away from Tantasqua.

### SENIOR CENTER

continued from page A1

still leave the town with the cost of repurposing the current building, because she did not think the town would be willing to sell it, based on recent experience with other buildings.

Chair Mary Blanchard agreed, saying she'd been on the study committee until a year or so ago, and had favored renovation.

According to the very general plans proposed for each site, all three would have about 12,000 usable square feet (adding 5,000 to 480 Main) and 65-66 parking spaces. 480 Main will maintain its two-floor structure while the other sites are planned as one. The biggest issue came from 80 Haynes, which got very little discussion; it is under a conservation easement that would require Town Meeting vote and special legislation to open it to development of any kind.

Some residents made a similar claim for 70 Cedar. Former selectman Mike Suprenant said it was donated to the town for conservation, although Town Administrator Jeff Bridges said the documents

from Town Meeting only say its for “municipal purposes.” The Recreation Committee has been looking at the next-door 60 Cedar parcel for new ballfields, and tried to include 70 Cedar in that feasibility study a couple years ago, but Town Meeting rejected it.

Either way, many residents raised concerns about 70 Cedar. Most of them revolved around traffic safety, with some noting the nearby Cedar/Main intersection has one of the highest accident rates in town. Others said they've seen fast traffic on Cedar, potentially dangerous situations with students and/or buses from nearby Burgess School, growing tourist traffic along Cedar Lake, and other issues. Although some of those issues are being addressed by a state project on Route 20, Suprenant noted those improvements will be “8-10 years in the future.”

As Blanchard observed, this is only the beginning of a long process. The proposal still has to get Town Meeting approval before going through the town's Planning Board and other committees.

Gus Steeves can be reached at [gus.steeves2@gmail.com](mailto:gus.steeves2@gmail.com).

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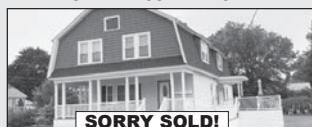
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**PAXTON:** Privacy,  
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2 Fireplaces, 3 Car Garage  
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**DUDLEY:** Foundation ready to build your own Ranch, Town services available  
44 Alton Dr ~ **\$139,900**



**WEBSTER:** Condo, 2 Bedroom, 1194 sq.ft., Corner unit, Maple Cabinet Kitch w/ granite counters  
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# Trinity Catholic Academy celebrates first mass of new school year

SOUTHBIDGE — On Sept. 3, Trinity Catholic Academy was able to celebrate their first school wide Mass for the 2021-22 academic year. Fr. Ken Cardinale opened the special Mass with a “Happy New Year” greeting!

Opening this new school year with Mass during the first week of school is a great start! This new year includes a few new classroom renovations, a new principal, and a new outlook with everyone able to start of school with in-classroom learning right from the beginning. TCA teachers, parents and grandparents were welcome to share the celebration with the students at Notre Dame Church of St. John Paul II Parish.

Knights of Columbus Council #199 followed the celebration of Mass volunteering to cook hot dogs for the students as part of the small picnic held the courtyard of Notre Dame Church organized by Trinity Catholic Academy's dedicated Parent & Teacher Organization. TCA students hale from as far as Stafford Springs, Conn., the Brookfields and Auburn, Woodstock, Conn. and towns in between. Trinity Catholic Academy is looking forward to a great successful school year continuing to build the leaders of tomorrow.

Trinity Catholic Academy, a Pre-K to Grade 8 school, promotes academic excellence, athletics, and the



## Craftsman home renovation ideas

Craftsman homes trace their roots to the late 19th century. An architectural style inspired by the Arts and Crafts movement that flourished in Europe and North America for roughly 40 years between 1880 and 1920, the American Craftsman home has endured into the 21st century thanks to its beauty and the unique feel its homes inspire.

Many craftsman homes were built nearly a century ago if not even earlier. That means these homes may be in need of some renovations that make them more functional in modern times without sacrificing their historic beauty.

