

## Rachel Ullstrom signs with University of Richmond

THOMPSON, Conn. — Rachel Ullstrom, a Marianapolis senior from Auburn, signed her National Letter of Intent to play basketball for the University of Richmond last Thursday.

As a student, athlete, captain, and leader on campus, Ullstrom has, as Kirsty Leedham, Girls' Varsity Basketball Head Coach, noted, "left her mark [...] — in the classroom, on the cross country team, on the basketball team, and, most recently, as a valuable member of the Campus Activities Board [...] Rachel is someone who has always led with her actions — bringing a positive attitude to whatever is in front of her, and serving as a role model to those around her. She encourages her peers, in and out of the classroom, and motivates them to push themselves out of their comfort zones."

Despite last season's scheduling limitations due to COVID-19, "Rachel smiled through it all and took everything she could gain from whatever it was we were doing. I am so excited to see her back out on the court

wearing a Marianapolis jersey. [As the] first four-year player I've had the honor of coaching, she has spoiled me with her energy, her grit, her love for the game [...] I am so excited for her journey beyond this season as a Richmond Spider, but she has some business to take care of as a Golden Knight first!" proclaimed Leedham.

On signing with the University of Richmond, Ullstrom said, "As a child, I always dreamt of playing basketball in college, and I'm so grateful for this opportunity to play at Richmond. I'm looking forward to being able to play on such a successful team in the Atlantic 10, and to be coached by an amazing and accomplished coaching staff [...] I knew I wanted a college that prioritizes academics, as well as offers a successful basketball program. The University of Richmond offers both, as well as a beautiful campus and basketball facilities."

The University of Richmond, located in Richmond, Va., is a Division I school playing in the Atlantic 10 Conference.

## Bridget White of Auburn set to perform at Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — The University of Alabama Million Dollar Band has been selected to perform in the 2021 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, representing the state of Alabama.

Bridget White (of Auburn) will perform in the Cymbals section/position.

This will mark the first appearance by the band in the Parade. The Million Dollar Band will join the Parade to the call of "Let's Have a Parade," the iconic phrase that has signaled the start of every Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade since 1924.

"The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade is one of America's iconic holiday traditions," said Dr. Ken Ozzello, UA professor of music and director of bands. "Having the opportunity to participate will be thrilling for the members of the Million Dollar Band and provide them with life-long memories."

Each year, the Macy's Parade Band Committee looks for bands that have the stage presence and the musical and marching abilities to captivate more than 3.5 million live spectators and more than 50 million viewers. The Million Dollar Band was selected from more than 100 applicants as one of nine bands to march in the annual holiday spectacle.

The band will join the revelry along with other iconic Macy's staples: floats, giant character balloons, clowns and superstar performers galore on Thanksgiving Day 2021, helping create an unforgettable experience for millions.

"When most Americans think of The University of Alabama, they may think about football, however, it is the exciting showmanship, entertaining performances and incredible music at halftime that captures our attention," said Wesley Whatley, Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade creative producer. "The Macy's Band Selection Committee is proud to welcome the sights and sounds of The Million Dollar Band to the streets of New York City for their inaugural appearance in the 2021 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade!"

Performing for millions of fans each year, the Million Dollar Band has been a Crimson Tide tradition for more than 100 years, and it has become one of the most respected university marching bands in the country. The band, which is made up of more than 400 students from almost every major and department on campus, is UA's largest student organization.

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

## Charlton voters approve Amazon TIF Agreement

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

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

Around 386 voters filed into the special town meeting on Monday, Nov. 15, and while several items were up for discussion throughout the evening, the Amazon project was clearly the main

draw. The TIF Agreement proposed an \$11.6 million real estate tax break to Amazon over ten years. The project had crossed numerous hurdles leading up to the TIF vote including voters approving amendments to zoning bylaws to accommodate the building height in May and receiving a special permit from the Planning Board earlier this month. Town Administrator Andrew Golas acknowledged that, as far as the town is concerned, the TIF agreement was the final step for Amazon to move forward with the project.

Turn To **TIF** page **A4**

## The holidays are coming to Charlton!



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

Among the wide selection of items available for bidding, Pastor John Lucy (of CCUMC) knows that his son, Sebastian, is keeping a watchful eye on festive items like this Cycling Santa, a 22-inch self-propelled "Mr. Christmas" who entertains with LED lights and an impressive repertoire of 24 sing-along carols. Danielle Lucy, our Auction Coordinator, is looking forward to bidding on the doTERRA Essential Oil Bundle, the "Chocolate Dreams basket, and the Digital Air Fryer!

Proceeds this year will benefit the

Turn To **AUCTION** page **A4**

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# bankHometown elects new board Chairman, Vice Chairman

OXFORD — At its recent meeting, the bankHometown board of directors recently elected Brian E. Galonek as its chairman and David E. Surprenant as vice chairman.

Galonek was first appointed to the bankHometown board in 2008 and chaired the Audit/Budget Committee and the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) Committee before serving three years as vice chairman. He is president and owner of All Star Incentive Marketing in Sturbridge, a leading national provider of employee engagement programs, and holds the designation of Certified Professional of Incentive Management (CPIM). Galonek earned a bachelor's degree in Marketing from the UMass Amherst Isenberg School of Management, and is active in the community, having served as a board member of both the Tantasqua Education Foundation and Tantasqua American Youth Football, and as president of Sturbridge Little League. Over the past 15 years, he has helped raise more than \$1.5 million for The Jimmy Fund and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute through his membership on the board of the Cohasse Jimmy Fund Classic charity golf tournament as well as his participation in 10 Pan-Mass Challenge bike-a-thons. Galonek and his family live in Sturbridge.

Surprenant was first appointed to the board of trustees of Millbury Savings Bank in 2013 and joined the bankHometown board of directors when the two banks merged in 2019. He is an attorney and managing partner of the Worcester-based law firm, Mirick O'Connell. Surprenant is a graduate of Boston College with a bachelor's degree in accounting and received his juris doctor from Boston College Law School. He is a member of the board of direc-



Brian Galonek

tors and Audit & Finance Committee of the Worcester Business Development Corporation and continues to serve as a trustee of the United Way of Central Massachusetts, having previously served as the chairman of that board. He has been a corporator of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Worcester for more than 30 years, previously serving on the board of directors and as board president. Surprenant also is a member of the Catholic Schools Stewards Foundation and previously served as chairman of the Charter and Bylaw Review Committee and chairman of the Finance Committee for the Town of Sutton. He and his family reside in Sutton.

About bankHometown  
Founded in 1889, bankHometown is headquartered in Oxford, Massachusetts, and has \$1.3 billion in



David Surprenant

assets and 16 branches located throughout central Massachusetts and northeastern Connecticut. Through its sponsorship and charitable giving program, bankHometown and the Hometown Bank Community Foundation support non-profit organizations and causes throughout Worcester and Windham Counties. In 2020, the bank and foundation donated more than \$346,000 and over the last five years donated more than \$1.4 million. For more information, visit bankhometown.com.



