

Bay Path students raise funds with “Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF”



Photo Courtesy

It is the Mission of Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School to facilitate current, integrated, and rigorous academic and technical vocational programs that prepare students for the ever-changing world of employment and post-secondary education; to provide a school culture that meets the diverse needs of our student body for safety and mental wellness; and to foster student confidence, professionalism, and life-long learning skills that will enable them to become contributing members of our communities.

CHARLTON — Officers and members of the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy’s UNICEF Club raised \$308.40 from club dues, T-shirt sales, and “Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF.”

The club, which boasts an all-female leadership and membership for the academic year 2020-2021, is primarily organized to educate, advocate and fundraise to support UNICEF’s lifesaving work. The Bay

Path PN UNICEF Club program is a Practical Nursing student-led initiative that partners with the U.S. Fund for UNICEF. It is a movement rooted in a belief that students have a vital role to play in helping the world’s children survive. Club Advisor is Professor Cheryl Cahill, MSN, RN.

UNICEF Club Co-chair Meghan Reidy of Auburn reported that “Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF”

was established by UNICEF 70 years ago in 1950 and is the longest running youth engagement campaign in America. Campaign funds go to providing children with education, safe water, sanitation, nutrition, emergency relief, and immunizations. The funds provide children in 190 countries and territories with the relief they desperately need.

Reidy said, “Small contributions can provide great resources for chil-

dren; for example, \$20 can buy 100 bars of soap, \$40 can buy a round of vaccines for a child, and \$185 can buy school supplies for 40 children!”

Reidy added “Despite our current unprecedented times, money was still able to be raised from the Bay Path Practical Nursing Students as some towns still had trick-or-treating.”

Charlton adds DPW exploration to list of goals

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – As the Charlton Board of Selectmen prepares to examine its goals for the foreseeable future, one item that will be on the table for consideration is creating a Department of Public Works to replace the current system in town.

While briefly discussing the next steps for the Board of Selectmen goals during a meeting in late October, Selectman Patricia Rydlak requested that the idea of creating DPW be added to the list with the initial intent to be researching the benefits of creating the department and weighing the pros and cons of embracing such a shift.

Turn To **BOS**, page **A16**

Holiday magic, memories & traditions celebrated at Christmas by Candlelight

OLD STURBRIDGE
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STURBRIDGE — Christmas by Candlelight will return to Old Sturbridge Village (OSV) this December, as a time-honored tradition of the season celebrating New England Christmases of the 19th century and today. On select dates in December, from 3 to 8 p.m., the Village will open special for guests to take in the holiday cheer. Tickets are on sale now for members and will go on sale to the general public on Nov. 17.

This annual event has been re-imagined in 2020 with safety in mind, taking many favorite activities outdoors. Guests can see demonstrations of classic Christmas projects like knitting stockings, wreath-making, natural ornament-making and more, and watch as costumed interpreters create a traditional Christmas meal or work

Turn To **OSV**, page **A3**



Snow days becoming remote learning days

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON – Winter is upon us, and with that, school districts are planning for the possibility of poor weather and snow days that could further complicate a school year altered by the COVID-19 pandemic. In an effort to be proactive, the Dudley Charlton Regional School District has implemented a plan of action that will see snow days become at-home learning days.

During a meeting in late October, Superintendent Steven Lamarche discussed the district’s plan of action for snow and weather-related closures

revealing that the board had made the decision to voluntarily adjust its protocols to call for at-home learning rather than taking the customary snow days when students are unable to be at the building in person due to weather. This approach will allow the district to fulfill its commitments to a certain number of learning days per year preventing the district from extending the year further into June in 2021.

“Our current plan is to call a remote learning day for a weather-related closure unless we have a declared state of emergency or widespread power outages. Those are things we would have to monitor,” said Lamarche.

School Committee chair Kenneth Laferriere agreed with the approach saying it would help the district remain committed to its obligation to the students by utilizing a format already employed to help work under the COVID-19 pandemic.

“I think it makes sense to do a remote day rather than having to make up a day. That’s just my opinion. I think if we’ve got the ability to do it let’s just keep the day and keep the school year moving along,” Laferriere said. “I think it makes sense the way the administration is doing it.”

Snow day closures are decided in the early morning hours through dis-

cussions with district personnel, law enforcement and local public works. Once a closure is determined the district reaches out to as many outlets as possible including news channels and on social media to inform parents of the situation.

Lamarche said they also want to think ahead and if a snow day or weather situation is anticipated they plan to work with teachers to keep them informed and prepared. “I think any day that we would contemplate some type of a closure for a weather event there needs to be some type of communication for what that day may look like,” said Lamarche.

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Happy Thanksgiving

Did you know?

Giving the gift of an experience is a rising trend, particularly among millennials. Harris research has determined that millennials (defined as people born between 1980 and 1996) highly value experiences, and they are increasingly spending time and money on them. Types of experiences include athletic pursuits, cultural visits, concerts, social events, and various travel. The research goes on to say that more than three out of four millennials choose to spend money on a desirable experience instead of buying a product. And it's not just millennials. Overall, consumer spending has shifted in the last 10 to 15 years. HSBC bank chief economist Kevin Logan has said consumer spending on recreation, travel and eating out has been trending upward for more than a decade, while purchases of clothing and shoes as a share of discretionary spending has dropped. These trends can help drive purchases during holiday gift-giving. Gifts that are more experience-oriented may be more appreciated by their recipients.



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State takes additional steps to curb rise in COVID cases

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – State officials have taken several additional measures in response to a steep rise in COVID-19 cases over the last three weeks.

Gov. Charlie Baker announced last week that a field hospital will be set up at the DCU Center in Worcester. With new COVID-19 cases rising throughout the state, officials are prepared for an influx of hospitalizations as winter looms.

The Worcester site, which will be built by the National Guard, is the first field hospital to open in the state since June.

“The Commonwealth continues to see an alarming rise in cases and hospitalizations for COVID-19, and we are acting now to expand hospital capacity,” Baker said. “All residents are urged to follow guidance to wear masks, stay

home at night, and stop gathering. We are preparing our hospital system to add more beds and stand up our first field hospital to care for COVID-19 patients if these trends continue.”

If needed, the Worcester field hospital is expected to be available for patients in the first week of December. Additional locations can be added if conditions dictate a need.

State and health officials are also coordinating to prepare hospital staffs across the state for a wave of patients.

“Since day one of our response to this crisis, we have worked to ensure that our hospitals and healthcare providers have the resources they need to meet the acute health needs of our residents,” said Massachusetts Health and Human Services Secretary Marylou Sudders. “We are in a much better position to respond to what will be a difficult next few months.”

Statewide, COVID-19 hospitalizations since Labor Day have increased from 178 to 661. Several days last week saw new cases exceed 2,000.

If needed, the Worcester field hospital will provide approximately 240 additional beds to care for lower-risk COVID-19 patients, helping preserve the hospital system capacity for higher-risk patients.

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) will coordinate the logistics of the DCU Center field hospital, in close collaboration with health officials.

“The Commonwealth’s forward planning is a direct result of lessons learned and our experience during the first wave of the pandemic,” said MEMA Director Samantha Phillips. “We hope that we won’t need all of these overflow beds, but if we do, they’ll be ready.”

The DCU Center was the first of

five field hospitals constructed by the Commonwealth during the response to the springtime surge of COVID-19 cases. From early April until late May, when it was de-mobilized, the Worcester site served 161 patients.

Meanwhile, officials throughout the county and state continue to deal with COVID-19 flare-ups at all levels of the community. The East Brookfield District Court was closed for multiple days last week after a staff member tested positive for COVID-19.

Even the State House had to be heavily sanitized last week, after two officials tested positive for the virus. Privacy laws regarding medical information prevent the officials from being identified.

For more information about ongoing state efforts to combat COVID-19, visit www.mass.gov.

Gobi, Berthiaume investigate COVID outbreak at Soliders’ Home

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – A special oversight committee that includes two local legislators is continuing its review of the mass casualty COVID-19 outbreak at the Holyoke Soldiers’ Home.

This past spring, at the start of the pandemic, 76 veterans lost their lives in the outbreak at the western Massachusetts facility. Several probes and reports have indicated that the outbreak was caused by major failures in policies and decisions at the leadership level.

For State Rep. Donald Berthiaume and Sen. Anne Gobi, both of Spencer, it has been an honor to serve on the special oversight committee tasked with getting answers for the families of victims.

“Our mission is to draft legislation to present to our colleagues that will ensure the tragedy that occurred at the Holyoke Soldiers’ Home never happens again,” Gobi said. “Additionally, this legislation will aim to improve the care of our veterans at the Commonwealth’s soldiers’ homes.”

The oversight committee has held in-person and remote hearings over the last three

weeks. The initial hearings included statements from family members of victims lost to the outbreak. Subsequent hearings featured testimony from Holyoke Soldiers’ Home employees.

The former director of the facility from 2011-16, Paul Barabani, was also in attendance to discuss warnings he provided years in advance about the facility’s deficiencies and vulnerabilities. He resigned in early 2016 after voicing concerns over limited staffing and long overdue renovations.

At the time of the COVID-19 outbreak in the spring, the Holyoke Soldiers’ Home was run by Superintendent Bennett Walsh. He resigned from his position in October and now faces criminal neglect charges for his actions before and during the outbreak. The facility’s former medical director, Dr. David Clinton, is also facing charges.

A scathing June report from an independent investigator suggested that Walsh was unqualified to lead the facility. The management team’s decisions in response to the worsening outbreak were described as “utterly baffling” by inves-

tigator Mark Pearlstein in his 174-page report.

Several additional investigations revealed that infected residents at the facility were not properly isolated after testing positive. Others displaying symptoms of COVID-19 were allowed to remain in the general resident population while awaiting their test results, investigators said. Later, after even more residents contracted the virus, COVID-19 patients were still allegedly mixed with healthy residents in a scrambled response.

