

Baker-Polito administration announces \$9.5 million for Communities in Transit Grant Program Awards

BOSTON – The Baker-Polito Administration recently announced a total of \$9.5 million for cities, towns and nonprofit organizations to use under the Community Transit Grant Program administered by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT). The annual competitive grant program awards money to be used for transit operating costs, mobility management or new capital investments.

Among the recipients were the Oxford Council on Aging and the town of Blackstone, both of which will receive new vehicles.

“Community Transit Grants provide critical funding to local organizations to purchase equipment to help people get where they need to go efficiently and safely,” said Gov. Charlie Baker. “Our Administration will continue to make efforts to work with local leaders, com-

munity stakeholders and the private sector to make transit accessible to everyone.”

“We are pleased to provide this key funding to cities and towns, regional transit authorities and non-profit organizations statewide to help support their transportation needs,” said Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito. “This program will expand upon current transportation services in areas where transit may currently be limited, and will ensure that residents have the resources they need to travel.”

This year, MassDOT has awarded funding for 126 vans and mini-buses to 33 organizations. In addition, \$1,330,711 in funding was awarded to 19 organizations for 30 operating and mobility management projects. Award recipients include Regional Transit Authorities, municipalities, Councils on Aging and eligible nonprofit organizations in

Massachusetts.

“The Community Transit Grant Program plays an integral part in supporting transportation networks in local communities,” said MassDOT Secretary and CEO Stephanie Pollack. “These grants help transportation providers state-wide continue to care for and improve the service they have, in particular, for people who rely on getting help to where they need to go, such as individuals who have disabilities.”

The Fiscal 2020 Community Transit Grant Program is awarding funding for 66 operating and mobility management projects to 43 entities out of the 75 applications received.

The Community Transit Grant Program is the Commonwealth’s annual competitive grant program to distribute both Federal Transit Administration

(FTA) Section 5310: Enhanced Mobility of Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities funds and State Mobility Assistance Program funds. The FTA Section 5310 grant program provides funding to assist with the purchase of capital equipment, mobility management, and operational costs in order to meet the mobility needs of senior citizens and individuals with disabilities of any age. State Mobility Assistance Program (MAP) funds are used to assist in the provision of transportation services to seniors and persons with disabilities exclusively through the purchase of eligible vehicles.

In total, MassDOT plans to distribute \$9,478,981 of federal and state funds for vehicles, operating projects and mobility management projects in this round of the program.

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Hitchcock Academy still working toward fundraising goal



Pictured here is one of the Scouting Groups which utilize Hitchcock Academy facilities throughout the year.

Courtesy Photo

BRIMFIELD — Before the end of the year, Hitchcock Academy, which serves all of the surrounding communities, hopes to reach its fundraising goal of \$10,000. It is about \$1,500 short. Monies raised in this campaign work hard for the community. There are 75 different groups who call Hitchcock Academy home including a Union 61 pre-school program, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts.

4-H, the American Legion, Brownies, Brimfield Community Partnership, Alcoholics Anonymous, Boy Scouts and the Opacum Land Trust to name a few. Donations allow Hitchcock to keep the costs of such classes as art, babysitting, CPR, watercolor, felting, cheese making, dog training, genealogy, cake decorating, yoga, Pilates, Tai Chi, Judo, fencing, and ravioli making at afford-

able levels. While these are important aspects of Hitchcock’s function as a community center they are just a part of the picture. Hitchcock Academy sponsors the Farmer’s Market, which runs from April through October, the Summer Fun program for ages three to 12, Concerts on the Common, Make Music Day, December Delights, and the Town Wide Tag Sale. When the



ACCURACY WATCH

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area was hit with a tornado several years ago Hitchcock was the locale that served as the hub for donations. In the aftermath it became the venue for a support group to facilitate healing. Hitchcock Academy’s mission is, above all else, community service. This year Hitchcock’s Friends Campaign was initiated on Dec. 3 – Giving Tuesday. Giving Tuesday’s promotion featured the words and drawings of local community members who recognized Hitchcock’s positive contributions to the local climate. The Friends Campaign continues this focus with its Giving with Gratitude slogan, which asks donors to contribute to honor a skill, a friendship, the memory of an alumnus, a concert, anything leading to the formation of a good memory facilitated by an interaction involving Hitchcock Academy. People are encouraged to share those stories on Hitchcock’s Facebook page. Those stories are the reminders that the work of Hitchcock Academy is not finished. Hopefully, it never will be. Donors are asked to give at www.hitchcockacademy.org. Just click on the Events page to find Friends Campaign.

Shepherd Hill to offer AP Capstone Diploma program

DUDLEY — Shepherd Hill Regional High School is one of approximately 1,800 schools worldwide to implement the AP Capstone Diploma program — an innovative program that allows students to develop the skills that matter most for college success, such as research, collaboration, and communication. The program consists of two courses taken in sequence: AP Seminar and AP Research. Students who score a 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and on four additional AP exams of their choosing earn the AP Capstone Diploma. This signifies outstanding academic achievement and attainment of college-level academic and research skills. Students who score a 3 or higher in both AP Seminar and AP Research,

but not on four additional AP exams, earn the AP Seminar and Research Certificate. Shepherd Hill will start offering AP Seminar in the fall of 2020. William F. Chaplin, Jr., Principal of Shepherd Hill, stated “This innovative program gets a broader, more diverse student population ready for college and beyond. The program gives our teachers more leeway with curriculum choices, so their students can access more challenging coursework and sharpen their reading and writing skills.” In AP Seminar, typically taken in 10th or 11th grade, students choose and evaluate complex topics through multiple lenses; identify credibility and bias in sources; and devel-

op arguments in support of a recommendation. AP Seminar is a project-based learning course. Official AP Seminar assessments include research reports, written arguments, and presentations completed during the academic year. Students complete the course by taking an end-of-course written exam in May. In the subsequent AP Research course, students design, execute, present, and defend a year-long research-based investigation on a topic of individual interest. They build on skills developed in AP Seminar by learning how to understand research methodology; employ ethical research practices; and collect, analyze, and synthesize information to contribute to academic

research. Like AP Seminar, AP Research is a project-based course. Each student’s official AP Research score is based on their academic paper, presentation, and oral defense. There’s no end-of-course exam for AP Research. “We’re proud to offer AP Capstone, which enables students and teachers to focus on topics of their choice in great depth,” said Trevor Parker, senior vice president for AP and instruction at the College Board. He adds, “This provides terrific opportunities for students to develop the ability to write and present their work effectively, individually and in groups — the very skills college professors want their students to possess.”

In partnership with the higher education community, the College Board developed AP Capstone so students can practice and master skills that serve them well in college and career. Colleges and universities have voiced their support for the program. “We’re excited more schools are offering the AP Capstone Diploma program,” said Kedra Ishop, vice provost for enrollment management at the University of Michigan. “We believe the research, collaboration, and presentation skills taught in the two courses will be valuable to students throughout their academic and professional careers.”

SCOUTS

continued from page 1

be used to build animal and critter habitats up at Capon Hill Farm on Route 20,” Borgeson said. The scouts themselves will be a big part of the effort. While retrieving trees the local boys and girls of Troop 165, which Borgeson describes as a “family troop” meaning it is inclusive of all genders, will examine each tree carefully for ornaments that have been forgotten before hauling the trees away. “It’s going to be over one day that we’ll be doing it. If they’re home that’s great, if not they can just leave it outside and we’ll take care of it,” said Borgeson. “It’s a good day for the kids to be out and be involved.” Those who would like to utilize the new service can contact the Charlton Cub Scouts at CharltonDen10@gmail.com. Donations of \$10 to \$20 are recommended for the removal.

Conservation Commission sponsoring annual Winter Tree Scavenger Hunt

STURBRIDGE — Join the Sturbridge Conservation Commission for our 10th Annual Winter Tree Scavenger Hunt, a great free and fun event at Heins Farm. Walk the beautiful Heins Farm trails between now and Jan. 1 to find the trees decorated by Sturbridge Town Hall departments and local organizations and businesses. Maps are available at the farm’s kiosk or may be downloaded at www.sturbridge.gov/conservation-commission/2019-winter-tree-scavenger-hunt. Find a decorated tree, take a selfie with the tree, and post it on the town of Sturbridge Facebook page, then identify which town department, organization or business decorated that tree and email your

guess, along with your picture and contact information, to SturbridgeConservation@gmail.com to be entered into our grand prize drawing. Find as many trees as you can for additional chances to win. The winner will be drawn and announced at the first Conservation Commission meeting of 2020, and all participants will receive a certificate of participation. Enter as an individual or a team! We encourage family and group participation, but primary participants should be under the age of 13. The grand prize drawing is limited to children 12 and under.

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Joshua Hyde Library offers an evening of intrigue

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

STURBRIDGE – Residents are eagerly anticipating a night of mystery and intrigue next month at Joshua Hyde Public Library.

On Thursday, Jan. 16, the library will present its annual Stewing Over Mysteries event at the Publick House. Set for 6:30 p.m., the event will once again feature dinner and a presentation from a New England mystery author. Since 2011, residents have enjoyed the opportunity to get out on a winter night and have some fun with friends.

“This is not a fundraiser, but a community event subsidized by the Friends of the JHPL and supported by the Publick House and Old Sturbridge Inn & Reeder Family Lodges,” said Becky Plimpton, the director of Joshua Hyde Public Library.

This year’s featured mystery author is Peter Swanson, who has penned five novels, including “The Kind Worth Killing.” The novel was the winner of the New England Society Book Award. Swanson also wrote



“Before She Knew Him,” “All the Beautiful Lies,” and “Her Every Fear,” which was named an NPR Book of the Year recipient.

A graduate of Trinity College, the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and Emerson College, Swanson lives in Somerville. His books have been translated into over

30 languages, and his stories, poetry, and features have appeared in several magazines. These include Asimov’s Science Fiction, The Atlantic Monthly, Measure, The Guardian, The Strand Magazine, and Yankee Magazine.

Residents and library offi-

cials alike are looking forward to Swanson’s presentation. There is always plenty to learn about mystery and suspense writing when you hear from the author in person. Moreover, the event always attracts many local writers and aspiring novelists, as well as readers who are passionate about the mystery genre.

“Our goal is to make this an affordable and entertaining evening with a first-class author,” Plimpton added. “We are thrilled to have author Peter Swanson as our guest of honor.”

A dinner of beef stew will be offered to guests, who always enjoy the cozy atmosphere of one of the oldest taverns in the Commonwealth. On a cold winter night, residents are invited to warm up over dinner and a suspenseful story.

The event is limited to 80 people and has frequently sold out in the past. Tickets are available for \$15 per person, which includes beef stew, rolls, coffee, and dessert.

Tickets and books can be purchased at the library, or by visiting www.sturbridgeli-braryfriends.org.

In case of inclement weather, a snow date would be held on Jan. 23. For more information about the program, call the library at 508-347-2512.

