



Left to right: Wor. Larry Burbridge explaining symbols from the Masonic Lecture Chart to a visitor Terrance Mount and a potential candidate who was memorized by the tradition and history of Freemasonry.

Photo Courtesy

## United Way kicks off annual campaign with \$450,000 in grants

SOUTHBRIDGE — Thursday morning the United Way of South Central Massachusetts (UWSCM) kicked off its annual appeal campaign via a virtual Zoom event.

“Usually, we hold a breakfast and invite our workplace campaign managers, corporate partners, member agencies and individual donors to a breakfast event to introduce the new campaign theme and video and to learn more about our programs. But due to Covid-19 restrictions we all have to do things differently this year,” stated UWSCM Executive Director Mary O’Coin.

The United Way of Webster & Dudley merged with the United Way of Southbridge, Sturbridge and Charlton in April creating the United Way of South Central Massachusetts. By combining the two regions, resources and programs were combined. The funds raised in the 2020 We are Stronger Together campaign will support the \$435,000 in grants awarded to 28 local non-profit programs through the UWSCM Community Impact Fund. In addition, UWSCM has raised and distributed more than \$15,000 in grants to help local food pantries impacted by the COVID-19 crisis, bringing its total recent grant awards and distributions to \$450,000.

The UWSCM Community

Impact Fund makes grants annually to programs that address the region’s most critical needs in the areas of health, education, and financial stability. The recent round of grants will support a wide variety of programs that provide services including housing and shelter, food and nutrition, early literacy resources, and youth engagement.

“We are honored to support these dedicated and mission-driven organizations, as the need for these critical services has never been greater,” says 2020 Campaign Chairman Jim Croteau. “We look forward to working together to strengthen our community during this unprecedented time.”

Several non-profits have received Community Impact Fund grants for multiple years, enabling them to build long-term partnerships with UWSCM. For example, both the Boys and Girls Club of Webster-Dudley and YMCA of Central MA Tri-Community Family Branch in Southbridge continued to receive funding for their services for families and children experiencing both daily and afterschool childcare needs.

“There is the rich history of support and partnership between the Tri-Community

Please Read UNITED WAY, page A14

## Open House a success

SOUTHBRIDGE — On Saturday, Oct. 17, the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge in Southbridge and other lodges throughout Massachusetts, held their annual Open House. The public was invited to come and see what Freemasonry is all about. People were curious about Ancient Free and Accepted Masons along with their organizations still thriving today.

People came to see what is so secretive. Is it the tradition, mystery, or the hush hush of what is going on at the Masonic Lodge meeting room? Visitors were able to see the inside of the meeting room and all the mysterious symbols hanging on the walls. This is what’s called the “Masters Carpet” or “Masonic Lecture Charts.”

They are basic emblematical charts full of symbols and pictures which aid in teaching the instructions of our Ancient Craft of Freemasonry. Visitors also toured rooms with photos over 100 years old. The oldest photo dating back to 1859 when the lodge was first chartered. The pictures represented Quinebaug Lodge Past Masters and what they wore back then. Do historic photos just want to make you want to ask questions about Freemasonry?

The symbols have a story behind them. Where do you think the symbol of the “All Seeing Eye” on the Masonic Lecture Chart and above the pyramid on the one-dollar bill came from? The Illuminati symbol of the “All Seeing Eye”

came out on the one-dollar bill in 1935. A Master Mason and our 32nd President, Franklin D. Roosevelt, was so impressed with the symbol that he suggested adding it to the One Dollar Bill, providing the Catholics had no objections. There were no objections and Roosevelt approved the final new design. Yes people, there is history in the symbols on the Masonic Lecture Charts. The new one-dollar bill hit the streets in the summer of 1935.

Quinebaug Masonic Lodge has been in Southbridge for 162 years and what we do know is that we continue to make good men better. If you happen to drive by 339 Ashland avenue on the first

Please Read MASONS, page A15

## Tech upgrades, vehicle purchases approved at Town Meeting

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – Charlton voters overwhelmingly approved all nine articles on the warrant for the town’s annual spring town meeting which, due to COVID-19 restrictions, was held at Shepherd Hill Regional High School in neighboring Dudley.

Around 70 voters made their voices heard throughout the evening with the biggest items seeing over \$1.4 million in free cash allocated to several projects mostly related to public safety. Article 4 of the warrant contained nine separate motions related to purchases for emergency response or town services including numerous technological improvements and new vehicles. In addition to annual hardware upgrades, voters also approved paying \$250,000 for a town wide radio replacement project which will upgrade numerous outdated analog communication systems to digital hybrid formats. The fire department was approved for a \$60,000 purchase

for a new Chevy Tahoe for Squad 1 while a \$310,000 replacement ambulance and a \$118,561 replacement police cruiser were also overwhelmingly approved. The article also saw approval for a new loader for the Department of Public Works for \$203,500 and a new pickup truck for the water and sewer department costing \$41,000. Voters also approved a \$50,000 investment to update the town’s master plan. Other expenses approved included relacing a trailer for the town cemetery, financing a fence at the South Charlton Dam, and a painting project at the town library as well as the purchase of two Honeywell Spyder controllers. If money was taken from free cash.

Other expenditures approved throughout the evening included \$250,000 for town employee retirement benefits, \$63,000 for the operating budget for cable TV, \$51,600 for vacation and sick time buyouts for the retirement of the police chief, and expenses related to the town landfill. Voters also approved moving \$175,000 from free cash to the stabilization fund.

The final four items of the evening were all zoning amendments and, as with the rest of the articles, were approved by a majority. These

## Bay Path UNICEF Club announces new officers



Photo Courtesy

The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Class of 2021 announced the election of new officers. Elected were Angela Letourneau of Auburn, Ashley Winters of Spencer, Elizabeth Larson of Webster, Meghan Reidy of Auburn, and Isabella Boateng of Manchester, Conn. for Chair, Co-chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and Press relations Officer.

CHARLTON — The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Class of 2021 announced the election of new officers.

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Officer. The election was held recently as the Practical Nursing Class of 2021 held the US Constitution Day. The UNICEF Club Advisor is Professor Cheryl Cahill, MSN Ed, RN.

Letourneau is a 1998 graduate of North High School in Worcester. She obtained her Nursing Assistant Certificate from the American Red Cross in 1999, a Phlebotomy Certificate from

Quinsigamond Community College in 2002, EMT-B Certificate from METCA in 2008 and most recently, Care Manager Training Certificate in 2018 from All Care Plus Pharmacy in Northborough. She works as an Anesthesia Technician at Shields Surgery Center in Shrewsbury, Mass.

Winters took courses at

Please Read UNICEF, page A10





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alcohol are all important steps in helping to prevent breast cancer. Early detection is also key in the fight against breast cancer, so be sure to perform a breast self-exam each month, and ask your doctor when to schedule mammograms and other screenings.

## Treatment

A breast cancer diagnosis can be devastating to the more than 200,000 American women who receive one each year, but it's important to remember that great strides have been made in successfully treating the disease. At Harding Cancer Center, we take a multidisciplinary team approach to breast cancer treatment, using

the latest technological advances and research findings to help patients experience greater success rates with fewer side effects. We also offer a variety of support services to ensure a level of care that goes beyond the standard to make each patient experience the very best it can be.

## Hope



It is estimated that more than 200,000 women in the United States will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year, but we find hope in knowing that there are more than 2.9 million breast cancer survivors in the U.S. today.

Great strides have been made in early detection and treatment of breast cancer, and these survivors are living proof. During Breast Cancer Awareness Month and all year, we are committed to fighting the disease with education outreach, screening tests, advanced treatment options and a team of dedicated medical professionals whose commitment to beating breast cancer never stops.



**During October, National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, we remember the mothers, daughters, friends, sisters and wives who have lost their lives to breast cancer. We also salute the survivors whose successful fight against breast cancer gives us hope for the future and a cure.**

## Standing Together in the Fight Against Breast Cancer



Statistics indicate there will be more than 256,000 new cases of breast cancer diagnosed in American women this year, and breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in women of both countries. Thanks to early detection and treatment advances, survival rates have improved dramatically, but much room for progress remains. As diagnosis and treatment options continue to evolve, medical experts agree that early detection is a key factor in overcoming the disease, and performing a monthly breast self-exam is often vital to detecting abnormalities, including lumps or tenderness, in the breasts that may indicate illness. Take steps to protect yourself against breast cancer during Breast Cancer Awareness Month by initiating healthy lifestyle changes, beginning monthly breast self-exams, and talking to your doctor about the appropriate clinical breast exam and screening mammogram schedule for you.



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**NEWS STAFF DIRECTORY**

**EDITOR**  
 BRENDAN BERUBE  
 (508) 909-4106  
[news@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:news@stonebridgepress.news)

**SPORTS EDITOR**  
 NICK ETHIER  
 (508) 909-4133  
[nick@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:nick@stonebridgepress.news)

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**PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER**  
 FRANK G. CHILINSKI  
 (508) 909-4101  
[frank@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:frank@stonebridgepress.news)

**BUSINESS MANAGER**  
 RYAN CORNEAU  
 (603) 677-9082  
[ryan@salmonpress.news](mailto:ryan@salmonpress.news)

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# Greens, Libertarians and many others also seek White House

BY GUS STEEVES  
CORRESPONDENT

REGION — Voters began casting ballots last Saturday, and by mail even earlier, but there's still a full week and Tuesday, Nov 3, to vote in the 2020 elections. Early voting polls are open whatever the local Town Hall hours are during the coming week, plus 9-12 on Saturday and Sunday, then from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Nov. 3.

Like most years, the two major parties have gotten all the publicity — Republican incumbents Donald Trump and Mike Pence against Democrats Joe Biden and Kamala Harris. But, as those who have seen ballots already, there are numerous other candidates seeking the nation's top office.