Shortly before the release of the independent report in June, Massachusetts Secretary of Veterans’ Services Francisco Urena resigned from his position.

For Berthiaume and Gobi, who work on opposite sides of the aisle, the special oversight committee provides a unique opportunity to join forces to get answers.

“I’m looking forward to a final resolution to this process to give closure to families that have suffered due to

the mismanagement of this virus response at the Holyoke Soldiers’ Home,” Berthiaume said. “It’s unconscionable that this was allowed to happen to those who gave so much of

themselves to our great country.”

The joint oversight committee will wrap up hearings in the coming weeks.

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OSV
continued from page A1

on special projects such as making ice skates or a sled from scratch. A horse-drawn carryall (a large wagon) will run throughout the Village offering rides and several bonfires will be lit throughout the night to warm up beside.

A returning favorite of the event, visitors are invited to stroll the Christmas Tree Trail – new in 2019 – featuring dozens of sparkling, decorated trees. Tucked away from the hustle and bustle of the Common, the trail welcomes wanderers in to enjoy the sights, ending at the special Christmas Wish Bridge.

Several dates during December offer additional activities for guests – including Members’ Shopping Nights on Dec. 4-6 and the firing of OSV’s 24-foot kiln for the second time this year, on Dec. 18-20. The 15,000-brick kiln found outside of OSV’s Pottery Shop can fit approximately 1,000 pieces of pottery stacked 10-feet high within its walls. It is a fan favorite among many visitors who come to the Village.

Also, a feature of the holiday event, the annual Gingerbread House Contest is going virtual! Participants from near and far can register to compete in one of four categories (adult non-professional, adult professional, youth and family) by Nov. 30. Photos of the Gingerbread House entries will be judged in each category, awarding a winner and runner-up, with “Best in Show House” voted on by the general public. Winners will receive a gift certificate to Old Sturbridge Village.

Christmas by Candlelight is an evening of traditions, memories, and holiday cheer at Old Sturbridge Village, with families and visitors returning year after year to enjoy the experience. Tickets for the event are on sale now to members at the discounted rate of \$20 for adults and \$10 for youth (ages 4-17). Tickets go on sale to the general public on Nov. 17 at \$22 for adults and \$11 for youth (ages 4-17). Admission is free for children ages three and under.

Tickets must be purchased in advance for the date and time of attendance. Visit <https://www.osv.org/event/christmas-by-candlelight-2020/> for available dates and time blocks, along with current Massachusetts and visitor guidelines around COVID-19.

For b-roll, images, and interview requests, please contact Daniel Friel, Director of Public Relations at [\[osv.org\]\(http://osv.org\).



About Old Sturbridge Village


Old Sturbridge Village, first opened to the public in 1946, is one of the country’s oldest and largest living history museums, celebrating life in early New England from 1790-1840. It is the largest living history museum in the Northeast. Each year, more than 250,000 visitors interact with costumed historians, experience up-close demonstrations of early American trades, and meet heritage breed farm animals. Situated on 200 scenic acres, the Village is a collection of more than 40 historic buildings - including homes, meetinghouses, trade shops, working farms, restaurants, shops and three water-powered mills.

Located just off the Massachusetts Turnpike and Routes I-84 and 20 in Sturbridge, Mass., Old Sturbridge Village is open year-round, but days and hours vary seasonally. Daily admission is: \\$28 for adults, \\$26 for seniors, \\$14 for College Students, \\$14 for children ages 4-17, with children 3 and under admitted free. Up to three kids age 17 and under will be admitted FREE into the village this fall through Nov. 28, when accompanied by a paying adult. Admission includes free parking. Village Members and Season Pass holders receive free standard daytime admission. For details, visit <https://www.osv.org/plan-your-visit/>.

Old Sturbridge Village is the managing partner of Coggeshall Farm Museum in Bristol, R.I. Members at OSV receive reciprocal membership at Coggeshall Farm Museum.](mailto:dfriel@</p></div><div data-bbox=)

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 **Friday’s Child** 



Zayalani
Age 11

Hi! My name is Zayalani and I am very kind.

Zayalani, who likes to be called Zaya, is an affectionate and easy-going girl of Puerto Rican descent. She can be shy with new people, but once she opens up, she can connect well with others. Zaya is said to possess a caring heart and has a strong desire to help others. Some of her favorite activities include arts and crafts, listening to music, spending time outdoors, and spending time with her foster family.

At school, Zaya is receiving extra support, both academically and emotionally. She does very well with one-on-one attention and also gets

along with her peers.

Legally freed for adoption, Zaya has the potential to thrive in a family that can provide her with nurturance and support. Her social worker believes that she will do well in a family with at least one mother and where she can be the only or youngest child in the home. Prospective families must be willing to help Zaya maintain her relationship with her sister and her biological father.

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

**ACCURACY WATCH**

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

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

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

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Seven Hills Family Services receives grant

WORCESTER — Seven Hills Family Services, which operates a Family Resource Center in Sturbridge, has received a \$49,620 grant from The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts to upgrade the AV equipment in one of its Family Support Center classrooms in order to record sessions, edit, translate, and post them on its website so that families who cannot attend the sessions can access them at their convenience. The grant will also be used to purchase technology for Family Support

Navigators to enhance integrated supports to families. The grant was one of 14 Activation Fund grants recently awarded by the Foundation totaling almost \$700,000. “Throughout Worcester County, there are many important health, education, and human service agencies and organizations, which, through the efforts of their dedicated staffs, are providing essential services to our most vulnerable populations,” said Francis M. Saba, Chairman of the Board of the Foundation. “The critical nature of their work has

been heightened by the challenges of the current pandemic. Through our Foundation’s annual Activation Fund process, we are able to help support many of these agencies and organizations. In 2020, 66 letters of intent to participate in the application process for support from the Activation Fund were submitted. Of the 66 letters, many were from organizations that had never applied and others from both previous applicants and agencies that had not previously been invited to apply. The 66 letters in 2020 compare with 38 from 2019. Clearly the need for support has increased and is significant. After a thorough review of the letters and applications by our experienced and thoughtful Foundation staff, 14 projects with support of \$698,039 were funded. Five of the projects totaling \$271,000 were specifically funded in response to the pandemic. Our Foundation is pleased to continue to do our part in helping these agencies.”

The other grants awarded are: Quinsigamond Community College (QCC) - \$70,790 to upgrade instructional equipment in QCC’s Radiologic Technology program to better prepare QCC students for their clinical rotations and entering the workforce. Worcester Common Ground (WCG) - \$100,000 to install a rooftop greenhouse on an affordable housing project WCG is

developing in Worcester which will allow residents to grow produce for themselves and their families.

NEADS World Class Service Dogs - \$50,000 for the construction of its Behavioral Check List space to test puppies to determine their eligibility to enter NEADS training programs as Service Dogs. Living in Freedom Together (LIFT) - \$19,000 for the installation of sprinklers at its residential home for survivors of commercial sexual exploitation.

LUK, Inc. - \$50,000 to support telebehavioral health services for students in middle and high schools in Central Massachusetts.

Edward M. Kennedy Community Health Center - \$60,000 for four dental chairs as part of its plans to expand its Milford site to include dental services, optometry and a 340B pharmacy.

Building Futures - \$49,998 for facility and technology upgrades to the Worcester Housing Authority’s Youth Center in Great Brook Valley, which provides youth ages 5-14 with tutoring and homework help.

Christopher House of Worcester - \$39,082 for a program to enhance the skills of its first line managers and train peer mentors with the goal of reducing the turnover rates of both nurses and CNAs.

Jeffrey’s House - \$23,772 for the installation of sprinklers in three sober living houses

it operates in Fitchburg and for accessibility renovations in two of the houses.

CENTRO - \$50,000 to hire a community health worker to assess the needs of people using its food pantry and refer them to other services CENTRO offers if they are eligible.

Genesis Club - \$40,000 to create a “virtual clubhouse” to enable Genesis Club to reach out to people recovering from mental illness who cannot access its physical location, allowing people to access clubhouse services remotely.

Open Sky Community Services - \$45,777 to expand telepsychiatry services in 33 of its group homes.

South Middlesex Opportunity Council - \$50,000 for the pre-development costs associated with converting the second floor of a building in Worcester into a 50-bed permanent emergency shelter facility.

The Foundation was established in 1999 with the proceeds from the sale of Central Massachusetts Health Care, Inc., a physician-initiated, not-for-profit HMO. The Foundation currently has assets of approximately \$79 million and has awarded grants totaling over \$45 million since it began its grantmaking in 2000. For further information about these grants or about the Foundation’s grantmaking programs and application process, please visit The Health Foundation’s website at www.hfcm.org or call (508) 438-0009.

Cornerstone Bank holds annual food drive

ITEMS TO BE COLLECTED AT ALL LOCATIONS

REGION — Cornerstone Bank is hosting a food drive from now until Saturday, Nov. 21. All non-perishable food items will be donated to local food pantries throughout the community.

During the drive, customers and local residents are encouraged to drop off non-perishable food items at any of Cornerstone Bank’s 12 branch locations.