## ACCURACY WATCH

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

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

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

## WHITE

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For more than 90 years, Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade has given thanks to what Macy's values most - its loyal fans. More than 5,000 Macy's employees and dedicated volunteers work tirelessly to create a spectacular event that entertains the cheerful crowds and provides joy to millions at home watching on Thanksgiving Day. Stretching down a more than two-mile-long route in New York City, the spectacle is alive with gleaming color, music and smiles.

# Jaymi-Lyn Adams inducted into Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

BATON ROUGE, La. — Jaymi-Lyn Adams of Auburn was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. Adams was initiated at MCPHS University.

Adams is among approximately 25,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Urann who had a desire to create a different kind of honor society: one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines. Today, the Society has chapters on more than 325 campuses in the United States, its territories and the Philippines. Its mission is "To recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and to engage the community of scholars in service to others."

More About Phi Kappa Phi  
Since its founding, more than 1.5 million members have been initiated into Phi Kappa Phi. Some of the organization's nota-

ble members include former President Jimmy Carter, NASA astronaut Wendy Lawrence, novelist John Grisham and YouTube co-founder Chad Hurley. Each year, Phi Kappa Phi awards more than \$1 million to outstanding students and members through graduate and disser-

tation fellowships, undergraduate study abroad grants, funding for post-baccalaureate development, and grants for local, national and international literacy initiatives. For more information about Phi Kappa Phi, visit www.phikappaphi.org.



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### PAW of the WEEK

**Meet Duke!** Duke is a 5 month cattle dog/hound mix. Duke is an active boy that loves to play and loves having jobs to do. He's a smart boy that will pick up training quickly. He would do well in a home with a confident owner that understands his breed mix and how to work with a pup with herding tendencies. For more information or to apply to adopt, please visit [www.PawfectLifeRescue.org](http://www.PawfectLifeRescue.org).

510 Hartford Ave West, Uxbridge, MA 01569  
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Milford Federal Bank is proud to  
sponsor the Pawfect Life Rescue  
PAW of the WEEK!

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## Friday's Child



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

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

Legally free for adoption, Dhamanjie is in need of permanent and loving home where he could gradually transition. He will do well in a single or two-parent family that can give him a lot of attention, structure, and consistency. Dhamanjie visits with his siblings a few times per year, and this should continue once a placement is identified.

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





# Charlton police will no longer be classified as civil servants

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – Charlton’s police officers will be removed from civil service after voters overwhelmingly supported a motion during a Nov. 15 special town meeting, where the town’s police chief argued the move was supported by the union and was in line with a statewide trend to change how officers can be hired.

Charlton had previously removed the police chief position from civil service in 2019; however, voters overwhelmingly decided not to remove the lieutenant position from civil service at that same meeting. Since then, Charlton has hired

a new chief and utilized an assessment center in seeking candidates for the available lieutenant post. The approval of Article 10 on the special town meeting warrant now means that all officers, regardless of rank, will be exempt from the provisions of Chapter 31 of the General Laws, defined as Civil Service.

Police Chief Daniel Dowd was asked about the impact this would have, positively or negatively, on the town and the department.

“The union is behind this. They would like to leave civil service. I have no issue with them leaving civil service. It seems to be the trend right now. The benefits are it makes hiring and promoting easier because we don’t have

go through an archaic method,” Dowd said.

Dowd added that the state is getting rid of civil service “through attrition” and discussed the factors that, in his eyes, make the process antiquated including the limits of only being able to test once a year and the potential for nobody to pass making it harder for positions to be filled. The town is also generally required to hire the candidate deemed most qualified through the exam rather than who they believe is the best candidate.

“As the law has changed basically all the rights that civil service afforded employees previously have now been incorporated into (other) laws,” said

Dowd. “The officers feel with the changes that have taken place that they feel safe and comfortable doing this. I’m able to look at agencies for lateral transfers. I’m able to look to neighboring towns that aren’t civil service. I can now hire them. I wasn’t able to hire them because they weren’t civil service before. It opens up the applicant pool. It puts the testing in the town’s hands, they can change things, they can look for different qualities. I can’t do that through civil service. It’s standard throughout the state – It would just give the town more options in my opinion.”

Voters overwhelmingly approved the article in a 307-52 decision.

# Local real estate professional completes Weichert® Fast Track training

WORCESTER — Weichert, Realtors® - Hope & Associates, located in Worcester, is proud to announce that Philip Gedzia successfully completed the Weichert Real Estate Affiliates, Inc. Fast Track training program. The training helps quickly bring new and existing Weichert® affiliated agents up to speed on the latest information, resources and technology available to real estate professionals to help them effectively list, promote and sell properties and offer legendary service to their clients.

“Our Fast Track program covers everything a real estate professional needs to know to help them start out on the right track towards a successful career in real estate,” said Bill Scavone, president and chief operating officer of Weichert Real Estate Affiliates, Inc. “This program is designed to offer a unique learning experience to get our new associates productive as quickly as possible.”

Program participants learn best practices to get started in the real estate industry, find

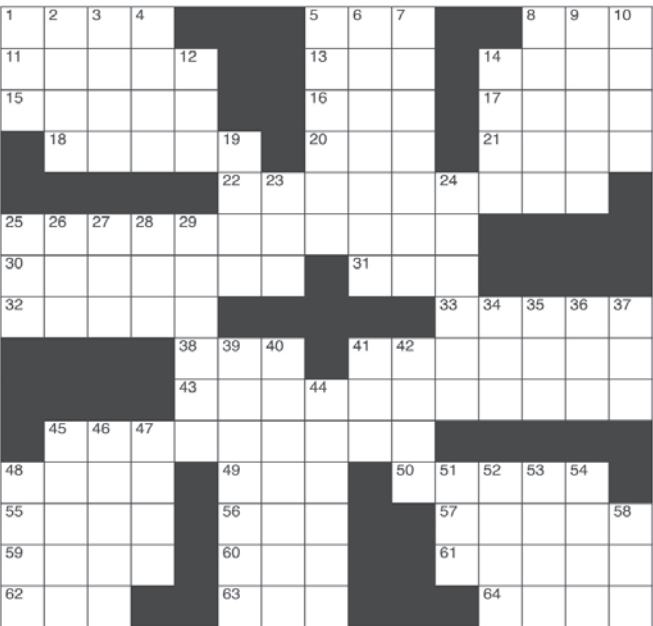
sellers, capture a buyer’s attention and list properties to sell quickly. Agents that complete the Weichert Fast Track training also gain the confidence and competitive edge to succeed in real estate.

Weichert, Realtors® - Hope & Associates is an independently owned and operated Weichert affiliated office. For more information about Weichert, Realtors® - Hope & Associates, please contact Julia Acquaa-Harrison at 508-795-3885 or jharrison@hope-homes.com.

About Weichert Real Estate Affiliates, Inc.