Uxbridge resident part of WPI research team awarded grant to help students design Math games

WORCESTER — Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) researchers have received a \$745,612 grant to develop

a website that children can use to design and play math games that develop computational thinking skills. Hannah Smith of Uxbridge, a member of the class of 2023 majoring in biomedical engineering was part of the research team.

Ivon Arroyo, associate professor in learning sciences and technologies at WPI, is principal investigator on the three-year project, which is funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF). Co-principal investigators at WPI are Erin Ottmar, assistant professor of learning sciences and psychology, and Gillian Smith, assistant professor in computer science and interactive media and game development.

Students work in teams to play a math game with hoops and smart-phones.

Computational thinking is a foundation of computer programming that requires abstract thinking and involves breaking a problem into steps a computer could execute. Computational skills typically are not taught until college, but children can learn them because they naturally create and play games with complex rules that require sophisticated thinking, Arroyo said.

“Computational skills are important because they can improve access to higher-level STEM careers,” Arroyo said. “We want everybody, regardless of socioeconomic status, to have access to a skill that could pull them toward STEM careers.”

The WPI team will build on previous research developing the Wearable Learning Cloud Platform (WLCP), a website for teachers and students. Under the guidance of teachers, students use the platform to play games and create math games for other students. The games require players to physically move around and collaborate in groups while solving math problems and entering solutions into mobile devices, such as smartphones or tablets. Designing games requires users to develop computational skills, break problems into pieces, consider the players’ perspectives, and anticipate their behaviors.

More than 20 teachers and about 700 students have used the WLCP to create and play math games. Some games required students to solve problems while moving along a designated path. Other students designed games requiring players to lie on the ground to form geometric shapes, such as a parallelogram.

Students break a game into steps a computer could execute.

“A lot of what this project intends to do is get kids to move around and use their environment, but also think about abstract mathematical and computational concepts involved in game design and programming,” Ottmar said.

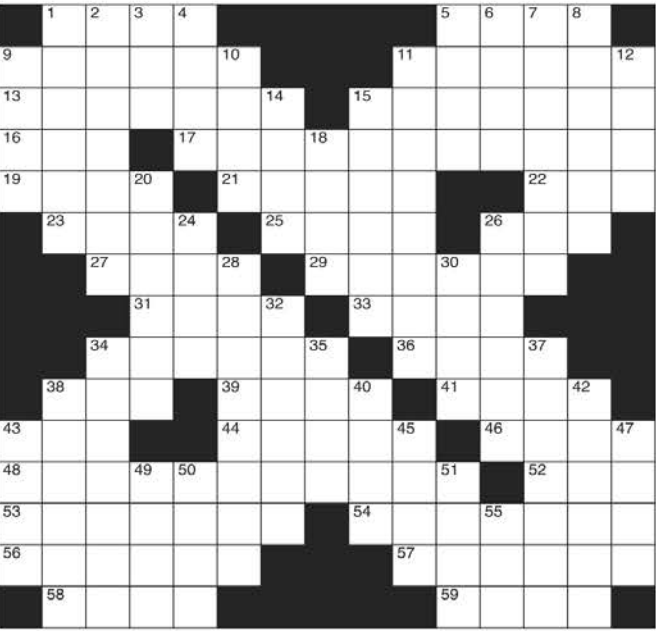
The researchers plan to work with more teachers and students from kindergarten to 12th grade. They will test students before and after playing games to determine whether the games improve math scores, and they will assess how students perceive themselves as programmers after making and playing games.

The researchers also will improve the WLCP website by creating tutorials for teachers and students, and by developing a library of math games created by other teachers and students.

The research team includes undergraduate students Richard Valente, Luisa Perez, Olivia Bogs, and Grace Seiche; alumnus Matthew Micciolo; graduate student Hannah Smith; and doctoral candidates Francisco Castro

and Avery Harrison.

WPI, a global leader in project-based learning, is a distinctive, top-tier technological university founded in 1865 on the principle that students learn most effectively by applying the theory learned in the classroom to the practice of solving real-world problems. Recognized by the National Academy of Engineering with the 2016 Bernard M. Gordon Prize for Innovation in Engineering and Technology Education, WPI’s pioneering project-based curriculum engages undergraduates in solving important scientific, technological, and societal problems throughout their education and at more than 50 project centers around the world. WPI offers more than 50 bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degree programs across 14 academic departments in science, engineering, technology, business, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts. Its faculty and students pursue groundbreaking research to meet ongoing challenges in health and biotechnology; robotics and the internet of things; advanced materials and manufacturing; cyber, data, and security systems; learning science; and more. www.wpi.edu

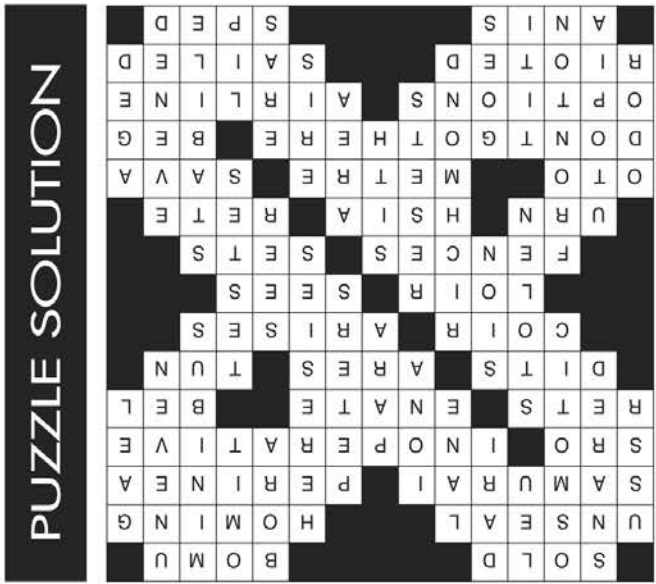


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. No longer on the market
- 5. W. African language
- 9. A way to open
- 11. A type of pigeon
- 13. Japanese warrior
- 15. Pelvic areas
- 16. No seats available
- 17. Not working
- 19. In a way, soaks
- 21. Growing outward
- 22. Ritzy local __ Air
- 23. Telegraphic signals
- 25. Metric units
- 26. Large wine cask
- 27. Fiber from the husk of a coconut
- 29. Gets up
- 31. French river
- 33. Witnesses
- 34. They make great neighbors
- 36. The sun does it
- 38. Used to store ashes
- 39. First Chinese dynasty
- 41. Network of nerves
- 43. Word element meaning ear
- 44. Metric unit of length (Brit.)
- 46. Tributary of the Danube
- 48. Off-limits
- 52. Appeal earnestly
- 53. It’s good to have them
- 54. Commercial flying company
- 56. Acted out in protest
- 57. Took to the sea
- 58. Cuckoos
- 59. Drove fast

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Trapped
- 2. About osmosis
- 3. Romanian monetary unit
- 4. Form of Persian
- 5. Cold wind
- 6. Leave out
- 7. Small vehicle
- 8. A little off
- 9. Soviet Union
- 10. A narrow path or road
- 11. Contrary beliefs
- 12. One who speaks Gaelic
- 14. Private school in New York
- 15. Jackson and Townshend are two
- 18. Soldier in an airborne unit
- 20. Taken illegally
- 24. Capital of Valais
- 26. Male reproductive organs
- 28. State capital
- 30. One with supernatural insight
- 32. Starts all over again
- 34. Jai alai arena
- 35. Star Wars antagonist
- 37. Freestanding structure
- 38. The ideal place
- 40. The extended location of something
- 42. Made level
- 43. Distinctive smell
- 45. Greek goddess of discord
- 47. Got older
- 49. Type of monkey
- 50. Travels to
- 51. Geological times
- 55. Edge



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- \$85,500, Boucher Dr #11, Gunter LLC, to Walker, Tyler, and Walker, Katie.
- \$80,000, Boucher Dr #13, Gunter LLC, to Walker, John T, and Walker, Jane E.
- \$60,000, N Sturbridge Rd, Nylin George Kendall Est, and Nylin, Patricia F, to Pollone, Anthony L, and Pollone, Heidi A.
- \$55,000, Boucher Dr #12, Gunter LLC, to Walker, John T, and Walker, Jan E.



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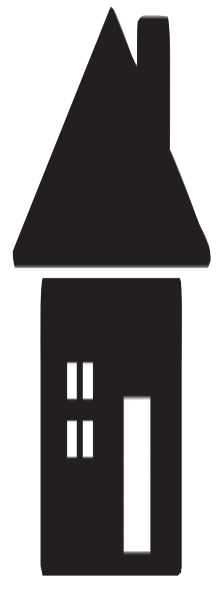
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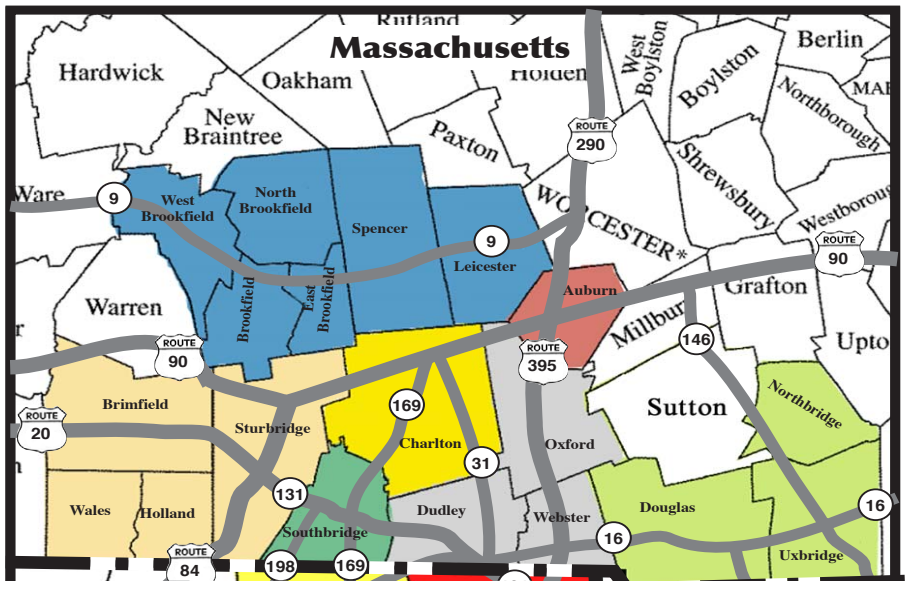
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Woman in Business kicks off 2020 with presentation on Worth, value and negotiation

STURBRIDGE — Woman in Business, Inc., (WIB) will welcome women's leadership professional and Nichols College administrator Rachel Ferreira to the first meeting of the organization's 2020 calendar.

The lunch presentation, "How to Successfully Negotiate Your Worth," will be held Wednesday, Jan. 15 inside Crafts Hall at the Public House in Sturbridge. Registration is now open by visiting wibsturbridge.org.

The January meeting offers women in all walks of career paths the opportunity to gain confidence and improve negotiation style with tips to help better identify and

articulate personal value and develop strategies for making the ask, including deflection, building a pitch, and responding persuasively.

