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SOUTHBRIDGE NEWS

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Thursday, January 13, 2022

Newsstand: 50 cents

Council starts considering charter changes

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE — Starting last month, the Town Council began reviewing a long list of changes to the Town Charter which will come forward for a council vote in the near future. Afterward, if the board follows precedent of the 2015 charter review process, the approved changes go to the Legislature before returning to be approved by the voters.

While most of the Charter Review Committee's proposed changes are aimed at clarifying the text, a few make notable changes in how town government could function.

Most visible is a change in the number of people on several town boards. Two of them — Planning and Conservation — would shrink to five members

plus two alternates. Both now technically have seven members, although Conservation hasn't actually had a full complement in years, currently has just three, and has never had alternates. Two others — Liquor and Zoning — would each add two voting members (growing to five each) while keeping their current number of alternates. (Alternates do not vote except if a regular member is absent or conflict-ed out.)

During discussion, councilors noted they'd prefer to have the changes take effect when an affected board member resigns rather than demoting a voting member to alternate. That would apply only to the Planning Board right now.

In three locations (regarding the annual

budget and capital hearings and bylaw changes), the committee suggested formally altering how notices reach the public by replacing publication in newspapers with publication on the town website "and in any other media as determined by the Town Council." For some time, the town's official posting site has been the website, but the current charter requires advertising in "one or more newspapers of general circulation."

That did spark some debate, with some councilors noting that some residents have little or no internet access and still rely on newspapers. This change will not affect legal advertising required by state law, such as those for public hearings held by Planning, Conservation

Turn To CHANGES page A13



Courtesy

RUTH WELLS CENTER TO HOST KIDS ART CAMP

The Ruth Wells Center for the Arts, located at 111 Main St. in Southbridge, will be offering a Kids Art Camp Feb. 21-25 for two groups. Ages six to 10 will meet at 9 a.m., while ages 11-16 will meet at 10:30 a.m. Under the direction of local artist Simone Germain, kids will explore art in many forms, and have a fun and instructive week. The Camp will end with an open house exhibit on Sunday, Feb. 27. Class size is limited, and registration is required.

Southbridge Girl Scout troop welcoming new members

SOUTHBRIDGE — See for yourself what Girl Scouts has to offer. Your girl is invited to join Girl Scout Troop 65276. This troop is for girls in grades K-2. The Troop meets every other Monday from 6:15-7:15 p.m. in Southbridge.

Girl membership registration fee for the year is \$35. Financial Assistance is available.

You can register for a spot in the troop at <https://bit.ly/troop65276>

Joining Girl Scouts is a great way to help girls build confidence, try new things, make new friends and build leadership qualities. Previous Girl Scout experience is not necessary. For information on Girl Scouts and how to join contact info@gscwm.org. Telephone: 508-365-0115

About Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts

Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts serves over 4,500 girls in grades K through 12 with the strong support of 3,000 adult volunteers in 186 towns and cities in central and western Massachusetts. Girl Scouts' mission is to build girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place. Since 1912, girls have explored new fields of knowledge, learned valuable skills, and developed strong core values through Girl Scouts. Today, Girl Scouts is, as it always has been, the organization best positioned to help girls develop important leadership skills they need to become successful adults.

Warrior Yoga to Calligraphy: Hitchcock Academy hosts it all

BRIMFIELD — Find out if the pen is mightier than the sword, or if the yogi is as mighty a warrior as a fencer as you try out Calligraphy, Warrior Yoga, or Fencing this winter, and celebrate your victories with a slice of gorgeously decorated chocolate cake. Hitchcock Academy, a community center in Brimfield, is rolling out a cavalcade of classes for all ages and interests, including several new and unique offerings.

The center's longtime Pilates instructor Karen Larsen is teaming up with Fencing instructor Andrew Bloch to offer a new Warrior Yoga class in February. Warrior Yoga is an adventurous style of yoga for the advanced-beginner that incorporates a blend of slightly more intense Yoga poses mixed with some martial arts moves. This more athletic style of yoga will take participants through classes of power and strength with the transitions of

flow. It will be offered on Thursdays from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. starting Feb. 3.

Fencing will also continue with its next session beginning on Jan. 13, and Pilates' next session starts on Feb. 2.

On Jan. 20, armed with felt tipped pens and paper, participants will be guided by Christine Ohristo in an introduction to the age-old craft of Calligraphy. The two-hour evening workshop will present the opportunity for each student, after demonstration and instruction, to create a card or poem of their own calligraphy artwork, and perhaps for a new hobby to carry forth.

For those looking to master a new instrument, Guitar is offered monthly in four weekly Wednesday sessions by Reese Crosby.

The center's longtime Martial Arts Club run by Israel Lopez is offering a steal in January for those interested in trying the sport. While

an annual membership fee still applies, tuition is waived for the month for all students, existing and new. That's a dozen opportunities to try a sport that promises to increase your balance, strength, and confidence.

Judo is offered to both an All Ages group on Wednesdays and Fridays 4:30 to 6 p.m. and an Adults group Mondays and Fridays 6 to 7:30 p.m.

For the pups in the family, Laurie Merritt continues her popular series of Dog Training classes on Jan. 19, and those interested in K9 NoseWork can look forward to another session coming soon.

Let's Cake Decorate continues its series of playful decorating workshops with a For The Love of Chocolate & Roses cake on Sunday, Feb. 13, the eve of Valentine's Day, for anyone looking to treat themselves or someone special to a sweet confection for the holiday.

Yoga will be offered

online for the session that is underway, but a new session anticipated to resume as an in-person class will begin on March 7.

"That's ten invitations to enrich your winter," says Executive Director Cindy Skowrya. "We look forward to wel-

coming friends new and old, young and young at heart, human or canine. All are welcome, and we've got something for everyone."

For more information or to register, visit www.hitchcock-academy.org. Hitchcock Academy is a communi-

ty center enriching lives through educational, recreational and cultural programs for all ages and serving Brimfield, Sturbridge, Holland, Wales, The Brookfields, and beyond. Hitchcock is located at 2 Brookfield Rd. in Brimfield.



Fire levels Charlton home



Courtesy - Peter Shea/Facebook

Firefighters plan their next attack to control a blaze at 209 Center Depot Road in Charlton.

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — Multiple departments responded to a fire incident in Charlton in the early morning hours of Wednesday, Jan. 5, where a massive blaze leveled a two-story home.

Charlton Fire Chief Ed Knopf said calls came in at around 3:06 a.m. reporting a fully involved fire at 209 Center Depot Rd. in Charlton. Responders arrived on scene to find the home fully engulfed. Engine 3, with a crew of four personnel, was the

first on the scene, and by 3:11 a.m., a second alarm was struck, and work began to manage the blaze.

"We had nine fire towns and Webster EMS came in to help. As we continue to learn in our area, we rely very heavily on our mutual aid companies to come in and assist us when we need it," Chief Knopf said. "Our first due engine was out the door in three minutes, and they were on arrival within, I think, seven. They made good time. The rest of us were coming from home. It's just waiting for the out-of-town units to get there so we can establish

the water supply because we're using their water and manpower as well, but everyone responded well."

The fire was deemed under control by 4:40 a.m., and the scene cleared before 9:30 a.m. with Auburn, Brookfield, Dudley, East Brookfield, Leicester, Oxford, Spencer, Southbridge and Sturbridge assisting in fire suppression while Webster EMS provided an ambulance. The Charlton Department of Public Works was also called in to assist with the icy road conditions and demolish a standing chimney that was deemed a potential hazard. Chief Knopf confirmed there were no injuries at the scene and that local police helped evacuate the residents.

"Two residents were able to get out with the assistance of Charlton police. They did a very nice job. Weather was a factor. Once the water got flowing roads got slick and surfaces got a bit tough. We had to cut through some ice at a pond down the road in order to get into a water supply so that caused some minor delays, but once we got water flowing everything went as planned," said the chief.

Some witnesses had reported sounds of explosions or loud "booms" at the scene on social media. Chief Knopf said this was likely due to pressurized gas containers in the garage or underneath the home releasing pressure due to the fire. As of this report the exact cause of the blaze was under investigation by the District 7 Fire Investigation Unit. Chief Knopf did confirm that the fire was believed to have originated from the basement of



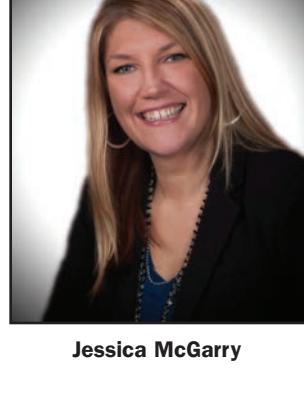
Courtesy — Dudley Police Department

A fire on Center Depot Road lights up the street in Charlton. Nine different departments and other agencies were called in to help fight the blaze.

the home.

The building was deemed a total loss with an estimated value of \$165,000. The American Red Cross is working with the residents to provide assistance and a GoFundMe page was set up for the residents as well.

Country Bank promotes Jessica McGarry to First Vice President, Commercial Lending Lead



Jessica McGarry

ing central and western Massachusetts, is pleased to announce that Jessica McGarry has been promoted to First Vice President, Team Lead for its Commercial Lending Division in the East. McGarry, who joined Country Bank in 2017, resides in Sutton and has over 20 years of experience in the financial services focused on commercial lending.

designation in 2014 from Worcester Business Journal, and was a member of Leadership Worcester, Class of 2015-2016.

"I look forward to leading the Commercial Lending Division in Worcester as Country Bank continues to provide high quality business financing in Central Massachusetts. Our team is knowledgeable and dedicated, with deep connections that will continue to drive growth in the region. Strategic and hard-work-

ing individuals, coupled with dynamic lending solutions and a responsive approval process will position our team to capitalize on large and small opportunities as we move into 2022 and beyond," she said.

"We are excited to promote Jessica to the First Vice President in the Commercial Lending Division for the East. Jessica's extensive background working with commercial customers, financing strategies, and, in the process, building long-term partnerships in the east has

been a part of Country's success in the Worcester market.