- **Siding:** Craftsman homes are instantly recognizable from the street. Homeowners who want to maintain that authentic craftsman feel must carefully consider their choice of material when replacing the siding on their homes. The siding manufacturer Allura notes that fiber cement siding can be a great option for homeowners who want to replicate the original design of craftsman homes built with sported board-and-batten siding. Fiber cement siding gives the appearance of wood when installed and does not fade quickly or require significant maintenance.

- **Exterior color:** Homeowners need not feel beholden to certain colors when replacing siding or repainting their homes' exteriors. Nautical color schemes featuring navy blue exteriors with white accents can highlight features that are unique to craftsman homes, but more understated colors and tones can work just as well.



- **Porches:** An expansive, welcoming front porch that makes for the perfect place to relax and read when the outdoors beckons is a telltale feature of craftsman homes. Furniture options abound when homeowners are looking to upgrade the living spaces just outside the front door of their craftsman homes. Adirondack chairs can make a porch a relaxing place to enjoy a morning coffee or post-dinner digestif, while wicker furniture can help homeowners establish a relaxing vibe for summer. A porch swing or hammock can make that relaxing vibe resonate even more.

- **Real wood cabinets:** Cabinets are a popular avenue homeowners look to when they want to give their kitchens a new look without breaking the bank.

When upgrading cabinets in a craftsman home, the home renovation experts at HGTV note that craftsman-style kitchen cabinets often feature straight lines and minimal ornamentation. Cabinets are typically made from heavy woods like quartersawn oak, hickory, cherry, or maple. HGTV notes that updating the cabinets in a craftsman home often requires custom cabinetmakers, so the project may be more expensive than it would be if replacing the cabinets in a different style of home.

Craftsman homes are instantly recognizable thanks to many of their unique features. There are various ways to renovate craftsman homes yet still maintain their authentic feel.

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# How to maintain hardwood floors

Hardwood floors have long been sought after by home buyers. In its 2019 "Remodeling Impact Report," the National Association of Realtors® revealed that new wood flooring was the fourth most popular project to attract buyers.

Of course, hardwood floors aren't just for buyers. Homeowners who already have hardwood floors know just how impressive these floors can be, especially when they're well maintained. Maintaining wood floors is not necessarily as straightforward as it may seem, and homeowners may benefit from a tutorial on how to keep the floors under their feet looking good.

## To polish or not to polish?

Polishing floors is an inexpensive way to keep them looking good. But the home improvement experts at

BobVila.com note that not all floors can be polished, and determining which ones can depends on the finish. Floors with waterproof barriers such as urethane will benefit from routine polishing. However, floors with penetrating finishes like tung oil will need to be waxed rather than polished.

## What finish is on the floor?

The Hardwood Distributor's Association recommends a simple way for homeowners to determine which type of finish is on their hardwood floors. Homeowners are advised to rub a finger across the floor. If no smudge appears, then the floor is surface sealed. If a smudge is created, then the floor has been treated with a penetrating seal. The HDA also notes that recently installed wood floors are likely surface sealed.



## How often should floors be polished or waxed?

Wood flooring professionals recommend polishing floors that can be polished once every few months. Waxing wood floors does not need to be done as frequently, and most can benefit from a fresh coat of wax every 12 to 18 months.

## What can I do on a daily basis?

Some simple tricks and daily maintenance can help wood floors maintain their impressive look.

- Utilize floor mats. The HDA notes that floor mats near entryways can reduce the time it takes to clean hardwood floors and reduce the wear and tear they endure. For example, tiny particles like dirt can scratch the floor and contribute to the kind of minor damage that adds up to significant scarring over time. Floor mats near entryways ensures that most of that dirt never makes it to the wood floors.
- Vacuum without a beater bar. Some vacuums contain beater bars, which are

designed to pick up human hair, dog hair and other things that conventional vacuums may not be able to pick up. The HDA advises vacuuming without the beater bar, as it can contribute to small scratches in the floor. Sweeping with a high-quality broom or microfiber cloth is another way to pick up dirt without damaging floors.

