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# SOUTHBRIDGE NEWS

Established 1923

Thursday, December 17, 2020

Newsstand: 50 cents

## Library announces virtual vacation week programs

**SOUTHBRIDGE** — During the Southbridge Christmas school vacation week of Dec. 28, the Jacob Edwards Library, in co-sponsorship with the Southbridge Cultural Council, is providing virtual performances through Zoom or YouTube for the enjoyment of the public, namely for children and adults. What better way to use the opportunity such as this medium of virtual enjoyment to provide some free entertainment in the safety and comfort of your home during this time of restrictions from COVID-19? The pandemic still has the library in lockdown, and only offers curbside service to the public. The Jacob Edwards Library staff is available, and can be reached by calling (508) 764-5426 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The following fun

week of activities can be enjoyed beginning on Monday, Dec. 28, with the Pumpernickel Puppets from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., viewed at your leisure by signing on to <http://pumpernickelpuppets.com/library>.

On Tuesday, Dec. 29 at 1 p.m., a Zoom fun virtual event for the entire family with "Magic by George." Join Zoom meeting by calling in to the library to register for the meeting ID and passcode.

On Wednesday, Dec. 30 at 1 p.m., a totally fun and engaging program presenting a "Ukulele Concert" and beginning instruction to the ukulele with Julie Stefanek, a professional musician, with many children programs in her repertoire. Please join Zoom meeting by calling the library to register for the meeting ID and passcode.

On Thursday, Dec. 31

at 1 p.m., a Zoom virtual program with our favorite "Maggie the Clown," presenting a very different magic show and learning to do some magic tricks. Please join Zoom meeting by calling the library to register for the meeting ID code and passcode.

All of these vacation week presentations are made possible through funding by the Southbridge Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency in co-sponsorship with the Jacob Edwards Library for the enjoyment and benefit of Southbridge and area communities. We, the Southbridge Cultural Council and the Jacob Edwards Library, wish everyone a safe and healthy Merry Christmas and New Year.



A scene from Old Sturbridge Village's ongoing Christmas By Candlelight celebration.

## Old Sturbridge Village hosts first virtual fundraiser

**S T U R B R I D G E** — Old Sturbridge Village (OSV) hosted their first ever virtual fundraiser, "Before and Beyond: A Virtual Fundraising Celebration of Where We've Been and What Comes Next!" on Thursday evening, Dec. 3.

The Village had 150 attendees from 16 states, including Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Hampshire, New York, Maine, California, Illinois, Missouri, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Vermont, and Delaware. The event was free to attend but donations were

encouraged. Those that donated were entered into different raffle drawings that took place throughout the evening. The event included 24 raffle items unique to the Village in addition to autographed materials and pre-recorded greetings from Norm Abram, of the TV show "This Old House" and documentary filmmaker, Ken Burns. All donors of \$25 or more received an Old Sturbridge Village ornament in the mail.

Attendees heard from key staff on Old Sturbridge Village's pandemic response, how COVID-19 brought about innovation to the Village,

and where program is headed in the future. Donors were given the opportunity to honor a person of their choosing by making their gift in honor or memory of someone. Names of those honored were read out and listed on the screen during the event. Included were memorials to former Old Sturbridge Village staff members, volunteers, and supporters; and tributes to current staff.

President and CEO, Jim Donahue welcomed the attendees of the event sharing, "We are busy working on programs and ideas of the

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R E G I O N — Cornerstone Bank is giving back to the communities they serve by holding three separate drives to collect items for both people and pets this holiday season. They are hoping others in the community will want to assist in their mission by donating items as well. Below is information about each drive including donations accepted and drop-off information.

Cops 'N' Kids Toy Drive - Southbridge Main Office, 253-275 Main St.

Branch is still open to the public

Now through Dec. 16  
Looking for new,

unwrapped, non-violent toys or gift certificates

All toys will be given to Southbridge children through the Southbridge Police Department Cops 'N' Kids Program

Hat & Mitten Tree-Spencer

Spencer Main Office, 176 Main St.

Branch is closed to the public, donations can be made by calling ahead at 508-885-5313 or ringing doorbell at the rear of

Cops 'N' Kids Toy Drive - Southbridge Main Office, 253-275 Main St.

Branch is still open to the public

Now through Dec. 16  
Looking for new,

the building upon arrival

Now through Dec. 18  
Looking for hats and mittens

All donations will be given to the Mary Queen of the Rosary Parish who will distribute to needy individuals

Pet Supply Drive-Spencer

Spencer Fair Plaza Branch, 72 West Main St., Route 9 West

Branch is closed to the public, donations can be made by calling ahead at 508-885-9707

Now through Dec. 18  
Looking for supplies including but not limited to

*Turn To BANK, page A13*



Photo Courtesy

A performance featuring "Magic by George" will highlight a week of virtual programming during school vacation week at the Jacob Edwards Library.

## Southbridge targets more than \$1 million in grants

**SOUTHBRIDGE** — The town is seeking more than \$1 million in various planning-related grants to address infrastructure, safety and other needs, particularly downtown.

Most recently, the Council voted unanimously this week to apply for \$237,000 from the Shared Winter Streets and Spaces grant and \$72,000 from the Urban Agenda grant.

Those are on top of the annual CDBG grant of \$825,000.

If obtained, the former

will enable Southbridge

to install "rapid flashing

pedestrian beacons" in

four crosswalk locations — Dresser Park, Morris and East Main, Capillo Park, Charlton Street School and Eastford Road School — that have seen accidents over the years. DPW Director Heather Blakeley said they'll try to extend the funds as far as possible to repair nearby sidewalks, noting it might be possible to do "50 feet" on either side of each crosswalk. On Main Street, some of those sidewalks will also be fixed as part of the project that began recently, but it stops at Everett Street.

It'll also add crossing

signs at Lebanon Hill Housing (aka TAG), where Blakeley noted there are no existing crosswalks in part because there isn't enough distance to see in either direction. She said she'd like to be able to remove some of the nearby hillside to expand such visibility. People now routinely cross between two parking lots which don't have sidewalks (another formal crosswalk requirement).

CDBG Director Peg Dean added the first grant will also construct

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## Cornerstone Bank gives back to the community this holiday season

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*Turn To BANK, page A13*

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# *Wreaths Across America event to take place with modifications*

HOLLAND — The Wreaths Across America mission to Remember, Honor, Teach, is the foundation behind all the organizations efforts. Throughout the year, local volunteers have been tirelessly working to make certain that families, loved ones and heroes get honored and remembered for the holidays. However, the challenge was doing so in a way that is consistent with safety and in compliance with local COVID-19 recommendations and mandates.

To ensure the continuance of this year's program in Holland, modifications have been made to ensure the continuance of National Wreaths Across America Day – Saturday, Dec. 19 – and more importantly to show the families of our nations heroes just how much we appreciate their ultimate sacrifice.

The decision to amend this year's traditional wreath laying was not made lightly and have gone great lengths to address public safety while maintaining the best interests of families whose loved ones are interred here.

#### Modifications include:

Wearing masks  
Wearing gloves  
Socially distancing  
Private ceremony

These continued efforts prove our resolve and tell the story of our commitment to our fallen veterans while demonstrating our appreciation for everything they have done to preserve the freedom that we all enjoy today.

Wreath sponsorships are only \$15, and can be sponsored directly at [www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org/MAHHD](http://www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org/MAHHD)

"Every \$15 wreath sponsorship is a meaningful gift from a grateful American who knows what it means to serve and sacrifice for the freedoms we all enjoy,"



*Photo Courtesy*

**To ensure the continuance of this year's program in Holland, modifications have been made to ensure the continuance of National Wreaths Across America Day. Photo Courtesy of the event's Facebook page.**

said Karen Worcester, executive director of Wreaths Across America. "Whether the wreath is placed this December, or next, know that your gift will be honored. We are so grateful to the good people of this great nation for participating in our mission to Remember, Honor and Teach."

To stay informed about changes to Wreath Day events in your community or to sponsor a wreath for a local hero, please visit [www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org/MAHHD](http://www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org/MAHHD)

About Wreaths Across America

Wreaths Across America is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded to continue and expand the annual wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery begun by Maine businessman Morrill Worcester in 1992. The organization's mission – Remember, Honor, Teach – is carried out in part each year by coordinating

## REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

### SOUTHBIDGE

\$255,000, 62 Coombs St, Young, David, and Damerian, Holly, to Wilson, Lucy W.

\$248,000, 50 Dennison Xrd, Nash, Richard T, and Nash, Maria, to Wolfel, Alexander R.

\$235,000, 340 Morris St, Pontbriand, Angela, to Blakeman, Stephanie.

\$212,000, 99 Crystal St, Khattar, Joel, to Gonzalez, Desiree, and Hernández, Jose M.

\$56,000, Lebanon Hill Rd, Allison Gendreau RET, and Gendreau, Allison, to McQuillan, Kenneth, and Reitz-McQuillan, Katherin.