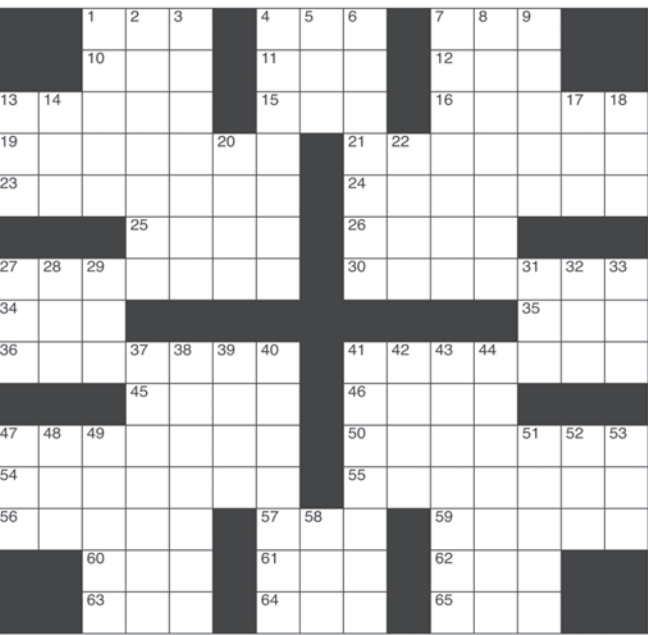
- Drop-off locations include:
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 - 121 S. Main St., Leicester
 - 93 Main St., Rutland
 - 253-257 Main St., Southbridge
 - 176 Main St., Spencer
 - 72 W. Main St., Spencer
 - 200 Charlton Rd., Sturbridge
 - 968 Main St., Warren
 - 86 Worcester Rd., Webster
 - 230 Park Ave., Worcester

• 70 W. Boylston St., Worcester

“Our annual food drive is a great opportunity to help families in need during the holiday season,” said Cornerstone Bank President & Treasurer Todd M. Tallman. “Any donation helps and is greatly appreciated.”

About Cornerstone Bank
Cornerstone Bank is an independent, mutual savings serving the residents, businesses, and communities throughout Central Massachusetts from offices in Charlton, Holden, Leicester, Rutland, Southbridge, Spencer, Sturbridge, Warren, Webster, and Worcester along with a Loan Center in Westborough. Deposits

are insured in full by a combination of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Depositors Insurance Fund. The Bank is an Equal Opportunity Employer, Equal Housing Lender, and SBA Preferred Lender. For more information, visit online at cornerstonebank.com, on Facebook, or call 800-939-9103.

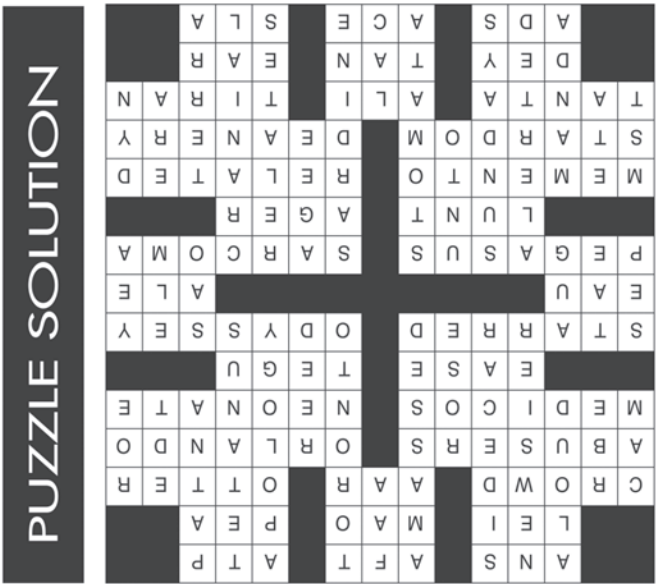


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- 10. Polynesian garland of flowers
- 11. Chinese revolutionary
- 12. Green veggie
- 13. Large group
- 15. Swiss river
- 16. Semiaquatic mammal
- 19. Wrongdoers
- 21. Home to Disney World
- 23. Spanish doctors
- 24. Newborn child
- 25. Absence of difficulty
- 26. Large, stocky lizard
- 27. Earned top billing
- 30. A long wandering and eventful journey
- 34. Water (French)
- 35. Brew
- 36. Winged horse
- 41. A usually malignant tumor
- 45. Alfred __, American actor
- 46. Austrian river
- 47. A reminder of past events
- 50. Connected with
- 54. Status
- 55. Dean residence
- 56. Egyptian city
- 57. Boxing’s GOAT
- 59. Straits along the Red Sea
- 60. “The Partridge Family” actress Susan
- 61. Get some color
- 62. Facilitates hearing
- 63. Commercial
- 64. A team’s best pitcher
- 65. Patti Hearst’s captors

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Speak up
- 2. More informative
- 3. Where passengers sit
- 4. Gathered
- 5. Supervises flying
- 6. Home of the Blue Jays
- 7. Public statement of regret
- 8. Lockjaw
- 9. Indian city
- 13. Patriots’ Newton
- 14. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- 17. Sun up in New York
- 18. Eggs in female fish
- 20. Stood up
- 22. NBA legend Willis
- 27. Calendar month (abbr.)
- 28. Exercise regimen __-bo
- 29. The 8th month (abbr.)
- 31. __ Paulo, city
- 32. Tall deciduous tree
- 33. Affirmative
- 37. Notified of danger
- 38. NFL game days
- 39. Archaic term for “to”
- 40. Plant pores
- 41. Canned fish
- 42. Phil __, former CIA
- 43. Connects with
- 44. Of the skull
- 47. Time zone (abbr.)
- 48. When you hope to get there
- 49. Hindu goddess
- 51. Land
- 52. Pitching stat
- 53. Field force unit
- 58. Lakers’ crosstown rivals



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CHURCH LISTINGS

• **Charlton Federated Church**, 64 Main St., 248-5550, Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. www.fedchurchcharlton.org

• **Charlton Baptist Church**, 50 Hammond Hill Road, 248-4488, www.charltonbaptist.org, Sunday worship 10 a.m.

• **Charlton City United Methodist**, 74 Stafford St. 248-7379, web site: CharltonCityUMC.org Sunday worship and Children’s church 10am

• **St. Joseph’s Church**, 10 H. Putnam Ext, 248-7862, www.stjosephscharlton.com, Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 p.m., Sunday Mass 8 a.m., Sunday Family Mass 10 a.m., Sunday Life/TEEN Mass 5 p.m., Weekday Mass Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30 a.m.

• **Hope Christian Fellowship**, 6 Haggerty Road, 248-5144

• **Assemblies of God Southern New England District Headquarters**, Route 20, 248-3771, snedag.org, Office hours Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

• **Lamblight Christian Church**, 37 Main Street - Grange building 1st Floor, Charlton, Ma 01507, Rev. Stephen Wade, (774) 452-2393 - Pastor’s Cell. Sunday Service 10:00am. www.visitlamblight.com

• **New Life Fellowship A/G, SNED Chapel**, 307 Sturbridge Road, Rt. 20, Charlton, MA, Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.



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This section reaches 47,000 households in 7 Massachusetts newspapers.

Sheriff's Office launches winter coat drive

WORCESTER — As you can imagine, the need for a warm winter jacket is greater than ever. The pandemic has created challenges for many.

To help those most in need in our community, Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis is proud to announce our partnership with Dr. Moses Dixon, Executive Director of Central Massachusetts Agency on Aging, for this year's Sheriff's Office Annual Winter Coat Drive.

Together, the Worcester County Sheriff's Office and Central Mass

Agency on Aging are determined to continue the tradition of holding one of New England's largest Winter Coat Drives. Unlike years past, collection boxes for pre-owned jacket donations cannot be placed in the community due to COVID. This year, we are solely relying on community grants, monetary gifts and new coat donations. Today, we are proud to report we are now up to more than 1,100 new winter jackets to help families, children and seniors in need throughout Worcester County. We are hoping with increased media expo-

sure and circulation, we will be able to secure more coat donations which will help so many during the cold winter months.

To assist with this effort, both Sheriff Lew and Dr. Dixon are available for any media opportunities/ interviews which will significantly help this cause during this incredibly challenging year.

We appreciate and value our extraordinary friends in the press, who have always helped us in this mission.

Winter coats will be distributed the first week in December to charitable

organizations throughout Worcester County, including but not limited to: Abby's House, LIFT, Hector Reyes House, St. John's Food for the Poor, Webster-Dudley Food Share, Gardner CAC, Alyssa's Place of Gardner, Spanish American Center of Leominster, Restoration Recovery Center of Fitchburg, Our Father's House of Fitchburg, Women's Recovery Program of Leominster, St. Anne's Human Services of Shrewsbury, Rutland Food Pantry and various senior centers throughout Worcester County.

Bartholomew & Company opens Metro-West office with two new advisors

WORCESTER — Bartholomew & Company, a financial planning and wealth management firm with offices in Worcester, Chatham, and Bedford, Massachusetts, announces the opening of its newest branch office at 161 Worcester Rd., Suite 402, Framingham.

John Moran and Jennifer Moran, wealth advisors and vice presidents in Bartholomew & Company's Private Wealth Management division, will be the primary contacts at the new Metro-West branch with support and guidance from the Investment Management Department, advisors, and staff at Bartholomew & Company's Worcester headquarters.

John and Jen have more than 60 years combined experience helping individuals and small business owners identify and reach their financial goals. John's experience includes positions at A.G. Edwards, E.F. Hutton, and his most recent six years at The Moran Group at Ameriprise Financial. John previously owned his own firm, Moran Financial, as an independent financial advisor. Jennifer's experience includes positions at two local financial firms before she joined Moran Financial, followed by The Moran Group at Ameriprise Financial.

Bartholomew & Company President & CEO, Thomas J. Bartholomew, AIF® said of the new branch office and advisors, "We are pleased to be able to add a convenient new Metro-West location offering a full-range of financial planning and wealth management services to all of our current and future clients."

About Bartholomew & Company

Bartholomew & Company has been providing individuals and organizations with financial guidance since 1994. With headquarters at 370



Jennifer and John Moran

Main Street, Worcester, MA, the firm prides itself on crafting strategies for each client's unique needs. For more information about Bartholomew & Company, please visit www.bartandco.com. Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network®, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser.