Weichert Real Estate Affiliates, Inc. has grown steadily since Jim Weichert, president, chairman and CEO of Weichert Companies, launched the company’s franchise division in 2001. The affiliate division was created to offer a business model for franchisee ownership candidates described as “a clearly defined operating system for marketing and managing a real estate business.” Weichert Real Estate Affiliates, Inc. announced its first affiliate in 2002, was ranked as one of the top traditional residential real estate franchis-

es in Entrepreneur’s 2021 Franchise 500 and was identified in 2021 by Franchise Business Review as one of the top U.S. franchises for owner satisfaction. Weichert Real Estate Affiliates, Inc. has offices serving over 370 markets in 41 states. For more information about Weichert, visit Weichert.com or for information on franchise opportunities visit WeichertFranchise.com. Each Weichert® franchised office is independently owned and operated.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Taxis

5. Mega energy unit (abbr.)

8. Single-strand break

11. Combinations of countries

13. Cutting tool

14. Small bay in Gulf of Maine

15. Actress Lathan

16. Chatter incessantly

17. Energy, style and enthusiasm

18. Simple shoe

20. Woman (French)

21. Abnormal rattling sound

22. Able to change

25. Future butterfly

30. Used in cooking and medicine

31. A street for nightmares

32. French modernist painter
33. Dishonors

38. Integrated data processing

41. Frameworks

43. Apply new materials

45. Where merch is displayed

48. American figure skater Lipinski

49. Cycles per second

50. Oohed and \_\_\_\_

55. Dark olive black

56. Peyton’s little brother

57. Plant in the bean family

59. A wife: \_\_\_\_ covert

60. Born of

61. Arranges balls on the pool table

62. Title of Italian monk

63. Tooth caregiver

64. American feminist poet

CLUES DOWN

1. Dan Rather’s old network

2. Expression of sorrow or pity

3. \_\_\_\_ fide (Latin)

4. Sign of healing

5. Warm-blooded vertebrate

6. Model

7. Of or relating to plants

8. Plant of the heath family

9. Where to weigh something

10. Internal structure

12. \_\_\_\_ Paulo, city

14. South Slavic person

19. A way to record

23. Have already done

24. As much as one can hold

25. Auburn legend Newton

26. Comedienne Gasteyer

27. Beloved dog Rin Tin \_\_\_\_

28. Midway between east and southeast
29. Call it a career

34. Former CIA

35. American time

36. Confederate general

37. Soviet Socialist Republic

39. Travel downward

40. Made red-blue

41. Vietnamese revolutionary Le Duc

42. Capital of Italy

44. Small bunches of flowers

45. Calvary sword

46. A distinctive, pleasant odor

47. A well-defined track or path

48. Cereal used to make flour

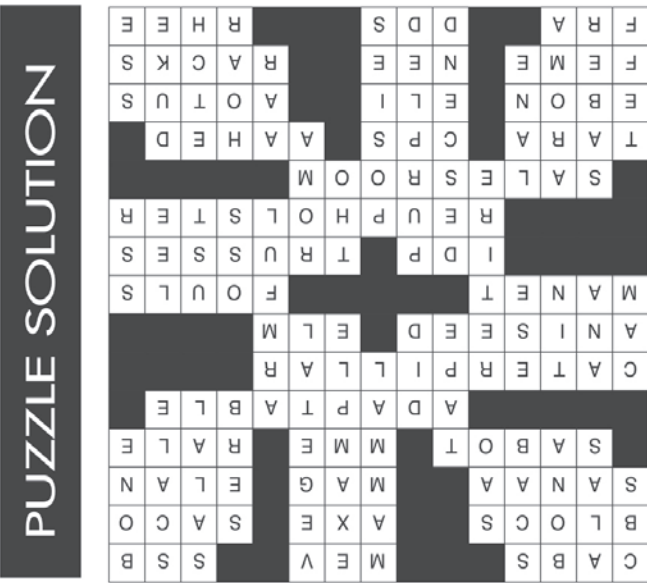
51. Retrospective analysis (abbr.)

52. Grayish white

53. Engrave

54. Famed men’s basketball program

58. Midway between south and southeast



TIF

continued from page A1

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

“This facility is the most advanced type of facility in the Amazon network. This consideration this evening is a key component for our leadership to consider moving forward with this project. It will employ 1,000 full-time jobs at this facility, 900 of those will have a starting hourly wage of at least \$18 an hour with comprehensive benefits, the same that I have starting day one,” Griggs said. “This project will invest hundreds of millions of dollars resulting in a \$1.5 million permit fee in addition to the tax revenues.”

Griggs also touted other financial investments the company would make in traffic improve-

AUCTION

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Charlton REAS (Residential Energy Assistance for Seniors) Foundation, who assists senior citizens at risk of not meeting their winter heating/cooling costs. This volunteer organization relies solely on the generous donations of local businesses, fundraiser events, and individuals to help serve Charlton’s most vulnerable population.

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



## DON'T MISS A BEAT

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\$155,000, 164 Old Meetinghouse Rd #164, Holmes, Kenneth A, to Cabezas, Celina.



# 36th Annual HACE Awards inspire next generation of leaders

WORCESTER — For the past 36 years, Quinsigamond Community College has partnered with leaders in the Latinx community to honor the area's Latinx youth. This year, during a virtual ceremony, the annual Hispanics Achieving and Celebrating Excellence (HACE) event awarded 33 Worcester and Southbridge high school Latinx students with scholarships that ranged from \$350 - \$450 to assist them on their path to a successful future.

The HACE awards honor those students who have excelled in arts, academics, athletics, community service, leadership and civic/political engagement.

"I look forward to the HACE Awards every year. It is a tribute to the best and brightest young people in the Central Massachusetts Hispanic community, and the scholarship money provided by the Awards is a jumpstart for each recipient to achieve their dreams. I have no doubt that these students will be leaders in business, sports, academic achievement, and public service in the years to come," said Sen. Harriette L. Chandler, HACE Committee member since 1985.

Keynote speaker for the event was Ivette Olmeda, who addressed this year's HACE

theme, "Stronger Together." She discussed the disproportionate impact the pandemic has on the Latinx population and the power of working together to persevere through these challenging times.

"Sometimes when bad things happen in our life, they put us on the path to the best things that will ever happen to us," she said.

Chairing the annual event since 2006 was QCC's Director of Community Engagement, Déborah L. González, Ph.D.

"For 36 years, HACE has lifted and encouraged our local Latinx youth to be the best version of themselves, to aspire to fulfilling futures, and to achieve the highest of their potential," Dr. Gonzalez said, telling the student award winners, "This year was a test of your resiliency...continue on your path with resiliency and hope. You made history going through the challenging times in this century."

Southbridge High School HACE award winner Aaliyah Aponte summed up her thoughts on this year's theme.

"Stronger together means to me taking the time to honor one another and communicate with each other...that through all obstacles or any circumstances we may face, together, we can make the impossible

possible," she said.

Three students were also honored with special awards:

· Olga López-Hill Community Leadership Award winner: QCC student Merari Alvarado. This \$600 scholarship is available to QCC students who plan to continue their education at Quinsigamond or to transfer to another educational institution.