## ALMANAC

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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

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# Friday's Child



**Samantha**  
**Age 14**

**Hi! My name is Samantha and I want to be a singer when I grow up!**

Samantha is a creative teenage girl of Caucasian descent who wants to be a singer when she grows up. Those who know Samantha say she is a smart, resilient, empathetic child who truly cares about the well-being of others. She is also athletic, very practical and a strong advocate for herself. She is able to express her needs without any prompting. Samantha has been very interested in trying out new hair styles and those who are close to her say she is extremely stylish. Samantha likes school, particularly writing

and recess. She is a great problem solver who works hard to achieve desired outcomes.

Legally free for adoption, Samantha would do best in a home with a single mom or a two-parent family. If there are other children in the home, they should not be close in age to Samantha. Samantha would thrive in a family that could give her a lot of attention and help her reach her fullest potential. A pre-adoptive family will need to maintain contact with Samantha's relatives and her visiting resource through phone and visitation. Samantha would like a family with pets (maybe a dog) and older siblings.

#### Who Can Adopt?

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

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

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



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#### NEWS STAFF DIRECTORY

##### EDITOR

BRENDAN BERUBE  
(508) 909-4106  
[news@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:news@stonebridgepress.news)

##### SPORTS EDITOR

NICK ETHIER  
(508) 909-4133  
[nick@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:nick@stonebridgepress.news)

#### A STONEBRIDGE PRESS PUBLICATION

PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER  
FRANK G. CHILINSKI  
(508) 909-4101  
[frank@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:frank@stonebridgepress.news)

BUSINESS MANAGER  
RYAN CORNEAU  
(603) 677-9082  
[ryan@salmonpress.news](mailto:ryan@salmonpress.news)

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR  
JIM DiNICOLA  
(508) 764-4325

EDITOR  
BRENDAN BERUBE  
(508) 909-4106  
[news@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:news@stonebridgepress.news)

PRODUCTION MANAGER  
JULIE CLARKE  
(508) 909-4105  
[production@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:production@stonebridgepress.news)

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# Bay Path LPN gets accepted into Laboure College's ASN Program

CHARLTON — Although she always planned on academic progression with her career path, Ashley Rivera, LPN of Southbridge did not think it would come so soon! Yet here she is, ready to embark on another academic adventure.

Rivera received her acceptance notification into the highly respected Associate of Science in Nursing (ASN) program at Laboure College. To be considered for the Laboure College's ASN program (LPN to RN Advanced Placement track) candidates must meet application requirements for all programs, the general admission criteria for all programs, be an LPN with a current license in good standing and meet the program-specific criteria based upon the candidate's level of education. Some candidates will be required to take the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) on campus at no additional charge for acceptance or for course placement.

Since Rivera graduated from Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, which is an accredited, post-secondary institution, recognized by the Department of Higher Education and fully approved by the board of registration in nursing, she is eligible for advanced placement.

Justin G. Roy, Vice President of Enrollment and Marketing in his letter to Rivera commended her for her personal and academic accomplishments. Rivera completed her practical nursing education at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy in 2019. She was an officer for the UNICEF Club and competed for SkillsUSA district and state championship where she garnered a silver and gold medal respectively in the Health Knowledge Bowl category. She attended the Innovation Summit at Northeastern University in Boston. Rivera was a volunteer at the Paxton Senior Health Fair. She participated in "SafeTalk" developing suicide alertness and safety

connection skills resulting in in-depth skills to recognize signs of suicide. Rivera also received certifications in Dementia Care, Mental Health First Aid (National Council for Behavioral Health), and Infusion Therapy/Central Line Care (Intravenous Edu).

Rivera said she has always wanted to be a nurse since she provided direct support at Jefferson Rehabilitation Center in Watertown, N.Y. in 2015-2017.

"I've always thought about being a nurse," Rivera said. "I love to help people and I like doing different things. Nursing is the best fit."

Rivera does not have second thoughts about picking rehabilitation nursing and home care. She has been with Webster Manor Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center (July 2019 to present) and Accessible Home Health in Auburn (September 2019 to present). Rivera, who is bilingual, (English and Spanish) is humbled by being called a

healthcare hero amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. The world needs more nurses like Rivera to care for patients or clients either in the rehabilitation or home health setting. Some nurses are willing to combine specialties, but only a handful do it. Rivera does it and does it with passion!

At Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, the program is a 40-week, (10-month), full-time, Monday through Friday, evening program. The program begins mid-August and is completed in late June. Graduates receive a Practical Nursing Certificate and are eligible to take the NCLEX-PN licensure exam. The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is fully approved by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services Department of Public Health Board of Registration in Nursing ([www.mass.gov/dph/boards/rn](http://www.mass.gov/dph/boards/rn)) and is accredited by the Commission on Occupational Education



Ashley Rivera

([www.council.org](http://www.council.org)). For more information, visit [www.bay-path.net](http://www.bay-path.net).

## Icy weather puts school procedures to the test

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON — While the Dudley Charlton Regional School District does

have plans in place in case of snow events this winter, it was ice that truly put those plans to the test on Tuesday, Dec. 8, when freezing conditions

in the early morning forced the district to cancel in-person classes and move to online learning for the day.

Superintendent Steven Lamarche discussed the day during a School Committee meeting on Dec. 9 saying the unexpected conditions caused him to make a late-morning call to keep students from coming into school for their safety and the safety of the bus drivers putting into play the district's strategy of moving classes to online learning if possible should the schools need to remain closed for unexpected reasons.

"We experienced a surprise weather-related day due to drizzle and mist that froze on contact with streets and driveways. With our half-day schedule, it doesn't lend itself to any type of delay so therefore we have to move into a full remote day. Typically, that would have been a two-hour delay day. It would not have been in any way, shape or form a snow day," Lamarche said,

admitting the call was made later than normal as the weather caught a lot of people off guard. "We continue to plan for remote learning days for weather related closures at our facilities. There's no question the exceptions of those weather-related closures will be if we have a state of emergency or widespread power outages. Those will obviously play a factor in if we call a remote learning day or a snow day."

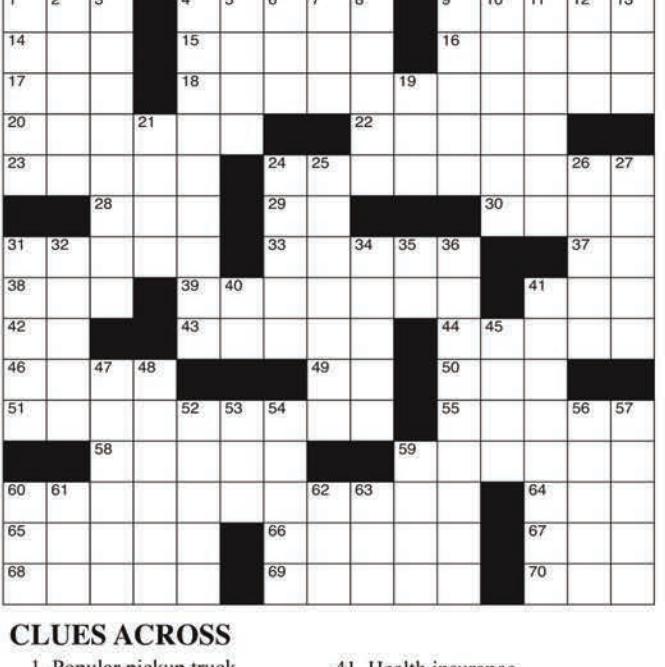
The discussion offered a chance for members of the School Committee to chime in on any improvements they felt needed to be addressed or concerns they had from the first true weather closure of the new school year. Committee member Pauline Aucoin questioned what was expected from staff on a snow day to have a better understanding of how such a day works. Lamarche stated that every building has its own protocol that the educators follow if schools are forced to close.

"What we learned was every

building was slightly different in their approach to that particular day, so we met as an administrative team to discuss that further and plan that out better," Lamarche said. "We have some work to do. What was happening is we were developing plans for big things like if we went to full remote. We were a little flat footed on the weather-related day."

Lamarche said they received great feedback from teachers and parents and identified several areas they want to improve. Overall, though, he felt that the teachers and administrators handled things well and promised that they will continue to improve and evolve as winter progresses.

"We have not left the continuous improvement model on everything we do," Lamarche said. "This one day did not escape our attention to reflect, evaluate and improve on what we do on a full-remote day due to weather related events."