Donation to help Nichols Endowment Fund

BY JASON BLEAU
NEWS STAFF WRITER

DUDLEY – Nichols College in Dudley has announced a \$2 million anonymous donation that will boost the school's endowment increasing a scholarship that assists both local students and numerous academic initiatives.

The \$2 million donation was provided to the school from a global financial services leader who has chosen to remain anonymous. The gift will serve to support the primary objective of the college's Bicentennial Campaign to raise funds for capital projects, endowments, and leadership education which has to date surpassed the \$45 million goals set three years ago. A new goal has been set to raise \$20 million in additional funds to help increase the endowment and support scholarships, professorships and college programs.

Nichols College President Susan West Engelkemeyer, Ph.D. released a statement expressing gratitude for the gift thanking the anonymous donor for their generosity.

"This gift will advance our mission of transforming lives through expanded educational and experiential opportunities for our career focused students. It ensures our continued success as a college of choice for business and leadership education," President Engelkemeyer said.

Chair of the Nichols College Board of Trustees and member of the Class of 1972 John H. Davis also expressed his gratitude for the gift calling it critical support for the endowment especially in a time of uncertainty in higher education.

"Most importantly, it will increase experiential opportunities for our students to give them a competitive edge," Davis said.

The \$2 million donation, along with other funds from the endowment, will assist with launching a business consulting center in addition to supporting a scholarship for students in the Southern Worcester County region. The \$2 million will also be utilized to augment the Student-Managed Investment Fund which was founded in 2019 through alumni donations.

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Select the right tool for the pruning task

Deadheading, trimming, and pruning are part of growing and maintaining a beautiful and productive garden and landscape. Make sure you are outfitted with the right tool for the job. Matching the tool to the pruning task will help ensure a proper cut, reduce hand fatigue, and allow you to work longer.



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Since most pruning cuts in the garden and landscape are between a quarter and three quarters of an inch, a bypass hand pruner is a must. These pruners have two sharp blades like scissors, making a clean cut that closes quickly. This helps reduce the risk of insects and disease moving in and harming your plants.

Avoid hand-held pruners that are too heavy or open too wide for your hand size. Those with a spring action return help reduce hand fatigue as long as the opening matches the size of your hand. Make sure the pruner does not open wider than your hand can easily grip. Select a tool that fits in your hand, is comfortable, has an ergonomic grip and is easy to control.

Matching your pruner to your hand size is as important as matching it to the cutting job. Opting for an oversized pruner to make larger cuts can lead to hand fatigue, frustration, and improper cuts. Measure the width across the palm of your hand at the base of your fingers. Next, measure the height from the middle of the base of your hand to

the tip of your middle finger. A pruner rated for half inch cuts is a good match for those with small hands less than 3 1/2" wide and 6 1/4" high. If your hands measure three and a half to four inches wide six and a half to eight inches high, you may want to purchase a three-quarter-inch pruner. Those with larger hands should do fine with a one-inch hand-held pruner.

But size is just one factor to consider. Hand strength also influences the diameter of the stems you will be able to cut. Just because a tool is rated for three quarters of an inch doesn't mean everyone will be able to apply the needed pressure to make such a large cut. Invest in tools with compound levers or ratchets when you need a mechanical advantage to make cutting easier.

When the job is too big for you or the tool, select one better suited to the task. Employ a bypass lopper like Corona Tool's ComfortGel SL 3164D with tactile handles. Loppers have long handles that give you greater leverage and extend your reach. This extra reach makes it easier to prune all parts of small trees, shrubs, and roses.

Invest in a foldable pruning RazorTOOTH Saw (coronatoolsusa.com) with a pull stroke cutting action and ergonomic handle. You'll be able to make cuts fast and easy and minimize hand fatigue. Foldable saws allow you to tuck the blade into the handle for



Photo Courtesy — Corona Tools

The FlexDial bypass pruner allows you to adjust the grip to fit the size of your hand, reducing fatigue when making repetitive cuts.

safekeeping and reduce storage space. Saws are useful tools for cutting larger branches on trees and shrubs that you can safely prune. Although I am a certified arborist, I only prune small trees and shrubs. I save big tree work for my colleagues that climb, have the equipment and training to do the job safely.

Melinda Myers has written numer-

ous books, including *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 and was commissioned by Corona Tools for her expertise to write this article. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

Create the quintessential autumn meal

Autumn evokes all types of cozy images. There are the chilly evenings spent around the fire pit outdoors or nights spent by the fireplace sipping warmed cider. Afternoons strolling through crunchy leaves or seeking out the perfect apples in the orchard also make autumn a special time of year.

Comfort foods are popular in fall, and many people have their tried-and-true recipes that they prepare when temperatures starts to dip. Perhaps no fall meal is as coveted and enjoyed as beef stew.

Simmered for hours, stew meats fall apart, and soft potatoes and carrots perfectly complement the rich beef. This recipe for "Harvest Beef Stew" from "Crock-Pot® 365 Year-Round Recipes" (Publications International, Ltd.) from Crock Pot® Kitchens is a make-ahead-then-forget recipe that promises all of the flavors that make beef stew so delicious. Serve it with a fresh-baked loaf of crusty bread to soak up the mouth-watering sauce.

Harvest Beef Stew

Makes 6 servings

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 1/2 pounds beef for stew
- 1 quart canned or stewed tomat-

- toes, undrained
- 6 carrots, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 3 medium potatoes, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 3 celery stalks, chopped (about 1 cup)
- 1 medium onion, sliced
- 1 cup apple juice
- 2 tablespoons dried parsley flakes
- 1 tablespoon dried basil
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 2 bay leaves
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour (optional)
- 1/2 cup warm water (optional)

Heat oil in a large skillet over medium-low heat. Brown stew meat on all sides. Drain excess fat.

Placed browned meat and remaining ingredients except flour and water in Crock-Pot® slow cooker. Mix well. Cover; cook on high 6 to 7 hours.

Before serving, thicken gravy, if desired. Combine flour and warm water in small bowl, stirring well until all lumps are gone. Add mixture to liquid in Crock-Pot slow cooker; mix well. Cook 10 to 20 minutes, or until sauce thickens. Remove and discard bay leaves before serving.



Rich "Harvest Beef Stew" is the perfect meal for chilly autumn nights.

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A story of
inspiration
for a sunny
morning

Twenty-one-year-old Chris Nikic of Maitland, Fla. made history last Saturday when he became the first person in history with Down Syndrome to complete a full distance Ironman triathlon. Watching the video of Nikic crossing the finish line in Panama City, Fla., did not leave this writer with dry eyes. This was good news, in an otherwise chaotic news cycle.

As most people know, a full Ironman consists of a 2.4 mile swim, a 112 mile bike ride and a 26.2 mile run. The race, has a time cap of 17 hours. Nikic completed the race in 16:46:09.

Nikic had a few setbacks throughout the race, including two falls from his bike.

Special Olympics Florida President and CEO Sherry Wheelock released a statement. In it she said, “He’s become a hero to athletes, fans, and people across Florida and around the world. He’s an inspiration to all of us.”

Nikic is no stranger to triathlons and has been training since he was a teenager. Looking ahead he will strive to qualify for the 2022 Special Olympics USA Games.

In an Instagram post, Nikic wrote “Goal set and achieved. Time to set a new and bigger goal for 2021. Whatever it is, the strategy is the same. One percent better every day. Yes, I did the work, but I had angels helping me. God surrounded me with angels. Best part of all. New family and friends. All about awareness and inclusion. Awareness for Down Syndrome and Special Olympics. Inclusion for all of us with all of you.”

His proud father, Nik Nikic, released his own statement: “To Chris, this race was more than just a finish line and celebration of victory. Ironman has served as his platform to become one step closer to his goal of living a life of inclusion, normalcy, and leadership. It’s about being an example to other kids and families that face similar barriers, proving no dream or goal is too high.” he said.

Nikic completed the 2.4 mile swim (along with his coach Dan Grieb) in just under two hours. Just prior to getting on his bike to attack the 112 miles, he was bitten by fire ants. He forged ahead and finished the bike portion in 8:12:37. He then went on to finish the 26.2 mile run in 6:18:48.

Nikic’s father says that the mantra is to improve one percent each day. His coach, Grieb said in a statement, “I’m no longer surprised by what Chris can accomplish because I recognize who Chris is; a human being that has goals and dreams just like everyone else. He wants to make the path easier for those just like him and can follow his lead.”

He is now a Guinness World Record holder.

This is a story of inspiration, hope and positivity, and now, more than ever, the world needs more of it.

LETTERS

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!
We think you’re important enough to tell all our readers to turn to the Opinion pages and read your Letters to the Editor.
But first, you have to write us!
Mail your letters to the Charlton Villager, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550.
Or e-mail your letters to the editor at news@stonebridgepress.news
You’ll need to provide your name and place of residence, along with a phone number, so we can verify the letter is yours.
We don’t have a set limit, but if you keep it around 600 words or so, you’re going to have a better chance at seeing all your words in print.
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Remember, libelous remarks and/or personal attacks are a no-no and could lead to your letter not being published.
So, what are you waiting for? Start writing!

OPINION
VIEWS AND COMMENTARY FROM CHARLTON, CHARLTON CITY, CHARLTON DEPOT AND BEYOND

Common Sense Tips
to Save Fuel Costs

The bad news is, heating your house will likely cost you a bit more this winter. The good news is, a few common sense tips can cut your losses down to size. According to a Nov 10, 2020 report from the EIA, oil, gas and electricity prices are set to bump up in 2021. With the uncertainty of COVID restrictions looming, even the slightest increase can upset a household budget. Instead of digging deeper into your pockets this winter, you can offset the expected modest increase by making some common sense changes around the house. And lest you think a little energy loss here and there won’t add up, ponder this: Heat loss from a one quarter inch gap in a door threshold is as great as that from a four inch hole in the wall! The following practical ideas (some of which were previously featured in this column) reveal how a little compromise and effort can add up to impressive energy savings.