In Massachusetts, two other parties have formal ballot access — the Greens (known here as the Green-Rainbow Party) and the Libertarians, and both are fielding White House contenders. In both cases, they must collect at least 3 percent of the state's vote in a national or statewide race to retain ballot access. Back in July, the Greens chose Howie Hawkins and Angela Walker as their top two, while the Libertarians nominated Jo Jorgenson and Spike Cohen in May.

## Hawkins

According to Ballotpedia.org, Hawkins, a New York resident, has run for office numerous times over the last 20 years, including four attempts at the governorship, with his best showing at 4.8 percent in 2014. The Green campaign focuses on Medicare for All, a version of the Green New Deal that's stronger than the Democrats' version, economic rights, making "each region of the country as self-reliant in food as possible," legalizing marijuana nationwide, and ending overseas wars "to ensure peace and combat climate change."

Regarding the first of those, the Hawkins website (<https://howie-hawkins.us/>) states, "It starts by immediately implementing National Health Insurance, what is commonly called today a single-payer, improved Medicare for All. In the second phase, it builds out a National Health Service where health care facilities are publicly owned, health care workers are salaried, and the system is governed by community boards elected by the public (two-thirds of the seats) and health care workers (one-third of the seats)."

Regarding the military issue, he writes, "An enduring peace requires replacing capitalism with ecosocialism — capitalism's nationalistic competitive militarism with ecosocialism's international cooperative security. We will call for deep US military spending cuts and converting to a defensive military posture from today's global

military empire of over 800 foreign military bases."

A retired Teamster who worked for UPS and Vietnam veteran, Hawkins co-founded the Clamshell Alliance and the US Green Party. When Ballotpedia asked what his first action as president would be, he wrote, "Declare a climate emergency."

## Jorgenson

Although the phrasing is different, the Jorgenson campaign also aims to end the ongoing wars. At Ballotpedia, her candidate questionnaire states, "My plan is to turn America into one giant Switzerland, armed and neutral, with the military force to defend America's soil and shores against any foreign attackers or invaders, protected by an armed citizenry and a military laser-focused on defending America." She adds she wants to bring home our troops and give no more military aid to other governments.

On the other hand, the Libertarians favor eliminating government involvement in health care entirely "by allowing real price competition," which she feels will "reduce the cost of legacy programs" including Medicare, she wrote. She also specifically plans to veto any new debt, wants to give all departments spending reductions, "oppose government-mandated shutdowns and overregulation that harms economic growth," and generally "make government smaller - much, much smaller."

Like Hawkins, Jorgenson has run for office a few times unsuccessfully, including as Libertarian vice-presidential candidate in 1996. She's currently a psychology lecturer at Clemson University and an IBM marketing representative; her website is <https://jo20.com/>.

"On Day One of a Jorgenson administration, I will pardon all 80,000 non-violent people imprisoned on federal drug charges. The War on Drugs has been a disaster; and has been used to target the poor and people of color; and to ruin lives that could have been salvaged," she wrote at Ballotpedia. "... The land of the free will no longer lead the world in incarceration."

## Others

Beyond those two, the Federal Election Commission website lists 1220 people who formally filed statements of candidacy for president this election cycle, some of them in the last week. That list includes all of the well-publicized people in both major parties who dropped out over time, hundreds of Democrats and Republicans you've never heard of, several dozen Greens and Libertarians, and a very large number of people filing as "independent," "unaffiliated," "none" and other catch-all non-partisan terms.



Photos Gus Steeves

Green candidates Howie Hawkins and Angela Walker



Libertarian candidates Jo Jorgenson and Spike Cohen.

On the list are a few candidates for other third parties that have some recognition, and even ballot access in some states. Among them are the Constitution Party, which is fielding Massey Coal CEO Don Blankenship and William Mohr; the Progressive Party, which nominated Dario Hunter (who also ran as a Green) and Dawn Adams; the Prohibition Party, fielding Phil Collins (of Nevada, not the Genesis drummer) and Billy Joe Parker; the Socialist Party USA, which co-nominated Hawkins and Walker; and the American Independent Party, which nominated Roque de la Fuente for president, as did the Reform Party, Natural Law Party and the Alliance Party. (Fuente also filed as a Republican.)

Fuente's Reform running mate is Darcy Richardson, but his AIP and Alliance running mate is rapper Kanye West. West's FEC filing identifies his political affiliation as "BDY," elsewhere identified as "the Birthday Party," and he appears on some bal-

lots for president with other running mates. To make things a little weirder, the FEC lists at least two other people claiming some version of West's name as their own — "Kenye Omari West" of the Peace and Freedom Party, who claims the White House as his address, and "Gay Kanye West Fish" of the Communist Party, also from Washington, DC.

The FEC list goes downhill from there. Among the other oddities listed are "Michael Williams Lucifer Jr." of Philadelphia, whose campaign committee is "Lucifer for President;" somebody filing as "Creamy Chode Yuh Yuh" of Portland, OR; "The Almost Famous Mr Gipperman" of Big Bear Lake, CA; "Big Chungus" of Orem, UT; and "Karen Deez Nuts" of England, AR.

Gus Steeves can be reached at [gus.steeves2@gmail.com](mailto:gus.steeves2@gmail.com).

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## Home of the Brave virtual 5K kicks off Nov. 14

STURBRIDGE — Please join the Sturbridge Special Events Committee and the Friends of the Sturbridge

Seniors as they honor veterans and those currently serving at our Second Annual Home of the Brave 5K Run/Walk — Virtual for 2020. Keeping the focus on our cause of supporting local military veterans, those currently serving, and their families; we will have a virtual race day of Nov. 14. Let's come together as a community while we run our own courses during the week of Veterans Day to honor those who serve.

All proceeds will be donated to Project New Hope and Veteran, Inc.

5k Registration: \$20. Register by Oct. 31 and receive a face mask with race logo

Knit winter hat with embroidered race logo: \$12

Register, purchase a winter knit hat, or donate at [www.lightboxreg.com](http://www.lightboxreg.com).

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\$280,000, 14 Servant Way, Booker, Stacy, and Cicio, Joshua, to Cote, Christine M.

\$236,000, 11 Crescent St, Burden, Matthew, and Munger, Ashley, to Tallis, Jocelyn A.

\$180,000, 12 Cohasse St, Batista, Brenda, to Simpson, Asia.

\$167,000, 81 Off Hamilton St, Laurence, John J, to Laurence, Jennifer, and Espinosa, Misael A.

\$66,500, Girouard Ave, Prymak, Steven A, and Prymak, Denise A, to Giller, Andrew B.

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# LPN, Bay Path alumna honored for volunteer work

WORCESTER — Not long after Ruth “Dee Dee” Betz graduated from nursing school in 2015, she started volunteering with many non-profit organizations and soon wound up being honored by the American Red Cross. Betz received the 2019 Community Impact Award for providing extraordinary care to her community through volunteerism.

“Earlier this year, when COVID-19 impacted Worcester,” Betz said. “I ended up being one of the nurses that helped to take care of people at one of the shelters.”

Betz’s continuing volunteer work and eventual employment at the DCU Center field hospital site has garnered recognition from the state with a letter signed by Mayor Joseph M. Petty and City Manager Edward M. Augustus,

Jr. In the letter, the leaders expressed gratitude for all the hard work Betz and all the volunteers have done over the last few months and the important work they continue to do as the City moves into the recovery phase of the emergency response.

“It’s just a huge honor to represent LPNs in the area and give back to those in our community who are in need,” Betz said. “I am very happy to be an LPN and enjoy what I do. I have to share the recognition with the Bay Path Community.”

Betz received an enamel pin locally sourced by Olympic Trophy and made possible by a donation from Fidelity bank as the City’s token of appreciation.

Betz recently accepted the full-time staff position at Bay Path Practical

Nursing Academy in Charlton. Betz said she was inspired volunteer more while she was in nursing school participating in service learning.

“One of our clinical sites was Harrington Hospital and our then Instructor, Gretheline Bolandrina was involved with their Mental Health Awareness event,” she said. “While I volunteered, she was encouraging me to volunteer at other events and give back to my community.”

Betz volunteered in many events since and have signed up with the Medical Reserve Corps. She also helps in mentoring practical nursing students and is always happy to help people.

Betz’s tireless volunteerism has worked to engage the Bay Path Practical Nursing community.



Ruth Betz

“We give back because we can. We don’t do this for the awards, although it’s nice to be appreciated” said Betz. “We do it because we are nurses, we care, that’s what we do!”

## Communities continue to work through phased reopening

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

REGION — After receiving the green light earlier this month from Gov. Charlie Baker, several towns are proceeding through the state’s next phase of reopening.

On Oct. 5, communities at

low risk for COVID-19 transmission were permitted to enter the second step of the reopening plan’s third phase. All towns in the medium-risk and high-risk categories will remain in the first step of Phase 3.

Baker also issued a revised gatherings order as part of

his latest announcement. Moreover, industry-specific guidance and protocols were updated.

“The order applies only to lower risk communities. Other communities are not permitted to move forward in the reopening process until the data indicates that it is safe to do so,” Baker said.

Effective Oct. 5, the following businesses, organizations, and sectors of the economy were authorized to reopen in low-risk towns:

Indoor performance venues will be permitted to reopen with 50 percent capacity, with a maximum of 250 people.

The outdoor performance venue capacity will increase to 50 percent, with a maximum of 250 people.

For arcades and indoor and outdoor recreation businesses, additional activities like trampolines, obstacle courses, roller rinks, and laser tag will be permitted to reopen.

Fitting rooms can reopen in all types of retail stores.

Gyms, museums, libraries, and driving and flight schools will also be permitted to increase their capacity to 50 percent.

The state’s limit for indoor gatherings remains at a maximum of 25 people for all com-

munities. Outdoor gatherings at private residences and in private backyards will remain at a maximum of 50 people for all communities.

Meanwhile, outdoor gatherings at event venues and in public settings will have a limit of 50 people in Step I communities, and a limit of 100 people in lower risk, Step II communities.

Locally, many residents have become confused and frustrated with the ever-changing guidance at the state level. Now, with various communities staggered at different stages of reopening, several businesses have found themselves at competitive disadvantages with their counterparts in neighboring towns.