- Use manufacturer-recommended cleaning products. Local home improvement stores sell a host of hardwood floor cleaning products, but the HDA notes that many flooring manufacturers now sell their own hardwood floor cleaners designed specifically for their floors. These products are likely homeowners' best bets. Homeowners who can't find them can seek recommendations from a local flooring retailer.

Hardwood floors are attractive for many reasons. And they look even more stunning, and last much longer, when homeowners make an effort to maintain them.

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FIELD HOCKEY

continued from page A1

scored by a smaller margin of 3-1 in the second half to make the final score 8-1 in the Spartans' favor.

Uxbridge's Chloe Kaeller and Julianna Casucci scored in the first quarter, and then Meghan Smith, Kaeller and Ellie Bouchard provided second-quarter tallies to make it 5-0.

Smith then scored early in the third quarter for the Spartans, and Kaeller Grace Boisvert added their final two goals in the fourth for an 8-0 lead.

Undeterred, Tantasqua continued to show fight and eventually was rewarded with a goal with 8:05 to play. Senior co-captain Hope Noonan sent the ball toward Uxbridge's goal with a hard shot, and junior Brooke Cadarette was in the right place at the right time as she tipped it in past goalie Julia Okenquist.

"It got us on the scoreboard. You never want to be shut out, so that's a big deal," said Green. "She's a great forward — we have a lot of really good, talented people up top — and I think connecting those tips is what it comes down to."

Cadarette nearly scored in the third quarter when she — again — was in the right place at the right time and collected a rebound in front of the net. But her shot sailed just wide.

The Warriors' goalies were off the charts, as senior co-captain Sophia



Nick Ethier

Tantasqua's Kiana Barnes plays the ball and moves it down the field.

Cadavid and junior Ella Grant both saw time. Cadavid played in the first half, plus the fourth quarter, while Grant manned the cage in the third quarter.

"Both of them made a ton of great saves. They both played really well today," Green said.

After winning the season-opener versus Northbridge High, Tantasqua is now 1-1 as they embark on the second week of play.

Nick Ethier

(Right) Tantasqua's Hope Noonan winds up before delivering a big strike of the ball down the field.



Nick Ethier

Jess Ertsgard of Tantasqua pushes the ball up and away from an Uxbridge defender.





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# 24th Masonic District participates at Old Home Day

CHARLTON – On Monday, Sept. 6, what a beautiful day it was at the Charlton Old Home Day festivities. Two local lodges from the 24th Masonic District set up to sell their goods for a long overdue celebration which was canceled last year due to Covid-19 pandemic. Quinebaug Masonic Lodge of Southbridge and Oxford Masonic Lodge had a very, very busy and exciting day trying to keep up with the demands of what the people wanted.

There was all kinds of food being sold, music from a local band, and Irish step dancers. The Charlton Old Home Day committee members announced the next activities and demonstrations over a loudspeaker and the bleachers were packed full of spectators. There were various organizations, and many vendors selling their goods along with all kinds of nonprofit organizations. Quinebaug Masonic Lodge was selling French fries and chicken tenders. Most of the day there was a long line of people waiting to get those freshly hand cut homemade French fries. The lodge went through many pounds of potatoes.

Oxford Lodge was selling sweet corn and snow cones. The delicious corn was smothered in butter which I heard one happy customer saying can I have



Courtesy

Quinebaug Lodge with French fries sign and long lines and Oxford Lodge on right with children going wild over the snow cones.

another corn please. The children were going wild, crazy over the flavored snow cones. Both lodges had long lines and people waiting for their great, delicious,

tasty treats. If you would like more information about Freemasonry and to find a lodge nearest you, visit our Web site at [www.massfreemasonry.org](http://www.massfreemasonry.org).

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