These partnerships define Country Bank, and Jessica's leadership exemplifies our iSTEP Corporate Values of Integrity, Service, Teamwork, Excellence, and Prosperity," stated Tom Wolcott, First Senior Vice President and Commercial Lending.

Jessica is based in the Worcester Business Banking Center at 315 Main St., and may be reached at jmcgarry@countrybank.com or at 508-762-0272.

About Country Bank
Country Bank is a full-service mutual community bank serving central and western Massachusetts with 14 offices in Ware, Palmer, West Brookfield, Brimfield, Belchertown, Wilbraham, Ludlow, Leicester, Paxton, Charlton, Springfield and Worcester. Country Bank is a member of FDIC, DIF and the SUM network. Country Bank can be reached at 800-322-8233 or online at countrybank.com.

WORCESTER — Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serv-

ing central and western Massachusetts, is pleased to announce that Jessica McGarry has been promoted to First Vice President, Team Lead for its Commercial Lending Division in the East. McGarry, who joined Country Bank in 2017, resides in Sutton and has over 20 years of experience in the financial services focused on commercial lending.

McGarry earned her Bachelor's degree in Business from Nichols College, was a recipient of the Forty Under 40

happy NEW YEAR

Country Club Acres

61 Airport Road, Dudley MA 01571
Single-Family Homes One-Level Living
For Homeowners 55+

**Celebrate the New Year
with a New Home**



**One Level Living
Showing similar homes in Shrewsbury...
call for appointment**

Call Fran Silva 508-208-9371

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right here in Dudley, Mass

**VA Financing
starting at
\$399,000***

*Price updated due to printing error

Country Club Acres

A Community of single-family, detached condominiums for Homeowners 55+, 2 Bedroom, 2 Baths, and 2-Car Garage, all in a beautiful setting

*One-Level Living Homes Are Going Fast.
Call Fran to set up an appointment
61 Airport Road, Dudley, MA
Come visit and take a peek... it may be just what you've been waiting for!*

**Marketed by
Your New Home
Marketing**

State officials hold firm against school closure requests

BY KEVIN FLANDERS

STAFF WRITER

REGION – Despite pleas from the Massachusetts Teachers Association, state officials have remained firm in their decision to keep schools open full-time coming out of the holiday break.

Prior to schools reopening on the first Monday of the new year, Massachusetts Teachers Association (MTA) President Merrie Najimy issued an urgent request to state leaders.

"After consulting with our Environmental Health and Safety Committee and public health experts, the Massachusetts Teachers Association is calling on state Education Commissioner Jeffrey Riley to keep all schools closed on Monday [Jan. 3], except for staff COVID-19 testing," *Najimy said*. "To protect the public health and the safety of our communities, it is urgent to allow districts to use Jan. 3 for administering COVID-19 tests to school staff and analyzing the resulting data."

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner Jeffrey Riley and Gov. Charlie Baker were in agreement to hold classes statewide on Jan. 3, with no days off for testing. Even with the surge of

Omicron cases resulting from the holidays, state officials said they are not considering a return to remote learning. Both Riley and Baker emphasized the importance in-person learning plays in students' educational and emotional wellbeing.

"Kids need to be in school—school is safe," Baker said. "There's an overwhelming amount of evidence out there that keeping kids out of school, keeping them away from one another, keeping them away from trained and caring adults, did terrible damage to kids all over the country. It's not going to happen in Massachusetts."

State officials said the combination of vaccine availability, mask mandates in schools, and other safety protocols should be enough to ensure that students are safe in class without needing to return to remote learning.

But the MTA and thousands of educators and school staff members across the state contend that schools are not currently safe with COVID-19 cases surging.

The MTA has long demanded greater access to COVID-19 tests, officials said. Earlier this month, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

announced the arrival of 200,000 tests for school staff, but MTA leaders said that number isn't nearly enough for continued testing.

As of last week, the nation was averaging over 500,000 new COVID-19 cases per day. Reports have widely suggested the Omicron variant may be less severe than previous variants, but daily COVID deaths in the U.S. have frequently exceeded 2,000 since the start of January.

On multiple days last week, new daily cases surpassed 700,000 nationwide. In Massachusetts, the surge has caused thousands of teachers and other school staff members to be out of work due to positive tests.

MTA officials said they agree with state leaders that in-person education is vital, but they said more needs to be done to ensure it happens safely for students, staff, and visitors.

"The MTA is committed to making sure that in-person learning continues as long as it is safe—and that students, school staff, families, and communities are protected as the new year begins to unfold," *Najimy said*.

ACCURACY WATCH

THE SOUTHBIDGE NEWS 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 ON IN A TIMELY MANNER.

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QVCC announces Fall 2021 Dean's List

DANIELSON, Conn. — Quinebaug Valley Community College has announced the names of 178 students named to the Fall 2021 semester dean's list.

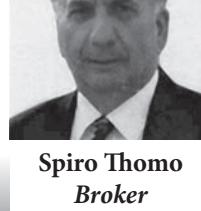
Charlton Caitlin Baer; Johnathan Tucker

Dudley Molly Castano, Brett Spiewakowski

Southbridge Jourhana Colon


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Town of Sturbridge — Part-Time Custodian

The Town of Sturbridge Facilities Department is currently seeking an individual for the part-time position of Custodian. The 18-hour per week, position reports to the Facilities Coordinator. Duties include cleaning of buildings and equipment, disinfecting, monitoring supplies and building conditions, and reporting to

Facilities Coordinator. OSHA Training is a plus, but not required prior to employment. Candidates must be able to be flexible, work independently and as a team, follow strict cleaning protocols as necessary, and work up to 5-6 days per week at multiple buildings. Starting rate expected to be \$17.38/per hour.

See also job description for more details.

Sturbridge is a Drug-Free workplace and EOE. Applications can be downloaded on <https://www.sturbridge.gov/>. Please send letter and application to Town Administrator's Office, 308 Main St, Sturbridge, MA 01566 or email to mgarman@sturbridge.gov. Applications accepted until filled.

UPCOMING EVENT TO CELEBRATE THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY of East Brookfield

the youngest
 town in the
 Commonwealth!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22

AT 6:00 PM

1920'S NIGHT at the BREWERY

– themed music and drinks

Timberyard Brewery

555 East Main Street,

East Brookfield, MA

FREE ADMISSION

ALL WELCOME

See Facebook @EB100th or
tinyurl.com/EB100th for details on all events!



NEXT UPCOMING EVENT:

FEBRUARY 5:

"The Lake in Winter"

2:30 Ice Harvesting

presentation by Ken Ethier

at the Town Hall;

3:30 pm Ice Skating,

Bonfire & Music, Lake

Lashaway Town Beach

Friday's Child



Christopher

Age: 13

I love to build things!

Christopher "Chris" is a twelve-year-old boy of bi-racial descent who loves to be active and is described as playful. Christopher has many positive relationships with the peers and adults in his life. He is very active and enjoys climbing, building, playing outdoors, and going on outings in the community. Christopher also loves playing video games and building Legos and can entertain himself with them for hours.

Chris is in the 6th grade and continues to make good progress at school. He loves his school and has many positive relationships with his school staff. Chris continues to receive educational support and would do well with a family who can

continue to advocate for his needs at school.

Legally freed for adoption, Christopher has a great relationship with his younger brother who he sees at least monthly. A family will need to be open to continued visits with his sibling. He also has an uncle that participates in these visits and is a support to him and would like to remain involved in his life. Christopher has reported that he'd like to live in a house with a mom, a dad, and some pets. He would do best in a flexible, playful home. A family could have no children or significantly older children than Christopher. While Chris' social worker is ultimately seeking a permanent family for him, Chris would also benefit from forming relationships with other caring adults and would benefit from a Visiting Resource. Anyone interested in this opportunity should inquire about Chris.

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; LG-BTQ 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. The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have a permanent place to call home.



Open Sky appoints new Vice President of Integrated Care



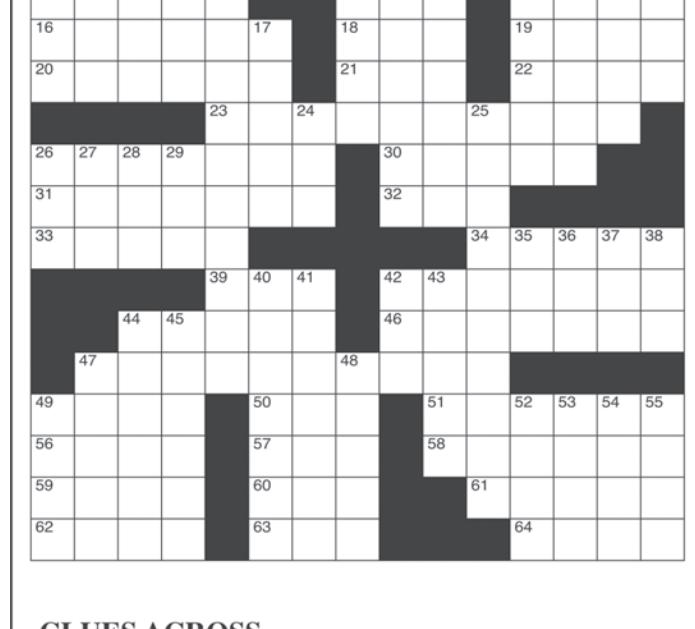
Ryan Johnston

WORCESTER — Ryan Johnston has been appointed Vice President of Integrated Care for Open Sky Community Services, according to an announcement from President and CEO Ken Bates. Open Sky's Integrated Care Division, which Johnston will oversee, includes Outpatient Services, Community Supports, the Central Community Health Partnership, and a new federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grant-funded Certified

Community Behavioral Health Clinic.

Johnston is a familiar face to many at Open Sky, having worked for Alternatives, one of the agency's predecessor organizations and later for Open Sky. Joining Alternatives in 2009, he served in several different roles, most recently as Assistant Director of Mental Health Services. He left Open Sky in 2018 to accept a position with the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health.

Johnston said he was pleased to return to Open Sky, adding "It's a unique time to come back to the organization, as we work on the frontlines of the ever-changing healthcare and human services landscape I am especially excited about the opportunities offered by the new SAMHSA grant, both to provide new services and to enhance existing behavioral health services."