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Popular pickup truck
- 4. Profoundly wise men
- 9. Camera company
- 14. Folk singer DiFranco
- 15. Passerine birds
- 16. Plum-shaped fruit used for preserves
- 17. Popular kids channel
- 18. Dodgers' skipper
- 20. Removes
- 22. The Atlantic is one
- 23. Badgerlike mammal
- 24. Foulness
- 28. Luke's mentor \_\_\_-Wan
- 29. Commercial
- 30. A type of gin
- 31. Temptress
- 33. Shuts in an enclosed space
- 37. Milligram
- 38. Actress Adams
- 39. Strive to equal or match

- 41. Health insurance
- 42. A detective's source
- 43. Small American rails
- 44. Alfred \_\_\_, Brit. poet
- 46. Crest of a hill
- 49. Atomic #52
- 50. \_\_\_ Caesar, comedian
- 51. Breaks apart
- 55. Register formally (Brit. sp.)
- 58. Worker
- 59. Chemical compound
- 60. Disgraced newsman
- 64. Born of
- 65. Chemical substance
- 66. Supernatural powers
- 67. Clothes
- 68. Indy footballers
- 69. Moves forward
- 70. Midway between south and southeast

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Driver
- 2. Bone cavities
- 3. Menacing
- 4. Where coaches patrol
- 5. Greek mythological figure
- 6. War-based board game
- 7. Midway between northeast and east
- 8. 18-year period in astronomy
- 9. Mid-century term used to describe Japanese-Americans
- 10. Large bodies of water
- 11. Eurasian ryegrass
- 12. Perform on stage
- 13. Greek island
- 19. 10th month of the year (abbr.)
- 21. One point east of southeast
- 24. Belgian city
- 25. Praise excessively
- 26. River in France
- 27. Edible lily bulbs
- 31. Quarterbacks take them
- 32. Organic compound
- 34. Tears down (Brit.)
- 35. Beloved Hollywood alien
- 36. Unconscious
- 40. Missouri
- 41. Firemen use them
- 45. Pig noise
- 47. Greatly dismay
- 48. Imitator
- 52. Moves by turning over
- 53. Boxing's GOAT
- 54. Swarms with
- 56. Margarines
- 57. Feudal superior
- 59. As fast as can be done
- 60. Reciprocal of a sine
- 61. Chinese city
- 62. Tell on
- 63. United

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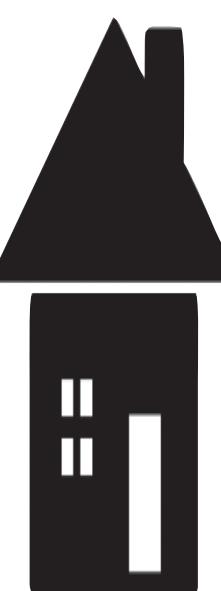
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# LPN to RN

## DREAM COMES TRUE FOR GITAKA-MUCHIRI FAMILY

WORCESTER — Husband and wife John Muchiri and Esther Gitaka, both of Worcester, agree and understood the importance of education. Both completed high school overseas (Kenya), he at Dandora High School and she at Mugoiri High School. Both also completed the rigorous practical nursing program at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy in Charlton then bridging to the LPN to RN program at Quinsigamond Community College earning their Associate Degree in Nursing. Both passed the NCLEX-PN and NCLEX-RN take one, the first try! Both were LPNs first then both became RNs!

Their other dream came true recently — purchasing their new home in Worcester which they now enjoy with their three children.

As children themselves growing up overseas, both John and Esther admired "helpers" in their lives. They observed how compassionately healthcare workers dealt with the community, how kind the nurses are. John first applied to Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy and graduated in 2015. He took the NCLEX-PN the same year and passed on his first attempt. He completed his Associate Degree in Nursing at Quinsigamond Community

College and became an RN. His previous work background includes Mental Health Counselor at Advocates Inc., in Framingham (2007-2013); a nurse at Beaumont at the Willows in Westborough (2015-2016), at Pivot Point Home Healthcare in West Boylston (2016-2018); and at Holy Trinity Nursing And Rehabilitation Center in Worcester (Jan. 2019-April 2020). Since February of 2020 he is an RN at the Adcare Hospital in Worcester providing direct nursing care, a frontline worker! Esther completed her Practical Nursing Certificate at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy in 2016. Her background as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA since 2013) helped tremendously. With her excellent academic performance Esther was inducted into the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS). She also completed her Associates Degree in Nursing at Quinsigamond Community College and became an RN. Her work experience as a nurse includes Beaumont Rehabilitation and Skilled Nursing Center in Worcester (2016-2017), Christopher House Skilled Nursing Facility in Worcester

(since April 2017) and Seven Hills Foundation also in Worcester (since November 2019).

Both pursued a nursing career where they can hone their strong clinical judgment, excellent physical assessment skills, good communication skills, but also, provided financial security. Both John and Esther agree that they have the best of both worlds, as healthcare workers and have economic security for their family.

"Choosing Nursing and Bay Path was one of the best decisions I have ever made," said John. "I have had the opportunities and experiences that have made all the difference."

"I knew Bay Path's program would help me achieve my dream," Esther said. "The Practical Nursing program gave me countless opportunities and exposure, which prepared me for success in my nursing career."

Read on to learn about Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, visit [www.baypath.net](http://www.baypath.net). The program is a 40-week, (10-month), full-time, Monday through Friday, evening program. The program begins mid-August and



is completed in late June. Graduates receive a Practical Nursing Certificate and are eligible to take the NCLEX-PN licensure exam. The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is fully approved by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services Department of Public Health Board of Registration in Nursing ([www.mass.gov/dph/boards/rn](http://www.mass.gov/dph/boards/rn)) and is accredited by the Commission on Occupational Education ([www.council.org](http://www.council.org)). For more information visit [www.baypath.net](http://www.baypath.net).

## Bay Path students complete Mental Health First Aid training course



*Photo Courtesy*

Pictured above is Brianna Cloutier of Charlton, one of the first practical nursing students to receive her certificate for successfully completing the MHFA training.

CHARLTON — The entire Practical Nursing Class of 2021 at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy completed the 8-hour Adult Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Training Course recently and all became MHFA Certified.

Pictured above is Brianna Cloutier of Charlton, one of the first practical nursing students to receive her certificate for successfully completing the MHFA training. She welcomed the crucial education and training from health crisis to a mental health crisis.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reported a jump in cases of anxiety, depression, substance abuse, and suicidal thoughts during the pandemic. The PN students as Certified MHFA givers can help adults get critical support when they need it most. The members of the Bay Path Practical Nursing Class of 2021 completed training in Mental Health First Aid held at the Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School following all the CDC requirements for physical distancing and face coverings. The Mental Health First Aid training emphasized to participants mental health literacy, understanding risk factors and warning signs for mental health and addiction concerns and strategies for how to help someone in both crisis and non-crisis situations.

Just as CPR helps participants assist an individual having a heart attack, Mental Health First Aid helps participants assist those experiencing a mental health or substance use-related crisis. At the end of the training PN students met the goals of recognizing signs of mental distress and how best to respond.

Another PN student, Tianna Welcome of Oxford, stated "This was an amazing course. Nearly every topic touched on, I have had personal experience with. I feel I can take what I have learned in my career as a nurse, support of family and friends, and in the community."

Gretethine Bolandrina, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, Academy Director stated, "Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy has a strong advocacy for mental health."

She added, "like CPR in keeping the blood flowing to organs until the EMTs or an MD shows up, with MHFA, your caring interventions reassure individuals that they can get help until a referral can be made for them to a mental health professional if necessary."

Even if MHFA Certified PN students never face a critical mental health situation, the training enables them to have healthier, more impactful and

compassionate conversations with adults.

Mental health awareness is a highlighted program at the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, the PN students are grateful to have the support of the Academy and the partnership with Shrewsbury Youth and Family Services, Inc. under the leadership of Executive Director Christine Mowry. The training was made possible through the support of Simon Says Pizza Chef of Southbridge and Big Y, also of Southbridge.

At Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, the program is a 40-week, (10-month), full-time, Monday through Friday, evening program. The program begins mid-August and is completed in late June. Graduates receive a Practical Nursing Certificate and are eligible to take the NCLEX-PN licensure exam. The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is fully approved by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services Department of Public Health Board of Registration in Nursing ([www.mass.gov/dph/boards/rn](http://www.mass.gov/dph/boards/rn)) and is accredited by the Commission on Occupational Education ([www.council.org](http://www.council.org)). For more information, visit [www.baypath.net](http://www.baypath.net).

## Holland Assessors' office announces abatement/exemption procedures

HOLLAND — The Assessors' office is closed to the public, and Fiscal Year 2021 third quarter Actual tax bills will be mailed at the end of December. This Assessors' office wants to be sure residents and taxpayers still have access to information and forms.

Any property owners wishing to apply for an abatement or an exemption of their Fiscal Year 2021 real estate or personal property tax can obtain the form several ways.

Download the forms from the Assessors' page on the Town of Holland Web site.

Send an email to [assessor@hollandma.org](mailto:assessor@hollandma.org) to request a form be emailed to you.

Call the Assessors' office 413-245-7108, ext. 106 and

request a form be mailed to you, be sure to say your address including the zip code.

Real Estate and Personal Property Abatement Applications are due February 1, 2021. Abatement applications are filed when the property owner disagrees with the property value.

Exemption Applications and due April 1st, 2021. Exemptions applications are filed by certain veterans, elderly, bind or surviving spouses. See the Assessors' webpage or call for information.

For exempt organizations, the 3ABC form is due March 1, 2021.

If you have any questions, please call the Assessor's office 413-245-7108, ext. 106.

## Big Brothers Big Sisters host successful virtual event

REGION — Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Mass & MetroWest (BBBS) found themselves three weeks away from their largest fundraiser of the year, The Big Celebration, when everything came to a halt due to Covid-19. The Mayor of Marlborough, Arthur G. Vigeant, alongside Bob's Discount Furniture's Executive Chairman, Ted English, both committed to being Honorary Chairs of the event. The decision was soon made to postpone the event that was scheduled for April 4, 2020. The BBBS staff and event committee pivoted and began planning for their first-ever, virtual event, The Big Night In which was held on Oct. 29.

