

BLACKSTONE VALLEY TRIBUNE

Free by request to residents of Douglas, Northbridge, Uxbridge, Linwood, Whitinsville and North Uxbridge

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Friday, February 12, 2021

Uxbridge community looking to light up "The U"

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR CAMPAIGN TO ADD LIGHTS TO UHS FIELD

UXBRIDGE — Prior to 1955, when the student body at Uxbridge High School formally adopted "The Spartans" as their mascot, they were often referred to as "The Light Brigade" by

local sportswriters. The "Light Brigade" now takes on new meaning as the newly reincorporated Uxbridge Spartans Athletic Booster Club (USABC) has launched a fundraising effort to add

lights to the high school's multi-purpose turf field.

Early in 2020, we were fortunate to kick off our campaign with a \$50,000 anchor donation from UniBank as part of what was expected to be the

company's 150-year anniversary celebration. Due to the impact of the current pandemic the fundraising campaign is just now being launched publicly, however we are excited to announce that

there is already a significant momentum. Along with the UniBank donation, the Boosters recently received an additional \$25,000 commitment from B&L Pools along with generous donations from Turf Technologies, Uxbridge Auto, Millville Gas, and Three Rivers Financial that now total \$95,000 toward the project's goal.

The Boosters want to emphasize that the whole point of having a turf field is to get as much use out of it as possible. The usage of the field is severely restricted by daylight hours, particularly during early

spring and late fall when demand is highest. Other members of the Uxbridge community have pointed out that the significant investment the town made in the field is being wasted. It is an important asset that could be used for more than just school sports if lights were installed. Poor field conditions from more volatile weather patterns and increased activities has driven more and more area towns to install synthetic fields. We have seen this recently in several towns including Millbury and

Turn To **UHS** page **A6**

Local school districts receive state COVID grants

BY KIMBERLY PALMUCCI
TRIBUNE CORRESPONDENT

REGION — School districts, charter schools, and educational collaboratives across the Commonwealth will receive more than \$50 million in one-time state funding to help with the costs associated with safely operating and educating students during the ongoing COVID-19

pandemic.

Local districts and schools receiving grant funding include those in the 8th Worcester District: Bellingham, Blackstone-Millville, Uxbridge, and more.

State Rep. Michael Soter (R-Bellingham) said that the schools in his district are scheduled to receive a total of \$287,725

under the COVID-19 Response, Remote Learning, and Student Support Grants program. The House and Senate recently authorized funding for the program as part of the Fiscal Year 2021 state budget, and the total amount each school district will receive is as follows: the Bellingham School District will receive \$91,625; the Blackstone-Millville

Regional School District will receive \$77,925; Blackstone Valley Tech will receive \$42,750; and the Uxbridge School District will receive \$75,425.

"The release of this funding will be crucial for school districts and towns as we continue to navigate this pandemic."

Turn To **GRANTS** page **A6**

Grafton selects Evan Brassard as next Town Administrator

BY KIMBERLY PALMUCCI
TRIBUNE CORRESPONDENT

GRAFTON — The Select Board has chosen Grafton's next Town Administrator. Evan Brassard, who currently serves as Monson's Town Administrator, is now headed to work in Grafton.

Brassard began working for the town of Monson—his hometown—in 2014. His last day working in Monson will be Sunday, Feb. 21.

"I like to think of myself as an approachable guy, and I got into this line of work simply because I like helping people," Brassard said. "Over the years in Monson, I think I brought about a lot of positive change and worked with many different people to solve problems as they arose. I am very excited to do the same in Grafton."

Brassard said he was attracted to Grafton after reading the community profile in the town's ad for a new Town Administrator.

"Grafton has more community projects and development projects than Monson. I am looking forward to working on some of those projects," he said. "I think Grafton is a good fit as it is a growing town with many new things for me to work on...I want to work with staff to create/maintain a healthy workplace and work with residents to make Grafton whatever they want it to be."

Brassard has a B.A. from UMass Amherst in Political Science and a M.P.A. from Anna Maria College. Previously, he served as the Director of Quality Improvement at Rehabilitative Resources, Inc. (now Venture Community Services) in Sturbridge,

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Hopkinton K9 team seeking help in national competition

BY KIMBERLY PALMUCCI
TRIBUNE CORRESPONDENT



Courtesy

Through the month of February, Hopkinton Police Officer Brian Sanchioni and K9 Titan are competing against 25 teams in a national competition to bring a \$3,000 donation to the community.

HOPKINTON — Through the month of February, Hopkinton Police Officer Brian Sanchioni and K9 Titan are competing against 25 teams in a national competition to bring a \$3,000 donation to the community.