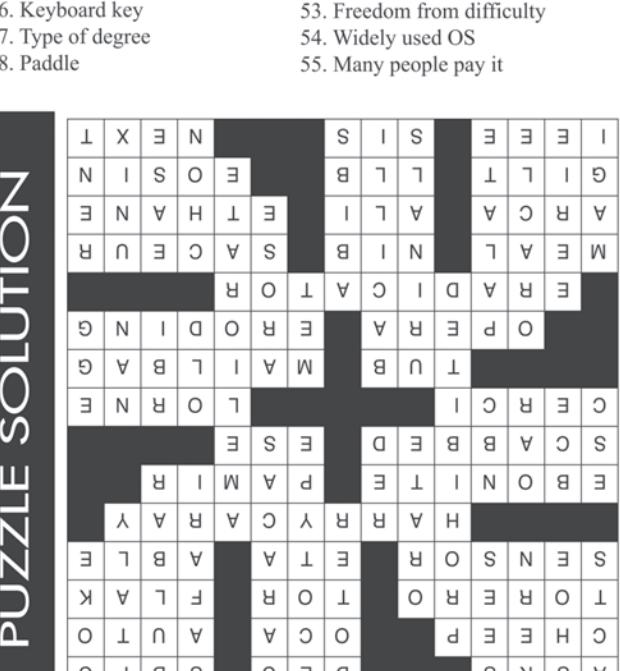


CLUES ACROSS

- Requests
- Calendar month
- Invests in little enterprises
- Bird sound
- S. American plant cultivated for tubers
- Car
- Bullfighter
- Hill (Celtic)
- Strong criticism
- Detector
- When you hope to get there
- Having the skill to do something
- Legendary MLB broadcaster
- Vulcanite
- C. Asian mountain range
- In a way, healed
- Midway between east and southeast
- Small appendages of insects
- Greene, "Bonanza" actor
- A place to bathe
- Postal worker accessory
- Classical music
- A way of wrecking
- Terminator
- You eat three a day
- Pointed end of a pen
- NATO official (abbr.)
- Genus of clams
- Boxing's "G.O.A.T."
- A colorless, odorless gas used as fuel
- Covered thinly with gold paint
- Bachelor of Laws
- Red fluorescent dye
- Engineering group
- Female sibling
- Adjacent

CLUES DOWN

- What a thespian does
- Footwear
- Adjust spacing between
- Witnesses
- Who shows excessive fondness
- Distinct form of a plant
- National capital
- Hunting expedition
- Related to medulla oblongata
- European country
- Cola
- Excluded from use or mention
- Speal
- Bloodshot
- Make better
- Keyboard key
- Type of degree
- Paddle
- Peacock network
- Not young
- Baseball stat
- One's grandmother
- Breakfast food
- Bathroom features
- Disease-causing bacterium
- NY ballplayer
- Got up
- Prophet
- Part of the mouth
- Unnatural
- Acronym for brain science study
- Three are famous
- Languages spoken in Patagonia
- Freedom from difficulty
- Widely used OS
- Many people pay it



Cornerstone Bank donates \$50,000 to Worcester County charitable organizations

W O R C E S T E R
— Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with 12 locations throughout Central Massachusetts, has donated \$50,000 to two Worcester County non-profit organizations: \$40,000 to the Worcester Community Action Council and \$10,000 to the Worcester County Food Bank. The two groups are dedicated to improving quality of life by ending poverty and food insecurity throughout the region, respectively.

The Worcester Community Action Council is one of 23 community action agencies in Massachusetts with the mission of helping people toward economic self-sufficiency through programs, partnerships and advocacy. To break the cycle of poverty for tens of thousands of people annually, WCAC helps to provide opportunities for energy assistance, early education and care, financial empowerment, positive youth development, and career pathways.

The Worcester County Foodbank is dedicated to engaging and educating the region in creating a hunger-free community through partnerships with donors and volunteers, as well as business and community leaders. Last year, their network of 115 local pantries and programs helped to distribute nearly 6.1 million pounds of donated

food to 75,000 people across 60 Worcester County communities.

"As a community bank, we live and work in Central Massachusetts, which is why we are committed to supporting these causes that improve the quality of life for those around us," continued Tallman. "We are honored to work alongside both these charitable organizations and look forward to the good that will come from these donations."

To learn more about Cornerstone Bank and their charitable work, please visit cornerstonebank.com.

About Cornerstone Bank

Cornerstone Bank was formed in 2017, born of a long history of supporting the community and

providing a strong foundation to help people and businesses thrive. Serving Worcester County, Massachusetts,

Cornerstone Bank's local presence and community based banking model enables a unique ability to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone provides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations with branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts. Cornerstone works to connect customers with opportunities, through a broad range of deposit and loan products, and services. Built on Trust is not just a tagline, but also one of our guiding corporate values. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone stands on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. To learn about Cornerstone Bank's personal and business banking offerings, please visit cornerstonebank.com or call 800-939-9103.

Sturbridge Historical Society meets Jan. 27

STURBRIDGE — The Sturbridge Historical Society will meet on Thursday, Jan. 27 at The Publick House Historical Inn on Sturbridge Common. Our speaker will be Stan Komor.

Komor is the Commanding Officer of USS Constitution's 1812 Marine Guard, and will be speaking about the history of The USS Constitution "Old Ironsides." His unit represents US Marine Corps of the early 19th century for the USS Constitution and educates the active duty navy crew and public about marines of the period, and are volunteer members of the USS Constitution's crew.

Komor is a former active duty US Marine which is where he gained his love of sea service history. Through his work with historic Marine Education Inc, the parent organization of the 1812 Marine Guard, he has become an expert on the USS Constitution and The Marine Corps of The War of 1812 or 1812 era.

Historical Society meetings are free of charge with dessert and meeting room provided by Michael Glick, Publick House Innkeeper. Our sincere thanks go out to Mr. Glick.

Meetings are held September through May on the fourth Thursday of the month except November and December. November meeting is held the first Thursday in December.

All meetings start at 7 p.m., and the public is welcome.

Joshua Hyde Library reschedules Frank Capra Film Series for 125th Anniversary celebration

STURBRIDGE — Due to the recent suspension of indoor programs at the Joshua Hyde Public Library, the Frank Capra Film Series which was originally scheduled for January have been moved to new dates in March and April.

In celebration of the Library's quasquicentennial anniversary, the new dates for the Frank Capra (born 1897) 125th-inspired film series are as follows.

ALMANAC

OPEN TO CLOSE

TOWN HALL

Monday-Wednesday:
8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Thursday: 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
Friday: 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

JACOB EDWARDS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Monday: 9 a.m.-8 p.m.
Tuesday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Wednesday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Thursday: 9 a.m.-8 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (May 25 will be our last open Saturday until Labor Day) Sunday: Closed

"Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" (1939), on March the 9th.
"It Happened One Night" (1934), on March 16th
"Lost Horizon" (1937), on April 6th
"You Can't Take It With You" (1938), on April 13th

All movies will begin at 12:30 p.m. on the Wednesday dates above.

Plan to join-in to continue a year of celebrations with fun events and displays in the library. For any future updates and/or cancellations, please call the library. Sponsored by the Friends of JHPL. Masks are required for everyone ages five and up for the event.

For more information on this/any 125th celebration event, please call 508-347-2512. You can also visit the library Web site at www.sturbridgelibrary.org, or on Facebook and Instagram: @sturbridgelibrary

Julia Resener of Southbridge named to Lasell University dean's list

NEWTON — Julia Resener, a Lasell University student from Southbridge, was named to the dean's list for their academic performance in the fall 2021 semester.

Students who receive this honor have completed at least 12 credits as a full-time student and have achieved a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher.

For more information contact: Samantha Mocle, assistant director of communications at smocle@lasell.edu or at 617-243-2386.

REAL ESTATE

SOUTHBRIDGE

\$320,000, 11 Westwood Pkwy, Higgins, Matthew, and Larson, Dayna, to Shalash, Natalie N, and Askari, Kanat.

\$307,500, 14 Meadowbrook Rd, Simpson, Germaine J, to Antoine, Jenny Y.

\$300,000, 17 Moon St, Royal House Inns LLC, to Rodriguez, Juan P, and Rodriguez, Josefina M.

\$237,000, 675 Main St, Derosier, Elaine I, to Duran, Valdemar M.

SOUTHBRIDGE NEWS

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Quinsigamond Community College to host Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Breakfast virtually

W O R C E S T E R
Quinsigamond Community College will host the 37th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Community Breakfast virtually, on Monday, Jan. 17. This year's event theme will once again focus on the day of recognition for Dr. King as, "More than a Day Off."

"Each year, QCC is host to this important and impactful community event that honors Dr. King. I cannot help but think of him as we just recently recognized the year anniversary of the insurrection on the U.S. Capitol, yet our democracy stood strong and once again, a peaceful transition of power took place. Dr. King fought for equity, equality and a democracy where all can prosper," said QCC President Luis G. Pedraja, Ph.D. "We must work with renewed vigor to ensure we continue his legacy that inspires us all to achieve a nation in which people will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character, as Dr. King dreamed."

All Worcester and surrounding community members are welcome to view the virtual event at no cost, beginning at 7:45 a.m. on Jan. 17 by visiting www.QCC.edu/mlkbreakfast. Following the live presentation, a recording of the event

will be available on the same webpage. The Master of Ceremony for the breakfast will be Phil Niddrie, former Special Projects Coordinator for the City Manager's Office.

This year, the MLK Jr. Community Breakfast Committee is excited to welcome guest speaker Educator and Author Dr. Kellie Carter Jackson, along with several musical selections from local church choral groups. Dr. Jackson is an associate professor in the department of Africana Studies at Wellesley College and author of the award-winning book, "Force & Freedom: Black Abolitionists and the Politics of Violence," listed by the Washington Post as one of 13 books to read on African American History.

As has been the tradition, the Committee will also be recognizing the winners of an area Essay and Art contest held at area schools, in addition to this year's MLK Scholarship winners. Scholarships are funded through the Committee's yearly golf tournament, with one funded through Quinsigamond Community College.