Unsure what to expect, the team at BBBS re-evaluated their event budget and goals before forging ahead. The team worked closely with an event planning company out of Newburyport called Ember and a skilled audio-visual team at Blackstone Productions located in Uxbridge.

"Everyone has had to learn how to work differently. Whether you are a teacher and learned how to work remote, a store owner who had to find a new way to reach consumers, or an event planner in a world

where events do not exist - we are all adapting to make the best out of a situation. Working with the team at Ember and Blackstone Productions on The Big Night In provided our agency with a new capacity which ensured that we offered the best possible virtual event experience for our supporters," said Lindsay McCarthy, Marketing and Special Events Manager at BBBS.

The Big Night In featured an online auction and a live-streamed event which was broadcasted from the AC Hotel in downtown Worcester on October 29th. During the event, former WCVB news reporter, Susan Wornick, announced that BBBS of Central Mass. & MetroWest was one of 15 Big Brothers Big Sisters agencies from across the nation selected to receive a \$50,000 matching gift from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation. BBBS used this donation to drive donations during the event and will continue raising funds which will be matched by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, up to \$50,000 throughout the giving season.

"We are so thankful and gratified by the support of our entire network during this challenging year," said Jeffrey Chin, CEO

for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Mass & MetroWest. "Our supporters, and especially our staff and legions of volunteers, have shown how much of an impact we can have when we adapt and continue to provide mentoring to children facing social isolation and uncertain conditions."

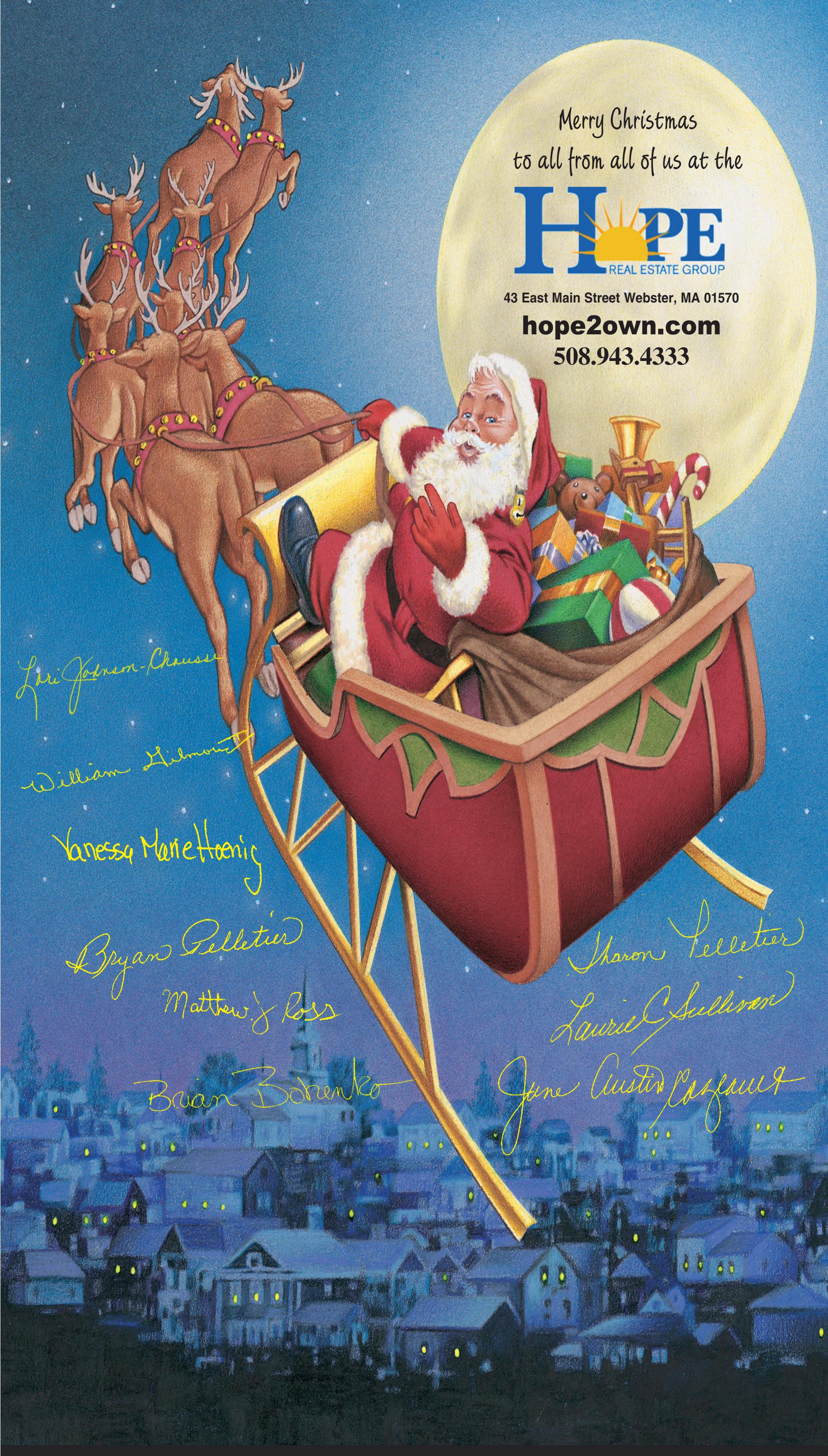
The event can be viewed at [www.youtube.com/bbbscmw](http://www.youtube.com/bbbscmw). Thanks to sponsorships, auction sales, and donations, BBBS of Central Mass & MetroWest raised over \$130,000. Top sponsors were The Hanover Insurance Group, T.J.X. Companies, Bob's Discount Furniture, and Avidia Bank.

About Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Mass. & MetroWest

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

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**EDITORIAL**

## We all share responsibility for protecting the vulnerable

Something we've been hearing over the past few months with regard to COVID-19 deaths is the downplaying of elderly victims succumbing to the virus. When we look at the data and have conversations about the infection rate, and the numbers of those who actually pass away as a result, it seems to be dismissed in cases where the person is over the age of 65. "Well, they are old anyway, and in that age bracket" is often overheard.

What an awful world view.

True, when we hear about an older person passing, we can find some sort of solace knowing that they were able to live for a fairly long time and enjoy life as such. However, isn't the point to try to live as long and healthy as possible? Many of these elderly individuals who have fallen victim to this virus, would still be alive today, had COVID not come into all of our lives.

This outlook is a dangerous viewpoint to have, especially amidst a pandemic. Of course the younger, healthier population is less at risk; however the responsibility falls on all of us to protect the vulnerable, regardless of our odds of contracting a severe case ourselves. We may be fine if we catch it, and may decide not to take precautions, telling ourselves "I'll be fine." However, walking around asymptotically may infect someone who might not be OK. As a society of neighbors, co-workers, family and friends, it should always be our job to look out for each other. Despite our differences, we must always put humanity first and take care of one another. Whether that looks like helping someone with a flat tire, pulling someone out of a ditch who's car slid off the road, helping someone in need with groceries, or taking precautions during a pandemic to keep each other safe, it's our duty as decent human beings to do the right thing, not for ourselves but for each other.

In overhearing such statements regarding the elderly, we want to remind those that need to hear it, that these long lived lives are just as important as they always have been. Being elderly shouldn't mean we are automatically dismissed as a member of society. The golden years should be protected as best they can as we all age, and we all will.

Our elderly community are just as valuable now as they were when they were in their twenties. Remember that senior citizens still pay taxes, grocery shop, take care of family members including grandchildren. It is our grandparents that make up the highest number of child care providers, allowing their own children to continue to work, which in turn boosts the economy.

Our elderly population provides friendship and support to everyone around them. In addition, the highest number of volunteers come from the senior citizen population. Again, this in turn helps to contribute to our economy.

It doesn't seem like any of this hits home for some individuals, until they are affected personally. If you are not close with someone who is elderly, remember that many of us are. It is important to continue to value and protect the most vulnerable among us.

In an attempt to bridge recent political division, we want to remind everyone to look out for each other, despite your differences. What matters in the end is community and how we operate in our own small circles.

We have seen refreshing occurrences of both Republicans and Democrats, locally, who have joined forces to make our communities a better place...individuals who have not lost sight of what really matters in life.

# OPINION

Viewpoints and commentary from the Tri-Community and beyond

## To THE EDITOR

### TCA is thankful

To the Editor:  
Trinity Catholic Academy would like to take this opportunity to thank the area community for their most recent support of their first time "online" Giving Tuesday event assisting TCA to obtain Chromebooks.

Key support of matching gift opportunities offered by the Hyde Dexter Foundation; a Local Community Partner & the TCA Board were truly instru-

mental in the success of this campaign offering the ideal incentive tool to obtain the results that exceeded our goal!

Thank you to Rita's Country Primitives, Oakridge Creations, Toni Perkins, LMT for supplying gifts from their businesses and thanks to all that invested time in the short Campaign. Your support added fun and interest as progress was made toward the goal.

We cannot forget the parents, past parents and

grandparents and alums who participated with gifts and spreading the word. Your participation revealed a great benefit to reach new donors.

