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Friday, April 9, 2021

Old Sturbridge Village raises frame on new cabinetmaking shop

STURBRIDGE — Old Sturbridge Village (OSV) raised the frame on a new cabinetmaking shop on Wednesday, March 31. This new structure will be the first addition in over fifty years to the Village's Common and will be located south of the Meeting House.

The Village has employed both historic and modern building methods in the construction of the Cabinetmaking Shop, which is patterned after period structures operated by early nineteenth-century New England craftsmen. The building will include a wood-burning stove, as did many free-standing shops of the period, and a small external woodshed, based on George Bradley's shop in Newtown, Connecticut. Sturbridge and the region were home to some

Sturbridge library resumes in-person book sales

STURBRIDGE — The COVID pandemic seems to be winding down as vaccinations are ramping up, but experts are cautioning about letting down our guard too soon. So, what should we all be doing? Grab a good book (or a whole pile of books) and find a nice spot to sit in the sun and read!

The Friends of the Joshua Hyde Public Library in Sturbridge are ready to help by resuming it's annual Book Sales. This will be an outdoor event. Face masks and social distancing are required. Hand sanitizer will be available. A cash box will be available for donations. The workers will not be handling money and change will not be given.

What:
Sidewalk Book Sale
Adult, young adult and children's books will be available

When:
Saturday, April 10 from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
(Rain date: April 17)

Where:
306 Main Street, Sturbridge. Books will be outside on tables along the front walk

The Friends of the Joshua Hyde Public Library is a tax-exempt organization as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code that supports and provides funding for programs and services at the Joshua Hyde Public Library.



Courtesy

Old Sturbridge Village (OSV) raised the frame on a new cabinetmaking shop on Wednesday, March 31.

of the foremost cabinetmakers of the early 19th century, including Nathan Lumbard and Oliver Wight. These individuals, as well as others like them, were integral parts of the story of rural

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Turn To **CABINETMAKING SHOP**, page **A12**

State taking comments on downtown project plans

SOUTHBRIDGE — A major redesign of downtown Southbridge took a formal step forward last week as the Massachusetts Department of Transportation held its public hearing on the Hook/Central/Foster project.

It had a handful of attendees, but only two comments, both from town councilors. More critically, though, the plans now call for a few changes not seen in previous iterations.

In the past, the plan was to dead-end Hook Street. This time, it's being designed to go through to Central, but as a one way from Central on that end. It becomes two-way in the middle "to maintain local business access," according to Senior Project Manager Greg Russell of VHB.

He summarized other key proposals. One of them is that Larochelle Way – now largely a parking lot lane – "is becoming more of a street," with wider travel lanes, a traffic light at Central, and continuation to Foster.

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Turn To **DOWNTOWN PROJECT**, page **A12**

VNA's Massachusetts water treatment plant receives Water Fluoridation Quality Award

STURBRIDGE — Veolia's wastewater treatment plant in Sturbridge, Massachusetts, was given the Water Fluoridation Quality Award from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Jan. 15.

The CDC recognizes VNA's investment in ensuring that every resident of the local community receives the benefit of good oral health.

"It's a great feeling knowing that part of your job every day is adding the right amount of Fluoride that is helping young kids' dental health," said Hunter Kelley, Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Technician.

The CDC presents this Water Fluoridation Quality Award annually to public water systems that:

- Adjust the fluoride concentration of their drinking water
- Achieve a monthly average fluoride level that is in the optimal range for 12 consecutive months in a year
- Document their fluoride levels in CDC's Water Fluoridation Reporting System

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health strongly supports community water fluoridation as a safe, cost-effective and proven practice that promotes good oral health within our communities.

2020 was the 75th year of fluoridation of public water supplies in the United States. Today in Massachusetts, over four million people in 133 communities are receiving the benefits of community water fluoridation. A total of 1,523 public water systems in 29 states received this award, including 76 in Massachusetts.



Courtesy

Left to right: Shane Moody Plant Manager, Jacob Putis O&M technician II, Hunter Kelley O&M Technician I, Steven Saletnik O&M Technician III Lead.



Courtesy

LNS CELEBRATES 1,000 ACCIDENT FREE DAYS

In January 2021, the Lighting and Imaging Division in Southbridge surpassed 1,000 consecutive days accident free in the workplace. We are very proud of this achievement and everyone who worked very hard to reach this milestone. Thank you to everyone involved in this success! The safety and wellbeing of our employees is our top priority, and we strive for many more accident free days to come in the months ahead. In recognition of this accomplishment, each employee will receive a long sleeve T-shirt and a “grab and go” boxed luncheon will be organized.

Exploring dental crowns



Many people visit their dentists and learn they have a tooth that requires a crown. In many instances, dental crowns are necessary for proper tooth care.

Crowns were once widely referred to as "caps." A crown is a permanent cover for a tooth that would otherwise require a very large filling after dental decay has been removed. Crowns also may be used to repair cracked or broken teeth so that extraction is not

necessary. Sometimes crowns are used for cosmetic modifications or to hold a dental bridge in place.

The crown itself can be made from different materials, like stainless steel, gold or metallic alloy, porcelain, porcelain fused to metal, and resin. A dentist will determine which material will work best depending on the application and tooth location.

Understanding your

appointment(s). Crowns are typically installed in two appointments. The first appointment requires prep work so the tooth can hold the crown. This is typically a painless procedure, and one in which the dentist will anesthetize the tooth and gum tissue and then file down the tooth along the chewing surface and sides to make room for the crown covering. If the tooth was decayed or insubstantial, the dentist may have to "build up"

the tooth instead of filing it down. Again, these determinations are made by the dentist who has the expertise to gauge how much workable tooth is left.

Once the tooth has been prepared, an impression will be made of the bite area. That's because the permanent crown will be fabricated in a laboratory and the fit/color will need to be exact for comfort — and also to ensure that bacteria and food debris do not get caught between the crown and tooth.

The final component is a temporary cap that will keep the prepared tooth clean. This is molded in the office and will be worn only until the custom-made crown is ready.

When the permanent crown is delivered, the patient will return to the office to have it checked for fit and then cemented into place.

Full and partial crowns

A partial crown may be used if only a portion of the tooth needs to be covered. Dentists will often rely on full crowns to get maximum coverage and

Cost factor
Crowns can be expensive. According to the resource CostHelper, crowns can range from \$500 to \$3,000 depending on the material used and the patient's insurance coverage. Dental insurance may cover a predetermined percentage of the cost when the crown is medically necessary, but insurance may not cover anything if the procedure is only cosmetic.

It's always a good idea for patients to express their concerns and ask questions about crowns prior to starting the procedure. Understanding the potential out-of-pocket costs is essential as well.

Dental crowns can last several years and represent the best way to salvage a tooth that is cracked or damaged.

KNOW?

nters for Disease Control ries, or tooth decay, is than asthma and seven ay fever in children. The atrics notes that children baby teeth are at much their adult teeth. Fluoride neral that can strengthen ore resistant to the acids decay. Parents, even those ave any teeth, can discuss luoride tablets with their he CDC notes that more ave tooth decay before t dental caries is often e diligent about their chil- ul of potential problems, can reduce their sons' and

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Becker College succumbs to economic impact of COVID

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER – Becker College has navigated countless challenges over its 237-year history, but the financial impacts of COVID-19 were too steep for the small school to overcome.

Last week, the Becker College Board of Trustees unanimously voted to cease academic programming at the end of the current academic year. The decision was reached after officials spent several months evaluating all options for potentially saving the college.

“This was a deeply painful decision for the Board to make – one that the college administration made every possible effort to stave off, but one we came to realize in recent weeks was unavoidable,” said Christine Cassidy, the chairperson of Becker’s Board of Trustees.

The school’s current spring semester will continue as planned, including ceremonies for graduating seniors on May 8. The college will also provide academic support and transitional services to students through Aug. 31.

After enduring a nightmarish year of remote learning and canceled events, Becker underclassmen must now balance their academic responsibilities this semester with the need to find a new place to study in the fall. For many students,

this will involve finding new apartments, jobs, internships, and extra-curricular activities.

Becker officials are committed to assisting students as much as possible in their transition efforts. The college has made arrangements with several area universities to provide admission to Becker students. Further details are available on the Becker website.

“Our commitment going forward is to do everything we can to ensure our students finish this year strongly positioned to continue their education, and that they and all our faculty and staff get access to the best education and employment opportunities available,” Cassidy added.

The college’s admissions staff will work with current students, as well as those accepted for the fall 2021 semester, on potential new admissions pathways. All tuition deposits will be refunded.

The news of the college’s closure was equally distressing for staff members, many of whom have called Becker home for years.

“Becker will assist departing faculty and staff in finding new career opportunities after their employment with the college ends,” read a statement released by the college.

Becker operates campuses in Leicester and Worcester. Established in 1784 as Leicester Academy, the

campus at the town center eventually merged with Becker’s Business College in 1887. Both campuses are deeply stitched into the academic and cultural fabrics of their communities.

Although the pandemic drove the final nails into Becker’s coffin, school officials were already grappling with several challenges long before COVID-19 ravaged colleges nationwide. As a small, tuition-dependent institution, Becker faced mounting adversity in recent years with declining enrollments and rising costs.