Before she started working at Nichols College six years ago, Ferreira's focus was on human rights and access to education working in the non-profit sector. In her current role as Director of the Institute for Women's Leadership, she works to bring awareness and advocacy to the issues that face women in their professional lives. She also acts as a resource for female students at Nichols and engages men and women in conversation to bring about change in the wage gap, underrepresenta-



Rachel Ferreira

tion in leadership, and confidence, in addition to other topics facing women in the workplace.

The registration price is \$20 for WIB members and \$30 for nonmembers; cost includes lunch.

Woman in Business, Inc., was founded in 1985 and provides a network to share business experiences, knowledge and ventures. New members are welcome from all over south central Massachusetts and north-eastern Connecticut. From in-home sales to executive managers, WIB offers something for everyone.

Seventeen inducted into Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica at Marianapolis

THOMPSON, Conn. — Seventeen Marianapolis students were inducted into the Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica Capítulo Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe Marianapolis on Monday, Dec. 9.

INDUCTEES

Abigail Boria '21, Charlton
Jessie Calkins '21, Charlton
Xander Cook '21, Uxbridge
Alexandra Delano '21, Charlton
Chiara Faiola '21, Auburn
Courtney Fleming '21, Douglas
Sofia Hargrave '21, Charlton
Juliana Hernandez '21, Philadelphia
Maura Hoban '21, Millbury
Katerina Looney '21, Dudley
David Mankarios '21, Webster
Ryan Martin '20, Douglas
Laurelyn Mayen '21, Dudley
Emma McQuiston '21, Webster
Jenna Olivieri '21, Douglas

Brianne Rett '21, Uxbridge
Rachel Ullstrom '22, Auburn

RENEWING MEMBERS:

Lily Alessandro '20, Pomfret Center, Conn.
Andie Lee '20, Charlton
Yasmeen Osborne '20, Brooklyn, Conn.
Elizabeth Schoemer '20, Oxford

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Ryan Barnwell '20, Danielson, Conn.
Marielle Caparso '20, Worcester
Julia Crosby '20, Whitinsville
Paul Davey '20, Oxford
Serena Godin '20, Glendale, R.I.
Eve Listerud '20, Uxbridge
Jocelyn Nguyen '20, Auburn
Olivia Pisegna '20, Oxford
Sara Powers '20, Grafton
Niamh Raftery '20, Thompson, Conn.



Courtesy Photo

Seventeen Marianapolis students were inducted into the Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica Capítulo Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe Marianapolis on Monday, Dec. 9.

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CAMPBELL

continued from page 1

formed the Brew Crew. The brewery is wittily and suitably named "Senior Moment" and the craft beers have won several local awards and been highlighted as a "gem" of New England on Chronicle, Channel 5's Boston television program.

Campbell's vision is to expand The Overlook's large campus beyond its singular use as a retirement community to a popular mixed-use environment, attracting chefs, artisans, select retailers and visitors of all ages from the surrounding region and beyond. Campbell believes strongly in the growing evidence that mixed-use environments and an intergenerational approach will benefit residents, families and team members—giving them immediate proximity and access to shopping, restaurants, entertainment, outdoor activities and more.

Coupled with the Town of Charlton's plans for a Village Center, The Overlook's expansive land, buildings, trail system, mushroom farm, hotel, barn and other facilities will enable The Overlook

to become a trailblazer in Senior Living through a Village Center concept that takes master planning to a whole new level. Campbell is passionate about a larger master plan comprising an Overlook banquet, events center, boutique hotel and farm-to-table restaurant—attracting more people to Charlton and enabling The Overlook to further invest in its mission and the wonderful people it serves!

Campbell's mind and sights are set firmly in the future, laying the groundwork for continuous improvement and innovation. Over the past year and a half, Campbell spent more than 100 hours helping to design and launch The Overlook's Culture of Excellence training program, offered to over 700 team members. This will be the fourth organization where she has spearheaded similar programs, emphasizing integrity, communication, hospitality and teamwork through clearly defined "Guiding Principles" that establish the foundational expectations and behaviors in The Overlook's workplace.

Asked what advice she has for women in the business world, Campbell said, "Choose a field you are passionate about. Be your authentic self; support one another and give encouragement. Don't be overcome by the imposter syndrome – nothing is impossible! When insecurity and fear get in the way, focus on being in service to others."

This focus on service to others has yielded a clear growth and change in the Masonic Health System. With Campbell at the helm, The Overlook has opened Fieldstone, a Memory Care neighborhood, a pulmonary care specialty program, an adult day program for people with dementia-related challenges, as well as expanding The Overlook's home care and hospice services across The Commonwealth.

"We want to continue to educate, inspire and improve the quality of life for our residents, patients, families, team members and the surrounding community. We're just getting started," Campbell said. "Pay close attention to The Overlook over the next five years - you're going to want to be part of it!"

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Affordable gift ideas for anyone on your list



GARDEN
MOMENTS
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MELINDA
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The holidays are upon us and busy schedules often send us into a panic when looking for the perfect gift for those on our list. No matter your budget, there are affordable gift options your friends and family will love.

Tools are always a welcome gift. Most gardeners are reluctant to invest in that cool new hand trowel, shovel or rake. And that's what makes them a great gift. Or create a starter kit from your extra tools for a new homeowner or gardener. Clean them up, sharpen the blades and bundle them with a bow. Add a gift card from a nearby garden center if your budget allows.

Help your favorite gardener avoid skin cancer and protect their hands when working in the garden by creating a garden basket with gloves, a hat and sunscreen.

Clean up a corner of the basement or spare bedroom to create a seed starting station. Purchase the lights and fixtures or set a table in front of a sunny window. And if your budget is limited, scour the garage and shed or talk to gardening friends to secure items that can be cleaned and reused.

Or give your favorite gardener all they need to start a windowsill herb garden or terrarium. Purchase or recycle the containers and take cuttings, make divisions or purchase the plants you need.

A trip to the basement or thrift store may provide the perfect vessel for your terrarium. Convert an old aquarium into a



Melinda Myers Photo

Create a tropical paradise in a terrarium as a unique gift for a loved one.

tropical biodome. A large clear glass serving dish, salad bowl or vase may make a unique terrarium sure to intrigue the recipient and their guests.

Help your favorite indoor gardener dress up their favorite hanging plants. Macramé is back in vogue and adding flare to indoor gardens. Create a few plant hangers from jute and beads.

Preserve a garden memory with a photo of your or the recipient's garden or favorite plants. A collection of photos can be made into a calendar for a gift that keeps giv-

ing all year long.

Share a bit of your garden. Pass along some seeds you saved or start a few cuttings from your favorite heirloom houseplant. Dress up your gift with a painted pot or basket.

And don't forget to share some dried herbs and flowers or preserves made from your garden harvest. Nothing tastes better or is more beautiful than when it's home-grown. Don't have extra this year? Make a note on next year's calendar and plan ahead.

Give the gift of time.

Most of us can use an extra set of hands at certain times of the garden season. No dusting required and it's a great way to ensure time together.

Put your artistic skills to work and create a garden journal. A simple notebook dressed up with some photos, artwork or stickers can provide an attractive and inviting place for your favorite gardener to record their gardening successes, failures and other useful garden information.

As you can see, the possibilities are endless.

And getting friends and family involved in creating these gifts is a great way to enjoy time together while preparing for the holidays.

Melinda Myers has written numerous books, including *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses* "How

to Grow Anything" DVD series and the nationally-syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and her web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

TAX DEADLINE

continued from page 1

qualitative impact."

Selectman John McGrath made a suggestion to have the tax collector assess the situation and give information to help selectmen make a more educated decision on how to handle Friday tax deadlines in the future.

Merry Christmas from our family to yours.





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EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Breaking the ice

It's holiday party season, and for most of us, that means enjoyable times ahead. We get together with friends and family, enjoy some eggnog and a plethora of our favorite appetizers. Oftentimes, however, we find ourselves invited by our significant others to attend a work soiree, invite them along to one at our own place of work. Being in a room where you only know one or two people can seem like a daunting task for our introverted readers, but have no fear. We have some ways for you to have memorable conversations that you may end up actually enjoying.

Instead of discussing the weather or asking the mundane questions such as 'Where are you from?' why not shakes things up and make the conversation interesting by asking, 'What's your story?' Other conversation starters include, 'How do you know the host?', 'What was the highlight of your week?' or 'Are you working on anything exciting?'

If you're shy or feeling a bit awkward, you can keep the conversation going by talking about the food being served or the venue where the event is taking place. Asking a person what they have tried so far, and how they liked it is an easy conversation starter. If you research the history of a place, you can always begin with the 'Did you know?' questions. We know everyone loves a good history story and bits of local trivia.

If the person you are speaking with is from the area, ask them what they do for entertainment in town, including where and what their favorite restaurants are. Looking up recent sports standings is never a bad idea, even if you don't particularly care for sports. This way when you nod and smile, you can have some confidence in knowing that you are at least somewhat in the loop. If you've bumped into a fellow skier, discussing snow conditions and ski hills is an easy topic. Look up a recent odd news story that is interesting and humorous — that way, during a lull, you can say, 'So I was reading about a man who appeared before a Dutch court and requested that he legally be made 20 years younger.' (Yes, that actually happened. If you see one of us out and about at a holiday gathering, tell us you read about it here and we'll give you the details.)

Most conversations remain on the surface which is appropriate when you don't really know someone. However, if you feel comfortable and are enjoying the conversation don't be afraid to go a bit bolder. Generally, most people like to talk about themselves, not necessarily for selfish reasons, but who doesn't want to be known and appreciated? We all have unique personalities that are worth sharing.

Such questions that go beneath the surface may include, 'What is your biggest fear?' 'When you were growing up, what was your dream job?' 'Have you been to any interesting places lately?' 'Have you learned anything this week, that you weren't aware of last week?.'

The easiest thing to do while in conversation this month is to ask how a person celebrates the holidays. Asking about traditions and the best holiday a person has ever had brings up fond memories and positive energy.

These questions tend to snowball naturally and voila a solid, snowingful conversation has been had and you could even make a new comrade along the way.



OPINION

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

Hints to Fix Holiday Hassles

Decking the halls, trimming the tree, and prepping for the holidays is a seasonal tradition - but the tasks are not always the joyous chores of Christmas carols. If the hustle and bustle of the holiday has you frazzled as you rush to get everything done right and on time - take heart. The following problem solvers offer quick and inexpensive fixes to save precious time and money this holiday season.

Problem: Christmas light strings are a tangled mess!

Solution: First make sure you have lots of room to spread out the snaking lights; the floor is an ideal space. Locate the plug and work your way from there to the other end. Gently spread the strings and work the plug in and out of the tangles. Using a chopstick, bamboo skewer, or pencil, work any knots out of the strings. Untangled lines should be laid straight along the floor.

