Chip-In holds annual holiday distribution



Photo Courtes

Boxes of food are prepped for the Dec. 19 Christmas distribution at the Charlton Chip-In Food Pantry.

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – The Charlton Chip-In Food Pantry held its annual Christmas season distribution on Saturday, Dec. 19 providing food and gifts for local families during possibly one of the most challenging years in modern history.

With around 150 clients served every month, most of those families were blessed with a ham, a box of food and access to toys for the holidays as Chip-In set up two trucks behind the Charlton Town Hall for its annual holiday event. Pantry Director Darlene Emco-Rollins said the event took place outdoors due to the closure of the town hall to the public as a safety precaution during the COVID-19 pandemic, but Chip-In was ready for the new format as they had been working all year to perfect outdoor service since the pandemic began.

"For the first three months, when we started

in the spring, we had to move our operation outside and we had to work through snow and rain. The police and volunteers helped us out a lot and we did what we had to do. We took all the lessons learned from those distributions and we adapted them to this one which is one of our most important services of the year. We want to keep people fed and every month we get more and more clients calling us for help, Emco-Rollins said. "We are essential, so we could have had people come in one at a time, but this was much easier to serve people outside. We had Santa there to greet the kids and it was all socially distanced. One of the big trucks had the boxes of food and another trailer was filled with tables of toys with one child at a time going in with an elf to pick out whatever they wanted."

Emco-Rollins said the need is greater than ever in 2020 as many families have lost their livelihoods due to the closures implement-

Please Read CHIP-IN, page A12

Golas reflects on challenges, growth in 2020

BY JASON BLEAU VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – The year 2020 will go down in infamy as one of the most trying years the world has seen in quite some time. As states and nations shut down to help combat the COVID-19 pandemic, communities across the nation were forced to evolve and adapt with the times balancing budgets, ever changing safety protocols and public forums.

Officials in Charlton, like many towns, found themselves in a position of trying to juggle state mandates while still providing the expected services to members of the community. If you ask Town Administrator Andrew Golas, Charlton adapted well and did their best to grow and learn as the pandemic took its toll.

Golas had a unique perspective to many town leaders in the region. He began serving the town of Charlton just before the pandemic hit, making his first full year as Town Administrator a unique and trying experience. Through it all though he feels Charlton has persevered as he and other town leaders took the pandemic in stride and got to work doing what they could to continue to serve the people while also keeping public health and safety in mind.

"Starting to serve a community at the beginning of a pandemic definitely wasn't the ideal situation but I am lucky to work with a resilient group that has continued to adjust to the ever-changing situation," Golas said. "The community has been very understanding regarding the adjustments that

we have needed to make temporarily but look forward to days that we are fully open to the public again. We are looking forward to taking lessons learned during this period to improve the delivery of services long term such as improving the 'remote' access to Town Hall experience."

The challenging times caused town meeting to move to an online format utilizing Zoom, Facebook and YouTube to allow citizens access to public forums. Golas said this was an additional challenge but it has opened up a new path for public participation that may be adapted to future meetings. He further complimented all of the town departments for being willing to evolve and adapt where necessary to the limitations imposed due to the pandemic.

"The departments overall have seen some significant changes over the past year. I believe this has been a challenging time because departments need to work so close together and virtual meetings are not full replacement for in person interaction," said Golas. "We have found ways to adapt and continue to work together as a team, however it has been challenging staying on the same page when the one thing that you can't do is get together."

Golas said the town learned a lot from adapting to the COVID mandates and they will continue to follow necessary protocols into the early half of 2021 with the town hall set to remain open by appointment only until the current spike in COVID cases subsides. However, the

Please Read **REFLECTION**, page **A3**

School District to maintain hybrid learning model

BY JASON BLEAU VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON — The Dudley Charlton Regional School Committee took no action on a recommendation sent to school officials requesting a post-holiday two-week remote learning period to help offset any threat COVID-19 might have to students and staff.

In a letter dated Dec. 23, the Boards of Health of both Dudley and Charlton sent a recommendation to the Dudley Charlton Regional School District that all schools in both towns move to full remote learning until Jan. 19 to prevent the potential for a COVID-19 outbreak as

numbers continued to rise in both communities and beyond leading up to the holiday season. On Dec. 29 the school committee met with representatives of both boards to discuss the proposal eventually deciding not to move on the request at all, effectively keeping the hybrid format intact for students' return following the holiday break.

Leader of both Boards of Health took time to justify the recommendation which was made following a joint meeting of both boards on Dec. 22. Jennifer Cournoyer, the Chair of Dudley's Board of Health, said that while both health boards appreciate the significance of classroom learning

the decision was made in consideration of the second wave of the pandemic which was expected to become even more impactful following holiday gatherings.

"As a board, we definitely feel that the children need to be in school. It is very important. This was not an easy decision to make. We were just asking for two weeks to be remote and going back on the 19th. We understand it's going to difficult. You can't prove in-school transmissions one way or the other. There's a lot of gray areas, it is extremely difficulty. It's not just about proving in-school transmissions as the reason why we felt it was necessary going to additional

weeks remote. It's the number of staffs and students that have been quarantined over the time where you have multiple teachers out, classes being handled by different people. That's a lot of disruptions for the students as well. We understand it's a pandemic, it can't be helped. Those are things that if you had the two weeks of remote it would help to stop the spread," Cournoyer said.

Charlton Board of Health Chair Kathleen Walker also stated that the decision was not an easy one, but the recommendation was what they felt was best for the safety of the students, staff and the community as a preemptive measure against a potential local out-

break.

"We had a long talk. Everybody expressed their point of view. We're all volunteers except for the two Health Directors. We all wear different hats, but the one hat that we all have in common is the Board of Health hat and when everybody got a chance to express where they were coming from, and there were eight different points of view, we all came to the same conclusion that we needed to do a two-week reset. We didn't think that was onerous or too hard," Walker said. "We're very concerned. We've been in the red, both towns, for many weeks now and we

Please Read **LEARNING**, page **A4**

Walmart Giving grant presented to Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy



CHARLTON — Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy recently received a Walmart Giving grant from the Walmart Foundation to help support the PN Class of 2021 with diversity and inclusion projects.

The photo above shows Brianna Cloutier of Charlton, a member of the PN Class of 2021. She is the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Liaison on diversity and inclusion projects and communicated with the Walmart Branch in Whitinsville. Cloutier made a special trip to the Walmart Supercenter at 100 Valley Parkway, Whitinsville to extend the PN Class of 2021's gratitude for Walmart Giving's generosity. Cloutier met with the branch's assistant manager Michele. Cloutier was presented with an oversized check, a mock-up representation of the \$1,5000 grant.

Gretheline Bolandrina MSN, Ed, RN, CRRN Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy

Director said "as members of the Southern Worcester County community we appreciate organizations such as Walmart, and we are excited about the continued collaboration. Being supported by Walmart with much-needed funds is an important and fundamental piece in our work to produce real-world ready, Licensed Practical Nurses.

Bolandrina added, "This diversity grant will assist Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy PN Class of 2021 in projects with a diversity focus that involves current students and alumni participation. The project is focused on the promotion of diversity in nursing and the elimination of bias. Diversity refers to all manner including gender, race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, and any other unique attribute."

REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

CHARLTON

\$422,000, 204 Dresser Hill Rd, Roman, Mercedes, to Grotton, Benjamin T, and Saldana, Jacqueline.

\$396,000, 45 Davidson Rd, Sleepy Hollow Estates RT, and Lemieux, Jason R, to Clouthier, Brian R, and Clouthier, Jessica L.

\$237,000, 54 Southbridge Rd, StPierre, Jeffrey M, and StPierre, Candace, to Specie, Jason L.

\$230,000, 17 H Putnam Rd, Mcgee, Michael J, to Lawrence, Joseph, and Lawrence, Joshua.

\$220,000, 266 Brookfield Rd, Cardinal, Leonard N, to Li, Ben Z.

\$210,000, 86 Hiland Rd, Grout, Jason R, to Murray, Wesley J, and Murray, Farlyne M

\$75,000, Blood Rd #14, Lare RT, and Lemansky, Robert F, to Tiberii, Frank, and Tiberii, Kathleen.

\$72,000, Blood Rd #C, Mroczkowski, Thaddeus K, and Mroczkowski, Susan G, to Simons, Kayla, and Simons, Aaron M

\$46,500, Blood Rd #A, Mroczkowski, Thaddeus, and Mroczkowski, Susan, to Simons, Jeffrey J, and Simons, Emily J.

\$46,500, Blood Rd #B, Mroczkowski, Thaddeus, and Mroczowski, Susan, to Simons, Jeffrey J, and Simons, Emily J. \$46,500, Mcintyre Rd, Mroczkowski,

Thaddeus, and Mroczkowski, Susan, to Simons, Jeffrey J, and Simons, Emily J. \$45,000, Hill Rd #1, Green Hill RT, and Prouty, Daniel, to Property Soltns RE&

\$15,000, Eleanor Ln #17, Eleanor Lane RT, and Lemaire, Stephen, to Lemaire, Stephen, and Lemaire, Danielle.

\$448,000, 194 City Depot Rd, Burlingame, Elliott P, and Burlingame, Joan A, to Deauseault, John G.

\$434,900, 43 Carpenter Hill Rd, Adams, David P, and Adams, Monica A, to Normandin, Millie K, and Normandin,

\$365,000, 377 Worcester Rd, Frigon, Wayne S, and Frigon, Darlene M, to Familia, Eric S.

\$299,900, 133 Nugget Dr, Niddrie, Dean R, and Jenkins, Jennifer M, to Mateer, Michael. \$297,000, 483 Stafford St, Reid, Allen

H, and Traynham-Reid, Celestine, to Campbell, Tate D.

\$290,000, 12-A Power Station Rd. Asn

\$290,000, 12-A Power Station Rd, Asn RT, and Ninos, Sam S, to PSC RT, and Ayoub, Abdelmasih. \$225,000, 28 Southbridge Rd #407,

Quattrocchi, Paula, to Martin, Grace, and Guillet, Michael. \$139,900, 236 Burlingame Rd #E,

Ingram, Eric D, and Ingram, Cheryl, to Vazquez, Josmely.

\$65,000, Jennings Rd, Hickey, Daniel J, and Hickey, Karenlee R, to Mason, Gregory M.