When COVID-19 struck in March 2020, college officials struggled with the added challenge of maintaining physical campus operations while transitioning to online education. A year later, as Becker moved to reopen on-campus housing and classrooms, many residential students chose to become permanent commuters or engage in remote learning from home due to the continuing COVID-19 crisis. The prolonged absence of on-campus residents exacerbated the college’s financial situation.

“Ultimately, the impacts of COVID-19 turned what was a very challenging situation into an unsustainable situation,” said Becker College President Nancy Crimmin.

Rather than risk placing students and staff into an untenable position

next year, officials decided to close the school at a time when students’ academic transitions could be best managed.

“We pushed ourselves to develop scenarios in which Becker remained open for another year and beyond,” Cassidy said. “However, those scenarios included more debt, selling assets, and further cutting operations. Guided by the advice of our

Turn To **BECKER**, page **A12**



ACCURACY WATCH

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

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

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

Open Sky announces Presenting Sponsor and awardees for Safe Homes Gala

WORCESTER — Open Sky Community Services has announced that the Gala and People of Courage Awards in support of Safe Homes will be held virtually on Friday, April 9 from 6-7 p.m.

Safe Homes is an Open Sky program providing a Drop-in Center and peer-led services and supports for LGBTQIA+ youth ages 14-23 in Central Massachusetts. Safe Homes offers leadership development, educational and social programming, connections to resources and mental health counseling at no cost to participants. The program is supported in part by grants from The United Way of Central Massachusetts, Greater Worcester Community Foundation, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, and others.

According to Ken Bates, President and CEO at Open Sky, the isolation and uncertainty of the past year has had a profound effect on LGBTQIA+ youth. “I am pleased to say that throughout the pandemic, Safe Homes has supported youth through virtual drop-ins, food deliveries, connections to community resources and free counseling.”

The Safe Homes Gala will include an online silent auction, fund-a-need, messages from celebrities, special guests, and the presentation of the People of Courage Awards and the Safe Homes Partnership Awards. The Hanover Insurance Group is the Presenting Sponsor for the event.

“Safe Homes plays a critical role in helping youth feel nurtured and validated in all aspects of their

identities,” said Kimberly Salmon, assistant vice president, community relations at The Hanover Insurance Group, Inc. “We’re proud to partner with Safe Homes as it works to provide important support services and a safe space for LGBTQIA+ youth in our community and their allies.”

Other leadership sponsors include 401kQuote.com, Arbor Associates, Fallon Health and Revelation Productions.

There are a variety of ticket options available including a free registration option. Attendees can register at openskycs.org/gala.

People of Courage Award recipients:
Public Service Award
Sharon McQueen
Young Adult Award
Adam Stone
Corporate

Award
Unum Group
Educator and Influencer Award
Dr. Angela Sheble
Social Justice Advocacy and Action Award
Redemption Rock Brewery Co.
Safe Homes Partnership Award recipients:

• Zia
• Ginkgo Bioworks

• Worcester Together- A partnership of United Way of Central Mass and Greater Worcester Community Foundation in collaboration with the City of Worcester.


For more information on Safe Homes, or to register or to sponsor, visit openskycs.org/gala or email safehomesgala@openskycs.org.

About Open Sky Community Services

Open Sky Community Services is a 501(c)3 non-profit agency that offers a wide range of


services for adults, adolescents, and children with mental health challenges, developmental and intellectual disabilities, substance use disorders, brain injury, homelessness and other challenges throughout Central Massachusetts. Open Sky Community Services has more than 1,100 dedicated employees and an annual budget of \$83 million with more than 100 programs throughout the region. For more information, please visit www.openskycs.org.

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Webster Public School Department



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*these 2 positions will primarily deliver meals to classrooms
Start Date: ASAP

Breakfast in the Classroom Worker, Park Ave - 1 Position

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Rate: \$14.25/hr.
Start Date: ASAP

Cafeteria Worker, Webster Middle School - 1 Position

Schedule: M-F 8:00-11:00 (15 hrs.)
Rate: \$14.25/hr.
Start Date: ASAP
*this position is primarily a kitchen prep position

Cafeteria Worker, Bartlett High School - 1 Position

Schedule: M-F 9:30-12:30 (15 hrs.)
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Start Date: ASAP

Please apply to: Attn: Lori Marrazzo
Webster Public Schools, 77 Poland Street, Webster, MA 01570
For questions about positions please call or email Ellen Nylen at 508-943-0104 ext. 40016 or enylen@webster-schools.org
*At this time all positions run through the end of the school year.

Friday's Child



Maleki
Age 15

Hi! My name is Maleki and I love comics!

Maleki is an engaging teenage boy of African American descent. While he enjoys spending time by himself, if he is interested in a conversation or activity, he will happily engage with others. He is very passionate about certain subjects, particularly all things related to Marvel and DC comics. Maleki loves to talk about his favorite superheroes and what their powers are. He also enjoys music therapy and trying to make sounds on the instruments. Maleki is diagnosed with Autism Spectrum

Disorder and developmental delays.

Maleki attends a collaborative school where he receives supports to ensure that his emotional, social, and educational needs are met. Maleki has no behavioral problems at school or in the program where he lives. He gets along well with peers, staff, and teachers.

Maleki is legally freed for adoption. His social worker is hoping to match him with a family who is committed to advocating for him throughout his life. He will do well in a family of any constellation, with or without other children in the home.

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

Worcester State athletes inducted into Chi Alpha Sigma Honor Society

WORCESTER — Thirty-seven Worcester State University student-athletes have earned induction into Chi Alpha Sigma, the student-athlete honor society.

The group joins 24 inductees from a year ago who are still active on Lancer rosters, bringing Worcester State's Chi Alpha Sigma total to 61 student-athletes. The complete list of Worcester State inductees can be found below.

To be eligible for the honor society, student-athletes of junior or senior

status must achieve a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.40. Graduating Chi Alpha Sigma inductees will receive black and gold cords to be worn at Commencement.

“In Worcester State’s seventh year of membership in Chi Alpha Sigma, it is exciting to continue to honor our student-athletes’ academic achievements,” said Kelly Downs, coordinator of student-athlete support services. “Our student-athletes take pride in their academics and are excited to represent our depart-

ment at Commencement by wearing their athletic honor society cords.”

"These student-athletes have shown an incredible commitment to academics in their time at Worcester State," said Director of Athletics Michael Mudd. "They shine not only on the field, court, track, and ice, but also in the classroom, and are true role models on our campus."

For more information on Chi Alpha Sigma, please visit their website at chialphasigma.org.

Inducted into Chi Alpha Sigma in 2020

- Dominique Alves (Ludlow, Mass.) - Women's Tennis
- Lauren Arbec (Fairhaven, Mass.) - Women's Lacrosse
- Parker Bigelow (Leominster, Mass.) - Baseball
- Alexa Bobbin (Charlestown, R.I.) - Field Hockey
- Mark Clemente (Holden, Mass.) - Men's Golf
- Emma Collings (Marion, Mass.) - Women's Tennis
- Tim Drevitch (Oxford, N.J.) - Men's Ice Hockey
- Sarah Duff (Warren, Mass.) - Field Hockey
- Lauren Fleming (Leominster, Mass.) - Field Hockey
- Maddie Fong (Norton, Mass.) - Women's Soccer
- Pat Galvin (Shrewsbury, Mass.) - Baseball
- Kyle Hayter (Helena, Mont.) - Men's Ice Hockey
- Rachel Jorge (Dartmouth, Mass.) - Women's Track & Field
- Madison Kuzio (Franklin, Mass.) - Women's Volleyball
- Matthew Manning (Novi, Mich.) - Men's Ice Hockey
- Bernice Mensah (Worcester, Mass.) - Women's Track & Field
- Monika Mularski (Auburn, Mass.) - Women's Tennis
- Tayla O'Leary (Salem, Mass.) -

- Women's Soccer
- Jake Poitras (Harwich, Mass.) - Men's Golf
- Zack Poitras (Webster, Mass.) - Men's Track & Field
- Shaylee Puleo (Fettersbury, Mass.) - Women's Cross Country and Track & Field
- Kyra Siano (North Attleboro, Mass.) - Women's Cross Country and Track & Field
- Ally Tocman (Shrewsbury, Mass.) - Softball
- Hoang Vo (Worcester, Mass.) - Men's Track & Field

- 2021 Chi Alpha Sigma Inductees
- Will Ahearn (Charlestown, Mass.) - Men's Ice Hockey
- Victoria Alexander (Worcester, Mass.) - Softball
- Ashley Barratt (North Attleborough, Mass.) - Women's Cross Country and Track & Field
- Rachel Bigelow (Westborough, Mass.) - Softball
- Sarah Blomgren (Lunenburg, Mass.) - Women's Basketball
- Charles Bray (Shrewsbury, Mass.) - Men's Track & Field
- Daniel Canela (Peabody, Mass.) - Men's Track & Field
- Mike Chaves Jr. (Hudson, Mass.) - Baseball
- Kasey Clark (Dudley, Mass.) - Women's Cross Country and Track & Field
- Julia Collins (Shrewsbury, Mass.) - Field Hockey
- Aidan Conlon (Lowell, Mass.) - Men's Ice Hockey
- Kyle Cravatis (Beverly, Mass.) - Baseball
- Sean Devin (Lynn, Mass.) - Baseball
- Apphia Donoghue (Rowley, Mass.) - Women's Soccer
- Hannah Foster (Worcester, Mass.) - Women's Soccer
- Drew Fottler (Chelmsford, Mass.) -