To prevent this hassle next year. Wind each string around a stiff cardboard; tape the end and place into a plastic grocery bag. Place into a plastic grocery bag (only one string per cardboard) and stack to store.

Problem: Wreaths are a fire hazard, especially when hot lights are strung around it.

Solution: Here is a flame retardant that can help prevent a fire on your decorative wreath and boughs. It does not totally fireproof the fresh greens, so continue to use standard fire precautions. To make: Mix together five tablespoons Borax and four tablespoons Epsom salts in two quarts of water. Fill a spray bottle and spritz the tree or wreath completely, then allow to dry.

Problem: Christmas dinner requires perfect gravy, but it's a challenge to get it right.

Solution: Why not go to the source of "foolproof" gravy, Betty Crocker? After all, the cooking icon's recipe has been at America's holiday table for decades!

Ingredients: 1/4 cup turkey drippings (fat and juices from roasted turkey); 1/4 cup all-purpose flour; 2 cups liquid (juices from roasted turkey, broth, water); 1/2 teaspoon salt; 1/2 teaspoon pepper.

Directions: Pour drippings from roasting pan into bowl, leaving brown particles in pan. Return 1/4 cup drippings to roasting pan. (Measure accurately because too little fat makes gravy lumpy.) Stir in flour. (Measure accurately so gravy is not greasy.)

Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until mixture is smooth and bubbly. Stir in liquid. Heat to boiling, stirring constantly. Boil and stir 1 minute. Stir in a few drops of brown-ing sauce. Stir in salt and pepper.

Problem: Commercial spray on "snow" for windows is messy and expensive.

Solution: This DIY version of artificial snow is inexpensive and easier to clean up! Best of all this faux frost can create a crystal ice painting on even the most insulated windows!

Ingredients: A few tablespoons of Epsom salts; one can flat beer; cotton balls.

Instructions: Use a cotton ball to dab the mixture onto clean windows. Treat only the corners for a realistic look.. As the mixture dries, it crystallizes.

Problem: You love that delightful pine scent of your Christmas Tree and wish you could extend the fragrance throughout the season.

Solution: You can! This homemade Pine Potpourri offers a fresh, ever-green scent any time of year! To do: Mix together: 1/2 cup bayberry leaves; 1/2 cup snipped balsam needles ; 1/2 cup miniature pine cones; 1/2 cup rose



TAKE THE HINT
KAREN TRAINOR

hips; 2 tsp orrisroot; 2 drops pine-scented fixative or oil. Mix the bayberry, balsam, pine cones and rose hips in a large bowl. Add the orrisroot and fixative and stir gently. Store in a jar with a tight fitting lid. Note: To rejuvenate and extend your pine potpourri, try this economical trick: Put some ground corn cob material (sold as cellulose or litter material at the pet store) in a jar. Add several drops of essential oil, place lid on jar and shake. Shake the jar every day for about a week or so. Add it to your potpourri, to give it body and hold the scent.

Problem: You want to give a holiday present to your mail carrier, but heard there are strict gift regulations:

Solution: For reference: Mail carriers working for the United States Postal Service are allowed to accept the following items during the holiday season:

Snacks and beverages or perishable gifts that are not part of a meal.

Small gifts that have little intrinsic value (travel mugs, hand warmers, etc...) and are clearly no more than \$20 in value.

Perishable items clearly worth more (large fruit baskets or cookie tins) must be shared with the entire branch.

Mail carriers working for the United States Postal Service may not accept the following:

Cash gifts, checks, gift cards, or any other form of currency.

Problem: Old fashioned flaming pinecones for fireplaces are not readily available and when found are costly.

Solution: Make your own! The traditional firestarters of days of yore are easily crafted. Best of all, pinecones not only add a great seasonal scent to a cozy fireplace , they can also add some delightful color with the addition of a few pantry ingredients. Here's how to make your holiday hearthside flames fabulous: Dip pinecones in wax (recycle candle stubs) and roll in table salt for bright yellow flames; If you use a no-salt substitute, you'll be treated to violet flames. For green flames, dip the pinecones in borax (found in the laundry aisle). Baking soda will reward you with bright yellowish orange flames, and Epsom salts will result in white flames. For hot pink flames, dip or roll pinecones in plaster of Paris. For more economical and natural looking pinecones without the wax properties, simply marinate the fire flashers. Dissolve eight ounces of one activator(salt, borax, etc) in a half gallon of water. Soak pine cones for about six hours. Dry them in a warm, dry place for a few days. For giftgiving, fill up a cellophane bag, add a bow, and attach a tag with the color codes. Pinecone Pointer: To prompt tight pinecones to open fully, heat them in a 220 degree oven on a foil lined cookie sheet. Caution: Make and use firestarters and flamers with care and at your own risk. Do not mix activators.

Win Dinner for Two
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 publications? Send questions and/or hints to: Take the Hint!, c/o Stonebridge Press, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550. Or e-mail kdrw@aol.com. Hints are entered into a drawing for a three course dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn!

Financial moves for life's 'Inflection Points'



FINANCIAL FOCUS
JEFF BURDICK

You've probably heard or read about inflection points. The term has a specific definition in mathematics, but it's also used widely to describe historical or technological events, such as the Industrial Revolution or the creation of the internet – events that changed human existence in some important way. However, you have personal inflection points, too – and when they occur, you'll need to make the right financial moves.

Here are four of the most important of these inflection points, along with suggestions on dealing with them:

Marriage – When you get married, you and your spouse will need to discuss a variety of financial issues: What assets and liabilities do you each bring to the marriage? Should you combine your finances or continue with separate accounts? Is one of you a "saver" while the other is a "spender?" Do you share similar investment philosophies, or is one of you much more aggressive than the other? You don't necessarily have to agree on everything, but you should at least try to gain enough knowledge so you can avoid unpleasant surprises, such as hidden debts, and find enough common ground so your household can advance toward your common financial goals.

New child – When you welcome a new child into your family, you'll need to make sure you have adequate life insurance. You'll also want to review the beneficiary designations on any existing insurance policies, as well as on your IRA and 401(k). And if you can afford it, you may want to start contributing to a college fund, possibly using a 529 savings plan, which can provide you with tax advantages as you put money away for your child's higher education.

Divorce – It's unfortunate, but true: Divorce is still pretty common, and it's neither pleasant nor cheap. You might not be able to avoid some of the costs, such as lawyers' bills, but if you and your ex-spouse can work together amicably, you both may be able to avoid serious financial disruptions. You'll need to work out how to divide your financial assets, paying attention to beneficiary designations, which you may well need to change. Also, as a newly single individual, you may need to review and revise your long-term investment strategy to accommodate changes in your goals and your retirement income.

Retirement – By the time you retire, you will have hopefully been investing in your IRA and 401(k) or other retirement plan for several decades. But once you do retire, you'll need to determine how much you can afford to withdraw each year from your various retirement accounts. Your withdrawal rate will depend on your age, your asset level and your retirement lifestyle. And you'll also want to consider other issues: Are you prepared to deal with health care costs? Even with Medicare, these costs may be higher than they were when you were working. And how about your estate plans? Are they up to date? Have you protected your family from the possibility of your estate going through the time-consuming, expensive and public process of probate? You may need to work with your financial, tax and legal advisors to develop an effective estate strategy.

By making smart decisions following your own inflection points, you can ease the transitions in your life – wherever life takes you.

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

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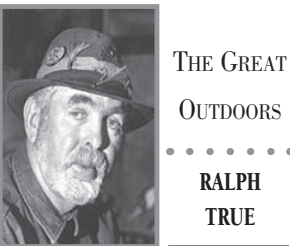
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Reflections on hare hunting



THE GREAT
OUTDOORS
.....
RALPH
TRUE

With the shotgun deer season over, hunters that still have antlerless deer permits to fill are finding many opportunities to use their deer tags. The snow that was predicted for this past Tuesday made tracking conditions ideal. The final few days of the shotgun deer season had great tracking conditions and resulted in a huge harvesting of deer, making up for the slow start at the beginning of the deer season due to heavy snow.

Because hunters did not need to bring the harvested deer to a checking station during the second week of shotgun season, but reported the deer online, results will not be available for a few weeks. The two week black powder season for deer in Massachusetts requires all deer harvested to be reported on line also.

A local sportsman and his buddies reported on a piebald buck they shot this past hunting season. The inherited genetic problem can leave a deer with numerous problems. The genetic



mutation which can leave a deer with spots of white on their coat, sometime having almost a one hundred percent white coat. They are often called albino which they are not. Piebaldism is a rare genetic abnormality in whitetails that can include a range of potential deformities, from coat coloration to skeletal alignment, which can be mild to severe. Over the years, numerous piebald deer have been harvested in the valley area by

hunters.

In talking with a few archers this past week from the Petersham area of the state, I found that hare hunting in the area was still being enjoyed by a few hunters that own beagles. This is the time of year, back 40 or 50 years ago, hare (rabbit) hunting was enjoyed by many local sportsmen. Local sportsmen's clubs in the area bought hare from a trapper in Canada. The rabbits were transported live to

the valley area, and were distributed to local woodlands and swamps.

The rabbits did very well and provided local sports the opportunity to run their beagles throughout the summer months. It was a great pastime listening to the hounds trail the elusive rabbit through the swamps and woodlots for hours. We often had as many as 15 hounds trailing the hare, which provided us with music only a rabbit hunter could

enjoy.

Every hound had a different bark or yodel as they trailed the rabbit, allowing each dog owner the opportunity to know where his dog was. As the hounds came close to our group of hunters, the hare often crossed a path or road allowing us to visually see the hare and observe which dog was leading the pack. The rabbit seemed to enjoy the hunt as much as we did, often running down the road and quickly run-

ning back over his track trying to mislead the hounds. It often worked, but it was not long before one of the hounds picked up the trail baying loudly and the others soon joined in, and the hunt was on again.

Unfortunately, the hare program was stopped by anti-hunting groups, and now the valley has lost another species of wildlife in our forest, not to mention the great pastime local sportsmen enjoyed for years.

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday season.

It is hard to believe that there are only a few days left till Christmas, and shoppers are trying to finish their Christmas shopping for that special sportsman or woman. A Massachusetts hunting or fishing license makes a great idea, but gift cards are the easiest way to get the shopping done fast. The gift cards will also allow that special sportsman to do his own shopping after Christmas during huge sales at most all stores, making the gift card worth a lot more.

Take A Kid fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending.

Wishing all of our servicemen and women a very Merry Christmas and thank you for keeping us safe.

Silver flutes

We auction many antique and vintage musical instruments found in local homes and estates. Musical instruments are often overlooked by the owners, but some can be very valuable. Rare violins can sell for six figure sums and Stradivarius violins have sold for millions. We sold a Hawaiian steel gui-

tar that brought figures in the low thousands. A cello fetched \$1,300. A sterling silver flute sold even better when it brought a figure in the mid-thousands.

Flutes have a very long history. In 2008, a flute was discovered at Hohle Fels Cave in Germany that dates back at least 35,000 years, according

to Britannica.com. The flute has five finger holes, is eight and a half inches long, and was made from the bone of a vulture. Other flutes of similar age have also been discovered in Southwestern Germany.