In addition, the annual Eleanor Hawley Community Service Award will be awarded to former YWCA

Executive Director, Ms. Linda Cavaoli. This distinguished award is not only in recognition of her commitment and leadership to the MLK Jr. Breakfast for many years, but also to for her tireless efforts to ensure the improvement in life opportunities to people throughout the City of Worcester and beyond, as well as her never-ending efforts in the arena of civil rights, women's rights and a host of other issues.

As part of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Breakfast, United Way of Central Massachusetts, the Worcester Area Mission Society (WAMS), and United Congregational

Church are collecting new books for second and third grade students in Worcester Public Schools. With sponsorship from Unum Group, the books will be added to literacy kits and distributed through school principals. Age-appropriate books are needed on Dr. King, other civil rights leaders, or justice and equity topics. A list of suggested books can be found on the WAMS website, <https://wamsworks.org/dr-martin-luther-king-jr-community-breakfast-book-drive-list-of-books/>.

Books can be dropped off at the Worcester Area Mission Society, 6 Institute Rd., Worcester, Monday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – noon, from now

through January 19, or tax deductible cash donations can be made to WAMS at <https://wamsworks.org/>. WAMS staff will use all money donated to this drive to buy needed books. Anyone with questions should call Karen Ludington at 508-755-2329, ext. 4.

Event sponsors include Quinsigamond Community College, National Grid, UMass Chan Medical School, UMass Memorial Health and Hanover Insurance Group.

"On behalf of the Breakfast Committee I want to thank everyone who has participated in the Breakfast over the past 37 years, and those

who have made additional donations to the scholarships awarded all these years," said Nellie Toney, who has been on the Committee for the lifetime of the Breakfast and has served as Co-chair and Chair during those years. "It is our hope to be back in-person in 2023."

To learn more about the event or to make a donation to the Scholarship Fund, visit www.QCC.edu/mlk-breakfast.

For more information on QCC, contact Karen Hutton, Interim Director of Institutional Communications, at 508-854-2842 or khutner@qcc.mass.edu.

Stewing Over Mysteries event postponed to April 6

STURBRIDGE — Due to the recent suspension of indoor programs and events for the Joshua Hyde Public Library, the Library's annual Stewing Over Mysteries event, originally scheduled for Jan. 19, has been moved to Wednesday, April 6 at 6:30 p.m.

For anyone who has already purchased tickets, please feel free to hold on to those tickets for the new April date (refunds are available upon request). Otherwise, tickets for this event can be purchased for \$16 per person in the Library or through PayPal on the Friends of the Joshua Hyde Public Library Web site, www.sturbridgelibraryfriends.org/stew-ing-over-mysteries. The event will be hosted at the Publick House Tap Room as we stew over mysteries with Sarah Stewart Taylor, author of the Sweeney St. George series and the Maggie D'arcy series. Your ticket purchase comes with entry into the event, as well as a delicious beef stew dinner, rolls, coffee, & dessert.

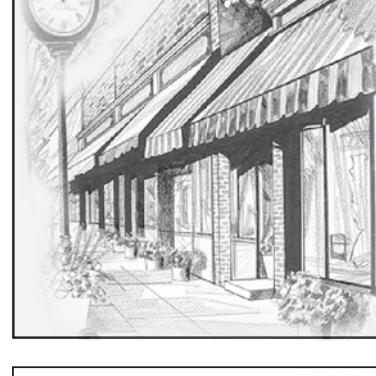
Taylor grew up on Long Island, and was educated at Middlebury College in Vermont and Trinity

College, Dublin, where she studied Irish Literature. She has worked as a journalist and writing teacher and now lives with her family on a farm in Vermont where they raise sheep and grow blueberries. While two of her books will be available for purchase at the event, you can save \$3 by purchasing your ticket and her newest book, "A Distant Grave" in hardcover as a bundle on the Friends of Joshua Hyde Public Library Web site (listed above) to be picked up at the event or at the library. The second book, "The Mountains Wild" is now in paperback and can only be purchased at the event. Make sure to reserve your spot early, this event sells out every year.

For future updates and/or cancellations, please call the library. This event is sponsored by the Friends of Joshua Hyde Public Library.

For questions or more information on the event, please visit www.sturbridgelibrary.org or call 508-347-2512.

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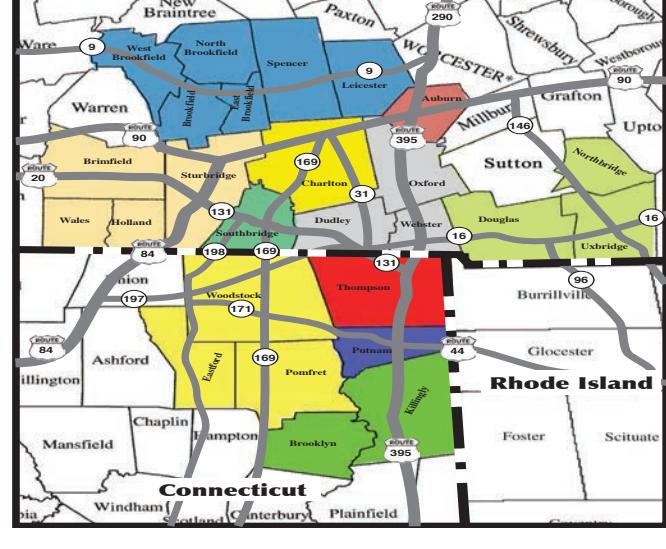
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EDITORIAL**Baby, it's cold outside**

Newsflash: it's cold. Our little neck of the woods here has finally hit frigid sub-zero temperatures. Folks may be running low on fuel, or even running empty, causing frozen pipes to burst. Fuel companies are scheduled two weeks out in some cases, and several customers are feeling stressed due to the financial burden this cold weather brings. Our only advice is to hold on tight and think about how toasty things will be when temperatures soar into the teens and low 20s again.

The winter solstice on Dec. 21 has passed, and the days are getting longer...and, we hope, sunnier. One perk to this post-New Year's time is that, well, the holidays are over. The hustle and bustle starts in late November and doesn't calm down until the week following New Year's. Is it overrated? Maybe. We hope you are all able to relax in the days ahead.

When weather hits sub-zero, it's hard to remember why we live here. We live in New England because winter, for the most part, is fun and manageable. We love our snow sports, the smell of wood stoves cranking and the beauty of the snow-capped mountains.

Some of you may think of our ancestors who had to cut chords of wood by hand all year long just to prepare for the harsh New England winters. Houses way back when had no insulation or the walls were stuffed with straw and mud. Common houses were much smaller, therefore easier to keep heated with one wood stove. The fireplace was the focal point of a colonial home and was the place where family members would talk and work on small projects during the evening. The average size of a house according to today's standards is about 2,600 square feet. A home of that size hundreds of years ago was often occupied by the wealthy, who were able to afford to put a wood stove in each room of the house. Children often slept in lofts where the heat would rise and often shared a bed with siblings, using body heat to keep warm.

In days of old, people used thick curtains and down comforters to keep the heat in. Before bedtime, many would use a bed warmer, which was a brass pan with a long handle that was filled with hot rocks. Foot warmers were popular as well. These fancy contraptions were made of a wood framed tin box also with heated rocks that would be placed by the feet under the comforter. This heating method was used for trips in the horse and buggy as well. Church goers would bring their own boxes of heat and blankets to keep warm during a Sunday service.

Important to note is the fact that over the years humans have increasingly adapted to warmer weather as a result of modern technology. Our ancestors were able to withstand much colder temperatures and remain more comfortable in colder temperatures than we do today. All of that aside, we are pretty lucky to have the conveniences we do during these cold blasts.

Since winter is not nearly over, here are a few tips with regard to winter survival. Avoid frost bite and frost nip at all costs. When the water molecules in your skin cells freeze, they die. Once this happens, they can cause damage to your muscular and nervous systems. Exposed skin can develop frostbite within 30 minutes with winds of 10 mph and a temperature of -5 degrees. If you are outside and find your hands freezing, the warmest place for them to go is under your armpits, the warmest part of your body.

Another culprit is hypothermia. When your body hits 95 degrees you're entering the danger zone. When your organs start to drop in temperature they begin to shut down. If you notice yourself shivering or lacking coordination, it's time to get warm fast. Other more severe symptoms include low energy, difficulty speaking, a weak pulse and the cessation of the shivers. It's important to stay well nourished during any time spent outside, as your body needs that energy to stay

Turn To **EDITORIAL** page A9

OPINION

Viewpoints and commentary from the Tri-Community and beyond

Make gardening your New Year's resolution

The New Year is filled with resolutions that usually involve dieting and exercise. Gardening is a great way to help accomplish these two resolutions, while also improving your mood, reducing blood pressure, maintaining flexibility, burning calories and much more.

Resolve to grow your own vegetables and eat healthier in the New Year. Get your family and friends involved in planning ways to include gardening into your lives.

Explore ways to incorporate vegetables and herbs into your landscape. Vegetable gardens are not the only option. Tucking vegetables into flowerbeds, mixed borders and container gardens can expand your planting space. Look for new compact and colorful vegetable varieties that fit nicely into small spaces, planters, and ornamental gardens.

Take an inventory of any leftover seeds and make a list of those seeds and any plants you need to purchase. The earlier you order, the more likely you are to obtain the items on your list.

Don't wait to start your year of healthful gardening and eating habits. Start by growing microgreens in January. They are quick, easy and require no special equipment. Plus, recent research found that many contain as



**GARDEN
MOMENTS**

MELINDA
MYERS

much as 25 times more nutrients than the leaves of the full-grown plant.

Organize a seed swap with family and friends in winter. It is a great way to extend your plant budget and experiment with new seeds. Turn old seeds that are no longer viable into artwork with sheets of paper or small pieces of wood, glue, and some creativity.

Start vegetable, herb, and flower seeds indoors in late winter through mid spring. Check the seed packet for timing and planting directions. Create a seed starting chart or mark planting dates on your calendar to ensure seeds get planted at the recommended time.

