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Friday, November 26, 2021

# Charlton voters approve Amazon TIF Agreement



Photo Jason Bleau  
Brad Griggs of Amazon addresses citizens before a town vote concerning a TIF agreement between the company and Charlton.

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – After almost an hour of debate, voters in Charlton approved a Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) agreement with Amazon that project representatives said was a crucial piece of the company’s plans to build a \$300 million robotics sorting warehouse at 53 Sturbridge Rd.

Around 386 voters filed into the special town meeting on Monday, Nov. 15, and while several items were up for discussion throughout the evening, the Amazon project was clearly the main draw. The TIF Agreement proposed an \$11.6 million real estate tax break to Amazon over ten years. The project had crossed numer-

ous hurdles leading up to the TIF vote including voters approving amendments to zoning bylaws to accommodate the building height in May and receiving a special permit from the Planning Board earlier this month. Town Administrator Andrew Golas acknowledged that, as far as the town is concerned, the TIF agreement was the final step for Amazon to move forward with the project.

Brad Griggs, Amazon’s Economic Development Lead for the Northeast, presented his case before public discussion commenced.

“This facility is the most advanced type of facility in the Amazon network. This consideration this evening is a key component for our leadership to consider moving forward with

Please Read **TIF**, page **A5**

# Pintastic Pinball and Game Room Expo proudly welcomes Project Pinball charity

STURBRIDGE — Pintastic Pinball and Game Room Expo returns to the Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center Nov. 18-21. The family-friendly event includes over one hundred free-play pinball and arcade games, pinball tournaments, a Vendor Hall for games and parts, seminars, and a live band performance Saturday night. Joining in the fun and festivities, will be the amazingly dedicated team of Project Pinball Charity.

Pintastic Pinball and Game Room Expo is a proud sponsor of Project Pinball Charity as their designated charitable organization. Project Pinball Charity is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that places pinball machines in children’s hospitals and Ronald McDonald Houses nationwide. Since 2011, Project Pinball Charity has placed 57 pinball machines in 53 different children’s hospitals and Ronald McDonald Houses in 25 different states.

Providing recreational relief to patients, family members,

and hospital staff, Project Pinball Charity covers all cost and regular maintenance for the machines. Fundraising stays within the region where it is collected; so all funds collected during Pintastic Pinball and Game Room Expo this weekend will stay in the New England area. Project Pinball Charity is working with a multitude of different children’s hospitals and Ronald McDonald Houses across the country. They will be placing more pinball machines throughout the Northeast in the next few years.

Representatives from Project Pinball Charity will be in attendance and have a space in the Vendor Hall. Anyone with any contacts in children’s hospitals, Ronald McDonald House or other medical center, are encouraged to reach out to Project Pinball Charity at [projectpinballcharity@gmail.com](mailto:projectpinballcharity@gmail.com) or visit their website for more information: [Projectpinball.org](http://Projectpinball.org).

Please Read **XXX**, page **A3**

# Country Bank, Old Sturbridge Village deliver Thanksgiving meals to those in need

STURBRIDGE — Once again, Country Bank and Old Sturbridge Village are teaming up to ensure Thanksgiving meals are provided to those who need a little help celebrating Thanksgiving this year. The bank’s non-profit partners

shared that they are seeing an increased need for food assistance as prices continue to rise and that more and more people are needing support.

Paul Scully, President and CEO of Country Bank wanted to double its efforts this

year and provide 1,500 meals to those needing assistance spanning from Springfield to Worcester. On Wednesday, November 24th, the team from Country Bank will deliver 1,500 free meals that were prepared and assembled by the culinary team at Old

Sturbridge Village including a full turkey dinner with all the sides and apple pie for dessert.

Meals will be delivered to St. Johns Food for the Poor, YWCA, Abby’s House, Veterans Inc., Elm Street

Please Read **MEALS**, page **A14**



# Rams represent well at Cross-Country State Championships



Photos Nick Ethier

Shepherd Hill’s Emery Mullen

BY NICK ETHIER  
SPORTS EDITOR

WRENTHAM — Without an elite top runner like Emma Sullivan, Rebekah James, Julianna Schultz and/or Stella Worters from year’s past, the Shepherd Hill Regional girls’ cross-country program relied on one another, one through seven, to carve out their own niche and become a solid team. The Rams did just that, qualifying for the Division 1 State Championships, which were run at the Wrentham Developmental Center on Saturday, Nov. 20.

And Shepherd Hill produced a 21st place team finish, led by Emery Mullen crossing the finish line in 30th place of

the 185 runners that completed the 3.1-mile 5K trek.

“I am as proud as ever,” explained head coach Nicole Fossas. “Last week

[at the State qualifying meet] when they raced, I knew it was going to be tight and tough. We had seven on the line for

Please Read **RAMS**, page **A14**

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# Charlton voters approve \$1.14 million in capital projects

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – Charlton voters easily approved a series of capital items during a special town meeting on Monday, Nov. 17 including items to support first responders in town.

As part of Article 5 on the special meeting warrant voters addressed nine expenditures with individual votes with all money coming from free cash. In total, \$1.14 million was approved to support several projects including a variety of vehicle purchases and technology upgrades. The Charlton Fire Department was the beneficiary of the first motion in the article earmarking \$100,000 for improvement to Station 1. Fire Chief Ed Knopf clarified that the work won't actually be "improvements," but rather "repairs" to the aging structure.

"Included in that is replacement of all windows on the first floor which are either broken or not even in the window. They've been boarded up. It also includes siding that has been ripped off and fascia that has been damaged. Also

included is first floor bathroom renovations, rear gutters, the exterior needs to be painted, and security systems need to be installed," said the Chief Knopf.

The motion was approved by voters as was a \$10,000 expenditure to invest in replacement turnout gear for the department as the final item of Article 5. The fire department also received approval in the following article, Article 6, for a \$425,000 truck to replace Tanker 2 later in the night.

The police department benefitted from two approvals in Article 5, a \$200,000 expenditure for police station improvements and \$200,000 to bring three new cruisers to the force.

When speaking on the repairs needed to his department, Police Chief Daniel Dowd said, "Most of these improvements are going to go towards the HVAC and heating system. Currently it's about thirty years old. We have ceiling leaks because of it and because of renovations inside of the building the airflow isn't proper a this point in time as well as some sewer pipes that are leaking. We'd like to get ahead of that."

One of the more contentious issues in Article 5 was a motion for \$250,000 for

improvements on Little Nugget Dam for \$250,000, a town-owned dam. Phil Cyr, a citizen of Partridge Hill Road questioned how this differed from dam work at the South Charlton Reservoir and Prindle Pond where citizens paid betterments to the town for the work. Town Administrator Andrew Golas stated he couldn't speak to the prior votes that were taken but stated it was "specifically to the manner of which it was passed at town meeting" and the "decided to take a different approach" with the Little Nugget Dam. Cyr asked if residents would be able to come back to the town to request a refund of their betterments to which Golas stated that the dams are not owned by the town. Charlton Conservation Director Angela Panaccione confirmed that the town owns at least the South Charlton Reservoir Dam but stressed the differences between that damn and the Little Nugget Dam.