Britannica.com notes that the flute we typically see in Western music is the "transverse flute held sideways to the right of the player." They were used in Ancient Greece and Etruria in the second century BC. They were then played in India, followed by China and Japan. 16th century flutes combined a tenor flute, descant flute, and bass flute. In the 17th century, the Hotteterre family of Paris created a conical flute "made in separate joints, the head joint being cylindrical, the others contracting toward the foot." There were some other advancements before Theobald Boehm replaced "closed chromatic keys with open-standing keys, devising for their manipulation a system of ring keys on longitudinal axles" in 1832. Boehm continued his work to refine the instrument. In 1847 he created a flute with a "cylindrical bore (having a contracting or parabolic head)" which is the design that has been used since.

Flutes made from silver can be very valuable. The silver flutes look similar to common nickel-silver flutes. You can look to see if it is marked sterling (92.5 percent pure silver) or Ag 998 which are 99.8 percent pure silver.

Many craftsmen and manufacturers have made silver flutes that have sold well at auction. A silver flute made my Wm. A Haynes sold for \$3,000 in 2008. A Verne Q Powell flute went for \$4,250 in a 2014 auction. A John Lunn flute sold for \$5,600 in 2011. A Louis Lot silver flute reached \$8,000 at an auction in 2011. A Boehm system silver flute also sold for \$15,000 in 2011.

Custom flutes can be made from



even more valuable materials. William S. Haynes of Boston currently offers flutes made of silver and 5 percent gold, 10-karat, 14-karat and 19.5-karat gold along with platinum. A 9-karat antique gold European flute struck a note with a bidder and sold for \$18,000 at auction in 2013.

A Lillian Burkart 99.8 percent silver flute will be among the offerings in our Jan. 30 antique estates auction in Worcester.


I'll be teaching my "Evaluating your antiques" class on March 3 at the Bay Path Adult Education program in Charlton. Other events are being scheduled. Please see www.centralmassauctions.com for details on these and other 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




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Friday's Child



Keighan
Age 10

Hi! My name is Keighan and I like to tell jokes!

Keighan is a funny 10-year-old boy of Caucasian descent who enjoys telling jokes. Those who know Keighan describe him as a polite and engaging child. He enjoys quiet activities such as reading books, coloring and going to church. Keighan is also an adventurous child who likes to try new things and enjoys outdoor activities such as bike riding and going to the park. Keighan recently went camping for the very first time where he enjoyed fishing, swimming and making s'mores.

Legally free for adoption, Keighan is in need of an active two-parent family. Keighan has requested his future family have a mother, father and older siblings. He would like to continue visiting with his foster family and his brother once his future placement is identified, therefore his social worker is exploring in-state families at this time.

Who Can Adopt?

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

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

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



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SPORTS

Shepherd Hill fights back, then falls to Westborough



Nick Ethier photos

Shepherd Hill's Cam Hackett tries to drive around Westborough's Alex Badger.

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS STAFF WRITER

WESTBOROUGH — Despite a rallying effort in the third quarter, a slow start by the Shepherd Hill Regional boys' varsity basketball team was enough to do the Rams in when facing Westborough High in the season-opener for both teams on Thursday, Dec. 12. The Rangers ultimately prevailed, 61-40.

“We just gave them too many chances and too many offensive rebounds. We had a hard time breaking down their zone,” Shepherd Hill head coach Mike Byrnes said of the multitude of issues his team faced as they fell behind, 16-10, after a quarter of play before losing in the second stanza, 14-4, to trail by 16 points (30-14) at the half.

The Rangers scored the first 11 points of the second quarter.

The Rams came out of the locker room a different team in the second half. They ultimately cut the deficit down to single digits (36-27) for the first time since the opening minutes of the second quarter when Brandon De Jesus made a fast-break layup. Shepherd Hill won the frame, 19-10, to trail by just seven, 40-33, as play entered the fourth and final period.

"We started to play desperate, started to play with some intensity," explained Byrnes. "We started to have some success running in transition, which is kind of what we do. With our backs against the wall, people answered. If there's a positive, there's

that.”

But the Rams ran out of gas in the fourth quarter, as they were outscored by a 21-7 margin to lose the game by 21 points.

"I think [Westborough] responded and we didn't have a punch back," said Byrnes. "We dug ourselves a hole — down 16 at the half, you're not going to win a lot of games."

Westborough's leaders were Alex Badger (15 points), Jackson Katz (13 points), Nate Wright (8 points, 8 rebounds) and Evan Burlile (7 points, 11 rebounds). The Rangers collectively pulled down 44 rebounds (to Shepherd Hill's 25) and shot 75 percent from the foul line (21 of 28).

Shepherd Hill, meanwhile, managed just 71 percent from the stripe (12 of 17). De Jesus



Alec Fasolo of Shepherd Hill swings a pass along the perimeter.



Shepherd Hill's Danny Brooks creates just enough separation to uncork a 3-pointer.

netted a team-high 11 points — 10 coming in the third quarter — while Danny Brooks scored 10 points and Cam Hackett corralled 11 rebounds.

"Really just one [game] at a time," Byrnes said of season expectations. "We don't really know what to expect."

One thing the Rams can expect is a strong addition to their coaching staff. The junior varsity coach/varsity assistant this season is



Shepherd Hill's John Lehmann works the baseline to inch himself closer to the basket.

*Dozens of Shepherd Hill
student-athletes named
Midland-Wachusett League All-Stars*

The list of Midland-Wachusett League All-Stars has been announced, and dozens of Shepherd Hill Regional student-athletes are on it. Below are the all-stars.


Football
Alec Ambrosia
Matt Clark
Nathaniel Cooper
Adam Ide
Gabe Dos Santos — Offensive
MVP and Academic Award
Josh Marino
Anthony Oriente
Boys' Soccer
Nicholas Djiamond — First

Team
Matthew Nguyen — First Team
Gabe Roach — Academic Award
Girls' Soccer
Maria Holland — First Team
Demi Teguis — First Team
Michaela Livett — Second Team
Madi Marsh — Second Team
Victoria Paine — Second Team
Skylar Pietz — Academic Award
Field Hockey
Katie Lavoie — First Team and Academic Award

Brooke Garrepy — Second Team
Volleyball
Kiley Wong-Li — First Team
Annaka Lindstrom — Second Team
Golf
Dan Brooks — MVP
Boys' Cross-Country
Henry Weiland
Girls' Cross-Country
Emery Mullen
Kaitlyn Stevens
Emma Sullivan
Anna Thomas

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The image shows a festive box of 'Merry Christmas' brownies with a pattern of red and green Christmas ornaments. Next to the box is a white three-tiered pyramid filled with various brownies, including some with nuts and others with white chocolate. Several brownies are also scattered on the surface in front of the pyramid.

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OBITUARIES

John A. “Jack” Becker, 86



SOUTHBIDGE- John A. “Jack” Becker, 86, passed away on Sunday, Dec. 8th, in his home after a brief illness. He leaves his wife of 43 years, Paulette (Villeneuve) Becker; his stepson, Robert Sebastiani of Clearwater, FL; his stepdaughter, Michele Sebastiani of Charlton; his three grandchildren, Matthew Becker, Gina Sebastiani and Anthony Sebastiani; and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his son, Scott W. Becker in 2011. He was also predeceased by his brother, Donald Becker and his sister, Patricia Gilmartin. Jack was born in Camphill, PA the son of the late John M. and Eleanor (Ebbert) Becker. He served in the US Army. He was a graduate of Clark University and Fitchburg State College. He also attended Holy Cross College.

Jack was a Human Resource Manager at the American Optical Co. for Several

years, retiring in 1987. He previously worked as a Human Resource Manager at Weyerhaeuser Co. in Fitchburg and Sawyer Lumber in Worcester. He also worked as the Tax Assessor for the Town of Westminster. Jack was member of the Lions Club of Webster and was involved with several other civic organizations and town boards through the years. Jack volunteered as an Ombudsman at nursing homes in the Putnam and Thompson, CT area. In his youth he was very active in several different sports.

His funeral was held on Friday, Dec. 13th, from the Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, with a Mass at 12:00pm in St. Joseph’s Church, 10 H. Putnam Rd., Charlton. Burial will be held at the convenience of the family. Calling hours in the funeral home were held on Friday, Dec. 13th, from 9:30 to 11:30am, prior to the Mass. www.morrillfuneralhome.com



Dennis J. Sullivan



his two daughters, Tammy Gravel and her husband Steve of Southbridge, and Jodi Sullivan of Newburyport; his two sisters, Joan McCormack of Miami, FL and Mary Ferguson of El Cajon, CA; four grandchildren, Hannah Stuart, Marissa Stuart, Brianna Garodel and Trinity Garodel; and nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his grandson, Brandon Cohen. He was also predeceased by his brother, John L. “Jack” Sullivan, Jr. and his sister, Elizabeth Turcotte. Dennis was born in Southbridge the son of John L. and Mary S. (Elwell) Sullivan. He was a US Marine Corps Veteran of the Vietnam

War era. Dennis owned and operated DNS the Business Printer in Worcester for 43 years before retiring in recent years. He was an active member and past President of the Tri-Community Exchange Club. He was also the past President of the New England District of the Exchange Club. Dennis was an avid golfer and was a member of the Worcester Country Club. His funeral was held on Wednesday, Dec. 18th, from the Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, with a Mass at 10:00am in St. Joseph’s Church, 10 H. Putnam Rd. Ext., Charlton. Burial will follow in the Northside Cemetery, Charlton. Calling hours in the funeral home were held on Tuesday, Dec. 17th, from 5:00 to 7:00pm. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the to the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, 1500 Rosecrans Avenue, Suite 200, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266 or on line at www.pancan.org. www.morrillfuneralhome.com

Sally Joan Earle, 90



CHARLTON- Sally Joan Earle, 90, passed away peacefully November 27, 2019 at home after saying goodbye to family and friends who had gathered and attended her last days. She leaves her five children, Pamela Moller of Stafford Springs, CT, Sally Curtis and her husband James of Mattapoissett, Denison Earle and his wife Louise of Cherry Valley, William Earle and his wife Molly Marcum of Portland, OR and Amy McLean and her husband Kenneth McLean of Bolton; 10 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. She was born on Feb. 2, 1929 in Needham the daughter of William and Helen (Crossthwaite) Gates.