Meanwhile, multiple area business owners have taken it upon themselves to briefly close for precautionary reasons, even though no state or local mandate required it. Eller’s Restaurant in Leicester was recently closed for a week after a kitchen worker tested positive for COVID-19, and other businesses have decided to reduce days and hours for sanitation protocols.

Additionally, area cities and towns have made tough decisions like canceling trick-or-treating. Leicester and

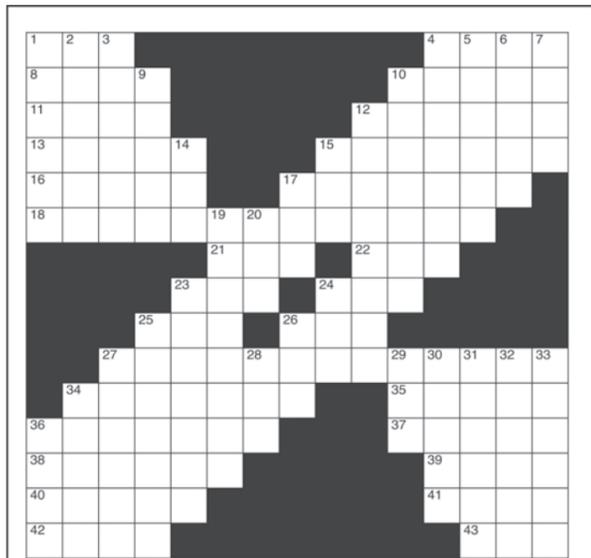
Worcester both called off trick-or-treating, and Spencer officials will likely decide on Oct. 19.

Last month, the Baker Administration began releasing new COVID-19 data to help towns, businesses, and residents make decisions based on the most detailed information possible. Newly released data includes the average daily COVID-19 cases per 100,000 residents, the average percent positivity, and the total case counts for all 351 Massachusetts cities and towns.

As we move deeper into the fall, state leaders urge residents and business owners to follow all COVID-19 guidelines. These include avoiding large gatherings, wearing masks in public spaces when social distancing isn’t possible, and maintaining proper spacing.

“We have all worked together to fight this disease. As we gradually reopen more of the economy, it is important that businesses and customers continue to follow appropriate protocols,” said Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito.

For the latest information on the state’s protocols and regulations, visit [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov).

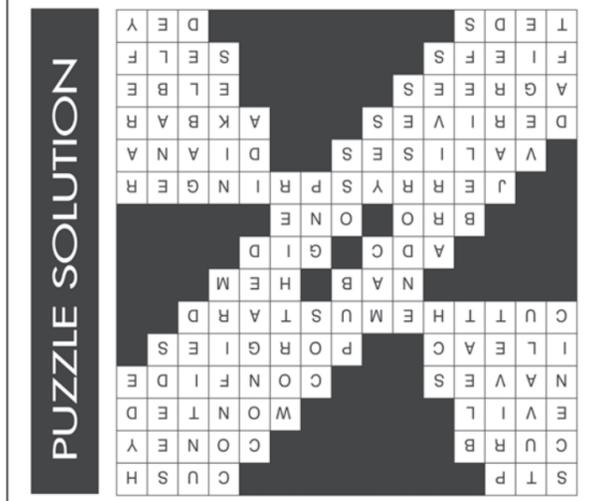


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Engine additive
- 4. Undemanding
- 8. “\_ your enthusiasm”
- 10. Well-known island
- 11. Not saintly
- 12. Habitual
- 13. Central parts of church buildings
- 15. Trust
- 16. Intestinal
- 17. Deep-bodied fish
- 18. Live up to expectations
- 21. Snag
- 22. Partner to haw
- 23. General’s assistant (abbr.)
- 24. Sheep disease
- 25. Male term of endearment
- 26. United
- 27. Popular TV host
- 34. Overnights
- 35. Beloved British princess
- 36. Obtains from
- 37. Third Mughal Emperor
- 38. Shares the opinion of
- 39. Central European river
- 40. Feudal estates
- 41. KU hoops coach Bill
- 42. Spreads out for drying
- 43. “The Partridge Family” actress Susan

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Picturesque
- 2. South Pacific island country
- 3. Shrub of the olive family
- 4. Establish the truth of
- 5. Unfettered
- 6. Originations
- 7. Famed English park
- 9. Sheep’s cry
- 10. Danced
- 12. More upstanding
- 14. Upstate NY airport (abbr.)
- 15. Type of lettuce
- 17. Place to call a pint
- 19. Backs
- 20. Partner to cheese
- 23. Makes it there
- 24. Value
- 25. One’s convictions
- 26. Former CIA
- 27. Clashed
- 28. Affirmative
- 29. Journalist Tarbell
- 30. Athletic shoes
- 31. Roof style
- 32. Make possible
- 33. Make less dense
- 34. Healthy food
- 36. Silly



## School District holding steady despite Dudley’s “Red” designation

DUDLEY/CHARLTON — Despite the recent designation of Dudley as a “red community” by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District confirms it will not be changing its approach to education.

Dudley was recently designated as a “red community” meaning that the number of recorded cases in the town has risen to at least eight cases per 100,000 residents. While Dudley has less than 13,000 residents, they recorded eight cases in a week’s time including numerous cases in a single household. In the days since Dudley had been downgraded to a “yellow community” while Charlton was upgraded from a “green community” to “yellow” status. As of this report neither town was considered in the red. Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda made it clear the designation wouldn’t change how the town approached the virus and now Superintendent of Schools Steven Lamarche confirms the schools won’t change either which is actually in line with recommendations from state

agencies providing guidance to the district.

“As per our guidance, this is a single data point, but it is important, and we take this extremely seriously,” Lamarche said during a meeting of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee on Oct. 14. “Our guide speaks to a series of weekly confirmed cases to establish a deliberative process in determining next steps regarding schools and learning models. The state does not support making shifts or changes to current learning models based on a single data point. We have no recommendations to change our current learning plan in the Dudley Charlton Regional School District.”

While Bay Path Regional Vocational High School has recorded cases of COVID-19 among its school population, as of Oct. 14 there have been no positive tests confirmed for the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District. However, the district is not easing up when it comes to COVID-19 awareness and safety. Superintendent Lamarche credited the district’s nursing staff for helping

answers concerns and inquiries about the virus and what to look out for and he has been in constant communication with the Boards of Health from both towns. He wants to see parents continue to be aware and responsible when it comes to keeping COVID-19 out of local schools.

“We need to be aware of positive COVID-19 cases in our families so that we can properly follow the recommended guidance and provide the right direction to families and increase the longevity of our opening to in-person learning,” Superintendent Lamarche said. “I cannot stress enough how important it is to keep your student home if they are sick. I cannot stress enough how important it is to self-quarantine if a family member if COVID-19 positive or if a family member has been exposed until tested.”

Links to information on the district’s COVID protocols as well as a list of testing sites are currently available on the homepage of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District’s Web site.

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# Haunting on the Hill event planned at Shepherd Hill

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON – The year 2020 might be an odd year, but there's still some local fun to be had as the fall and holiday season. While many events have been cancelled or postponed due to the limits imposed to manage the COVID-19 pandemic, the Shepherd Hill National Honor Society is hoping to provide some Halloween fun for families through their Haunting on the Hill event on Oct. 30.

Scheduled to take place in the Shepherd Hill Regional High School Parking lot, the event will serve as a drive through trick-or-treat event featuring all 75 members of the NHS and numerous Halloween-themed displays in the hopes of spreading joy and positivity for the community.

Michaela Cluett, a co-chair of the

event for the Shepherd Hill NHS, said the goal was to bring the community together for an enjoyable evening in a year where such events are in short supply due to the pandemic.

"We wanted to do something that was safe for the community so this is a Halloween event, a trick or treating drive through. Parents will be able to bring their children in their cars and there will be a route set up in the Shepherd Hill parking lot. Spread throughout the lot we'll have our members with candy so parents can drive up, the kids can roll their windows down and get treats. We hope it will be a great chance to spread joy and some uplifting, positive vibes," Cluett said.

Her co-chair Ashley Figueroa said the event is a continuation of the National Honor Society's yearly efforts to give back to a community that helped raise them and gave them

so much in their childhoods.

"This district has done so much for us personally growing up in the area. Part of our goal is we want to give back to that community. When we were talking about the crazy times we're in we knew we needed to do something and we thought this was a fun idea. What better way to celebrate Halloween and in a safe and celebratory environment?" said Figueroa.

NHS advisor Corey Stefan said part of the lessons they try to teach the students is to utilize their privileges to help those less fortunate. By coming together in a safe environment in the Shepherd Hill parking lot the students are offering a chance for locals to escape the confines of their homes and celebrate a holiday in a year with so much uncertainty and so many cancellations of town events and local staples.

"Taking a look at what the last six

or seven months have done to not just the physical state but also the mental and emotional state of our lives, something small like this can go a long way. We hope it can galvanize positivity in the community and bring a sense of hope at a time where people are looking everywhere for that kind of positivity," Stefan said.

The Halloween on the Hill event will take place from 6 until 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 30. Admission is \$2 per car to help offset the cost of candy and police detail. Additional donations will help fund the National Honor Society's Thanksgiving efforts to serve local families in need in November. Donations of candy for the event are also being accepted that the high school up to the day of the event.

## Whiz Kid Support launches real estate division

WORCESTER — Whiz Kid Support, a Worcester-based IT support company tailored toward household computer users and home-based business and work-from-home, announced the launch of its real estate division. This special division will feature products and services tailor-made to real estate professionals who work out of a home office.

"The pandemic has slowed down a number of businesses, but not the real estate market. Having your computers go down can literally cost a realtor thousands of dollars with one missed sale," said Paul

LaFlamme, owner of Whiz Kid Support. "We created this division with support staff who have specific experience in working with real estate professionals to keep those folks up and running online."