"Little Nugget is only 12.86 acres, South Charlton Reservoir is 207 acres. Little Nugget also has only 27 home residents, many of which are seasonal rental properties/ South Charlton Reservoir has over 200 home residents.

I'm not sure why it was done with the betterment in the past. If the Little Nugget Residents had to pay a betterment it would be exorbitant in numbers. The reason why we are pursuing the improvements is because in 2018 was classified as a significant hazard as a medium size dam and the town funded an emergency action plan," said Panaccione.

Cyr responded noting that the Little Nugget Damn itself is smaller than the reservoir dam and that the reservoir dam was also classified as a high hazard damn. He left it at that but stated citizens may have more to say in the future. Citizens went on to approve the motion.

Another item discussed was technology improvements that will cost \$100,000. Voters approved the motion which will support a revolving fund the town invests in each year to support replacements and upgrades to computers and security updates. Voters also approved the purchase of three news trucks, a dump truck and a pick-up truck for the highway department and a new truck for cemetery upkeep.

## December events at Joshua Hyde Library

STURBRIDGE — The Joshua Hyde Library is excited to announce the following events scheduled to take place during the month of December.

Saturday, Dec. 4: A Winter Holiday Celebration! Join us for stories, songs, and more featuring a variety of winter holidays. Take & Make crafts and a special treat, too! Space is limited; preregister in advance. Children of all ages welcome with caregiver. Free. Sponsored by the Friends of JHL. A "You Belong Here" campaign event! 11 a.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 7: Drop-in Story Time. Join us for stories, songs, rhymes, and a Take & Make craft. All ages welcome with caregiver. Free. Sponsored by the Friends of JHL. This will take place in our meeting room; masks are required for ages five and up. 10:45 a.m.

Friday, Dec. 10: Drop-in Story Time. Join us for stories, songs, rhymes, and a Take & Make craft. All ages welcome with caregiver. Free. Sponsored by the Friends of JHL. This will take place in our meeting

room; masks are required for ages five and older. 10:45 a.m.

Saturday, Dec. 11: Join us for a variety of hands-on STEM experiments and activities. For ages five to 12 years with adult. Register in advance. Free. Sponsored by the Friends of JHL. 11 a.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 14: Drop-in Story Time. Join us for stories, songs, rhymes, and a Take & Make craft. All ages welcome with caregiver. Free. Sponsored by the Friends of JHL. This will take place in our meeting room; masks are required for ages five and older. 10:45 a.m.

Thursday, Dec. 16: Lego Club. Building challenges await five-to-12-year-olds (with adult partner)! Preregister, please. 6:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 17: Drop-in Story Time. Join us for stories, songs, rhymes, and a Take & Make craft. All ages welcome with

caregiver. Free. Sponsored by the Friends of JHL. This will take place in our meeting room; masks are required for ages five and older. 10:45 a.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 21: Welcome back the sun! Celebrate the Winter Solstice with a special Take & Make craft. Free. Sponsored by the Friends of JHL. 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 28: Furry Friends Story Time. Who loves dogs and cats? Enjoy stories, songs, and a fun Take & Make craft! #Muttigrees. Preregistration required; space is limited. All ages welcome with caregiver. Free. Sponsored by the Friends of JHL. This will take place in our meeting room; masks are required for ages five and older. 10:45 a.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 29: Ahoy, mates! Thar's a Pirate Party afoot! Join us for games, activities, loot, grub, and such. Ages

two and older with caregiver. Preregister; space is limited. Costumes encouraged! Sponsored by the Friends of JHL. This will take place in our meeting room; masks are required for ages five and older. 3-4 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 30: Beading & Stamping! Drop-in activities in the Children's Room. Ages 4+. Sponsored by the Friends of JHL. 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 30: Explore Lebanon for Kids! Lama Khayat Oneyssi will introduce children ages eight and older to Lebanon. Kids will explore basic Lebanese culture, learn to greet others in Arabic and enjoy a simple Lebanese vegetable salad. A "You Belong Here" campaign event. Free. Sponsored by the Friends of JHL. Registration required. Allergy alerts: pita bread (gluten). 4 – 5 p.m.

## Sturbridge Historical Society meets Dec. 2

STURBRIDGE — The Sturbridge Historical Society meeting will be held on Thursday, Dec. 2 at The Publick House Historical Inn on Sturbridge Common.

The Guest speaker will be Sabi Bitticks on the History of Photography. Sari's program on the history of photography is a fascinating study of what we can do with a few chemicals, some specially treated paper and a whole lot of light.

The program will cover the origins of photography as we know it. How the first cameras had some strange uses, and photographs showing the true horrors of war. See how cameras evolved from one big enough to walk around in, to one that can fit in a watch. Through many slides you will see the first president to be photographed.

Sari Bitticks, is president of The Auburn Historical Society and chair of the Auburn Historical

Commission. Holder of the Riley Award as the outstanding citizen of Auburn. Sari has given many popular talks around New England at Historical Society Meetings, Senior Centers and various Senior Housing and Assisted Living locations. She will be bringing several photographic artifacts, including an item that inspired an iconic Star Wars creation.

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

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

All meetings start at 7 p.m. The public is welcome.

## MORSE TREE FARM AT THE LUMBER YARD

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### PINTASTIC

continued from page A1

Pintastic Pinball and Game Room Expo has been proud to welcome and partner with Project Pinball Charity for all of the Expo's six shows and seven years. Pintastic attendees have been generous contributors to Project Pinball Charity in previous years. Both organizations hope the same will be true for all future events.

### Villager Newspapers

#### ACCURACY WATCH

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

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

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

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# Kline, Foley find success at first Cross Country State Championships

**BY NICK ETHIER**  
SPORTS EDITOR

WRENTHAM — Tantasqua Regional junior Tessa Kline and Warriors' sophomore Cam Foley both had strong seasons running cross-country, so much so that they each qualified for the final race of the season. That was the Division 2 State Championship meet, which was run at the Wrentham Developmental Center on Saturday, Nov. 20.

And, both being first-timers at the event, they had similarly modest goals heading into the race.

"I wanted to make Top 50," said Kline.

"One of my coaches, he gave me a sheet with all of the times, and they had me in 50th," added Foley, who was hoping to finish higher than his projected finish.

And Kline and Foley both exceeded their expectations. Kline ran the 3.1-mile (5K) course in 19:38.5, which was good for 23rd place of 186 girls. Foley finished in 16:47.7, taking 37th place out of 189 boys finishers.