Sally started college at Wilson College in Pennsylvania. In 1949, she married Thomas Earle III and later moved to Leicester, MA. In 1964 Sally returned to school at Worcester State College and then became one of the first women to receive a graduate degree in math from Worcester Polytechnic Institute (MA Mathematical Sciences, 1971). She taught high school math for many years at Tantasqua High School in Sturbridge. After retirement, Sally took part in the UMass Medical Center’s Standardized Patient program, where actors simulate a broad range of medical conditions and communication challenges, and then evaluate learner performance as part of an assessment instrument in medical education. Sally was very active in community theatre and shared in the Worcester theatre community’s “15 minutes of

fame” when it had the world as its stage. She was in the cast of the one-act play “Chamber Music” by Arthur Kopit, directed by Bill Taylor for the Entr’Actors Guild. After winning multiple regional competitions, the production represented the US in the 1969 World Festival of Amateur Theater in the Principality of Monaco, hosted by Princess Grace Kelly and Prince Rainier. The trip to Monaco was a pivotal event that also involved a tour of Italy and time in Florence, or as Sally would say with flair, “Firenze!” This fueled a love of travel and learning about other cultures, with subsequent travels to Europe, Africa, China, Russia, South and Central America. She also taught English to students in China and Italy.

Throughout her life, Sally was a voracious reader with a love of literature. She had a keen interest and knowledge of Shakespeare and was involved in the Worcester Shakespeare Society for many years, serving as President. She loved lively conversation, particularly about current events, politics, and books of all kinds. She also loved keeping up with the lives of her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

The family is deeply appreciative for care and support of the staff at Overlook Independent Living Community, where Sally moved in 2017.

A celebration of life will be held in the Spring of 2020 in Leicester. In lieu of flowers, please consider a remembrance to the Dana Farber Cancer Institute.

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

Martin Philip Carlson, ‘Phil’, 90



devoted wife and partner of 32 years, Astri Carlson, of Sturbridge, MA; his daughter, Melanie Carlson of Concord, MA; his son, Mitchel Carlson and his wife Kathy of Charlton, MA; his stepson, Eric Kastango and his wife Judy of Florham Park, NJ; his step-daughter, Eve Kinne and her husband Corbin of Longmeadow, MA; his step-daughter, Kari Kastango and her wife, Alison Garvey of South Hadley, MA; and his six grandsons, Steven Carlson, Tyler Carlson, Nicholas Kastango and his wife Nicole, Alexander Kastango, Maximilian Kinne, and Tucker Kinne and his wife Hayley. He is predeceased by his former wife, Myrta Lou Carlson, and his son, Scott Carlson.

Phil was born in Jamestown, NY, on August 27, 1929, the son of Martin and Anna Carlson, who came to the United States from Smaland, Sweden. He lived in Sturbridge for many years and was proudly employed by the JCPenney Company for almost 40 years. Phil loved his occupation and left for work each day with a smile for the day ahead. Phil was devoted to his community and was a proud member and contributor to the Rotary International Services

organization giving generously of his time to the organization in many different capacities since the early 70’s. He was a Paul Harris Award recipient, the highest Rotary award, for outstanding contribution to the community. Phil visited Jamaica for several humanitarian missions along with his wife, Astri, with Doctors without Borders, helped build homes in Florida with Habitat for Humanity, and enjoyed delivering Meals on Wheels for many years in the Sturbridge area. Phil loved to golf and enjoyed playing with family and long-time golf partners. He also loved to travel, and together with his wife, Astri, visited many destinations across the world. Most of all, Phil loved people, and many benefited from his kindness and loving spirit. He loved to gather with his family for any occasion and has many treasured friends in the Sturbridge area that he traveled, golfed, sailed and experienced ‘a tremendous’ life with. A funeral service will be held on Friday, December 20, at 11 a.m., at the Sturbridge Federated Church, followed by a burial service at the North Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made, in memory of Phil, to the Sturbridge Federated Church or Sturbridge Rotary Scholarship Fund via Sturbridge Rotary Club Charitable Accounts, P.O. Box 357, Sturbridge, MA, 01566.

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

An online guestbook is available at ww.BelangerFuneralHome.com

CALENDAR

Wednesday, January 15

PRESCHOOL SCREENING FOR RESIDENTS OF STURBRIDGE: For three- and four-year-olds. By appointment only. If you have concerns about your child’s development and would like them screened, please call (508) 347-7041 for an appointment.

ONGOING

THE STURBRIDGE FARMER’S MARKET is held every Sunday through Oct. 6 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the Town Common.

CHARLTON AMERICAN LEGION POST 391 meets every fourth Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Charlton Grange Hall. All veterans are welcome. We’d love to see you. We sponsor Boy Scout Troop 165, as well as three Boys Staters & assist young men interested in attending the State Police summer school. We also assist the Charlton Little League financially, as well as other things such as veteran’s wakes & funerals. There’s plenty we can still do to help our community.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL: Please come join us for a fun evening of exercise and basketball at the Heritage School gym in Charlton. We play pickup

Turn To **CALENDAR** page **A15**

My First Christmas in Heaven

I see the countless Christmas trees around the world below,
With tiny lights like Heaven’s stars reflecting the snow.
The sight is so spectacular- please wipe away the tear,
For I’m spending Christmas with Jesus this year.
I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so dear,
But the sound of music can’t compare with the Christmas choir up here.
I have no words to tell you the joys their voices bring,
For it’s beyond description to hear the angels sing.
I know how much you miss me, I see the pain inside your heart,
But I am not so far away, we really aren’t apart.
So be happy for me dear ones you know I hold you dear,
And be glad I’m spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.
I sent you each a special gift for my heavenly home above,
I sent you each a memory of my undying love.
After all love is a gift more precious than pure gold,
It was always most important in the stories Jesus told.
Please love and keep each other
as my Father said to do,
For I can’t count the blessing of love
he has for each of you.
So have a Merry Christmas
and wipe away that tear,
Remember I am spending Christmas
with Jesus Christ this year.

Author unknown.

Merry Christmas

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CALENDAR
continued from page A14

basketball from 7-9 PM every Monday evening from September to June based on the school schedule. There are no set teams and participation is free for women 18 years and older. Please contact Deb at 508-248-3600 for more information.

Pilgrimage to Italy, Holy Land, and Medjugorje
St. Joseph's Church in Charlton is sponsoring a Pilgrimage Sept. 29- Oct. 9, 2019 to Italy, Holy Land, and Medjugorje with Fr. Robert Grattatori. The cost is \$4,599; 11 days includes 4-5 star hotels, airfare, luxury transportation, and breakfast/dinner daily. A \$500 deposit is due at the time of registration. Please contact parishioner Dr. Karen Zaleski for trip details at karenzaleski42@gmail.com or you may call Proximo Travel directly for information and to register at 1-855-842-8001, or 508-340-9370.

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP: First and third Thursday of each month, 2:30-3:30 p.m. at the Overlook Independent Living Building, fourth floor Solarium, 88 Masonic Home Road, Charlton. The intent is to build a support system, exchange practical information, talk through issues and ways of coping, share feelings, needs and concerns and to learn about community resources. Contact Kathy Walker at (508) 434-2551 or kawalker@over-

look-mass.org for more information. Presented by Alzheimer's Association MA/NH Chapter, visit (800) 272-3900 or alz.org.

Grief Support Group: at Overlook Hospice, Charlton: Have you recently experienced the loss of a parent, child, sibling, friend or spouse? We are here to help. Join a safe, supportive and caring group to share your stories and support others who are learning to live again after the death of a loved one. Drop-in group for adults meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month, 1-2:30 p.m. Contact Susan Fuller at (508) 434-2200.

NUMISMATICS: Southbridge Coin Club meets on the third Friday of the month (except July and August). The doors open by 7 p.m. and the meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Collectors of all ages are welcome. The meetings include raffle, auction, and show and tell. Light refreshments are served. The meetings are held in the community room at the Southbridge Savings Bank at 200 Charlton Rd. (Route 20), Sturbridge.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: Traditional open AA meetings in a friendly setting. Come early to chat and share in refreshments. Friday evenings at 7:30 p.m., Hitchcock Academy, Brimfield.

K9 NOSE WORK: A sport open to all breeds of dog and their people Saturday mornings over six weeks at Hitchcock Academy in Brimfield starting Jan. 19. Progressive training levels offered. Fee: \$145 per dog, per session. Instructor:

Laurie Merritt, M.Ed., CPDT-KA, CNWI, Certified K9 NoseWork Instructor – National Association of Canine Scent Work.

SEN-I JUDO CLUB: This course runs all year long on Sundays, Mondays and Thursdays at Hitchcock Academy in Brimfield, and is well suited for all levels of practitioners, including beginners! Call Sensei Israel Lopez at (413) 279-4330 for more information.

WEIGHT WATCHERS: Traditional Weight Watchers Meetings Monday evenings at Hitchcock Academy in Brimfield. Times: WeighIn/Registration 5:30 p.m., meeting 6 p.m. Leader: Angela Kramer. Visit www.weightwatchers.com to become a member or to learn more about Weight Watchers.



YOGA: Hatha Yoga benefits are stress-relieving. Relax & rejuvenate with postures & guided meditation to restore the body. Bring a mat and wear comfortable clothing. All levels welcome. Six weekly classes held on Monday nights at Hitchcock Academy in Brimfield from 7:15-8:45 p.m., beginning Jan. 21.

FENCING: Fencing is a sport of combat that originally started as practice for dueling with swords. Since that time, it has grown into a modern sport while maintaining those virtues that made it great: honor, valor, and grace. Bring a water bottle, sneakers and comfortable clothing. Youth and adult classes with Andy Bloch at Hitchcock Academy. Fee: \$99.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS: Is food a problem for you? Have you been

worried about the way you eat? Do you resolve to go on a diet tomorrow, only to fail again and again? Is your weight affecting the way you live your life? You are not alone. Overeaters Anonymous can help. No dues, no fees, no weigh-ins. Meetings are held Sundays in Worcester (St. Michael's On-The-Heights, 340 Burncoat Street) at 7 p.m., Mondays in Auburn (Bethel Lutheran Church, 90 Bryn Mawr Ave.) at 7 p.m. and Wednesdays in Putnam, Conn. (Day Kimball Hospital, 320 Pomfret Strett) at 6 p.m. Want more information? Call or text Bruce P. (508) 864-0593, email him at brucep.oa@charter.net or visit oa.org.





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Items necessary to fix a flat tire



Flat tires are a nuisance, but even the most well-maintained vehicles can be vulnerable to the occasional flat. Ensuring tires are properly inflated and in good condition can help drivers avoid accidents, but won't necessarily

make tires immune to flats. The following are some essential items that all drivers should keep in their vehicles so they can quickly and correctly replace flat tires.

- Spare tire: Spare tires are typically

located in the trunk beneath the carpet-like mat covering the area. SUV drivers may have their spare tires mounted on the back of their vehicles, but some are located beneath the automobile. Periodically inspect spare tires to make sure they are inflated. When buying or leasing new cars, drivers should always confirm if the vehicle comes with a spare.

- Jack: A jack is necessary to change a flat tire. Scissor jacks are widely used and tend to be the jacks most people keep in their trunks. These jacks are lightweight and won't take up much space, and the handle is typically the tire iron that comes with the vehicle. Some jacks are specially designed to fit the vehicles they came with, so when shopping for replacement jacks, make sure any you are considering are compatible with your car or truck.
- Lug wrench: A lug wrench is necessary to remove hubcaps or wheel covers. Drivers should determine if their vehicles require a special tool to remove wheel covers. Such information

will be indicated in the owner's manual, which should be kept in the vehicle at all times.

