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# Local business owners support Bay Path



Photo Courtesy

Bay Path Director of Career and Technical Education James Tripp Pockevicius, carpentry instructor Ron Johnson, STP co-owner Seth Chisolm, students Sabien Gonzalez, Jeffrey Denham, Ismael Porrata, Richard Corriveau, Margaret Russell, Emma Bransky, Bay Path Superintendent-Director Kyle Brenner, STP co-owner Mary Chisolm, and Bay Path Principal Cliff Cloutier.

CHARLTON — Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School recently received a generous donation of \$5,000 from local business owners Seth and Mary Chisholm. The Chisholms own and operate Skilled Trades Partners, or STP, based in Fiskdale.

Seth Chisholm, who considers himself a proud graduate of Bay Path's carpentry class of 1993, visited the school with his wife to speak with students about how the transferable skills he learned as a student at Bay Path helped make him successful in life.

When asked what motivated him to give back to the program, Chisholm alluded to his "great experience in the carpentry shop," also commenting on how much he enjoyed being on the school's football team. He elaborated by saying that with his business "we hire all skilled tradespeople, are entrenched in the skills gap, and want to now support younger people in the trades."

Chisolm said that returning to the school

was a "great experience" for him, noting that he knew exactly where to turn in the building to get to the shop area, despite the updates and renovations that occurred since he was enrolled at the school and "even though it had been so long."

The Chilsoms' donation and their visit to the school had a clear and positive impact on Bay Path students.

Student Shaun McLaughlin stated that "the generous gift to the Bay Path Carpentry program was a highlight in this trying year. It highlights the good and generosity of the Christmas spirit. Going back to his roots and giving back to the program that molded and shaped his future was a selfless act that won't be forgotten."

Luke Wonderlie, another carpentry student, echoed this sentiment by saying "It was very cool that a former student wanted to give back to his roots. I like what he did

Please Read **BAY PATH**, page **A11**

# New Town Administrator lands in Sturbridge

BY GUS STEEVES  
CORRESPONDENT

STURBRIDGE — The town goes into the new year with a new face at the helm – Robert Reed.

Just before Christmas, the selectmen voted unanimously to offer him the interim town administrator's job for three months, with a possible extension if necessary, while they initiate a formal search for a permanent administrator. He comes in to replace Jeff Bridges, who resigned as of Dec. 21.

"Mr. Reed was the safest pick," said Jamie Goodwin on Dec. 20.

Chase Kaitbenski agreed, noting Reed has "done it with seven different towns."

Sodid Chair Mary Blanchard, who particularly liked the fact Reed has no interest in becoming permanent administrator.

She noted "He knows what it takes to move on."

Reed, like several others who seek such interim jobs, is officially retired, thus limited in the number of hours he can work annually and still keep his pension under state law. His last full-time stint was as town manager in Leicester, where he retired in 2013. More recently, the Medway resident served as interim in Southbridge, Princeton, Upton, Rutland and Hopedale, among other places.

The board approved his contract in an eight-minute meeting Dec. 27, after ironing out an agreement with Reed on working hours.

Regarding the ongoing search committee, the board appointed Kaitbenski to be its

representative and Finance Director Barbara Barry to represent the department heads. But it still seeks "Three registered voters of the town at large not employed by the town" to round out the panel, according to the Charter. Statements of interest are due to the board's office by Jan. 7 at 11 a.m., and can be submitted two ways: by email to [selectmen@Sturbridge.gov](mailto:selectmen@Sturbridge.gov) or by mail to Board of Selectmen, 308 Main St., Sturbridge, MA 01566.

The search faces some competition. According to the Mass Municipal Association's job listing website on Jan. 1, 10 communities in Massachusetts, Connecticut and New Hampshire have advertised for administrators or managers since the beginning of December.

In other business, the board threw its support behind resident Steve Zoto's request to have the state Department of Transportation build "some form of noise protection" along the stretch of the Mass Pike that abuts the Walker Pond neighborhood. He told them the last time traffic and noise studies were done there were in 1988 and 1992, but speed has "increased substantially," especially since the tolls went from cash to electronic.

Zotos said he'd like DOT to also erect signs prohibiting the use of Jake brakes in that area.

This proposal is the first stage of a much larger request, he noted. Going forward, Zotos and others who signed his peti-

Please Read **REED**, page **A11**

# COVID, Amazon project highlight busy year for Charlton

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – It was a busy year in Charlton in 2021, as the community worked to continue reopening and adapting in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic while also making strides towards economic growth by welcoming in one of the biggest companies in the world.

Town Administrator Andrew Golas recounted the highlights of the last twelve months as Charlton looks ahead to more positives in 2022. Looking back on the past year, Golas said there are two major storylines that dominated the town, one very obvious worldwide issue and another more localized

story involving one of the most recognizable names in modern business.

"One thing has been COVID and trying to get ourselves back to normal even though now this time of the year it feels like we're taking a step back from that, but I think the town has adapted to some of the newer regulations," Golas said. "The other side that's been another big thing has really been economic development and what the future is going to be in Charlton."

That economic growth involved Amazon bringing a new warehouse facility to the town which has certainly been one of the most talked about projects in the region

since it came to light in the spring. Citizens approved zoning changes during the annual town meeting in May that allowed for large scale distribution centers setting the stage for Amazon to bring its project to Charlton. While the company wasn't identified until a later meeting, the project eventually received citizens backing for a TIF agreement in the fall. Economic growth such as this is something Golas hopes will continue into 2022 and beyond and will also help with one of the biggest goals of the new year, putting a focus on updating and upgrading public facilities.

"We're starting to look at the budget and I think that

the next conversation that we as a community need to have is what we want to do about our public safety facilities and looking at public facilities as a whole understanding that the new Amazon project is going to bring in additional tax revenue," said Golas. "There are going to be some municipal challenges that we're going to need to use that new revenue to address. We know that facilities improvements have been a need for a very long time and trying to leverage those new resources will also steady the tax base. We really want to focus on a timeline for addressing those needs. We're also really hoping to continue to adapt to COVID and find out what the next phase is

going to be."

Other accomplishments Golas mentioned from 2021 include upgrading the remote and online experience for citizens which included launching new improvements to the town website such as an online permitting tracking system. Golas hopes that these small improvements will continue into the new year. He concluded by crediting the town and its citizens for their adaptability during the ongoing pandemic saying that Charlton will be looking for more clarity from the state and federal government as to how to proceed with keeping citizens safe while maintaining services in the new year.

Please Read **HITCHCOCK**, page **A11**

# Hitchcock Academy hosts holiday celebration



BRIMFIELD — As the sole bona fide community center serving the Sturbridge area, Hitchcock Academy is home to gatherings and groups for scouts, artists, painters, martial artists, yogis, and learners of all ages in numerous crafts, skills, and disciplines. A huge variety of activities have just one thing in common: each brings people together for shared experiences. And when it comes to creating a sense of community online, Hitchcock works to do that, too.

Through the month of November, the nonprofit community center orchestrated a campaign of gratitude entitled #30DaysOfThanks, featuring community members daily who had made an impact on the organization in 2021, and united people in appreciation of those who had been generous.

On Dec. 11 and 12, the center welcomed the community at large for a two-day celebration of the holiday season at Christmas at Hitchcock. The event was all free of charge, offered as a gift to all who attended thanks to the generosity of volunteers and a local sponsor. Coming together in gratitude, in giving, and in gathering in celebration, are all three tenets of building community, and are all the more essential during trying times.

"In our current political climate, it's so important to create moments of connection, celebration, and gratitude," says Executive Director Cindy Skowrya. "There are so many invitations to be angry, to judge one another for our differences, and to be divided. We need to make sure we coun-



# Charlton sees staying power of hybrid meeting model

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – In the nearly two years since the COVID-19 pandemic first forced a nationwide shutdown, countless entities have embraced online meeting rooms and livestreaming to get their business done. This includes towns and local governments who took to Zoom, Facebook, YouTube and other online video and meeting services to make sure business continues to take place with the public’s involvement.

Over time, this approach has become more than just a temporary addition to the public meeting format as communities like Charlton have begun to embrace them as alternatives to attending live gatherings without actually replacing in-person meetings. Since town governments were forced to adjust to an online-only approach in early 2020, Charlton has begun streaming its major board meetings, most notably the Board of Selectmen, on Facebook and Zoom while also enhancing its previously existing video sharing resource, the TVCharltonMass YouTube page. Town

Administrator Andrew Golas said Charlton has seen great benefits from embracing online meetings, specifically the hybrid format which has been utilized by the town’s Board of Selectmen since in-person meetings were once again allowed.

“I think it’s been very well received, and I definitely want to try to make this a permanent fixture moving forward really for as many boards and committees as possible,” Golas said. “We at least want to offer the hybrid version for meetings and public participation because we know that the ability for people to make a 5 or 6 o’clock meeting at the town hall on a Tuesday night, for example, is just not the same now as it was twenty or thirty years ago. I think this is a great tool for the general public to get involved in a way that doesn’t have to be inconvenient for them. They can log in and participate in town government without making it to every meeting in person.”

Hybrid meetings allow members of the public to watch meetings live online and also submit comments, either verbally or through a message board, for town officials to respond to in real time.

The hybrid model has seen great success with the Board of Selectmen who have taken to broadcasting nearly every meeting on Facebook with a higher quality recording of the meeting later added to YouTube for citizens to watch at their leisure. While the selectmen are usually together in-person for their meetings, some boards still conduct all their meetings through online meeting rooms where those meetings are also recorded for posterity. Golas said this approach will continue for at least a few more months but doesn’t expect an online-only format to be a permanent model.

“The ability to have the remote meetings is going to be allowed until at least, I believe, the beginning of April and then we could see some form of legislation that will allow it to continue beyond that to some extent,” Golas said. “I think that the hybrid model of the majority of the boards meeting in person will definitely be a fixture, but I think it will be interesting to see how the legislature wants to treat fully remote meetings moving forward.”

Golas clarified that the remote and hybrid models only apply to meetings

of boards, commissions and committees and not to town meetings. Public gatherings like the annual town meeting are required to be in-person through state law and do not afford participation to those online as it would be difficult, if not impossible, to verify every online participant’s residency in Charlton through an online method, something that is required for anyone to comment at a town meeting. Still, it looks like at least the hybrid board meeting model is here to stay and Golas hopes to see the system perfected enough to have a majority of the town’s elected bodies participate in the format.

Those who wish to be a part of Charlton meetings online or remotely can do so in several potential ways. First, all boards and committees have links or details concerning livestreaming posted on the agendas for their upcoming meetings. Second, some meetings will be broadcast on either Facebook, YouTube or both, again with confirmation posted on the agenda. All meeting agendas can be found by visiting [www.townofcharlton.net](http://www.townofcharlton.net) and clicking the “Agenda & Minutes” link on the homepage.

# Baker urges masking, vaccination amid post-holiday surge

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

REGION – Despite the surge of COVID-19 cases during the holiday season, Gov. Charlie Baker doesn’t plan to reinstitute indoor mask mandates.

The Baker-Polito Administration recently announced measures to address the statewide spike in COVID-19 cases, including an indoor mask advisory. Measures are also intended to ensure that hospitals have sufficient capacity to care for both COVID and non-COVID patients.

“The Commonwealth’s healthcare system is facing a critical staffing shortage, which has contributed to the loss of approximately 500 med-

ical and ICU hospital beds,” read a statement released by Baker. “Hospitals are also seeing a high level of patients, many due to non-COVID related reasons.”

Getting your COVID-19 vaccines and booster remain the most effective ways to protect against serious illness or hospitalization from the virus, officials said. In a report released last week by the Mass. Department of Public Health, data showed that 97 percent of COVID-19 breakthrough cases in Massachusetts have not resulted in hospitalization or death. Moreover, unvaccinated individuals are five times more likely to contract the virus than fully vaccinated individuals, according to the DPH report.

Massachusetts continues to be a national leader in COVID-19 vaccinations, with more than 94 percent of eligible residents having received at least one dose. Approximately 74 percent of the eligible population is fully vaccinated, and Baker’s staff has opted to promote continued vaccinations rather than restore mask mandates.

Additionally, the Governor activated 500 members of the Massachusetts National Guard to address the non-clinical support needs of hospitals and transport systems. Up to 300 of these Guard members will support 55 acute care hospitals, as well as 12 ambulance service providers across the Commonwealth.

“DPH surveyed all hospitals and ambulance service providers, and in concert with the Massachusetts Health and Hospital Association, has identified five key roles that non-clinical Guard personnel can serve in support of hospital operations for up to 90 days,” read the statement issued by Baker’s office.

These roles include non-emergency transport between facilities; patient observation; security support; in-hospital patient transport services; and food service support.

Guard personnel were deployed to the field on Dec. 27. State officials also released updated guidance to hospitals concerning nonessential elec-

tive procedures. Effective Dec. 27, all hospitals statewide are directed to postpone or cancel all nonessential elective procedures that are likely to result in inpatient admission. The goal of this order is to maintain and increase inpatient capacity, officials said.

“Patients are reminded to still seek necessary care at their hospital or from their healthcare provider,” read the Governor’s statement.