"I ran a minute faster than last time. My PR was 20:30 and I got 19:30. I was motivated, I guess," said Kline, who also dances competitively in addition to running.

"I see this as a success. I'm super pleased," added Foley, who has transitioned out of team sports and now solely focuses on the running events.



Tantasqua's Tessa Kline



Cam Foley of Tantasqua

Photos Nick Ethier

Both runners noted that they would like to reach States again next year for a second go-round, with Foley adding, "I'm just here figuring it all out. Next time I come back here I'll be ready."

## New dropoff locations added for Cops N Kids N Lions Steve Ide Memorial Toy Drive

SOUTHBIDGE — Five new drop-off locations have been added. Here is the list of all locations where new, unwrapped, non-violent toys may be donated from Nov. 22 through Dec. 29:

Cornerstone Bank  
Big Bunny  
Southbridge Hotel and Conference Center  
Savers Bank  
The Italian Cub

Savers Bank  
Southbridge and Sturbridge Police Departments  
Southbridge Fire Department  
Harrington Hospital  
Southbridge Town Hall  
All Southbridge Credit Union locations

Also, monetary donations can be made at any Southbridge Credit Union location or with

any Southbridge Lions member. Checks should be made out to Southbridge Lions Toys Program.

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**TIF**  
*continued from page A1*

this project. It will employ 1,000 full-time jobs at this facility, 900 of those will have a starting hourly wage of at least \$18 an hour with comprehensive benefits, the same that I have starting day one," Griggs said. "This project will invest hundreds of millions of dollars resulting in a \$1.5 million permit fee in addition to the tax revenues."

Griggs also touted other financial investments the company would make in traffic improvements, sidewalk and streetscape improvements, STEM education, recreation improvements, and public safety. Griggs later confirmed that Amazon would likely not pursue the project further without the TIF agreement in place.

A good portion of the discussion involved a proposal from citizen Robert Lemansky to amend the motion to have two thirds of all tax monies received used to reduce the general tax rate. The legality of the proposal was questions and several individuals, including selectmen, warned against the amendment which eventually failed overwhelmingly. From there opinions on the agreement varied among citizens who took the microphone. One speaker supported the project, another questioned why Amazon considered the TIF an end-all for the partnership, and there were even early comments voicing displeasure with Amazon as a company which Town Moderator Noreen Smith ruled was out of order as they did not pertain specifically to the TIF agreement. Overall, the commentary was light considering the overwhelming turnout. When the votes were tallied the TIF was approved overwhelmingly in a 269 to 86 decision which received applause from those in attendance.

The TIF agreement will save Amazon \$11.6 million over ten years with their percentage of waived taxes decreasing each year up to the final year of the agreement. Even with the tax break the project is project to produce more than \$65 million in new property taxes and personal property assessments over a twenty-year period. The agreement goes into effect when Amazon officially occupies the building which is set to begin construction in March of 2022 for a 2023 opening.

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Photos Lisa Mayville — Courtesy



The seventh grade Rams get ready to go.



Jack Grenier pitches to Coin Navin.

The Charlton Dudley Rams sixth grade football team wins!

## Friday's Child



Dhamanjie  
Age 16

Hi! My name is Dhamanjie and I love to build with Legos!

Dhamanjie is an easygoing and smart teen of African American descent. He has a good sense of humor and enjoys making others laugh. In his downtime, Dhamanjie enjoys watching cartoons with his favorite superheroes and playing with his Lego sets.

Legally free for adoption, Dhamanjie is in need of permanent and loving home where he could gradually transition. He will do well in a

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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.



Evan Remillard scrambles out of the pocket.



Josh LaBarge with his convoy, headed for a touchdown.

Seventh grade All-Stars Owen Lyons (80) and Josh LaBarge (54).



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Call June at 508-909-4062 or email [jsima@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:jsima@stonebridgepress.news) (Charlton Villager); or Mikaela Victor at 508-909-4126 or email [Mikaela@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:Mikaela@stonebridgepress.news) (Sturbridge Villager) for advertising sizes and prices







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# Thanksgiving through the years

From 1621 to the present, Thanksgiving has always been about celebrating an abundant fall harvest. The holiday's roots date back to the Plymouth colonists and the Wampanoag Native Americans who shared the first Thanksgiving meal together.

The celebratory feast was held by individual colonies up until 1789 off and on with a proclamation from President George Washington. President Thomas Jefferson chose not to observe Thanksgiving, and it wasn't until Abraham Lincoln's Presidency in 1863 that it became a federal holiday.

Many of the food items on our Thanksgiving menu are not what was served during the first few traditional Thanksgivings. For one, turkey was not served.


There aren't many documents from that time regarding that first Thanksgiving, however one note did describe wildfowl (duck or geese) cod, bass, deer, bread, corn and porridge being served. The birds were described as being stuffed with onions and nuts. Seafood such as mussels and lobster was also served. For vegetables, squash, beans, corn, cabbage, carrots and peas were on the table.

Not on the table was mashed potatoes and gravy (gasp) and there was no cranberry sauce or pies.

"I am grateful for what I am and have. My thanksgiving is perpetual. It is surprising how contented one can be with nothing definite - only a sense of existence. Well, anything for variety. I am ready to try this for the next ten thousand years, and exhaust it. How sweet to think of my extremities well charred, and my intellectual part too, so that there is no danger of worm or rot for a long while. My breath is sweet to me. O how I laugh when I think of my vague indefinite riches. No run on my bank can drain it, for my wealth is not possession but enjoyment," wrote Henry David Thoreau in 1856.



# Gift spring blooms for the holiday



**GARDEN MOMENTS**  
.....  
**MELINDA MYERS**

Give the gift of spring this winter to gardeners and non-gardeners alike. A pot of tulips, daffodils or other spring flowering bulbs is sure to brighten a dreary winter day and elevate the recipient's mood.

Spring flowering bulbs need 12 to 15 weeks of temperatures between 35 and 45 degrees to initiate flowering. This happens naturally in areas with cold winters. Bulbs are planted in the fall, receive the chill they need, and add welcome color to the spring garden.

Those in warmer climates, typically zones 8, 9 and 10, need a different approach. In those areas, low chill bulbs that don't need as long a cold period or pre-cooled bulbs are grown. The pre-cooled bulbs also sold as pre-chilled, have received the needed cold period and can be grown like annuals.

No matter where you garden, spring flowering bulbs can be chilled in a spare refrigerator. Keep bulbs away from apples and pears. These fruits give off ethylene gas, a natural hormone that does not harm people, but can hasten ripening and interfere with flowering when bulbs are stored in the same refrigerator compartment. Check the pots occasionally and water when needed to keep the soil slightly moist, but not soggy wet.