TCA is truly grateful to all that participated individually monetarily or "in-kind." We are truly blessed.

On behalf of Trinity Catholic Academy,

DIANE PERRY  
ALUMNI LIAISON

## Are you still planning to retire early?

Have your retirement plans changed because of COVID-19? If so, you have plenty of company. Nearly 40 percent of those planning to retire say the pandemic has disrupted their intentions, according to the Edward Jones/Age Wave Four Pillars of the New Retirement study. You might have been thinking about retiring early – can you still do so?



Even without a crisis, it's not a bad idea to review your important life goals from time to time. So, in thinking about the possibility of early retirement, consider these factors:

Your retirement lifestyle – Your ability to retire early depends somewhat on what sort of lifestyle you're anticipating during your retirement years.

If you think you'll be traveling extensively or pursuing expensive activities, you might not be able to afford to retire as early as someone with more modest ambitions. Of course, there's no "right" or "wrong" way of living in retirement – we all have our own dreams and preferences. But be aware that different lifestyles do carry different price tags – and have different effects on when you can retire securely.

Sources of retirement income – Obviously, a key factor in knowing whether you can retire early is the amount of retirement income you can rely on. So, you'll have to assess all your sources: Social Security, any other pensions you might receive, and your investment portfolio, including your 401(k) and IRA. The amounts you receive from these sources will depend on a variety of factors.

For Social Security, the longer you wait until collecting, the larger your monthly payments (although they will "top out" when you reach 70, excluding cost-of-living adjustments). In regard to your investments and retirement accounts, you'll need to establish a withdrawal rate that's appropriate for the length of time you expect to be retired. So, by adjusting these variables – taking Social Security earlier or later, taking more or less money from your retirement accounts – you can help determine if the retirement date you had in mind is viable.

Your feelings about work – Your goals are not static – they can change in response to any number of reasons, both external and personal. When you first decided you wanted to retire early, you might have been motivated by, among other things, a weariness of your current job. But has that changed over time? Have you found new challenges that interest you at work? Or, if you were forced by the pandemic to work remotely, did you actually enjoy the arrangement and want to continue it?

After all, many employers have found that their workers can be just as productive working at home, so, even when we've gotten past COVID-19, we might see a sizable shift in the geography of the workplace. In any case, if your feelings about work have changed in some way, leading you to think you could work longer than originally planned, you'd likely gain some financial advantages. You'd make more money, for starters, but you'd also keep building your 401(k) and IRA, and you could even possibly delay taking Social Security.

The pandemic may lead to a reevaluation of many financial goals – and taking early retirement might be one of them. By thinking carefully about your situation and your options, you can come up with a course of action that's right for you.

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



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I love my blue friends and love my red friends. If we love our Union, we must join hands and engage in election systems we can all trust. The risk of not doing so is unfathomable.

My prayer for our nation this Christmas is that we can come together and reflect the values that have held us together for almost 250 years. If we only agree upon one thing, let's agree that our United States of America is worth preserving and saving. Imagining the world without our influence creates a frightening picture. Let's set aside our political and ideological differences and preserve our nation.

God bless America, and may God save and preserve our troubled Union. ■

Gary W. Moore is a freelance columnist, speaker, and author of three books including the award-winning, critically acclaimed, "Playing with the Enemy." Follow Gary on Twitter @GaryWMoore721 and at [www.garywmoore.com](http://www.garywmoore.com).

# Brothers on the hunt

The final day of the Massachusetts shotgun season was a good one, according to hunters that I spoke with. The weather was perfect during the morning hours. It was comfortable to sit on a deer run that had high hopes for this writer and many others.

I hunted with my brother Ken, as I do every year. We both drew a doe permit for Zone 8, so we hunted in the town of Douglas. I met Ken at our usual spot at 8 a.m., which is a bit late because of our elderly status.

We do not hunt hard, and often have one of us take a stand on a good deer run, that also showed signs of deer activity like acorn feeding. My brother decided on taking a slow walk through the area, hoping to push a deer to my stand. I sat comfortably on my hot seat up against a large oak tree, waiting for my brother to come through. As I waited, I was being entertained by a couple of gray squirrels scampering across the ground, looking for acorns to sustain them through the winter months.

A couple of times one of the squirrel's scampered down a small log that was only a few feet from me, when he noticed something wrong. He let out a loud screeching noise, alerting every form of wildlife in the area of my presence. A few red squirrels also joined in with their chatter. I spotted my brother walking towards me, and I slowly lifted my ageing body off from the ground, with the help of the large tree, and a couple of smaller trees. After we discussed the situation, we decided to hunt the lower part of the property, where I had left one of my tree stands



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that I no longer use.

I left Ken on the ridge and headed down to my tree stand to sit on the lower part. At least I could get up to shoot if the situation arises. I slowly walked down to my tree stand, but needed to cross the small stream to get to where I was going. Lucky I had my Muck boots on. I found an old stick that was laying on the ground, and used it to steady my ageing body, hoping to navigate the water without falling in. "Whew!" "I Made it." I slowly walked over to my tree stand and placed my cushion on the lower part before I sat down. "This is a lot more comfortable."

There were all kinds of fresh deer sign in the area, and I just felt sure I was in a good spot. I called my brother on our two-way radio and told him to take a slow walk through the brush towards my position. I watched the area pretty good for a while, and then suddenly out of nowhere, this huge deer came gliding through the brush in slow but huge jumps. I quickly stood up and took aim at the large deer, but it disappeared into some thick brush. I spotted the deer again and let one round go on my 12-gauge shotgun. The discharged shell echoed through the woods.

I waited a few minutes to stop my heart from racing and to let my brother know of the situation. He stayed where he was because the deer could very well circle and head back in his direction. I was not so sure about my shot being productive, but I spent a while making sure there was no blood trail. It was as I had figured. A clean



Photo Courtesy

This week's picture shows Ken & Mark True ice fishing on one of our favorite spots in years past. We are all hoping for some ice this year.

miss! I guess I will need to borrow some venison from one of my buddies again this year! We worked our way back to the car and headed for the nearest coffee shop. There is still black powder season that ends on Dec. 31 in Massachusetts! But I am not to encouraged about scoring on some venison this year.

With Christmas only days away, we need to brace ourselves as families, that it will be like no other Christmas that we have ever encountered. That does not mean as families that the celebration cannot be meaningful as it has

always been; it is just that the celebration should be done in smaller groups of family members & friends. We all need to hope and pray that the recently approved vaccine to combat Covid-19 is safe, and will work to eradicate this terrible disease that has cost thousands of lives, and threatens thousands more. Our faith is being tested, and we better be ready. God bless!

*Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!*

## We are the Christmas Carol ghosts



EARTHBORN  
GUS STEEVES

The holiday season is again upon us, a time in most global cultures for celebrating peace, community, family and the return of the sun, literally or figuratively. We see it in Christmas, Hanukah, Yule, Kwanzaa, Diwali and countless more localized sacred and secular events.

Often, our modern morality plays center on changing attitudes that contradict those ideas, with one of the most notable being Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol." It's been done in several versions, but most of us have not seen the black and white film "Carol for Another Christmas."

It's Dickens in the twilight zone – not surprising, since the director was Rod Serling – and particularly important to revisit today, since our global situation is disturbingly and insanely similar to when it came out in 1964.

In brief, Serling's Scrooge character is Daniel Grudge (played by Sterling Hayden). He's using his wealth to shield himself from involvement in the world and advocate an extremely isolationist political ideology based on having "the fastest bombers and most powerful missiles on Earth" tied to the message "we're not too chicken to use them." As in most real people, it's based in fear and loss, namely the death of his son Marley in Vietnam, which he blames on "do-good-

ers" wanting to be involved in the world.

His nephew Fred is one of them, with his promotion of cultural connections with Poland and other activism. Although they share the pain of Marley's death, Fred sees the solution as communication, with wars being caused by the end of talking and erection of barriers. To him, "there are certain fences the world can no longer afford."

Their clash is amplified by the three famous ghosts, with increasingly catastrophic imagery and consequences. Grudge meets the Past on a troop transport carrying countless coffins from many nations, with the ghost saying he's "the dead, all the dead. We're quite a stew."

"War is a contagious disease," he states. "The only chance to keep this particular disease from spreading is to keep talking. ... If you don't want to get involved, you've gotta give back the 20th century" with its aircraft, subs, ships and missiles (and, more recently, the Internet, biotechnology, and other things). He takes Grudge into his own memory of a September 1945 visit to a Hiroshima hospital, where the patients are girls who happened to look up as the Bomb detonated and "no longer have faces" and a boy now terrified of thunder.

Similar suffering is the target of the Ghost of Christmas Present, first seen gorging himself at Grudge's own well-stocked table.

"I represent the human race," he says. "So does gluttony. So does starvation. ... Mankind includes extremes." Present tries to force Grudge to

see those things, chiding him for his "selective morality" of being willing to ignore distant suffering simply because he doesn't see it himself. "Go ahead. Tell them the bombers and missiles ... are their diet for survival."