Monitor the weather and follow the recommended planting dates for sowing seeds directly in the garden and moving seedlings outdoors. Use homemade or DIY cloches, floating row covers and cold frames to jump start the season. These capture warmth near the plants for an earlier start in the garden. They can also be used to extend the end of the growing season.

Start removing weeds



Melinda Myers
Compact vegetable varieties can be tucked into ornamental container gardens if space is an issue.

as soon they appear throughout the season. These unwanted plants compete with desirable plants for water and nutrients, and many are host to disease and insect pests. Pulling weeds is also a great way to reduce stress while improving the health and beauty of your garden beds.

Harvest flowers to enjoy in summer bouquets and arrangements. Pick a few extras to share with friends. Research has found immediate and long-lasting benefits generated from the gift of fresh flowers.

Pick vegetables regularly when they are at their peak for maximum productivity, flavor, and nutritional value. Share extra produce with family, friends, and the food insecure – many of which are children – in your community. Contact your local food bank, food pantry or Feeding America to donate garden fresh produce.

Cap off your efforts with a garden party. Invite fellow gardeners to bring a dish to share that incorporates homegrown vegetables. Share recipes, garden success stories, and begin planning for the season ahead.

For the recommended timing to do these and other gardening projects, check my monthly gardening checklists.

*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.*

The kindness of strangers

I spent the New Year celebrating with my girlfriend in a beautiful, small, old town in northwestern Illinois named Galena. We had a wonderful time.

**POSITIVELY
SPEAKING**

TOBY
MOORE

Our dinner reservations were at the very historic Desoto Hotel, and to our surprise, nobody was there! People celebrated in the hotel outside of the restaurant, but the restaurant itself was empty. I asked the waitress, "where is everybody?", she responded, "A big winter storm is coming!"

After dinner, we walked down Main Street and commented on how calm the weather was. There wasn't a storm.

New Year's Day was sunny and cold. The weather was nice, so we decided to stay longer and visit some shops we hadn't seen. By mid-afternoon, the clouds rolled in, accompanied by heavy snowfall.

One of the locals cautioned us from driving home; we thanked her and explained how we had to get back home and go through the blizzard.

I felt confident; I'd driven through many snowstorms all over the nation. I figured we could make it home in seven hours, moving slow.

From the start, many times, I almost

went off the road. Carefully, I pressed forward; every mile seemed to be more dangerous. I said to myself, "they will put salt on the roads; there will be snowplows..." But I saw no sign of a snowplow.

Suddenly I felt the car being pulled to the right. I turned to the left to steer the vehicle back on course, but I drove into a ditch four to six feet deep. The snow piled so high in the ditch, it appeared even with the road, and looked as if there was no ditch at all. Within a couple of seconds, my car was deep in a pile of snow.

My girlfriend was understandably upset. "It's no big deal!" I reassured her as I called AAA roadside assistance. To our surprise, the weather was so bad they shut down service for this part of the country; nobody was coming to save us.

The roads were empty. We were in the middle of nowhere with nothing but the heavy snow on a dark winter's night.

It's been such a mild winter this year; I didn't bring the proper clothes with me. I didn't have a pair of gloves, a winter jacket, a stocking cap let alone a shovel. It was about 17 degrees, and there wasn't much I could do. I

Turn To **POSITIVELY** page A9

What should you know about investment risk?

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When you invest, you incur risk – there's no avoiding it. But the concept of "risk" may be more expansive than you realized. And by understanding the different types of investment risk and how these risks can be addressed, you can improve your skills as an investor.

The most common perception of investment risk is simply the risk of losing money. When you invest in stocks and stock-based vehicles, such as mutual funds, there are no guarantees that your principal – your initial investment amount – will be preserved. Generally speaking, if you hold stocks or mutual funds over a period of years, and even decades, you can reduce the likelihood of sustaining losses that could send your investments' value to zero. Hopefully, the value of your investments will rise over time. And it's worth noting that, since the Great Depression, U.S. stocks have averaged 9.59 percent annual returns, according to Morningstar Direct, an investment research service. However, past performance can't guarantee future results.

In any case, this type of risk is real, and it's a factor to consider when making your investment decisions. But you can't avoid all risk by avoiding stocks and putting your money into other types of investments. Consider bonds, for example. When you purchase a bond, you typically receive regular interest payments and you get back your initial investment when the bond matures, provided the issuer doesn't default. But if interest rates go up and you want to sell your bond before it matures, you'll have to offer it at a "discount," because no one will pay the full price for your bond when they can buy new ones at a higher rate.

You can help manage this type of interest rate risk by owning a variety of bonds with different maturities. When interest rates are rising, you can reinvest your short-term bonds at the new, higher rates. And in a falling-rate environment, you can still benefit from your longer-term bonds, which typically pay higher interest rates.

Foreign or international investments also contain specific risks. When you purchase foreign stocks, you'll find that fluctuations in the value of currencies relative to the U.S. dollar can affect your returns. Also, international investments may carry political risk, since some foreign governments and political systems may change in ways that work against businesses in those countries. To contain these types of risk, you'll want to maintain an appropriate allocation of international holdings and diversify across regions.

Ultimately, your most broad-based defense against all types of risk is to build a diversified portfolio containing U.S. stocks, international stocks, corporate bonds, mutual funds, government securities and other investments. Diversification works because it helps reduce the impact that market volatility can have on your portfolio if you only own one type of asset, such as domestic stocks. (However, diversification can't guarantee profits or protect against all losses.) And you'll also want your portfolio to reflect your individual tolerance for risk.

By being aware of the different types of risk, and taking steps to mitigate them, you can create a strategy that offers the potential to help you achieve your important goals, such as a comfortable retirement. And by doing so, you'll avoid the greatest risk of all: not investing for your future.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Trevor Nielsen, your local Edward Jones Advisor in Sturbridge at 508-347-1420 or trevor.nielsen@edwardjones.com.

Old Man Winter brings safe ice

Old Man Winter arrived this past week, and made a lot of anglers very happy with the first safe ice of the season. Extreme caution needs to be practiced on the first ice of the season, as not all areas on a pond or lake are safe, or have the same thickness as others. It is best to check first ice with a chisel cutting a small hole in the ice as you navigate the pond or lake you are fishing to ensure it is safe.

Jig fishing is the most productive way to catch fish especially yellow perch. Cutting a few holes with an ice auger is a lot easier way to fish than chopping holes

with an ice chisel.

Back in my younger days, very few anglers had a power auger to cut holes, and we had to chop holes in the ice before fishing. There were more anglers jigging through the ice than people using ice fishing tilts. There were many Swedish people from Worcester that only used homemade jig sticks and lures to catch fish.

The homemade fishing rods were called dead sticks, as no reel was attached to the stick. When a large fish was encountered, they would ask their fellow fishing buddy to cut the hole larger in order to



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TRUE

land the fish. The fish was held with a small gaff under the ice until the hole was cut larger, enabling the fish to be brought through the hole.

Because the fishermen would sometimes cut more than 100 holes a day, they would cut the holes very small, just large enough to bring a perch through. The Swedish fishermen also made their own fish-

ing lures which were often made out of brass and lead. They were extremely well made and lasted for years if they were not lost to a big fish. The Meadow Pond in Whitinsville was a favorite pond to fish for perch, and anglers could catch as many as eight or ten perch from one hole. When the action stopped another hole was cut in an effort to stay with the school of perch. Cutting holes every few minutes kept the fishing hot. The Meadow pond is still a great pond to ice fish today providing an abundance of four- and five-pound bass annually, but fishermen need to keep

the ice free of junk. If you bring it in, be sure to bring it out. More on ice fishing next week!

This past week, the Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club lost a long-time member & friend Wilhelm Huber. "Willie," as most of us knew him by, was kitchen chairman for many years, but also worked daily to keep the club clean. The late Joan St. Andre, former board of health chairman, stated that the kitchen was the cleanest and most up to date that she had inspected annually during Willie's tenure. The coffee pot was always full with fresh hot coffee for members that attended the

daily conversations at the club, as Willie often was the first to open the club at 4 a.m.! He loved the club and the members, and often made soup or some other form of food for members to eat. Because of failing health, his annual chicken soup was not available this year for deer hunter to enjoy after daily hunts. He will be sadly missed by all that knew him. Our deepest sympathy goes out to his family and friends. Funeral services will be private!

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

Snow Facts and Trivia

The Old Farmer's Almanac predicts frigid temperatures and overall average snow for the region this winter. However, the tried-and-true guide warns of more storms and snowfalls this month, and perhaps a big post Valentine's Day storm in February.

But this should come as no surprise to hardy New Englanders who have had plenty of practice battling Old Man Winter through the years. Hot on the heels of last week's snowstorm, this column will feature a roundup of informative and interesting snow facts and trivia:

Timeless "Snowisms"
Snow has always been a common topic of conversation for New Englanders, and in 1896 Hadley, MA native Clifton Johnson of nearby Hadley, MA, put together a volume of collected proverbs titled, "What They Say in New England - A Book of Signs, Sayings and

Superstitions." Read on for his entertaining musings on snow:

*If the breast-bones of the Thanksgiving chickens are light in color, there will be a good deal of snow in the winter following. If the color is dark, there will be little snow.

*If the snow on the roof melts off, the next storm will be rain. If it blows off, you can calculate on snow.

*The day of the month on which the first snow-storm comes gives the number of storms you can expect in the following winter.

*If the ice on the trees melts and runs off, the next storm will be rain. If it is cracked off by the wind, the storm that comes next will be snow.

*Snow that comes in the old of the moon is apt to last. Snow that comes in the new of the moon is apt to melt quickly.

*When it begins to snow, notice the size of the flakes. If they are very fine, the storm will be a long one; if large,

the storm will soon be over.

**

Snow or No?

Old New Englanders often used nature to predict whether or not a winter will be particularly snowy. Here are some examples that are signs snow will be abundant:

*Squirrels begin gathering food in September

*Black bugs crawl about in the fall.

*Hogs gather sticks, straw, to make a bed.

*Birds eat up all the berries early

*Birds huddle on the ground

*Muskrat houses are built big.

*Beaver lodges have more logs and the north side of a beaver dam is more covered with sticks.