Families typically use more hot water in winter months and heating up the water can account for nearly 15 percent of total household energy costs. Lowering the temperature on the hot water heater to 120 degrees can add up to substantial savings throughout the winter. Here’s a simple test to check if you’re heating water hotter than necessary: Place the back of your hand under a stream of running hot water. If you cannot comfortably keep your hand under the water, your water temperature is too high and you’re wasting money.

Think lowering the thermostat temperature slightly won’t make a dent in your fuel savings? Think again. Did you know turning down the thermostat just one degree can save three percent on your fuel bill? Better yet, lowering it five degrees for four hours a day can add up to a ten percent savings! Lower your thermostat at night and use an extra wool blanket or quilt. And if the house is empty for more than four hours per day turn the thermostat down five or more degrees when you leave for work and crank it back up when you return.

Another easy money saving tip is to opt for showers instead of baths during winter months. While a long, hot bath is tempting, remember, it will almost triple your cost over a shower as more water is used and must be heated. To save even more on hot water costs, replace shower heads with low flow models. New ones are so improved, you’ll hardly notice the reduction in water flow.

If you have an older hot water heater, check with your utility company to find out if it would benefit from an insulation jacket. This cost effective tip can add up to over \$100 a year in energy cost savings. Here’s another quick tip: If you are going on vacation, be sure to turn the hot water thermostat down a bit. You’ll save money even while you’re gone!

Doing laundry takes its toll on water usage and hot and warm water cycles use more fuel than you might think. Save money by buying a cold water detergent and doing all your laundry in cold water. Typical savings realized by a family of five is up to \$250 annually.

During the winter months, use your stove and bathroom fans sparingly, as they remove precious warm air from the room. Obviously, you’ll want to use a vent to dispel moisture in the bathroom, but there’s usually no need to switch on the vent fan every time you put on the bathroom light. Ditto for a kitchen fan vent. Use it periodically while cooking; do not leave it on constantly unless smoke is an issue.

If you have an electric heating element in a small bathroom, consider disconnecting it. Supply plenty of thick towels to dry off fast, place a fuzzy scatter rug on a tile floor and your family

TAKE
THE
HINT

KAREN
TRAINOR

Check your furnace filter frequently. A clogged filter greatly decreases the furnace’s efficiency and makes it work harder. Some energy efficient advisors suggest automatically replacing filters each month. They claim the savings realized in efficiency more than make up for the cost of the new filters.

Dust is a powerful insulator and dusty baseboard vents and radiators use more energy than necessary to heat up a room, so keep surfaces clean. If you have a coil thermostat, be sure to clean it each season to ensure accurate readings. Just take off the cover and wipe or blow away dust.

Do a vent check. If you have baseboards, make sure they are fully open and operable. Move any furniture or drapes that could be blocking warm air flow. Vents or baseboards that are even partially blocked result in an unnecessary hike in heating costs.

Automatic timers are very affordable and they make adjusting thermostats a no brainer. Typically they will keep the temperature steady during the day and automatically reduce it at night, resulting in substantial savings.

Take full advantage of heat created from cooking. Warm up the house while you cook by planning slow cooking stove top dishes such as stews and simmering soups. When you are done using the oven for cooking and shut it off, keep the door open to release the remaining hot air into the kitchen. When you heat water, use a tea kettle or pot instead of the microwave oven, etc.

Generations before us took frugal advantage of the fact moist air retains heat. Stoves of yesteryear often had a pan of water to add moisture to the air. Today, a humidifier is often the choice to boost the effect of heating, which translates into lower fuel costs.

If you run a dishwasher you can add moist heat to the kitchen simply by shutting off the washer before the heated dry cycle and opening the door. As a bonus you’ll save energy and money by air drying the dishes.

Are you doing absolutely everything you can to save energy? For an instant energy assessment, visit www.energystar.gov The government sponsored site has lots of valuable advice and recommendations to help you cut down on heating costs.

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. Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn.

Ideas for
thanking
your family

FINANCIAL
FOCUS

JEFF
BURDICK

It’s almost Thanksgiving. And although 2020 may have been a difficult year for you, as it has been for many people, you can probably still find things for which you can be thankful – such as your family. How can you show your appreciation for your loved ones?

Here are a few suggestions:

Invest in your children’s future. If you have young children – or even grandchildren – one of the greatest gifts you can give them is the gift of education. You may want to consider contributing to a higher education funding vehicle.

Be generous. Do you have older children, just starting out in life? If so, they could well use a financial gift to help pay off student loans, buy a car or even make a down payment on a home. You can give up to \$15,000 per year, per recipient, without incurring gift taxes. Of course, you don’t have to give cash – you might want to consider presenting your children with shares of stock in companies they like.

Review your insurance coverage. If you weren’t around, it would leave some gaping holes – financial and otherwise – in the lives of your family members. That’s why it’s essential you maintain adequate life insurance. Your employer might offer a group plan, but it may not be sufficient to meet your needs. There’s no magic formula for determining the right amount of coverage, so you’ll have to consider a variety of factors: your age, spouse’s income, number of children and so on. Also, you may want to consider disability insurance – if you were unable to work for a while, it could cause a real problem for your family’s finances.

Preserve your financial independence. When your children are young, you take care of them. But you certainly don’t want them to have to do the same for you – so it’s essential you maintain your financial independence throughout your life. You can do this in at least a couple of ways. First, consider investing regularly in your 401(k), IRA and other retirement accounts. The greater your resources during your retirement years, the less you may ever need to count on your family. And second, you may want to protect yourself from the devastating costs of long-term care, such as an extended nursing home stay. A financial professional can suggest a strategy to help you cope with these expenses.

Create an estate plan. To leave a legacy to your family, you don’t have to be wealthy – but you do need a comprehensive estate plan. You’ll have to think through a lot of questions, such as: Have I named beneficiaries for all my assets? How much do I want to leave to each person? Do I need to go beyond a simple will to establish an arrangement such as a living trust? For help in answering all these issues, you’ll want to work with an attorney.

By making these moves, you can show your loved ones, in a tangible way, how much you value them – and that can help you keep the spirit of Thanksgiving alive all year long.

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.



News,
really close to home StonebridgePress.com

A well trained dog makes for easier hunting



THE GREAT
OUTDOORS
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RALPH
TRUE

A change in the warm weather to a bit more normal for this time of year has made all outdoor activities more comfortable, especially for hunters. Bird hunters have been doing very well in the valley. Watching a well trained dog point or flush a bird in a field is something only a hunter can appreciate. For the hunter that owns a good bird shot, he or she can get the most satisfaction from a hunt. A lot of hours training the dog has made the four legged family member enjoying the hunt as well.

This past week, this writer hunted the Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club and brought along a young hunter hoping he could get a shot at a bird. Young Aiden loves dogs and was overjoyed when I asked him to handle my nine year old Lab "Twig" on the leash, as we walked along a road leading to some decent pheasant cover. Aiden is the grandson of Steve Rondeau who walked along with us as we followed Twig through the heavy cover. He was allowed to carry a 410 single shot shotgun and was kept in front of us as we navigated the underbrush. It was not long before "Twig" flushed a Cock Pheasant from the cover, and we told Aiden to shoot. As the young hunter put the sites of the 410 gun on the flushed bird, the shotgun discharged and the pheasant folded to the ground. «Twig» was on the bird in seconds and did



a great retrieve bringing the bird back to me. That was the highlight of the day for us. We headed back to the club to order breakfast and sat under the Pavilion at the club, to discuss the hunt and enjoy our food. This week's second picture shows Aiden with his pheasant and this writers Lab, Twig! The club host youth hunts annually prior to the hunting season!

The hunt brought back many memories of my childhood, with a Daisy Red Rider BB gun my parents put under the Christmas tree for me when I was around 10 years old. It was the best Christmas present I received that year. I was allowed to take the gun outdoors on my own, after my dad told me about the dangers of the gun, and to never ever point the gun at anyone. "It is not a toy," my dad stated numerous times. Fortunately, I never got into trouble with the gun. My dad was more of a fisherman than a hunter,

so we got to enjoy fishing on the Meadow Pond and numerous brooks, catching brook trout. Every year, he took time for us to go fishing for trout on opening day, at Prentice Brook and Johnsons Brook in Whitinsville.

When I became 15 years old, my Uncle the late Paul Hale purchased a H & R 12 gauge shotgun from Harrington & Richardson. Paul was employed at the H & R factory and was able to purchase the gun for very little money. The gun was a bolt action shotgun, with a clip to hold additional shotgun shells. It had a Polly choke that could change the discharged load from open to full. I had a lot of fun shooting ducks back then. As I got older, I purchased a new Browning 20 gauge automatic, from a gun shop in Douglas. I later purchased an Ithaca light weight 12 gauge shotgun, with two barrels. One for deer hunting and one for bird hunting. The 12 gauge Ithaca I now own was



purchased at Sparky's gun shop in Webster which is now closed after his passing. It is a great gun and is used by my Granddaughter Andrea, for trap shooting on occasions.

As I was growing up, I can fondly remember all the good times I had hunting with our two sons David and Ralph, Jr.! It was a time that leaving a gun in my car or truck was permitted, without a trigger lock on. Pickup trucks often had a gun rack in the rear window with two guns left in the unlocked truck as hunters stopped to have breakfast or some other chores. It was a time when youngsters respected someone else's property and were taught right from wrong. There are still a lot of great kids out there today.

Archers are harvesting some impressive deer locally and in neighboring states, as this week's first picture shows. Numerous 10 and 12

point bucks weighing in at over 200 lbs. dressed are being reported. It is hard to believe that Mass. is producing such impressive deer. It is normally a deer that comes from Maine or Canada, but they are being harvested here in new England. Shotgun season in Massachusetts starts Nov. 30. Are you ready?