Turn To **HONOR SOCIETY**, page **A12**

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Pituitary hormone (abbr.)
- 4. Ceramic jars
- 9. Monetary units
- 14. Alias
- 15. “Superman” actor
- 16. Britonic tribe
- 17. Shorten
- 18. LA Dodgers manager
- 20. Hoarded
- 22. Theatrically portray
- 23. Noah’s grandson
- 24. Dependent
- 28. Peyton’s little brother
- 29. Cools the house
- 30. Principle part of
- 31. Type of wrap
- 33. Peels
- 37. Commercial
- 38. Make an attempt
- 39. Arrange in steps
- 41. U. Utah athlete
- 42. Old English
- 43. Trade
- 44. Nostrils
- 46. Ticket seller __Hub
- 49. Of I
- 50. Institute legal proceedings against
- 51. Takes apart
- 55. Doorway
- 58. Long int’l river
- 59. Trailblazing athlete Gibson
- 60. Former CBS News host
- 64. Sign language
- 65. Badgerlike mammal
- 66. Thin strips of wood
- 67. Brooklyn hoopster
- 68. Portents of good or evil
- 69. Footwear
- 70. When you think you’ll arrive

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Batflower genus
- 2. Predatory seabirds
- 3. Fish farm
- 4. Arrangements
- 5. Go in advance of others
- 6. Bulgarian monetary unit
- 7. “__ Maria”
- 8. W. African ethnoreligious group
- 9. Wild Asian oxen genus
- 10. Vinegary
- 11. To this
- 12. Explosive
- 13. Female sibling
- 19. Orlando museum (abbr.)
- 21. Type of hoop
- 24. About Holy Father
- 25. Academic environment
- 26. Extremely angry
- 27. Surrenders
- 31. Swiss mountain pass
- 32. Sharp mountain ridge
- 34. Erases
- 35. Spielberg’s alien
- 36. Absurd
- 40. Dorm worker
- 41. Used to make pesticides
- 45. The sister of your father or mother
- 47. A way to let know
- 48. Can’t produce much vegetation
- 52. Small streams
- 53. Folk singer DiFranco
- 54. Weights
- 56. Start over
- 57. Black Sea resort city
- 59. Wimbledon champ
- 60. Corporate executive (abbr.)
- 61. Unskilled actor who overacts
- 62. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- 63. Of or relating to ears

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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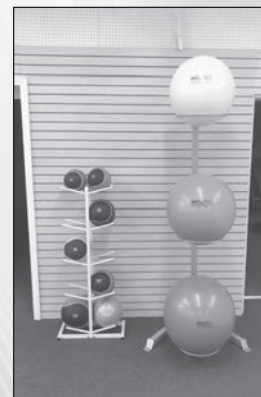
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Residents vent over cable at hearing

SOUTHBRIDGE – Several years worth of complaints about Charter/Spectrum's service in town bubbled up last week as Town Manager Michael McCall hosted a public hearing regarding the ongoing cable contract renewal process.

At the start, McCall noted the point of the hearing was to get input on whether Charter has complied with the current 10-year contract and what needs a renewal should address. Although federal law tries to “ensure there's not a monopoly over cable,” he said “there's a presumption of renewal.”

New companies can, in theory, bid to come into town, but would have to buy the existing transmission lines and related hardware or build their own, he noted. In practice, Charter bought several smaller firms years ago and have a de facto local monopoly, although residents can get satellite service and one hearing participant noted there's been talk of Verizon's FIOS service coming to the Hotel. McCall said Southbridge is

shown on Verizon's map as unserved territory.

He said he has already received the cable access committee's proposed operating budget, which grows from \$237,000 to \$246,000 over the next three years. Beyond that, they seek various capital upgrades, including six mobile cameras, new cameras for the Council chambers and studio lights. All of those things are funded by Charter subscribers, not local taxes, with capital money coming twice during the contract period and operating funds coming annually from 5 percent of Charter's gross revenue.

Several people attending the hearing, and one who emailed into it, complained about various service issues from the company, but nobody from the company attended to respond to those issues. (McCall said a Charter person was there as a stenographer.)

Helen Boyle was the most vocal of them, saying she's “had nothing but issues,” requiring many calls to the

firm to fix them but constantly rising bills. She said she had 10 technicians visit her home in the past year “constantly trying to figure it out.”

“My opinion is that Charter is too big for their britches,” she said, later adding, “I've gone to Charter's corporate office and nothing was done.”

Former Councilor Denise Clemence, who recently joined the cable committee, noted the town can take action if it receives written complaints, but it rarely gets them and has not been very good at enforcing the contract for years. After eight complaints in any year, the firm is supposed to send a senior engineer to town to address them. She said the enforcement language has been largely the same since the 1980s, as are the reports Southbridge should be getting from them regarding complaints and other issues.

McCall said he has requested those reports.

To her, one issue needing addressing is that “They've piggybacked their [phone and internet] services on our license without compensation to us.” Those both drew some complaints during the hearing, but are technically not covered by the town's licensing contract. She also noted the town has the right to hold annual performance reviews with a Charter representative present, “but I've never seen that done.”

A couple of attendees raised concerns about the fact Charter closed its local office last year. They cited two alternatives: having the contract require restoring it or at least having Charter visit a public location in town on a regular basis to provide similar customer service and bill payment.

One also suggested having the cables buried to reduce weather-related issues and wondered if the negotiations could be used to introduce senior, low income, “bun-

dled service” and other discounts. Clemence noted there is one – 10 percent off basic cable for seniors – but it's “just not a very good benefit.”

Since the contract creates three local channels – public, educational and government – School Committee Chair Martena Shea said she feels the schools should get some of the equipment. Cable staffer Max Gullekson said they split the \$200,000 capital budget roughly in thirds to do that; during the last cycle, it built the high school studio. Clemence agreed, noting the contract calls for “four absolutes” as sites for live broadcast – Town Hall, Library, old High School and the Middle/High School – but some have disappeared “without really any notice.”

Cable Director James Cosgrove noted they have been having issues with the educational station, which is largely out of commission right now. “They have been working on it, but have had a few setbacks,” including the fact the teacher in charge of the studio there has been largely focused on troubleshooting issues with remote classes.

One speaker was generally positive, at least about Charter's internet service.

“Overall, they've done a good job, but there are some underlying quality of service issues,” Patrick Hurley said, noting “I live and die with my internet connection.”

He urged Southbridge to work with other communities because “a stronger voice could be made collectively,” adding that it could also do a better job of educating the public about the importance of submitting written complaints to the Manager's office.

McCall said some of these concerns have already been raised with the attorney working on the new contract, but the town and Charter have not yet met face to face.

Karen Maloney-Hagel earns Ameriprise Client Experience Award

WORCESTER — Karen Maloney-Hagel, CRPC®, CLTC®, CDFA® a Private Wealth Advisor with Ameriprise Financial has earned the 2020 Ameriprise Client Experience Award.

This award was given to Karen Maloney-Hagel because her ability to consistently deliver personalized, goal-based advice and exceptional client service. Award recipients earned an overall client satisfaction rating equal to or greater than 4.9 out of 5.0* and maintained stellar business results. The award represents an elite group of Ameriprise advisors recognized as leaders for their commitment to making a difference in the lives of their clients. Less than 15% percent of Ameriprise practices have earned this distinct

honor.

As a Private Wealth Advisor, Karen Maloney-Hagel provides financial advice that is anchored in a solid understanding of client needs and expectations and is delivered in one-on-one relationships with her clients. For more information, please contact Karen Maloney-Hagel at 508-796-0083 or visit the Ameriprise office at 324 Grove St., Worcester.

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Candidate must be an honorably discharged veteran. High school graduate; four years of supervisory experience in the field of veteran benefit administration or social work, or an equivalent combination of education and experience. Annual stipend of \$3,900.

For complete job description go to www.brimfieldma.org under job opportunities on the Board of Selectmen’s page. Please apply by sending a letter of interest and resume to the Board of Selectmen, Town of Brimfield, 23 Main Street, Brimfield, MA 01010 or to selectmen@brimfieldma.org by April 23, 2021 or until position is filled. Brimfield is an equal opportunity employer.

Posted: March 31, 2021

Cornerstone Bank to award \$2,000 scholarships

SOUTHBRIDGE — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with 12 locations throughout central Massachusetts, will be awarding 16 \$2,000 scholarships to students in the area it serves. Cornerstone Bank is hoping to help 2021 high school graduates throughout their community pursue higher education and foster advancement in the fields of business and finance. The sixteen scholarships will be awarded to the students who best demonstrate achievement in academics, extracurricular activities and community involvement.

“Making sure the future leaders of America get a great education is so important to us at Cornerstone Bank,” said CEO Todd Tallman. “We are excited to be able to help students achieve their dreams every year to go into the business or finance industries. Access to a good education can be difficult for many students, especially with how difficult this past year has been, so we hope the help we are able to provide to this group of graduates helps them to reach their goals.”