· Marlyn Reyes Memorial Community Leadership Award winner: Southbridge High School student Yarelis Diaz.

· Dolly Vázquez Cultural Award winner: Nathaniel Hernandez, Arts/Music Police Partnership.

QCC President Luis G. Pedraja, Ph.D. closed the event with words of inspiration and hope to the students.

"Learn from your hardships. It's going to make you stronger. It's going to define your character and it's going to shape you into the person you will become. I know you will be wonderful...a great person and a great leader in our community," he said, adding, "Thank you to the amazing HACE sponsors and volunteers. Your support and commitment to our Latinx youth is an investment in our economy and our collective future."

2021 HACE Scholarship Recipients:

· Nairim Cespedes Rivan, University Park Campus School

· Katherine Farfan Picon, South High Community High School

· Ashley Gonzalez, Burncoat Senior High School

· Ivori Hidalgo, Bancroft School

· Nicole Quinones, North High School

· Ailany Rivas, Claremont Academy

· Karla Rodriguez, Southbridge High School

· Bernard Santos, Bancroft School

· Marcy Suarez, Saint Paul Diocesan High School

· Madeline Zafon-Whalen, Doherty Memorial High School

· Aailyah Aponte, Southbridge High School

· Raven Falcon, North High School

· Jasmarie Henriquez, Worcester Technical High School

· Nathaniel Hernandez, Arts/Music Police Partnership

· Seleniz Matias, Doherty Memorial High School

· Erika Morales Lopez, Worcester Technical High School

· Elizabeth Nivar Chavarria, Claremont Academy

· Stephanie Ribeiro, Burncoat Senior High School

· Nicole Duran Rodriguez,

North High School

· Ana Giraldo, Worcester Technical High School

· Victor Manuel Canenguez, University Park Campus School

· Maria Panta, Burncoat Senior High School

· Zaylee Ramos, Saint Paul Diocesan High School

· Cristina L. Rodriguez Velez, Claremont Academy

· Michael Vazquez Guaman, Doherty Memorial High School

· Erickson Adon Suero, University Park Campus School

· Yarelis Diaz, Southbridge High School

· Jailimar Montanez, Abby Kelley Foster Charter Public School

· Rafael Muniz, North High School

· Ella Rivera, South High Community School

· Corey Rondeau, Saint Paul Diocesan High School

· Nicole Sarmiento, Doherty Memorial High School

· Paula Sofia Sierra Vargas, Burncoat Senior High School

For more information about QCC, contact Karen Hutner, Interim Director of Institutional Communications at 508-854-2842 or khutner@qcc.mass.edu.

## Charlton weighing options for rescue plan funding

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – With around \$4.1 million in funding available through the American Rescue Plan Act, Charlton's Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator are weighing their options of how to prioritize the funding over the next several years.

Town Administrator Andrew Golas discussed the funding with selectmen during an Oct. 26 meeting laying out some potential initiatives after gathering solicitations from town departments. He presented nine possible initiatives that could be prioritized by the town's highest board with all parties stressing that the discussion was merely the start of many conversations still to come.

The first item brought forward was from the Water & Sewer Department and would earmark \$585,000 for three projects,

including \$85,000 for an engineering study. Department Superintendent Peter Boria discussed the idea providing some insight into the multi-layered proposal.

"It will be a great help. The \$85,000 will do more than a paper study. They'll review those three areas of the treatment plant: the headworks building, which is original to the plant that was built over thirty years ago, and the equalization tanks to see what we can do for improvements to get more effective treatment in that area to help us treat the waste that's coming in and the smaller project would be the chemical storage - making it maybe more compliant," Boria said.

Selectmen were receptive to this proposal with board chair Bill Borowski noting that these were initiatives they would eventually have to invest in regardless.

The next two proposals were an \$800,000 commitment for improving

the town's radio system, a project that Charlton is already investing in as a "multi-generational plan," and \$200,000 for body cameras for the Charlton Police. The later proposal sparked some debate over whether or not the investment should be made before consulting the police union, however Town Administrator Golas confirmed talks between the town and union are already underway.

The fourth proposal was to create a community paramedicine program through the fire department and local EMS, something Golas said would respond to "non-emergency" care situations.

"This type of program would deliver pre-hospital care, almost like an urgent care program. It's been piloted in a few different towns in Massachusetts and the fire department has been looking into this for a few years," Golas said.

Other potential investments included continued COVID-19 mitigation, a

feasibility study for a new home for the Charlton Senior Center and Council on Aging, technology and cybersecurity upgrades, and connecting the water system to the police department. The proposal that got the most debate however was and idea to use funds to explore and possibly start an Economic Development Coordinator program which proved to be divisive among selectmen. Some felt investing in a program or position that would eventually fall on the taxpayers was not the best use of the money while others felt that the current staff has proven capable of helping manage Charlton's economic growth. The selectmen tasked Golas with presenting a slimmed down proposal of this plan in future discussions.

No final decisions were made with town officials stating that the funding will be a regular part of upcoming meetings.



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# OBITUARIES

## Gerald Fuller

Palm Coast, FL -- Gerald Fuller was born on October 30, 1948, in Worcester, MA and passed away on November 13th after a brief illness.



He leaves his devoted wife Karen, his daughter Erin Fuller (Greg Schultz) and son Michael Fuller (Quinn), his brother Richard Fuller (Marilyn) and beloved grandchildren Aidan and Colin Leurdijk, and Hudson and Brooks Fuller. He

also leaves stepsons Gerald Madore (Jodi) and Jason Russ (Nancy), and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. Jerry spent much of his career working within Fuller Automotive, and semi-retired to Florida in 2001, where he worked for several companies and as at Notary Public.

He was a proud Massachusetts native, teaching his daughter to keep box score at Fenway and instilling a love of hockey and Bruins in his son. He and Karen loved to root on the Patriots from the local Elks Club in Palm Coast. Jerry was an amazing cook, making far too much

food for both his family and as a prep cook for the Palm Coast VFW lodge. With a degree in politics and history from Baldwin Wallace College (where he played varsity soccer), his love of stories, facts and world politics was a constant – meaning visits to Washington, DC to see Erin always included time in at least one museum or historic site. He attended Auburn High School and graduated from Worcester Academy. He was an LTJG in the Naval Reserves. He was a lifelong musician, playing several instruments. While in Auburn, he served as pres-

ident of the Kiwanis Club, led and served on the school board for Bay Path Vocational High School, and volunteered for many other local organizations. He coached an endless number of kids’ sports teams and rarely missed a soccer, hockey or tennis match. A celebration of Jerry’s life will be held in Auburn in early 2022. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to Worcester’s Joy of Music Project or the Wounded Warriors Project.

# Charlton voters approve \$1.14 million in capital projects

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

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

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

“Included in that is replace-

ment of all windows on the first floor which are either broken or not even in the window. They’ve been boarded up. It also includes siding that has been ripped off and fascia that has been damaged. Also included is first floor bathroom renovations, rear gutters, the exterior needs to be painted, and security systems need to be installed,” said the Chief Knopf.