We are in for a rough ride this winter because of the pandemic, and it will require all family members to use common sense, and to wear masks and practice social distancing. This is serious stuff!

Just a reminder that Wallum lake is open to fishing until the last day of February, as it is governed by Rhode Island regulations. Hopefully, there will be some ice this winter to do some ice fishing for some of the recently stocked trout.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending.

Midcentury glassware



Regular readers of this column know that "brown furniture," glassware and china prices have dropped over the years. There are a few notable exceptions though, including many midcentury (1940s to 1960s or 1970s) glassware pieces.

Some kitchenware from the midcentury is collectible. Green "Jadeite" Fire King prices may have peaked when Martha Stewart displayed pieces in a cabinet behind her on her cooking

show, but it still sells fairly well today. Five Fire King mixing bowls recently sold for \$70 at auction. A large 87-piece group of mixed dinnerware brought \$550. Pyrex kitchenware is also in demand. A pink one and a half quart divided covered casserole cooking dish recently sold for \$54. A set of nesting Pyrex mixing bowls in yellow, green, red and blue went for \$120 this month.

Midcentury modern art glass is also quite popular with collectors. When thinking of glass from this era, most people think of Murano (Venetian glass). It was popular in the 1960s but has a much longer history, dating all the way back to the 1200s. Venetian glass was in high production during the 15th and 16th centuries. Glassmaking in Murano declined in the 17th century, but it came back in the 19th century. During the 1920s, Murano produced art nouveau design glass. World War II saw production drop, but it came back strong again after the war.

Prices have increased for midcentury Murano glass. Glassware that may have sold at estate sales for anywhere from two bucks to \$10 in the 1990s may now bring 10 times those prices. For example, a Murano cockatoo recently sold for \$50 and two Murano "Aquarium



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

bowls" by Alfredo Barbini, with fish designs on the bottom, sold for \$200 and \$250 this month.

Nordic countries also produced some quality art glass during this time. Gerda and Asta Stromberg made tall cylindrical "Sputnik" vases, along with other patterns for Strombergshyttan of Sweden. The well-known Swedish glassmaker Orrefors purchased Strombergshyttan in 1976. Riihimäki glass of Finland made colorful vases and other art glass objects during the 1960s. Many had a clear base with curves, creating the effect of multiple lenses.

America also produced some quality midcentury art glass. Higgins glass designed what was called a "glass sandwich." According to higginsglass.com: "on one piece of enamel-coated glass, a design is created, either drawn with colored enamels, or pieced with glass segments." Another piece of enameled glass is placed on top of that. Blenko Glass created amberina glass (red and yellow colors merging) among many other patterns during the 1960s. Other companies like Heisey offered some modern design glassware as well.

Some midcentury glassware can fetch high prices at auction. A large 1940s-1950s Asta Stromberg Diamant (Diamond pattern) glass vase by Strombergshyttan sold for \$735 in a 2013 online auction. A "peacock" Blenko floor bottle brought

\$2,100 at auction in 2016. A set of four Riihimäki glasses made by the artist Nanny Stil for the Riihimäki Lasi Oy company went for £4,000 (\$5,278 U.S.) in 2011. A 1960 Michael and Frances Higgins Rondelay screen with five rows each with five round pieces of glass and brass sold for \$13,000 in 2014. A 1960 Murano "Dorico Corniola" vase by Ercole Barovier, described in one auction catalog as "colourless glass with inclusions in carnelian, white, violet and colourless," was auctioned for \$29,000 in 2013. Art glass has still been selling well more recently. A pair of Murano glass chandeliers sold for \$2,750 in late October. Despite the pandemic, there is still bottled up demand for high quality art glass.

We will be offering a large collection of antique and newer toys from one estate in several online auctions over the next few months, beginning with some die-cast cars. We also will be offering paintings by Fay Moore from her estate. Moore is well known for sporting scenes and horse racing paintings. I'll provide additional updates in future columns.

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.

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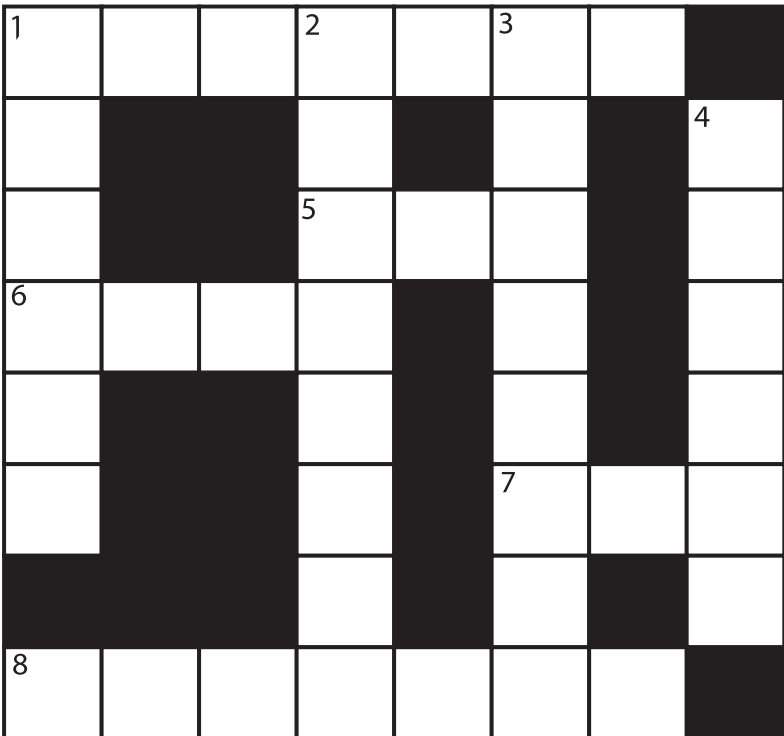
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Crossword Puzzle



- ACROSS**
- 1. Winged food
 - 5. Frozen water
 - 6. Harmful
 - 7. Join together
 - 8. Flat meat patties

- DOWN**
- 1. Covered with cheese
 - 2. Meat covered frankfurter
 - 3. One who puts something into action
 - 4. Small chunk

Answers:
Across
1. Chicken 5. Ice 6. Evil 7. Tie 8. Burgers
Down
1. Cheesy 2. Chili dog 3. Executor 4. Nugget

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- **1776:** BRITISH TROOPS CAPTURE FORT WASHINGTON DURING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.
- **1990:** POP MUSIC DUO MILLI VANILLI ARE STRIPPED OF THEIR GRAMMY AWARD.
- **1992:** A HOARD OF ROMAN SILVER DATING TO THE 4TH OR 5TH CENTURY IS DISCOVERED IN BRITAIN.



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For J.D. Power 2020 award information, visit jdpower.com/awards. ¹DETAILS OF OFFER: Offer expires 12/12/2020. You must set your appointment by 11/27/2020 and purchase by 12/12/2020. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Buy one (1) window or entry/patio door, get one (1) window or entry/patio door 40% off, and 24 months \$0 down, 0 monthly payments, 0% interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry/patio doors between 11/1/2020 and 12/12/2020. 40% off windows and entry/patio doors are less than or equal to lowest cost window or entry/patio door in the order. Additional \$75 off each window or entry/patio door, no minimum purchase required, taken after initial discount(s), when you set your appointment by 11/27/2020 and purchase by 12/12/2020. Military discount applies to all active duty, veterans and retired military personnel. Military discount equals \$300 off your entire purchase and applies after all other discounts, no minimum purchase required. Subject to credit approval. Interest is billed during the promotional period, but all interest is waived if the purchase amount is paid before the expiration of the promotional period. Financing for GreenSky® consumer loan programs is provided by federally insured, federal and state chartered financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender or familial status. Savings comparison based on purchase of a single unit at list price. Available at participating locations and offer applies throughout the service area. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. License number available upon request. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of Andersen Corporation. ©2020 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. ©2020 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved. *See limited warranty for details.



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WEBSTER – 20 Kunkel Ave! **SUNNY SHORES!** First Time Offered! 8 Rooms, 4 Bedrooms, 2.5 Bath Colonial! Featuring an Appliance Eat-in Cabinet Packed Kitchen! Formal Dining Room! 1st Floor Family Room w/Hardwood Floor! 1st Floor Half Bath w/Laundry! Gleaming Hardwood Staircase to the 2nd Floor w/4 Bedrooms! Master w/ Master Bath & Walk-in Closet! Many Recent Updates including Roof, Central Air, Hot Water Heater, Dishwasher & Refrigerator! Back Deck Overlooks Large Fenced Yard! 7 Zone Irrigation System! Farmer's Porch! Shed! 2 Car Garage w/Openers! This Home has Everything You Need and Then Some! Expandable Basement! Desirable Neighborhood w/Webster Lake Beach & Boat Ramp Access Nearby! Convenient to Route 395! **\$369,900.00**

CHARLTON – 64 Bond Rd! Gorgeous 2,800' 8 Rm, 3 Bdrm, 2.5 Bath Contemporary Ranch set on a Professionally Landscaped 1.49 Acres w/Natural Stone Walls! Quality Craftsmanship Throughout! Featuring a Spacious Granite Kitchen w/Cherry Cabinets & Hrdwd Flrs! Formal Dining Rm! Spacious Frplc Family Rm w/Cathedral Ceilings, Built-in Bookcases, an Open Fr Plan for All Your Entertaining Needs! Capacious Master Bdrm Suite w/Master Bath & Huge Office! Mostly Finished Walk-out Lower Level Featuring a Large Exercise Rm, Bar Area, Plenty of Storage & 3rd Garage! Unfinished Bonus Rm Over the 2 Car Attached Garage! Private Back Yard for Entertaining w/Multi Level Decks and New Patio! Listed by Another, SOLD by C21 Lake Realty! **\$535,000.00**