\$15,000, Jennings Rd, Jennings, Iris A, to Mason, Gregory M.

QCC's Practical Nursing students help administer first round of COVID-19 vaccines

SOUTHBRIDGE — Quinsigamond Community College practical nursing students are now part of history. On Dec. 18, eight practical nursing students along with their instructors Margaret "Meg" Yoder, professor of Nurse Education, and faculty member Christian Ilustre helped administer approximately 100 COVID-19 vaccines to Harrington Hospital employees at the Southbridge Armory. They worked with over a dozen Harrington nurses who also included a couple of QCC graduates, according to Professor Yoder.

Healthcare workers are the first to be vaccinated in the U.S. and Harrington employees who were vaccinated included doctors, nurses and other frontline workers at Harrington Healthcare and Harrington Physician Services.

"Our entire college community feels tremendous pride knowing our nursing students are playing such a vital role in our nation's history," said QCC President Luis G. Pedraja, Ph.D. "So many of our students are frontline workers who are essential to the safety and well-being of our community. They emulate what it means to be a Wyvern - QCC's mascot that is a symbol for community guardianship."

"This is our community and having the opportunity to engage the practical nursing students in this historic moment, serving our community is immeasurable," said Professor Yoder. "The practical nursing students of the Class of 2021 are experiencing many firsts that will provide them with a resiliency unlike any other."

The QCC students not only administered the vaccine, they performed intake assessments, gave educational information, and observed vaccine recipients post vaccination. This type of hands-on training enables students to stay current with workforce needs and makes them valuable employees when they enter the workforce because they require less training.

Students named to President's List at Plymouth State University

PLYMOUTH, New Hampshire — 899 students have been named to the Plymouth State University President's List for the Fall 2020 semester. To be named to the President's List, a student must achieve a grade point average of



Photo Courtesy

On Dec. 18, eight practical nursing students along with their instructors Margaret "Meg" Yoder, professor of Nurse Education, and faculty member Christian Ilustre helped administer approximately 100 COVID-19 vaccines to Harrington Hospital employees at the Southbridge Armory.

"Clinical experiences and opportunities are so important for all of our healthcare students. Harrington Hospital has been one of our most valuable partners during these past several months and we are honored to have been asked to assist at their COVID vaccine clinics," said Dean of the School of Healthcare, Pat Schmohl. "Our practical nursing students are learning firsthand the importance of community-based public health initiatives. We have procedures in place to keep our students safe while they are participating in these critical in-person clinical opportunities."

"At a time when clinical placements are difficult to find, Harrington Hospital has remained committed to providing QCC students with face-to-face opportunities. We could not be more grateful," Professor Yoder added.

QCC students will continue to assist with the vaccination process through-

3.7 or better for the Fall 2020 semester and must have attempted at least 12 credit hours during the semester.

Bryana Reardon of Uxbridge Sally Cederberg of Charlton Jessica Perkins of Uxbridge About Plymouth State University

Established in 1871, Plymouth State University serves the state of New Hampshire and the world beyond by transforming our students through advanced practices where engaged out the remainder of the year and through April.

"Encouraging service to our community is an integral piece of living QCC's mission, one of our core values. Today was just the beginning. All of our students will be provided with this opportunity. In the future, we will be administering the vaccine to front line workers, EMTs, police and fire, and high risk vulnerable populations," Professor Yoder said, adding that the students were excited to be part of this historical moment.

"When the practical nursing students were presented with the opportunity, they echoed resoundingly... 'Thank vou!'"

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

learning produces well-educated undergraduates and by providing graduate education that deepens and advances knowledge and enhances professional development. With distinction, we connect with community and business partners for economic development, technological advances, healthier living, and cultural enrichment with a special commitment of service to the North Country and Lakes Region of New Hampshire.

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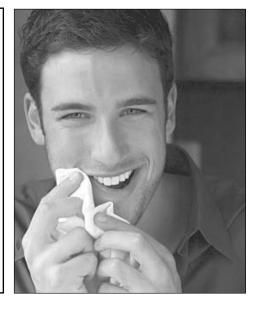
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Charlton Lions help spread Christmas cheer

CHARLTON — The Charlton Lions Club has fundraisers throughout the year so it can support worthy causes and help those in need in Charlton. The year, with the coronavirus having such a devastating effect on everyone, the need at Christmas is even greater. For over ten years the Charlton Lions have been supporting families in Charlton with gift cards they can use at Christmas to help with presents, or to put a special Christmas dinner on the

Don Fortin, President of the Lions Club, said "This year the Club recognized the even greater need to help out the Town. Making donations at Christmas time is one of the Club's top priorities, and this year we stepped up to give even more. All our Club members agree, helping families at Christmas is one of the most rewarding things we do.

This year, the Lions again donated Walmart gift cards to the Principals at the Elementary School, Heritage and the Middle School. The Lions exceeded

their past donations by providing each school with ten \$50 Walmart gifts cards.

Steve Doucette of the Lions delivered the cards to the principals, commenting "We all knew that we had to add a little extra this year, and when I gave the Principals the gift cards, they were delighted. These gift cards would allow them to help thirty families in town. They already had a list of families that needed help, and the Principals were so thankful that these cards gave them a little something extra to share.'

The Lions will also continue its tradition of visiting with the residents at the Charlton Manor, but this year because of the pandemic, they'll be singing Christmas carols from the driveway. For more than 20 years, the Lions have visited the Manor with Santa and Frosty the Snowman. This year, because the COVID restrictions make it difficult to give gifts to the residents, the Lions will be donating money to the Manor for activities and special events for the residents.

The money for these great Christmas

traditions comes from all of our Charlton friends who support our fund-

raisers, year in and year out.

Don Fortin said, "It is because of the great people of Charlton that the Lions are able to help our fellow Charltonians at Christmas. Every year you support us, so we in turn can support some of our citizens in need during the holiday season. So, the Charlton Lions would like to thank all of you."

This year, as we think about all of our good fortunes, please take a minute to pat yourselves on the back, for your kind and generous donations to the Lions Club has meant a better holiday season for so many of members of our Charlton family.

If you're interested in learning more about what the Charlton Lions Club does for our Town, or perhaps if the Lions Club could help you, please visit our Facebook page at facebook.com/ CharltonLions/, or email us at charltonlions.org., or call Steve Doucette at (508) 248-4411. Be Part of Something Great -

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

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

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

REFLECTION

continued from page A1

pandemic has not stopped officials from looking to the future as well, not just to more positive times but also growth of the community. Municipal facilities will be a heavy focus for the new year especially the ongoing discussion regarding a new fire station after 2020 saw the proposed Public Safety Building shot down for a second time. The project is being downsized to serve as a fare station only with a new committee kicking off the planning process this month. Golas is also looking forward to working with Charlton's reconstituted Economic Development Committee which will put a renewed focus on prioritizing local economic

Harrington Physician Services welcomes new doctor

- Archana Shah, MD has joined Harrington Physician Services' Family Medicine practice in Charlton, and is currently accepting new patients. As a Family Medicine physician, Dr. Shah provides primary care to all ages.

Dr. Shah is Board Certified by the American Board of Family Practice. She is also a certified medical examiner for the Department of Transportation and holds certifications in Neonatal Resuscitation, Basic Life Support and Advanced Cardiac Life Support.
Dr. Shah has been providing pri-

mary care to families throughout Massachusetts for 20 years, the majority of which she spent at Steward Medical Group at Nashoba Valley Medical Center in Ayer. She also served as Chairperson of the Family Practice

Department at Melrose Wakefield Hospital and still serves as a parttime Medical Officer of the Day for the Veterans Administration Bedford Healthcare system.

She received her medical degree from MS University of Vadodara in India and completed her residency at Rush Copley Medical Center in Aurora, IL, where she served as Chief Resident. She is fluent in English, Gujarati and Hindi.

Dr. Shah joins Drs. Brenda Geddis-Comrie and Ali Syed at Harrington Physician Services' Family Medicine practice in Charlton, located at 10 North Main Street.

Dr. Shah as well as other Harrington Physician Services primary care providers are currently accepting new patients. To schedule an appointment call (508) 765-3145. To find out more,

visit harringtonhospital.org.

Harrington HealthCare System is a comprehensive regional healthcare system serving more than 25 communities across south central Massachusetts and northeastern Connecticut. The system includes Harrington Hospital in Southbridge, Harrington HealthCare at Webster and three additional major medical office buildings: Harrington HealthCare at Charlton, Harrington HealthCare at 169, also in Charlton, and Harrington HealthCare at Spencer; Harrington Physician Services, our primary care and multi-specialty physician group; UrgentCare Express at Harrington in Charlton and Oxford; The Cancer Center at Harrington in Southbridge, and the region's largest Behavioral Health programs for



New Hope, Inc. issues statement on Charlton homicide

CHARLTON — Sadly, the New Year is only a few days old, and domestic violence has claimed two lives. In response to yesterday's alleged domestic violence homicide/suicide in Charlton, the non-profit domestic violence agency, New Hope, Inc.'s CEO, Marcia Szymanski, offers condolences to the family of the victim and family the alleged murderer. Ms. Szymanski wants the family members and the community to know that we can provide services and support to those most impacted by this tragedy.

New Hope, Inc. provides domestic violence services to 41communities, including Charlton. New Hope has an office in Southbridge for those in need of counseling and an advocate who works directly within the Dudley Court to assist survivors of domestic violence with safety planning, obtaining restraining orders, and other legal

protections to ensure their safety.

New Hope Executive Director and President, Marcia Szymanski, stated, "We want to inform the public that New Hope has a 24-hour, toll-free hotline available to survivors and witnesses to violence, as well as to concerned family members, friends, co-workers and neighbors who may need support. Our hotline is 1-800-323-HOPE (4673), and we encourage anyone who may be in need of our services to call and get help.'

New Hope, Inc.'s services include the 24-hour hotline (1-800-323-HOPE), two emergency shelters for survivors fleeing violent homes, counseling services for adults and children, a supervised visitation center, police and courtbased legal advocacy to help survivors obtain restraining orders, safety planning, an intimate partner abuse education program, education/outreach services and more. The agency serves and Southeastern Massachusetts, and has five (5) offices located in Attleboro, Milford, Southbridge, Taunton and Worcester.