To apply for a scholarship, the student must:

- Be a 2021 high school graduate
- Reside within 10 miles of a Cornerstone Bank branch or office
- Anticipate being a full-time student at an accredited, degree-granting institution of higher education
- Anticipate studying in a business or financial field
- Demonstrate achievement and high standards in academics, extracurricular activities, and community involvement
- Submit an official transcript and GPA from their guidance office

In addition, the student must choose one of the following prompts and submit a one-page typed essay:

1. Are there any challenges you have had to overcome in your high school career?
OR
2. What are your goals for the future, and how will this scholarship assist you in meeting them?

Applications must be submitted or postmarked to Cornerstone Bank by April 5. Please send all applications to scholarships@cornerstonebank.com, or mail to Cornerstone Bank Scholarship Committee: P.O. Box 370, Southbridge, MA, 01550. Selected recipients will be announced by the week of May 24. Scholarship funds will be disbursed to the student after successful completion of the first semester, and upon presentation of an official copy of the first semester transcript and second semester bill.

For more information, and to download the application form, please visit <https://cornerstonebank.com/scholarships/>.

About Cornerstone Bank

Cornerstone Bank is an independent, mutual savings bank serving residents, businesses and communities throughout Central Massachusetts. Our customer promise, Built on Trust, is not just a brand, but also a corporate focus. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone Bank rests on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. Deposits are insured in full by a combination of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Depositors Insurance Fund. The Bank is an Equal Opportunity Employer, Equal Housing Lender and SBA Preferred Lender. To learn about Cornerstone Bank’s personal and business banking offerings, please visit cornerstonebank.com or call 800-939-9103.

LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE
INVITATION TO BID
TOWN OF CHARLTON
DPW MATERIALS & SERVICES

Sealed bids, appropriately marked will be publicly opened and read in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, Municipal Office Building, 37 Main Street, Charlton MA 01507 on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. for the following DPW materials which will be used on approximately 10,000 linear feet of road surface.

1. Bituminous concrete, Type I, in place (**Must be pre-qualified**)
2. Full Depth Pavement Reclamation (Calcium Chloride) (**Must be pre-qualified**) all grading included.
3. Stone Seal, Double Stone Seal & 10% Asphalt Rubber Surface Treatment (**Must be pre-qualified**).

This is a state funded project that exceeds \$50,000.00, therefore, all

contractors intending to bid on Item 1 – Bituminous concrete, Type I, in place and Item 2 – Scarifying and pulverizing in place asphalt pavement, all grading included and Item 3 - Stone Seal, Double Stone Seal & 10% Asphalt Rubber Surface Treatment, **must be pre-qualified** by the Contract Engineer, Room 7373, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116. With submission of the properly executed “Approval for Proposal Form” to the office of the Town Administrator, Municipal Office Building, 37 Main Street, Charlton MA 01507, the prospective bidder will be entitled to a non-transferable proposal package. Prospective bidders must obtain and utilize the bid package. The Town Administrator in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, Municipal Office Building, 37 Main Street, Charlton MA 01507, must receive sealed bids,

no later than **Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.** **Each item shall be clearly marked in a separate envelope as to which category the bidder has chosen**, i.e. “Item 1 - Bituminous concrete, Type I, in place”. Any deviations from Massachusetts General Laws, Massachusetts Highway Department requirements and proposal stipulations will result in an automatic disqualification from the bidding process.

This bid is advertised under Chapter 30; Section 39M, Chapter 149, Section 26 – 27F of the M.G.L., in reference to the prevailing wage rates. All road material work and materials shall conform to the requirements of the Massachusetts Highway Department Standard Specifications for Highways, Bridges and Waterways. All bids must be submitted under Chapter 30, Section 39M, which re-

quires a **bid deposit in the form of a bid bond**. The amount of such bid deposit shall be five per cent of the value of the bid.

Within ten days of the notification of award, the contractor is required to provide a security bond under section twenty-nine of Chapter One Hundred and Forty Nine, for 50% of the contract award

All bids are effective April 21, 2021 and expire April 2022.

Any questions should be directed to Gerry Foskett, DPW Superintendent at 508-248-2212.

The Town Administrator reserves the right to waive any minor informality in the bids and reject any or all bids and to make awards in a manner deemed to be in the best interest of the Town.

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April 9, 2021



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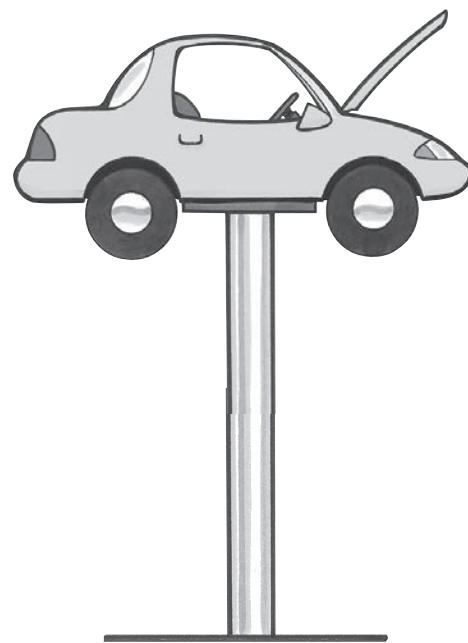
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EDITORIAL

The power of positivity

Every day, we wake up with the best intentions — or we like to think that most of us do. Each new day brings with it specific challenges. Many times, those challenges come by way of a misunderstanding or a shifted perspective. We have come to realize, long ago, that often there is more to a story than we can see at its surface. Just being aware of that one simple fact, can change the way a situation is viewed. Often times it's easier said than done, however the more we choose to remain optimistic the better. What might seem catastrophic in the moment is usually nothing more than a small frustration that has an easy fix and will pass. A wise man once said, 'Don't sweat the small stuff, and it's all small stuff.'

This isn't to negate the fact that larger issues do surface and take some time to sort out, however we need to remind ourselves that we are all surrounded by well intended, intelligent people. People who are willing to be helpful, generous, rational and kind through productive conversations will always find the pot of gold in any situation.

Remembering to check a knee-jerk reaction before gathering all of the facts is crucial to your ability to remain optimistic. Again, this is not always easy, but once mastered can change everything.

Believe it or not, optimism is a choice and offers surprising benefits. Choosing to look on the bright side of life can lower your risk of heart disease and stroke while also extending your life.

One study revealed that individuals who spent five minutes a day thinking positive thoughts about their future increased their ability to be optimistic in just two weeks. Before turning in at night, list five things that you are grateful for and five things that you are looking forward to. Every time you stop at a traffic light, tell yourself something that you like about yourself. Keeping pessimists in your life at a distance is always a good idea.

When a negative thought does creep through your mind, that's ok. Recognize it, and decide how realistic it actually is. To offset those thoughts, try spreading positivity yourself. While at work, offer a co-worker an 'atta boy' or 'atta girl' for a job well done. If your child has been hard at work on a school project, tell them how proud you are. Send a letter to someone who has had a positive impact on your life. When you bestow positivity on others, it has a lasting effect on your own life.

One way to practice being more optimistic is to flip every negative thought with a positive one despite how creative you need to get. For example, if you're thinking 'I'm going to be late for dinner and I don't feel like cooking' you can flip that by reminding yourself about the wonders of the microwave and take out. If a rainy day has you feeling groggy, remind yourself that those are the best days to read all day, catch up on Netflix and not feel guilty about missing all of that sunshine.

A quote from Rodolfo Costa, "Learn to adapt. Things change, circumstances change. Adjust yourself and your efforts to what it is presented to you so you can respond accordingly. Never see change as a threat, because it can be an opportunity to learn, to grow, evolve and become a better person."

OPINION

VIEWS AND COMMENTARY FROM STURBRIDGE, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND AND WALES

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Megan Panek deserves your vote

To the Editor:

I have been very fortunate in my life to be surrounded by people, and more specifically, women, who inspire me to be a better person, mother, professional, and member of the Sturbridge Community. One of those people is Megan Haggerty Panek. I write this today because she is running for election to the Tantasqua School Committee, and I ask that you give her your vote at the upcoming Town Election on April 12. Megan has the qualifications, knowledge, dedication, and passion to serve us well on the Tantasqua School Committee.

I have known Megan for many years. I can remember early in our friendship her interest in public service and local issues. She turned that interest into experience and dedication when she won a seat on the Burgess School Committee approximately 10 years ago. While serving on the BSC, she voted on school budgets and school contracts. She has not shied away from expressing her thoughts and concerns. She is also not afraid to ask the tough questions all with the intent of making the best decisions for the Burgess Community, including both the teachers and the students. As a BSC member, she has showed time and time again that she is an advocate for the Sturbridge Educational System even if some of her decisions have not been "popular" ones. Now that her children are getting older and moving onto the Tantasqua School District, she wants to take her knowledge, experience, and dedication to the Tantasqua School Committee. There is no doubt she is the right fit at this time for a seat on the TSC.

Megan has children currently in our school system - children who are being educated during a COVID pandemic. She knows firsthand the issues and struggles parents face as we seek to provide an education for our children, while also keeping them physically and mentally well. It is this first-hand experience that sets her apart from the other candidates and is what we need right now and going forward. Please allow her to take her knowledge, experience, dedication, and passion to the TSC. I ask that you elect her to the Tantasqua School Committee on April 12.