WEBSTER – 9 Lake Parkway! Newly Remodeled 6 Rm Cape Conveniently Located! 3 Bdrms & 1.5 Baths! New Granite Kit w/SS Appliances, Siding, Gutters, Windows, Ext Doors, Oil Tank, 1/2 Bath, Plumbing, Electrical, Lighting! Oak Hrdwds! Recent Steam Boiler & Roof! Enclosed Porch! Deck! Garage w/ Opener! Private Back Yard! **\$279,900.00**

DOUGLAS – 102 SE Main St! Start Packing! Spacious 9 Rm Colonial! 2.23 Acres! Center Island Granite Kit w/Soft Close Cabs, SS Appliances! Slider to 24' Deck! Open Floor Plan! Hickory Wood Floors throughout the Kit, Din & Liv Rms, all w/Recessed Lighting! 1st Flr Office or Possible 4th Bdrm w/Oak Hrdwd Flrs! Full Bath in the Hall! 2nd Flr w/Full Dble Vanity Bthrm & 3 Comfortable Bdrms, all w/Beautiful Wood Laminate! 1st Master w/Cathedral Ceiling, Skylight, Ceiling Fan, Bay Window overlooking the Back Yard and a Master Bath! Lower Level w/2 Finished Rms, Utility Rm w/Laundry and Half Bath! 3.5 Baths Total! Recent C/Air, Heat & Roof! 24x26 2 Car Detached Garage! Huge Shed! Nearby Nature Trails & Walum Lake Beach! **\$379,900.00**

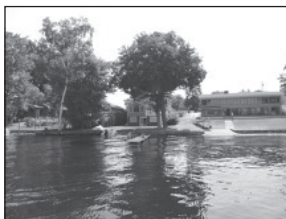
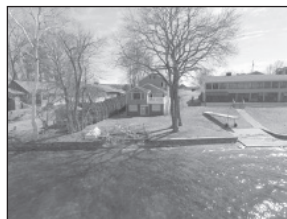
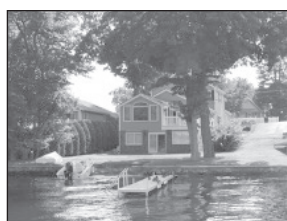


WEBSTER LAKE – 112 Gore Rd! **NORTH POND!** Sucker Brook Cove! 8 Rm, 3 Bdrm, 1.5 Bath Ranch is Ready for You! Southwestern Exposure! Gorgeous Sunsets! Unique Waterfront! An Open Floor Plan! Lake Views from Nearly All Rooms! 2x6 Construction! Energy Efficient Blinds in Every Room! 4 Oil Tanks - Fill Up Once a Year! C/Air! Gas Fireplace! Whole House Fan! Meticulously Cared For! Large workshop! 3 Car Garage! Carport! 2 Sheds w/Electric! Back Yard is Perfect for Family Gatherings! Plenty of Off Street Parking! Summer is Here! **\$539,900.00**

HOLDEN – 315 Holden St! 6 Rm Ranch! Meticulously Maintained! 2 Spacious Bdrms, Full Tiled Bath & 1 Car Garage! Move In Ready! Granite Oak Cabinet Kit w/Tiled Back Splash & JennAir Stove! Frplc Liv Rm! Fam Rm! Gleaming Hrdwds! Perfect Yard w/Major Landscaping this Year! New Roof 2019! **\$344,900.00**

SHREWSBURY – Waterfront – Flint Pond w/Direct Boating Access to Lake Quinsigamond! The Quiet of Flint, All the Action of Quinsig! Privacy Galore on Sargents Island – 4.27 Acres – 2,000' Waterfront! Beautiful Sunrises & Sunsets! Looking for a Getaway, Principal Residence or Second Home, Winters in Florida, Summers on the Island! Tons of Potential, Do a Little or Do a Lot! 4+ Rm, 1 Bdrm, 1.5 Bath "A" Frame with the Ability to Finish the Walk-out Lower Level, add a Family Rm, Bdrm, Bathrm! Nature Abounds, Visited by Deer, Fox, Eagles & More! In Time for Summer! **\$579,900.00**

GRAFTON – 168 Brigham Hill Rd! 8 Rm Garrison Colonial set on 1.3 Acres! 4 Comfortable Bdrms & 2 Full Bthrms! Freshly Painted, Floors Recently Refinished! Spacious Kit w/Lunch Counter! SS Appliances w/Gas Cook-Top! Grand Dining Rm for Family Gatherings! 19x26 Living Rm w/Pellet Stove! Master Bdrm w/Dble Closets & Hot Tub! Bright & Airy Mudroom out to the 2 Car Garage! Furnace & Hot Water Tank 5 Years Young! Radon tested at 2.5! Newer Roof on Garage & Breezeway! New Well Water Tank Installed! Title V in-hand! Property Abuts Grafton Land Trust - Hiking Trails Right Out Your Back Door! Convenient to Routes 90, 9 & 20! Immediate Occupancy! **\$449,900.00**



WEBSTER LAKE – 62 Bates Point Rd! Middle Pond! Absolute Prime 51' Level Waterfront Lot w/Western Expo! Beautiful Sunsets! Fantastic Panoramic Lake Views! 11 Rms, 6 Bdrms, 4 Bathrooms, 3,269' AC'd Colonial! Custom SS Appliance Granite Kit! Formal Din Rm w/ Cherry Hrdwds! Lake Facing Liv Rm w/Cathedrals, Cherry Hrdwds! Slider to Waterfront Deck! Spacious 1st Flr Master Bdrm w/Full Bath, Cherry Hrdwds & Walk-in Closet! Frplcd Lower Level Fam Rm! 1st & 2nd Flr Laundries! 2 Car Garage! **\$949,900.00**



WEBSTER LAKE - 11 Bay View Rd! One of the Lake's Premier Properties! 9,822' of Nice! .68 Acres of Park Like Grounds! 297' Waterfront! \$4 Million Spent, Nothing Spared! 17 Rms! 5 Water View Bdrms, 5.5 Bathrms! Brazilian Cherry Hrdwd Flrs, Grand & Spiral Stairways! Elevator, Ground Flr to Master Suite! In-door Resistance Swimming Pool, Hot Tub & Bthrm w/Steam Shower off Exercise Rm! Billiard Rm! Media Rm! Center Isl Granite Kit w/Viking Gas Range, Sub-Zero Frig, Pantry & Breakfast Bar! Open Flr Plan! Din Area, Fam Rm w/Entertainment Center w/Wet Bar! Formal Din Rm, Frplc Liv Rm & Atrium! Library w/Deck! Waterfront Master Suite w/Office, Bdrm w/Triple Glass Dr to Private Deck w/Lake Views, 3 Walk-in Closets, Bathrm w/Multi-Head Shower, Whirlpool, Dble Vanity, Separate Commode/Bidet/Sink Area! 16 Z's of Updated Geothermal Heat/A/C! Recessed Lights & Fire Sprinklers Through Out! 3 Car Garage! Generator! Slate Roof! Reward Yourself! **\$2,499,900.00**



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Featured New Listings!

WEBSTER - 11 PERRYVILLE ROAD



Beautiful Split entry home, situated on 1 acre, nicely landscaped lot! Vaulted ceiling! 6 rooms, 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, Fireplace! Central Air - 2 Zones! Covered deck. All town services! 2 car garage under. Shed! **\$289,900.**

DUDLEY - 22 ROBERTS ROAD



Lovely 3 bedroom Ranch! Single door 2 car garage with storage! Eat-in kitchen. Fieldstone Fireplaced Living Room! 3 bedrooms, hardwood floors, Remodeled bathroom! Lower Level fieldstone walls/ fireplace! In-ground pool! Recent Boiler. NEWPRO windows, roof, leaf gutters, pool liner! land! 3.58 ACRES includes extra Lot **\$312,000.**



WOODSTOCK CT - 110 JOY RD
Quisential Woodstock Farmhouse w/Spectacular views of Pond. Detached Studio Building! 2.5 Acres. Prof. Landscaped. 5 Bedrooms. Fireplaced Dining, library/Music room. Master Bedroom, 2 Full Baths! Renovated Kitchen. Upstairs, 4 Bedrooms w/Full Bath. **New Price \$399,900.**



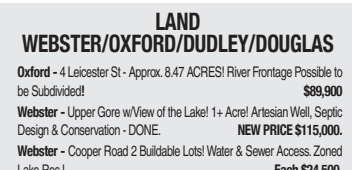
WEBSTER - 21 3RD STREET UNIT: B
Condominium - Living leisurely! 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath (including master suite) home. Freshly painted! Recessed lighting, gas fireplace, and sliding doors, to beautiful balcony. Walkout basement! built-in outdoor grilling spot. Easy access to 1395. **\$224,900**



WEBSTER - 195-199 THOMPSON RD
3 ACRE COMMERCIAL SITE! APPROX. 550 FT ROAD FRONTAGE ON STATE HIGHWAY RTE 193 AKA THOMPSON ROAD. STRATEGICALLY NESTLED BETWEEN TWO (2) I-95 (NORTH & SOUTH) ON-RAMPS & TWO (2) I-95 (NORTH & SOUTH) OFF-RAMPS! PROPERTY DIRECTLY ABUTS I-95! 48'X80' CONCRETE BLOCK BUILDING, 7,680 SF TOTAL! FULL LOWER LEVEL USE & DRIVE IN GARAGE DOOR! HIGH TRAFFIC - HIGH EXPOSURE! WHAT DO YOU HAVE PLANNED?! **\$600,000.**