That's a much easier to remember phrasing of President Eisenhower's famous observation that every dollar spent on weapons is stolen from the mouths of the poor. It was true then, and still is. Although Present's list of how many people are afflicted by various ills has changed, most of those ills still exist, and new ones have emerged. Only the names and places of origin are sometimes different – then, civilians ran from war in Nam; today, civilians run from Syria and Afghanistan.

Trying to escape seeing them, Grudge runs into the Future, finding himself in the rubble of his own Town Hall. "When the first Bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, the fate of man could have been predicted by a cut-rate gypsy," his ghostly host observes, recalling many states got nukes, became paranoid, stopped talking, and blew themselves to pieces.

But there are survivors, led by the lunatic, uber-selfish "Imperial Me" (Peter Sellers), who is not coincidentally dressed like a Puritan. He exhorts his "Individual Mes" to kill other survivors for promoting cooperation. Their hate blinds them to the impact of his clearly stated goal: to have them kill each other and create "the world of the Ultimate Me" – a single last person, "the Civilization of I."

In other words, human extinction.

Sure, the film tends to be a little preachy and exaggerated ... but is it, really, given what we've seen in recent years? We have an economy dedicated to promoting exactly such selfishness for profit; major media and politicians manipulating millions of people to hate fellow citizens at the expense of common needs; games and movies that promote war and violence far more often than peace and cooperation.

At the time the film came out, we had no nuclear weapons treaties. Today, we've nearly reverted to that state, with several of them killed by intent and/or neglect. Just one – New START, which expires next month – remains to put brakes on the resumption of the Cold War arms race. A second, the global nuclear ban, has been approved by the UN, but is being completely ignored by the nuclear weapons states.

Two others are in danger: the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, which still holds but we've never formally accepted, and the Non-Proliferation Treaty, which we violate by protecting Israel's illegal nukes and which didn't stop North Korea, India or Pakistan from getting the Bomb.

We also see lots of brinkmanship between the US and Israel vs Russia, China and/or Iran – threats in the form of assassinations, cyber-attacks, "freedom of navigation" intrusions, weapon tests and sales, even talk of militarizing space and building new nukes. There are also spats between India and China or Pakistan to worry about.

As the most recent (January 2020) "Doomsday Clock" announcement said, when the

Clock moved to 100 seconds to Midnight (the closest it's ever been), "The international security situation is dire, not just because these threats exist, but because world leaders have allowed the political infrastructure for managing them to erode."

In short, the world's governments have nearly stopped talking about the things that matter.

This is insanity. Did any of you get the chance to vote for such madness? I didn't, and wouldn't.

We, the world's common people, need to be the Ghosts and force our "leaders" to pay attention to our shared reality, not just to their private profits and private grudges. If they resist, we need to replace them.

As I've written before, we got really lucky the last Cold War didn't obliterate us, but we cannot keep relying on luck. If nukes exist long enough, they are statistically guaranteed to be used again somewhere; that could be tomorrow, it could be in 2050, but it will happen. Only strengthening our ability to communicate – and getting rid of the bombs and the lunatic attitudes that underlie them – can ensure our long-term survival.

"Even a risk with a very low probability becomes unacceptable when it affects all of us," Nicholas Nassim Taleb wrote. "There is no reversing mistakes of that magnitude."

*I welcome comments on my columns; email me at gus.steeves2@gmail.com.*



TAKE  
THE  
HINT

KAREN  
TRAINOR

Few simple tasks bring order to chaos better than making a list. Creating a list of "pros and cons" vividly illustrates points for contrast and evaluation, while crossing off a daily list of accomplishments (no matter how mundane) can be a powerful motivator. In fact, most avid list makers take great satisfaction in viewing their options and/or daily successes literally laid out before them.

Numerous studies reveal lists can greatly benefit the writer far beyond short term satisfaction. Writing a list not only has the power to help save time and money, but the act of "listing" has been shown to aid memory, prevent procrastination and boost decision making skills.

Whether you want to pay down debt, tackle a new project or just lay out the

## Strategies for "Living by the List"

pros and cons of an issue, making a visual list sorts it all out for easy review and action. The following listing strategies, ideas, and suggestions reveal how list making list (and maybe even checking it twice) can be a valuable tool to everyday success.

\*\* Writing it Out: While today's world offers an abundance of internet downloads and phone applications to help us track our accomplishments and get our lives in order, perhaps none is more practical and effective than the old fashioned pen and paper list. The advantage over electronic apps is that you can simply jot down a list whenever and wherever the mood strikes. Not to mention a paper list can be folded and tucked away for easy retrieval and review.

If checking off a completed task in a "to do" list is a satisfying act, crossing it off in a big, bold way is even more effective. To make an impressive visual impact, line out items on a written list with a bright red marker. Or, make a list

on a wall size whiteboard and check off items with a thick black marker. These "in your face" visuals of tracking each accomplishment throughout the day serve to motivate.

\*\*

For those who need a jump start to begin a manual list, a few simple tracking tools may be all it takes to inspire "listing." Some people enlist the help of a day planner or other calendar based notebook to record daily diet, fitness or work goals. A fresh legal sized pad or lined notebook also inspires pen to paper as do long, narrow pads of paper made for listing. A good, comfortable pen is another valuable aid. In the home office or gym, a white board calendar that displays daily, weekly and monthly goals, commands attention and successes can be easily checked off when achieved.

\*\*

Free List Maker Software: If you prefer to "type it out," there are many applications that support making, shar-

ing and prioritizing lists. Here are some free ones to check out:

• Google Docs is perhaps the most familiar way to make everything from simple, personal lists to multilevel lists you can share and use as business task tools.

• Online list maker Scribbless.com is another free and easy list maker to build lists to share with your friends and family.

• iPhone apps to help you organize and create lists are plentiful online. Some are free, such as Remember the Milk, a capable to-do-list app with some sharing options included at no cost, making it good for household use.

• For serious list makers, a social network for goal achievers, www.mylist.org, offers an interactive web destination that challenges people to fulfill their major aspirations by creating a life list. Through the website, members can create a life list, and are motivated to take

Turn To TRAINOR page A12



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# OBITUARIES

## Teresa M. Gauthier, 93

CHARLTON- Teresa M. (Flanagan) Gauthier, 93, of Meadowview Dr., passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 8th, in Care One at Millbury, after an illness.



Her husband, Arthur B. Gauthier, passed away in 1988. She leaves her daughter, Patricia A. Gauthier of North Grosvenordale, CT; her three sons, Arthur Gauthier and his wife

Karen of Charlton, Paul Gauthier and his wife Cheryl of Charlton and David Gauthier and his wife Marie of West Suffield, CT; her sister, Mary A. Wilson of Rhode Island; five grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. She was predeceased by three brothers, Leo F. Flanagan, John W. Flanagan and Martin T. Flanagan and a sister, Marion L. Vieira. She was born in Norwood the daughter of Leo F. and

Mary G. (Daley) Flanagan.

Teresa worked as a secretary at the Valley View Schools in North Brookfield for many years, retiring many years ago. She was a longtime member of St. Joseph's Church in Charlton and was a member and past president of the St. Joseph's Women's Club. She enjoyed crocheting and rug hooking.

A funeral Mass for Teresa was held on Friday, Dec. 11th, at 11:00am in St. Joseph's Church, 10 H. Putnam Rd. Ext., Charlton. Burial will follow in West Ridge Cemetery, Charlton. A calling hour was held on Friday, Dec. 11th, in St. Joseph's Church, from 10:30am to 11:00am prior to the Mass.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to St. Joseph's Church, 10 H. Putnam Rd. Ext., Charlton, MA 01507.

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

[www.morrillfuneralhome.com](http://www.morrillfuneralhome.com)

SOUTHBRIDGE- Walter R. Snyder, Jr., 89, of Maria Ave., passed away on Thursday, Dec. 10th, in the St. Mary's Health Care Center, Worcester, after an illness.



He is survived by his son, Jeffrey J. Snyder and his wife Lynne of Brimfield; his daughter, Valerie Petraccio and her husband James of Providence, RI; his step daughter, Dawn Lavallee of Southbridge; his four sisters, Elizabeth Kuzmeski and her husband Richard of Naples, FL, Florence Walsh and her husband Bernard of Clinton, Marilyn Freel and her husband Richard of The Villages, FL and Christine Webber and her husband Donald of Kennebunk, Maine;

his four grandchildren, Miranda Snyder, Jason Snyder, Rebecca Snyder and her companion Josh Fowler of Webster and Amanda Allard and her companion Willy Burrow of Spencerville, IN; his two great grandchildren, Jayla Fowler and Caleb Fowler; and his former spouses, Rita Domian of Oxford and Yvonne Blouin of Southbridge. He was born



## Walter R. Snyder, Jr., 89

in Belmont the son of Walter and Bernice (Kuczewski) Snyder, Sr. He was a graduate of Holy Cross College, Worcester and Boston University Law School. He was a US Army Veteran of the Korean War; having served in Stuttgart, Germany as a special agent in the US Counter-Intelligence Corp. from 1956 until his honorable discharge in 1958.

Walter was a self employed attorney at law for many years. He also served as the lawyer for the Southbridge Town Council for several years. Walter was a past state commander of the Polish American Veterans of Mass and post commander of both the Southbridge and Clinton Polish American Veterans and continued to be active in veteran affairs. He was an avid golfer and a longtime member of Cohasse Country Club in Southbridge. He much enjoyed the many golf tournaments and Patriots games attended with his son and also enjoyed playing cribbage.