New Hope, Inc. is a registered 501

41 cities and towns throughout Central (C) (3) non-profit organization, whose mission is "Creating Communities Free From Violence and Exploitation.' For more information, visit www.new-

* * Triday's Child



Nyla Age 10

Hi! My name is Nyla and dancing and singing make me happy!

Nyla is a very friendly girl of Hispanic descent. Her nationality is Dominican and Puerto Rican. She can be cute and sassy! Her favorite color is blue, and she likes cats and dogs. Her favorite hairstyles are half up and half down and space buns. For coping strategies, Nyla uses an oatmeal bath when upset. She states that it makes her feel good, clean, and relaxed. Nyla's favorite food is lasagna and her favorite games are Sorry, Skip-bo, and Mancala. She also likes to create fidgets. She loves to be around others and is very social. A few of Nyla's tal-

ents are dancing, swimming, drawing, and making jewelry. Nyla also likes music and enjoys singing along to it. She is very artistic.

Nyla is very intelligent, motivated to learn, and especially enjoys reading and math. She is very bright and excels in and loves school. There are no concerns about Nyla's behaviors in school. She states that she'd like to be a cosmetologist when she is older. Her clinician describes her as hilarious and explains that spending time with her always includes a lots of laughter.

Legally freed for adoption, Nyla will thrive in most any family constellation with older children or no other children in the home. Families interested in starting a relationship with Nyla as a visiting resource with weekly visits will certainly be consider and encouraged. Nyla resides in Eastern MA. Her new family should be willing to help her visit with her biological siblings on a regular basis and possibly her maternal grandmother who lives in Western Massachusetts. There is an open adoption agreement in place for three visits per year with her birth mother.

Who Can Adopt?

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

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

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

Pamala Holt joins Goodrich Insurance Agency

We are excited to welcome Pamala Holt from Dudley MA to our team of insurance professionals at Goodrich Insurance Agency in Milton MA.

Pam has over 20 years of insurance expertise and will be our Personal lines Account Manager. Pam joined our office family on November 23, 2020 and will be working remotely from Dudley and in our main office in Milton. Help us to give Pam a warm welcome! We look forward to providing our current client and new clients with professional, personal, knowledgeable valued client services you expect from Goodrich Insurance Agency!

> Donna Benoit CIC CPIA Vice President



Pamala Holt Account Manager

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Shepherd Hill Regional High School Honor Roll

DUDLEY Principal William F. Chaplin, Jr., has announced the Honor Roll for the First Quarter of the 2020-2021 school year at Shepherd Hill Regional High School.

Class of 2024 - Grade 9 **First Honors**

Anuszkiewicz, Amelia Vanessa Baclawski, Alexander Barbare, Nicolas Benoit, Kelsy Brown, Nathan Card, Ethan Casey, Katelyn Rae Choinski, Roksana Chruslicka, Jianna Clouthier, David Cranney, Quinn Cushing, Nicholas Dell'Ovo, Kaelyn Donovan, Cora Dubey, Arlo Dzik, Fredette, Kathryn Gadoury, Kyle Gallo, Chloe Graves, Zachary Hebert, Kyra Hennessey, Heidi Jarosz, Kierce Jarvis, Rebecca Joesten, Athena Karas, Harry Kennan, Owen Kondek, Juliana Lancette, Sevin LaVoie, Kyle LeBlanc, Joanna Lepper, Morgan Lewandowski, Daniel Lincoln, Lexi Marshall, Sofia McCarty, Mackenzie Millette, Murray, Emilio Navarro, Lillain Nelson, Alyssa Palermo, James Palfreman, Madelyn Parker, Rushi Patel, Luke Poirier, Adrien Roach, Kyra Santora, Ronan Shaw, Matthew Smolski, Andrew Sullivan, Maggie Sullivan, Towadros, Athanasia Athanasios Towadros, Jillian Treveloni, Gavin Wallace, Helene Weimbs, Zachary Wennerberg, Agatha White, Emily Zanauskas

Second Honors

Madison Barnett, Kevin Bouffard, Hayley Clements, Camron Dagnese, Madeline Desrosiers, Jada Franszen, Grace Garon, Leah Garvey, Daniel Gronek, Katelyn Hakala, Ariana Hanna, Laisha Hansen, Ola Jaroszewski, Alexander Lanpher, Caleb Payton Leone. Leoncio, Abigayle Linde, Devin Lugo, Rowan Magee, Cayleigh Sophia Mayen, McClay, Lucas Miglionico, Emma Moodley, Blake Norcross, Mario Perkins, Rachel Reynolds, Peyton Sanborn, Ashton Sirimongkhoune, Ava Sousa, Kylie St. Laurent, Lea Vanskike, Gianna Verdolino

Recognition

Daniel Adamuska, David Adorno, Drew Aubin, Nathaniel Booth, Chase Buniowski, Abigail Connole, Dillan Daigneault, Makayla Drake, Brynn Dwyer-Sweeney, Lillian Gachau, Emily Grammer, Liam Gravel, Emma Horner, Carter Lindsey, Nicole Martinez-Merino, Madelyn O'Hearn, Kassandra Peloquin, Sofia Poplawski, Kayla Pospesel, Lauren Reilly, Hayden Reinke, Joseph Salonis, Kylee Trahan, Emma Yaede

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Grace Bateman, Sofia Beaulieu. Ryan Berk, Emma Bousquet, Jacob Brodeur, Caitlyn Bussiere, Ellen Butler, Joslyn Butler, Augustus Cederman, Victoria Chamberlain, Jillian Cloutier, Olivia Cranney, Elena Cronin, Colleen Cumming, Connor Daniel, Christopher Davey, Abigail DeWitt, Emma Dickinson, Caroline Doering, Brady Donahue, Cullen Dow, Emma Drake, Aiden Dugan, Caiden Dumas, Marlee Eckbold, Adam Faucher, Genisa Filep, Alayna Gadoury, Haleigh Garrepy, Ashley Gendreau, Maya Golemo, Emma Gulkin, Julia Hickey, Abbigael Hill, Keller Holmes, Aria Humphries, Madeleine Johnson, Ethan Kenny, Kellen Kinnes, Alicia Kirwin, Olivia Krukonis, Leah Leclair, Rachel Lolax, Abigail Lombardi, Alison Lotter, Luke Miller, Joseph Montville, Nicole Moore, Manar Morgan, Arianna Murphy, Natalie Nayfeh, Colin O'Brien, Onyekwere, Tenderness Mason Paine, Nicholas-James Penesis-Lawrence, Neo Phommachanh, Natalie Piecka, Maria Piekarczyk, Alek Poirier, Rami Rachid, Angelina Ramirez, Kiely Raucci, Emily Riopel, Zachary Rivas, Sydney Roland, Natalia Rucinski, Olivia Salem, Jocelyn Sitko, Caza Slauenwhite, Natalia Sudyka, Jessica Surmiak, Alice Torres, FranciscoTorres, Julie Traverso, Wiktoria Ucher, Jocelyn Van Minos, Nicholas Veronis, Emma White, Hannah White, Marissa White, Meridan Wildes, Gregory Winans, Wojcicki, Kaitlyn Ashlev Woodson, Joy Youssef, Olivia Youssef, Rachel Zannotti, Julia

Second Honors Joy Acquaah Mensah, Lily Anderson, Brenna Behan, Samantha Bullen, Taylor Burdett, Andrew Burdick, Alexander Card, Kaylie Christian, Victoria Cravedi, Josie Ducharme, Ashley Erickson, Hanna Gamelli, Kaia Gray, Jenna Jordan, Sandra Kunkel, Logan LaFleche, Maple, Shawn Hunter Mayville, Emery Mullen, Mackenzie Remick, Gianna Simpson, Andrew Trudel, Brook TwoFeather, Daniel Vitkus, Ashlee Zaleski

Recognition

Yarellys Acosta-Bernazar, Katherine Alicea, Teddie Bateman, Amaral. Lily Madison Beckman, Brooklyn Bonczyk, Jaidyn Brosnihan, Nathaniel Chute, Angelina Demce, Michaela Ebbeling, Kaylee Shannon Fox, Germain, Emma Girasuolo, Gavin Grenier, Lillian Henry, Charles Karp, Bryce Langlais, Maxton McPhee, Grace Nixon, Brady O'Neill, Pancham Patel, Nikolai Quezada, Madison Stewart, Brayden Thompson, Karlee White

Class of 2022 - Grade 11 irst Honors

Makenzie Almeida-White, Mariam Ayouh, Jordan Beeman, Delaney Bodamer, Aria Butler, Emma Cederman, Chabot, Ayaan Emma Chaudhry, Connor Cluett, Samantha Cox, Amanda Croteau, Beau Desrosiers, Hannah Dion, Cadence Donais, Keirsten Doud, Brigham Dubey, Sarah Ducasse, Joseph Dumas, Valeria Ellison, Aislinn Ennis, Alec Fasolo, Skylar Finlay, Treyden Finlay, Sydney FitzGerald, Gabriel Flayhan, Logan Fournier, Austin Giarnese, Elzbieta Gronek, Molly Hachey, Elizabeth Harris, Ashley Harvey, Adrian Ignatovich, David Jurski, Erin Kilderry, Emily Kolodziejczak, Matthew Kustigian, Owyn Law, Brooke LeBlanc, Mason Lemberger, Ava Leo, Abigail Lepper, Jacob Luke, Rhiannon Mansur, Sean McCarty, Bridget McGonagle, Ryan McKenzie, Maria Medawar, Connor Montville, Nickole Nayfeh, Kyle Norberg, Payton Parent, Meghav Patel, Raegan Peck, Benjamin Perry, Emilia Pianka, Caroline Poplawski, Alek Popovich, William Reece, Abigail Reilly, Gabriel Roach, Zachary Robinson, Patrick Ryan, Amanda Sampson, Micah Sanborn, Halle Sanchez, Molly Starczewski, Denver Tetreault, Anna Thomas, David Trevarthan, Elizabeth Valley, Trevor Wallace, Oliver Weiland, Gabrielle Wheeler, Joshua Yovan, Juliana Zalewski, Nina Zurawski