Whiz Kid Solutions provides remote computer services for real estate professionals experiencing a wide range of common issues—slow computer, e-mail problems, security, stopping pop-ups, or setting up new computers. For those issues that can't be fixed remotely, Whiz Kid Support also offers on-site and zero-contact drop off repair

by appointment.

Other issues Whiz Kid Support addresses include computer security and safety; printing problems; e-mail issues; slow dropping Wi-Fi; back-ups; and more. Whiz Kid Support also offers coaching and training as well as new computer sales and replacements.

"Many realtors have the added challenge of being a one- or two-person show but are tied into a national company and their server. That can mean a few things. First, they need their computers to be running at peak efficiency

at all times. Second, if they do have an issue, the company IT staff might not be nearly as responsive as Whiz Kids," said LaFlamme. "Again, with this new division, we can give real estate professionals a leg up on their competition who may not have a resource like us. The real estate industry uses many web sites and online resources that don't work correctly if web browser settings aren't just right. Our Whiz Kids know how to keep these sites working."

In addition to real estate professionals and household customers, Whiz Kid Support

also serves small businesses with three computers or less. Whiz Kid Support service plans range from one-time fixes to Bronze, Silver and Gold options. The plans are per computer and not for one specific individual.

"Our service plans are flexible and offer a viable, stress-free solution for a wide range of users, including households with one or more students; home businesses; seniors; etc.," said LaFlamme.

For complete information on Whiz Kid Support plans and services, visit whizkid-support.com.



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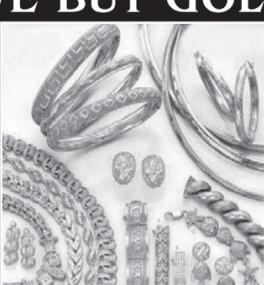
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# Optim LLC celebrates 50 year anniversary of optical imaging excellence

STURBRIDGE — Optim LLC, a leading manufacturer of proprietary portable flexible endoscopes and videoscopes for use in the visual diagnosis of Ear-Nose- and-Throat (“ENT”) disorders, contraband detection equipment as well as components for the Ultrasound market, announced today the company is celebrating a major milestone with 50 years in the optical imaging industry.

Originally founded in 1970 as Applied Fiberoptics Inc., AFI was one of the first companies to produce glass fiber imaging for use in surgical device illumination. With the acquisition in 1996 of Schott Fiber Optics’ flexible endo-

scope division, medical and industrial endoscopes were added to the product portfolio. A name change to Optim in 1998 along with a move to Optim’s current Sturbridge location solidified the company’s offerings. In 2003 Optim received its certification as an ISO 13485 Medical Device Manufacturer.

Since its inception, Optim has developed and marketed a wide variety of visualization products including Medical Endoscopes, Industrial Borescopes, as well as OEM components for large medical device companies. In recent years the company has expanded from a fiber optic-based company to offer a range of

video-based products for endoscopy and inspection.

“Optim has a long track record of innovation and customer focus” said Doug Hughes, President & CEO. As we enter our 51st year Optim looks forward to expanding its range of products and continuing to offer a unique set of solutions to our customer’s visualization needs.”

About Optim  
Optim LLC develops, manufactures and supports state-of-the-art endoscopy products and accessories that help medical professionals, law enforcement officers and industrial users work more effectively and efficient-

ly. Our breakthrough, flexible endoscopes, fiberscopes, and videoscopes with integrated LED lighting enable customers to bring precision optical capabilities wherever they are needed.

Optim offers design and manufacturing expertise in fiber optic endoscopes, videoscopes, endoscope sub-assemblies and components for medical and industrial imaging applications. Leveraging our development and manufacturing experience in prototype production, product validation to final product release allows your company to focus on design requirements, product launch, marketing, and distribution.

## QCC stays the course with remote instruction for spring semester

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College will continue with remote instruction for its Winter Intersession and Spring semesters. Classes will remain fully remote with only a select few courses offered on campus, such as labs or clinical experiences that require direct hands-on participation or specialized equipment.

“We made this decision based on the increased COVID-19 cases we are currently seeing locally, regionally and nationally. Many models project an increase in COVID-19 cases during the colder months, and based on this information, we have chosen to stay with our current mode of remote instruction,” QCC President Dr. Luis

Pedraja said. “Our concern, first and foremost, is the safety of the QCC community and our region.”

QCC’s online experience is vast. For more than 20 years, the College has delivered online education to students, offering hundreds of remote instruction courses prior to the pandemic. This past summer, all QCC faculty attended comprehensive remote instruction training to learn additional key strategies for helping students succeed in a remote learning environment. The College has maintained all its support services, transitioning all departments and services to a remote format. Services such as admissions, advising, financial aid, tutoring, transfer ser-

vices, student life and accessibility services are delivered remotely through emails, phone, or virtual meeting platforms. Support services, such as QCC’s Food Pantry and Resource Center, as well as counseling and wellness are also delivered remotely to provide vital support to those in need.

“We will continue to listen to local, state and Federal experts to ensure our plans are in line with best practices and protocols, and reassess as applicable,” President Pedraja stated.

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

## Shepherd Hill named Unified Champion School

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – Shepherd Hill Regional High School has been recognized as an official Special Olympics Massachusetts Unified Champion School recognizing the institution’s leadership in inclusion among its staff and students.

Notice was sent to Shepherd Hill Principal William Chaplin in September that Special Olympics Massachusetts had named the school as one of merit with Patti Doherty, the Director of School and Youth Engagement with Special Olympics, writing, “Despite the challenges that marked last spring, your school community has shown what it takes to be a Unified Champion School, providing opportunities and activities to creating a truly ‘Unified Generation’ of young people who embrace differences and lead social change.” The letter goes on to commend the school for its embrace of unified sports, inclusive youth leadership and engagement that includes all members of the school

community as part of its culture. The recognition also included a certificate to be displayed in the school.

During a meeting of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee on Oct. 14, Superintendent Steven Lamarche took a moment to recognize Principal Chaplin, his staff and the students for receiving such a great and commendable honor.

“This recognition comes in high regard as Shepherd Hill has demonstrated a commitment to inclusion. I want to thank Principal Chaplin and his staff for their efforts to do the right thing and ensure all of our students have access to the incredible school experience afforded here in the Dudley-Charlton communities,” Lamarche said.

Special Olympics MA is a state non-profit organization geared towards promoting inclusion in towns, cities, schools, and the workplace throughout the state and helping change the way the world sees individuals with intellectual disabilities. Those wishing to learn more about the organization can visit [www.specialolympicsma.org](http://www.specialolympicsma.org).

## QCC awarded more than \$198,000 to support students impacted by COVID-19

QCC awarded more than \$198,000 to support students impacted by COVID-19

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College has been awarded a \$198,263 Grant from the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund. As part of the Education Stabilization Fund through the CARES Act, the grant was awarded to support emergency need-based assistance for eligible students impacted by COVID-19.

“These funds come at a crucial time for many of our students, who have been struggling with financial issues since the start of the pandemic,” said QCC President Dr. Luis Pedraja.

The GEER fund was designed in response to COVID-19, to support an array of educational expenses critical to students’ enrollment status.

In addition to Federal CARES funds and the GEER state funding, the College’s Foundation instituted a Student Emergency Fund that to date has raised over \$114,000.

“The Student Emergency Fund is unique in that all current QCC students qualify for the Fund, whether they are degree-seeking, non-degree seeking, certificate-seeking, full-time, part-time, international, or undocumented,” President Pedraja continued. “In these continually challenging times we want to make sure our students are supported and have the financial support they need in order to be successful.”

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

## Hitchcock Academy hosts Pumpkin Path

BRIMFIELD — On Saturday, Oct. 24, the Hitchcock Academy at 2 Brookfield Rd., Brimfield, invites you to their first Pumpkin Path event.

From 3 – 5 p.m., participants will carve (bring your own carving tools) or use our supplies to decorate or paint a pumpkin to display in the Pumpkin Path walk that will begin at 6 until 8 pm. The event is planned for outside on the lawn. Food will be available from a food truck from 4:30 – 7:30 p.m. The entry fee is just \$10, which includes a pumpkin to decorate. If you just want

to enter the contest with your own decorated pumpkin, you can bring it down between 3 and 5:30 p.m. to be displayed for the competition. That fee is just \$5.

Prizes will be awarded by popular vote. All ages are welcome to participate. Children participating will receive a special treat bag and are encouraged to wear their costumes.

Pumpkin Path is sponsored by B. T. and Sons Towing & Recovery. Registration recommended unless just displaying at [Hitchcockacademy.org](http://Hitchcockacademy.org).

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PLACE MOTORS IS PROUD TO SPONSOR

### Friday's Child



**Hi! My name is Lariah and I want to be a cosmetologist when I grow up.**

Lariah is a creative girl of African American descent. She enjoys watching TV and doing crafts. She also loves pampering herself and enjoys getting her nails and hair done. She is very strong-willed and can be described as an engaging and happy young woman.

Legally free for adoption, Lariah would do best in a family with a mother and family or a two-mom family with no other children. A single mom would also be considered pending experience working with or parenting children with trauma.

Her new family should have knowledge of or be willing to learn about Lariah’s culture, including foods and personal care. In addition, Lariah needs positive praise, love, affection, consistency, and a structured home life. Her new family will need to help Lariah maintain contact with her siblings as well.

**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 617-6273 or visit [www.mareinc.org](http://www.mareinc.org). The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have a permanent place to call home.

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI  
PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE  
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

# Time traveling with television

It's been a tough 2020 for many; there's no denying that. Life as we know it has changed. Hopefully, the pandemic will be nearing an end soon, but let's remember not to get complacent, and to continue practice guidelines distributed by the experts. There's no harm in being cautious.

While we don't spend too much time watching anything but the news, a flip through channels one evening made us realize that television shows are not what they once were. For nostalgic reasons, we thought it would be fun to ask staff about some of their favorites from the past. Thinking back to a time when life was seemingly easier than it is now.