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

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

When speaking on the

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

One of the more contentious issues in Article 5 was a motion for \$250,000 for improvements on Little Nugget Dam for \$250,000, a town-owned dam. Phil Cyr, a citizen of Partridge Hill Road questioned how this differed from dam work at the South Charlton Reservoir and Prindle Pond where citizens paid betterments to the town for the work. Town Administrator Andrew Golas stated he couldn’t speak to the prior votes that were taken but stated it was “specifically to

the manner of which it was passed at town meeting” and the “decided to take a different approach” with the Little Nugget Dam. Cyr asked if residents would be able to come back to the town to request a refund of their betterments to which Golas stated that the dams are not owned by the town. Charlton Conservation Director Angela Panaccione confirmed that the town owns at least the South Charlton Reservoir Dam but stressed the differences between that damn and the Little Nugget Dam.

“Little Nugget is only 12.86 acres, South Charlton Reservoir is 207 acres. Little Nugget also has only 27 home residents, many of which are seasonal rental properties/ South Charlton Reservoir has over 200 home residents. I’m not sure why it was done with the betterment in the past. If the Little Nugget Residents had to pay a betterment it would be exorbitant in numbers. The

reason why we are pursuing the improvements is because in 2018 was classified as a significant hazard as a medium size dam and the town funded an emergency action plan,” said Panaccione.

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

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

# Oxford sets \$16.16 tax rate

BY GUS STEEVES  
CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD – On Nov. 9, selectmen unanimously set a single tax rate for this fiscal year, thus defining it as \$16.16 per \$1000, a drop from lat year’s \$16.53.

According to Assessor Chris Pepka, the new values are based annually on property sales; this year, there were 194 total sales in the largest (residential) class of which 126 were “arms-length,” more than the 2 percent needed to be “significant.”

But homeowners may not see the rate drop positively, since property values have risen significantly in the last year. For homes, it went up 6.6 percent, with commercial/industrial values nearly doubling that at 13 percent. In total, Oxford’s property value rose to somewhat more than \$1.6 billion.

Overall, the last two years have seen an “increase of 25 percent during the plague [which] is incredible,” Pepka

said. “...It’s kinda stunning to look at.”

He said the town’s current split is 80.35 percent residential and 19.65 percent commercial/industrial/personal property (CIP). Despite a lot of development in recent years, the latter’s proportion has actually fallen a bit. He attributed that to the “torrid pace of residential [development],” noting CIP has actually grown 21 percent as well.

As he does every year, Pepka laid out what options the selectmen had regarding potentially splitting the tax rate, something few town (but most cities) do. He noted the law allows town to shift some of th burden from residential to CIP, but not vice versa. Had they opted for the maximum legal shift, that would have resulted in a residential rate of \$15.37 and a CIP rate of \$19.39.

“Every penny you take off the residential rate, you add four cents to the [CIP] rate,” he said.

In other business, the board set Jan 4

as the date for a special election specifically to deal with the proposed \$5 million debt exclusion for roadwork. Town Manager Jen Callahan said she’s planning a second public forum to explain the plan and answer questions for the first full week of December.

She also provided a lengthy update on the Access Oxford situation. After summarizing the non-profit’s history since its 2003 incorporation, including a lot of back-and-forth communication in early 2020, she noted the station formally dissolved that spring. That happened even though Access Oxford had enough money to keep running for at least two more quarters. Some of the firm’s equipment was not transferred to the town, which officially owns the three access channels under a legal contract with Charter Communications (who funds them), she said.

Subsequently, the town hired a contractor to provide cable video services,

but she said he did not have access to some of the equipment nor the license agreements Access Oxford had been using. Additionally, part of the problem is that the cable budget is allocated based on last year’s report, unlike most other town departments. Since there was no final report filed with the attorney general or Secretary of State prior to dissolution, “nothing shows where the money went ... and I would not want to speculate,” Callahan said.

In her manager’s report, she observed that the town is seeking to identify the owner of a YouTube account called “Access Oxford Unofficial” and get them to stop using the town’s seal without authorization. She said the lawyers sent YouTube a request to remove that account, but the company refused to do so, claiming they were “not in the position of mediating a trademark dispute.”

She also announced the “very early” stages of a proposal to bring a 345,375 square foot “light industrial distribution facility” called Oxford Logistics Center to a property at the corner of I-395 and Depot Road. The site plans to have parking space for 304 employees and 235 trailers, plus 104 loading docks.

Despite its name, the project is not a town effort; it’s coming from a private entity who does not yet wish to be named.

Gus Steeves can be reached at gus.steeves2@gmail.com.

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September 4, 2018, recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 59353, Page 321; by assignment from MTGLQ Investors, LP, to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee of the Chalet Series III Trust, dated January 7, 2019, recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 60066, Page 212; and by an assignment from U.S. Bank Trust National Association as Trustee of the Chalet Series III Trust to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee of the Cabana Series III Trust, dated March 7, 2019, recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 60172, Page 306, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at 10:00 A.M. on the 21st day of December 2021, at 853 Oxford Street, Auburn, MA 01501, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, To wit: The land in Auburn with the buildings with the improvements thereon shown

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in the deed. Terms of sale: A deposit of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Demerle Hoeger LLP, 10 City Square, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Boston, MA 02129 within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. In the event of an error in this publication, the description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale. U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee of Cabana Series III Trust, Present holder of said mortgage, By its Attorneys, Demerle Hoeger LLP 10 City Square, 4th Floor Boston, MA 02129 (617) 337-4444 November 26, 2021 December 3, 2021 December 10, 2021





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EDITOR

## Thanksgiving through the years

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

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

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

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

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

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

## A Grab Bag of Hints

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



TAKE THE HINT  
KAREN TRAINOR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Non Stick Green Tip:** Here's a green way to make your pots non-stick! Pour white vinegar into a pan the desired level. Boil at medium heat for about five minutes. Allow to cool and you're done! You can even reuse the vinegar to treat other pans! This non stick treatment lasts at least a couple of months!

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

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

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

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

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

## Happy Thanksgiving



POSITIVELY SPEAKING  
TOBY MOORE

Why do we celebrate Thanksgiving? In school, they taught us in 1621, the Pilgrims and the indigenous people of North America became friends. They had a big dinner with Jennie-O Turkey, Stove Top stuffing, green bean casserole, corn, sweet potatoes with marshmallows, followed by a generous portion of Marie Callender's pumpkin pie topped with whipped cream...oops, I think I got that wrong...

Forgive me if you've heard this story before. I didn't know the details until researching this week's edition. In 1620, one hundred and twenty English and Dutch religious separatists hoped to find religious freedom and new opportunities by sailing to The New World.

Along their way, they fought against freezing temperatures, very high winds, and seas so high they had to turn the ship to face the wind to slow the boat down.