*Squirrels' tails grow bushier

*Fur or hair on animals such as horses, sheep, mules, cows, and dogs is thicker than usual

*Squirrels build nest low in trees.



TAKE
THE
HINT
• • • • •
KAREN
TRAINOR

*An ant builds its hill high

*Hornets and yellow jacket nests heavier

*More than usual amount of caterpillars

*Caterpillars have heavy coats

*You see a caterpillar crawling before the first frost

*Crows gather together

**

Know Your Snow: Are we having a storm? Maybe a squall? Perhaps a flurry? Here's help on ID-ing the white stuff:

Snowstorm: When large amounts of snow falls.

Flurry: Snow that falls for short durations and with varying intensity; flurries usually produce little accumulation.

Squall: A brief, but intense snowfall that

greatly reduces visibility and which is often accompanied by strong winds.

Snowburst: Very intense shower of snow, often of short duration, that greatly restricts visibility and produces periods of rapid snow accumulation.

Blowing Snow: Airborne snow particles raised by the wind to moderate or great heights above the ground; the horizontal visibility at eye level is generally very poor.

Drifting Snow: Snow on the ground that is blown by the wind to a height of less than 1.5 to 2 meters (5 to 6.5 feet) above the surface.

Resources

*The Weather Channel

*National Snow & Data Center

**

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.

Latest antique news



know that the bird was the badge of Anne Boleyn, he "knew that it had some sort of royal connection because it had the crown and scepter, and it was a royal bird." Anne Boleyn was Henry VIII's second wife, whom he beheaded in 1536. Boleyn had begun to use the falcon and roses badge around the time she married Henry VIII.

It's believed that the falcon and roses were part of the palace's decorative scheme at the time.

After her death, Henry VIII tried to remove all traces of Boleyn, including the falcon and rose badges. It's believed that the wooden falcon was in Boleyn's private quarters and had been stashed away by one of her supporters. Fitzsimmons paid \$101 for it at that 2019 auction. It's estimated to be worth \$270,000. He plans to offer it on long-term loan to Hampton Court Palace.



ANTIQUES,
COLLECTIBLES
& ESTATES
• • • • •
WAYNE TUISKULA

Elsewhere, Massachusetts estate sale find is also making news in England. "The Art Newspaper" reported that an Albrecht Dürer sketch was purchased from a Concord, MA estate in 2016. They write that "The Virgin and Child with a Flower on a Grassy Bank" was in the collection of architect Jean-Paul Carlhian. A man who wishes to remain anonymous purchased the sketch for \$30 from Carlhian's daughters at an estate sale of his belongings. The buyer

and seller didn't believe that it was an original work, and the buyer stored it in his home. Clifford Schorer of Agnews Gallery in London heard of the sketch when visiting Boston in 2019 and arranged to see it. Schorer told "The Art Newspaper" that when he first saw the piece he thought, "it was either the greatest forgery I have ever seen—or a masterpiece." Experts have examined the piece more carefully

and found that there are two attributes that seem to prove it is in fact authentic. His signature (initials) and the ink used match those that appear in more than 200 of his other sketches. It is believed that the sketch may be worth \$50 million. Now that's a stroke of good luck.

Our fifth online auction session of model railroad, die-cast cars, and models will begin next week. We are still accepting consignments for our next online multi-estate auction. It will feature coin collections from multiple estates, gold estate jewelry, a large sports card collection and a wide range of other items. Contact us by email or phone if you have items you'd like to include. Please see our Web site <https://centralmassauctions.com> to join our email list and keep up to date on auctions and other events.

Contact us at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique Auctions, Estate Sales and Appraisal Services www.centralmassauctions.com (508-612-6111) info@centralmassauctions.com

My girlfriend jumped out of the car, and we both thanked him profusely. I didn't have any cash on me; all I had was a bottle of wine leftover from the New Year celebration. I insisted he take it; we also offered to send him cash through an online app, but he refused. He helped us simply because we needed help.

As we drove home, my girlfriend cried tears of joy. We were blown away by his kind nature and how willing he was to help. We talked about it the whole way home.

Last week, I wrote about how one of my new year resolutions was to help people more. This man who helped us left a significant impact on me. People need help sometimes. It meant so much to us that he took the time to help while his family waited patiently in the car. I want to say thank you again, kind stranger.

TRUST YOUR NEIGHBORS ~ StonebridgePress.com



EDITORIAL

continued from page A8

warm. Always have a Snickers bar or something similar handy just in case. Staying hydrated is a must as you need water to keep your nervous system running properly. One rule of thumb is to never eat snow while trying to survive in frigid temperatures. Your body will be forced to warm it from the inside which wastes energy and can cause hypoglycemia. Try to keep your heart rate up as cold temperatures cause your heart rate to decrease. A higher heart rate will generate heat within your body however be sure not to do so much that you start to sweat, cold and sweat are never a good combination.

We hope none of you ever find yourselves in a situation where you need to implement any of the information above, however knowledge is power. Stay warm, summertime is just about six months away, where we will of course crank the air conditioning and complain about the heat and humidity.

tried to calm my panicked girlfriend.

About 30 minutes later, we noticed a light in the distance. The light became brighter and brighter, and it turned out to be a big white pickup truck. The driver slowly pulled up and shouted, "Do you need help?" My girlfriend noticed I was playing it cool, so before I could answer, she was yelling, "Yes! Help us, please!"

After about 15 minutes of shoveling and clearing snow out from under my car, he found where he could hook a chain and try to pull us out. Within 30 seconds, my car was pulled right out of the snow and back on the road.

My girlfriend jumped out of the car, and we both thanked him profusely. I didn't have any cash on me; all I had was a bottle of wine leftover from the New Year celebration. I insisted he take it; we also offered to send him cash through an online app, but he refused. He helped us simply because we needed help.

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LEGALS

**MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF SALE
OF REAL ESTATE**

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by Harold C. Peterson, Jr. to Option One Mortgage Corporation, dated March 18, 2004 and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 33090, Page 383, subsequently assigned to Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as Trustee for ABFC 2004-OPT4 Trust, ABFC Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2004-OPT4 by Sand Canyon Corporation FKA Option One Mortgage Corporation by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 61200, Page 393 for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at 12:00 PM on January 27, 2022 at 87 Westwood Parkway, Southbridge, MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit: That certain tract or parcel of land, situated in said Southbridge, designated as lot numbered twelve (12), as shown on a plan called "Revised Portion of Westwood Hills Owned by William D. Gremier Real estate & Development Co. And Charter Bros. Contractors, Southbridge, Mass. Scale 1"- 50', Jan 1957, Benjamin F. Tully, Engr" and recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 224, Plan 54 and bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at an iron pin in the ground on the westerly side line of Westwood Parkway Extension, said iron pin being three hundred fifty-four and ninety-six (354.96) feet N. 31° 18' W. from a town bound in the ground at the northerly terminal of the 1941 layout of Westwood Parkway by the Town of Southbridge; Thence running N. 31° 18' W., along the westerly side line of said Westwood Parkway Extension, sixty seven (67) feet, to a bound point; Thence running northerly and westerly on a curve, said curve having a radius of forty-nine and eighty hundredths (49.80) feet for a distance of seventy-six and forty one hundredths (76.41) feet, to a bound point on the southerly side line of a proposed street; Thence running S. 50° 47' W., along the southerly side line of said proposed street fifty-two (52) feet, to a bound point at the N.E. Corner of lot numbered thirteen (13) on said Plan; Thence running Southeasterly along the easterly line of said lot numbered thirteen (13), one hundred fifteen (115) feet, to iron pin in the ground at the N.E. Corner of lot numbered seven (7) on said Plan and the N.W. Corner of lot numbered six (6) on said Plan; Thence running Southeasterly along the easterly line of said lot numbered six (6) one hundred (100) feet, to the iron pin in the ground at the point of beginning.

For title reference see Deed dated September 30, 1957 and recorded in Book 3895 at Page 132 also see probate File Docket No. 98PR3168-AD1 for Evelyn A. Peterson.

The premises are to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, encroachments, building and zoning laws, liens, unpaid taxes, tax titles, water bills, municipal liens and assessments, rights of tenants and parties in possession, and attorney's fees and costs.

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS (\$5,000.00) in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or money order will be required to be delivered at or before the time the bid is offered. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Foreclosure Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid within thirty (30) days from the sale date in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee's attorney. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as Trustee for ABFC 2004-OPT4 Trust, ABFC Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2004-OPT4 Present Holder of said Mortgage, By Its Attorneys, ORLANS PC PO Box 540540 Waltham, MA 02454 Phone: (781) 790-7800 19-008208 January 6, 2022 January 13, 2022

January 20, 2022

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family
Court**

**225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200**

**Docket No. WO21P4050EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**
Estate of:

Bella M Collette

Date of Death: 11/03/2021

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by

Anthony A Sciulli of Sturbridge MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that

Anthony A Sciulli of Sturbridge MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 02/01/2022**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION

UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 31, 2021
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate

January 13, 2022

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family
Court**

**225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200**

**Docket No. WO21P4251EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**
Estate of:

Donna J Cook

Also known as:

Donna Cook

Date of Death: 08/03/2021

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by

Carrie A Skiarz of Charlton MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that

Carrie A Skiarz of Charlton MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/25/2022**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding.

If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION

UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 29, 2021

Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate

January 14, 2022

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family
Court**

**225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200**

**Docket No. WO21P4065EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**
Estate of:

Kirk David Dalton

Also known as:

Kirk D Dalton

Date of Death: 08/25/2018

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by

Scott A Mirabella of Dayville CT requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that

Scott A Mirabella of Dayville CT be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 02/01/2022**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding.

If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION

UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 31, 2021

Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate

January 14, 2022

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family
Court**

**225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200**

**Docket No. WO21P4253EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**
Estate of:

Pauline E Foskett

Date of Death: 10/25/2018

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by

Dan Foskett of Southbridge MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that

Dan Foskett of Southbridge MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/25/2022**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding.