Our Sports Editor (currently on hiatus, but still very much a part of the family) says that "Cheers" was one of his favorites. Of the Boston based show, he said, "Cheers had great writing and the best T.V. Theme song of all time as well as the best ensemble casts ever." Spaulding added one more to his list, "ER is my favorite show of all time. It started prior to 2000, but lasted until well after. It had a great cast, great stories and great action."

Our Editor, known around the office for his extensive knowledge of movie and TV trivia said one of his favorite shows was "In Search Of," a show that debuted in 1976 hosted by Leonard Nimoy. Berube said, "Every episode explores a different mystery, whether it be paranormal phenomena, famous disappearances from history or buried treasure. I own the entire series on DVD, and to this day I still marathon all seven seasons once or twice a year." He added, "I love it because it's like opening up a time capsule. The topics they covered show you what was in the american zeitgeist back in the late '70's and early '80's."

"My other favorite, and I'm not ashamed to admit it, is 'Star Trek: the Next Generation,'" said Berube. He went on to tell us, "My dad and my brother got me into the show when I was growing up and that was my reward on weeknights for finishing my homework." He added, "I would get to watch reruns of Star Trek at 6 p.m. on the old WNDS channel, when Al Kaprielian was the weatherman. Then at 7 p.m., A&E would play an hour-long block of 'In Search Of' reruns."

One of our writers can say, with great enthusiasm, that "Three's Company" was, and still is, the best sit-com of all time. There has been no better trio than Jack, Chrissy and Janet. Cameo's by Larry and Mr. Roper made the show even better. The fact that John Ritter who played Jack Tripper, was willing to trip over couches and fall all over the place with his slapstick comedy speaks volumes. If there ever was a show to bring you out of the dumps, it's "Three's Company."

Added to that list is "Quantum Leap." The show began in 1989 and starred Scott Bakula, who played Sam Beckett. Beckett would time travel, taking the place of other people in hopes to correct historical mistakes. Time travel shows are always interesting and fun to watch.

"The Mary Tyler Moore Show" was an iconic show that demonstrated a rise for women in the workplace. Mary's friendship with Rhoda Morgenstern and work relationship with Lou Grant always made for good entertainment. Noted most however, was the main character's optimism.

Honorable mentions go to "Gilligan's Island," "Happy Days," "Different Strokes," "What's Happening," "WKRP in Cincinnati," "Lassie," "Highway to Heaven," "I Dream of Jeannie," "Dennis the Menace," "Leave it to Beaver" and "The Wonder Years."

# OPINION

Viewpoints and commentary from the Tri-Community and beyond

## A Roundup of Timely Tips

Fall is here, and from picking the last of the harvest crops to raking up (and jumping in) piles of fallen leaves, the chores of autumn season are a labor of love. Read on for a medley of seasonal tips that are geared toward making New England's favorite season a little more enjoyable!



TAKE THE HINT  
KAREN TRAINOR

Harvesting herbs from the fall garden? When chopping fresh herbs such as basil and tarragon, sprinkle the leaves with a few drops of olive oil. This effectively slows the darkening of the chopped leaves. And to enhance the flavor of dried herbs, simply chop up some fresh parsley with them!

Wondering how to store all those onions and other garden root vegetables through the winter? If you don't have a root cellar, pack Styrofoam packing peanuts into a wooden crate. As long as the vegetables are kept cool and dry, this method will do the trick.

Local apples are a seasonal treat that are not only delicious but super healthy too. According to Cornell University researchers one apple packs more cancer-fighting antioxidants than a 1,500-milligram dose of vitamin C. Want more bang for your bite? Eat Red Delicious Apples, as they have twice the antioxidant activity than Empire apples. Northern Spy came in second; then Cortland, Ida Red, Golden Delicious, McIntosh, Mutsu and Empire.

Did you know not only can an apple a day keep the doctor away - it may even help keep the fat away! Pectin in apples contains soluble fiber, which absorbs water in the intestines, mixes the food into a gel and can actually limit the amount of fat your cells can absorb!

Have some native apples you need to use up? Believe it or not, you can make homemade applesauce in the crock pot. To do: Peel, core and slice ten large apples, add one cup water, one cup sugar and one teaspoon cinnamon. Cover cook on low for eight to ten hours! Start it in the morning and it'll be done when you get home.

Flu season will soon be here. Want another weapon in the fight against flu? According to several Japanese studies, gargling with black tea twice a day from October to March, significantly improved participants abilities to fend off the flu bug.

Feel a case of the sniffles coming on? The fiery spice cayenne is a hot commodity in home remedies. Have a head cold? A dash or two of cayenne powder in a cup of hot tea relieves congestion. Touted as a natural antibiotic, a few shakes of Tabasco sauce into tomato juice is said to boost the immunity and fight flu. But never give cayenne to kids!

Did you know 3% hydrogen peroxide is a natural disinfectant that can help keep cold and flu germs at bay? Hydrogen peroxide is a thrifty alternative to pricey germ killer sprays. Use it full strength to kill germs on phones, keyboards, door handles or more.

Want to capture your best fall foliage shots on camera this season? While experts agree there's no bad time of day to photograph colorful fall foliage, they note morning and late afternoon often provide the most interesting shadows. And try later too: The golden light just before sunset highlights not only leaves on trees, but those on the ground too.

To preserve colorful fall leaves for decorating try this quick drying tip: Place leaves between two paper towels and microwave on medium one to 1 1/2 minutes checking every 30 seconds for dryness. This will remove moisture from the leaves, and they'll retain their brilliant colors!

Outside garden chores are winding down, so here's some help for house plants! Using a flowerpot with large draining holes? Keep water in by placing a large coffee filter in the bottom of the pot. And if you cut and old sponge into small pieces and add it to the potting mix. You won't have to water plants as often.

Now's the time to give your neglected indoor plants some TLC. To make your lackluster indoor plants glow feeding them a tablespoon of castor oil, mixed with water. And simply dusting the leaves exposes them to more beneficial light!

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

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

## Although "Born in the USA," The Boss may be packing his bags

I guess his hit song, "Born to Run" may turn out to be prophetic. Bruce Springsteen announced last week that if President Trump wins re-election, he'll be on the next plane to Australia.



POSITIVELY SPEAKING  
GARY W. MOORE

It seems to happen every election cycle. A celebrity ... usually an actor or singer ... makes the grand announcement that if the election does not go as they wish, they will move to Canada, France, Australia, or some distant land. Like a spoiled child, their threats are made as if they honestly believe it will change voting hearts and minds.

Barbara Streisand and other celebrities have made similar threats during past elections. Mötley Crue's Tommy Lee told The Big Issue recently that he'll go "back to my Motherland." (Wherever that is.) But is there any evidence that they ever really leave? Do their threats change anything?

There is a pattern. It's almost always a musical performer or actress/actor ... and it's usually someone from left of center making the threat. The next part of the pattern is that it always seems to

backfire, having the opposite of the desired impact, and the final step of the pattern is ... they never actually leave.

I'm always surprised by how much political power celebrities believe they carry. Why would Springsteen think we care about his political views and what would bring him to the conclusion he would sway a single vote?

Arrogance, maybe?  
When Bruce, Barbara, Tommy Lee and others spend years stepping onto a stage to standing ovations and adoring crowds, I think the thrill of the adoration gives them a false sense that because we enjoy their performance, that we are willing to take their directions on politics and general life. I respect the views of Bruce and his activist group of entertainers, but their successful lifestyle is nothing like the life that those without the same talents and opportunities live. In my opinion, the only thing to come from Bruce Springsteen's threat to leave the USA is that he has totally shattered

## Caregivers must also care (financially) for themselves

If you're a caregiver, possibly for a loved one dealing with an illness such as Alzheimer's disease, you're probably already facing some significant emotional and physical challenges - so you don't need any financial ones as well. Yet, they are difficult to avoid. What steps can you take to deal with them?

First of all, you may be interested in knowing the scale of the problem. Consider these numbers from the Alzheimer's Association: About 5.8 million Americans ages 65 and older are living with Alzheimer's disease, and in 2019, caregivers of individuals with Alzheimer's or other dementias contributed more than 18 billion hours of unpaid care - worth about \$244 billion in services.



FINANCIAL FOCUS  
JEFF BURDICK

Furthermore, about two-thirds of caregivers are women, and one-third of dementia caregivers are daughters.

But whatever your gender or relationship to the individuals for whom you're providing care, you can take some steps to protect your own financial future. Here are a few suggestions:

Evaluate your employment options. If you have to take time away from work - or even leave employment altogether - to be a caregiver, you will lose not only income but also the opportunity to contribute to an IRA and a 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. But you may have some options, such as working remotely, or at least working part time. Either arrangement can give you flexibility in juggling your employment with your caregiving responsibilities.

Explore payment possibilities for caregiving. Depending on your circumstances, and those of the loved ones for whom you're providing care, you might be able to work out an arrangement in which you can get paid something for your services. And as long as you are earning income, you can contribute to an IRA to keep building resources for your own retirement.

Protect your financial interests - and those of your loved ones. You may well want to discuss legal matters with the individual for whom you are a caregiver before Alzheimer's robs them of the ability to think clearly. It may be beneficial to work with a legal professional to establish a financial power of attorney - a document that names someone to make financial decisions and pay bills when the person with Alzheimer's no longer can. And whether you or someone else has financial power of attorney, the very existence of this document may help you avoid getting your personal finances entangled with those of the individual for whom you're caring.

Keep making the right financial moves. As long as you're successful at keeping your own finances separate from those of your loved one, you may be able to continue making the financial moves that can help you make progress toward your own goals. For example, avoid taking on more debts than you can handle. Also, try to maintain an emergency fund containing three to six months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid account. Of course, these tasks will be much easier if you can maintain some type of employment or get paid for your caregiving services.

There's nothing easy about being a caregiver. But by making the right moves, you may be able, at the least, to reduce your potential financial burden and brighten your outlook.

*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.*



If it's important to you, It's important to us.