Below the deck were cramped quarters, with all of them living in a space the size of a tennis court, only eating hard biscuits, dried meat, and beer which equaled about four hundred calories a day. The pilgrims were treated like cargo and only allowed up top to catch a little fresh air occasionally. At Many points throughout the three-thousand-mile trip, they thought they would die.

The voyage lasted sixty-six days, and they arrived in Massachusetts Bay.

Upon landfall, they found an abandoned Native American Village of the Patuxet tribe that was wiped out from smallpox spread by earlier contact with Europeans. They decided to make this place their home since it was already built for human habitation.

During their first winter, they lost half of their numbers, including thirty women of childbearing age; only around fifty remained.

After the winter passed, a young Native American walked into their village and said, "Welcome!" His name was Samoset, and remarkably he spoke broken English! Samoset knew a Native American named Squanto who spoke English very well.

It turns out that Squanto was a Patuxet, spoke perfect English with a British accent. He was kidnapped by Captain Thomas Hunt in 1614 and sold as a slave to the Spanish. He was brought to Spain and eventually to England, where he may have met Pocahontas. Finally, he came back to his homeland, and to his horror, found the Patuxet people were wiped out by smallpox.

The pilgrims didn't know how to survive in their new surroundings. If it had not been for the kindness and generosity of Squanto, who taught the pilgrims how to live off the land, they wouldn't have made it through another winter. Imagine how grateful they were for Squanto; he was an answer to their prayers.

Squanto could have easily hated them and had them killed or let them die out of spite for being kidnapped by a British sea captain and sold into slavery, but instead, he had compassion and helped them; what a great man he was.

Exactly Four Hundred years ago, in 1621, the colonists and Native Americans celebrated the first Thanksgiving.

Because of Squanto, the colonists had a successful harvest; out of gratitude, they invited Squanto and a nearby tribe known as the Wampanoag to celebrate. For three days, Squanto, the Wampanoags, and the colonists ate a feast of deer, birds, corn, and more.

The real hero of Thanksgiving is Squanto, who taught us that when we forgive and help each other survive, racial division can fall away.

Even though hardships remain, I'd venture a guess that very few of us have endured what our early ancestors endured on their sail to the new world, what the African American ancestors endured during the era of slavery, what the Native American ancestors went through during the Native American wars with the US Government, and the many hardships all of our ancestors have faced of all races. Even the poorest among us live in abundance when compared to them.

This Thanksgiving, I encourage all of us to be thankful for what we have and recognize the Squanto's in our own lives who taught us to live.

Happy Thanksgiving!



## Gift spring blooms for the holiday



GARDEN MOMENTS  
MELINDA MYERS

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

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

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

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

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

directions for assembly, suggestions for providing the cold treatment if needed and proper care.

Others may prefer a gift that requires minimal care like Gardener's Supply Company's Months of Bloom. Order once and these pre-planted bulb gardens are delivered to the recipient monthly for 3, 6 or 12 months. Just water when the potting mix starts to dry and enjoy watching the spring flowering bulbs sprout, grow and flower.

Keep spring flowering bulb gardens in a cool, bright location to extend their bloom time. Once the plants are done blooming, you can add them to the compost pile.

For those that prefer to enjoy them a second season and beyond, provide some post-flowering care. Remove the faded flowers and move the container to a sunny window. Keep watering thoroughly whenever the top few inches of soil begin to dry. Pour off any excess water that collects in the saucer to prevent root rot and apply a dilute solution of any flowering houseplant fertilizer.

Once the leaves turn yellow and die or the soil in the garden warms and the danger of frost has passed, you can move them into the garden. Tulips and hyacinths perform best in sunny areas with well-drained soils. These two bulbs tend to flourish for a year or two and then produce few or no flowers. Keep that in mind as you plan for the future.

Daffodils and grape hyacinths will grow in sun or shade and a variety of soil types. These tend to be long lived



Photo Courtesy — Gardener's Supply Co.

Give a gift of Months of Bloom, pre-planted bulbs to brighten up the recipient's home during the winter months or all year long.

as they grow and spread over time.

It may be two years before you have flowers but it's a great way to extend the enjoyment of a holiday gift.

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 Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Gardener's Supply for her expertise to write this article. Her Web site is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).



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# Happy Thanksgiving



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**DUDLEY** - 10 Camelot Circle 9 Rm, 4 Bdrm, 2.5 Bath, 2,520' Center Hall Colonial featuring an In-Ground Pool on a 28,131' Lot! Tile Entry Foyer w/ Guest Closet! SS Appliance Granite Kit w/Breakfast Bar, Spacious Dining Area, Tile Flr, Pantry Closet, Recessed & Pendant Lighting! Formal Din Rm w/Hrdwd Flr & Chair Rail! Formal Liv Rm w/Crown Molding! 13.6x27' Fam Rm w/Fireplace w/Wood Pellet Insert, Soaring Cathedral Ceiling, Ceiling Fans & Skylight! Half Bath! 3 Season Porch! 1st Flr Laundry! The 2nd Floor w/4 Bdrms! Spacious Master w/Walk-in Closet & Full Bath w/Dble Granite Vanity! Full Hall Bath w/Dble Vanity! C/Air & Vac! 2 Car Garage! Fire Pit! Many Updates! Original Owner - Pride of Ownership! **\$570,000.00**



**WEBSTER LAKE** - 62 Bates Point Rd! Middle Pond! Absolute Prime 51' Level Waterfront Lot w/Western Expo! Beautiful Sunsets! Fantastic Panoramic Lake Views! 11 Rooms, 6 Bedrooms, 4 Bathrooms, 3,269' AC'd Colonial! Custom SS Appliance Granite Kitchen! Formal Dining Rm w/Cherry Hardwoods! Lake Facing Living Rm w/Cathedrals, Cherry Hardwoods! Slider to Waterfront Deck! Spacious 1st Flr Master Bedroom w/Full Bath, Cherry Hardwoods & Walk-in Closet! Fireplaced Lower Level Family Rm! 1st & 2nd Floor Laundries! 2 Car Garage! **\$979,900.00**



**WEBSTER** - 20 Scenic Ave! Views of Webster Lake! 7 Rm Colonial! Work-in Appliance Kit! Dining Area w/Cathedral Ceiling! Living Rm w/ Pine Flooring, Hearth & Woodstove! 1st Flr Bdrm, 3 Bdrms Total! 2 Full Baths! Expandable Walk-out Lower Level! Buderus Oil Heat! Recent Roof & Siding! **\$299,900.00**



**WEBSTER** - 8 Riverside Dr! Super Convenient 9 Rm Colonial! Work-in Appliance Kit w/Granite Island & Dining Area! 24' Living Rm w/Laminate Wood Flooring, Slider to Composite Deck! 3-5 Bdrms Total! Master Bath! 2.5 Baths Total! Finished Lower Level! Oil Heat! Roof 2019! **\$399,900.00**