Second Honors Kody Bartkus, Julia Butler, Alexandria Christenson, Zachary Christenson, Ethan Chumsantivut, Joshua Cook, Abigail Cooper, Opal Cronin-Loggie, Samantha D'Arcangelo. Stephen Ekstrom, Henry Fredette, Taylor Gavaletz, Alyson Gering, Jordan Goulas, Madeline Grenier, Amelie Jarvis, Logan Jones, Andrew Kania, Taylor Kochinskas, George Koronis, Margaret Landry, Hannah Langevin, Jack Levesque, Safwan Macharia, Evelyn Magee, Kylie Mansfield, Joshua Martin, Jason Mayotte, Jessica Milewski, Erin Moran, Olivia Mountain, Jordan Ouellette, Meghna Patel, Sebastian Podgorny, Patrysia Rivera Kwiatkowska, Piotr Skoczylas, Reis Smith, Natalie Szabo, Alexandra Tetlow, Jillian Tucker

Recognition

Yanellie Andino, Michalyn Annese, Mina Boktor, Emily Brill, Nathaniel Brown, Cy Ducharme, Olivia Evans, Nicole Faulkner, McKayla Flanders, Adrian Golemo, Kiley Hanlan, Cal Hopkins, Zakary Janusz, Braedon Jarvis, Keiran Kay, Patrick Lamarine, Nathaniel Lamoureux, Annaka Lindstrom, Grace MacGinnis, Bravden Michaelson, Isabella Jacob Roberts, O'Brien, Heryanna Rodriguez-Baez, Kalli Rojas, Kaylie Santos, Cole Smith, Ella Springer, Hannah Stegenga, Hayley Stegenga, Kaden Taparausky, Vangel, Javvon Zaikowski-Gonzalez

Class of 2021 - Grade 12

Acquaah-Mensah, David Michael Alicea, Alex Anuszkiewicz Anthony Awad, Owen Ayotte, Samuel Bailen, Samantha Balko, Jared Barrows, Cutter Beck, Aleah Begg, Dylan Berk, Timothy Kara Bilis, Berthiaume, Claudia Bonaventura, Erin Bouffard, Natalie Boutiette, Ricky Bowden, Sophie Briggs, Molly Brodeur, Daniel Brooks, Abigail Bullard, Rahni Bussiere, Michael Caramiello, Carragher, Kody Audrey Chamberlain, Chase Chandler, Maeve Clements, Alissa

Cloutier, Olivia Cloutier, Michaela Cluett, Danielle Como, Coggans, Courtney Cristo, Kylee Croteau, Hannah Cushing, Jacob Damelio, Kiara Dean, Timothy Dinsdale, Colin Drake, Helena Duke, Faythe Eisnor, Sakara Fancy, Ashley Figueroa, Christian Figueroa, Louisa Foisy, Ashley Foley, Juliana Fox, Maegan Fredette, Calvin Fullerton, Grace Gamelli, Matthew Gard, Emily Gelardi, Christina Gunsalus, Elizabeth Gunsalus, Camden Hackett, Joshua Hickey, Brady Hobson, Colin Humphries, Kirolos Ibrahim, Aaron Iwanski, Lukas Janusz, Jenna Johnson, Benjamin Kallgren, Samantha Katz, Anthony Kopas, Caroline Lamarine, Emma Lanpher, Maryn LaPlante, Alexander Laws, Kyle LeBlanc, John Lehmann, Ethan Lilley, Flora Marderosian, Riley Marengo, Anthony Marsi, Grace Mattson, Virginia Mayville, Jenna Miller, Hannah Morill, Abigail Mulry, Anna Murray, Katerina Nemera, Matthew Nguyen, Eric O'Loughlin, Elise Palfreman, Mackenzie Parrettie, Jordyn Poirier, Sarah Popsuj, Eliza Quinn, Aml Rachid, John Reynolds, Ariana Rizzo, William Ross, Isabella Rubio, Aimon Shaw, Abigail Shields, Alan Standring, Stelmach, Emily Kaitlyn Stevens, Gavin Tarnowski, Adam Taylor, Demetria Teguis, Karyssa Thompson, Aubrev Traverso, Emma Tyler, William Tyrrell, Serena Veilleux, Panayiota Veronis, Henry Weiland, Nicolas White, Samantha Zannotti, Matvey

Second Honors

Zhuk

Naima Ahsan, Travis Battistoni, Andrew Bullen, Megan Burdett, Clark, Megan Constantino, Katelynne Corriveau, Edward Doering, Matthew Ethier, Thomas French, Cole Gagne, Jacob Gallant, Joseph Gallien, Michael Gard, Brooke Garrepy, Mikaela Gosselin, Eli Harmon, Jacob Heywood, Zachary Higgins, Kaylee Jarominski, Nicholas Karalus, Sean Kirwin, Christopher Kustigian, Parker LaPan, Christopher Murray, Connor Novack, Abigail Jaelin Rheaume. Peters, Haley Sautter, Sousa, Brett Spiewakowski, Jordyn Szretter, Payton Vega, Makenzie Woods

Recognition

Carissa Allard, Allison Gemini Arnberg, Anger. Julian Baracz, Yetzabeth Beltre-Colon, Andrew Bitar, sowski, Brady, Gavin Briggs, Dylan Brown, Alyssa Clemence, Camden Cooper, Kathryn Davison, Caleb Drinkwater, Evan Healy, Aurora Hughes, Hannah Hutchinson, John Jakubowski, Connor Johnston, George Karamanakis, Kevin Lotter, Joshua McCarty, Ryan McKendry, Jordan Moodley, Sarah Morin, Julia Morse, Brett Pfeiffer, Avrek Pietrzak, Gracie Rayess, Christopher Rogalski, Kyra Sanborn, Candilize Santa, Abigail Shaw, Ethan Stallings, Kylie Sullivan, Nicholas Whitley

19

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Partner to "oohed"
- 6. Relaxing places Humorous monologue
- Simple elegance
- 15. Bearable 17. Disobedience
- 19. Express delight
- 20. Gov't attorneys
- 21. Wake up 22. A type of band
- 23. Remain as is
- 24. Turfs 26. Battle-ax
- 29. Volcanic crater
- 31. The mother of Jesus
- 32. One's life history
- 34. "Rule, Britannia" composer
- 35. Doubles
- 37. Jacob __, American journalist

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Currency exchange charge 2. River in Tuscany
- 3. Breakfast dish 4. Defunct European currency
- 5. Upper class young woman 6. Part of a purse
- 7. Self-contained units
- 8. Boxing's GOAT
- 9. Legislators
- 10. Flightless birds 11. U. of Miami's mascot is one
- 12. Floating ice
- 13. Low, marshy land 16. Seldom
- 18. Lyric poems
- 22. Law enforcement agency (abbr.) 50. Flute 23. Full extent of something
- 24. Claus
- 25. Naturally occurring solid material
- science (abbr.)
- 28. Thirteen AAHEDSPAS BIFF

58. Guitarist sounds 59. Greek war god 60. 2,000 lbs. 61. Helps escape

a federation

38. House pet

39. S. African river

41. Establish as a foundation

43. KGB double agent Aldrich

47. Pancakes made from buckwheat

Broad sashes

45. Part of a book

49. Train group (abbr.)

50. Frames per second

57. Formal withdrawal from

53. Have surgery

46. Taxi

flour

- 29. Partner to cheese
- 30. Member of a Semitic people 31. One thousandth of an inch
- 33. Former CIA 35. Most lemony
- 36. Engage in 37. Small Eurasian deer
- 39. Provisions
- 42. All humans have them
- 43. Swiss river
- 44. Storage term (abbr.)
- 46. Famed Broadway lyricist Sammy 47. Dutch colonist
- 48. Full-grown pike fish
- 49. Egyptian sun god
- 51. Flew off!
- 52. Scottish tax 53. Young women's association
- 54. Populous Brazilian city
- 27. Acquired brain injury behavior 55. Malaysian Isthmus
 - 56. Pointed end of a pen

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LEARNING

continued from page A1

feel very strongly that given this two weeks, especially after the holidays, will give everybody a chance to either recover or not bring the virus into the schools."

The request received mixed responses from both school committee members and the public with some feeling the two week remote learning wasn't a bad idea while others felt the data showed that in school learning was not only safe, but beneficial to the emotional and mental wellbeing of the students. Committee member Stephanie Reed was one who was against moving forward with the recommendation.

"Our own superintendent has stated in his emails that it is not being spread in our schools. Children are allowed to go to friend's houses and also are allowed to play in sports tournaments in other states and not wear masks. The data shows that following the protocols works and in schools they need to wear masks, they need to do their hands, they need to clean their surfaces, but they always need to wear their masks," Reed said. "The letter from the Boards of Health is a recommendation, not a mandate. For the social and emotional health of the students in our district it's best to stick to the hybrid we are doing and instead of moving backwards that we should start looking at how to get students in our schools for full days of learning."

Committee member Jordan Willow Evans acknowledged that mental and emotional health is also one of her priorities for the students, but said she saw value in the recommendation put forth by the health officials.

"The two-week reset makes a lot of sense because it's not that we're concerned about what's in our schools, it's what's been happening outside of our schools and being brought into them. That two-week reset can make a lot of sense in that what's being going on outside of schools, we have no control over that and that guarantees us that safety net," Evans said.

Opinions remained mixed among committee members with most admitting there were plenty of "gray areas" that made the decision more complicated than it seemed on the surface. In the end, no motion was made effectively leaving the recommendation on the floor and allowing the district to proceed with return to school as planned for the second half of the school year.



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This section reaches 47,000 households in 7 Massachusetts newspapers.

Chamber gives thanks to community for shopping local

STURBRIDGE — The Chamber of Central Mass South announced the winners of the 'Shop Local for the Holidays and Win' contest on Thursday, Dec. 17. The contest, designed to incentivize holiday shoppers to keep it local this season by shopping at Chamber Member businesses, ran from November 1st to Dec. 15. More than 70 awesome local businesses participated including shops, restaurants, service providers, attractions and experiences located throughout the twelve towns served by the Chamber. Contest entrants were required to make at least one purchase from any six of these businesses, snap a shopping selfie and submit their entry for their chance at the \$500 cash grand prize and valuable items donated by members. Winners were drawn at random and notified on Dec. 16.