Residents are reminded that people ages five to 17 can get the Pfizer vaccine. People over 18 can get any vaccine.

To learn more about the latest state COVID-19 guidance and data, visit [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov).

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**RESOLUTIONS: 2022**

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Town Of East Brookfield

100th Anniversary

1920 - 2020

Calendar of Events 2022

- JANUARY 22 • 6:00 PM

1920’s Night at the Brewery - themed music and drinks

Timberyard Brewery

FREE ADMISSION

FEBRUARY 5 •

“The Lake in Winter”

2:30 PM Ice Harvesting Presentation

Ken Ethier at Town Hall

3:30 Ice Skating, bonfire & music

Lake Lashaway Town Beach

Free refreshments!

FEBRUARY TBD • 6 AM - 2 PM

Fishing Derby - Details to come!

MARCH 12 • 5:00 PM

Roarin’ Twenties Dinner Dance

Spencer Country Inn - \$35

Tickets on sale online at

<https://tinyurl.com/EB100thGala>

MARCH 24 • 6:30 PM

Re-enactment of signing of town bill and unveiling of

Anniversary Quilt

Baptist Church • FREE

APRIL 9 • 11:00 AM

Hodgkins Bell Dedication Ceremony

EB Elementary • FREE

APRIL 16 • 9:30 AM

Historical Talk - Ed Londergan - The First and Second

Settlements at Brookfield

Town Hall • FREE

APRIL 23 • 9:00 AM

Town Wide Clean-Up Day

Meet at Town Hall • Lunch provided

APRIL 30 • 2:00 PM

East Brookfield Nature Walks at Pelletier Woods

Howe Street • FREE

MAY 14 • 10:00 AM

7K Run and Fun Walk Timberyard Brewery

\$30.00 adults / \$15.00 kids

Tickets online - details TBD

MAY 28 • 9:30 AM

Historical Talk - Ed Londergan -

Murder in the Brookfields

Town Hall • FREE

JUNE 4 • 2:00 & 3:30 PM SEATINGS

History and Dessert at Podunk Chapel \$5.00 pp

JUNE 10 • 7:00 PM

Coast Guard Band

EB Elementary • FREE (ticket required to enter)

JUNE 18 • 11:00 AM-3:00 PM

Open House at Camp Frank A. Day

(archery, boating, basketball, mini golf, lunch)

125 South Pond Road • FREE

JULY 9

Events for Independence Day proceed as usual

Down Town Area • FREE

JULY 11

Summer Reading Kick Off - EB Library -

continues for five weeks

JULY 23 • 9:30 AM

Historical Talk - Heather Gablaski - East

Brookfield: 100 Years a Town

Town Hall • FREE

JULY/AUGUST

Summer Concert Series continue as usual -

every Thursday 6:00-8:00

Connie Mack Field • FREE -

Food and Drinks for sale

JULY/AUGUST TBD

Adaptive Water Skiing on the Lake

Lashaway Lake Association

Details to follow

AUGUST 13 • 2:00 PM

Luau at the Town Beach

Town Beach • FREE

SEPTEMBER 17 • 9:30 AM -7:00 PM

Parade and Family Fun Event!

Route 9 / Connie Mack Field • FREE

OCTOBER 29: 3:30 PM

Town and Cemetery Tour,

dinner at Podunk Chapel / \$15.00 pp

NOVEMBER 5 • 9:30 AM

Historical Talk - Guy Morin- Central Massachusetts

during the Revolution

Town Hall • FREE

DECEMBER 10 • 9:30 AM

Historical Talk - Ken and Tina Ethier - “Trolley Talk”

Town Hall • FREE

DECEMBER

Light the Town Event: Decorating Contest,

Town tree lighting • FREE
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- For more details about events, follow us on Facebook @EB100th or visit our website at [tinyurl.com/EB100th](https://tinyurl.com/EB100th)



# Senior Center project goes to ballot Jan. 24

BY GUS STEEVES  
CORRESPONDENT

STURBRIDGE — Besides getting a new town administrator, Sturbridge voters will be called upon to decide the fate of a major town project this month.

On Monday, Jan 24, the \$11.5 million expansion and renovation of the Senior Center goes to the ballot, with the town seeking a Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion to do the work. Town Meeting approved doing so overwhelm-

ingly back in late October.

This vote, however, will be in an unusual place. Because of expansion of the Old Sturbridge Village charter school, the town can't use Wight Tavern as a polling place anymore. Instead, it will happen in the Town Hall selectmen's meeting room, with the usual hours – 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

“We viewed many options such as Sturbridge Worship Center, the Hay Loft Steppers Barn, and 198 Charlton Road Office Building, which they offered their location for our elections going forward. However, ADA issues keep us from state compliance with some of these locations,” Town Clerk Lynne Girouard wrote in her formal letter to the selectmen informing them of the change.

The new site is temporary, but still had to go through a state-reviewed process to ensure it does not “have a disparate, adverse impact on access to the polls on the basis of race, national origin, disability, income or age,” she

added.

The selectmen approved the ballot question on Dec. 20. Originally, they tried to include the cost in the wording, but then-Town Administrator Jeff Bridges told them the town attorney and bond counsel advised against doing so on the grounds it would set a maximum limit that might not take into account changing interest rates. He admitted he was “surprised” at their recommendation, agreeing that he'd rather see the dollar figure there, too.

“You know how much you're going to borrow, but you don't know how much you're going to pay,” Bridges said then, noting they can also reduce the cost in various ways.

The project calls for renovating the existing two-story building and adding a one-story section behind it. Most of the offices will be in the former, with program, kitchen, game and exercise space in the latter; a new entrance on the side, and most of the green space around the building consumed by park-

ing.

Town Meeting voted in favor of that option 660-126, although attendees of public forums earlier in the year seemed inclined toward building a new center on property off Cedar Street. The latter died under fire from neighbors who objected to the traffic impacts it might have. At the same time, some speakers favored keeping the current location for its historical value, noting the town would still have to do something with the building if it built anew.

If the ballot question passes, it begins the detailed architectural design process, followed by actual construction, with both based on the proposal available on the town website. At that point, Senior Center programs may have to move temporarily.

At the time, Bridges noted the cost will not hit the tax rate for about a year.

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

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## Green Meadows brings organic cannabis to Central Massachusetts

SOUTHBRIDGE — Green Meadows, a cannabis company based in the heart of Southbridge, Mass., has brought organic cannabis to central Massachusetts, with its homegrown, organic cannabis products hitting the shelves of its Southbridge dispensary today, located at 64 Mill St., after completing final inspections on Thursday, Nov. 18.

Soon cannabis consumers across the state will be able to enjoy Green Meadows organic cannabis via wholesale partnerships.

Green Meadows' organic cannabis is grown in its 35,000-square-foot cannabis production facility that sits in the same restored 19th century mill building as its dispensary, bringing a whole new meaning to locally grown. The large production space has been designed to deploy organic and environmentally responsible methods, which includes a patent-pending fertigation system to maximize purity and efficiency, integrated pest management program that exceeds Clean Green Certification standards, as well as new processes for fertilizer use, propagation and soil blending.

The cultivation team at Green Meadows leans into the princi-

ples of Korean Natural Farming which strive to create an ideal environment for microorganisms and plants to grow. Green Meadows leverages “living soil,” which uses indigenous microorganisms (IMOs) and plants, animals, and minerals from the local environment for feeding cannabis plants. The end result? The richer the soil, the richer the flavor and aroma profiles of the terpenes, deepened distinction between strains, rich flavor that persists even at the bottom of the bowl.

“At Green Meadows, we are committed to natural, low-to-no chemical cultivation and extraction, which includes avoiding the potentially dangerous industry practice of using hydrocarbons for extraction, even though it makes cannabis products more expensive to produce,” said Benjamin Bourque, EVP of Cannabis Production at Green Meadows. “This means our customers enjoy cannabis they can feel good about consuming and result in a better experience, too. Our organic, sustainable cultivation and processing methods result in richer terpene profiles, more robust flavors, smoother products and, for the flower, a cleaner, brighter, whiter ash.”

Organic cannabis products available Green Meadows organic Double Chocolate is now available in 3.5 ounce flower eighths, and will be available later this month as 1oz flower, pre-roll joints, enhanced pre-rolls infused with concentrates, and soon will be developed into byproducts including bubble hash and pressed rosin. Bred with Coco Melon and an OG Chocolate Thai, this strain is doubled up on the heavy chocolate flavors and aromas from both parenting strains. Double Chocolate has mainly Sativa effects that can be beneficial to focus, concentration, creativity, and most social situations. Green Meadows' Double Chocolate testing confirmed 23.4% THC content.

Green Meadows' first limited release of organic, homegrown product, Larry Lovestein, sold out within the first 72 hours. The Larry Lovestein small batch strain is a smooth, earthy indica-leaning hybrid cross of Chem 4 and Larry OG. Reported effects include elevated mood and muscle relaxation, per guest reviews at Green Meadows. Keep an eye on Green Meadows social media channels and website for updates on the next release of Larry Lovestein and other organic products.

Now that it is vertically integrated,

Green Meadows will activate its medical cannabis license and serve registered patients along with adult-use customers once its medical inspection is complete later this month.

### CLUES ACROSS

- Struck firmly
- Shirt part
- Nevertheless
- Article
- Adornment
- Educator's helper
- Healthcare pro
- Atomic number 28
- Extinct flightless bird
- Mystic syllable
- College sports decision maker (abbr.)
- Edible mushrooms
- Venerable English monk
- Surrounded by
- Forming fractional numbers from 4 onwards
- Eastern France river
- Short cry or yelp
- Brew
- Ornamental box
- In a way, surfaced
- Attired

### CLUES DOWN

- Poem
- Everest is one (abbr.)
- Olympic legend Jesse
- Portable tent
- When you hope to get there
- Unwavering
- Back muscle
- Within
- Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues
- Six
- Involved as a necessary part
- 2002 Liotta, Patric film
- Living thing
- Type of gin
- Moved around in pursuit of fun
- Makes light bulbs
- Story of one's life
- Small island in a river
- A type of bliss
- Genus of large herons

### PUZZLE SOLUTION

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## Villager Newspapers

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Tuesdays 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Friday Closed

visit [www.townofcharlton.net](http://www.townofcharlton.net) or more information.

Individual offices may vary  
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For emergencies, dial 911

**FIRE DEPARTMENT (248-2299)**  
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Weekdays 8:30 – 12:30 and 2:00 – 4:30 and Sat. 9:00 – 12:00

### CHURCH LISTINGS

- **Charlton Federated Church**, 64 Main St., 248-5550, Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. [www.fedchurchcharlton.org](http://www.fedchurchcharlton.org)
- **Charlton Baptist Church**, 50 Hammond Hill Road, 248-4488, [www.charltonbaptist.org](http://www.charltonbaptist.org), Sunday worship 10 a.m.
- **Charlton City United Methodist**, 74 Stafford St. 248-7379, web site: [CharltonCityUMC.org](http://CharltonCityUMC.org) Sunday worship and Children's church 10am
- **St. Joseph's Church**, 10 H. Putnam Ext, 248-7862, [www.stjosephscharlton.com](http://www.stjosephscharlton.com), Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 p.m., Sunday Mass 8 a.m., Sunday Family Mass 10 a.m., Sunday LifeTEEN 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](http://snedag.org), Office hours Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- **Living Word Church of Charlton**, 10 Main Street - Grange building 1st Floor, Charlton, Ma 01507, Pastor Craig Bellisario, (508) 233-8349 Sunday Service 10:00am. [www.livingwordcharlton.com](http://www.livingwordcharlton.com) [info@livingwordcharlton.com](mailto:info@livingwordcharlton.com)
- **New Life Fellowship A/G, SNED Chapel**, 307 Sturbridge Road, Rt. 20, Charlton, MA, Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
- **Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale** - 8 Maple St. Sturbridge, 774-304-1021 [www.sturfed.org](http://www.sturfed.org) Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.



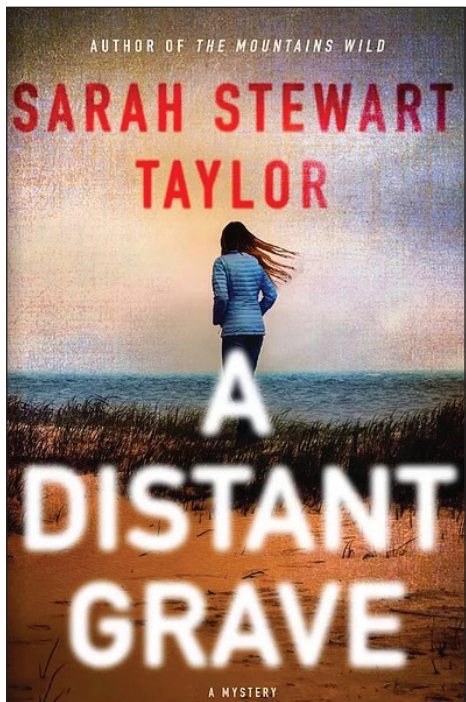
# Stewing Over Mysteries author event planned at Joshua Hyde Library

STURBRIDGE — Joshua Hyde Public Library is pleased to host author Sarah Stewart Taylor for our annual Stewing Over Mysteries event on Wednesday, Jan. 19 at 6:30 p.m.