Some friends and family may appreciate a DIY bulb forcing kit as their gift. Spring flowering bulbs, potting mix, and a container with drainage holes are all that is needed. Provide directions

# OPINION

## A Grab Bag of Hints

Sometimes it's fun to share a potpourri of tips and tricks that didn't fit into a themed hint column. With that in mind, this week's column will feature a grab bag of (mostly unrelated) ideas that are sure to make your life a little easier!



**TAKE THE HINT**  
**KAREN TRAINOR**

**Baking Hint:** Buy a new (organic or chemical free) powder puff to keep in your flour container. It's perfect for dusting cake pans before you pour in batter!

If a recipe calls for clarified broth, simply pour regular broth through a coffee filter to clarify it quickly and easily!

And here's the easiest way to degrease cooled meat soups and stews. Just put a sheet of waxed paper directly on top of the liquid before refrigerating.

Want to reduce your cholesterol? Try topping soups and stews with ground flaxseed to reduce heart attack risk. In a study, forty grams of ground flaxseed every day for three months reduced cholesterol by six percent.

**Fighting cholesterol?** Try this tip too: Scottish studies showed that over a three week period, a daily snack of two carrots lowered cholesterol levels by 10 to 20 percent! Research reveals a cup and a half of dried lentils or kidney beans a day, has lowered total cholesterol levels by up to 19 percent!

This Thanksgiving want to avoid that after dinner-have-to-nap syndrome? Try these tips: In the morning, eat small, light foods and avoid junk food. Eat your Thanksgiving dinner slowly and stop when you're full. Don't binge on carbs, drink plenty of water with your meal, and finally, take an outside walk to digest your feast.

Once Thanksgiving's over you'll likely be left with heap of leftovers! Did you know for safety's sake your leftover turkey should be refrigerated or frozen within two hours after roasting? Wrap the turkey as airtight as possible in aluminum foil and refrigerate. Store the meat in zipper bags in one- or two-cup portions for easier thawing and use. For the best quality and flavor, freeze for no more than two months.

Here's a quick energy saving tip! Sometimes it's the little things that add up to save energy dollars! Simply cleaning your dryer lint screen with every use and avoiding overloading the dryer can save you up to five percent on your electricity bill!

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Think you've heard all the uses vinegar? Try these! Got a sore throat? Put two teaspoons of white vinegar in your humidifier for overnight relief. And dry up that cold sore fast by dabbing it with white vinegar three times a day!

Cast offs can find new life in the workshop - here's how! Rescue a child's old foam bogey board for use in the workshop. The firm, yet cushiony surface serves as a great anti-fatigue foot mat when your standing at the bench for hours. And don't toss those old record albums, save the cardboard sleeves to safely sort and store saw blades.

Did you know ordinary sponges do double duty? It only takes a few swipes with a damp, clean sponge to remove lint and pet fur from clothes or upholstery. Pop a new sponge it in the freezer for a great pliable and drip-free compress for injuries. And put a damp sponge in a plastic bag with the stems of freshly cut flowers to keep them garden fresh until you use them!

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.*

## Maximize your charitable giving

The Tuesday after Thanksgiving has become known as Giving Tuesday, when people are encouraged to donate to charitable organizations. If you'd like to take part in this special day, you'll want to maximize the effectiveness and benefits of your charitable gifts.

So, consider these questions:

Is the charity reputable? Does it use its resources wisely? Most charitable organizations are honest and dedicated to helping their specific causes. But sometimes there are a few "bad apples" in the bunch. These groups aren't necessarily fraudulent (though some are), but they may spend an inordinate amount of their

donations on administrative expenses, rather than directing this money to where it's most needed. Fortunately, you don't have to guess about the trustworthiness or the efficiency of a particular group, because you can check on it. To make sure that a charity is an actual charity - one that is tax-exempt and listed as a 501(c)(3) organization - you can go to [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov), the website of the Internal Revenue Service, and hit the "Charities & Nonprofits" link. An organization called Charity Navigator ([www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org)) tracks charitable groups' financial health and accountability, including how much is spent on administrative and fundraising costs. Generally speaking, a charitable group that dedicates more than about 30 to 35 percent of its total costs to administration and fundraising expenses might be considered somewhat inefficient, though you'd want to evaluate each charity individually, since extenuating circumstances can occur. Keep in mind, though, that smaller charities may not have the same resources as a national organization to provide the reporting necessary for Charity Navigator.

Will my employer match my contribution? You can make your charitable gift go a lot further if your employer matches it. Typically, companies match donations at a 1:1 ratio, but some will match at 2:1 or even higher. Check with your human resources department about your company's policy on charitable matches.

Are my charitable gifts tax deductible? A few years ago, Congress significantly raised the standard deduction, which, for the 2021 tax year, is now \$12,550 for single taxpayers, \$25,100 for joint filers and \$18,800 for heads of household. As a result of this increase, many people no longer itemize and thus have less financial incentive to make charitable contributions. If you still do itemize and you're thinking of making charitable gifts, you generally have a choice between giving cash and another asset such as stocks. Each type of gift could earn you a tax deduction, but a gift of appreciated stocks could be more beneficial because you may also be avoiding the capital gains tax you might incur if you eventually sold the stocks. You should consult with your tax advisor and the charity (not all accept investments) before making the cash-versus-stock decision. Even if you don't itemize, you could still get a tax benefit from making a charitable contribution. That's because Congress has extended part of the COVID-19-related legislation that allows taxpayers to claim charitable deductions of \$300 (for single filers) or \$600 (for married couples) if they claim the standard deduction. The charitable donations must be made in cash, not stocks. Giving Tuesday comes just once a year, but your gifts can have lasting benefits. So, be as generous as you can afford - and enjoy the good feelings that follow.

Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.

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





# Covid in the deer population



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Shotgun deer hunting will start on Nov. 29 this year in Massachusetts, and the harvest should be very good, if the weather cooperates. Archers have already harvested a good number of big bucks, but there are still plenty of them out there. The rut continues to have bucks chasing does, providing hunters with some exciting moments in the woods.

Recent news on the Covid virus in deer populations by a Pennsylvania state study has caused a lot of concern among hunters. Are they safe to eat? The reports that I have read state that they “should “ be safe to eat. Evidently, they are not positive. Reports of 60 percent of the Massachusetts deer population have the Covid virus, which is a bit scary.

Practicing good hygiene is highly recommended in most reports, when cleaning or cutting up the deer for human consumption. Wearing of gloves and mask when field dressing or cutting up deer should be practiced. Breathing in of gasses from a freshly killed deer when field dressing them, should be avoided as much as possible. Being aware of tick bites from deer are also a concern among the hunting public. Hunting could be dangerous to your health!