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# Bowhunting season begins



THE GREAT  
OUTDOORS  
.....  
RALPH  
TRUE

A good soaking of rain last week sure helped alleviate the threat of brush fires and helped bring some of the small ponds and lakes water table up a bit, but we still need a few more inches of rain to get into the water table before a ground freeze, and it hopefully will happen this week.

The start of the Massachusetts bow hunting season started this past Monday in zones 1-9. Some white oak trees had a good number of acorns this year, while others had very few. Bowhunters setting up tree stands in the areas of a heavy drop of acorns, should increase hunters' chances of harvesting a deer. The heavy winds and rain of last week helped defoliate many trees, and made observing deer a lot easier as they approached a tree stand or ground blind.

Tree stands are the number one choice of most bow hunters, but as some deer hunters age, it is time for them to keep their feet on the ground. Numerous fatal or serious injuries happen every year by hunters falling from a tree stand. If you do hunt from a tree stand you need to be sure you use a safety belt or harness. Even then they do not protect

a hunter from falling from a tree stand, as most accidents happen while climbing into their stand. The most popular tree stand is a ladder stand, but they too can be dangerous.

Ground blinds work very well for deer hunting, and keep a hunter a bit warmer and dry during the hunt. They also work very well for deer hunters that bring along their son or daughter; introducing them to the sport of deer hunting. There are more women that hunt deer and birds than ever before. Hunting is not for everyone, but if they enjoy the sport, they will get to enjoy quality time with their adult parent, and will hopefully pass it along to their children.

Hunting during the rut is the most exciting time to be in the woods, and will make your chances of a deer encounter almost a guarantee. It is also the time of year to harvest that big buck that has avoided you for many years. They often let their guard down as they chase a doe in heat, and if you are in the right spot at the right time, you could get lucky and harvest the deer of a life time.

Cleaning and field dressing a deer needs to be done properly, or you could taint the meat, making it uneatable. Many people that do not like eating venison have more than likely had venison that was not properly cleaned and packaged. A lot of venison is ruined during field dressing. There are plenty

of videos that can be watched on YouTube. Taking the time to watch one can insure some great eating in the coming weeks and months. Choosing the correct meat cutter to process your deer is very important, and be sure that you are getting your deer meat, and not someone else's.

Proper dressing of the trophy deer that you are planning to take to a taxidermist also needs special care. Be sure to check that out also on YouTube or from your taxidermist. Choose the right Taxidermist & be sure to ask the following questions. What is the final cost? How long will it take before I get my mount back? Ask to see some of his or her work. Ask for references, and never pay in full before you receive your mount back.

Tautog fishing remains great as this week's picture shows. Recently stocked trout are being caught at some local hotspots. Check out the stocked waters by going to Massachusetts Fish Hunt Web site. One local angler caught a huge rainbow trout at an undisclosed site last week.

Goose and duck hunting were great for most hunters last week, but the absence of mallard and black ducks were noticeable in many areas. Wood Duck were providing the best shooting opportunities.

My apologies for the incorrect date for pheasant season in last week's column. You should



Photo Courtesy

This past Sundays catch of Tautog, Seabass and one cod, taken at Point Judith light, while fishing with Matt Fontaine of Uxbridge.

always check your abstracts prior to hunting any species, but I still take my reporting seriously, and try to be as accurate as possible. It is not easy

growing old!

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending.

## MOORE

continued from page A8

his "blue-collar-common-man persona" forever.

So why do we look to Bruce for direction?

We don't.

Only Bruce, and a few others are narcissistic enough to believe we do.

And it has nothing in my mind to do with left or right ideology. I read this morning that President Trump said, "If Biden wins, maybe I'll have to leave the country." My response is the same to our President as it is to the celebrities on the left ... "Go!" If President Trump loses the election, I don't care where he lives, if he leaves the White House in an orderly and peaceful transition ... and I believe he will.

I'm not an America, "Love it or leave it" kind of guy, but these kind of threats from entertainers have grown tiring and I believe ineffective.

We assume Bruce lives somewhere in New Jersey, but we really don't know. I

always assume Streisand is somewhere in California, but it doesn't matter to us where they live. Does their address impact our lives in any way?

When the Beatles exploded into our lives, we heard and saw them so often, they could have been the garage band next door. The fact they lived across the ocean didn't limit their exposure. If Bruce moves to Australia and releases a new album, does he think the distance will somehow limit the play in the USA and therefore punish us by depriving us of his music? If the album is good, it will get just as much play as if he were still in New Jersey.

So, what's the point?

The point is that this exposes the false sense of influence and power entertainers believe they hold over our lives. Arrogance is never attractive. I think entertainers who become activists become less popular in their genre and often have the opposite impact on the public. Think not? Ask the "Dixie Chicks."

I think comedian, Michael Loftus, said it best. "They really think they're

that important," he said. "They really think we're walking around going, 'Wait, what? Springsteen's going to leave? And Tommy Lee? Oh, I'm changing my vote!'"

So, what's positive about this?

I believe if we love our country, we will not let the results of an election chase us out. We stay and work hard because we believe in our Declaration of Independence, our Constitution and Bill of Rights ... and we realize the importance of our nation in the balance of the world.

The American people will vote on November 3 based upon their beliefs and not because an entertainer threatened. Even though I don't always agree, I always trust the will of the voting public and the power of our system. I believe the right person for the job is usually selected and when mistakes are made, we can make a correction in four years. And during those four years, we have a system of checks and balances that can keep things from going horribly wrong. The brilliance of our Founding Fathers still shines

through after almost two-hundred and fifty years.

Vote. Make your choice heard. Don't threaten anyone. Don't lose friends. Don't damage family relationships. Because half the nation, and many people you know and love, may feel and vote differently, it doesn't make them wrong. It certainly doesn't make them your enemy. I've always been a Streisand fan. I'll still listen to Springsteen's music wherever he lives.

Rather than being angry over politics, let's celebrate the incredible opportunity that the American system provides. And once the final votes are counted and the selection is made ... let's accept the will of the American people and move forward together.

May God continue to Bless America.

Gary W. Moore is a freelance columnist, speaker, and author of three books including the award-winning, critically acclaimed, "Playing with the Enemy." Follow Gary on Twitter @GaryW Moore721 and at [www.garywmoore.com](http://www.garywmoore.com).

# LEGALS

## Notification of Trade Certification

The U.S. Department of Labor has determined that Simonds Saw International, in Fitchburg, MA has been adversely impacted by increased imports. The subject firm has been certified for (TAA) Trade Adjustment Assistance benefits as of 09/16/2020.

As a result, affected workers totally or partially separated from employment on or after 11/05/2018 and before 09/16/2022 may be eligible to receive weekly cash benefits; financial assistance for remedial or vocational training programs; travel allowances to and from training; job search expenses; relocation allowances; Reemployment Trade Adjustment Assistance (RTAA), Health Coverage Tax Credit (HCTC) and other reemployment services such as resume preparation, employment counseling and job referrals.

For information about these benefits, all workers should inquire and apply at MassHire North Central Career Center, 100 Erdman Way, Leominster, MA 01453 or their nearest MassHire Career Center. Information about MassHire Career Center services is available at [www.mass.gov/lwd/employment-services](http://www.mass.gov/lwd/employment-services) or by calling (617) 626-6007. This notice is also available for viewing at <http://masspublicnotices.org>.  
October 15, 2020  
October 22, 2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Worcester Probate and Family Court**  
**225 Main Street**  
**Worcester, MA 01608**  
**(508) 831-2200**  
**Docket No. WO20P2731EA**  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
**Estate of:**  
**Tonino Caiani**  
**Date of Death: 08/04/2020**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will** has been filed by **Mafalda B. Caiani** of **Southbridge, MA** requesting that the

Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner Requests that: **Mafalda B. Caiani** of **Southbridge MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised** administration.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/10/2020**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**  
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.  
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: October 06, 2020

Stephanie K. Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
October 22, 2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Worcester Probate and Family Court**  
**225 Main Street**  
**Worcester, MA 01608**  
**Docket No. WO20P2696GD**

**NOTICE AND ORDER: Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor**  
In the interests of **Joseph Michael Judd** of **Charlton, MA** Minor

**NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES**

**1. Hearing Date/Time:** A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on **10/01/2020** by **Paul D Judd** of Charlton, MA **Debra D Judd** of Charlton, MA will be held **11/18/2020 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing** Located **Worcester Family and Probate Court/ 225 Main St Worcester MA 01608**

**2. Response to Petition:** You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:

File the original with the Court; and Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

**3. Counsel for the Minor:** The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

**4. Counsel for Parents:** If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.

**5. Presence of the Minor at Hearing:** A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.

**THIS IS A LEGAL NOTICE:** An important court proceeding that may affect your rights has been scheduled. If you do not understand this notice or

other court papers, please contact an attorney for legal advice.

Date: October 1, 2020  
Stephanie K. Fattman  
Register of Probate  
October 22, 2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Worcester Division**  
**225 Main Street**  
**Worcester, MA 01608**  
**(508) 831-2200**  
**Docket No. WO19P3901EA**

**Estate of:**  
**Earl R Latour**  
**Alos known as:**  
**Earl Latour**  
**Date of Death: 02/23/2014**  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT**

A Petition for **Order of Complete Settlement** has been filed by **Cynthia M Latour** of **Sturbridge MA** requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/03/2020**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

Witness, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court  
October 13, 2020  
Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate  
October 22, 2020

# Fall garden tasks to protect your landscape from winter wildlife damage



GARDEN MOMENTS

MELINDA MYERS

As the seasons change, we adjust our gardening tasks and plantings to match. Animals also make changes this time of year, often changing their eating habits and dining locations. These adjustments can impact your gardens. Reduce the risk of damage by starting in fall to protect your landscape from hungry animals this winter.

Take a walk around your landscape to evaluate plants and plantings for their susceptibility to animal damage. Look for pathways that animals use to access your landscape and areas of potential damage. Note new plantings, animal favorites and those special plantings you would hate to lose. Make sure these are protected.