Join us in the Public House Tap Room for a fun night as we stew over mysteries with Sarah Stewart Taylor, author of the Sweeney St. George series and the Maggie D’arcy series. Sarah grew up on Long Island, and was educated at Middlebury College in Vermont and Trinity College, Dublin, where she studied Irish Literature. She has worked as a journalist and writing teacher and now lives with her family on a farm in Vermont where they raise sheep and grow blueberries.

Tickets for this event went on sale December 1st and can be purchased for \$16 per person in the Library or through PayPal on the Friends of the Joshua Hyde Public Library Web site, [www.sturbridgelibraryfriends.org/stewing-over-mysteries](http://www.sturbridgelibraryfriends.org/stewing-over-mysteries). Your ticket purchase comes with entry into the event, as well as a delicious beef stew dinner; rolls, coffee, & dessert.

While two of her books will be available for purchase at the event, you can save \$3 by purchasing your ticket and her newest book, “A Distant Grave” in



Sarah Stewart Taylor

hardcover as a bundle on the Friends of Joshua Hyde Public Library website (listed above) to be picked up at the event or at the library.

The second book, “The Mountains Wild,” is now in paperback and can only be purchased at the event. Make sure to reserve your spot early, this event sells

out every year.

This event is sponsored by The Friends of Joshua Hyde Public Library. For questions or more information on this event, please visit [www.sturbridgelibrary.org](http://www.sturbridgelibrary.org) or call 508-347-2512.



SOUTHBRIDGE — Trinity Catholic Academy was excited to share their Christmas Spirit in a beautiful Holiday Pageant held at Notre Dame Church

# TCA shares the Christmas Spirit

grateful for an amazing year of music led by Mr. Andrew J. Pariseau, music teacher/director holding rehearsals with the choir and drama clubs on Tuesdays and Thursdays since the beginning of the school year. Act I-A Joyful Prelude featured a performance from the TCA Choir, along with Pre-K and Kindergarten students. TCA Choir: Colin Ladd, Aedyn Esser, Olivia Neuenschwander, Layla Beu, Anthony Postale, Sophia Gauthier, Joshua McManus, Ella Sawyer, Alexio Yacavace, Ainsley Heckendorf, Olivia Latour, Jameson Durocher, Matilda Paradis, Sofia Henao, Olivia Kentley Freeman, Celia Ladd, Carilynnne Norris, Ayden Rodriguez, Jaliany Cruz, Evelyn Howard-Donlin & Vivian Nunez.

Act II was a performance of Brentwood-Benson’s “The First Leon” led by Mr. Pariseau, Assistant Director- Mrs. Jennifer Greffin (sixth grade teacher & literary specialist), Stage Manager- Cole Paradis, Stage Crew-Miah Carrascal. The First Leon Cast and Crew: David Gill, Sarah Clark, Noah Waterhouse, Olivia Neuenschwander, Aedyn Esser, Charles Morrison, Matilda Paradis, Alivia Gauvin, Isabella Lamica, Jameson Durocher, Sarah Norris, Sofia Henao, & Lilly Nellis. Finalized with the entire student body signing “Light of the World.”

TCA wishes all a very Happy New Year!

## REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

**BRIMFIELD**  
\$420,000, 85 Dunhamtown Palmer Rd, Hornbuckle, Charles E, and Hornbuckle, Debrah L, to Jaeger, Judith H.  
\$600,000, 37 7th St, Spencer, Barbara B, to Fraind, Diane L, and Anderson, Andrew P.  
\$600,000, 39 7th St, Spencer, Barbara B, to Fraind, Diane L, and Anderson, Andrew P.  
\$234,000, 22 Echo Rd, Pysher, John, to Carlsen, Jeffrey, and Carswell, Cheryl.  
\$14,500, Charles Pasture, Casavant, Rene, to Hull Forestlands LP.  
**CHARLTON**  
\$620,000, 61 Osgood Rd, Morin, George E, and Morin, Sheila M, to Henriques, Sergio F.  
\$470,000, 106 Dresser Hill Rd, Prop Soln RE& Contracting, to Boulette, Victoria A.  
\$260,000, 7 Millward Rd, Seaman Realty Group LLC, to Dansereau, Douglas.  
\$230,000, 28 Southbridge Rd #304, Hernandez, Cheryl M, and Chlapowski, Cheryl M, to Greenberry RET 2021, and Bacon, Sandra J.  
\$175,000, 68 Osgood Rd, Rivett Ronald S Est, and Rivett, Dennis P, to Ryan, Kyle D.  
\$510,000, 49 Jones Rd, Dean, Anthony, and Dean, Meghann, to Kennedy, Brian P, and Letourneau, Lyndsey.  
\$485,000, 115 N Sturbridge Rd, Combs, Janice L, to Duncan, Scott, and Duncan, Eva.  
\$275,000, 13 Stevens Park Rd, Reid, Anita N, to Foley, Ann N.  
\$95,000, Jennings Rd #14, Gair LLC, to Prop Soln RE& Contracting.  
\$46,500, Dresser Hill Rd, Guzman, Yarisbeth, to Camosse, Christopher P.

**HOLLAND**  
\$671,000, 23 Craig Rd, Yaglowski, Mark S, and Yaglowski, Lynn P, to Marini, Anthony A, and Downs-Marini, Diana.  
\$650,000, 21 Craig Rd, Gilpatrick, Preston J, and Gilpatrick, Elizabeth M, to Sciacca, John D.  
\$296,900, 56 Kimball Hill Rd, Scribner Management LLC, to Meier, Sara.  
\$150,000, 34 Craig Rd, Woznicki, Michael J, and Woznicki, Christina R, to Scannell, Mary C, and Scannell, Steven D.  
\$13,000, Mashaug Rd #62, Counihan, James F, to Maisano, Christopher, and Maisano, Megan.  
\$60,000, 7 Old Turnpike Rd, Cormier& Sons Const& Hm, to Lucas, Patrick T, and Lucas, Grace A.

**STURBRIDGE**  
\$689,500, 233 Podunk Rd, AH& DB Custom Homes Inc, to Rajesh-Iyer, Uttara, and Iyer, Rajesh R.  
\$377,000, 62 Cricket Dr, Macdougall, Douglas, and Macdougall, Pattimarie, to Benitez, Jose M.  
\$244,000, 65 Shepard Rd, Weiss, Peter, to Rivera, Jonathan, and Suarez, Maria D.  
\$505,125, 11 Putnam Rd, G Lussier Builders LLC, to Norton, Claudia.  
\$400,000, 102 S Shore Dr, Uracius, Kenneth L, to Jennette, Dennis, and Jennette, Natalie.  
\$300,000, 537 Main St, Cormier& Sons Const& Hm, to Cormier, Gregory.  
\$260,000, 618 Main St, Sullivan, Anny, and Sullivan, Donald R, to Iwanow, Robert.

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**Town Of Brimfield – Town Job Posting**

**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT AND CEMETERY CLERK**

**Duties include but are not limited to:**

- Works under the direct supervision of the Highway Surveyor and Cemetery Commissioners. Conforms to departmental regulations and professional standards.
- Skilled administrative and record keeping work in supporting the operations of the Highway Department and Cemetery including the processing of payrolls and payables on a bi-weekly basis.
- Maintains current budget to actual balances and communicates with the Town Treasurer and Accountant as necessary and prepares reports as requested.
- Orders general office supplies within budget guidelines.
- Communicates with vendors as required.
- Works cooperatively with Highway employees, Cemetery employees, other Town officials and the public.

This position will be compensated at a rate of \$19.37 per hour, 20 hours per week.

**Minimum Qualifications:** Proficiency with office computer functions including Microsoft Office, email and other contemporary office technology and demonstrated organizational skills. Good human relations and interpersonal communication skills and ability to coordinate individuals is essential. Two years' experience in general office and bookkeeping work or any equivalent combination of education and experience. Ability to apply knowledge and experience to highway office work and bookkeeping tasks. Ability to work independently on assigned tasks.

Interested individuals are asked to apply by sending a letter of interest and resume to the Highway Surveyor, Town of Brimfield, 34B Wales Rd., Brimfield, MA 01010 or, you may submit by email at [Highway@Brimfieldma.org](mailto:Highway@Brimfieldma.org).

*The Town of Brimfield is an equal opportunity employer.*

Friday's Child

**Damien**  
Age: 15

**My name is Damien and I like to play basketball and flag football!**

Damien is a smart and outgoing teenager of Portuguese descent. He likes making others laugh and has a great sense of humor. Damien does well with other peers and adults. He enjoys playing basketball and flag football. Damien also likes LEGOs, video games and magic cards. He does well in school with extra support. Damien's dream is to become a lawyer.

Legally freed for adoption, Damien would do best in a family of any constellation. He would prefer a two-parent household. He would do well as the youngest or only child in the home. He would like a family that would help maintain his connection to his birth mother and paternal aunt. Damien would benefit from caregivers that are patient and supportive.

**Who Can Adopt?**

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

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

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

“Every Town Deserves  
a Good Local Newspaper”  
[www.Stonebridgepress.com](http://www.Stonebridgepress.com)



# GWCF grants \$1.9 million to 110 awardees

WORCESTER — The Greater Worcester Community Foundation announced the 110 awardees of its 2021 Community Grants: a total of \$1.9 million. Community Grants are made possible by people who have set up discretionary funds with the Foundation. This type of fund provides GWCF with the maximum amount of flexibility to grant resources where community needs are greatest.

“In the face of such demand for services, our local nonprofits are proving their dedication to serving others,” says Carolyn Stempler, Interim GWCF President and CEO.

Stempler also noted how other societal changes informed this year’s grant making, adding “Nonprofit organizations have a unique relationship with the community, partnering with individuals with lived experience to tackle the most pressing problems.”

In recognition of this, GWCF actively sought to support nonprofit organizations doing authentic work around increasing racial equity, centering community voice, and working to change systems.

For 2021, Community Grants set its focus on three strategic areas: Health & Wellbeing, Thriving Families, and Creative Worcester. In response, the Foundation saw its highest number of applicants, and was able to fund over half of them. The Foundation also increased its arts investment compared to previous years, and singled out a group of organizations working on advocacy and policy change.

Those organizations receiving funds for operating support this year are:

Abby’s House Operating Support \$30,000

African Community Education Program Operating Support \$50,000

Ansaar of Worcester Operating Support \$25,000

Apple Tree Arts Operating Support \$10,000

ArtsWorcester Operating Support \$17,500

Audio Journal, Inc. Operating Support \$7,500

Black Excellence Academy Operating Support \$25,000

Camp Putnam, Inc. Operating Support \$7,500

Catholic Charities of Diocese of Worcester Operating Support \$40,000

Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance, Inc. Operating Support/Advocacy \$15,000

Coalition for a Healthy Greater Worcester Operating Support/Advocacy \$20,000

Community Harvest Project Operating Support \$10,000

Crocodile River Music Operating Support \$20,000

Dismas House of Massachusetts, Inc. Operating Support \$30,000

Dress for Success Worcester Inc Operating Support \$12,500

Edward Street Child Services Operating Support/Advocacy \$25,000

Genesis Club House, Inc. Operating Support \$30,000

Ginny’s Helping Hand, Inc. Operating Support \$5,000

Girls Incorporated of Worcester Operating Support \$20,000

Greater Worcester Land Trust Operating Support/Advocacy \$10,000

Growing Places Garden Project Operating Support \$10,000

Interfaith Hospitality Network of Worcester Operating Support \$15,000

Jeremiah’s Inn Operating Support \$25,000

Joy of Music Program, Inc. Operating Support \$15,000

Latino Education Institute Operating Support \$50,000

Legendary Legacies, Inc. Operating Support \$40,000

LGBT Asylum Task Force Operating Support \$20,000

Literacy Volunteers of Greater Worcester Operating Support \$20,000

Living In Freedom Together, Inc. Operating Support \$40,000

Main South Community Development Corp Operating Support \$50,000

Music Worcester, Inc. Operating Support \$20,000

NewVue Communities Operating Support \$25,000

North Star Family Services, Inc. Operating Support \$10,000

OurStory Edutainment Operating Support \$15,000

Pakachoag Music School of Worcester Operating Support \$15,000

Pathways for Change Operating Support \$15,000

Pernet Family Health Service, Inc. Operating Support \$40,000

Pleasant Street Neighborhood Network Center Operating Support/Advocacy \$10,000

Project New Hope Operating Support \$15,000

Rachel’s Table Operating Support \$10,000

Regional Environmental Council, Inc. Operating Support \$25,000

Render Creative Inc/Main IDEA Operating Support \$10,000

Rise Above Foundation Operating Support \$10,000

Southeast Asian Coalition of Central MA Operating Support \$50,000

Squares Squared, Inc. Operating Support \$10,000

Studio Theatre Worcester Operating Support \$10,000

The CASA Project Operating Support \$25,000

The Shine Initiative Operating Support \$20,000

The Village Operating Support \$15,000

Together for Kids Coalition Operating Support/Advocacy \$15,000

Tri-Valley, Inc. Operating Support \$10,000

WCUW Inc. Operating Support \$5,000

WICN Public Radio, Inc. Operating Support \$10,000

Worcester Anti-Foreclosure Team Operating Support \$7,500

Worcester Art Museum Operating Support \$10,000

Worcester Center for Crafts Operating Support \$15,000

Worcester Common Ground, Inc. Operating Support \$25,000

Worcester Community Housing Resources Operating Support \$20,000

Worcester County Mechanics Association Operating Support \$15,000

Worcester County Poetry Association Operating Support \$10,000

Worcester Cultural Coalition Operating Support/Advocacy \$15,000

Worcester Education Collaborative Operating Support/Advocacy \$15,000

Worcester Historical Museum Operating Support \$12,500

Worcester Interfaith Operating Support \$35,000

Worcester Regional Research Bureau, Inc. Operating Support/Advocacy \$10,000

Worcester Youth Center Operating Support \$20,000

Worcester Youth Orchestras Operating Support \$10,000

YWCA of Central Mass. Operating Support \$40,000

Those organizations receiving Angels Net Foundation Inc funds for projects this year are:

Programs for Immigrant/Refugee Children and Families \$15,000

Appalachian Mountain Club Worcester Educators Outdoors \$5,000

Ascentria Community Services, Inc. Immigration Legal Assistance Program \$15,000

Boys & Girls Club of Worcester Learning Loss Recovery After COVID \$20,000

Central Massachusetts Agency on Aging Equitable Dental Care for Seniors \$12,500

Children’s Friend The Gender Wellness Initiative \$15,000

Clark University Photography as Tool for Social Justice \$5,000

Coalition for a Healthy Greater Worcester Trauma, Resiliency & Racial Equity Training Institute \$10,000

Community Legal Aid, Inc. Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project \$15,000

Community Servings Nutrition for Those Affected by Critical/Chronic Illnesses \$10,000

Cultural Exchange Through Soccer Youth Leadership Through Soccer \$20,000

Dignity Matters, Inc. Distribution of Free Menstrual Products \$5,000

Edward M. Kennedy Community Health Center Preventative Dental Care at North High \$10,000

Edward Street Child Services Master Teacher Consultation Program \$25,000

Family Health Center of Worcester, Inc. Perinatal Group Programs \$15,000

Friendly House, Inc. Frances Perkins Transitional Housing \$25,000

Friends of St Luke’s, Inc St. Luke’s Guesthouse \$10,000

Hope Coalition Worcester Addresses Childhood Trauma \$12,500

Ivy Child International Youth Yoga/

Mindfulness Teacher Training \$10,000

Literacy Volunteers of South Central Massachusetts ESOL and Basic Literacy Tutoring Program \$10,000

Lovin’ Spoonfuls Inc. Food Rescue in Worcester County \$10,000

Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange, Inc. Breaking Down Barriers to Adoption from Foster Care \$5,000

MA Education & Career Opportunities On Our Way \$10,000

Montachusett Opportunity Council, Inc. Youth Innovation Center After School Programs \$10,000

New Hope, Inc. Supervised Visitation & RESPECT \$10,000

Notre Dame Health Care ESOL/ABE at Educational Bridge Center \$5,000

Open Door Arts, Inc. Connecting/Creating Through the Arts \$5,000

Open Sky Community Services Safe Homes and Safe Homes North \$15,000

Open Sky Community Services South County Homeless Services \$15,000

Our Father’s House, Inc. Health & Wellness in Homeless Children \$10,000

OurStory Edutainment Kwanzaa Academy \$15,000

Quinsigamond Community College Foundation Student Emergency Aid \$10,000

Reach Out and Read Greater Worcester Rx for Success \$5,000

Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Center Comprehensive Case Management \$15,000

Rock of Salvation La Cocina de ROCA \$15,000

SEIU Education & Support Fund MA Child Care Training Fund \$7,500

Spanish American Center, Inc. Nos Ayudando Mutuamente \$10,000

Student Clinic for Immigrant Justice, Inc. Expanding Access to Immigrant Justice \$5,000

The Community Builders, Inc. Family Self Sufficiency at Plumley Village \$10,000

The Village Afrocentric Saturday School \$10,000

United Way of Central Massachusetts YouthConnect \$12,500

United Way of Tri-County WHEAT Community Connections Meal Delivery \$7,500

Wayside Youth & Family Support Network PrideSide Charlton \$7,500

Worcester Caribbean American Carnival Association Carnival Outreach & Promotion \$7,500

Worcester Center for Performing Arts (Hanover Theatre) WYSH (Worcester Youth Speak Honestly) Project \$10,000

Worcester Chamber Music Society Neighborhood Strings \$10,000

Worcester Earn a Bike Inc. Transportation Equity & Alternatives for All \$5,000

Worcester Education Collaborative Woo-Labs: Reimagining/Amplifying Learning \$12,500

Worcester Youth Center Creative Leadership Institute (CLI) \$10,000

YMCA of Central Massachusetts Minority Achievers Program \$10,000

## Greater Worcester Community Foundation accepting scholarship applications

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

Since the program’s founding in 1978, over 9,000 students have been awarded scholarships and more than \$13 million has been distributed. Last year, GWCF awarded over \$680,000 to more than 375 local students. Now in its 44th year of

awarding college scholarships, awards ranging from \$300 to \$5,000 will be made to students based on a wide variety of criteria including need, merit, career goals and activity involvement.

New to 2022 is the Harold R. Jensen Scholarship fund. This new scholarship fund will provide more than \$75,000 for renewable and nonrenewable awards to college-bound graduates of Worcester public and parochial schools. Mr. Jensen (1896-1980), a Worcester resident and worked for US Steel as an accountant. His desire to help children in the city that had been his home, led him to craft

a trust that would provide scholarships to Worcester students. The Scholarship is for “high school graduates from the City of Worcester who have proven themselves by scholarship and character to be worthy of assistance for higher education.”

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

## Joshua Hyde Library continues 125th anniversary celebrations with Frank Capra Film Series

STURBRIDGE — Joshua Hyde Public Library invites the public to come and enjoy Wednesday afternoons this January in the library as they continue to celebrate their quasiquicentennial anniversary with a Frank Capra (born 1897) 125th-inspired film series.

Each Wednesday in January, join us in the library meeting room at 12:30 p.m. for a different Frank Capra film, beginning with “Mr. Smith Goes to Washington” (1939) on January the 5th.

Other films and dates to include:

“It Happened One Night” (1934), on Jan. 12

“Lost Horizon” (1937), on Jan. 19

“You Can’t Take It With You” (1938), on Jan. 26

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

For updates and/or cancellations due to weather, or for more information on this/any 125th celebration event, please call 508-347-2512. You can also visit the library website at [www.sturbridgeli.org](http://www.sturbridgeli.org), or on facebook and Instagram: @sturbridgelibrary.

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The Brimfield ZBA will be holding a public hearing on behalf of Patrick and Lori Morrill on January 26, 2022, at 5:30 pm at the Brimfield Town Hall, 21 Main Street, Brimfield MA, for the property located at 45 Seventh St, ID# 5A, Block B4, for proposed construction of a 24 ft x 24 ft garage. Abutters are welcome to attend the hearing and share input.  
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January 7, 2022





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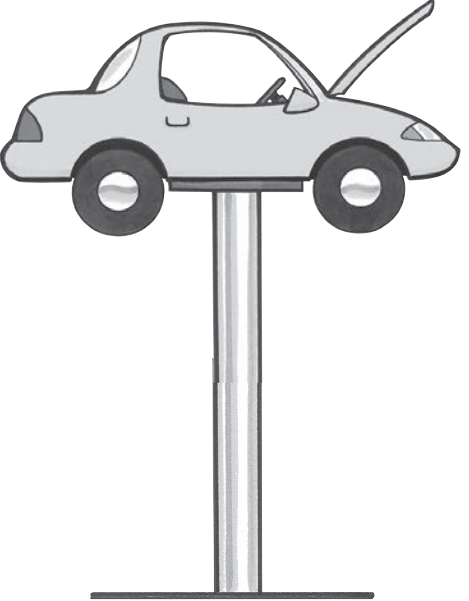
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# Snowy weather is nothing new

The first big snow dump of the season has come and gone, leaving us with anywhere between three and eight inches of snow, depending on where you are. As with most things, we like to think about how our ancestors handled certain situations. On a personal note, it was during a snowy drive last winter that we writer became more grateful for studded snow tires and heat, after thinking about how those before us dealt with travel during snowstorms.

During the winter of 1717, a storm dumped four feet of snow creating snowdrifts of up to 25 feet. Passing through the snow-covered roads was too much for a postman who traded his horse for a pair of snowshoes. Objects similar to skis were attached to carriages as a means of winter transportation.

Streets had to be passable for wood and food deliveries. When the roads were not passable townspeople would gather together in large groups and dig out a path. The snow was placed into the back of a horse-drawn cart by gangs of men and driven to the closest river to be dumped. Salt was also used on streets, but many people complained because it ruined their shoes and clothes.

Fast forward to 1840, when the first snowplow patent came to be. It wasn't until 1862 that the first snowplow was put into use. The plow was attached to a cart and pulled by a team of horses. Soon after, many cities began to use the horse-drawn snowplow.

Typically, the use of the horse-drawn plow was only used to clear main streets, leaving side streets and sidewalks snowed in by large piles often blocking entrances to businesses. Many business owners actually brought lawsuits against the plowing companies as a result because their customers could not gain access to the storefronts.

The solution to that conundrum, was the hiring of snow shovellers to accompany the plow. The blizzard of 1888, however, was too much for the "modernized" plow, leaving many people trapped inside their homes. This emergency was the catalyst cities needed to begin coming up with a better plan for snow removal. One idea was to stay on top of the storm as it started, instead of waiting for it to end. Different men driving the plows were assigned to certain neighborhoods as well.

The invention of the automobile brought with it a crutch and a new possibility as far as snow removal went. The crutch being that an entirely new method needed to be engineered and put into use. In New York in 1913, a dump truck could be seen on city streets. Seven years later, the first snow loader, came on to the scene. It had a big scoop with a conveyor belt. The snow would go into the scoop via the belt, then dumped into the back of the truck. From there, off to the river it went.

It wasn't until 1959 when the weather was able to be predicted more accurately, allowing towns and cities to better prepare for any incoming storms.

Reading old diaries of our New England ancestors gives the perfect window as to what it was like to experience a bitter cold winter, prior to modern practices. Below a quote literary critic Van Wyck Brooks.

"All praise to winter, then, was Henry's feeling. Let others have their sultry luxuries. How full of creative genius was the air in which these snow-crystals were generated. He could hardly have marveled more if real stars had fallen and lodged on his coat. What a world to live in, where myriads of these little discs, so beautiful to the most prying eye, were whirled down on every traveler's coat, on the restless squirrel's fur and on the far-stretching fields and forests, the wooded dells and mountain-tops,—these glorious spangles, the sweepings of heaven's floor."  
— The Flowering of New England, 1815-1865



# OPINION



Photo Melinda Myers

Winter sowing allows gardeners to start transplants from seeds outdoors by repurposing milk jugs or two-liter soda bottles.

## Start seeds outdoors with winter sowing

Save money and indoor space used for starting seeds indoors with winter sowing. This easy technique allows you to start transplants from seeds outdoors without a greenhouse or cold frame.

Growing your own transplants from seeds can save you money and is often the only option for new, unique, and other hard to find plants. Not everyone has the time, equipment, and dedication to watering that's needed to start plants indoors.

All you need are flower and vegetable seeds, milk jugs or two-liter soda bottles, duct tape and a quality potting mix. Check the seed packet for information on planting details and timing. Winter sowing dates vary with the growing climate, individual gardener, and seed variety you are planting.

Try starting hardy perennials and self-seeding annuals sometime winter through early spring. Other flowers and vegetables seeds are typically winter sown about the same time you would plant them indoors or a month or two before the transplants get moved into the garden. Keep a record of your planting dates and results to help you fine tune your planting schedule and increase future success.

Drill four to 12 small holes in the bottom of the jug for drainage. One winter sower fills the container with water and pops it into the freezer or outside in below freezing temperatures. Once frozen solid, he drills the holes into the container. The ice prevents the plastic container from collapsing during the process.

Next, partially cut the jug to create a hinged lid. Make your cut about three to four inches above the bottom, leaving the area by the handle attached so it forms a hinge. The bottom of the milk jug handle is usually a good guide.

Fill the bottom with moist potting



### GARDEN MOMENTS

MELINDA MYERS

mix. Plant seeds according to the package directions. Gently water until the excess runs out the bottom of the container.

Fellow gardener, Patricia, uses rolled newspaper or the cardboard tubes from toilet paper to help space and eventually transplant her winter sown seedlings. She makes newspaper pots by wrapping 22 and a half by five inch strips of newspaper around a two and a half inch diameter by four inch tall jar. She folds the end to create the bottom for a three and a half inch tall pot. Secured with staples, she sets the pots or toilet paper rolls in the milk jug, fills with potting mix, tops them off with about half an inch of seed starting mix and then plants her seeds.

Label the inside and outside of the jug with a permanent marker. Close the lid and seal it shut with duct tape. Remove the cap before setting your milk jugs in a sunny location outdoors where rain and snow can reach it. Keep them handy to prevent waterlogged soil during extremely wet weather.