What is next? Can our beef and pork be infected? Becoming a vegetarian is sounding better every day, if you want to stay alive a bit longer. If deer can become infected, I am sure that cows and pigs can also. This Covid virus sure



Paul Newman with his Rhode Island state record Tautog.



This week’s second picture shows a huge buck harvested in Mass. a few years ago. It was on display at the Big -E Sportsmen’s show in Springfield! Hopefully, the sportsmen’s shows will open this year!

Photos Courtesy

has changed the way we live and die, and is a bit scary. The real truth about the effects of the covid pandemic on humans and animals, is in the trial stages and we will not know the truth about the results of scientific studies until it is out of control. I hope I am wrong!

Back in the day (1949), this writer enjoyed taking short trips with my Uncle, the late Paul Hale, Sr. to the deer park in Whitinsville. I was only nine or ten years old when he would take my brother Mel and I to watch the deer at the park. The deer had huge antlers, but were somewhat smaller than the whitetail deer we have today. The property was owned by the former Whitin Machine Works and was part of the

Whitinsville Water Co. The fenced in area included a hundred acres or more, for the deer to roam in. It was not long after that the deer were killed and sent to a processing facility.

The recent loss of a fellow sports writer for the Telegram & Gazette, Mark Blazis, this past week was a shock to his readers friends and family. His columns that were published twice a week in the Gazette were read by thousands of outdoorsmen and women, along with much of the general public. He lived life to the fullest traveling to numerous parts of the world to hunt and fish, and study wildlife. Mark was only 74 years old. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Mark’s family and friends.

Hope everyone is enjoying Thanksgiving with friends and family! We sure have a lot to be thankful for, after the terrible pandemic we endured over the last 12 months. Hopefully, everyone has had their shots, and are ready for a somewhat normal living in 2022. Buying Christmas gifts for that special man or woman? Gift Certificates are the way to go. They can go shopping for what they really want, and it will go a lot further as everything will be on sale!

Wishing everyone a happy, healthy holiday season.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

## POLICE LOGS

### Sturbridge Police Log

**Friday, Nov. 12**  
All afternoon – Responded to five ambulance calls.  
12:03 PM – Traffic stop on Arnold Road led to Worcester man getting summons for driving after suspension and without insurance.  
12:55 PM – responded to property damage accident, Main St.  
1:29 PM – Served no trespass order to person at Tantasqua.  
3:48 PM – Traffic stop led to Holland man getting a summons for unlicensed driving, no inspection sticker, and license not in possession.  
4:22 PM – Another traffic stop led to Connecticut man getting summons for failure to stop and unlicensed driving.

**Saturday, Nov. 13**  
All Day – responded to four ambulance calls.  
8:56 & 9:10 AM – Responded to back-to-back fire alarms, Main St & Fiske Hill.  
1:21 PM – Responded to injury accident, Main St.  
1:32 PM – Responded to general disturbance, Podunk Pike.  
3:33 PM – Police and fire responded to 911 call, New Boston Road.  
6:29 PM – Responded to noise complaint, Podunk Road.  
6:41 PM – Traffic stop on Rte 20 led to Connecticut woman getting a summons

for unlicensed driving and a number plate violation.  
8:48 PM – Call reporting injury to property at Heritage Green led to Worcester man getting summons for defacing real property.

**Sunday, Nov. 14**  
All Day – Responded to two ambulance calls.  
8:53 AM – Responded to fire alarm, Publiack House.  
11:11 AM – Phone call from Scottish Inn led to Webster man’s criminal summons for larceny under \$1200 and driving after suspension.  
4:14 PM – 911 report of suspicious activity on Brookfield Road led to arrest of Kathleen Harrington of 14 Harrington Ct for OUI-liquor.

**Monday, Nov. 15**  
All Day – Responded to three ambulance calls.  
12:42 AM – Traffic stop on Rte 20 led to New Jersey man getting a summons for speeding and unlicensed driving.  
11:30 AM – Took report of past larceny, Finlay Road.  
11:53 AM – Responded to walk-in complaint of harrassment/threats.  
1:38 PM – Responded to call reporting illegal dumping, Walker Pond Road.  
2:18 PM – Responded to 911 call of property damage accident, Brookfield Road.  
5:07 PM – Took report of injury accident, Route 20.

**Tuesday, Nov. 16**  
All Day – Responded to three ambulance calls.  
12:32 PM – responded to brush fire call, Ladd Road.  
2:22 PM – Responded to property damage accident, Main St.  
2:31 PM – Accident on Main St led to arrest of Jeff Krushesky, 58, of 358 Main St #256, on an unspecified warrant.

**Wednesday, Nov. 17**  
All Day – Responded to six ambulance calls.  
12:06 AM – Took report of property damage accident, Mashapaug Road.  
2:33 PM – Responded to walk-in fire call.  
3:30 PM – Responded to property damage accident, Route 20.  
4 PM – Traffic stop on Podunk Pike led to Southbridge man getting summons for speeding and unlicensed driving.  
4:33 PM – Took report of vandalism, Leadmine Road.  
5:14 PM – Responded to 911 call reporting general disturbance, Heritage Green.

**Thursday, Nov. 18**  
All Day – Responded to two ambulance calls.  
1:22 AM – Responded to burglar alarm, Main St.  
3:28 AM – responded to animal complaint, Main St.

5:36 AM – Responded to fire call, Riverview Ave.  
7:39 AM – Responded to suspicious vehicle call, McGilpin Road.  
8:47 AM – Serving a warrant at Village Motel, police arrested Cassandra Corriera, 35, of 444 Main St #1L, on unspecified charges.  
10:21 AM – Responded to animal complaints, Wallace Road.  
12:49 PM – Traffic stop on Route 20 led to Plainville man getting a summons for subsequent offense driving after suspension.  
3:37 PM – False alarm fire call, Hampton Inn.  
8:55 PM – Traffic stop on Main St led to Connecticut man getting a summons for unlicensed driving and a number plate violation.

**Friday, Nov. 19**  
Until 3 PM – Responded to two ambulance calls.  
6:51 AM – Traffic stop on Rte 20 led to arrest of Israel Torres-Turell, 58, of 101 Worcester St #1F, Southbridge, on an unspecified warrant.  
10:18 AM – Responded to fire call, Senior Center.  
12:51 PM – Traffic stop on Rte 15 led to Auburn man gettign a summons for driving after suspension and no inspection sticker.  
2:28 PM – Responded to walk-in report of fraud.