His funeral was held on Tuesday, Dec. 15th, from the Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, with a Mass at 10:00am in Notre Dame Church of the St. John Paul II Parish, 446 Main St., Southbridge. Burial was in St. John's Cemetery, Lancaster. A calling hour in the funeral home was held on Tuesday, Dec. 15th, from 8:30 to 9:30am prior to the Mass.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the charity of one's choice.

[www.morrillfuneralhome.com](http://www.morrillfuneralhome.com)

## TRAINOR

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action and encouraged to inspire others by sharing their successes through stories, photos and video.

Rx for Brain Clutter: Research reveals lists can relieve stress by organizing items and/or tasks. Listing items into order not only calms mental clutter, but cuts tasks down to a manageable size.

Making a list can also be good news for procrastinators as a list can be valuable call to action. From tracking a diet program to monitoring career success, listing can break down goals into workable segments. "Listing out" is often all that's needed to jump start a bigger project.

Studies show writing and using lists exercises the brain and builds memory. In today's busy world, trying to remember everything is stressful! Placing items from your mental memory to a list alleviates stress and offers peace of mind that the important issues are "backed up" on paper (or computer).

According to Cynthia R. Green, PhD, a nationally recognized clinical psychologist and brain health/memory fitness expert, making and using a list is a memory tool that can "save your brain."

"Using lists, just like using any technique to boost your brainpower, will focus your attention more actively on the information you need to remember

Why? When we work with information, we pay closer attention to it," she said.

In addition, Ms. Green notes that making a list is good for overall well-being:

"Lists help us feel better. When we are organized we forget less and do more and generally are more effective and productive. Feeling effective is important to our self-esteem, since we feel better about ourselves when we see ourselves as capable. Being more productive means we are making the most out of our time, so we have more time to do things we really want to do. This is how list making can help us."

From Grocery Lists to Bucket Lists: Lists can serve as great organizers. Whether you want to recall past accomplishments for a resume, or simply need to write a weekly grocery shopping list, a simple list is a clear and concise tool to get the job done.

Those who "live by the list" advise making both short term and long term lists. Short term lists, which are completed daily or within a week include grocery lists, daily "to do" lists, diet meals, exercise tracking, etc. Long term lists typically include "bucket lists" of future accomplishments, work projects, home improvement plans, career goals, etc.

When writing a list, it's important to keep an open mind. While creating a list can boost enthusiasm, it's

important not to get carried away and "overlist." For example, when making a pros and cons list, each point should be short and concise. Stick to basic positive and negative points only to keep it simple and clear.

\*\* When making a "to do" list avoid listing more than can be accomplished. List only tasks that are manageable in the time allotted. It's often better to complete a shorter list than to carry over an uncompleted one. That said, a list is a tool to get jobs done, so don't be tempted to undercut the tasks. "To do" lists should be challenging, but do-able!

\*\* Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

Your tips can win you a great 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](mailto:KDRR@ AOL.com). Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn.*

## GRANTS

continued from page A1

permanent winterized features for future farmers' market and entertainment use of the new pedestrian plaza at Central Street lot. Those will include stalls, storage, heaters, a sound system and winter-related decorations.

Regarding the second grant, she said she wasn't certain Southbridge is eligible since we're technically not a "Gateway City," but we have most of the demographic traits of such communities. If that falls through, she also applied for a Local Rapid Recovery Planning Grant, which has broader uses. Either way, the goal is to hire a consultant and a stipend funded intern to work with the Redevelopment Authority to promote "economic development that's more inclusive of minorities" and "more culturally inclusive programming," she wrote in her Dec. 2 memo to the Council.

All of those come on the heels of the fact the town is also starting its annual

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding process. Dean hosted the first of several public hearings Nov. 19, with the second slated for early in January. The plan is to submit that application for \$825,000 in March for work that will happen beginning in spring of 2022.

Dean said conversation with department heads and leftover needs from prior years helped create this year's list of potential projects, but she's open to public input to modify them or suggest others. At present they are: continuing the code enforcement work that's been funded for the past couple years (\$62,000); security and lighting upgrades at McCann Field (\$100,000); a transfer station feasibility study (\$40,000); and "a major infrastructure project." There are two options for the latter, both water line upgrades tagged at around \$400,000 – along Cross Street and along River/Crane streets.

"We as a town are over 51 percent low-moderate income, so, in theory, we could have a project that benefits the whole town," she said. "But it's hard to prove that, so having a project that's

distinctly inside this block group" is easier to get CDBG support for.

Although both need serious work and River/Crane was one of the DPW Subcommittee's priority roads, Dean said she thinks Cross is better for the grant's low-moderate income requirements, since there are many more people living there.

Blakeley agreed, but said the River/Crane lines are "some of our oldest water mains in town" and are now too small and not connected; having a loop there would help the system's overall capacity. Doing Cross Street would also enable additional work on paving, drainage and sidewalks, but either project would require "coupling with other funds," typically from annual Chapter 90 receipts and/or the account the Council created specifically for roadwork, she said.

There was also some talk of working on Hamilton Street, but she advised on waiting until after the state's downtown Transportation Improvement Project (slated for 2023) gets done. That will improve Hamilton up almost to Edwards Street, including water lines,

which can be extended thereafter.

Wrapping up her Nov. 19 hearing, Dean summarized the remaining in-progress work from fiscal 2018, 19, and 20 grant years. FY18 only has a few last details of the Central Street lot; FY19 is funding the Main Street project that began recently and still has money to pay a health inspector job vacant since August. FY20 funds have not arrived yet; normally, they come in September, but Dean said she thinks they got delayed by the state's focus on Covid-19 relief programs.

One of those is also ongoing – the town's central role as distributor of \$250,000 in microbusiness loans to firms with five or fewer employees in Southbridge, Sturbridge and Charlton. That's being coordinated by the Quaboag Valley CDC as "a blind process ... first come, first served, based on eligibility [criteria]" that includes income, Dean said.

The Dec. 7 Council meeting also approved applying for three public safety grants totaling about \$116,000 to fund E-911 dispatcher training and "backfill" the time they'll be absent.

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## LEGALS

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

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by David M. Nichols and Kristina L. Nichols to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagor, acting solely as a nominee for Full Spectrum Lending, Inc., dated October 14, 2004 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 34897, Page 29 (the "Mortgage") of which mortgage The Bank of New York Mellon f/k/a The Bank of New York, as Trustee for the Certificateholders of the CWABS, Inc., Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2004-12 is the present holder by Assignment from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Full Spectrum Lending, Inc., its successors and assigns to The Bank of New York Mellon f/k/a The Bank of New York, as Trustee for the Certificateholders of the CWABS, Inc., Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2004-12 dated August 12, 2015 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 54226, Page 385, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 16 Camp Road, Fiskdale (Sturbridge), MA 01518 will be sold at a Public Auction at 1:00 PM on December 30, 2020, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

All that certain parcel of land situate on the Southerly side of Camp Road in Sturbridge, the County of Worcester and State of Massachusetts, being known and designated as follows: Beginning at an iron pipe on the Southerly side of Camp Road at the Northeast corner of land herein described and the Northwesterly cor-

ner of one Debreuil; Thence S. 11 deg. 2 min. West along land of Dubreuil and now or formerly of Arthur Denault, et ux., 439.29 feet to an iron pipe;

Thence S. 7 deg. 46 min. West along other land now or formerly of Arthur Denault, et ux., 87.63 feet to an iron pipe at other land now or formerly of Arthur Denault, et ux.;

Thence N. 76 deg. 7 min. West along other land now or formerly of Arthur Denault, et ux., 150.0 feet to an iron pipe at other land now or formerly of Arthur Denault, et ux.;

Thence N. 10 deg. 55 min. East along other land now or formerly of Arthur Denault, et ex., 497.83 feet to an iron pipe on the Southerly side of Camp Road;

Thence N. 67 deg. 58 min. East along the Southerly side of Camp Road, 22.38 feet to an iron pipe;

Thence S. 84 deg. 28 min. East along the Southerly side of Camp Road, 96.46 feet to an iron pipe;

Thence S. 74 deg. 19 min. East along the Southerly side of Camp Road, 31.16 feet to the iron pipe at the point of beginning.

Being the same property as conveyed from Dale J. Hurd and Melissa Jean Hurd (formerly known as Melissa J. McGarry) to David M. Nichols, individually, as described in Book 19544 Page 142, Recorded 01/23/1998, in WORCESTER County Records.

Tax ID: 190-02315-016

For mortgagor's title see deed recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 19544, Page 142.

The premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and other municipal assessments and liens, and subject to prior liens or other enforceable encumbrances of record entitled to precedence over this mortgage, and subject to and with the benefit of all

easements, restrictions, reservations and conditions of record and subject to all tenancies and/or rights of parties in possession.