"It is more important than ever that we spend our dollars where they will do the most good, at neighborhood businesses in our local towns," said Chamber Executive Director Alexandra McNitt. "With the 'Shop Local for the Holidays and Win' contest, we've created a fun and engaging way to keep it local this holiday season. We also need to stress that just because the contest is over doesn't mean the need to shop local has diminished. We urge the entire community to remain committed to shopping locally as much as possible

through the pandemic and beyond. Our local economy depends on it.'

Congratulations to the winners of the Shop Local for the Holidays! The \$500 Cash Grand Prize, donated by the contest sponsor Cornerstone Bank, went to Kelly Pucci. The following entrants won additional prizes donated by Chamber Member businesses. A Dexter-Russell Gift Basket donated by Dexter-Russell was won by Anne Mulrain. A \$100 Table 3 Restaurant Gift Card donated by Webster First Federal Credit Union went to Judy Roscioli. A gift basket donated by the Harrington Auxiliary Gift Shop was won by Chris Mayer. A bottle of wine and a \$70 Gift Certificate to Brush It Off donated by Brush It Off Paint & Sip Bar was won by Jennifer Pelletier. Edwina Lango won the \$25 Gift Card to Kid Power Gymnastics donated by Kid Power Gymnastics. A Certificate for 5 percent off any job over \$500 donated by Michael L. Wales Painting Company went to Tammy Edmonds. Judy Flannery won a \$50 Gift Card to Klem's donated by Klem's and Louise Bonnette won a Wrapping Sterling Silver Bracelet donated by Lake Road Living.

The Chamber is grateful to their 'Shop Local for The Holidays' contest sponsor, Cornerstone Bank, for their generous support of this festive endeavor. The Chamber also thanks our Members



Photo Courtesy

Holiday Shopping Contest Grand Prize Winner of \$500 cash, Kelly Pucci.

who donated fantastic prizes and helped spread the word about the contest, and the community, for shopping local this

you to grow your business and join a dedicated and passionate business community, visit the Chamber of Central Mass South online at cmschamber.org Come grow with us! If it is time for or reach the office at 508-347-2761.

Local men reinstalled How to avoid as officers at Grand Masonic foggy eyeglasses Lodge in Boston



Left to right: Junior Grand Warden RW. Chris St. Cvr and the tall one his Father Grand Pursuivant Robert St. Cyr both 2021 officers of the Grand Masonic Lodge of

BOSTON — On Dec. 28, two local men, a father and son team were reinstalled as officers to the Masonic Lodge in Boston. Junior Grand Warden Right Worshipful Chris St. Cyr of Brookfield and Grand Pursuivant to the Junior Grand Warden Robert St. Cyr of Charlton.

The Junior Grand Warden (JGW) is the third in line to the highest ranked elected officer in the Grand Masonic Lodge in Boston and all of Massachusetts. He is also one of the top 3 officers to fill in as Acting Grand Master when the Most Worshipful Richard Maggio Grand Master of Boston is out of his jurisdiction. The Grand Pursuivant to the (JGW) he makes sure he is presentable, his tuxedo looks good and is squared away and also makes his introduction into the Lodges meeting room. In ancient times the Grand Pursuivant also acted as the JGW bodyguard. The father Grand Pursuivant Robert St. Cyr is extremely humbled, proud, and incredibly happy to nave been appointed to this position by the MW. Grand Master Richard Maggio of Boston.

Never in Quinebaug Masonic Lodge history has a father and son been elected to the Grand Masonic Lodge of Boston 2 years in a row. To top it off the (JGW) RW. Chris St. Cyr during his installation also received the highest award a Master Mason can receive which is the Henry Price Medal Award. This award is only given to such a distinguished brethren as may be selected only by the MW. Grand Master. The future looks very bright for these brethren. If you would like more information about Freemasonry and to find a lodge nearest you, visit our Web site at www.massfreemasonry.

Zachary Darling of Charlton serving in leadership position of Assumption's Assumption **Against Cancer**

Assumption University Office of Student Activities has announced that Zachary Darling. of Charlton, is currently serving as President of the Assumption Against Cancer for the 2020-21 academic year.

Members of Assumption Against Cancer know that nearly every family has been impacted by cancer; this group offers students an opportunity to join a nationwide collaboration of college and university communities dedicated to eliminating cancer through fundraisers and

"At Assumption, students have the opportunity to participate in more than 60 groups and organizations on campus that serve an array of interests including leadership, academic interests, club sports, performance, and media" said Sara Swillo Muckian, director of student activities and leadership development. "Student clubs and organizations complement classroom instruction by providing students the opportunity to plan a number of exciting events in which students use their talents and passions, as well as what they have learned in the classroom. In addition, clubs and organizations help to sustain the Assumption traditions beloved by students and alumni alike."

During the fall semester several student groups continued their important work virtually, such as collecting donations to purchase supplies for Veterans and raising money for a local charity that was used to buy Christmas gifts for children in need. These are two of many examples of how these student-run groups give Assumption students outlets to apply classroom knowledge to projects that help better both the campus and Worcester communities, network with professional, and learn important leadership skills.

For more information about Assumption's student activities, visit www.assumption.edu/cam-

pus-life/student-activities. Assumption University, founded in 1904 by the Augustinians of the Assumption, is New England's premier university for high-quality education, integrating career preparation and education of the whole person, drawing upon the best in the rich and centuries-long tradition of Catholic higher education. Assumption, located in Worcester, Massachusetts, seeks to provide students with a transformative education that forms graduates who possess critical intelligence, thoughtful citizenship, and compassionate service. The University offers 34 majors and 49 minors in the liberal arts, sciences, business, nursing and professional studies; as well as master's and continuing education degrees and professional certificate programs. For more information about Assumption University, please visit www. assumption.edu.



Billions of people across and shaking off the excess the globe need eyeglasses to drive a car, read a book, watch television, and perform a host of other tasks of daily life.

Although glasses are highly effective, people who wear them understand they may have to make a few concessions while doing so. Unlike contact lenses, which sit directly on the eye, glasses rest on the bridge of the nose. They may slightly impede peripheral vision or even slip down if not properly fitted. Those accustomed to wearing glasses in the cold weather understand fogging of the lenses is a nuisance they may be forced to confront. That nuisance became even more profound when masks became a must-have accessory to help curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Glasses may fog due to the formation of condensation on the lens surface, which happens when moving from a cold outdoor environment into a warm indoor one. This is a problem that has affected eyeglass wearers for some time, including health professionals who often wear masks. The issue has become even more widely known due to the sheer number of people who have been wearing face masks as a public health safety measure.

So how does one counteract the condensation and fogging that occurs from both winter weather and increased mask usage? There are a few different methods, but eyeglass wearers should always consult with an optometrist to verify the safety and efficacy of any method before trying

Use soapy water

A 2011 study published in the Annals of The Royal College of Surgeons of England found that washing eyeglasses in soapy water

can help reduce fogginess. Afterward, let the spectacles air dry before putting them back on. The soapy water leaves behind a thin surfactant film that reduces surface tension and causes the water molecules to spread out evenly into a transparent layer. This can help prevent fog-

Use a commercial prod-

Antifogging products are widely used to prevent fogging of scuba masks or ski goggles.

Get a mask that fits tightly

Make sure the mask fits securely over the nose, advises The Cleveland Clinic. Also, a mask with a nose bridge will help keep warm exhaled breath from exiting up to the glasses. Use your glasses to help seal the mask on your face by pulling the mask up higher on the nose.

Block breath with a tis-

The AARP suggests placing a folded tissue between your mouth and the mask. The tissue will absorb the warm, moist air, preventing it from rising up to reach the

Adjust the fit of glasses Choosing glasses that sit further away from the face can improve air circulation and reduce the formation of condensation.

Consider other options

If these tricks seem like a lot of work, you also can speak to an eye doctor about contact lenses or eye surgery.

Fogging of glasses has been a problem for some time, but has become more widespread thanks to the use of masks during the pandemic.

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Easy Indoor Plant Project for the Kids

With COVID restrictions keeping people close to home, and students learning remotely, it can be a challenge to find new (and fun) projects for the kiddos. So how about getting a jump start on the gardening season, by recycling foods in your refrigerator? All it takes is a little soil, sunlight, and some common produce to grow a wonderful windowsill garden. Best of all, planting with kitchen castoffs is great fun for all ages. The next time you need a lesson on the fly, just open up the refrigerator or kitchen cupboard and make these plantings a family project. To personalize the project and encourage responsibility for young children, allow each child to choose their own fruit or vegetable, and allow them to "tend" to their plant on their bedroom windowsill. Chances are the gardens may not serve as anything more than a houseplant for the indoor duration, but by the time they die out or are ready to be replanted, spring will be around the corner!

New England boiled dinners are comforting fare for winter weekends. The next time you are preparing parsnips to drop into the bubbling pot, save one or two to "plant." Parsnip is a good first choice because it grows quickly, allowing impatient children to witness the fruits of their labor in almost no time! How to do: First, choose a deep planter. You can recycle a child's summer sand pail, or even use an old plastic container embellished with felt tip marker designs. Scrub parsnips thoroughly under water and dry. Cut of a piece of the parsnip and place it cut side down into your container filled with a standard potting soil mix. Leave about an inch of the parsnip visible above the soil. Water lightly and place in sunlight. After leaves sprout, a spiked flower will appear. Keep soil moist, but not soggy. After a week or two feed every couple of weeks or so

with a stick fertilizer (cut it in thirds and work up to half, then a full stick).

Make a lush hanging plant from... soybeans! Believe it or not, the soybean plant boasts purple or white self-pollinating flowers that are as pretty as any mainstream houseplant. To do: Soak soybeans overnight. Then place wet beans into a wide mouthed mason or mayonnaise jar (beans will expand as they sprout). Cover jar with cheesecloth and secure with an elastic band. The next day, drain off any water and lay the jar on its side in a warm, dark location. Keep adding water a couple of times a day, shake jar to rinse the seeds, and drain. Place jar back on its side. Beans should not sit in water too long or be allowed to dry out. Germination will occur in about four days. When they sprout to about 4 inches, plant in a hanging pot with standard potting soil and place in the sun. Feed with a commercial plant food and soon you'll have a beautiful houseplant!