- Wheel wedges: Wheel wedges can be placed in front of or behind tires to prevent the car from rolling while drivers change their flats. When changing a rear tire, place the wedges in front of the front tires. When changing a front tire, place them behind the rear tires.
- Miscellaneous items: While the aforementioned items are all that's necessary to change a tire, some miscellaneous items can facilitate the process of replacing a flat. In their cars, drivers can keep a small cloth bag containing a pair of gloves, a flashlight, batteries to go with the flashlight, a poncho to keep them dry should they need to change a tire in the rain, and a ballcap that can keep rain or sunlight out of their eyes so they can focus on the job at hand. It's also a good idea to keep a blanket in the trunk of your car so passengers can stay warm inside while the flat tire is replaced.

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Pickup trucks remain popular among car buyers

Pickup trucks have long been among the most popular vehicles sold, and Statista states the number of new pickup trucks sold in the United States continues to grow. Between 2015 and 2016, 2.7 million pickups were sold, and some 2.24 million of those were full-sized pickups. According to the data and statistics site GoodCarBadCar, Canadian sales of pickup trucks jumped by 8 percent in 2016, equating to roughly 27,000 additional units sold.

A recent study from the Automotive News Data Center found the big three pickup manufacturers, which include Ford, GM and Dodge, sell an average of 6,500 trucks every day in North America. The automotive news resource The Drive points out the Ford F-150 has been the best-selling truck for 40 consecutive years.

While the popularity of pickup trucks may be evident to today's motorists, just who is behind the wheels of those trucks may come as a surprise. According to a recent study from MaritzCX, covering the 2016 model year, more people from affluent fami-

lies are opting for pickup trucks than economy cars. The Ford F-150 was the most popular vehicle among households earning more than \$200,000 a year. Jeep Grand Cherokee, Honda Pilot and Jeep Wrangler were also tops among high-income Americans.

Other factors also may be contributing to the popularity of pickup trucks. A survey from Insure.com asked 2,000 licensed drivers ages 18 and up to rank the kinds of vehicles driven by the most attractive members of the opposite sex. The survey found that women prefer drivers of black pickup trucks.

Motorists who have never before driven pickup trucks but are mulling whether or not to join the truck-loving masses can consider a host of factors as they begin looking for trucks.

- Size: Pickups are larger than many other vehicles and tend to be heavier. As a result, when driving a pickup, leave more space for braking and do not tailgate.
- Blind spots: Because pickup trucks are longer than cars, they may have larger blind spots. Drivers should adjust the mirrors to diminish as much of their blind spots as possible. Also, give ample notice when changing lanes or making turns.
- Reverse: Upon purchasing a pickup, first-time truck owners may benefit from practicing driving in reverse so they can grow accustomed to doing so in a truck.
- Hauling gear: Be sure to properly restrain items that are hauled in the pickup truck bed, or invest in a bed cover so nothing is lost and safety is not compromised.
- Inclement weather driving: Pickup trucks have very little weight in the back when their beds are empty. This can cause trucks to fishtail on wet or snowy roads. Alleviate this by placing some sandbags in truck beds before driving in poor weather.

Pickup trucks are among the most popular vehicles on the road, but drivers may need to alter their driving habits when operating them.

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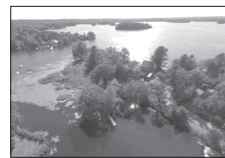
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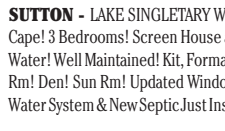
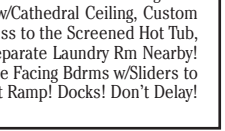
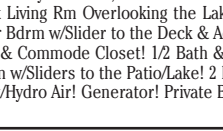
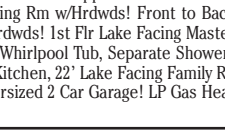
THOMPSON – 299 Quaddick Rd! Beautiful Custom Cedar Log Home Privately Set on 5.47 Acres! Stone Wall Entry Leads Up the 700+ Driveway! Nestled in the Woods! 6 Rms of Gorgeous Cedar! Applianced Granite Kit w/Soft Close Hickory Cabinets! Ideal Open Flr Plan w/Soaring Beamed Cathedral Ceilings w/Skylights! Gleaming Hrdwds! Liv Rm w/Spectacular Stone Frplc w/Pellet Insert! 1st Flr Master w/Full Whirlpool Bath & Walk-in Closet! 3 Bdrms & 2.5 Baths Total! 3Z Buderus Oil Heat! 2 Car Garage! **\$399,900.00**

WEBSTER LAKE – 250 Killdeer Island Rd! North Pond's Sandy Shore! 9 Rm Ranch in Meticulous Condition! Absolutely Beautiful 100' Waterfront Lot! Stainless Applianced Kitchen w/Cherry Cabinets, Granite Counters, Hrdwd Floor & Dining Area w/Slider to Deck! Formal Dining Rm w/Hrdwds! Front to Back Living Rm Overlooking the Lake w/Cathedral Ceiling, Custom Built Cabinets, Gas Frplc & Hrdwds! 1st Flr Lake Facing Master Bdrm w/Slider to the Deck & Access to the Screened Hot Tub, w/Walk-in Closet, Full Bath w/Whirlpool Tub, Separate Shower & Commode Closet! 1/2 Bath & Separate Laundry Rm Nearby! Walk-out Lower Level w/Full Kitchen, 22' Lake Facing Family Rm w/Sliders to the Patio/Lake! 2 Lake Facing Bdrms w/Sliders to the Patio/Lake! Full Bath! Oversized 2 Car Garage! LP Gas Heat/Hydro Air! Generator! Private Boat Ramp! Docks! Don't Delay! **\$910,000.00**



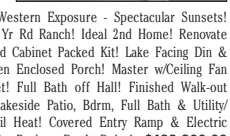
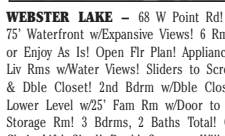
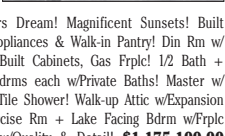
DUDLEY – 94 Tracy Road! 7 Rm 4 Bdrm Colonial on 1.24 Acres! Privacy! Many Upgrades! Hrdwds Throughout! Frplc Liv Rm w/Recessed Lights! Formal Din Rm! Eat-in Kit! Updated in 2015! Cherry Cabinets, Granite Counters, Center Isl & SS Appliances! Sunroom w/Skylights, Hrdwd Flrs & Slider to Deck! 1st Flr 1/2 Bath w/Laundry! Master Bdrm w/Dble Closet & Full Bath w/Linen Closet! 2nd Flr Full Bath! Lower Level Game Rm/Office! Utility/Storage Rm! 16x21 Deck! Garage Under! Save on Your Electric Your Bills, 2015 Solar Panels! Level yard w/Shed! Call now! **\$499,000.00**

WEBSTER LAKE – 50 West Point Rd! Killdeer Island! 4,700' Entertainers Dream! Magnificent Sunsets! Built 2016, Has It All! 2 Story Foyer! Granite Kit w/Center Isl, Dble Oven, High End Appliances & Walk-in Pantry! Din Rm w/Wet Bar, Sliders to 14x30' Deck! Bright & Airy Liv Rm w/Lake Views, Custom Built Cabinets, Gas Frplc! 1/2 Bath w/Laundry! An ELEVATOR to Service All 3 Floors! Upstairs leads to 3 Spacious Bdrms each w/Private Baths! Master w/Tray Ceiling, Walk-in Closet & Private Balcony! Master Bath, Soaker Tub & Large Tile Shower! Walk-up Attic w/Expansion Possibilities! Lower Level w/Full Kit, 1/2 Bath, Lake Facing Fam Rm, Media/Exercise Rm + Lake Facing Bdrm w/Frplc & Private Bath! Slider to Patio! 13 Zones! Oversized 2 Car Garage! Loaded w/Quality & Detail! **\$1,175,100.00**



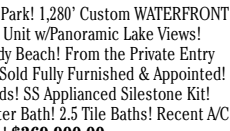
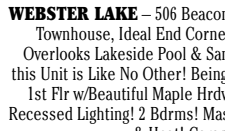
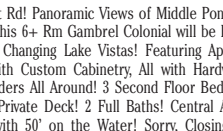
CHARLTON – GLEN ECHO LAKE! 3 Sunset Dr! Western Exposure = Beautiful Sunsets! Fantastic 105' Waterfront! Ideal 15,941' Gently Sloping Lot! Comfortable 9 Rm Ranch! Stainless Appliance Eat-in Granite Kit! Din Rm w/Hrdwd Flr! Lake Facing Liv Rm w/Panoramic Water Views! 4 Bdrms, 3 Lake Facing including the Spacious Master! Full Hall Bath! Enjoy the Sun Rm w/Lake Views! 32' Walk-out Lower Level Frplc Fam Rm w/Wet Bar & Convenient Half Bath! Nicely Landscaped Front & Back! Lake Level Deck, Dock & Rear Shed! Benefitted by Town Sewer! Start Packing! **\$499,900.00**

WEBSTER LAKE – 50 Union Point Rd! Panoramic Views of Middle Pond – South Facing – Tons of Sun! Principal Residence or as a Second Home this 6+ Rm Gambrel Colonial will be Ready for You! You'll Appreciate its Easy Access and Taken Back by the Ever Changing Lake Vistas! Featuring Applianced Kitchen w/Island, Dining Area, Lake Facing Fireplace Living Rm with Custom Cabinetry, All with Hardwood Floors! Ideal Lake Facing 3 Seasons Rm w/Tile Floor & Anderson Sliders All Around! 3 Second Floor Bedrooms! Spacious Lake Facing Master w/Cathedral Ceiling & 2 Sliders to its Private Deck! 2 Full Baths! Central Air! Composite Decks & Flag Stone Patio for Your Enjoyment! 7,405' Lot with 50' on the Water! Sorry, Closing not before 9/10/2019! **\$624,900.00**



CHARLTON – 105' WATERFRONT! Baker Pond! 63 Lincoln Pt Rd! East Facing = Fantastic Sunrises! Custom 9 Rm Colonial! Beautiful 1/2 Acre Lot w/Lawn to Water's Edge! 2 Story Foyer! Natural Woodwork! Open Flr Plan! Appliance Granite Kit w/Is, Recessed Lights, Tile Flr & Water View! Din Area w/Slider to Deck! Sunken Frplc Liv Rm w/Hrdwd Flr & Water Views! Din Rm w/Hrdwd! 1/2 Bath w/Pedestal Sink! 2nd Flr w/4 Bdrms, 3 w/Water Views! Master w/Cathedrals, French Dr to Balcony, Bath w/Separate Tub/Shower, Walk-in Closet & Laundry! Hall Bath! 3.5 Baths Total! Finished Walk-out Lower Level w/31' Fam Rm! Full Kit! Full Bath & Laundry! Includes **NEW A/C SPLIT SYSTEM!** Enjoy Outside from the Farmer's Porch, Deck, Patio, Screened Porch or Dock! 2 Car Garage! Full Recreational Use! **\$524,900.00**