WEBSTER - 103 UPPER GORE RD
Estate Sale! LOCATION, LOCATION! Scenic Upper Gore Rd! Amazing View of Beautiful Webster Lake! Main level has 3 Bedrooms, Kitchen, Dining Rm, Common Bathrm, Master Bedroom & Master Bath - Fireplaced Living Room! Finished Lower Level, 1/2 Bath, Laundry, Large room w/Pellet Stove & Direct Garage Access! Tiered deck, w/Screened porch, leads directly to your "Salt water" Inground Pool! **\$319,900.**



LAND WEBSTER/OXFORD/DUDLEY/DOUGLAS
Oxford - 4 Leisester St - Approx. 8.47 ACRES! River Frontage Possible to be Subdivided! **\$99,900**
Webster - Upper Gore w/View of the Lake! 1+ Acre! Artesian Well, Septic Design & Conservation - DONE. **NEW PRICE \$115,000.**
Webster - Cooper Road 2 Buildable Lots! Water & Sewer Access. Zoned Lake Res! **Each \$24,500.**
Douglas-Mount Daniels 2.5 Acres abuts Douglas State Forest! **ON DEPOSIT! \$132,900**
Dudley - Marshall Terrace 12,000+- Sq Ft Lot! Potential for a 2 Family! **SORRY SOLD! \$70,000.**
Dudley - Packard Dr. 2 Lots! Very Private! off Ridge Dr. Will not last! **SORRY SOLD! \$50,000**



OXFORD - 4 SPICEBUSH LANE
SORRY, SOLD!
One level living with added 35 x 18 finished walk-out lower level. Cathedral ceilings, skylight dining, hard-wood flooring and central air. Stainless appliances w/large double oven. Over-sized 30 x 14 deck, quiet cul-de-sac! **New Price \$314,900.**



SOUTHBRIDGE - 14 SERVANT WAY
SORRY, SOLD!
Young ranch with heated 2 car garage, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Efficient Propane heat, central air! Open floor plan! gas fireplace! Master Suite w/bathroom, Master California Closet! assisted sale **\$279,900.**



OXFORD - 115 CHARLTON ROAD
SORRY, SOLD!
Beautiful home set back off road providing privacy and oversized yard. Kitchen w/granite counters & abundance of cabinets. Cathedral ceilings kitchen, dining and living room. Open floor plan! large deck with large backyard through sliders in dining room. Hardwood floors! Tile baths. Master bedroom/master bath! Finished walkout lower level w/1st 2 car garage. Extras: above ground pool! **\$369,900.**



WEBSTER - 20 KINGSBURY
SORRY, SOLD!
NEW TO THE MARKET! Custom Sprawling Split 2800+ SF! Central Air! Kitchen, Dining Room, Cathedral Ceiling Living Room, 3 Bedrooms! Granite Counters & New Flooring! New Boiler - Hot Water Tank - Oil Tank! FULL finished Lower Level w/ Full Bath & Laundry! THERE'S MORE! 2 Car Garage, renovated to include Hydro Heat, AC & 1/2 Bath! Great for Fitness Studio, Game Room or Home School! Over 1.4 Acres! **\$360,000.**



WEBSTER - 52 CUDWORTH ROAD
SORRY, SOLD!
1.99 ACRE INDUSTRIAL ZONED LOT! GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE & WORK FROM HOME! Amazing 1790 Antique Colonial! Undergone major updates & renovations, maintaining Antique Charm! Great Room graced by an Open Hearth Stone Fireplace! Soaring Cathedral Ceilings! **\$499,900.**

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg



WEBSTER LAKE - 100 LAKESIDE AVE
SORRY, SOLD!

WEBSTER LAKE! PANORAMIC VIEWS! BEAUTIFUL SUNSETS! Extraordinary Waterfront Contemporary! Architect designed with Lake Living in mind. Custom Built with Attention to High Quality & Detail. Outstanding open concept, water view from almost every room. Nicely situated on a .25 acre level peninsula, 180' +/- prime lake frontage! Enhanced by a all natural shoreline! All you need to live is located on the 1st floor. Grand 2 story foyer, cozy fireplace living room, gourmet kitchen, lake facing dining, formal dining room, media room & spacious 1st floor guest BR Suite w/ private bath. Incredible 2nd floor fireplace lake-facing corner master suite w/luxurious private bath, 3 more 2nd floor BRs & full bath! Something Special! Remember, Timing Is Everything **\$1,075,000.**



LAKE SHIRLEY - 647 RESERVOIR RD
SORRY, SOLD!

Lakefront! Lake Shirley! Modern Flare on a Lakefront Colonial! 1st level Formal large entry foyer, living room, gas fireplace, chef kitchen, Impala black granite, center island, 3 season porch, overlooking the lake. 1st FL bedroom suite w/ shower and jacuzzi tub. 2nd floor Master Suite! Lower level Summer kitchen, full bath, game room. Crown molding & hardwood floors throughout, wired sound system, radiant floors. oversize 2 car garage. Additional Guest House! assisted sale **\$1,040,000.**



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Octobers' Single Family Homes Real Estate Market

DOUGLAS				OXFORD			
	Oct 2019	Oct 2020	Trend		Oct 2019	Oct 2020	Trend
Median Price	\$284,000	\$360,000	▲	Median Price	\$286,700	\$322,000	▲
Market Volume	\$3,975,800	\$4,601,900	▲	Market Volume	\$4,351,152	\$4,303,802	▼
# of Homes Sold	13	13	➡	# of Homes Sold	16	13	▼
Avg Days On Market	71	25	▼	Avg Days On Market	41	17	▼

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• 2-STORY COMMERCIAL RESTAURANT BUILDING •
• VACANT PAVED PARKING LOT •
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2 BROOKFIELD ROAD (A/K/A 2 SCHOOL ST.) & 602 MAIN ST.
STURBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

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2 BROOKFIELD ROAD (A/K/A 2 SCHOOL STREET):
• ± 14,375 S/F of Land • ± 5,913 S/F of Gross Building Area • ± 58' Frontage Along Brookfield Road •
• 181' Frontage Along School Street • Oil Hot Air Heat & Air Conditioning • Outdoor Patio Area • Sprinklered •
• Basement Kitchen Area • 3rd Floor Office • Paved Parking for ± 10 Vehicles •
• (B) Restrooms (2) on Main Level & (1) on 2nd Floor • Wood, Carpeted & Tile Floors • Public Water & Sewer •
• Assessor's Tax ID: Map 173, Lot 2327-2 • Zoned: Commercial/Tourist Zoning District •

602 MAIN STREET:
• Vacant Paved Parking • ± 13,504 S/F of Land • Paved Parking for ± 15 Vehicles •
• ± 100' Frontage Along Main Street • ± 133' Frontage Along School Street • Public Water & Sewer Available •
• Assessor's Tax ID: Map 415, Lot 2329-602 • Zoned: Commercial/Tourist Zoning District •

SALE PER ORDER OF MORTGAGEE
ATTORNEY DANIEL M. ROTHCHILD
OF THE FIRM OF BULKLEY, RICHARDSON AND GELINAS, LLP
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ATTORNEY FOR MORTGAGEE


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103 Beacon Park- \$324,900



Oxford: 1 acre lot, Oversized 2-car garage, Vaulted ceilings, in kitchen, dining & living room, 3 bedroom, 1.5 Baths, Hardwood floors, Finished lower level, Craft room, 2 Decks.
22 Whiting Rd- \$389,900



REDUCED

Dudley: Survey completed, needs some cosmetics, 3-4 bedrooms, garage, in-ground pool
11A Paglione Dr- \$239,900

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SATURDAY 12/26

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OBITUARIES

Steven M. Taylor, 62

CHARLTON- Steven M. Taylor, 62, of Southbridge Rd., passed away on Wednesday, Nov. 11th, in his home after a brief illness.

He leaves his wife of 36 years, Mary L. (Boniface) Taylor; his daughter, Joy Gear and her husband Matthew of South Grafton; his mother, Bessie (Marder) Taylor of Southbridge; and his granddaughter, Madilyn Gear of South Grafton; his brother and sister in law, Mark and Laurie Boniface of Sturbridge; and many Nieces and Nephews.



He was born in Richmond, VA the son of the late Peronnean Taylor.

Steven worked at the McDonalds Restaurant in Charlton before retiring in recent years. He previously worked at the Ken's Steakhouse factory in Marlboro for several years. Steven enjoyed hot rods, sport cars, electronics, and collecting antiques and records. He enjoyed music and took pride in high quality sound systems.

Steven's funeral and burial will be private. There are no calling hours.

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

www.morrillfuneralhome.com

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continued from page A1

"It's really a big project," Rydlak said. "There's many different options. All towns do it different ways. I've been

doing some reading up and a little bit of research and whether it's right for us or not we could get all the people who can be part of that discussion to see if it's something we should think about or if it could save us some money or if it's right for our town."

Rydlak wasn't the only selectman who supported adding a DPW exploration initiative to the goals list. Her fellow freshman selectman Stephen Koronis also felt it was worth at least considering.

"I'd like to at least explore it and see. There are slight differences between a DPW and a water & sewer commission, but there are also a lot of commonalities," Koronis said.

Selectman Rydlak indicated that embracing a DPW could result in dissolving the Water & Sewer Commission and creating new oversight of both the highway and water & sewer departments that would serve under the town administrator. Similar changes have been explored in surrounding communities with differing results. Some towns have embraced the change, others have denounced the concept and now it appears Charlton residents will have their chance to discuss the matter in the months and years to come.

Discussion was paused for a later meeting as Selectman Bill Borowski, who had initially requested an update on the selectmen's list of goals during the meeting, felt that a more extensive discussion was more appropriate for a different meeting rather than the informal back and forth. His fellow selectman agreed and had the DPW idea added to the goals list for future debate.

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