**WEBSTER** - 6 Slater Street! Professionals Take Notice! Ideal Office Setup! 1st Floor w/Waiting Rm, Reception Area, 4 Offices w/Sinks, 3 Alcove/Prep Areas, Handicap Accessible 1/2 Bath, and Hrdwd Flrs! 2nd Floor Currently w/Employee Breakroom w/ Full Kitchen, Cabinets & Closet Storage, 3/4 Bath and additional office/bedroom! C/Air C/Vac! Security System! **\$349,900.00**



**DUDLEY** - 50 Brandon Rd! 3 Family! 554 Rms! 221 Bdrms! 221 Bathrms! Investors Take Notice! Fully Rented! Solid Rental History, Long Term Tenants! Conveniently Located! Washer & Dryer Hookups in the Basement for Each Unit! Efficient Natural Gas Heating! Two Driveways provide Off Street Parking for up to 5 Vehicles! Dudley's Low Taxes & Desirable School System! **\$349,900.00**



**WEBSTER LAKE** - 50 Laurelwood Drive! 90' Waterfront! Western Exposure - Beautiful Sunsets! Half Acre, 22,729', of Natural Privacy! 6 Room Custom Built Cedar Home with 2 Car Attached Garage! Dining Area and Fireplaced Living Room with Soaring Cathedral Ceilings! First Floor Master Bedroom with Full Bath! 2 Second Floor Bedrooms and Second Full Bath, Large Second Floor Expansion Area! Additional Garage Space Under! Lighting Strike Fire Damage Repair Required! Tons of Potential! **\$889,900.00**



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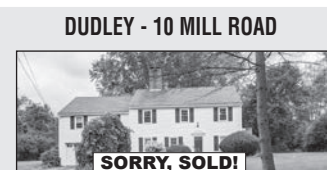
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TREASURE ISLAND - CONDO

Unit 1404 Marina side of the Complex - with 2 Boat Slips! 6 rooms, 2-1/2 baths, 2 bedrooms, fireplace, garage, Sandy Beach, Heated Salt Water Pool!  
**\$549,000.**



**DUDLEY - 10 MILL ROAD**  
Beautiful family home! 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, newer widows & heating system. Mini split system. Hardwoods. Lg eat-in kitchen /Corian counters & Island! Warming fireplace with handsome mantel. Generous dining room, spacious enough for your family gatherings. lower level fireplace family room. Harmon pellet insert! 2 car garage. Reduced **\$340,000.**



**WEBSTER - 23 EMERALD AVE.**  
Extraordinary Find! Beautiful 2 Family! Owner occupied with pride and it shows. Grand Front Entry! 3,012 SF +/- living area. 12 rooms, 6 bedrooms, 2 updated Baths. 2nd Flr - Granite Countertops! High ceilings & Hardwood Floors, Modern Kitchens. Manicured 13,525 SF Lot with a Hip roof 3 car garage! **\$439,900**



**WEBSTER - 10 THOMPSON RD**  
2 FAMILY! LOCATION, LOCATION! OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS! SERIOUSLY CONSIDER THIS A SOLID INVESTMENT. A GENERAL BUSINESS ZONED! PRIME WEBSTER BUSINESS DISTRICT! A LARGE, DEEP LOT, 14,875 SF/0.34 ACRE. 9 Rooms, 4 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, FHW/OIL. Garage! Lot is currently private with a mature tree line in the rear. Property serviced by Municipal Water & Sewer, Natural Gas line in Basement. A QUICK CLOSE IS POSSIBLE. **\$195,000**



**WEBSTER • 22 EASTERN AVE**  
LOOKING FOR AN AFFORDABLE, HUMBLE ABODE, THAT WON'T BREAK THE BANK? Convenient Location, corner lot! 1288 SF +/-, 4 BRS w/1st Flr Mstr BR, Half Bath! Eat-In Kitchen, Dining/Living Room Combination! 3-Season Porch. 2nd Flr - 3 BRS, Reshingled Roof, Replacement Windows, Updated Electric, Buderus Boiler. Part finished walk-out bsmt! Garage! **\$215,000**



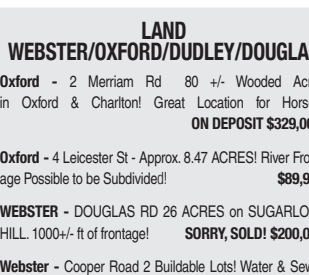
**WOODSTOCK CT - 110 JOY RD**  
WELCOME TO MIDNIGHT FARM! 1876 Antique Colonial. Included separate Building - Studio/Store both situated on 2.5 Acres Professionally Landscaped! 5 Bedroom, Lg Living room, Fireplaced Dining room, Library, Master Bdrm, Renovated Kitchen! 3 Stall Garage! Picturesque Location! **\$455,000.**



**Featured Island Listing! Webster Lake - 22 Long Island**  
Once in a lifetime opportunity to own a Webster Lake Waterfront Cottage on Long Island! Properly named the "Grand View". Sandy beach, boat house! Antique Cottage w/5 Rms, 3 BRs, a stone fireplaced w/pellet stove, eat-in kitchen w/modern appliances, full bath! washer/dryer. Screened porches. Included, 25% ownership share in a main land waterfront lot at 38 Point Pleasant Rd, in sheltered Mumford Cove! land provides boat slip & winter storage. A FAR AWAY PLACE NEAR BY! **\$389,900.**



**WEBSTER LAKE - 1301 TREASURE ISL.**  
Quiet Summers & Fall Seasons on Big & Beautiful Webster Lake. Completely updated Hardwood & Ceramic. Center Island Kitchen. 6 Rooms, 2-1/2 Baths, a must see. Overlooking the Marina. 2 Deeded boat slips. assisted sale **\$600,000.**



**LAND WEBSTER/OXFORD/DUDLEY/DOUGLAS**  
Oxford - 2 Merriam Rd 80 +/- Wooded Acres in Oxford & Charlton! Great Location for Horses! **ON DEPOSIT \$329,000.**  
Oxford - 4 Leicester St - Approx. 8.47 ACRES! River Frontage Possible to be Subdivided! **\$89,900**  
**WEBSTER - DOUGLAS RD 26 ACRES on SUGARLOAF HILL.** 1000+/- ft of frontage! **SORRY, SOLD! \$200,000**  
**Webster - Cooper Road 2 Buildable Lots!** Water & Sewer Access. Zoned Lake Res! **ON DEPOSIT! Each \$24,500.**



**OXFORD - 10 BEVERLY STREET**  
2 Family! A RARE FIND, BUILT IN 1967!! 2 PARCELS =16,224 SF!! EXTREMELY WELL MAINTAINED! Total 9 rooms, 5 Bedrooms, 2 baths. 2nd apartment is a perfect mortgage helper!! Beautiful Hardwood Floors! Roomy yard. Off Street Parking! Neighborhood Setting! **\$449,000.**

## On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg



**Webster Lake - 300 Killdeer Island.**  
OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS! WEBSTER LAKE waterfront property on Killdeer Circle! Prime waterfront location! Gently sloping landscape to waters edge. Crystal clear, sandy bottomed shoreline. Everyday is a new day at the Lake! 5 rooms, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths! Walk out lower level to nice size patio! Garage. **\$650,000.**