Very truly yours,

Kelli E. Gunagan
Sturbridge

Car Care and Tips

Spring has spring, and few simple pleasures compare to cruising down the highway with the fresh springtime breeze blowing in the open window. But do you really know how much that joyride is costing you in gas? And are you sure your tires are giving you your money's worth? For answers to these questions, along with some springtime car washing tips, read on!

Do you love highway driving with the wind whipping at your hair? If so, it's a pleasure you'll pay for. Did you know driving with your windows all the way down at higher speeds, will waste 10 percent more gallons of gas than driving with them closed? The drag will cost you more in fuel, so avoid cranking the windows completely until you're at a slower pace.

If your car has cruise control feature, use it. Not only will you give your accelerating foot a rest, you'll save money too! Using cruise control will save you 5 to 10 percent of a gallon of gas on long trips!

Want to conserve more gas? Just use the overdrive shift as soon as your speed is high enough. It also acts as a fuel saver.

Keeping tires properly inflated and aligned equals gas savings. Periodic wheel alignments and keeping tires inflated to the maximum recommended pressure really does improve your gas mileage, according to experts.

According to a major tire company approximately one third of all tires on the road are under inflated.. These tires not only wear out quicker and but they are more at risk for a blow out. Since tires lose air at a rate of about a pound a month, it pays to periodically check your tires

Not sure how to rotate your tires? According to the experts, radial tires can be crossed from side to side in the rotation pattern. Bias ply tires should never be rotated from side to side, only front to back.

Confused when it comes to using your car air conditioner efficiently? Memorize this mantra: In town, turn it down; going fast, let it blast! According to cooling experts, when traveling 45 mph or less, you should open the windows or vents to create a steady airflow that'll give your car a cool boost. When going faster than 45 mph, you should crank up the a/c instead. This method avoids the drag generated when windows are left open during high-speed travel.

Believe it or not, tires driven at 70 m.p.h. wear out almost twice as fast as cars that go 55 mph. So it really does pay to slow down!

Here are some tips for the do it yourself car washer:

Experts claim you should wash your car every ten days, and especially after it rains or snows. Waxing is recommended only every six months.

From Consumer Reports: When rinsing, use a hose without a nozzle and let the water flow over the car from top to bottom. This creates a sheeting action that helps minimize pooling of water.

Did you know more frequent waxes are needed if your car is red, black or white? The reason for this is because these colors are more susceptible to acid rain and UV rays. And one of the most critical times to wash your vehicle is immediately after a rainfall. Even after the lightest rain shower, the water evaporates, but the acid remains on the vehicle's finish.

When you wash your car, be sure to use a separate sponge to clean the wheels and tires. They may be coated with sand, brake dust, and other debris that could mar the car's finish.

Never wash your car when the body is hot, such as immediately after driving it or after it has been parked in direct sunlight for a while. Heat speeds the drying of soap and water, making washing more difficult and increasing the chances that spots or deposits will form.

If you need to get all the water off the car, try using your leaf blower. It will blast water from even the tiniest crevices.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

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

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

Is it time to begin stepping into the light of normalcy?

I think my life is forever changed, even though I'm not sure what that means. I believe the pandemic has had a profound and maybe permanent impact on my life. Around the time this shut down began, I received a serious health diagnosis. This one-two punch was powerful.

In the beginning, we only left our home for doctor visits and groceries. For Christmas, our daughter signed us up for Instacart, a shopping home

What is your new normal? It's your choice.

Turn To **MOORE**, page **A12**

Will investors change behavior after the pandemic?

FINANCIAL FOCUS

JEFF BURDICK

The COVID-19 pandemic may end up changing our lives in some significant ways. To cite one example, it's likely we'll see a lot more people continue to work remotely, now that they've seen the effectiveness of tools such as videoconferencing. Education, too, may be forever changed in some ways. Perhaps just as important, though, is how many people may now think more about the future – including how they invest.

If you work with a financial professional, you may have connected with this individual over the past several months through a videoconferencing platform, rather than in person. Some people like this arrangement because it offers more scheduling flexibility and eliminates the time and effort of traveling to and from an appointment. Others, however, still prefer face-to-face contact and look forward to when such arrangements will again be practical and safe for everyone involved. But if you're in the first group – that is, you prefer videoconferencing – you may now wish to use this communication method in the future, at least some of the time.

But beyond the physical aspects of your investing experience, you may now be looking at some changes in your investment strategy brought on, or at least suggested, by your reactions to the pandemic.

For example, many people – especially, but not exclusively, those whose employment was affected by the pandemic – found that they were coming up short in the area of liquidity. They didn't have enough easily accessible savings to provide them with the cash they needed to meet their expenses until their employment situations stabilized. Consequently, some individuals were forced to dip into their long-term investments, such as their 401(k)s and IRAs. Generally speaking, this type of move is not ideal – these accounts are designed for retirement, so, the more you tap into them early, the less you'll have available when you do retire. Furthermore, your withdrawals will likely be taxable, and, depending on your age, may also be subject to penalties.

If you were affected by this liquidity crunch, you can take steps now to avoid its recurrence. Your best move may be to build an emergency fund containing three to six months' worth of living expenses, with the funds held in a separate, highly accessible account of cash or cash equivalents. Of course, given your regular expenses, it may take some time to build such an amount, but if you can commit yourself to putting away a certain amount of money each month, you will make progress. Even having a few hundred dollars in an emergency fund can help create more financial stability.

Apart from this new appreciation for short-term liquidity, though, the foundation for your overall financial future should remain essentially the same. In addition to building your emergency fund, you should still contribute what you can afford to your IRA, 401(k) and other retirement plans. If you have children you want to send to college, you might still explore college-funding vehicles such as a 529 plan. Higher education will still be expensive, even with an expansion in online learning programs.

Post-pandemic life may contain some differences, along with many similarities to life before. But it will always be a smart move to create a long-term financial strategy tailored to your individual needs, goals and risk tolerance.

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

It's almost turkey time



THE GREAT
OUTDOORS
.....
RALPH
TRUE

Cool mornings had kept many anglers off of the water last week, but those that braved the cool temperatures did very well catching trout at many of the stocked trout waters, including rivers and streams. Wachusett Reservoir opened this past Saturday with many anglers catching their limits of lake trout as one of this week's pictures show. Most Lake Trout caught were two to three pounds, but some were a bit more impressive. Anglers are encouraged to retain their limits of lake trout, because of their high population in Wachusett Reservoir! Some of the lakers had perch, bass, and other fish in their stomachs when cleaned, causing concern about their huge appetite that could have a negative effect on other fish species in the Reservoir.

Wallum Lake opened this past Wednesday after a lot of confusion by Rhode Island's last-minute changes. The lake normally opens on the second Saturday of April each year, but because of the pandemic, Rhode Island decided to open the lake to fishing on April 7, this year. They were also not going to stock it with trout until a later date even though Mass. did a stocking prior to April 7. The Rhode Island Fish & Wildlife reversed their plans late last week, and announced that they were indeed going to stock trout prior to April 7. Wallum Lake regulations apply to the lake under an agreement with Massachusetts! The daily limit is five trout per angler, and can be legally fished with a Rhode



Courtesy

Mike Daniels and Pete Walker with lake trout from Wachusett this past Saturday

Island license or Rhode Island fishing license.

Wild turkey hunting in Massachusetts is not far away. Zones 1-13 open to hunting this sharp-eyed bird, on April 24. Successful hunters need to get out early, and setup before daylight. Sitting in a ground blind that was often set up the day or two before opening day, will increase the hunter's odds of bagging a gobbler. Only tom birds (male) can be harvested during the spring hunting season. Sitting in a blind prior to daybreak offers the hunter the peaceful quiet start of the day. Watching numerous wild animals and birds can entertain the hunter as he waits patiently for the sound of female turkeys as they waken, and leave their roost. The sound of their wings flapping as

they glide down to the ground, can get the hunters heart pounding with excitement. It is not long before the gobble of a tom turkey breaks the still morning air.

They are next to fly down from there roost, often high from a big pine tree. Waiting patiently for the birds to make their way to a hunter's set of decoys can be frustrating, but patience often pays off. If the birds are silent for a few minutes,



Courtesy

Parker with a big rainbow out of west river.

I often give a light call on my diaphragm turkey call. It often gets the attention of the tom bird and he will quickly reply with a gobble. He will soon come looking for your hen turkey call. Suddenly, the movement of a white and red head appears 40 or 50 yards away in thick cover. He is coming!