If you are really ready to take on a challenge, why not try your hand at growing a peanut plant? Because peanuts are great fun to watch grow,

TAKE THE HINT KAREN **TRAINOR** choose an old Mason jar or mayonnaise jar so the kids can view the miraculous growing process. To do: Start with unprocessed peanuts in a shell (no salt). Shell three or four peanuts and place them on their side in a four-inch container filled with potting soil. Cover

the peanuts with a thin layer of soil and keep them in a warm location. Water lightly. The peanut will germinate in about a week, forming a sprout. Soon after leaves will form. Keep moist and transplant when plant is about 8 inches tall. If you are patient, yellow flowers will develop above the soil. When peanuts begin to set, the plant will die back. You can either dig up the peanuts and eat them, or leave them in the soil where they will sprout again.

Here are some other plants you can grow with pantry groceries: Radish plants are easy to grow and the salad fixings are quickly harvested, even in a windowsill garden. Kids love the almost-instant results they see before too long! Choose a firm radish and wash under running water, pat dry. Place root side down into standard potting mixture. Like parsnip, you should leave an inch of the radish above the soil. Place in good light and water when needed. Don't overwater or the plant will rot. Radish leaves will grow in about 6" of soil, so you can really use your imagination when selecting a suitable growing container.

* Garlic is quick and easy to grow.

And the garlic plant does not give off an odor, so plant away! Save a clove from a garlic bulb and remove all the skin. Plant pointed end up in a container with soil to which you've added a layer of pebbles for drainage. Feed with fish emulsion every couple of weeks. Keep the soil moist and in a sunny area, and in about four weeks your plant will be nearly a foot tall!

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

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

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

24th Masonic District Lodge of Instruction meeting held

SOUTHBRIDGE — On Thursday, Dec. 17, there was a Zoom meeting of the Lodge of Instruction (LOI). This meeting was the last official meeting with our sitting District Deputy Grand Master (DDGM) Right Worshipful James J. Gonyea. All Covid-19 restrictions were observed. The meeting was attended by Master Masons and three new members of the 24th Masonic District.

The Lodge of Instructions (LOI) is designed to provide new members of the fraternity with a general overview of what Freemasonry is. It is a forum where Master Masons gather to receive information on Masonic content and general leadership. Meeting topics range from the history of Freemasonry to how to run a business meeting. New Master Masons are afforded the opportunity to expand their Masonic friendships to include brothers from outside

The DDGM opened the zoom meeting to brethren from all seven lodges that make up this District. The meeting topic was "What Freemasonry Means to Me". He was looking for individuals to share their stories and experiences as to why they became interested in this great organization. The Master Masons of the 24th Masonic District are immensely proud of RT. Wor. James J. Gonyea for his last 2 years as our DDGM and the leadership he has brought to our District. If you would like additional information about Freemasonry go to www.massfreemasonry.org and find a lodge near you.

Photo Courtesy

Top left our host Rt. Wor. James J. Gonyea and 38 representatives from all 7 lodges in our 24th Masonic District Zoom meeting.





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Frank G. Chilinski

PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

Brendan Berube **EDITOR**

Cheers to 2021

The past year has been challenging, and the months ahead only look slightly different as far as the pandemic is concerned. The rollout of the vaccines does, however, offer some promise in getting our lives back to normal

It's been discouraging; however, to see people behave so unkindly towards one another. Not so much on the local level — here, we are fortunate. But nationally, the temperature has been turned up for far too long. When did it become 'cool' or 'macho' to behave with such hate towards another person, simply because you disagree? Why are so many individuals filled with so much hate that they take it out on complete strangers? We remind everyone, that when it comes to national politics, listen to several news sources, and not a passing meme on social media. Too many uninformed people are acting out, when if they truly were aware of how things work, beyond just a talking point, they may see things a bit more clearly. Again, we have faith that in the months ahead, the climate will become one of which we can all be proud. It's ok and actually a good thing to question and even disagree with others if it's how you feel. It is not OK when decency, lack of respect and kindness falls by the wayside. It is possible to disagree and yet still be kind and helpful to each other. The constant chest puffing on social media and on national news is just, well, sad. You get more bees with honey.

On another note, as we sit and reflect about how much time has been spent apart as a society, we do need to give a nod to solitude. Extroverts across the globe, just want their social lives to be in full swing again. Heck, even introverts do as well. Being social is an important part of our existence. As things move in that direction, we want to remind everyone that there is a benefit to having some much needed alone time. Something we all don't get very

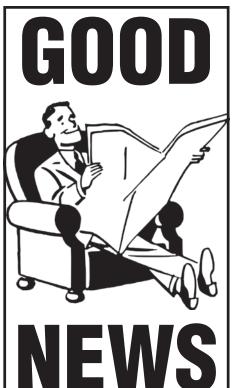
Life in normal times can move very viitiy. We re aiways lookilig allead at what needs to be done next, planning, over thinking and stressing about the future. Studies show that when you stop and enjoy some alone time, your brain will rest. Overstimulation can have adverse effects on our well-being. Take time to detach from the internet, television even music.

When we're alone, our parasympathetic nervous system, that relaxes us, is triggered. Alone time relaxes your muscles, lowers your blood pressure and slows your heart rate. Time alone is a great way to prevent burn out. Burnout can cause us to go about our days in an inefficient manner.

Another check mark in the 'pro' column of solitude is that we become more creative. Our minds are free from distractions. Spending time solo can reduce the chance you'll suffer from vital exhaustion which can lead to increased anger and heart trouble.

One analogy that makes sense regarding solitude, is that it gives you time to get a bird's eye view of your life — the bigger picture, instead of feeling stuck in the day to day sometimes mundane activities

In the New Year ahead, we wish you all health and happiness. As always, take care of each other.



Views and commentary from Charleton, Charleton City, Charleton Depot and beyond

TO THE EDITOR

Why were we not taken seriously?

To the Editor:

It is with serious concern and disappointment that we must address what transpired at a meeting on Dec. 30 with the DCRSD School Committee. The only item on the agenda was a discussion in response to a letter from the Dudley and Charlton Boards of Health recommending that the schools hold off on going back to hybrid until Jan. 19. Not only did the Committee not agree to this recommendation by the joint Boards of Health, but they did not even take a vote. There was considerable discussion revolving around the issue of education of our children and how detrimental the two-week break would be to said education.

The position of both Boards of Health was that the physical health of all residents in both Towns takes priority. Considering that the pandemic has surged enormously over the last three months - just about doubling - and considering that the spikes come just after events such as Thanksgiving and Halloween, the Boards believe that a short reset after the current holidays would allow any virus that was contacted at a gathering, to disperse.

While there are many seemingly good justifications for not going remote for two weeks, the possibility of causing serious illness or death outweighs all other considerations. The unanimous vote of both the Dudley Board of Health and Charlton Board of Health should have been taken more seriously by the School Committee and, at the very least, they should have voted on the recommendation.

We can only hope that our fears are unjustified, and the residents of Charlton and Dudley are following the guidance to not gather, wear masks and keep distance.

CHARLTON BOARD OF HEALTH

KATHLEEN WALKER Jonathan Sanborn MATTHEW GAGNER

How will you make this new year different from the last?

If you are to only read one of my columns this year and take it to heart ... make it this one.

A new year is upon us and I couldn't be happier. I don't think that in my lifetime I've been more relieved to see a year end and a new year

begin. With that said, there is nothing magical about turning the page on a calendar. If magic is to happen, it happens in our heads and

hearts by creating an opti-

mistic view of what is to come and taking positive actions that make our optimism real.

I'm optimistic that 2021 will be a better year. This isn't wishful thinking. We have two new vaccines that are now approved and being administered. I'm hearing that a third and maybe a fourth could be approved early this year. The news is promising, and 2021 will be a positive year of turnaround and renew-

So, we're upon a new year. Now what? My dad used to always say, "If you always do what you always did, you'll always get what you always got." That's true for everything we do, including how we approach this new year. Our happiness and success can be determined by an optimistic approach to 2021. In other words, you have the power to be the change you wish for your life. And why not?

The difference with last year was that there was so much out of our control. A pandemic of the size and scope of Covid-19 changes everything. Losses of life, jobs and personal freedoms are beyond our ability to control, so 2021 can lead to a new and better season.

I believe that almost every successful person will begin this year with the idea that "This year will be a better year than last, and I have the power to make

I already know that a large group of Americans have decided to have a bad vear. Pessimism with some abound as they find it difficult to see the brightness ahead. That is a choice they make based on opinion and not fact, and it will drive and guide the results of their new year.

For me, and hopefully you, the voice of truth tells us a different story and that truth is that 2021 will be a year of tremendous positive turnaround. Again, the vaccines alone are a game changer. As the vaccines continue to be administered, I believe our economy will begin opening and our personal freedoms restored. Could the news be more positive?

So, we have a choice to make. We can wallow in the past pain of 2020 or rejoice and celebrate the brighter days ahead in 2021. Optimism is a choice for hap-

piness and success, while pessimism is a choice for Positively misery and failure. Which SPEAKING will you choose?

I already hear a response of "Yeah, but ..."

But what? The choice could not be clearer and there really are only two

choices. Some may say "wait and see" which is also a choice, but I believe that is a choice for pessimism. The wait and see crowd always get what's left over as the optimists act quickly and seize the day, what if we instead said, "yean, and..."

In other words, we can grieve and lament 2020, and we can be hopeful and optimistic for 2021.

"Yeah, and."

GARY W.

MOORE

Optimism takes no more energy than pessimism and studies show that optimists are both happier and achieve more in life. How can someone purposely choose pessimism?

I've said it over and over ... and will say it again. Your belief system creates a mind/heart conspiracy to make what you believe will happen, come true.

Napoleon Hill said, "What the mind of man can conceive and believe, it can achieve." I don't believe truer words have ever been spoken, vet so many purposely avoid optimism. Please ... don't let this be you. Choose a better year for you and your family.

I'm out of space for now but will continue next week. Please consider the power of your belief system in creating a better year. Optimism is a choice to be happier, healthier, and more successful.

Why would you choose otherwise? Until next week, consider this ancient wisdom from Marcus Aurelius. "You have power over your mind, not events. Realize this and you will find strength."

You hold the key to your own magic. It's a new year. I'm choosing to optimistically make 2021 my best year, ever.

You can too. Will you join me?

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

Time for New Year's financial resolutions



FINANCIAL Focus

BURDICK

very long time. But now that 2021 is upon us, we can make a fresh start – and one way to do that is to make some New Year's resolutions. Of course, you can make these resolutions for all parts of your life - physical, emotional, intellectual – but have you ever considered some financial resolutions?