Water your outdoor seed starting chambers during snow-free and dry weather. This will be much less often than those seedlings growing indoors under artificial lights.

Your plants will be ready to move into the garden at the normal planting time. Just open the lids, harden off the plants and move them into the garden.

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).

## Taking stock of 2021

Another New Year is upon us. It's amazing how the years keep slipping by, each year seemingly moving faster than the year before. As I take stock of 2021, I encourage you to do the same.

New Year is a mixed bag of emotions for me. As I reflect on 2021, I think of many things. I think of the people who helped me, I think of the people who harmed me, I think of the goals I gave up, and the goals I didn't give up.

As we move into 2022, I have to wonder, have I headed in the right direction? If not, how can I change course? Do I positively impact others? Am I surrounded by people who positively influence me? How am I performing at work? Am I giving it my all? Am I aggressively pursuing my dreams? Am I helping others accomplish their dreams?

I am thankful for those who helped me in 2021. Many positive things occurred this year that couldn't have happened without the help from friends, family, and strangers. Thank you all; you make me feel gratitude that should last a lifetime. I need to make sure I let you know how much I appreciate you and help you in any way I can in 2022 and beyond.



### POSITIVELY SPEAKING

TOBY MOORE

everything in life you want, if you will just help other people get what they want."

As I think of those who harmed me in 2021...

I want to say thanks to you as well. Thank you for making me more robust, aware, flexible, and diplomatic. I'm tempted to feel anger and revenge, holding onto this poison forever. As I've written in the past, it doesn't do any good to feel that way. It will only cause more harm. Please forgive my trespasses and anything I've done to impact you negatively. Let's move into a place of mutual respect this year. "Don't go into the new year holding a grudge from last year, we cannot move forward if we are stuck in the past." That's excellent advice by Pastor Joel.

I should feel satisfied with the goals I did accomplish in 2021. When I achieve a goal, the good feelings are quickly

## Anxiety and faith



### BEYOND THE PEWS

REV. JOHN H.D. LUCY

During my first year of seminary, I developed superpowers. My friends said so, at least. I could feel every heart beat in my wrists and neck. Maybe soon I'd be spiderman. I couldn't stand the pain of becoming a superhero, though, got checked out by a doctor and discovered I had terrifyingly high blood pressure caused by previously undiagnosed generalized anxiety disorder.

That diagnosis led to months of spiritual crisis and exploration. How could I be in seminary and have an anxiety disorder? Does not Jesus say that we needn't worry and can place our burdens upon him? Either I wasn't very faithful or God doesn't have the power to remove anxiety, fear, or any other burden. And if the latter were true, is there any point in believing in God? These were the only options as far as I was concerned.

Over the months, medication and therapy significantly improved my mental and physical health. I seemed to need God less and less. Until, that is, I developed a new symptom: depression.

You see, for whatever reason I was born with a chemical imbalance and into an anxious family, leading to anxiety that doesn't need God to be cured. It's a basic thing. Thinking I could live without God, though, depleted my hope in life and myself. It is hope that motivated me to use the tools I had learned to overcome anxiety, including exercise and therapy. Hope motivated me further to continue learning about myself. When I encountered the enneagram, I learned that I'm a six, a security seeker, and any time I feel insecure there's an underlying anxiety to everything I do.

What I'm saying is that you shouldn't give up on God when faith doesn't solve your problems, erase fear and anxiety, or anything else. God and faith won't work as magical erasers. But faith in God can give you hope that you might not find elsewhere. That hope can energize you to build a foundation of tools and resources to create an emotionally and physically healthier life for yourself and others.

Even if you don't turn to faith to find hope, some of the tools and resources I pray that you take advantage of, not only now but always (because the healthiest people are those who seek help before becoming sick), are counseling/therapy, sabbath time, enneagram or other personality tests, prayer, and self-reflection. No matter how old you are, it can be amazing the things you discover about yourself through these tools and resources. Hope plus self-learning can act as anxiety relief.

I also highly recommend, especially during these dark days with the pandemic about to turn two years old, some physical means of anxiety relief. Less anxiety equals more hope. Exercise is great, of course. So is creating a mantra that you repeat to yourself under your breath during stressful moments. Yelling into a pillow. Punching a pillow. Throwing axes. Doing an escape room. Being a kid: sledding, throwing snow balls, making snowmen.

Beating anxiety is possible. We don't need superpowers to do it. Just a little hope and some solid tools in our utility belt.

replaced by acknowledging that I'm still not where I want to be, and the sense of accomplishment quickly fades. This year I will take the time to feel good about my successes, whether they be little or big. I don't know who said it but I think it's true, "Success is a series of small victories."

The hardest thing to think and write about are the failures of 2021. Many things I wish I had done differently, goals I didn't take seriously enough, times I snapped at loved ones while under pressure, the food I ate that made me feel unhealthy, the negative thoughts I harbored for too long, the days when I was lazy and let procrastination take hold. There are more failures in 2021 than I can count. I wish I could go back and fix my mistakes but it's just a fantasy, the only thing that can be done is to focus on change. Changing my personality, my habits, my thoughts, my words, and my actions. I guess Winston Churchill said it best, "Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the cour-

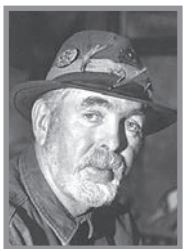


# Deer season ends with some impressive harvests

Deer hunting improved dramatically last week, when a coating of snow fell in our area. Tracking deer helped numerous hunters bag a deer during the light snowfall, but it did not last long as the rain washed most of it away in the following few days. Deer hunting closes this Friday in Massachusetts, and results of the harvest from Mass. Fish & Wildlife should start trickling in by the middle of January. Some real impressive deer were harvested locally, with numerous does weighing in at more than 130 pounds dressed. Some big bucks were also harvested, but few hunters wanted to share their photos. Reports of mutable deer were still being caught on trial camaras set up by sportsmen. There should be no shortage of venison this year for many families.

News of the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers show preparing for their event in Providence, R.I. in March was great news for local sportsmen. The event is a top rated must attend show, and if Covid is kept under control, it will hopefully happen. I understand that the Marlborough show and the Providence sportsmen's show has not been confirmed to date. Captain Mel True has already canceled his event because of the Covid threat ,but has already confirmed his reservations for the Providence show.

Reports from Jerry's Bait & Tackle of



THE GREAT  
OUTDOORS  
.....  
RALPH  
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anglers fishing rod & reel in freshly stocked trout waters & are catching some nice rainbow trout was good news. Ice fishing is off to a bad start so far this year, and if we do not get some colder weather soon, it will make for another short season locally. This is the time of year that I normally catch a good mess of yellow perch for the frying pan, but I am forced to eat some of my tautog and seabass that I caught this past summer. It really is not a problem to have!

The new Mass. Fish & Wildlife Web site has been a major problem for some sportsmen looking to purchase a hunting or fishing license as a Christmas gift for friends or family members and themselves. Even local stores that sell licenses were not able to get them without problems. One local sportsmen drove to Westborough to ensure his purchases would be ready for the holidays. Previous license information was unavailable on the new site, and required the buyer to find an old license to complete their purchases. Deer permit zones required some sportsmen to get their licenses without completing the paperwork. Hopefully, the problems will be rectified soon.

Now is a good time to check out your freshwater and saltwater fishing gear, and make all of the necessary repairs on rods, reels, etc. Tying fly's and repairing fishing lures, by applying a fresh coat



Photo Courtesy

This week's photo shows a youngster with his dad ice fishing at the Whitinsville Fish & Game club ice derby a year or two ago!

of paint, and new hooks will insure you that you are ready for this upcoming fishing season. If you have a small boat that can be accessed easily, you can still fish local lakes and ponds, which may become an annual event because of climate change.

This week's photo shows a youngster with his dad ice fishing at the

Whitinsville Fish & Game club ice derby a year or two ago! Hopefully, we will have safe ice soon, but until then, staying off thin ice is highly recommended.

Wishing everyone a happy New Year!

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

## Tips to Keep New Year Resolutions

Let's face it, New Year resolutions are difficult to keep. Even the firmest intentions can lose steam come March. So what's the secret to willpower longevity? The key factors to resolution success are attitude and commitment. Oftentimes New Year resolutions are self-improvements, and that requires a lifestyle change. Taking on the challenge with an eye to the future can increase the odds of your New Year resolution turning into a longtime success.

The following strategies are geared toward arming you with the tools to expand your January vows into lifelong achievements. Happy New Year!

**\*\***

A national study released by Retailmenot.com revealed the top seven resolutions for 2022. The survey found that 85 percent of consumers will set a New Year's resolution, and nearly half (49 percent) are likely to spend money to keep their resolutions.

According to the survey, Americans made the following New Year resolutions for the upcoming year:

Saving money 44 percent; Exercise more, 35 percent; Losing weight, 30 percent; Spending more time with family, 28 percent; Paying off debt, 27 percent; Reduce stress, 22 percent; Travel more,19 percent.

While losing weight and saving money have long headed annual New Year resolution lists, spending time with family, reducing stress and traveling are also important goals for the coming year; no doubt influenced by the past two years of stress and restrictions.

**\*\***

Rules from the Experts to Turn Annual Resolutions into Daily Habits

- Rule #1: Stop Overachieving**  
Whittling your resolutions down from a top ten list to one or two increases the odds of long term success. With a focus on one main goal, your "eye is always on the prize."
- Rule #2: Adjust your Attitude**  
So you hate working out? Resent pinching pennies? Can't bear to say no to sweets?
- Remind yourself you are doing this of your own free will! Remember the "fake it till you make it" research that reveals even a forced smile boosts your happy

genes, thus actually making you happier! The phenomenon is called "facial feedback," and according to Psychology Today, it works because the brain senses the flexion of certain facial muscles and interprets it as "Oh I must be happy about something."

No one is forcing you to get on the treadmill or give up your \$6 morning Latte – it is your choice. You are choosing to improve your life. Sometimes reminding yourself that you are willingly partaking in the sacrifice can get you through the tough times.

**Rule #3 Be Accountable**  
Taking pen to paper or using a fitness or budget app can be powerful, and research repeatedly reveals that holding yourself accountable, be it via an exercise chart, daily food or budget tracker, is very effective to making long term changes.

**Rule #3: Break it Down**  
It sounds like common sense to break goals down into manageable tasks, but people don't always take the time to practice it. Make a plan with mini goals. When you achieve each goal, document it. Again, the power of the written (or typed) word solidifies the commitment.

**Rule #4: Group Therapy**  
There's a reason why group programs are successful. Misery (and merriment) loves company. With plenty of support groups available online there is no reason not to seek out others striving for the same end results as you. Posting in a group that promotes healthy eating, frugality or even organization skills can boost your willpower and give you "shots" of encouragement. Not ready to join in a discussion? No worries. Just visiting a FB or other internet group with information and resources can aid you in your journey of improvement.

**Rule #5: Make it Fun!**  
When's the last time you had fun achieving a goal? It's easier than you think to stay the course if it's a pleasant trip. Besides, who ever said a self-improvement plan has to be grueling? For example, watch the Food Channel while you're on the treadmill. You will get your "food fix" virtually (and with



TAKE  
THE  
HINT  
.....  
KAREN  
TRAINOR

no calories!); Make a game of your budgeting: Challenge yourself to save a certain percentage at the grocery store each week, and up the ante when you reach your goal; Or simply play your favorite music while you are organizing that messy closet.

**Rule # 6: Motivate Yourself**  
Motivational speakers spark results, but you can use simple tools to be a self-motivator: Look up inspirational quotes, and post them where you'll see them every day. You might also want to repeat an affirmation every day to solidify your vow. Research the habits successful people and take a cue from them on how to carry on and achieve success even after failures. Remember Thomas Edison's famous quote. After someone remarked his light bulb experiments failed, he said: "I have not failed 10,000 times. I have successfully found 10,000 ways that will not work."

**\*\***

**Success Strategy**  
You've likely heard it before but here is some advice to successfully "break a bad habit": Experts agree that it takes a minimum of 21 days to change a behavior; so the first thing to do is count ahead 21 days and mark the day you'll be officially "homefree"from your habit on a calendar. How to get through the 21 days? First write down your goal and list the positive reasons you want to change your habit. These exercises will help build commitment. Next share your goals with your family and friends. Making a commitment public leaves little room to back out, plus you'll benefit from a support system. Each day review your list of reasons for quitting or changing. Reward yourself verbally, each hour if necessary, working up to a great treat at the end of a successful week. And remember if you fall off the wagon, jump back on immediately before you fall completely back into your old habit. It pays to remember research reveals only 40 percent of habits are broken on the first try. Besides, there's always next year!