# The holidays are coming to Charlton!

CHARLTON — As we approach the countdown to the holidays, Charlton City UMC cordially invites the surrounding communities to participate in our annual Silent Auction. Get your wish list ready and head on over to our virtual auction event, going live Sunday, Nov. 28 through Saturday, Dec. 4 (until 2 p.m.)! BiddingOwl.com will host this year’s auction, as it does for so many wonderful charity organizations

Among the wide selection of items available for bidding, Pastor John Lucy (of CCUMC) knows that his son,

Sebastian, is keeping a watchful eye on festive items like this Cycling Santa, a 22-inch self-propelled “Mr. Christmas” who entertains with LED lights and an impressive repertoire of 24 sing-along carols. Danielle Lucy, our Auction Coordinator, is looking forward to bidding on the doTERRA Essential Oil Bundle, the “Chocolate Dreams basket, and the Digital Air Fryer!

Proceeds this year will benefit the Charlton REAS (Residential Energy Assistance for Seniors) Foundation, who assists senior citizens at risk of

not meeting their winter heating/cooling costs. This volunteer organization relies solely on the generous donations of local businesses, fundraiser events, and individuals to help serve Charlton’s most vulnerable population.

New items are listed daily - check out our growing list in advance at <http://bit.ly/CharltonCity>. Charlton City UMC hopes you will join us, help raise money for a worthy cause, and cross items off of your holiday shopping list!



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Sun. Brunch: 10am-1pm



# OBITUARIES

## Gordon (Gus) Simpson, 82

STURBRIDGE — Gordon (Gus) Simpson was a caring husband, father, Papa, and friend. He went home to be with the Lord on Wednesday, November 17, 2021, at the age of 82.



He leaves his loving wife of 59 years Carol (Shaw) Simpson; two daughters and two sons-in-law, Brenda and Gary Bessette of Brimfield and Katherine and Stephen Gingell of Fiskdale; a brother

Raymond Simpson of Sturbridge; and four granddaughters, Sarah Clarke, Amanda Gillmeister, Adeline Saylor, and Lily Gingell. He was predeceased by seven brothers—Charles, Eugene, Marvin, Russell, Calvin, Arnold, and Roger—and one sister, Elizabeth.

Gordon, the son of Eugene and Frances (Clarke) Simpson, was born in Sturbridge and was a life-long resident. He graduated from Tantasqua Regional High School in 1958, which was the first graduating class of the school. He excelled in baseball and held the highest batting average for many years. Gordon worked in the commercial meter department for Massachusetts Electric and retired after 38 years of dedicated service.

As a member of the Quaboag Church

in Brookfield, MA, he enjoyed attending weekly Bible studies with his wife Carol and was a part of the “Friday Guys” grounds maintenance crew. He also loved going out to breakfast with the guys on Thursday mornings.

Gordon enjoyed taking excellent care of his home and property, especially when that meant using his Kubota tractor. He loved cars, boating, and vacations at Great East Lake in New Hampshire, but most of all he loved spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren.

The family would like to thank Dr. Paul Harrington and Dr. John Tumolo as well as The Overlook Hospice nurses for their excellent care of Gordon.

There will be a Celebration of Life service on Saturday, November 27, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. at the Quaboag Church, 175 Fiskdale Road, Brookfield, MA 01506, or the Springfield Rescue Mission, P.O. Box 9045, Springfield, MA 01102-9045.

Belanger-Bullard Funeral Home, 51 Marcy St. Southbridge, is directing arrangements

An online guestbook is available at [www.BelangerFuneralHome.com](http://www.BelangerFuneralHome.com)

# SERVPRO fire restoration specialists offer stovetop safety tips for holiday cooking

SOUTHBRIDGE — From 2014 to 2018, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) reports\* that U.S. fire departments were called to an estimated average of 172,900 home structure fires related to cooking each year. During the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, the number of home fires caused by cooking peaks to an average of 470 fires each day.

“These fires are tragic because they result in property damage, displacement of families, injury, and even death,” says Rick Isaacson, CEO of Servpro Industries, LLC. “The thing that compounds the tragedy, though, is that there are some simple steps everyone can take to reduce the chance of a cooking fire.”

The fire and water damage cleanup specialists at SERVPRO in the Southbridge area urge homeowners to consider these basic guidelines for cooking safety:

Never leave food unattended on a range or cooktop. That’s where 61 percent of home cooking fires start.

Never cook on the stove top when you are sleepy or intoxicated.

Use a timer to remind yourself that you are cooking.

Keep anything flammable - potholders, wooden utensils, towels, curtains, food wrapping - away from the stovetop.

If you must leave the kitchen for any period of time, turn off the stove.

Holiday parties and large family gatherings that were postponed last year because of COVID concerns are great to look forward to, but may add distraction in the kitchen, warns Isaacson. “Cooking is such a routine part of our days that it is easy to become complacent about these basic safety steps,” says Isaacson, “but the statistics show that unattended cooking is the number

one cause of home cooking fires and casualties. Whether you are cooking for the holidays or simply preparing an everyday meal, it is important to stay alert and focused on what’s happening on and around your stovetop.”

SERVPRO is an industry leader and provider of fire and water cleanup and restoration services. For more fire prevention and fire safety tips and information about fire and water damage restoration services, please visit [www.servpro.com](http://www.servpro.com). For more information on SERVPRO in the Southbridge area, please contact one of the local business owners below.

\* For SERVPRO of Shrewsbury/Westborough, please contact Donny McKendall who can be reached at (508) 393-7898 or [donny.mckendall@servproworchester.com](mailto:donny.mckendall@servproworchester.com).

\* For SERVPRO of Southern Worcester County, please contact Don McKendall who can be reached at (508) 234-3399 or [Don@servpromckendall.com](mailto:Don@servpromckendall.com).

\* <https://www.nfpa.org/News-and-Research/Data-research-and-tools/US-Fire-Problem/Home-Cooking-Fires>

About SERVPRO® For more than 50 years, SERVPRO has been a trusted leader in fire and water cleanup and restoration services, construction, mold mitigation, and biohazard/pathogen remediation. SERVPRO’s professional services network of more than 1,900 individually owned and operated franchises spans the United States and Canada, responding to property damage emergencies large and small - from million-square-foot commercial facilities to individual homes. When disaster strikes, homeowners, business owners, and major insurance companies alike rely on SERVPRO to make it “Like it never even happened.”

## Electricity disclosure label available for Charlton Community Electricity Aggregation program

CHARLTON — Our town’s community electricity program has posted the latest Electricity Disclosure Label, which describes the energy mix for all program options. The label can be found in the resources section on the program website [Charlton-CEA.com](http://Charlton-CEA.com).

Charlton Community Electricity Aggregation is a program offered by the Town of Charlton to provide residents and businesses with Town-vetted options for electricity supply. Charlton Community Electricity Aggregation does not replace National Grid, the electric utility

in Charlton, which continues to deliver electricity, repair any outages, and billing, so customers continue to receive one bill. The program website, [Charlton-CEA.com](http://Charlton-CEA.com), contains a description of the program, forms, and a phone number to call with questions.