Many of us probably

felt that 2020 lasted a

Here are a few such resolutions to consider:

Don't overreact to events. When the coronavirus pandemic hit in mid-February, the financial markets took a big hit. Many people, convinced that we were in for a prolonged slump, decided to take a "time out" and headed to the investment sidelines. But it didn't take long for the markets to rally, rewarding those patient investors who stayed the course. Nothing is a certainty in the investment world, but the events of 2020 followed a familiar historical pattern: major crisis followed by market drop followed by strong recovery. The lesson for investors? Don't overreact to today's news - because tomorrow may look quite different.

Be prepared. At the beginning of 2020, nobody was anticipating a worldwide pandemic and its terrible consequences, both to individuals' health and to their economic well-being. None of us can foretell the future, either, but we can be prepared, and one way to do so is by building an emergency fund. Ideally, such a fund should be kept in liquid, low-risk vehicles and contain at least six months' worth of living expenses.

Focus on moves you can control. In response to pandemic-related economic pressures, some employers cut their matching contributions to 401(k) plans in 2020. Will some future event cause another such reduction? No one knows - and even if it happens, there's probably nothing you can do about it. Instead of worrying about things you can't control, focus on those you can. When it comes to your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan, put in as much as you can afford this year, and if your salary goes up, increase your contribution.

Recognize your ability to build savings. During the pandemic, the personal savings rate shot up, hitting a record of 33 percent in April, according to the U.S. Bureau of Economy Analysis. It fell over the next several months, but still remained about twice as high as the rate of the past few years. Of course, much of this surge in Americans' proclivity to save money was due to our lack of options for spending it, as the coronavirus caused either complete or partial shutdowns in physical retail establishments, as well as dining and entertainment venues. But if you did manage to boost your own personal savings when your spending was constrained, is it possible to remain a good saver when restrictions are lifted? Probably. And the greater your savings, the greater your financial freedoms including the freedom to invest and freedom from excessive debt. When we reach a post-pandemic world, see if you can continue saving more than you did in previous years - and use your savings wiselv.

These aren't the only financial resolutions you can make - but following them may help you develop habits that could benefit you in 2021 and beyond.

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.



LETTERS

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You'll need to provide your name and place

of residence, along with a phone number, so we can verify the letter is yours.

We don't have a set limit, but if you keep it around 600 words or so, you're going to have a

better chance at seeing all your words in print. If you want to write a bit longer about a par-

ticular issue, maybe a guest Your Turn column is your cup of tea. If you do that, try to keep it between 700-800 words.

Remember, libelous remarks and/or personal attacks are a no-no and could lead to your letter not being published.

So, what are you waiting for? Start writing!

Time to get back on the ice



THE GREAT OUTDOORS RALPH TRUE

cold weather is her to Hopefully! Checking your ice fishing gear should be done by now. Checking your line and hooks are very important. Ice fishing tilts or tip ups, as the new generation calls them, are becoming very expensive. This writer prefers the older ice tilts that work very well, and are easy to repair. Because of the rain that was predicted this past Friday, ice conditions have deteriorated, and very few ponds are safe for ice fishing locally.

Anglers wanting to do some ice fishing, may need to travel North and West of the valley area, or even consider Maine and New Hampshire. Ice conditions were a lot better last week, as the temperatures dropped to - 10 degrees in those states. First ice is extremely dangerous and should be navigated with extreme caution. Checking the ice with a hand chisel and striking it into the ice as you navigate across a frozen pond, is extremely important. Remind youngsters about the dangers of unsafe, ice and tell them to stay off of the ice without parental supervision.

This writer has been fishing on ice for most of my life, and has found jig fishing as being the most fun and most productive. A simple jig stick equipped with a small reel loaded with 10-pound test braided line and four feet of six-pound test monofilament as leader, equipped with a Swedish pimple jig, and baited with a perch eye, is deadly for bottom feeding fish. Back during my younger years, I used a hand chisel to cut my holes for jigging, sometimes cutting as many as 100 or more a day' when the ice was six inches or less thick. The method was called spudding! The hole was only a couple of inches around, enough to accommodate the lure, or a small perch. We had no reel on the jig stick, which was called dead sticking.

When a large fish was hooked, we often had to call a buddy to chop the hole larger, while the fish was held just under the ice. A small hand gaff was used to hold the fish, until the hole was large enough to pull the big fish through. Most often I fished for yellow perch and calico bass, but we often encountered a largemouth bass. While fishing for perch, catching as many as 10 or more from one hole was not uncommon, and catching 100 or more in a day, was also not uncommon. The best eating size was 8-to-10-inch fish, although numerous perch well exceeded the 12-inch size. Pan fried in a mixture of ground cornmeal & flower in a pan of oil and a quarter pound of butter can provide some great eating.

When ice fishing on the Cape in the town of Carver, we found a pond that was loaded with pickerel, back a number of years ago. While fishing with the late Dick Blanchard of Uxbridge we caught a couple of limits of the extremely boney fish. Dick convinced this writer to retain a few, as he was going to find a receipt for pickling the fish. A few weeks later he dropped of a jar of pickled pickerel for me to try. It was great. Every year after, Dick always made a few jars of the tasty fish which consisted of pickling salt, raw onion rings, pickling spices in a combination of two thirds white vinegar, and a third water. The pickling process softened the bones of the pickerel, making for a great appetizer on our future fishing expeditions.

Deer hunters were happy to see the snow of two weeks ago, resulting in some great tracking conditions. Numerous deer were harvested in the last two weeks of the Black Powder season, some of the bucks carrying only one antler. Every year the bucks shed their antlers and grow new ones for the following year.

Duck & goose hunting opened on Dec. 14, and provided some great shooting opportunity's after the recent snow and cold weather. The freeze and snow drove the birds into major rivers and unfrozen ponds. A lot more mallards and a few wood ducks that lagged behind from their annual migration, provided some great shooting. The final season ends on January 4, 2021 in the Central District. Sea duck hunting in Massachusetts ends on Jan. 25.

Now that I have compiled more information on the dissolved Sea Scouts organization, the following information from my memory, and from Elvin Winchell of Grafton is as follows: Back in the '50s up until the '70s or so, the Sea Scouts had a clubhouse on the shores of Meadow Pond in Whitinsville. Tom Frieswick, Mr. Cahill were scoutmaster for many years getting the young generation ready for the draft. The scouts also had a large Dory, 20 feet plus, and the scouts were often observed rowing the Dory across the Meadow Pond a few times a week. Pete Opperwall, Jack Cunningham, the Baldwin brothers, Jim Bouley are only a few of the original Sea Scouts. Elvin Winchell was a bit younger than the scouts, but still hung around with the group, later joining the

After their rowing work out, they cruised into the boat wharf at Joe Tops bar and Grill. All of the rowers held there oars up in a vertical position, as the helmsman navigated the boat alongside the wharf. There was also a candy shop on the side of the bar, that sold them soda and potato chips before they headed back out. Harding's Boat House and Bait Shop was also a stopping off spot to get fresh bait for fishing.

The clubhouse burned down around the '80's, but the Sea scout's organization continued to meet weekly. They also spent many days fishing, which was one of the top activities back in the day. You could say that the Meadow Pond was a popular playground for many residents of the Village in Whitinsville years ago. My generation sure lived in the best years, although our parents had little money, and worked hard to raise us.

It was a time that people went to their local Fish & Game Club to play cards and bingo, and enjoy a dinner of Racoon and Ham, beans, & pota-



This week's picture shows Dan Southwick with a 9.15-pound largemouth bass.

to. Tickets were a mere \$2 each, which was a lot of money back then. Raffle's and other entertainment were enjoyed on weekends, and then they got ready to return to work on Monday, with most residents in the valley working at the former Whitin Machine Works

The incredible Dan Southwick landed another whopper a couple of weeks ago, as this week's picture shows. The largemouth bass weighed in at 9.15 lbs. and was caught in a neighboring state. Nice

Happy New Year! Hoping everyone had a very Merry Christmas and good

Take a Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods

Antiques, collectibles, and auctions in 2021

2020 was a difficult year for everyone, and antique collectors and dealers were no exception. I am a member of several auctioneer and estate liquidator groups and have the chance to hear from other business owners across the country. Some members have lost family to COVID, most have struggled financially, and all have had to adapt to working in this new environment. Locally, it has also been a challenge for auctioneers, antique dealers and estate sale companies with regulations constantly in flux WAYNE TUISKULA es. You can purchase items outthroughout the year. With the recent approval of vaccines,

there is optimism that 2021 will be a much better year for those buying and selling antiques and collectibles.

As the New Year begins, some auction houses running live auctions are extending preview hours and offering previews on multiple days to ensure there won't be a large number of bidders gathering together at once. Some auctioneers are allowing only a small number of bidders to attend the auction in person. Other bidders are required to leave absentee bids or bid by phone.

When the warm weather returns this spring. I expect we will see auctioneers return to outdoors sales, like some did during the summer and fall of 2020. Many other auction houses (like ours) have switched to all online auctions. When the situation improves, auctioneers will have to determine whether



online.

ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES

sales by limiting the number of people who can enter the estate, requiring masks, social distancing and offering hand sanitizer. Many other estate sale companies have switched to online auctions instead of traditional estate (tag) sales. Others are offering items from estates online with fixed pricright and then make arrange-

ments to pick up your items(s). Some estate sale companies may also reevaluate how they've done business in the past and determine how to move forward in 2021.

How things will change in 2021 is partially dependent on the distribution of the COVID vaccine. The Massachusetts timeline for COVID vaccinations shows that Phase One is taking place now through February, Phase Two from February to April, and Phase Three from April to June. Connecticut plans to offer vaccinations for members of the general public early in the summer.

This timeline gives us hope that we may be able to walk the fields of Brimfield in September, possibly even by July. In what may be another promising sign for us, the Malvern Flea Market recently opened in England. It is scheduled to run on weekends through-



out 2021. The distribution of the new vaccine and the good news from our friends across the pond should provide optimism to antique fans throughout New England. Thank you for reading my column in 2020. Happy New Year to all as we look forward to a better 2021!