Check mulch around trees and shrubs. Deep layers of mulch and mulch piled around the trunk of trees and the base of shrubs provides shelter for mice and voles. These rodents like to gnaw on the bark of trees and shrubs in winter. Pull mulch off tree trunks and stems and spread out deep mulch so it is only two to four inches deep.

Protect young trees and shrubs with a four-foot-tall fence of hardware cloth sunk several inches into the ground to

prevent vole damage at ground level and most rabbit damage. Mature trees are usually only bothered during years where the vole and rabbit populations are high and food is scarce.

Fencing around garden beds filled with animal favorites is another option. Make sure your fence is high enough, tight to the ground and gates are secure. You will need a four-foot-high fence for rabbits and at least five-to six-foot-high fence to keep deer out of small gardens. A fence of several strands of fishing line has proven to be successful for some gardeners.

Repellents are another less obtrusive option. These use smell or taste to discourage animals from dining in your landscape. Check the label to see if the repellent works on the animals and rodents you are trying to manage. Apply repellents before animals start feeding for best results. Then reapply as recommended on the label. Look for one, like organic Plantskydd (plantskydd.com), that is rain and snow resistant, lasting up to six months on dormant plants over the winter so you will need to apply it less often.

Scare tactics may be effective depending on where you live. In urban and suburban areas animals are used to human scents and sounds. Gardeners often hang old CDs and shiny ribbons in tree branches to scare hungry animals. If you opt for scare tactics, be sure to employ a variety of options and change their location to increase your chance of success.

Constantly monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the methods used and



Photo Melinda Myers

To protect plantings from rabbits, use fencing that is at least four feet tall or a repellent that discourages them from dining on plants.

check all plantings for damage. When animal populations are high and hungry, they will eat about anything. Be willing to change things up if one method is not working. Using multiple tactics will help increase your level of success.

Protect your landscape from hungry deer, rabbits, and voles this winter. Start preparing in fall before their winter dining habits begin. If you are vigilant and persistent, you can coexist with these creatures and still have

a beautiful landscape.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* DVD series and the *Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio segments*. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by *Tree World Plant Care* for her expertise to write this article. Her Web site is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).

## UNICEF

continued from page A1

Anna Maria College in Paxton, MA for social work major. She obtained her certifications as a nursing assistant and Home Health Aide from the American Red Cross in 2017. Larson obtained her certificate in Medical Assisting at the Health Training Center in Worcester, Mass. in 2011. She has been employed with the Harrington Physician Services Primary Care in Webster since 2011 and moved to Cardiology in Southbridge in 2015. Reidy is a 2017 graduate of Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School

Facilities Maintenance Shop and attended Quinsigamond Community College through her sophomore year. She is certified in OSHA 10 as well as Lifeguarding, First Aid, CPR, and AED through the American Red Cross. Her spent the summers of 2014 to 2019 as a Lifeguard at Camp Woodhaven in West Boylston, MA and has a co-op position as Facility Maintenance at Kay Gee Sign in Auburn, MA 2016-2017. Boateng is a Certified Nursing Assistant for All Ways There Home Care in Vernon, Conn. and a Hospice Aide for Seasons Hospice and Palliative Care of Bloomfield, Conn. She holds a Diploma in Business Management

from Kumasi Polytechnic in Kumasi, Ghana and a Diploma in Accounting from Konongo Odumase of Konongo, Ghana. Most recently she completed The Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating Scale training from The Columbia Lighthouse Project of the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias for Nursing Homes, Adult Day Care, and Hospice from ATrain Education, Inc. in Willits, California.

All five UNICEF Club officers are certified in Dementia care and have a valid Healthcare Provider/ BLS Provider CPR from the American

Heart Association. As UNICEF Club officers they will lead the PN Class of 2021 in children's advocacy and raising awareness.

The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy UNICEF Club was founded in 2016 and each year club officers lead members through various fundraising methods that serves to educate and raise awareness to relevant issues happening locally and globally. The UNICEF Club meets after school hours. For October fundraiser the club officers will be distributing UNICEF Halloween donation boxes for trick-or-treaters. Plans are underway for more fundraising activities.

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*We will be serving a traditional turkey dinner, as always.*

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We will be serving a traditional turkey dinner, as always.






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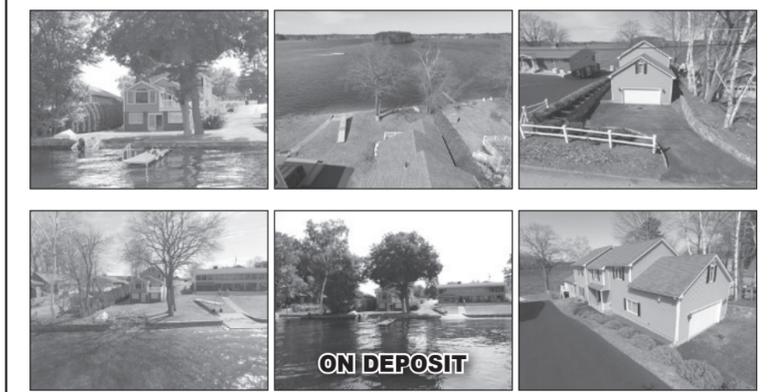
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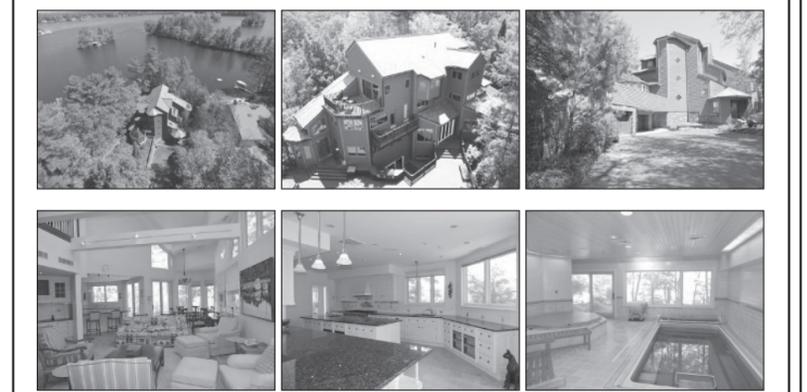
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# Latest antiques, collectibles, and auction news

It has been over a month since my last antiques, collectibles, and auction news report. A lot has happened since. Let's begin with an upcoming Halloween auction in Ireland.

The Irish Times reports that Mullen's Auctioneers of Dublin, Ireland will be holding a Halloween auction. The auction features many prints, photos and medals related to historical events in Ireland. There are two items fitting for an auction on Halloween. A movie poster from the 1958 film "Dublin Nightmare" which has an estimate of 150 to 200 Euros (approximately \$175 to \$235 U.S. dollars) will be one of the offerings. A death mask of Irish novelist James Joyce is the other. The Irish Times reported that Joyce's wife Nora authorized sculptor Paul Speck to make two death masks of Joyce when he died in 1941. Speck made an additional mask for himself. The two authorized masks are owned by the James Joyce Foundation. The third was sent to the Irish Library of Congress. Speck made 6 bronze castings before he presented the mask to the Library of Congress. Speck gave one of the castings to film director James Huston. Huston in turn had 12 more bronze castings created by Lunt's Castings. One of the



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES  
WAYNE TUISKULA

12 Huston created will be auctioned on Halloween. Its auction estimate is 1,500 to 2,000 Euros (approximately \$1,750 to \$2,350).

There are very few paintings by 15th Century Renaissance painter Sandro Botticelli in private hands. It's rare for one to come up for auction, but this noteworthy event will take place in January, when his "Young Man Holding a Roundel" will be offered. A Mutual Art article states that "Botticelli's striking paintings in the late 15th-century made his work sought after by some of Europe's richest patrons, and his works' appeal was widespread." CNN reports that this painting was produced in the 1470s or 1480s. According to Mutual Art: "it's reasonable to assume that the sitter is an elite nobleman, due to his high quality clothing and pensive, refined appearance." The current owner purchased it for £810,000 (a little over \$1 million U.S. at the current exchange rate) in 1982. Despite the pandemic, the auction house and the consignor have found the auction market to be resilient. The auction estimate on the painting is \$80 million.

A Kalamazoo, MI couple recently found that their \$5 estate sale buy

may be worth thousands, according to WWMT TV. The husband bought a poster rolled up in a tube without a price. He collects movie posters and thought that's what he was purchasing. He offered \$5. The seller accepted and the buyer gave the tube with the poster to his wife. It sat in their basement for five years until their son was searching for some wall art. He looked through the items his parents had accumulated and opened the tube with the poster. It was much larger than the family expected. WLNS TV reported that the poster they thought to be movie poster size was instead a whopping 8 feet x 13 feet large. The poster was produced by Air France in 1959. Their research determined that it was an original lithograph created by French artist Lucien Boucher. It depicts aircraft flying to destinations around the globe. The couple found auction results for a similar piece that sold for 18,750 British pounds (over \$24,000 U.S.) in 2014. The couple decided to donate the poster. WWMT reported that the airline map is expected to land at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum.

Bidding ends on Oct. 28 for our online coin auction. Our next auction featuring gold estate jewelry, sterling silver, pocket watches, World War I and II Red Cross posters, a 1931 Auburn automobile and a wide selection of



other antiques and collectibles will be online soon with bidding ending November 17th.

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



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## Sturbridge crash claims teen's life

STURBRIDGE – A 16-year-old Newton boy was killed this month in a single-vehicle crash on Route 84.

On Oct. 12, State Police troopers responded to the wreck at 10:15 p.m. The accident occurred on the east-bound side of the highway.

Responding troopers found the driver entrapped in his vehicle, a 2014 Subaru Forester. The driver was the only occupant of the vehicle.

Sturbridge EMS personnel determined the victim to be deceased at the scene.

A preliminary investigation indicated that, for reasons still to be deter-

mined, the Subaru veered to its right, struck the guardrail along the southern edge of the road, then traveled back to the left across all three travel lanes. The vehicle ultimately went off the northern edge of the road before striking several trees along an embankment, police said.

As of press time, police had not released the victim's name.