Terms of the Sale: Cashier's or certified check in the sum of \$5,000.00 as a deposit must be shown at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify as a bidder (the mortgage holder and its designee(s) are exempt from this requirement); high bidder to sign written Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid; balance of purchase price payable by certified check in thirty (30) days from the date of the sale at the offices of mortgagee's attorney, Korde & Associates, P.C., 900 Chelmsford Street, Suite 3102, Lowell, MA 01851 or such other time as may be designated by mortgagee. The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication. Other terms to be announced at the sale.

The Bank of New York Mellon f/k/a The Bank of New York, as Trustee for the Certificateholders of the CWABS, Inc., Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2004-12

Korde & Associates, P.C.

900 Chelmsford Street

Suite 3102

Lowell, MA 01851

(978) 256-1500

Nichols, David, M., 19-034233

December 3, 2020

December 10, 2020

December 17, 2020

(SEAL)

COMMONWEALTH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

LAND COURT

DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL

COURT

Docket No. 20 SM 001589

ORDER OF NOTICE

TO: Guillermo Creamer a/k/a Guiller-

mo David Creamer a/k/a Guillermo Creamer, Maria Creamer a/k/a Maria J. Creamer and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):

U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for RAMP 2006EFC1 claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Sturbridge, numbered 1 Ladd Road and 155 Podunk Road, given by Guillermo Creamer and Maria Creamer to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagor, acting solely as a nominee for EquiFirst Corporation, dated November 30, 2005, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 37928, Page 62, as affected by a Loan Modification Agreement dated October 22, 2010, and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 47081, Page 67, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before 1/18/2021 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of non-compliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER Chief Justice of this Court on 12/7/2020

Attest: Deborah J. Patterson, Recorder

December 17, 2020

## What makes estate personal property valuable?

There are many components of estate assets, with home and land typically being the most valuable. Stocks, bonds, or bank accounts may be worth more in certain situations. Personal property is typically the least valuable, but there are times when there are some very desirable items in the estate.

Being an antique estate auctioneer, I focus on antiques, collectibles and other estate personal property and will explain in this column what we look for in determining whether estate contents are potentially valuable.

One factor is how long the family has been in the country. We've handled at least one estate where the family came over on the Mayflower. There were books and documents dating back to the 18th century. In an estate where items have been passed down through generations, you can usually expect to find some valuable objects.

The family's wealth is another important factor. Some families have the financial means to buy Rolex instead of Timex watches and to buy large sterling silver flatware sets instead of silverplate or stainless steel. Even though formal dining isn't as popular today, sterling silver flatware can be worth thousands.

One of the rules that most collectors follow is to collect what you like. Collectors typically don't look at their collections as an investment. However, when the collection is auctioned and converted to cash, having collected popular items will benefit the collector or their heirs. Some common collectibles like coins, 1960s and earlier baseball and other trading cards, and comic books can be worth a consider-



ANTIQUES,  
COLLECTIBLES  
& ESTATES  
• • • • •

WAYNE TUISKULA

able amount. We recently sold a collection of mainly gold and silver coins that brought nearly \$40,000 and sold a baseball card collection a few years ago that sold for over \$20,000.

The time period that the person collected their items also impacts the value of personal property. Over 20 years ago, we were contacted by a woman who had a large collection of Barbie dolls and other toys. She was at the age where she could've begun collecting when some of the first Barbies were manufactured and we had high hopes for selling her items after our conversation with her. Unfortunately for her and us, she collected all of her toys later in her adult life and they had little value. When you've collected something in your youth, you don't have to worry about fakes and reproductions in your collection that have become more prevalent now.

Many people are uncomfortable when we first meet if the estate they are handling is packed with items. I assure them that there are never too many items as far as an auctioneer is concerned. Even if there aren't a lot of valuable objects, sometimes the sheer volume of items can make an auction or estate sale profitable.

Around 15 years ago, we auctioned a collection of items from the 1920s through 1960s that a collector had acquired over many years. There was enough material to fill a box truck. Although there weren't any big-ticket items, 1950s hair dryers, 1940s household items and even circa 1930s rolls of toilet paper combined to bring in tens of thousands for the consignor.

We have a small online auction taking place with items from a Worcester



estate. Included is a commercial tractor, dump truck, motorcycles, other vehicles, a large Coke sign and Ford Mustang pedal car. The first session of the large toy collection from a West Boylston estate will soon be ready for online bidding. Session I will contain diecast toys. Antique and vintage toys will be in later sessions. You will also be able to bid online for equestrian

and other paintings from artist Fay Moore's estate after the holidays.

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

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### BANK

continued from page A1

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All donations will be given to the Second Chance Animal Shelter

"We are hoping to make a difference in the lives of people and their pets this holiday season, especially with how difficult 2020 has been for many," said Todd Tallman, President of Cornerstone Bank. "It is important for us to give back to the communities that we serve and are proud of the commitment we have made locally to provide help to those who need it. These three drives are just part of our on-going mission to do our part in making the world a better place."

About Cornerstone Bank  
Cornerstone Bank was formed in 2017 and was built on the foundation

# Dress up your landscape with winter-inspired container gardens



GARDEN  
MOMENTS  
• • • • •  
MELINDA  
MYERS

Clear out your fall containers and make room for some winter greenery. These planters are sure to brighten those dreary winter days and add life to your landscape.

Transform weatherproof summer and fall containers for winter. Fiberglass, plastic, cement and wood will hold up to the cold, ice and snow. Don't subject terra cotta and glazed pots to the harsh elements that can cause them to crack. Remove faded fall flowers and add a bit of potting mix to fill the container within two inches of the top. Or select a new weatherproof container and fill it with potting mix.

Consider your overall landscape design and other outdoor winter decorations when

creating or purchasing a holiday planter. Place a couple of winter planters on your front steps or dress up your patio, deck or balcony and enjoy the view from the comfort of your home. Don't overlook those hanging baskets. Fill them with winter greenery to elevate your winter containers to a fun new level.

Fresh-cut needed evergreens like spruce, white pine, fir and broadleaf evergreen boxwood and holly combine nicely to form the backbone of your container design. Make it easy by using spruce tips to create vertical interest in a container. You only need to set a few in the center of the pot to look like a pro. Surround these with graceful white pine boughs to anchor the arrangement to the container.

Add sprigs of other evergreens for additional texture and shades of green. Next, it's time to put your creativity to work. For those that prefer a natural look, consider white birch branches and stems of red twig dogwood, corkscrew willow or contorted hazelnut. Add a bit more

color with berry laden winter holly branches and dried seed rudbeckias, allium, and coneflower seed heads or hydrangea flowers. Finish off your arrangement with a few evergreen cones and a bow.

Or add a bit of glitz with painted and glittered cones, twigs, ornaments, or other holiday adornments. You can purchase these or create your own with a bit of paint and glitter. Just make sure your materials will hold up to the winter weather.

Once your arrangement is complete, water thoroughly. The moist soil helps keep greenery fresh and in place. Once the soil is frozen you can stop watering. The cold weather will help keep your greens looking good throughout the holidays and beyond.

Extend the life of your greenery with an organic biodegradable antitranspirant. These materials help seal in the moisture, delaying the browning of cut greens. Always read and follow label directions carefully. Most need to be applied to evergreen boughs outdoors and



Photo Melinda Myers

Winter container gardens brighten up the landscape all season long.

allowed to dry before bringing it indoors or beginning your arrangement.

For additional ideas and a bit of inspiration, watch my Create Beautiful Outdoor Evergreen Containers video. You will find more ways to enhance your landscape with winter containers.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening

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



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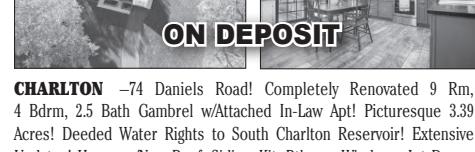
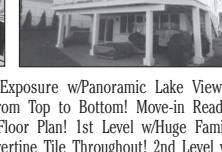
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**ON DEPOSIT**



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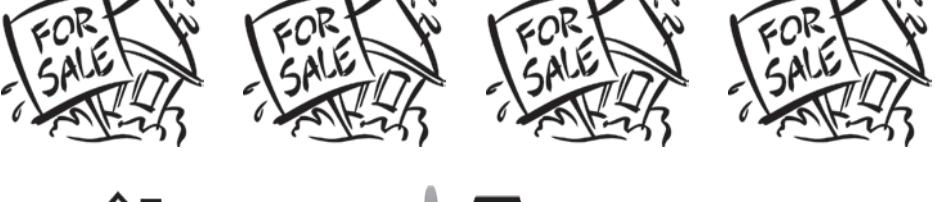


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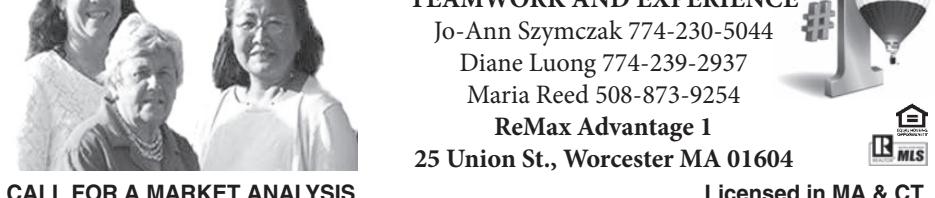
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