**\*\***

**Famous Quotes**  
Here's a dose of inspiration from suc-

cessful people:

"If you set your goals ridiculously high and it's a failure, you will fail above everyone else's success."- James Cameron

"All our dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them." - Walt Disney

"Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day-in and day-out." - Robert Collier

"The only place where success comes before work is in the dictionary." - Vidal Sassoon

"Motivation is what gets you started. Habit is what keeps you going." - Jim Ryun

"You may have to fight a battle more than once to win it." - Margaret Thatcher

"Develop success from failures. Discouragement and failure are two of the surest stepping stones to success." - Dale Carnegie

"The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather a lack of will." - Vince Lombardi

"The successful warrior is the average man, with laser-like focus." - Bruce Lee

**\*\***

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

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

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

## What are your financial resolutions for 2022?

As you know, 2021 was full of challenges. We were still feeling the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic when supply chains shut down and inflation heated up. So, if you're like many people, you might not be sorry to see the year come to a close. But now it's time to look ahead to a brighter 2022. And on a personal level, you may want to set some New Year's resolutions. You might resolve to improve your health and diet, and possibly learn some new skills, but why not make some financial resolutions, too?

Here are a few ideas to consider:

Prepare for the unexpected. If you haven't already created an emergency fund, now may be a good time to start. Ideally, you'd like to have three to six months' worth of living expenses in this fund, with the money kept in a low-risk, liquid account. (If you're retired, you may want your emergency fund to contain up to a year's worth of living expenses.) Once you've got this fund established, you may be able to avoid dipping into long-term investments to pay for short-term needs, such as costly



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home or auto repairs or large medical bills.

Boost your retirement savings. The pandemic caused many us to reevaluate our ability to eventually enjoy the retirement lifestyles we've envisioned.

In fact, 33 percent of those planning to retire soon said they started to contribute even more to their retirement savings during the pandemic, according to a study from Age Wave and Edward Jones. This year, if you can afford it, increase your contributions to your IRA and your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan.

Reduce your debt load. The less debt you carry, the more money you'll have available to support your lifestyle today and save and invest for tomorrow. So, this year, resolve to cut down on your existing debts and avoid taking on new ones whenever possible. You can motivate yourself by measuring your progress – at the beginning of 2022, record your total debts and then compare this figure to your debt load at the start of 2023. If the numbers have dropped, you'll know you were

making the right moves.

Don't overreact to the headlines. A lot can happen during a year. Consider inflation – it shot up in 2021, but it may well subside in 2022. If you changed your investment strategy last year to accommodate the rise in inflation, would you then have to modify it again when prices fall? And inflation is just one event. What about changes in interest rates? How about new legislation coming out of Washington? And don't forget extreme weather events, such as wildfires and floods. Any or all of these occurrences can affect the financial markets in the short term, but it just doesn't make sense for you to keep changing the way you invest in response to the news of the day. Instead, stick with a strategy that's appropriate for your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon. You may need to adjust this strategy over time, in response to changes in your own life, but don't let your decisions be dictated by external events.

These aren't the only financial resolutions you can make – but following them may help you develop positive habits that can help you face the future with

confidence.

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

**MOORE**  
*continued from page A8*

age to continue that counts."

Every day the sun rises again reminding us we can start over. Every year gives us another chance. If, at first, you don't succeed, try again. If you're still alive, you're still a contender.

Let's be resolved to become better people, do the things we ought to do and let the pieces fall where they may. Hold firmly to our dreams, yet be relaxed about how they occur. In 2022 let's be determined, happy, flexible, free from worry, free from doubt, free of anger and hatred. Let's choose to feel optimistic and seize the New Year!



# OBITUARIES

## Ruth E. McDonough, 91

Sturbridge: Ruth E. (Hathaway) McDonough, 91, of New Boston Rd., passed away on Sunday, Dec 26th, in Overlook Masonic Healthcare Center, Charlton, after an illness.



Her husband, Edward M. McDonough died in 1986. Ruth is survived by her step-daughter, Judith Mariano of NH; many nieces, nephews, and good friends.

She was predeceased by a step-son, Martin McDonough; and two sisters, Helen Loven and Doris Poulin.

Ruth was born in Springfield the daughter of Herbert and Mabel (Burditt) Hathaway.

She worked at the William E. Wright

Ribbon Factory in West Warren for 8 years and then as a clerk for the American Optical Company in Southbridge for 31 years before retiring many years ago. Ruth enjoyed her home, flowers and loved her cat Maggie. She was involved with the cribbage program and many other activities at the Sturbridge Senior Center.

A graveside service for Ruth will be held on Saturday, Jan 8th, at 11:00 am in St. Anne's Cemetery, Arnold Rd., Sturbridge. There are no calling hours.

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

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Second Chance Animal Center, 111 Young Rd., East Brookfield, MA 01515 or online at [www.secondchanceanimals.org](http://www.secondchanceanimals.org).

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

## Elliott P. Burlingame, 77

Charlton- Elliott P. Burlingame, 77, passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by his loving family on December 21, 2021. Elliott was born in Oxford, MA. on October 10, 1944, to Homer and Charlotte V. (Whitcomb) Burlingame, both of whom predeceased him.



He is survived by his soulmate and love of his life, his adoring wife Joan A. (Sroka) Burlingame, whom he has been married for over 56 years; his three children Scott E. Burlingame and his wife Debra M. Burlingame of Charlton, Elliott P. Burlingame, Jr., and his wife Lori J. Burlingame of Charlton, Laurie A. Burlingame and her husband Kevin P. Bryant of Quincy, MA., his seven grandchildren: Scott E. Burlingame, Jr. and his wife Brittany Burlingame of Oxford, Stewart J. Burlingame and his wife Alana R. Burlingame of Charlton, Jason K. Burlingame of Charlton, Erik K. Burlingame of Framingham, Shane M. Burlingame and his partner Camille G. Bourbeau of Charlton, Ashley R. Burlingame of Charlton, and Mark E. Burlingame Bryant of Quincy, his six great grandchildren: Lucan, Hazel, Skylar, Addison, Lincoln and Stewart, Jr.: his brothers and sisters: Ruth E. Farrows, Jean C. Courville, Roy A. Burlingame, Kenyon H. Burlingame, and Nelson B. Burlingame; numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. He was predeceased by his siblings Hazel V. Szlosek, Ruby J. Gomes, and Homer

Burlingame, Jr. Elliott lived the entirety of his life in his beloved Charlton and attended Charlton High School. He founded and ran Elliott Burlingame and Sons, Inc. General Contractors. During his over 50 years in the construction industry, he worked on numerous houses and properties in Charlton and nearby communities, including Glenview Estates, Larner Hill Road and Hammerock Road.

Elliott enjoyed being with his family, spending countless hours playing cards and other games with his grandchildren and great grandchildren. Elliott enjoyed being outdoors and could be found deer hunting alongside his sons.

He will be sorely missed by the community of Charlton, all the people he touched around the construction community, and especially his family.

Elliott's rare combination of personality, hard work and epic sense of family have long influenced so many along his wonderful journey in this world.

Graveside Services and a Celebration of Life will be held in the spring at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations in Elliott's name to the Building Fund for St. Joseph's Church in Charlton, MA.

THE ROBERT J. MILLER-CHARLTON FUNERAL HOME, 175 Old Worcester Rd., Charlton is honored to be assisting Elliott's family with arrangements.

To leave a message of condolence or to share a memory of Elliott, please visit: [RJMillerfunerals.net](http://RJMillerfunerals.net)



## Nichols College and Team Training Associates, LLC, create degree pathway in public safety leadership

DUDLEY — Nichols College has signed an articulation agreement with Team Training Associates, LLC (TTA) of Thompson, Connecticut, to streamline the transition to a bachelor's or master's degree program for TTA-certified public safety leaders.

Students who successfully complete the Public Safety Leadership Academy, and other certificate programs at TTA, can earn academic credit toward the Nichols College Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in criminal justice management or the Master of Science in Counterterrorism (MSC).

"This is a unique opportunity for the region's law enforcement and emergency response managers to increase their effectiveness as leaders and prepare for the future of these fields," said Glenn M. Sulmasy, JD, LL.M, president of Nichols College. "At Nichols, they will build on the excellent leadership training offered by TTA to expand their understanding of and response to today's safety threats, including cyber-terrorism and violent extremism."

The Public Safety Leadership Academy is a five-day (40 hour) course covering a wide range of leadership topics, including self-awareness, effective communication, leadership analytics, wellness, and employee engagement.

Other eligible TTA programs include the Certificate of Supervisory



Photo Courtesy

From left, sitting, Julie Rumrill, Senior Associate, and Eric Murray, President, of Team Training Associates LLC; Nichols President Glenn Sulmasy; standing, Nichols Associate Deans Tom Stewart and Allison McDowell-Smith.

Leadership (40 hours), Certificate of Strategic Leadership (40 hours), and the Public Safety Command College (80 hours). Each of these specialized programs includes rigorous curriculum requiring classroom participation, case study analysis, and comprehensive experiential learning components

related to specific areas of professional development within the field of public safety leadership.

"The cadre at Team Training Associates are highly credentialed and experienced public safety practitioner scholars," notes Eric Murray, EdD, president of TTA who earned the

Master of Science in Organizational Leadership at Nichols in 2009. "For over a decade, our team has helped public safety leaders throughout the country operationalize evidence-based strategies to improve their workforce. We strive to remain at the forefront of professional development and leadership training. Collaborating with Nichols College is setting new standards of excellence and academic opportunities for our public safety clients."

The Nichols MSC is the only graduate program in the country to focus on violent extremism at home and abroad. The degree has provided a gateway to emerging careers as analysts and agents in agencies including the FBI, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and FEMA, and is viewed as a critical component in the training of the modern police force.

According to Allison McDowell-Smith, PhD, associate dean of the Nichols Graduate School of Liberal Arts & Sciences, "The combination of education between TTA certification programs and Nichols College graduate MSC degree can serve as a force multiplier for law enforcement as they are our first responders responsible for protecting our society. If they are able to lead others as to how to be proactive in regard to extremism threats, we can continue to make our communities safer."

## Boating safety courses offered in February

MILFORD — The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Tri-State Flotilla, Massachusetts will be instructing two upcoming boating safety classes at Milford High School. They are scheduled as "in-person" unless further Covid restrictions move them to the Zoom video conference platform. Registration is managed through the Milford Community School Use Program, Adult-Boating, at <http://mcs.milford.ma.us> or (508) 478-1119 keeping in mind that availability is limited and you will receive course materials prior, covered by the registration fee if given on Zoom. Participants under the age of 16 must be accompanied in person, or online by a registered parent/guardian. Both courses will be offered again in March and April at this location as "in-person" or on Zoom platform.

For additional USCGAux. information: [phil.uscgaux@verizon.net](mailto:phil.uscgaux@verizon.net) or (508) 478-3778.

**Boat America Feb. 12 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

Register by Feb. 4 (\$75 fee-\$65 Milford residents) An in-person proctored exam is required for com-

pletion and will be given to students, in their vehicles, at the MHS parking lot on Sunday Feb. 13 at 10 a.m. if the class is done over Zoom platform.

This is a one-day course developed to provide the skills and confidence needed to explore the coast and inland waters by boat. Basic knowledge and skills are needed to have safe and enjoyable boating experiences. This course is perfect for families that have just purchased any type of boat or are planning to in the future, and also for the boater keeping up with changes to boating regulations and laws. Successful completion of the course will certify any minor, from 12 to 16 years of age, to operate a powerboat, including a Personal Water Craft / Jet Ski (for 16 & 17-year-old operators), on all Massachusetts waters; in conjunction with the Mass. Environmental Police. Approved by NASBLA it will also cover the requirements to operate a vessel in most other states & many countries where boating safety education is mandatory. Most boating insurance companies offer a discount on premiums for

successful completion of this course.

The Boat America course is limited to 20 students.

**Suddenly in Command Feb. 16** Wednesday evening: 6:30 – 9 p.m. Register by Feb. 14 (\$5 course fee, No exam)

Imagine you are out on the water when the boat's captain somehow is incapacitated or falls overboard and can't swim back to the boat. Are you prepared to take basic actions to get help, stop or start the engine and take the helm? A little knowledge could save lives and make you feel more comfortable boating when you're not generally at the helm.

Misfortunes can and do happen while on that fishing, diving, adventure, or party charter. Being out on your own boat with that significant other at the helm, or going out on a friends' pontoon boat can also turn to horror if the skipper is suddenly out of commission. This is a boating safety primer for those not generally at the helm but would like to know what to do, to be better prepared.

## Holiday meals delivered for Burgess families



Photo Courtesy

Pictured: Tobe Gerard, Joe Morrison, Tara Fuery, Roseanne Waddick, Jim Waddick and Marc Peloquin.

STURBRIDGE — Southbridge Rotarians and Past Presidents Jim Waddick and Tobe Gerard, and their respective spouses Roseanne Waddick and Marc Peloquin, volunteered to deliver 90 bags of holiday food items to Burgess Elementary School in Sturbridge. The deliver-

ies were gratefully accepted by Tara Surey, one of Burgess' nurses, and Joe Morrison, a member of Burgess's custodial staff.

The Southbridge Rotary Club is committed to supporting the needs in the local community. If you would like to learn more and attend a Rotary Club of Southbridge meeting,

they are held bi-weekly on Wednesdays at noon at the Southbridge Hotel and Conference Center. For more information about the club or membership, e-mail the club at [SouthbridgeRotary@gmail.com](mailto:SouthbridgeRotary@gmail.com) or visit the Facebook page @SouthbridgeRotaryClub.