The crash remains under investigation by the State Police Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Section, as well as the State Police Crime Scene Services Section.

### UNITED WAY

continued from page A1

YMCA and the United Way of South Central Massachusetts," says Christina Hadis-Blackwell, Branch Director of Tri-Community YMCA. "From childcare to teen programs, summer camp to family programming, the United Way and the YMCA Tri-Community Family Branch are committed to working together to make our community a place for families to learn, grow and thrive. We look forward to continuing our work together and ensuring the success of the region."

The United Way of South Central Massachusetts serves the communities of Charlton, Dudley, Southbridge, Sturbridge and Charlton. To learn more about programs, view the new United Way video and donating to the United Way visit [www.uwscm.org](http://www.uwscm.org).

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# OBITUARIES

## Michael C. Payette

Michael C. Payette passed away on Wednesday, October 7, 2020 at his home in Spencer, MA. surrounded by his family.



Michael was born July 3, 1955 and raised in Burlington, Vermont by his parents, H. Moore and Doris Payette. He grew up with his three siblings, Barbara, David and Patrick. The stories they share about their time growing up together are ones you could listen to for hours. They always involved friends, often involved cars and sports, and sometimes even included a little help from local fire and law enforcement. He soon set his sights on a lady, Gwyneth (Wendy), who would become his wife in 1977. They had two children, Matthew and Samantha.

In the early years of their marriage, Michael's love for helping people and his community led him to become a volunteer EMT for the Essex Junction Rescue Squad for several years. He served as squad captain for a few of those years and was awarded "EMS Officer of the Year" for the state of Vermont in 1990. In his professional career, through encouragement from his wife, Michael was able to turn his love for cars and trucks into a growing path that would span more than forty years, three states. Michael retired in 2018 as the Director of Fleet and Equipment for Staples North America after 19 years with the organization.

In all of the work he has done in his career his greatest achievements were born from passion. He was a defender of the environment and always on the hunt for sustainable solutions in the trucking and transportation industry. He made major strides towards this sustainability through his fleet work, replacing fossil fuel with clean energy vehicles including electric, compressed propane and biodiesel powered trucks wherever possible. Through his efforts at Staples and throughout New England, he quickly became known as a thought leader in the transportation industry. He was a member and officer of the North American Fleet Administrators (NAFA) and also hosted and delivered the keynote address to the New England based organization "ALTWheels" in 2009. This work brought him into the national spotlight in the fleet management field where he was asked to offer his insight by participating in and leading panels throughout the country. This included an opportunity to meet then President of the United States, Barack Obama.

Michael was always proud of what he was able to achieve in his career, but was often too humble to share many of these highlights unless asked. Even when asked, instead of stories of

achievements, you would be rewarded with stories of the people he met along the way. He loved people and often said the best part of his work were the friends and relationships that he built. Whether he meant to or not, Michael became a mentor to many. In the days preceding his passing, he was thanked by friends and neighbors for being a great friend who was always willing to help, a generous mentor, and the person who believed in them, even when they did not believe in themselves.

As a family man, Michael was no different than he was as a career man. Husband, "Dad", "Pepa", "Uncle Mike", "Brother" - no matter what you called him, you knew he would be there for you when you needed it. Michael is the proud father/father-in-law and grandfather to his son, Matthew and his wife Jessica, their four children, Zachary, Nathan, Carter, and Tyler (Connecticut); and his daughter Samantha and her husband Michael Welch (California). In addition to his children and his grandchildren, he leaves behind his wife and best friend of 43 years, Wendy, with whom he happily built the life they imagined for themselves. He loved exploring New England, playing with his grandchildren at the family farm, cruising the local lakes on his pontoon boat, driving his backhoe and heavy equipment and spending time with their rescued dog, Cleo. Michael is also survived by his sister Barbara and her husband Tom (Haraden) and their children Melissa & Jay, all of Vermont; his brother David and his wife Carol and their children Ken & Lori, of Maine; brother Patrick and his wife Bonnie, and their children, Molly and Alaina, all of New Hampshire. Wendy's siblings and their nieces and nephews were incredibly special to him too: His sister-in-law Karen Babcock and children Rick, Wendy (Gopsill), Brad and Craig; Barbara (predeceased) and Bill Oster; David and Vivian Otto and daughter Jennifer.

Michael and the family would like to acknowledge their gratitude to the care team at the Harrington Memorial Hospital Cancer Center in Southbridge, MA. His nurse Stacey and the rest of the team managed his care for over five years. He called them "Michael's Angels" and they were such a special part of his life through treatment.

The family requests in lieu of flowers, donations be made in Michael's name to the Northeast Animal Shelter in Salem, MA where they adopted their beloved Cleo, or to your local animal shelter.

Varnum Funeral Home, Inc., 43 East Main St., in West Brookfield is assisting his family with arrangements. An online guest book is available at varnumfuneralhome.com

## Cindy A. Poirier, 57

STURBRIDGE- Cindy A. (Ryan) Poirier, 57, of Sturbridge, passed away on Friday, October 9th at home after a courageous 4 year battle with



Glioblastoma brain cancer. From her initial terminal cancer diagnosis in 2017, Cindy promised all who knew her that she would someday be the longest living survivor of a Glioblastoma, and she defied many statistics associated with this lethal disease. She was proud to remind family, friends and her medical team that she had accomplished her dream of outliving the typical 12 month prognosis. Her fight was a courageous one.

Cindy leaves her mother, Gloria I. Ryan of Sturbridge; her aunt, Louise (Ryan) Ojerholm and her husband Don of North Brookfield; her aunt and uncle, June and Ray Richard of Myrtle Beach, SC; and several cousins that were more like siblings. She also leaves behind countless friends and loved ones who admire and adore her for all she has shared with them and taught them. She was predeceased by her father, Michael K. Ryan in 2015.

Cindy was born in Southbridge the daughter of Michael K. and Gloria I. (Richard) Ryan. She was a 1981 graduate of Southbridge High School and went on to receive an Associate's degree in Interior Design from Becker College, a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Worcester State University and her MBA from Nichols College. Cindy held several managerial positions of increasing responsibility at Bose Corporation, retiring in 2017 due to illness. Cindy loved her 18 years at

Bose and was proud to call the close friends she made through the years as her "Bose family". She was an institution there.

She leaves us with the warmest of memories and with holes in our hearts that cannot be filled by anyone or anything. More telling of Cindy's legacy is not who she leaves behind, but rather what Cindy has left with us - and modeled for us - every day. Relentless determination, indescribable kindness and compassion, a quick and razor-sharp wit, unwavering loyalty, authenticity, leadership and calm in times of turmoil, and grace and grit in perfect harmony. Cindy was a role model for all to emulate and she remains a reminder for each of us to try to be better at the things we so admired about her and that she made look effortless. No matter the setting, Cindy was most times the brightest and most insightful person in the room. Strong-willed but never overbearing, convicted but always open to new ideas, she was the perfect balance of things. Cindy also absorbed the beauty around her. She loved architecture, fine antiques, animals, nature and international travel. To say she was one of a kind would be a profound understatement.

Cindy's funeral services and burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Second Chance Animal Shelter, P.O. Box 136, East Brookfield, MA 01515 [www.secondchanceanimals.org](http://www.secondchanceanimals.org) or to Dana Farber Cancer Institute, 450 Brookline Ave., SW120, Boston, MA 02215 [www.dana-farber.org](http://www.dana-farber.org).

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

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

### MASONS

continued from page A1

Monday night of every month, you will see the parking lot full of local, family-oriented men who believe in a god and their community. Stop in and ask yourself "Is there greatness in you?" Members of Quinebaug Masonic Lodge are immensely proud of the accomplishments made in the previous years and continue to thrive, to keep the traditions of Freemasonry alive and active in our surrounding communities.

### MEETING

continued from page A1

changes included the rezoning of two properties in town as well as increasing the allowable building height for industrial general and business enterprise zoning districts through special permits and changing the parking regulations to allow for lower density parking requirements for manufacturing and warehousing.

## Nancy Hallquest - 75

Nancy (Piehl) Hallquest, formerly of Charlton, MA, passed away peacefully at Webster Manor on October 16.



Nancy leaves behind 10 sisters and brothers and their spouses, Lois (Arnold) Lavalley, Richard (Karen) Piehl, Judith (Bruce) Joy, William Piehl, Patricia (Paul) Lamoureux, Roberta (Kenneth) Zacek, Rebecca (Scott) Gale, Margaret (David) Goudreau, Cynthia (Stephen) Zinkowsky and Harold Piehl, Jr. Two Sisters-in-Law Virginia Piehl and Eidlene Piehl. Nancy's parents, Harold and Margaret Piehl, and two brothers, Robert Piehl and David Piehl have passed before her. Nancy also leaves her former husband, C. Gunnar Hallquest of Woodstock, CT.

In addition Nancy leaves many, many nieces and nephews. Among them are five Godchildren - Robert Lavalley, Steven Skowron, Carrie DeSanto, Jenna Gale and Eric Lamoureux. Family was very important to Nancy and she enjoyed spending time with everyone. Nancy had no children of her own, but she always had 2, 3 or more of her nieces and nephews at her home for weekends creating lots of memories for them.

Nancy graduated from Charlton

High School in 1963. After graduation Nancy started her career at Hyde Mfg. where she worked for over 25 years as an Executive Secretary. After leaving Hyde's, Nancy worked at Big Y in Southbridge for a few years before retiring.

Nancy has been suffering with Alzheimer's disease which took her mind way too early. In addition, this year has been made more difficult with a positive testing of Covid-19. The family is sad to lose Nancy, but comforted she will be in a better place and her suffering has ended. Donations in Nancy's memory may be made to the Alzheimer's Support Network (ASN), P.O. Box 839, Southbridge, MA 01550.

There will be no calling hours for Nancy. A celebration of Nancy's life will take place on a date yet to be determined.

Robert J. Miller-Charlton Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. Web Address: [rjmillerfunerals.net](http://rjmillerfunerals.net)

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