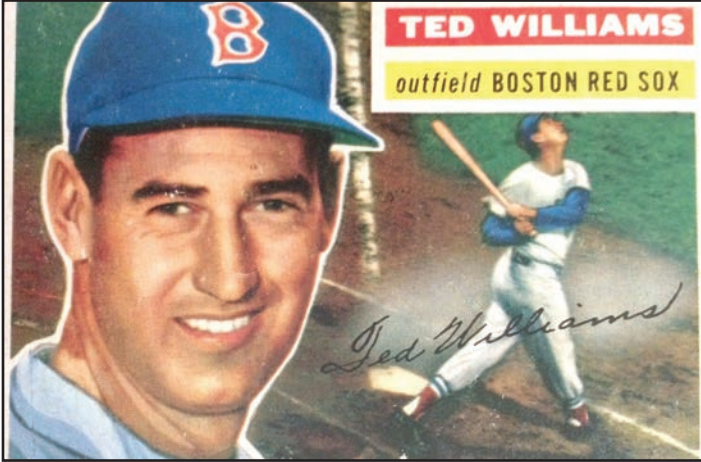
A couple of calls on your turkey

.....
Turn To **TRUE**, page **A12**

Sports cards are breaking records



ANTIQUES,
COLLECTIBLES
& ESTATES
.....
WAYNE
TUISKULA



In my last column, I reported on the Tom Brady rookie card that was nearing \$2 million in an online auction. The bidding ended on April 2, with the rare card selling for \$2.2 million. While there aren't many cards worth millions of dollars, auction prices for cards overall have skyrocketed during the pandemic. Many cards have more than doubled or tripled in value over the past year.

A February Chicago Tribune article cites multiple reasons for the current sports card boom. "Some industry analysts see pandemic stay-at-home boredom as fueling a resurgence of interest, as parents rediscover the hobby and share it with their children," according to the Tribune. They also report, "investors who saw big returns on the stock market last year also have begun to buy into trading cards as an alternative to equities, pumping up prices for the cardboard commodity."

Prices in almost every type of sports card and non-sports card category are seeing strong results. An unopened 1973 Topps wax pack of cards recently sold for \$780. A high grade 1976 Topps Walter Payton Rookie Card #148 went for \$800. An average grade tobacco card of Ty Cobb recently brought \$3,250. Despite being in altered condition, a 1951 Bowman Mickey Mantle Rookie still sold for \$7,100.

PSA (Professional Sports Authenticator) is the most popular card grading company. Their business has increased so much that they reported grading turnaround times were taking up to nine months. They recently put all submissions completely on hold until

they can catch up on some of the backlog. Polygon.com (a video game website) reports that Pokémon cards are partially responsible for the backlog at PSA. Believe it or not, rare 1990s Pokémon hologram cards in near perfect condition can bring six figure sums.

So, will card prices continue to increase? There is no way to say for sure, but the late 1980s and early 1990s saw a card boom similar to what we are experiencing today. To keep up with the demand during that time, companies such as Topps, Fleer and Upper Deck drastically increased production. The demand dried up in the early 1990s. Many people who bought those cards as an investment are still sitting on boxes of nearly worthless cards. It may be the right time to sell your cards now before values decline again.

We will soon be offering an online auction of a large collection of sports and non-sports cards from a Holliston, Mass. estate. Our next session of model railroad trains, die-cast cars, model kits and other toys will also soon be running online. Our multi-estate with jewelry, coins, paintings, more sports cards, and a wide variety of other items takes place in May. Keep watching www.centralmassauctions.com for details on all of these events or use the email signup form on our homepage to be notified of all upcoming events.

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

Grow stevia – nature's sweetener



GARDEN
MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA
MYERS

Sweeten your meals by growing your own sugar substitute in gardens or containers. Stevia is nature's own sweetener that can be snacked upon fresh or added to soups, sauces, or beverages.

Wait for warm nights and the danger of frost to pass before planting stevia outdoors. It is a perennial in USDA zones 8 and warmer, but those gardening in colder areas must grow stevia like an annual.

Start plants from seed, cuttings, or transplants. Seeds are difficult to find and even more difficult to sprout. Use this method if you like a gardening challenge.

Reduce your effort and increase success by starting with transplants. Check garden centers and mail order catalogs for plants. Place Stevia plants 12 inches apart in full sun or light shade with moist well-drained soils. You will get the best growth and most leaves during the long warm days of summer.

Incorporate a low nitrogen slow-release fertilizer in the soil or potting mix at planting. These provide small amounts of nutrients over a long period of time. Make a second application midseason if needed.

Water new plantings often enough to keep the roots and surrounding soil slightly moist. Gradually extend the time between watering. Thoroughly water whenever the top few inches of soil are crumbly and slightly moist. Spread a layer of evergreen needles, shredded leaves, or other organic matter over the soil surface. Mulching helps conserve moisture, suppress weeds, and improve the soil, reducing your time weeding and watering.

Harvest leaves as needed for sweetening your dishes. Munching on a single leaf can help suppress a sweet craving. You may be able to pass on a candy bar and go for a healthier option.

Wait for cool short days at the end of the growing season when the sweetness is most intense to make large harvests for drying. You can dry in a microwave, dehydrator, or a warm dark location in your home. Cut, bundle, and hang stems upside down to air dry. Knock leaves off the stem and save the dried leaves in an airtight jar. Grind the leaves by hand or use a coffee grinder to crush the leaves and release the sweetness. Dried leaves stored in an airtight jar will last for several years.

You can grow stevia indoors in a bright sunny window or under artificial lights. Purchase plants or start your own from cuttings. Check plants often and water thoroughly when the top few inches of soil is starting to dry. Fertilize with a dilute solution of any fertil-



Melinda Myers

Stevia, nature's own sweetener, can be grown indoors or out as long as the plants receive proper care.

izer labeled for use on indoor edible plants. Harvest the leaves as needed to sweeten your favorite dishes.

Growing stevia indoors or out can add flavor to your beverages and meals and fun to your gardening experience.

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

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SCIENCE FACT:

THIS OCCURS WHEN WATER DROPLETS CONDENSE ON ONE ANOTHER, CAUSING THEM TO GROW AND BECOME HEAVY.

ANSWER: RAIN

Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-8.
The numbers in each row add up to the totals to the right.
The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

	5		8
3	0		11
7		6	17
11	9	16	

9	4	7
8	0	3
2	5	1

Solution

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1865: GEN. ROBERT E. LEE SURRENDERS TO GEN. ULYSSES S. GRANT AT APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE.
- 1939: CONTRALTO MARIAN ANDERSON GIVES A CONCERT AT THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL.
- 1963: WINSTON CHURCHILL BECOMES THE FIRST HONORARY U.S. CITIZEN.

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

PRLIA WSRHSOE

Answer: April Showers



DOWNPOUR
heavy rainfall

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Rain

SPANISH: Lluvia

ITALIAN: Pioggia

FRENCH: Pluie

GERMAN: Regen

Did you know?

MAWSYNRAM, INDIA IS ONE OF THE WETTEST PLACES ON EARTH. THIS REGION RECEIVES THE HIGHEST RAINFALL IN INDIA. THE MAJORITY OF ITS RAIN FALLS DURING THE MONSOON SEASON.

GET THE PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: RAIN BOOTS

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QCC offers information session for Becker students

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College will host a virtual information session for Becker College students on Thursday, April 8, 4 – 5 p.m. The session offers current Becker students information on how to transfer into QCC. Prospective Becker students are also invited to join.

QCC recently signed a transfer agreement and memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Becker College to assist current Becker students in transferring into the College to continue their studies. The agreement is for all current Becker students in programs transferable into QCC's comparable programs that include:

- Associate Degree in Business Administration Transfer
- Associate Degree in Criminal Justice
- Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education
- Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education Birth – Eight Years Old (Evening Only)
- Associate Degree Nurse

Education

“We will do everything we can to assist Becker students in navigating these uncharted waters. We are waiving our application fees for these students, and QCC/Becker transfer specialists will assist in providing them with the supports they need to succeed,” said QCC President Luis G. Pedraja, Ph.D. “Starting in the fall, we are offering in-person classes, as well as three different types of remote learning modalities, designed to meet each student’s unique learning style.”

At QCC, students can attend for free by qualifying for financial aid, and the College has increased its financial support to students during the pandemic, with more than \$3 million in emergency aid from federal, state and institutional funds. QCC’s Student Emergency Fund is also available to current students in significant hardship due to the pandemic, regardless of citizenship, residency or enrollment status.

Students can start at QCC then transfer their credits into a Bachelor

degree program, through transfer agreements with a vast array of colleges and universities, saving them thousands.

“QCC has been a smarter option in higher education for so many in the region. We look forward to Becker students realizing the opportunities that are afforded to them here,” President Pedraja said.

Registration is required to attend the information session. For more information, and to register, visit <https://www.QCC.edu/becker>.

For more information about QCC, contact Josh Martin, Director of Institutional Communications at 508-854-7513 or jmartin@qcc.mass.edu.

QCC students encourage community to get vaccinated

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College is taking to the airways to deliver an important message to students and the community-at-large: Get vaccinated.

The College has put together an informational website, with a series of public service videos from QCC students in English, Spanish, Arabic, Russian, Vietnamese, and Albanian. The videos are designed to engage, inform and encourage people to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

In addition to the videos, the Web site includes information about the vaccine in English, Spanish and Vietnamese, as well as vaccination locations and eligibility phases.

“These public service announce-

ments are designed to help increase the dissemination of accurate information about the COVID-19 vaccines. Let’s all get vaccinated as soon as we are eligible. The vaccines have been shown to be highly effective, and the faster we get vaccinated when eligible, the more we can begin to do some of the things we did prior to the pandemic,” said President Luis. G. Pedraja, Ph.D.

To learn more about the vaccine and clinic locations visit www.QCC.edu/C19VAXFACTS

For more information about QCC, contact Josh Martin, Director of Institutional Communications at 508-854-7513 or jmartin@qcc.mass.edu.