If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION

UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 31, 2021

Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate

January 14, 2022

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 29, 2021

Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate

January 13, 2022

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Division**

Docket No. WO21P3242EA

Estate of:

Alexandros Vassilos Kamizirides

Also Known As:

Alexandros V. Kamizirides

Date of Death: January 31, 2021

**INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

G.L. C. 190B, § 3-306

To all persons who have or may have some interest in the above-captioned estate by Petition of **Despina Kamizirides of Southbridge MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Despina Kamizirides of Southbridge MA

has been informally appointed as the of 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.

January 13, 2022

**TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE
LEASE OF THE DINER
AT THE SOUTHBRIDGE
MUNICIPAL AIRPORT**
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Town Manager for the Town of Southbridge (the "Town") is soliciting sealed proposals for the Lease of the Diner located at the Southbridge Municipal Airport. Proposals will be received by the office of the Town Manager, 41 Elm Street, Town of Southbridge, MA 01550 until **11:00 AM local time**

on Friday, January 28, 20

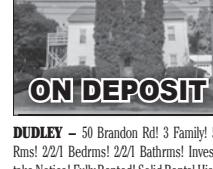
REAL ESTATE

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KokocinskiAdrienne
James

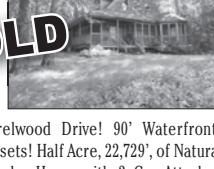
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SMART MLS

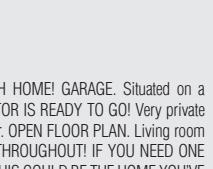
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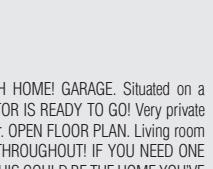
WEBSTER LAKE - 11 Bay View Rd! One of the Lake's Premier Properties! 9,822' of Real Nice Set on .68 Acres of Park Like Grounds with 297' Waterfront! Over \$4 Million Spent! Nothing was Spared! 18 Spacious Rooms! 5 Water View Bedrooms, 4 with their Own Bathrooms! 5.5 Bathrooms Total! Brazilian Cherry Hardwood Floors, Grand & Spiral Stairways! Elevator from the Ground Floor up to the Master Suite! In-door Resistance Swimming Pool, Hot Tub & Bathroom with Steam Shower just off the Mirrored Exercise Room! Billiard Room! Media Room with Custom Cabinetry & Wet Bar! Fantastic Center Island Granite Kitchen with Viking Gas Range, Sub-Zero Refrigerator, 16' Butler's Pantry & Breakfast Bar! Open Floor Plan! Dining Area, Family Room with Cherry Entertainment Center & Wet Bar! Open Formal Dining Room, Fireplace Living Room & Atrium! Library with Private Deck! Waterfront Multi-Suite with Private Office, Bedroom with Triple Glass Door to its Private Deck with Panoramic Lake Views, 3 Walk-in Closets, Lake View Bathroom with Huge Multi-Head Shower, Whirlpool Tub, Double Vanity Sinks & Separate Commode/Bidet! Pedestal Sink Area! 16 Zones of Updated Geothermal Heat & Air Conditioning - 30 Tons! Recessed Lighting & Sprinkler System Through Out! 3 Car Heated Garage! Full House Generator! Slate Roof! All Decks & Railings Brazilian Ipe Hardwood! Copper Gutters & Downspouts! It's Time to Reward Yourself! **\$1,749,900.00**



DUDLEY HAYDEN POND WATERFRONT - 48 Hayden Pond Rd! Recently Renovated, beautifully appointed, 5 Rm Waterfront Ranch! Enjoy sunsets, fishing & all water sports! Vinyl Composite decking & vinyl railings! Open floor plan! Cathedral ceilings w/ skylights! Din Rm w/sliding door to covered deck! Kit w/quartz counters & SS appliances! Lin Rm w/stunning views of the Pond! Comfortable Master w/generous closet & bath! 2nd bedroom or office! Full bath w/washer/dryer hook ups! Full basement for storage or additional living space! Floating Dock! Shed! **\$439,900.00**



WEBSTER LAKE - 701 Beacon Park! 5 Rm End Corner Garden Unit - One Level Living - No Stairs! 10 Beautiful Acres of Park Like Grounds w/Fantastic Panoramic Lake Views! 1,100' of Living Space! Ample Room for Year Round Living as 2nd Home - Summers on the Lake - Winters in Florida! Well Maintained! 2 Bedrms! Master Bath, 2 Baths Total! Beautiful Lakeside Pool, Spectacular Beach, Best on the Lake! Detached Garage! **\$299,000.00!**



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Your Listings!

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DUDLEY - 10 MILL ROAD
Beautiful family home! 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, newer widows & heating system. Mini split system. Hardwoods. Lg eat-in kitchen /Corian counters & Island. Warming fireplace with handsome mantel. Generous dining room, spacious enough for your family gatherings. lower level fireplace family room, Harmon pellet insert! 2 car garage. Reduced **\$340,000.**

WEBSTER - 23 EMERALD AVE.
SORRY, SOLD!

WEBSTER - 10 THOMPSON RD
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MANDATE

continued from page A1

after two weeks."

Back in October 2020, the Journal of Clinical Microbiology (<https://journals.asm.org/doi/10.1128/mSphere.00637-20>) published an experiment looking at how well masks work. Using a simulator, researchers led by Hiroshi Ueki found "cotton masks, surgical masks, and N95 masks all have a protective effect ... and that the protective efficiency was higher when masks were worn by a virus spreader." Specifically, N95s caused 80-90 percent reduction in virus transmission, while cotton and surgical masks blocked about half when worn by an infected person and 20-40 percent if just worn by the other person. They also found "a synergistic effect when both the virus receiver and virus spreader wore masks."

The board also plans to look into buying "a few hundred" rapid test kits with American Rescue Plan Act funds for free

distribution to residents. Dowling said the state recently announced it had a contract with three manufacturers to offer tests at a discount to communities, but there was no press release regarding it on the state's covid website as of last Saturday.

Dowling noted they normally cost \$14-\$25, but Robin Chrabascz said the discount rate is \$9 each or \$2700 a case. Dowling noted she wants to see people do it on "a little bit of the honor system," and not take free ones if they can afford them.

A more recent preprint study (<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2022.01.04.22268770v1>) found some of those tests give false negatives for the first two days of infection. A team led by Blythe Peterson studied 30 people who got infected in December and whose working situation required them to be regularly tested by both PCR and rapid antigen methods. All of them did not test positive on the rapid tests for at least two days after testing

PCR-positive, despite the fact some had viral loads high enough to transmit Covid to others and all showed symptoms within those first two days, they wrote.

"We found that rapid antigen tests lagged in the ability to detect Covid-19 during an early period of disease when most individuals were infectious with Omicron and four transmissions were confirmed. The policy implication is that rapid antigen tests may not be as fit-for-purpose in routine workplace screening to prevent asymptomatic spread of Omicron, compared to prior variants..." they wrote.

The testing proposal came up during a discussion of appointing people to the town's ARPA subcommittee, which will vet numerous suggestions the board's already received and make recommendations. During it, they opted to take both department heads who applied — Health Agent Ken Lacey and Chrabascz — and seek a citizen member.

"We're trying to get

advice to spend money," Dowling said. "I'd think people would get behind that."

Speaking of money, Chair Mary Blanchard announced the finance department had calculated the cost of the upcoming senior center

renovation project. For a median-value home (\$341,829), taxes peak in fiscal 2026 at \$229.93 above the current amount and slowly fall from there until the debt exclusion is paid off in fiscal 2045.

That project faces a

special election ballot vote Jan. 24, with the polls being held at Town Hall.

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

Charlton adds IT improvements to ARPA list

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — Charlton's Board of Selectmen has added a few more priorities to its Phase 1 use of American Rescue Plan Act funds after a brief discussion with the town's Information Technology Director Jeff Sorel on Dec. 14.

As the town moves ahead with the first phase of the spending, which will use about half of the \$4.1 million allocated to the town, an amendment was approved last month authorizing \$90,000 for public safety core network improvements.

"We had been looking at appropriating some money toward IT infrastructure," Town Administrator Andrew Golas told selectmen. "We think that this is the best initial use of some of it."

IT Director Jeff Sorel laid out details of the planned investment noting a good deal of the improvements will be focused on enhancing communication between first responders and the town.

"The core updates to the police and fire will facilitate a few things and solve a few problems. One is to upgrade the connection between buildings. It will

be ten times increase of speed. Also, with the new radio system that's going to be implemented it's going to help with that. It includes cyber security and a second backup fiber connection between the police department and fire together rather than a hub from town hall to each building," said Sorel.

Selectmen agreed to add the projects as part of phase one.

Upgrades to police and fire radio systems was included in the initial proposal for the American Rescue Plan Act phase one spending in November. Other projects included in phase one are an engineering study for a three-phase water and sewer upgrade, COVID mitigation, a feasibility study for a potential relocation of the Department of Aging, finishing the town's water line connection to the police department, and a business and nonprofit grant program to be overseen by the Economic Development Commission. Digital archiving was also included in that list. Town Administrator Golas also announced that Charlton was earmarked for \$50,000 in the Massachusetts Legislature American Rescue Plan Act bill to implement a paperless document management system.

Greater Worcester Community Foundation accepting scholarship applications

WORCESTER — The Greater Worcester Community Foundation is now accepting scholarship applications for high school seniors who live in Worcester County and are seeking college scholarships for the 2022 - 2023 academic year. One application opens the door to more than 130 unique scholarship opportunities.

Since the program's founding in 1978, more than 9,000 students have been awarded scholarships and over \$13 million has been distributed. Last year, GWCF awarded over \$680,000 to more than 375 local students. Now in its 44th year of awarding college scholarships, awards ranging from \$300 to \$5,000 will be made to students based on a wide variety of criteria including need, merit, career goals and activity involvement.

New to 2022 is the Harold R. Jensen Scholarship fund. This new scholarship fund will provide more than \$75,000 for renewable and nonrenewable awards to college-bound graduates of Worcester public and parochial schools. Mr. Jensen (1896-1980), a Worcester resident and worked for US Steel as an accountant. His desire to help children in the city that had been his home, led him to craft a trust that would provide scholarships to Worcester students. The Scholarship is for "high school graduates from the City of Worcester who have proven themselves by scholarship and character to be worthy of assistance for higher education."