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**Thanksgiving Can Drive**

Jeff Burdick, an Edward Jones financial advisor in Sturbridge, is supporting both a **Thanksgiving can drive** and **Toys for Tots** by using his office as a drop-off location for a canned goods and unwrapped toys drive.

Canned items in need are stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, gravy, pickles, canned vegetables, canned fruit, and instant potatoes.

Residents may help support this effort by bringing in items to the Edward Jones branch office during the hours of 9am-4pm from November 8th to December 9th. The branch address 419 Main St, Sturbridge Mass.





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<sup>1</sup>DETAILS OF OFFER: Offer expires 12/11/2021. You must set your appointment by 11/26/2021 and purchase by 12/11/2021. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Buy one (1) window or entry/patio door, get one (1) window or entry/patio door 40% off, and 24 months \$0 down, 0 monthly payments, 0 interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry/patio doors between 11/1/2021 and 12/11/2021. 40% off windows and entry/patio doors are less than or equal to lowest cost window or entry/patio door in the order. Additional \$50 off each window or entry/patio door, no minimum purchase required, taken after initial discount(s), when you set your appointment by 11/26/2021 and purchase by 12/11/2021. Military discount applies to all active duty, veterans and retired military personnel. Military discount equals \$300 off your entire purchase and applies after all other discounts, no minimum purchase required. Subject to credit approval. Interest is billed during the promotional period, but all interest is waived if the purchase amount is paid before the expiration of the promotional period. Financing for GreenSky® consumer loan programs is provided by federally insured, federal and state chartered financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender or familial status. Savings comparison based on purchase of a single unit at list price. Available at participating locations and offer applies throughout the service area. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. License number available upon request. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. "ENERGY STAR" is a registered trademark of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of Andersen Corporation. ©2021 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. ©2021 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved.





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**\$549,000.**

**June Cazeault \* Laurie Sullivan \* Matthew Ross \* Lori Johnson-Chausse \* William Gilmore II \* Brian Bohenko**

<b>DUDLEY - 10 MILL ROAD</b>  <b>SORRY, SOLD!</b> Beautiful family home! 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, newer widows & heating system. Mini split system. Hardwoods. Lg eat-in kitchen /Corian counters & Island! Warming fireplace with handsome mantel. Generous dining room, spacious enough for your family gatherings. lower level fireplace family room. Harmon pellet insert! 2 car garage. Reduced <b>\$340,000.</b>	<b>WEBSTER - 23 EMERALD AVE.</b>  <b>SORRY, SOLD!</b> Extraordinary Find! Beautiful 2 Family! Owner occupied with pride and it shows. Grand Front Entry! 3,012 SF +/- living area. 12 rooms, 6 bedrooms, 2 updated Baths. 2nd Flr - Granite Countertops! High ceilings & Hardwood Floors, Modern Kitchens. Manicured 13,525 SF Lot with a Hip roof 3 car garage! <b>\$439,900</b>	<b>WEBSTER - 10 THOMPSON RD</b>  <b>ON DEPOSIT</b> 2 FAMILY! LOCATION, LOCATION! OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS! SERIOUSLY CONSIDER THIS A SOLID INVESTMENT. A GENERAL BUSINESS ZONED! PRIME WEBSTER BUSINESS DISTRICT! A LARGE, DEEP LOT, 14,875 SF/0.34 ACRE. 9 Rooms, 4 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, FHW/OIL. Garage! Lot is currently private with a mature tree line in the rear. Property serviced by Municipal Water & Sewer, Natural Gas line in Basement. A QUICK CLOSE IS POSSIBLE. <b>\$195,000</b>	<b>WEBSTER • 22 EASTERN AVE</b>  <b>SORRY SOLD!</b> LOOKING FOR AN AFFORDABLE, HUMBLE ABODE, THAT WON'T BREAK THE BANK? Convenient Location, corner lot! 1288 SF +/-, 4 BRS w/1st Flr Mstr BR, Half Bath! Eat-In Kitchen, Dining/Living Room Combination! 3-Season Porch. 2nd Flr - 3 BRs, Reshingled Roof, Replacement Windows, Updated Electric, Buderus Boiler. Part finished walk-out bsmt! Garage! <b>\$215,000</b>	<b>WOODSTOCK CT - 110 JOY RD</b>  <b>SORRY, SOLD!</b> WELCOME TO MIDNIGHT FARM! 1876 Antique Colonial. Included separate Building - Studio/Store both situated on 2.5 Acres Professionally Landscaped! 5 Bedroom, Lg Living room, Fireplaced Dining room, Library, Master Bdrm, Renovated Kitchen! 3 Stall Garage! Picturesque Location! <b>\$455,000.</b>
<p><i>Featured Island Listing! Webster Lake - 22 Long Island</i></p>  <b>SORRY, SOLD!</b> Once in a lifetime opportunity to own a Webster Lake Waterfront Cottage on Long Island! Properly named the "Grand View". Sandy beach, boat house! Antique Cottage w/5 Rms, 3 BRs, a stone fireplaced w/pellet stove, eat-in kitchen w/modern appliances, full bath! washer/dryer. Screened porches. Included, 25% ownership share in a main land waterfront lot at 38 Point Pleasant Rd, in sheltered Mumford Cove! land provides boat slip & winter storage. A FAR AWAY PLACE NEAR BY! <b>\$389,900.</b>	<b>WEBSTER LAKE - 1301 TREASURE ISL.</b>  <b>SORRY, SOLD!</b> Quiet Summers & Fall Seasons on Big & Beautiful Webster Lake. Completely updated Hardwood & Ceramic. Center Island Kitchen. 6 Rooms, 2-1/2 Baths, a must see. Overlooking the Marina. 2 Deeded boat slips. assisted sale <b>\$600,000.</b>	<b>LAND WEBSTER/OXFORD/DUDLEY/DOUGLAS</b> Oxford - 2 Merriam Rd 80 +/- Wooded Acres in Oxford & Charlton! Great Location for Horses! <b>ON DEPOSIT \$329,000.</b> Oxford - 4 Leicester St - Approx. 8.47 ACRES! River Frontage Possible to be Subdivided! <b>\$89,900</b> <b>WEBSTER - DOUGLAS RD 26 ACRES on SUGARLOAF HILL.</b> 1000+/- ft of frontage! <b>SORRY, SOLD! \$200,000</b> <b>Webster - Cooper Road 2 Buildable Lots! Water &amp; Sewer Access. Zoned Lake Res! ON DEPOSIT! Each \$24,500.</b>	<b>OXFORD - 10 BEVERLY STREET</b>  <b>ON DEPOSIT</b> 2 Family! A RARE FIND, BUILT IN 1967!! 2 PARCELS = 16,224 SF!! EXTREMELY WELL MAINTAINED! Total 9 rooms, 5 Bedrooms, 2 baths. 2nd apartment is a perfect mortgage helper!! Beautiful Hardwood Floors! Roomy yard. Off Street Parking! Neighborhood Setting! <b>\$449,000.</b>	