4 tips for backyard barbecue success

When the weather warms up, the opportunities to enjoy more time outdoors increase. For many people that means firing up the grill to cook dinners in the backyard and also to host friends and family for outdoor gatherings around the patio.

Barbecuing is enjoyed around the world and is especially popular in the United States, where even presidents have touted the virtues of cooking outside. Lyndon B. Johnson, Jimmy Carter and even Ronald Regan hosted barbecues with tasty grilled or smoked food during their terms.

Barbecues are especially popular in spring and summer. Memorial Day often marks the unofficial kickoff to the summer barbecue season. After Memorial Day weekend, the smell of barbecue often can be detected on a nightly basis in suburban neighborhoods. Follow these tips to make backyard barbecues even more successful this year.

1. Make food safety a priority. A successful barbecue is one in which everyone goes home sated and stuffed with delicious foods. However, ensuring people don’t fall ill also is vital. Keep in mind that the temperature outdoors impacts the rate of spoilage for raw and cooked foods. Always keep hot foods hot and cold foods cold (place items on ice or in coolers). The Food and Drug Administration, advises moving leftovers indoors promptly and discarding any items that have been sitting outside for longer than two hours at room temperature. Items should be moved indoors or discarded even more quickly in especially hot conditions.

2. Learn how to smoke. Grilling is one skill, and smoking is another. As the popularity of food smokers has increased, prices have come down.

Novices can visit barbecue competitions and talk to professionals about their tips for smoking foods, or learn more by watching tutorials online. Smoked foods take a lot of time to cook, allowing hosts an opportunity to mingle with guests.

3. Keep things simple. Serve only a handful of items to cut down on the amount of preparation required. Two main proteins and maybe three side dishes is adequate. Chips or other pre-made snacks can fit the bill. Condensing options also reduces how much you have to manage. Be sure to have options for those with food allergies or intolerances when planning the menu.

4. Set up clusters of seating. Grouping sets of chairs at tables around the yard encourages guests to mingle. Also, it helps space out people for social distancing and avoids a bottleneck around the food.

Make the most of barbecue season by embracing strategies to be successful hosts and hostesses.



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OBITUARIES

Nancy Lee Talbert, 77

Nancy Lee Talbert, 77, of Brimfield, MA passed away peacefully surrounded by her family at home on March 27, 2021 after a courageous battle with cancer. She was born on April 30, 1943 in Kernersville, North Carolina to the late Henry and Essie (Peeples) West.

Nancy's hobbies were Bingo and Yahtzee with friends and family.

Nancy will be missed by all who knew her, including her loving sister, Shirley Locklear of Brimfield; her many nieces and nephews; as well as her dear friend Donna Hilt of Palmer.



In addition to her parents, she is predeceased by her husband, Sherman Talbert; her three sisters Mary Ann, Alice Faye, Ila Mae, as well as her brother Henry "Junior".

Visitation was held on Monday, April 5, 2021 from 1:00pm-3:00pm at Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home, 1475 N. Main St. Burial will be private and at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 22478 Oklahoma City, OK 73123 or by visiting www.cancer.org

MOORE

continued from page A8

delivery service and I haven't been into a grocery store since Dec. 23.

I wear a mask out of the house always and when I visit the hospital for chemo/immunotherapy treatment, I add a face shield. I wash my hands and never pass a hand sanitizer opportunity. When the pizza man comes, he leaves it on the porch, rings the doorbell and leaves.

I realize my life has been reduced to an exceedingly small size. Partly out of necessity. Partly from following the alleged science that seems to change before our very eyes... and partly... maybe mostly... out of fear. I think many Americans are frightened because the available info changes within the moment and we really do not know what the healthy and safe protocols are.

"Masks don't work"... wait... "Masks do work and are mandatory"... wait... "one mask doesn't work, so wear two"... "After vaccination, masks won't be required"... wait... "Masks should be worn into 2022 and maybe beyond." Here's the real kicker... "Follow the science!"... wait... But we've learned that we really have been ignoring the science when it comes to schools and the classroom. Instead, the teacher's unions are leading the way with no scientific basis at all.

Who do we listen to? Who do we believe? Who do we trust? No wonder so many are frightened.

I believe most health officials and politicians continue to act on the best information they have. I'm not a conspiracy theorist and refuse to buy into that brand of anguish. Has the virus been politicized? Of course. It's an unfortunate part of our democratic system. I think most can see through and past it. Are we safe? Will we be again? Were we ever?

I'm told that until we achieve eighty-percent herd immunity there are still risks, but again, I'm tired of living my life waiting for the next health directive. Arlene and I are vaccinated. It was an easy decision for us. Being vaccinated makes sense to us and we are happy with our choice. I don't know what to say to the anti-vaccination crowd. I have two friends who are dead from Covid. One died early in the pandemic and one in February. It's real. It's not going away soon. We all must make our choices based

TRUE

continued from page A9

call has the big tom responding with a series of raspy gobbles. Time to get your gun in position for a shot. If you are in a ground blind movement to get ready for the shot is easy, but if you are sitting in camouflage on the ground, your movement of any kind could be noticed by the turkeys keen eye sight, and the hunt will be over very quickly, as the bird heads into the opposite direction. Taking aim at the head of the turkey will often insure a quick kill. Carefully squeezing the trigger, the discharge of the shotgun echoes through the valley in the crisp morning air.

upon our personal research, beliefs and needs. I'll encourage all to be vaccinated but will also respect your choice regardless. Do your research and take the proper precautions to protect you and others.

The late, great Vince Lombardi said, "Fatigue makes cowards of us all," and I think most of us are fatigued by this pandemic. Get out. Take a breath of fresh air. Do not be afraid.

I do believe it's time to step out of the darkness of fear and into the light.

For Arlene and me, it's time to take our lives back and we started by going grocery shopping and a visit to Staples. Small steps but positive steps towards normalcy.

I began by asking, "What is your new normal?"

It's our choice to make. I'll wear a mask, but I'm not putting on a second. I'll social distance but I'm going to start living my life outside of our home. I can go into the store and pick up my groceries. I can greet friends. Maybe I'll bump fists for a while rather than shaking hands. I'll be cautious. I won't act stupidly or irresponsibly but I will no longer allow the fear to determine my actions nor rule my life. We have a finite number of minutes on this earth, and we plan on living them, unafraid and with family and friends.

I encourage you to properly protect yourself and others, then do the same. Step out of the darkness of fear into the bright light of life. Walk in the sun. Say hi to your neighbors. Catch up with each other and once again, breathe in the fresh air of life. Hug your family. Eat in your favorite restaurant. See a friend you have not seen in a year. Make up for lost time.

When the nurse put that needle in my arm for the second vaccination, I felt like screaming "Freedom!" I felt like I was given my life back.

Southwest Airlines has a tag line where there is a 'ding' and a flight attendant says, "Your free to move around the country."

It's time. I hope to see you outside!

Gary W. Moore is a freelance columnist, speaker, and author of three books including the award-winning, critically acclaimed, "Playing with the Enemy." Follow Gary on Twitter @GaryWMoore721 and at www.gary-wmoore.com.

The smell of gunpowder is also in the air, and if you made a good shot, your reward of a tom turkey lays motionless 20 or so yards from your blind. Your heart is still racing, and the excitement of the hunt still has an effect on your body. Time to exit the blind and rush over to the bird. Filling out your harvest report and permit and then attaching it to the bird should be done. Even the simple task of filling out your permit is often complicated by the adrenalin rush of shooting your bird. If you do not experience all of the above-mentioned reactions to your body, you should find another sport.

Take a Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

CABINETMAKING SHOP

continued from page A1

communities.

"The story of cabinetmaking in rural New England deserves to be told," said Brock Jobe, Old Sturbridge Village Trustee and Professor Emeritus of American Decorative Arts at the Winterthur Museum, Garden, and Library. "And most importantly, the hundreds and thousands of visitors who come to Old Sturbridge Village every year deserve the opportunity to see, hear, and touch an activity that was central to life in America for centuries – the fine craft of woodworking."

Costumed interpreters will construct the shop during the days that the Village is open; Campus Operations staff will continue the

work on days when Old Sturbridge Village is closed. Many elements of the final Cabinetmaking Shop will be created by craftsmen and interpretive staff working in the Village, including reproduction period tools, doors, shelves, and the box stove. The large timbers for the construction of the shop were also cut by the Village Sawmill. Old Sturbridge Village plans to host a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new Cabinetmaking Shop in the fall.

"We are excited for the opportunity to share the process of the cabinetmaking shop construction with our visitors," said President and CEO, Jim Donahue. "We look forward to the completion of the new building and bringing back this historic trade to Old Sturbridge Village for many generations to come."

DOWNTOWN PROJECT

continued from page A1

That point was subject of one of the comments, from Councilor Gus Steeves. He noted many people now use Larochelle or Hook to North Street to avoid Main Street, and was concerned that the extension was too narrow.

Russell said that was intentional and it includes various "traffic-calming" devices. When the ongoing Main Street work, which includes retiming the traffic lights, is complete, he said he hopes it will flow better and "keep a fair amount of traffic on Main Street."