**HITCHCOCK**  
*continued from page A1*

teract that by bringing people together to common ground, and that's what Hitchcock does. A sense of connection and community is something we all seek and need."

The #30DaysOfThanks Campaign was met with enthusiasm, seeing record levels of engagement for the organization and garnering a slew of comments cheering on the people who were recognized. The largest response was acknowledging one of Hitchcock's closest and dearest supporters, Mr. Jim Adams, 93, who joined in on a community clean-up of Hitchcock's tennis courts back in April, donning a pair of work gloves and joining a group clearing brush and sprucing up the area after another local resident suggested the initiative. A decorated vet born and bred in Brimfield, and an alum of Hitchcock during its long-ago tenure as a free high school, Mr. Adams is well-known in the community, and is heralded for grander achievements such as hiking the entire Appalachian Trail as much as his daily ones such as patiently maintaining his home and lawn, as he sets a fine daily example of civic responsibility, neighborliness, patience, and persistence.

Other honorees include Monson resident Derek Campbell who reached out to the organization out of the blue to help with its first annual golf tournament, ultimately securing a dozen raffle prizes and a number of players to participate, and Brimfield resident Ed Searah who volunteered his bucket

truck to string up lights to decorate the tree in front of Hitchcock, and also cleaned the gutters and tended to some other trees needing TLC free of charge while he was at it.

The organization highlighted many people who don't often receive public recognition, those who quietly give their time in support of community initiatives, such as Susan Desy, Mary Bernstein, Anna Ozolins, Charlotte and Bob Corry, Carrie Deltoro, Sharon Palmer, The Bolte Family, Karen Ballou, Linda Fuchs, Sue Gregory, Bob Clark, Lester Twarowski, Mark Carron, Cedric Daniel, and Les & Steven Skowrya.

The organization's feel good vibes went palpable at Christmas at Hitchcock, where attendees could enjoy live music, decorate Christmas cookies, make ornaments and swags, shop from local vendors, play games and watch ice carving, write letters to Santa and cards to vets, visit with Santa, and enjoy a special reading of "Twas The Night Before Christmas," all while sipping on complimentary hot cocoa and coffee. More than 200 people of all ages attended the event, and two days of festivities were offered free of charge, thanks to Hitchcock Pool Water's sponsorship of the event and a host of helpers, including all of the musicians who volunteered their talents, instruments, and time, like local favorite Livestock, Brimfield's bell ringers, Frozen Red, and Clark Howell of the Time Stretchers, among others.

"I watched strangers meet, get to know one another, and exchange contact information before leaving the event, and listened to kids giggle with glee in

the presence of Santa, and we all sang along to Christmas carols together led by the members of 4-H Steerage Rock Riders (one of the many groups who calls Hitchcock home) at the end of the day on Sunday. If that doesn't lift your spirits, I don't know what would," says Skowrya. "There are lots of places to go with your friends, but Hitchcock is a place where we see a lot of people come in as strangers and leave as friends. It's wonderful to see."

Hitchcock's annual "Friends" Campaign has currently raised just over \$5,000 of its \$10,000 year-end goal. Donations can be made through Hitchcock's website (www.hitchcock-academy.org) or via cash or check on site. Donations can be made in memory or in honor of someone who inspired the gift, and each gift, no matter the size, will help to ensure that Hitchcock can continue its mission of building community through feel-good fun.

**REED**  
*continued from page A1*

tions also seek to have DOT and the town extend water and sewer lines to that area to address salt and other contamination. Doing so will require some significant planning and cooperation, since such services now end on the other side of the Pike, he noted.

Additionally, the board approved a new police department policy by which illegal immigrants can report crimes and work with the police without fear of deportation. Doing so will enable them to apply for a visa to stay. Chief Earl Dessert said it's modeled on state law passed last summer.

It also approved using \$60,000 of the town's ARPA funds to continue covid-related nursing and contact tracing efforts. But it put a request to use funds for cleaning on hold to determine if doing so is legal. Selectmen recently received numerous proposals from departments and citizens on how to use such funding, and are reviewing them.

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





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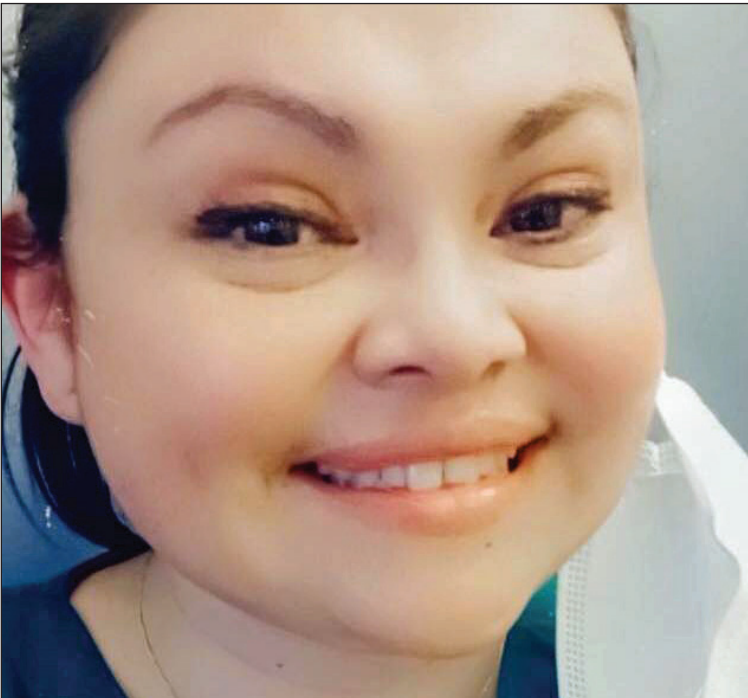
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# PCE grant recipient, Bay Path LPN help to improve patient care



Linda Chavez

CAMBRIDGE — In many hospitals across the nation, entry-level nursing requires a Bachelor’s in nursing degree. At Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Medical, Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy alumna and PCE grant recipient Linda Chavez, LPN, class of 2019 is shining!

MIT Medical provides further training which is encouraging for Chavez. Working the front lines of health care, Chavez cannot help but remember how her nursing journey started. “I was working with the Chief Medical Director at Spectrum and he suggested I

become a nurse,” said Chavez. “He said it would be a good career change for me and that I would be great at it,” Chavez added. At the time, Chavez was at the Health Care System in various capacities. Her educational background was Sociology and administration of justice from Rutgers University. She had been a Correctional Recovery Academy Counselor, Medicated Assisted Treatment Case Manager, and Medical Coordinator. She was, however up for the challenge. Chavez said, “Why not become a nurse? I highly respected all the nurses at my job and figured it would be a great opportunity.” She added enthusiastically, “The best decision I ever made!” As a nursing student at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, Chavez was a PCE \$3,000 grant recipient, a volunteer for Medical Reserve Corps, an officer for the UNICEF Club, certified in Dementia Care, certified in Mental Health First Aid, and certified in Infusion Therapy/Central Line care. She was a District Champion in Medical Terminology earning a bronze medal at SkillsUSA.

As an LPN at MIT Medical, she is one of the nurses who can spot opportunities for improving medical devices or creating new ones. Like many health professionals, COVID-19 has impacted her work. In her own words, “having to help patients virtually and via telephone...at the beginning of the pandemic, the medical building closed for all services except urgent care, OB/GYN, and pediatrics. I had to learn new skills in other departments. I also covered the COVID hotline. I had to always be prepared with the latest information to give to patients. Doing the hotline helped me determine what questions to ask to get the information I needed from patients and how to better learn the computer system at work. I also had to develop a plan on how to better serve our patients in my department i.e., pertinent information was needed for the medical providers to have before each visual visit.” Chavez credits Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy for much of her success. “Thank you, Bay Path Nursing Academy for helping me reach my goal. Every Nurse that graduated from Bay Path leaves with the skills necessary

to be successful at any job,” she said. She further stated, “the education I received at Bay Path has helped me out so much in my career. The skills I learned in clinicals, and labs are still used to this day. I learned time management and making time where there is none!” With a smile, she expressed that “the professors at Bay Path empower their students and always encourage them to reach their goals. I remember that for one of my clinicals I had school nurse observation at Bay Path RVTHS. That is where I realized that I wanted to become a school nurse.” She explains, “and here I am working for one of the top colleges in the world in their medical department as a nurse!” Chavez is grateful for the assistance she received from P.E.O. Chapter R. “P.E.O. PCE grant helped me tremendously,” said Chavez. “The P.E.O. Chapter R ladies were so wonderful,” said Chavez. Chavez plans on continuing her education to become an RN. For aspiring nurses, Chavez’s advice is to “always strive to reach your goals no matter how long it takes.”

# Legacy Counsellors, P.C., Gove Law Office announce planned merger

STURBRIDGE — Legacy Counsellors, P.C. and Gove Law Office have announced the planned merger of their firms in order to expand the estate and tax planning and real estate services they offer to their clients. The Gove Law Office team completes the transition to join the existing Legacy Counsellors, P.C. firm in January 2022. This merger will also create the new division of Legacy Title & Escrow, to handle residential and commercial real estate transactions. Legacy Counsellors, P.C., founded in 1994, focuses on helping clients protect and perpetuate their savings and assets. Their mission is to empower clients to preserve their legacy, through services including trust, estate, and asset protection planning, elder law and Medicaid planning, and probate admin-

istration. Founder Kevin D. Quinn, J.D., says that this merger “will create more opportunity for the clients of both firms,” through the addition and expansion of resources, areas of practice and office locations. “We are very excited about these additions to our firm, our improved offerings and the broader and deeper legal support from both the attorneys and support staff. What will not change is our commitment to service and can-do attitude,” Quinn said. Gove Law Office has provided practical, solutions-oriented guidance to clients in the areas of residential and commercial real estate, estate planning, business representation, and family law since 2013. Their attorneys are committed to being responsive to client needs

and efficient with their time. Attorney Michael Gove states, “The merger strongly positions the combined firm to continue our commitment to being a valuable resource for our clients at many critical moments in their lives. “The combination of Gove Law Office and Legacy Counsellors is a fantastic opportunity for both firms. For our clients who rely on us so thoroughly, we’ll be able to offer expanded services including varying levels of estate and tax planning, probate and trust administration assistance, residential and commercial real estate transactions, and representation in family matters; for our team members and employees who are invaluable to our work, we’ll be better positioned to ensure enough staff coverage to fully assist our clients; and for our referral partners who place

their trust in us every day, we’ll be continuing to provide educational opportunities to them and exceptional services to their clients.” The expanded firm of Legacy Counsellors, P.C. and Legacy Title & Escrow includes four attorneys, along with paralegals and client services coordinators. Attorney Kevin Quinn will remain the President, with Attorney Michael Gove joining as Vice President and Partner. Its five office locations throughout Hampshire, Hampden, Worcester, and Hartford counties, allow it to better serve clients throughout all of Massachusetts and Connecticut. More information can be found at: [www.legacycounsellors.com](http://www.legacycounsellors.com).

# Bay Path nursing students help plant tulips



CHARLTON — And 25 bulbs were planted at the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy! In early November, Bay

Path Practical Nursing Academy was one of the 100 Organizations chosen to receive a bag of 25 premium tulip bulbs.

The same bulbs sold online and planted on the Wicked Tulips farm (Johnston, R.I.). According to Jeroen

of Wicked Tulips Farm, “the fall is always a busy time.” Jeroen and his team planted one million tulips and installed thousands of yards of deer fencing to protect the fields. Further, tulip planting is both an art and a science, and something Jeroen learned by working on his family’s farm in the Netherlands. At the Wicked Tulips farm, Jeroen arranged the tulip beds to maximize bloom times. Certain colors and types with custom mixes of tulips are planted in alternate rows. Jeroen stated, “the choreography in planting means nearly every stretch of field will have vibrant colors in the spring!” Dr. Ana Oliver (of Rutland) and practical nursing students who planted the 25 tulip bulbs expect to have tulips popping up at Bay Path

the last week of April or at the beginning of May since the weather always factors into the bloom time. Joining Dr. Oliver in tulip bulb planting were Felisters Mburu of Shrewsbury, Luciane Lindvay of Spencer, Marites Skarlz of Southbridge, and Gearlyn Wetherbee of Charlton, all from the PN Class of 2022. About Bay Path RVTHS Practical Nursing Academy: Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy offers 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 Human Services of Public Health Board of Registration in Nursing 239 Causeway Street Boston, MA 02114 617-973-0800 [www.mass.gov/dph/boards/rn](http://www.mass.gov/dph/boards/rn) The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is accredited by the: Council on Occupational Education 840 Roswell Road Building 300, Suite 325 Atlanta, GA 30350 Telephone: 800-917-2081 [www.council.org](http://www.council.org) Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School is fully accredited by the: New England Association of Schools and Colleges 209 Burlington Rd, Suite 201 Bedford, MA, 01730-1433 781-271-0022 [www.neasc.org](http://www.neasc.org)



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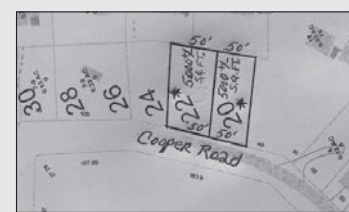
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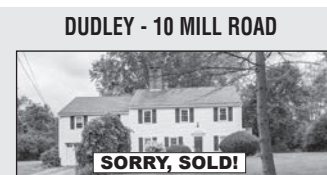
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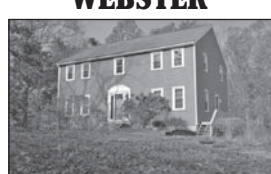
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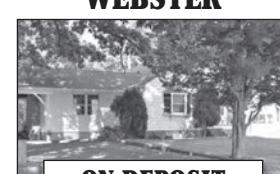
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SPORTS

Rams find form in third quarter to take down Bartlett

BY NICK ETHIER  
SPORTS EDITOR

WEBSTER — After leading for much of the first half versus rival Bartlett High on Thursday, Dec. 23, the Shepherd Hill Regional boys' varsity basketball team actually found themselves trailing by a point, 23-22, as teams went to the locker rooms for intermission. The Indians ended the half on a 10-2 run, which included a pair of deep 3-pointers from Ethan Minarik.