WEBSTER LAKE – 506 Beacon Park! 1,280' Custom WATERFRONT Townhouse, Ideal End Corner Unit w/Panoramic Lake Views! Overlooks Lakeside Pool & Sandy Beach! From the Private Entry this Unit is Like No Other! Being Sold Fully Furnished & Appointed! 1st Flr w/Beautiful Maple Floors! SS Applianced Silhouette Kit! Recessed Lighting! 2 Bdrms! Master Bath! 2.5 Tile Baths! Recent A/C & Heat! Garage! **\$369,900.00**



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REAL ESTATE

LEGALS

NOTICE OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEETING REGARDING PROPOSAL OF HEAL STURBRIDGE, INC. TO OPERATE ADULT-USE MARIJUANA ESTABLISHMENT AT 660 MAIN STREET, FISKDALE (STURBRIDGE), MA

Heal Sturbridge, Inc. ("Heal") will be hosting a Community Outreach Meeting ("the Meeting") on **January 7, 2020 at 660 Main Street, Fiskdale (Sturbridge), Massachusetts (the "Property"), at 6:00 p.m.** Members of the public are encouraged to attend the Meeting, at which Heal will outline its proposal to apply for a Marijuana Retail license at the Property pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 94G and Chapter 55 of the Acts of 2017, and other applicable laws and regulations promulgated thereunder, including those promulgated by the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission. Please note that the information provided at this meeting will be similar to that provided at Heal's previously noticed outreach meeting on May 30, 2019.

Information presented at the Community Outreach Meeting will include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. The type of Adult-Use Marijuana Establishment to be located at the Property.
2. Information adequate to demonstrate that the Adult-Use Marijuana Establishment location will be maintained securely.
3. Steps to be taken by the Adult-Use Marijuana Establishment to prevent diversion to minors.
4. A plan by the Adult-Use Marijuana Establishment to positively impact the community.
5. Information adequate to demonstrate that the location will not constitute a nuisance to the community by noise, odor, dust, glare, fumes, vibration, heat, or other conditions likely to cause nuisance.

Members of the Sturbridge communi-

ty will be encouraged to ask questions and to engage in discussions with representatives of Heal.

A copy of this notice is on file with the offices of the Town Clerk and the Town Administrator, along with the offices of the Board of Selectmen and the Planning Board, Sturbridge Town Hall, 308 Main Street, Sturbridge, Massachusetts. A copy of this notice was mailed at least seven calendar days prior to the Community Outreach Meeting to abutters of the Property, abutters to abutters within three hundred feet of the Property, and the owners of land directly opposite the Property on any public or private street or way, all as they appear on the most recent applicable tax list, notwithstanding that the land of any such owner is located in another city or town.

December 19, 2019

Public Hearing Notice

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A, Section 11, M.G.L. the Brimfield Planning Board will hold a public hearing, on the following:

The Brimfield Planning Board will be holding a Site Plan Review Public Hearing for Sunpin Solar Development, LLC for the proposed project of a Gravel access drive and utility connections for a solar project located in the Town of Warren which is located at Brookfield Road (parcel id: Map #4B Block# A, Lot 18) on January 8, 2020 at the Brimfield Town Hall (21 Main Street) at 7:30pm.

Anyone interested in more information or wishing to be heard on the application can contact the Brimfield Planning Board or appear at the time and place designated above. A copy of the application may be inspected at the Planning Board Office in the Town Hall, please call 413-245-4100 x1153 or email planning@brimfieldma.org.

December 13, 2019
December 20, 2019

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Elizabeth Zimmer

Sarah Tetreault

Lauren Heidelberger

John Rich

Catherine Howard

Belinda Culp

George Hird

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Katheryn Durand

Brad Favreau

Kiona Carpenter

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Brooke Gelhaus 860-336-9408

Woodstock \$300,000 NEW LISTING

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Mary Collins 860-336-6677

Killingly \$689,000 NEW PRICE

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John Downs 860-377-0754

Moosup \$175,000 NEW PRICE

Remodeled in 2015 New electric & plumbing. New kitchen. New walkout great room with large TV.
Mary Collins 860-336-6677

Thompson, \$648,000 NEW PRICE

Stunning dream home with 3 story barn and 76 acres! Also sold with 10 acres for \$510,000!
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Stunning, custom built Colonial reproduction home. Complete with separate in-law home! Private 3.2 acres.
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Recently renovated 4/5 BR. New roof, gutter, electric, plumbing, water heater, furnace with natural gas. Sewer. New screened porch.
Mary Collins 860-336-6677

Thompson \$425,000

A stunning Antique home in NECT. Alpheus Russell House circa 1795. Completely remodeled, exceptional architectural detail.
John Downs 860-377-0754

Pomfret \$728,900

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Belinda Culp 860-576-4704

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Corleen Law 401-263-8893

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Thompson \$274,500

Great 3 BR 3 BA, oversized Raised Ranch w/2 acres & a 2 car garage! Lots of privacy, w/a jacuzzi to enjoy the stars. A must see!
Kathy Durand 860-208-3934

Pomfret \$239,900

3 BR 2 BA Ranch w/2 car garage newer, windows, kitchen & baths. Hardwood floors. Set off the road on 1.8 acres.
Robert Viani 860-264-5921

Brooklyn \$219,500

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Brooke Gelhaus 860-336-9408

Brooklyn \$525,000

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Gelhaus Realty Group:
Kristen 860-377-0118

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Rachel Sposato 860-234-1343

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HERE & THERE

→ Local Events, Arts, and Entertainment Listings

ONGOING

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

SECOND CHANCE MOBILE UNIT PET ADOPTION from 2-4pm. Home for the Holidays! MOBILE ADOPTION UNIT is coming to Klem's! On the road to saving more lives! Be sure to stop by and say hi to some of the sweet dogs and cats looking for a new home! Let adoption help you find your next best friend. Let us know you're coming. Click here to RSVP at our Facebook Event Page. Please don't forget to share with your friends!

MARIACHI BAND First Thursday of the month 5-8 p.m. MEXICALI MEXICAN GRILL Webster location 41 Worcester Rd., Webster, MA 508-461-5070

TRIVIA SATURDAY NIGHTS 7:00 p.m. register 7:30 p.m. start up HILLCREST COUNTRY CLUB 325 Pleasant St., Leicester, MA 508-892-9822

TriviaNight

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT FRIDAY NIGHT HEXMARK TAVERN AT SALEM CROSS INN 260 West Main St., W. Brookfield, MA 508-867-2345 salem-crossinn.com

THE CENTRAL MA CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED meets the first Monday of every month from September through May. We discuss a variety of conservation programs to improve the local cold water fisheries, local fishing opportunities. Our annual High School Fly Fishing Championship (open to all MA high school students) And our annual fund raising banquet. Auburn Sportsman's Club 50 Elm St., Auburn, MA

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vest size L \$25. HJC full face hel-
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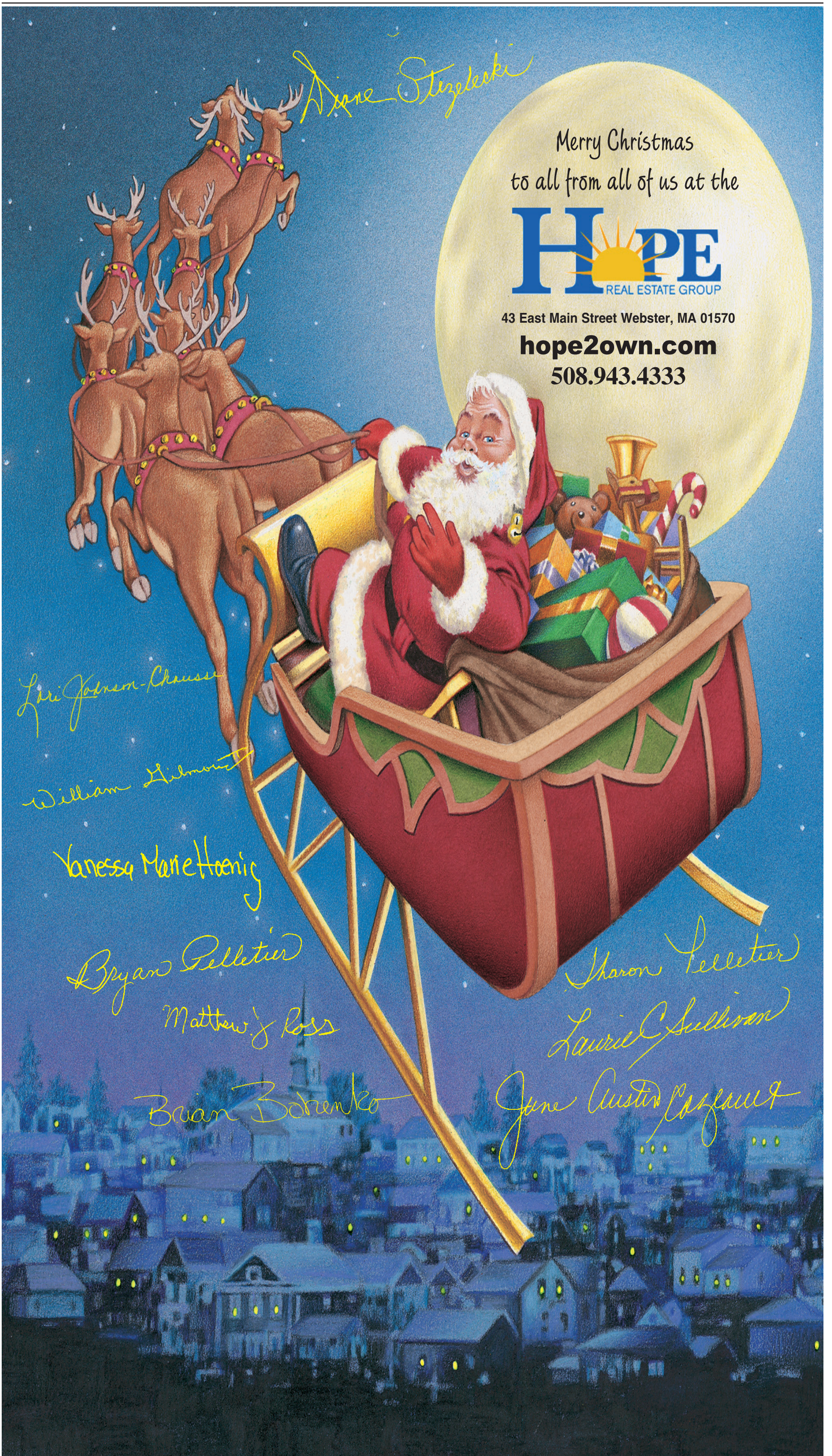
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