The first session of a huge toy collection, all from one estate, is taking place online now. We are currently selling the diecast cars. Most are unopened and in their original boxes. Vintage and antique toys will be sold in later

sessions. We will be offering the equestrian and other paintings from artist Fay Moore's estate in another online auction soon. Keep watching www.centralmassauctions.com for details.

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













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Winter care for houseplants

Holidays are filled with new plants and decorations that often find our houseplants relegated to any out of the way available space. Be sure to keep your houseplants looking their best with proper winter care.

Make sure houseplants receive sufficient

light now and throughout the winter. The shorter, often gray days of winter mean less light reaches our plants. Start by moving plants to the sunniest available window. A south-facing window is usually best, but if it is obstructed by trees, awnings or shears it may be no better than an unobstructed window facing another direction.

If brightly lit locations are limited in your home, try rotating plants between high and low light areas. Switching plants every few weeks usually keeps them growing healthy. Give the pots a turn every few weeks to ensure each side of the plant has time facing the light. This encourages even growth and discourages stems stretching toward the light.



GARDEN Moments

MELINDA **MYERS**

the humidity declines.

with artificial light when light is limited. Newer styles that clip onto pots, are mounted on the wall, or tucked into furniture grade stands make them attractive

Consider supple-

menting natural light

and easier to use. And

now LED plant lights are more affordable, longer lasting and use less energy. Humidity is the other winter stress. Many of our houseplants are tropical and require higher humidity than our homes provide. As we turn up the heat,

Boost the humidity around your plants by displaying them together. As one plant loses moisture, the others will benefit. Add a gravel tray for additional humidity. Fill a tray or saucer with pebbles and water. Then set the plant on the pebbles elevated above the water. As the water evaporates, it increases humidity around the plant.

Adjust your watering schedule to fit

Turn To MYERS page A12



Photo Melinda Myers

Moon Valley Pilea is a moisture-loving plant that prefers high humidity but will tolerate average home humidity.







Lusignan



Maureen

Cimoch

Ellen

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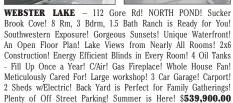


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DOUGLAS - 102 SE Main St! Start Packing! Spacious 9 Rm Colonial! 2.23 Acres! Center Island Granite Kit wSoft Close Cabs, SS Appliances! Slider to 24 Deck! Open Floor Plan! Hickory Wood Floors throughout the Kit, Din & Liv Rms, all wRecessed Lighting! 1st FIr Office or Possible 4th Bdrm wOak Hrdwd FIr! Full Bath in the Hall! 2nd Flr w/Full Dble Vanity Bthrm & 3 Comfortable Bdrms, all w/Beautiful Wood Laminate Flrs! Master w/Cathedral Ceiling, Skylight, Ceiling Fan, Bay Window overlooking the Back Yard and a Master Bath! Lower Level w/2 Finished Rms. Utility Rm w/Laundry and Half Bath! 3.5 Baths Total! Recent C/Air, Heat & Roof! 24x26 2 Car Detached Garage! Huge Shed! Nearby Nature Trails & Wallum Lake Beach! \$379,900.00







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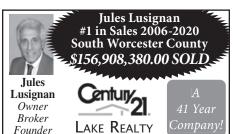
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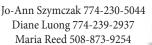
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Market Volume	\$5,326,050	\$9,592,900	A							
# of Homes Sold	17	24	A							
Avg Days on Market	41	32	¥							
	DU	IDLEY								
Median Price	\$282,000	\$323,000	A							
Market Volume	\$2,302,400	\$3,167,400	A	٨						
# of Homes Sold	8	10	A							
Avg Days on Market	32	30	¥							
Control on the Control										

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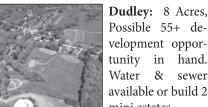
Views from liv-

ing, dining and

Condo

Water-

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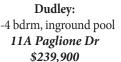
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OBITUARIES

Eric Jay "Boomer" Kohberger, 56

CHARLTON - Eric Jay "Boomer" Kohberger, 56, passed away on Monday Dec, 21st, fighting his courageous battle with Covid.



He was born in Horseheads, NY, son of the late William and Anneliese Kohberger. He leaves behind his beloved wife of 17 years, Nicole (Alfreds) Kohberger – the best one he could ever ask for, his son Jake and

girlfriend Jordan of Dayville, CT, his daughter Katarina of Princeton, MA, his son Zachary of Charlton, MA, and his two pups, Mandy and Kota. Recently, Eric became a Poppy to his now fivemonth-old grandson, Montgomery. Eric is the youngest of seven siblings – predeceased by Deborah. He leaves behind William Jr., and his wife Cathy, Mike and his girlfriend Lynn, Robin and wife Marybeth, Heidi and Kyle. He also leaves behind numerous nieces and nephews along with three great friends, Mark Puleo, Austin Sands, and Dave Paine.

Eric was fortunate to grow up on a beautiful 150-acre farm in Horseheads, NY, which he always called home. From a young age Eric had a passion for Golf which he later turned into a career as a Golf Pro in Massachusetts. He taught many but mostly enjoyed teaching his sons. For the last ten years he enjoyed being a first responder for

Eric loved nothing more than cook-

ing his famous "Poppy Pancakes" for his family - his nieces even started calling him Uncle Pancake. He was also a master on the grill, and a talented Carpenter - his father handed down his carpentry skills and Eric could build and fix anything. He would always let it be known that one day the Buffalo Bills will win the Superbowl. If you are one of the lucky ones you have been on a "musical journey" with Eric, as he had a passion for all music - especially the 80's. He was a car and racing fanatic, but his latest passion was playing cornhole with his cornhole family. Eric was Captain of the Buffalo Wings Men's Hockey team, where he gained the nickname Boomer which he proudly carried.

Above all, Eric had a larger-thanlife personality and if you were in his presence you were bound to be belly laughing as he was quite the comedian. Eric was the ultimate, Husband, Father, Poppy, Brother, Uncle, Son-In-Law, Brother-in-Law, Teammate and Friend. If you were lucky to know him at any chapter in his life, he left a major impression on your heart.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Eric Kohberger Family Support Fund (https://www. gofundme.com/f/eric-boomer-kohberger-family-support-fund).

Due to the current situation, there will be a memorial service at a later date. To leave a note of condolence for his family, or to share a fond memory of Eric, please visit www.brittonfuneralhomes.

Rosario "Rosie" Palermo, 87

CHARLTON/ LEOMINSTER-Rosario "Rosie" Palermo, 87, of Charlton passed away peacefully at Life Care Center of Auburn on December 20, 2020.



Rosie was born in Boylston November 18, 1933, son of the late Gaetano and Angela (Favara) Palermo. Rosie the

was youngest of ten children. He had 4 brothers, Nicholas, Vito, Thomas, and Joseph and 5 sisters, Nancy, Ann, Alvina, Mary and Connie. Rosie joined the

Army in 1954 and was stationed at Ft. Dix, N.J., from there he was sent to Germany

where he served as a mortar tech. He was honorably Discharged in 1956 and returned

home. There Rosie met his beloved wife Florence and they made Leominster their home where they lived over 40 Rosie worked as a mold maker most

of his life. He worked at Banner Mold over 25 years before opening his own business R&M Tool and Die in 1979. Rosie loved bowling in his early days but semi fast softball was his true calling. Rosie started and coached Banner Mold softball team. He brought the

first place finishes in both tournaments and leagues and took the team to the nationals in Spokane, WA. He even built a softball field in back of the Banner Mold facility where he hosted vearly softball tournaments. Once retiring from work and softball, Rosie became an avid bocce player. He played both local leagues and traveled New England as a tournament player. Rosie also loved gardening and his fruit trees always taking pride in what he grew.

Rosie and Florence later moved to Charlton to be closer to their son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren. Rosie is now reunited with his late wife of 59 years

Florence (Going) Palermo and leaves behind their loving son Michael and his wife Pamela and his two beloved grandchildren Joseph and Alyssa.

A special thank you to the staff of Life Care Center for their excellent care, kindness, and compassion throughout Rosie's stay.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Alzheimer's Association at ALZ.org.

There are no calling hours. Services will be private.

ROBERT J. MILLER-The CHARLTON FUNERAL HOME, 175 Old Worcester Rd., is assisting the family with arrangements.

To leave a message of condolence, please visit: RJMillerfunerals.net

CHIP-IN

continued from page **A1**

ed due to COVID-19. In her 25-years with the pantry, she said she had never seen a year where families were more in need and she was happy that Chip-In was there to provide for them and keep the joy of the holidays alive.

"For the kids to see Santa and pick out toys and feel a little joy in their life and for the families to know they were going to have food for Christmas, it means a lot to us no matter how hard we had to work at it," Emco Rollins said. "It is so important for everyone to feel something normal,

something joyful for the holidays. It's hard, but we hope this little bit of Christmas cheer helped them.'

She added a special thank you to the public who turned out in droves leading up to the event to donate everything from food and toys to gift cards to help the elderly, either with food or medical expenses. Emco-Rollins said the support the community showed in 2020 was humbling, and that while the pandemic has certainly provided plenty of sadness and anxiety it's also brought out the best in people driving them to help those most in need in their local communi-

MYERS

continued from page A10

the conditions in your home. Always water thoroughly but only as needed. Use your finger to check the soil moisture below the soil surface. Water moisture-loving plants, like Moon Valley Pilea, when the top few inches are barely moist. Allow the top few inches of soil to dry for cacti and succulents. And always pour off excess water that collects in the saucer. Or use gravel trays to capture the excess water, eliminating this

Most houseplants do fine in the same temperatures we pre-

fer. They do not tolerate drafts of hot air from heat vents or cold air from windows and doors. Move plants as needed to avoid drafty locations.

Never trap houseplants between the curtain or blinds and the window. The temperature can be significantly colder, resulting in injury and even death of some plants. Place plants on a table near the window or windowsill extension, leaving room to close the window coverings at night.

Wait until spring to fertilize. Plants do not need as many nutrients when their growth is limited by less-than-ideal winter conditions. As the outdoor growing conditions improve with longer days and brighter light, so do those indoors.

You will be rewarded with healthier, more attractive plants when giving them the care they need this winter. And as you tend your indoor garden, you will help fight the winter blues.

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



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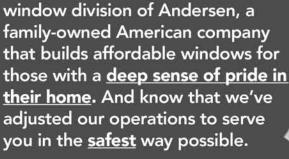
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interest

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