Students may apply online by visiting www.greaterworcester.org. Scholarship applications must be submitted by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 1. Recipients will be announced July 2022. For more information, please contact Jacob Vazquez, Philanthropy Officer, Scholarship jvazquez@greaterworcester.org.

CHANGES

continued from page A1

or other quasi-judicial boards.

For bylaws, the panel spelled out how bylaws are to be publicized in an expanded Section 2-6-3. Where it now simply says they must be "read at three separate meetings before passage," the change specifies the first one must be in full, the second and third are to be summaries. Additionally, the third meeting includes votes on amendments before the summary. The final adoption vote would occur at the "next regularly scheduled Town Council meeting" thereafter, with publication of the new bylaw on the website within 24 hours after that.

Bylaw reading has been a variable practice over the years despite the Charter. Frequently, Councilors have voted to waive one or more readings (sometimes all of them), but a couple recent bylaw changes were instead recorded in advance and played during the meetings.

Two additional changes that only affect the Council itself came in Section 2. There, the panel proposed clarifying the three-term limit in 2-2-3 by stating that a term is "three years or any portion thereof." Two sections later, they recommended having the Council formally vote to designate a recording secretary (typically, a paid staff person) and a clerk (a councilor) at the same time they elect a chair and vice-chair. The clerk would be

a new post, taking minutes whenever the recording secretary is absent. According to Roberts Rules of Order, he or she can run the meeting until the board elects a chair pro-tem if the chair and vice-chair are absent.

Although there have been no votes yet, Council discussion indicated general agreement on those changes. By contrast, the Council rejected a committee proposal to make the public's ability to change bylaws by initiative petition harder.

Currently, Section 12-3 requires such petitions to get signatures from at least 5 percent of registered voters to present such a change to the Council, who then have to send it to the ballot if they reject it. The proposal would have required such petitioners to get another round of signatures to send it to the ballot if rejected.

The Council opted to keep the text as it is, with a couple councilors noting it has not been invoked in many years. Before doing so, the members had some discussion over whether to reduce the initial signature requirement while adding the second one.

The review committee worked on the document for a year, formally presenting its report in early December. Members were former Council Chair Denise Clemence, former Councilor Pam LeDuc, former Councilor David Smick (who resigned about halfway through), School Committee Chair Andrew Murch, and recently-retired Town Manager's Executive Secretary, Yvonne Tortis.

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SPORTS

Entire roster contributes for Warriors, who upend Auburn



Nick Ethier photos

Tantasqua's Dayna Lorenz surveys the court and looks for a teammate to pass the ball to.

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

STURBRIDGE — Just by looking at the game day rosters, one could tell that the Tantasqua Regional girls' varsity basketball team had more depth than Auburn High when the two met on Monday, Jan. 3. The Warriors were equipped with 15 players, while the Rockets dressed 10.

And that depth showed from the opening tip until the final buzzer, as 12 Tantasqua players scored at least one basket, whereas Auburn was limited to five players scoring. The Warriors continued to wear the Rockets down and won a 57-29 decision.

"That's one of our weapons, is that we have 10 kids that can play," said Tantasqua head coach Tony Giuggio. "So, we just keep running numbers at people. That's why we press and run."

The Warriors' full-court press was

particularly effective in the second quarter. After winning the first frame by a 16-12 count, Tantasqua pulled away by taking the second quarter 18-4 to lead by 18 points (34-16) at the half. A certain sequence saw Auburn inbound the ball, the Warriors create a turnover on the press, and Gabby Scanlon can a 3-pointer. Another press and turnover immediately followed, and Dayna Lorenz finished off a floater. In fact, Tantasqua went on a 13-0 run until 2:38 remained in the quarter when Hanorah Murphy of the Rockets made a free throw.

"In the second quarter we switched our press. We had a little bit more energy, we turned them over and we got easier baskets," Giuggio explained.

Auburn head coach Nicole Pingitore was pleased with her team's first quarter performance before things went downhill.

"I was happy with how we played in the first quarter I told them to be excited for themselves," she said. "I feel like we were handling [the Tantasqua press] in the first quarter and then all of a sudden I'm not really sure what changed. In the second quarter we got more nervous with the ball in our hands."

"What was hardest to take was they were getting layups," Pingitore continued. "They were getting easy buckets underneath. And that's something defensively we've got to work on."

Giuggio liked how his team's offensive possessions usually saw all five players on the court touching the ball until a teammate became open.

"We have eight or nine kids that can score, so we don't want one person handling the ball. We want to move the ball and get open shots," he said.

The Warriors then limited Auburn to 13 points in the second half. They also limited the scoring of Murphy, who finished with a game-high 19 but saw 10 of those points drop in the opening eight minutes.

"Our whole thing was don't let her



Lizzy Thompson of Tantasqua stops in the paint and releases a jump shot.

score. If she gives up the ball, don't let her get it back," said Giuggio, whose team improved to 4-0.

With Murphy scoring 66 percent of the Rockets' points, Pingitore is hoping for more optimism from the remaining players when clutching the basketball.

"It comes from a place of confidence. [Murphy's] such an unselfish player even though she's our leading scorer.

Her teammates constantly look to her to score. And I want them to have confidence that [Murphy] believes in them that they can score if she passes the ball to them," said Pingitore.

Auburn, now 2-3, saw Isabella Doyle score 4 points and add a game-high 12 rebounds.

Sophie Law (11), Lorenz (9) and Nicole Vejcek (7) were Tantasqua's leading point producers.



Tantasqua's Sophie Law dishes a pass up and over the reach of an Auburn defender.

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Green Meadows now serving medical cannabis

SOUTHBRIDGE — Green Meadows, a vertically integrated cannabis company based in the heart of Southbridge, Mass., is now serving medical patients in its Southbridge dispensary located at 64 Mill St.

"Helping the veteran community is core to who we are as a company and acquiring our medical license was an important step to ensuring we are able to meet the needs of those who served," said Chris Zawacki, cofounder and CEO, Green Meadows. "We've assessed medical programs

across Massachusetts and we're proud to offer the most competitive veteran discounts in the state."

Medical discount program for veterans

Green Meadows has rolled out its new medical patient discount program, which includes the most competitive veteran discounts in Massachusetts. Qualified veterans will now enjoy a 30% off discount every day and a 40 percent discount twice a month, every month on the 11th and 22nd.

"The 11th of each month is meant to align with Veterans Day in November and serves as a way to celebrate Veterans Day every month, while the 22nd of each month relates to a widely circulated statistic from Veteran Administration that 22 veterans commit suicide each day," said Zawacki. "Military suicide awareness is an incredibly important cause to us."

Other medical discounts include:

- New Patient Program - All new patients at Green Meadows receive a total of \$200 off medical cannabis product purchases, which is facilitated via four \$50 "new patient" coupons applied to

patrons' Medical profile and can be used as part of the first four transactions at Green Meadows. Note: The same discount would apply each year for patient renewals.

- Financial Hardship - 15 percent discount (an individual with verified financial hardship includes: (1) a recipient of MassHealth; (2) a recipient of Supplemental Security Income; or (3) an individual with an income that does not exceed 300 percent of the Federal Poverty Level, adjusted for family size.)

- Cannabis Industry Employee - 10 percent discount

- Southbridge Resident - 5 percent discount

- Birthday - \$1 for a regular 1g preroll

- Senior Citizen (65+) - 10 percent discount

- Two For Tuesdays and Tops Tuesdays - Buy \$200 worth of product and get 1 Tincture and 1 Topical for \$2.

- Students (21+) - 10 percent discount with proof of enrollment

Green Meadows customers will be able to stack multiple discounts up to a maximum of 40 percent. In addition, Green Meadows has a robust referral program for all of their medical patrons. Individuals can also receive rewards for referring new medical patients to Green Meadows



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Cornerstone Bank recognizes 24 employees for dedicated service

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with 12 locations throughout Central Massachusetts, has presented Years of Service Awards to 24 employees who have hit landmarks in their tenure. Employees are honored for every five years of service with the Bank.

"The dedication of these 24 employees is inspiring," said CEO of Cornerstone Bank Todd Tallman. "We work to foster a culture of growth and development within our institution, and it is a true testament when we see the longevity of some of our team members. I congratulate them for their years—and some for their decades—of loyalty and commitment to our customers."

The following employees received the Years of Service Award:

Name	Years of Service	Hometown
Brenda Alano	35	Charlton
Michael J. Checkosky	25	Southbridge
Wendy Coran	20	Charlton
Lisa A. Swift	20	Holden
Donna E. Reynolds	20	Charlton
Colleen K. Lord	20	Holland
Sabrina Webb	15	Charlton
Chelsea M. Prizio	15	Warren

Cynthia Roberts	15	Charlton
Stacie Moulton	20	Spencer
Gina M. Petrucci	10	Auburn
Robert Mangani	10	Sturbridge
Claire Cable	10	Holland
Leanne Normandin	10	Southbridge
Patrick Genatossio	5	Auburn
Phyllis Warner	5	East Brookfield
Corinna A. Tiberii	5	Sturbridge
Allison Doyle	5	Brimfield
Catherine Benoit	5	Lunenburg
Katherine A. Bolte	5	Southbridge
Jessica Wisniewski	5	North Brookfield
Shelby Pollard	5	New Braintree
Megan E. W. Young	5	Brooklyn, Conn.
Vilaylack Inthirath	5	Sturbridge

About Cornerstone Bank
Cornerstone Bank was formed in 2017, born of a long history of supporting the community, and providing a strong foundation to help people and businesses thrive. Serving Worcester County, Massachusetts, Cornerstone Bank's local presence and community-based banking model enables a unique ability to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone provides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations with branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts. Cornerstone works to connect customers with opportunities, through a broad range of deposit and loan products, and services. Built on Trust is not just a tagline, but also one of our guiding corporate values. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone stands on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. To learn about Cornerstone Bank's personal and business banking offerings, please visit cornerstonebank.com or call 800-939-9103.

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