"That's obviously a very good basketball team over there, and I told them all week that the punch was coming," explained Rams' head coach Mike Rapoza. "All it takes a minute or two of a breakdown and Ethan makes a couple of shots. At halftime I told them we let them off the hook and let them back into the game. We always say, 'as long as we don't make the same mistakes twice, we'll be OK.'"

And Shepherd Hill presumably did not make any mistakes twice, as they took the third quarter by storm. They outscored Bartlett in the frame, 20-7, to take a 42-30 lead into the final frame. And the Indians could never cut the deficit down to a two-possession game, as the Rams ultimately won a 57-46 decision.

"We're trying to get back to a more defensive mindset and we set a tone, we locked into the game plan that we had, and we were able to string together a few baskets and put them on their heels," Rapoza said of his team's second half performance.

Shepherd Hill's Ryan Brooks had a tremendous second half, pouring in 12 of his 16 points and grabbing 5 of his 9 rebounds over the final two quarters.

"This is the one team we don't want to lose to," Brooks said of playing Bartlett. "We're down one at halftime and we're all angry...and everyone came out firing."

When asked how his second half was so effective, Brooks' response was candid.

"I try and see in the first half what they do and how they react. In the second half usually people are more tired and you get to pick your spots more," he explained.

The Rams' strong third quarter included a 16-2 run. In the frame they also outrebounded the Indians by a 10-5 margin. They won the overall battle of the boards, too, 42-27.

Shepherd Hill was paced offensively

by Alec Fasolo, who finished with 17 points, while Iverson Ramirez-Ruggles added 10 more.

Rapoza, who spent two years as the JV coach and is now in his first year at the varsity level, has his team at 3-1. The 2016 Shepherd Hill graduate — a four-year starter followed by four more playing years at Anna Maria — has fulfilled a dream of becoming a head basketball coach.

"It's the best. I'm very fortunate to have a team full of great kids. They come in every day and work hard. They come out every game and compete as hard as they possibly can. They make my job easy. It's a ton of fun," he said.

On Rapoza's coaching staff is Anthony Grzembksi, a Bartlett grad, so it was his first time coaching against his alma mater. And Grzembksi's father, Ed, is a longtime assistant on the Indians' side, making the game a family affair.

"Having Ant on the coaching staff is so good for these guys, especially with me being a big man and he being a guard, it works really well," the 6-foot-6 Rapoza said of the 5-foot-9 Grzembksi.

Bartlett, now 2-2, was led in scoring by Zach Dejesus (24 points, 10 rebounds) and Minarik (18 points).



Shepherd Hill's Alec Fasolo catches a pass back by the perimeter.

Nick Ethier photos

HIGH SCHOOL NOTEBOOK —  
TANTASQUA SWIMMING RESULTS

**Wednesday, Dec. 22**

Tantasqua 109, Advanced Math and Science Academy 43 — The Warriors easily won their girls' swim meet, with the medley relay team of Kira Dambly, Emily Owens, Katie Wade, Kailyn McCarthy) had the first first-place finish of the day. Kira Dambly won the 200 freestyle, while Zhu also won 200 IM and the 500 freestyle. Other winners included Molly Bilodeau (50 freestyle), Wade (100 butterfly), Owens (100 freestyle, 100 breaststroke), the 200 freestyle relay (Dambly, Charlotte Ardis, Bilodeau, Owens), and the 400 freestyle relay team (Zhu, Bilodeau, Dambly, Wade).

Tantasqua 71, Monson 41 — The Warriors improved to 2-1 as the boys' swim team defeated Monson. The medley relay team of Zachary Hilborn, Jonah Scherer, Adam Mazeika and Cameron Giroux had the first victory for the team. Eben Mazeika (200 freestyle, 100 freestyle), Scherer (200 IM), Adam Mazeika (100 butterfly, 500 freestyle), the 200 freestyle relay team (Scherer, Max Pitcher, Cameron Grioux, Eben Mazeika) and the 400 freestyle relay team (Adam Mazeika, Pitcher, Hilborn, Eben Mazeika) were all winners.

**Wednesday, Dec. 29**

Tantasqua 102, Monson 50 — The girls'

swim team won for the second time in two weeks, as the Warriors improved to 2-1. The medley relay team (Zoey Zhu, Emily Owens, Katie Wade, Kailyn McCarthy) had the first first-place finish of the day. Kira Dambly won the 200 freestyle, while Zhu also won 200 IM and the 500 freestyle. Other winners included Molly Bilodeau (50 freestyle), Wade (100 butterfly), Owens (100 freestyle, 100 breaststroke), the 200 freestyle relay (Dambly, Charlotte Ardis, Bilodeau, Owens), and the 400 freestyle relay team (Zhu, Bilodeau, Dambly, Wade).

Tantasqua 71, Monson 41 — The Warriors improved to 2-1 as the boys' swim team defeated Monson. The medley relay team of Zachary Hilborn, Jonah Scherer, Adam Mazeika and Cameron Giroux had the first victory for the team. Eben Mazeika (200 freestyle, 100 freestyle), Scherer (200 IM), Adam Mazeika (100 butterfly, 500 freestyle), the 200 freestyle relay team (Scherer, Max Pitcher, Cameron Grioux, Eben Mazeika) and the 400 freestyle relay team (Adam Mazeika, Pitcher, Hilborn, Eben Mazeika) were all winners.



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SPORTS

Minutemen explode early with plenty of points in romp over Tri-County



Bay Path's Alison Welton looks to drive into the lane on Tri-County's defense.

**BY NICK ETHIER**  
SPORTS EDITOR

CHARLTON — The Bay Path Regional girls' varsity basketball team entered its holiday break in style on Wednesday, Dec. 22, easily dispatching Tri-County Regional 51-22 to improve to 4-0. The Minutemen won't play again until Jan. 3, after press time.

"We've got a real good unit this year with some really nice freshman, [including starters] Kendall Bond and Alison Welton," said Bay Path head coach John Selen. "We're really

blessed with them coming in this year."

Both freshmen made an immediate impact in the Minutemen's victory versus the Cougars. Welton poured in two quick baskets to give her team a 4-2 lead, and Bond followed with a free throw and shortly thereafter a made jump shot as Bay Path surged to a 17-4 first quarter lead, which included a 14-0 run.

Welton added another two baskets in the second quarter and teammate Amber Girard canned a pair of 3-pointers as

the Minutemen held a sizeable 31-12 advantage at the halftime break.

"We're off to a real nice start and it's a fun team to coach," said Selen.

Welton showed a model of consistency in the third quarter, again scoring two baskets. In total, Bay Path won the frame 9-6 as they turned to the final quarter holding a 40-18 lead.

The Minutemen then won fourth quarter scoring 11-4 to account for the 51-22 final. And, you guessed it, Welton scored two more baskets in the frame to finish with a game-high 16 points. Bond had 5 points and secured a game-high 11 rebounds.

Selen said that he does not know the freshmen heading into Bay Path beforehand.

"You're just hoping for the best," he noted of first-day tryouts before saying, "It's like I just won the lottery, you know?" followed by a chuckle when thinking about his talented roster.

In the win over Tri-County (2-2), the Minutemen's Bethany Lasell scored 10 points, while Girard finished with 9 more on a tri of 3-pointers. Maggie Mullaly had 6 points and 9 rebounds as Bay Path won the battle of the boards, 44-30.

"It's a real good group of kids as far as the chemistry goes. They're all getting along and sharing the ball. It's a good team effort from us," said Selen. "What can you do to make your teammates better? That's what they really try to do on the floor

Rockets rally to defeat Woodstock Academy in overtime



The Auburn High varsity ice hockey team celebrates its 3-2 overtime victory versus Woodstock Academy on Monday, Dec. 27.

AUBURN — The Auburn High varsity ice hockey team may have trailed in its game with Woodstock Academy at the Horgan Arena back on Monday, Dec. 27, but the rallying Rockets forced overtime and ultimately won a 3-2 decision.

Nolan White (Dillon Winkelmann assist) and Will Reece (Cooper C'Miel assist) both tallied second period goals to tie the score at 2-2 and, just

15 seconds into overtime, White scored again, and again from Winkelmann, as Auburn triumphed in victory.

The Rockets, a co-operative team consisting of athletes from Millbury High, Shepherd Hill Regional and Tantasqua Regional, in addition to Auburn High, improved to 3-2 after beating the Centaurs.

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Please apply online at <https://www.townofcharlton.net/158/Human-Resources> no later than January 6, 2022. Hourly rate: \$24.78.

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**Town of North Brookfield  
Water Department  
Employment opportunity**

**Title:** Water Treatment Operator      **Location:** North Brookfield Water Department

The Town of North Brookfield Water Department is seeking a candidate for the full-time position of Water Operator.

The North Brookfield Water Department provides drinking water to 80% of the population of the town, drawn from our surface water reservoir, Horse (North) Pond. This position requires operation of the Bell Hill Water Treatment Plant, a US Filter Microfloc package plant including upflow clarifiers run by the SCADA operating system. This position includes meter readings, replacement and repair as well as distribution system maintenance, construction and repair. Also included are lawn mowing, snow shoveling, general cleaning, brush cutting and all similar chores to maintain area in and around the treatment plant, raw water pump station, reservoir and distribution system. A complete job description is available upon request.

Requirements for the position of Water Operator include a high school diploma or GED; and 1T Massachusetts Drinking Water Operators License or a 1-T Operator in training. This is a 40 hour a week position, Sunday-Thursday, coverage on alternating holidays and on-call weekends. Interested candidate must have a valid Massachusetts's driver's license and must be available for overtime work when necessary. Training schedule will be Monday- Friday until successful candidate has met the requirements needed to assume this position schedule.

Starting hourly rate - \$21.65. Step one is an entry level pay scale with yearly potential increases to a maximum step 5 pay scale of \$28.43 over a five year period as duties, licensing, and experience expand.

Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest and resume via email to [jfnbwd@gmail.com](mailto:jfnbwd@gmail.com) or can be mailed to: North Brookfield Water Department 14 Bell Road, North Brookfield, Mass. 01535

Applications will be accepted until Friday January 28, 2022 for this position.

The North Brookfield Water Department is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



# Greater Worcester Community Foundation looks to support and recognize local artists in photography contest

WORCESTER — The Greater Worcester Community Foundation is redesigning its website and is looking to showcase the work of local Central Massachusetts photographers. The use of local artwork is in line with the Creative Worcester Initiative which seeks to support a strong and diverse arts and culture ecosystem in Worcester. Photographers can begin submitting photographs starting Jan. 3 with the

contest running until Jan. 14. All photographers (emerging and seasoned) are welcome. Artists are asked to limit submissions to four per person and photos must be from different seasons. Entries must depict scenes of Worcester County and can be of outdoor themes (landscapes and close-up shots are acceptable) or groups of people/events. Individual photographs of people or household pets, as the primary subject

will not be considered. Artists must be 18 years of age or older to submit and each entry must be the work of the person submitting the photo. All images must be high-resolution digital images in jpeg format, with a file size of at least 500 KB and no greater than 3,000 KB. No prints or paper copies will be accepted. Winners will be notified after Friday, Feb. 4. Those selected for the Greater

Worcester Community Foundation Web site will be provided a \$200 stipend per photo selected. To enter, submit digital image(s) to [photos@greaterworcester.org](mailto:photos@greaterworcester.org). Please include your name and location of where the picture was taken. The Greater Worcester Community Foundation reserves the right to use selected photos in ways it deems appropriate.

**HOOPS**  
*continued from page A16*

— find the open person and do things when you don't have the ball.”

The Minutemen also executed a strong fast break game plan, which will continue to be in store for 2022.

“The young kids are fast, so we're really trying to up-tempo it as much as we can and score the easy ones when we can,” said Selen.



Bay Path's Bethany Lasell gets fouled in the act of shooting.



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Top L: Attorney Kevin Quinn, President and Attorney Michael Gove, Vice President and Partner. Top R: Attorney Brian Roode, Sturbridge office.  
Bottom: the Legacy Counsellors, P.C. team.



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**Michael Gustafson, MD**  
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