## On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

 <b>SORRY, SOLD!</b>	<b>Webster Lake - 300 Killdeer Island.</b> OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS! WEBSTER LAKE waterfront property on Killdeer Circle! Prime waterfront location! Gently sloping landscape to waters edge. Crystal clear, sandy bottomed shoreline. Everyday is a new day at the Lake! 5 rooms, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths! Walk out lower level to nice size patio! Garage. <b>\$650,000.</b>	<b>WEBSTER - 1402 TREASURE ISLAND CONDO</b>  <b>SORRY, SOLD!</b> Nicely appointed, Marina side condo - with 2 Boat Slips! 6 rooms, 2-1/2 baths, 2 bedrooms, fireplace, garage, Sandy Beach, Gazebo, Heated Salt Water Pool! <b>\$595,000.</b>	<b>WEBSTER - 401 TREASURE ISLAND CONDO</b>  <b>SORRY, SOLD!</b> Webster Lake! Treasure Island Townhouse! UNIT# 401 Quiet summers on big & beautiful Webster Lake! 6 Rooms. Open Floor Plan! Dining Area. Hardwood Floor & Carpet. Master Bedroom, W/2 Closets. Master Bath! 2-1/2 Baths Total! Slider to Deck & Slider to the Patio! Natural gas heat! 2 Boat Slips! Heated Pool! Natural Sandy Beach! <b>\$439,000.</b>
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 <b>ON DEPOSIT</b> <b>DUDLEY:</b> Split entry, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 car garage 7 Nelco Ave. ~ <b>\$342,500</b>	 <b>ON DEPOSIT</b> <b>OXFORD:</b> Colonial, 3 bedrooms, sided, 2 baths, hardwood floors 3 Elm St. ~ <b>\$329,900</b>	 <b>ON DEPOSIT</b> <b>WEBSTER:</b> Contemporary, cathedral ceiling, 3 plus acres, 2 car garage 42 Rawson Rd. ~ <b>\$464,900</b>
 <b>WEBSTER:</b> Motivated Seller! 3-4 bedrooms, Town water & sewer, Small barn/workshop, Offers considered. 56 Ash St. ~ <b>\$200's</b>	 <b>WEBSTER:</b> 6 units, 1 bedroom each unit, Sided, Updated roof 227 School Street ~ <b>\$599,900</b>	







RAMS  
continued from page A1

the first time all year. I'm pumped.”  
Injuries limited the Rams all season long, but it only made the team stronger. And it showed at States, with each of the five runners performing well under stressful conditions.  
“They know there’s no room for error,” said Fossas. “It’s going to be packed out there, and you’ve got to be mentally prepared. You’ve got to do it



Shepherd Hill's Bronson Dubey

when you’re in the middle of chaos.”  
Mullen (19:11.7), Grace Bateman (105th place, 20:11.4) and Karlee White (124th, 20:28.5) all set personal records at the meet. The other Shepherd Hill runners were Anna Thomas (171st, 21:44.8) and Rachel Zannotti (176th, 22:16.0).  
Three Shepherd Hill boys also competed in their Division 1 State Championship race as individuals. Bronson Dubey (16:38.1) placed 75th, Andrew Trudel (16:56.3) placed 122nd and Conor Fitzgerald (17:01.6) posted 129th.



Grace Bateman of Shepherd Hill



Andrew Trudel of Shepherd Hill

MEALS  
continued from page A1

Congregational Church, Christina’s House, Ronald McDonald House, Mustard Seed, Project New Hope, Old Sturbridge Village, Hatfield, South Hadley, Chicopee and Easthampton Veterans’ Services and Friends of the Homeless.  
In addition, the students of Old Sturbridge Academy created hand-made greeting cards to go with the meals, which are sure to bring a warm smile to anyone’s face.  
“We want to do everything we can to help support families in the community this Thanksgiving,” said James Donahue, President of Old Sturbridge Village.  
“Country Bank and Old Sturbridge Village share a collective belief that the strength of the community begins with giving back to those in need,” said Scully. “As a community partner, we want to offer our support where it is needed most this holiday season. We know we can make a difference when we work together.”  
About Country Bank  
Country Bank is a full-service mutual community bank serving Central

and Western Massachusetts since 1850 with 14 offices in Ware, Palmer, West Brookfield, Brimfield, Belchertown, Wilbraham, Ludlow, Leicester, Paxton, Charlton, and Worcester. Country Bank is a member of FDIC, DIF, and the SUM network. Country Bank can be reached at 800-322-8233 or online at country-bank.com.  
About Old Sturbridge Village  
Old Sturbridge Village, first opened to the public in 1946, is one of the country’s oldest and largest living history museums, celebrating life in early New England from 1790-1840. It is the largest living history museum in the New England. Each year, more than 250,000 visitors interact with costumed historians, experience up-close demonstrations of early American trades, and meet heritage breed farm animals. Situated on 200 scenic acres, the Village has more than 40 historic buildings - including homes, meetinghouses, trade shops, working farms, restaurants, shops, and three water-powered mills. Located just off the Massachusetts Turnpike and Routes I-84 and 20 in Sturbridge, Mass., Old Sturbridge Village is open year-round, but days and hours vary seasonally. For details, visit <https://www.osv.org/plan-your-visit/>.



News, really close to home


**3D TARGET TAG SALE**  
Sunday, 11/28/21 10am to 2pm  
North Brookfield Sportsmen's Club  
20 Boynton Rd, North Brookfield

The Club has an inventory of three piece 3D deer targets that we will be selling at a very reasonable price. We also have some misc items used in the raising of game birds for sale.



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**Administrative Assistant**  
**WEST BROOKFIELD WATER DEPARTMENT**

The West Brookfield Water Department is accepting applications for an Administrative Assistant (25 hours a week). The incumbent will work under Commissioners' and the Water Superintendent. The Administrative Assistant shall be responsible for providing efficient operations of the office of the West Brookfield Water Department. Applicants must have a minimum of 1 to 3 years Office Experience, Accounting, Customer Service and a High School Diploma or equivalent. Applications may be obtained at the West Brookfield Water Department Office, 2 East Main Street, Lower Level 6, West Brookfield, MA 01585 Monday – Thursday 9-3or the Town website: [waterdept@wbrookfield.com](mailto:waterdept@wbrookfield.com). Submit cover letter and resume with Applications will be accepted until December 1, 2021. If you have any questions please call the office at (508) 867-1421 Ext. 8. The West Brookfield Water Department is AA/EOE Robert E. Benson, Chairman – Water Commissioner

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