The other end of Larochelle features the project's most visible change – a non-circular roundabout intended to make traffic there safer. That's where the Hiker Monument now is, and the original plan was to move it to a point closer to Larochelle and Central. But Councilor Dave Adams noted the Veterans' Council is looking at redesigning Dresser Park to include the monument. DPW Director Heather Blakeley said she'd be willing to store the Hiker at the DPW Barn temporarily.

The plans call for closing Foster Street's northern end with a small parking lot and allowing only the trucks going to the Center of Hope to use the street itself at that point. Foster will formally end at North. Design work also takes into account the still-in-limbo idea of turning that stretch of the old railroad into rail trail.

Russell said the overall project has been in the works, in some fashion, since the Downtown Revitalization Plan of 2007. He noted the project will fix "several existing conditions," including the "high-crash location" at Foster/Hook/Central, a "lack of distinction between road-

BECKER

continued from page A3

auditors and other expert consultants, we concluded that this would be irresponsible and unsustainable over time. As devastating as closing this 237-year-old institution is, we want this closure process to be one that conveys the maximum possible respect and support for everyone whose lives and careers we know it will affect."

Becker's trustees remain in close communication with the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education, as well as the college's accreditation agencies.

To help answer questions from students, their families, and faculty members, the college has developed a specialized website. It includes information on applying to other

schools, transferring credits, and obtaining financial aid. Information is also provided for student-athletes who must plan for the next chapters of their careers.

Looking ahead, Becker officials said decisions on the future of the college's property and assets will be made in the coming months. Leicester officials are in the process of securing more information on the college's impending closure, which will inform discussions over the summer.

"The town certainly has interest in obtaining the title to the Town Common, much of which is currently owned by Becker," said Leicester Town Administrator David Genereux. "Beyond that, we have not had any discussions. I expect that they will take place in the coming months."

SOCIETY

continued from page A4

- Men's Cross Country and Track & Field
- Coley Hayes (Norwood, Mass.) - Field Hockey
- Lincoln Henry (Kingston, Jamaica)
- Men's Soccer
- Kylie Hill (Lunenburg, Mass.) - Women's Lacrosse
- Denise Hoxha (Worcester, Mass.) - Women's Volleyball
- Ryan James (Katy, Texas) - Men's Ice Hockey
- Calli Korbey (Hopkinton, Mass.) - Women's Basketball
- Alyson Langhorst (Natick, Mass.) - Women's Tennis
- Gigi LeMay (Grafton, Mass.) - Women's Basketball and Women's Golf
- Ann Maher (Mansfield, Mass.) - Field Hockey

- Charlotte Mullane (Sterling, Mass.) - Women's Tennis
- Cam Neary (Mansfield, Mass.) - Men's Golf
- Hannah Nolan (Pepperell, Mass.) - Women's Lacrosse
- Brendan O'Shea (Methuen, Mass.) - Baseball
- Alexander Papageorgiou (Tewksbury, Mass.) - Men's Soccer
- Emma Poplawski (Rowe, Mass.) - Women's Basketball
- Alessandro Romeo (Worcester, Mass.) - Men's Soccer
- Max Roth (Chicago, Ill.) - Men's Ice Hockey
- Gunther Stange (Niles, Ill.) - Men's Ice Hockey
- Logan Sylvester (Swansea, Mass.) - Football
- Leelle Tyler (Longmeadow, Mass.) - Women's Volleyball
- Sarah Ward (Townsend, Mass.) - Women's Volleyball

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Webster Lake - 100 Lakeside Ave

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Lake Shirley - 647 Reservoir Rd

SORRY, SOLD!

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OXFORD			
	March 2020	March 2021	Trend
Median Price	\$262,500	\$335,000	▲
Market Volume	\$1,692,400	\$3,787,000	▲
# of Homes Sold	7	11	▲
Avg Days on Market	44	21	▼
Month Supply Inv.	1.01	.66	▼

AUBURN			
	March 2020	March 2021	Trend
Median Price	\$274,000	\$357,100	▲
Market Volume	\$4,201,500	\$3,651,100	▼
# of Homes Sold	15	10	▼
Avg Days on Market	58	24	▼
Month Supply Inv.	.72	.33	▼


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Low-maintenance lawn alternatives

A traditional lawn may not be right for every property nor desired by every homeowner. There is no denying that lawns take time and effort to establish and daily or weekly maintenance to thrive. Homeowners who find that a traditional lawn is not practical can explore some low-maintenance alternatives.

Wildflower meadow

Homeowners with wide swaths of property may discover meadows are cost- and time-efficient. Stores sell special wildflower meadow mixes of seeds or homeowners can use wildflower plug plants throughout areas where grasses are left to grow longer. This natural area can be a home to wildlife and an idyllic backdrop to a home. Most meadows only require a spring or summer and autumn cut to thrive and look good.

Ornamental grasses

Partition areas of the property for ornamental grasses to grow. The gardening resource Elemental Green says ornamental grasses tend to be drought-resistant and low-maintenance. They won't need much fertil-



izer and are often resistant to pests as well. Ornamental grasses grow in tufts or sprays and will not require mowing. However, they are not ideal for areas that get foot traffic.

Moss

Moss can thrive in shady areas and ones where the soil tends to stay a bit damp. Moss is velvety soft and green, so it can mimic the look of a traditional lawn but won't require mowing and other upkeep. Because it spreads quickly, moss can take

over quite rapidly. You will need to protect areas where you do not want moss by creating barriers to stop spread.

Gravel

Stone and gravel areas can reduce maintenance in the landscape and require very little upkeep. When gravel is installed correctly, weeds may not grow readily. Gravel installation may include laying heavy-duty, semi-permeable landscape fabric, which is available in home improvement centers. Gravel is cheaper than pavers and can be just as beautiful.

Artificial turf

If the desired look is a lawn without all the upkeep, there are various artificial grass options on the market. Homeowners who opt for artificial turf can save money and space devoted to lawn mowers and other lawn tools.

Grass may be ideal for some, but there are alternatives for people who have troublesome landscapes or desire a low-maintenance product for their homes.

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How to respond to pesticide poisoning

Tending to a lawn and garden can be a great way to spend time in the great outdoors. It's also an enjoyable way to improve a home's curb appeal.

Though many homeowners prefer a wholly organic approach to lawn care and gardening, sometimes pests and other problems force people to apply pesticides around their properties. The application of pesticides can make homeowners, and anyone who spends time on their properties, including children, vulnerable to pesticide poisoning.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, people exposed to pesticides may exhibit a host of symptoms. External irritants that come into contact with the skin can cause redness, itching or pimples, and such substances also may contribute to allergic reactions marked by redness, swelling or blistering. Stinging and swelling in the mucous membranes of the eyes, nose, mouth, and throat also may occur after being exposed to pesticides.

Pesticides also can cause internal injuries to a person's organs, potentially leading to significant issues. The EPA notes that the lungs, stomach and nervous system all can be affected when pesticides are swallowed, inhaled or absorbed through the skin. People experiencing lung injuries after exposure to pesticides may experience shortness of breath, heavy salivation (drooling) or rapid breathing. Injuries to the stomach may lead to symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramps, or diarrhea. If the nervous system is affected by pesticide exposure, people may experi-



ence excessive fatigue, sleepiness, headache, muscle twitching, and numbness.

If pesticide poisoning is suspected, it's imperative that someone, be it the person who was poisoned, the parent of a child who may have been exposed or a medical professional treating the affected person, identify the type of poisoning that has occurred. That's because the EPA notes that the appropriate treatment will depend on the kind of poisoning that has occurred.

- **Chemical burn on skin:** If treating a chemical burn on the skin, the EPA advises drenching the skin with water for at least 15 minutes. All contaminated clothing should be removed and then skin and hair should be thoroughly

cleaned with soap and water.

- **Inhaled poison:** The response to an inhaled poison will depend on where the person is at the time of exposure. If outside, move the person away from any area recently treated with pesticide. If inside, move the person to fresh air immediately (doors and windows should ultimately be opened to reduce the risk of others being exposed). Contact the local fire department if you think you need a

respirator prior to helping the victim. If the victim is wearing tight clothing, loosen that clothing. Give artificial respiration to a victim whose skin is blue or if the victim has stopped breathing.

- **Substance in the eye:** If a poison has entered the eye, wash the eye quickly and gently with cool running water for 15 minutes or more. Use only water and do not use eye drops, chemicals or drugs. It's imperative that people act quickly if a substance has gotten into the eye, as membranes in the eyes act faster than in any other external part of the body, and eye damage can occur within minutes of exposure.
- **Substance on the skin:** Drench the skin with water for at least 15 minutes and then wash skin and hair thoroughly. Discard contaminated clothing or thoroughly wash it separate from other laundry.
- **Swallowed pesticide:** If a pesticide has been swallowed and the victim is still conscious, he or she should drink a small amount of water to dilute the pesticide. Only induce vomiting on the advice of a poison control center or physician.

Pesticide exposure can be very dangerous. It's imperative that people who plan to apply pesticides in their lawns and gardens learn how to respond if they or someone on their property is exposed to pesticides.



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Stephen, who has been around the business his entire life, has witnessed the growth of the Company and the evolution of the market. "There is a lot more competition than there once was, and you have to be able to compete with the constantly changing market and it's demands."

Whatever changes come their way, they plan on continuing with their solid reputation and work ethic in the years to come.

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