**WEBSTER - 1402 TREASURE ISLAND CONDO**  
Nicely appointed, Marina side condo - with 2 Boat Slips! 6 rooms, 2-1/2 baths, 2 bedrooms, fireplace, garage, Sandy Beach, Gazebo, Heated Salt Water Pool! **\$595,000.**



**WEBSTER - 401 TREASURE ISLAND CONDO**  
WEBSTER LAKE! Treasure Island Townhouse! UNIT# 401 Quiet summers on big & beautiful Webster Lake! 6 Rooms. Open Floor Plan! Dining Area. Hardwood Floor & Carpet. Master Bedroom, W/2 Closets, Master Bath! 2-1/2 Baths Total! Slider to Deck & Slider to the Patio! Natural gas heat! 2 Boat Slips! Heated Pool! Natural Sandy Beach! **\$439,000.**

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**DUDLEY:** Split entry, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 car garage  
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**OXFORD:** Colonial, 3 bedrooms, sided, 2 baths, hardwood floors  
3 Elm St. ~ **\$329,900**



**WEBSTER:** Contemporary, cathedral ceiling, 3 plus acres, 2 car garage  
42 Rawson Rd. ~ **\$464,900**



**WEBSTER:** Motivated Seller! 3-4 bedrooms, Town water & sewer, Small barn/workshop, Offers considered.  
56 Ash St. ~ **\$200's**



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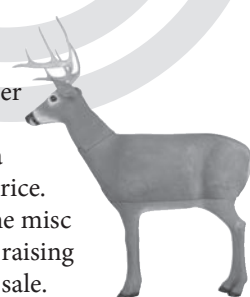
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The West Brookfield Water Department is accepting applications for an Administrative Assistant (25 hours a week). The incumbent will work under Commissioners' and the Water Superintendent. The Administrative Assistant shall be responsible for providing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

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PEOPLE  
FACT:

JEWISH INDIVIDUALS  
CELEBRATE THIS HOLIDAY  
EACH NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER.  
THE HOLIDAY COMMEMORATES  
A GREAT MIRACLE.

ANSWER: CHANUKAH

Crossword Puzzle

1					2			
								3
4								
5								
					6			
7								

THIS DAY IN...

HISTORY

• 1558: QUEEN ELIZABETH I ASCENDS TO THE THRONE AFTER THE DEATH OF HER HALF-SISTER, QUEEN MARY.

• 1869: THE SUEZ CANAL OPENS IN EGYPT.

• 2003: ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER IS SWORN IN AS GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA.

ACROSS

1. Wax and wicks

4. Where news is written and edited

5. Part of a boat upon which the hull is built

6. Singular

7. Feeling content

DOWN

1. Jewish holiday

2. Nickname for “Lawrence”

3. Place of worship

Answers:

Across

1. Chanukah 4. Newsroom 5. Keel 6. One

Down

1. Candles 2. Larry 3. Temple 7. Happy

New Word

LATKE

a potato pancake in Jewish cuisine

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Miracle

SPANISH: Milagro

ITALIAN: Miracolo

FRENCH: Miracle

GERMAN: Wunder

Did You Know?

CHANUKAH IS AN EIGHT-DAY CELEBRATION THAT HONORS THE MIRACLE OF ONE NIGHT’S WORTH OF OIL LIGHTING THE MENORAH FOR A TOTAL OF EIGHT DAYS.

Happy Chanukah

GET THE PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: MENORAH

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to novel writing. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 25 = E)

A. 1 11 17 25 21

Clue: Type of book

B. 5 4 24 12 25

Clue: Put words on page

C. 9 23 12 2 11 4

Clue: Writer of something

D. 22 23 6 21 24 10 2

Clue: Release a written work

Answers: A. novel B. write C. author D. publish

SUDOKU

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you’ll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here’s How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

ANSWER:



# How to build and maintain a strong credit rating

Understanding credit scores and how to build and maintain a good credit rating can be vital to individuals' financial futures.

A strong financial history benefits consumers in myriad ways. Individuals with a history of paying their bills on time and avoiding significant consumer debt may be eligible for lower interest rates on big ticket items like homes and automobiles, potentially saving them tens of thousands of dollars over their lifetimes.

Though there are many ways to build a strong financial history, avoiding debt is always part of that equation. Credit scores are used to determine consumers' creditworthiness in the eyes of lenders and can affect eligibility for loans and the terms of those loans. Understanding credit scores and how to build and maintain a good credit rating can be vital to individuals' financial futures.

**What is a credit score?**  
A credit score is a three-digit number between 300 and 850. The higher the number, the better an individual's credit rating is. The lower the number, the less creditworthy consumers become in the eyes of lenders.

**What is the average credit score?**  
According to Equifax, which along with Experian and TransUnion is one of three credit reporting agencies, the average credit score in the United States in February 2021 was 698. Credit scores in Canada range from 300 to 900,

and TransUnion reports the average score in Canada is around 650.

Is 698 or 650 good?  
There's good news and bad news for Canadian and American consumers. The average rating in each country falls into the "Fair" (Canada) or "Good" (United States) range. However, consumers should aspire for scores that are higher than the average in both countries. A credit score above 720 is considered "Excellent," and the online financial resource Nerd Wallet reports that individuals with scores above 750 are in even better shape. Such individuals may have access to financial products or be eligible for loan terms that people with lower scores are not privy to. Making the most of those advantages can save consumers considerable sums of money over the course of their lifetimes and may help them build the type of generational wealth millions of people aspire to.

**How can individuals achieve high credit scores?**  
The best way to build and maintain a high credit score is to understand the factors that influence that score. FICO™ is a data analytics firm that provides credit scoring services. Equifax notes that FICO scores consider five categories from individuals' credit histories:



- Payment history
- Amounts owed
- Length of credit history
- New credit accounts
- Mix of credit used

Each of these categories are weighted, and none bears more significance than payment history. Consumers who have demonstrated an ability to pay their bills on time and limit the amounts of debt they carry at any given moment are doing themselves a favor as they look to achieve and maintain a high credit rating.

**Is all debt the same?**  
It's important that consumers distinguish consumer debt from student loan debt. Though each type of debt will be reported to the three major credit bureaus, student loan debts that are

paid on time each month are generally considered "good debt" because they demonstrate an individual's ability to make installment payments on time over a significant length of time. That's what consumers will need to do if they hope to purchase a home in the future and finance it with a mortgage loan. Unlike student loans being repaid in installments, consumer debts like credit card balances must be paid in full each month for consumers to avoid potentially hefty interest charges. Consumers who can't pay those balances in full each month are not demonstrating creditworthiness in the eyes of lenders, and that will have an adverse effect on their credit ratings. Understanding credit and how to build and maintain a strong rating is vital to individuals' financial futures.

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

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

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

Providing recreational relief to patients, family members, and hospital staff, Project Pinball Charity covers all cost and regular maintenance for the machines. Fundraising stays within the

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

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

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

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