According to the Hopkinton Police Department, the K9 team needs votes from the community for the online competition, hosted by the Hometown Foundation. Voting runs until Feb. 28, and if the K9 team wins, the foundation will donate \$3,000 to help pay for equipment and, of course, "treats for the good boy."

The Hometown Foundation is a non-profit organization that raises money to support a broad range of programs that meet community needs. The foundation's focus centers around five key program areas: animal welfare, emergency response personnel, individuals with intellectual disabilities or in need, major illness, and the military.

"This Holiday Season we want to help deserving law enforcement agencies and their K-9 Units who have embodied the principles of honor, respect, pride and demonstrated compassion for their community," the foundation released in a statement. "Police K-9 Units are not fully funded by their local and state municipalities and rely heavily on private donations. That is why we are awarding three top awards of \$3,000 each and one people's choice award of \$1,000 to deserving

Turn To **K-9** page **A6**

Endicott College announces local Dean's List students

BEVERLY — Endicott College, the first college in the U.S. to require internships of its students, is pleased to announce its Fall 2020 Dean's List students. In order to qualify for the Dean's List, a student must obtain a minimum grade point average of 3.5, receive no letter grade below "C," have no withdrawal grades, and be enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits for the semester.

The following students have met these requirements:

Charlton
Hailey Demers, Biology/Biotechnology, Jill Demers and Steve Demers Sarah Horgan, Interior Design, Elizabeth Horgan and Timothy Horgan Emma Hurley, Libl Studies/Education, Lisa Hurley and Gregory Hurley Payton Krukonis, Nursing, Donna Krukonis and Stephen Krukonis Brynne Mandeville, Hospitality Management, Tina Mandeville and Paul Mandeville

Douglas
Lauren Bek, Hospitality Management, Mary Anne Bek and Stephen Bek Leah Haire, Liberal Studies, Christine Haire and Colin Haire Maddison Murray, Libl Studies/Education, Diane Beals and Timothy Murray

Grafton
Stephanie Butler, English, Pamela Butler and Gary Butler

Abigail Seely, Art Therapy, Sarah Kasanovich and Darren Seely

Milford
Hannah Currie, Hospitality Management, Ann Currie and Lloyd Currie Kaylee Harmon, Hospitality Management, Doreen Zinck-Harmon and Thomas Harmon Megan Larouco, Nursing, Cheryl Larouco and John Larouco Isabelle Mathieu, Interior Architecture, Michelle Simpson Mikayla Michelson, Digital Media, Karen Michelson and Gary Michelson Jillian Paccico, Nursing, Nara Paccico and Lawrence Paccico Maggie Rothberg, Hospitality Management, Lynn Rothberg and Marc Rothberg

Millbury
Megan Dunne, Art Therapy, Pamela Dunne and John Dunne Megan Lawson, Nursing, Kelly Lawson and Paul Lawson Victoria McGovern, Engineering, Carolyn Leary and Robert McGovern Jacquelyn Pariseau, Biology/Biotechnology, Finance, Gina Pariseau and Craig Pariseau Kasey Teixeira, Nursing, Susan Teixeira and Joseph Teixeira

Northbridge
Maeve Buckley, Libl Studies/Education, Gail

Buckley and Mark Buckley

Oxford
Victoria Sheehan, Nursing, Donna Sheehan and Brian Sheehan

Sturbridge
Melissa Izzio, Interior Architecture, Tricia Izzio and Brian Izzio

Sutton
Isabella Fitman, Interior Design, Julie Fitman and Thomas Fitman Claudia Houde, Marketing, Melissa Houde and William Houde Nicholas Maselek, Finance, Andrea Maselek and Scott Maselek

Upton
Maria Buono, Mrktng Comm/Advertising, Diana Buono and Joseph Buono Mackenzie Morgan, Finance, Gail Morgan and Daniel Morgan Kaitlyn Schimp, Nursing, Shannon Schimp and Christopher Schimp

Uxbridge

Kiara Griffith, Nursing, Kimberly Griffith and Mark Griffith Erin Jones, Psychology, Carla Jones and Michael Jones Payton Nestor, Nursing, Lisa Nestor and Scott Nestor

Webster
Cassidy Thorpe, Nursing, Jennifer Thorpe and Jeffrey Thorpe

Whitinsville
Nicole Cella, Interior Design, Diane Cella and Christopher Cella

About Endicott College Endicott College offers doctorate, master's, bachelor's, and associate degree programs at its campus on the scenic coast of Beverly, Mass., with additional sites in Boston, online, and at U.S. and international locations. Endicott remains true to its founding principle of integrating professional and liberal arts education with internship opportunities across disciplines. For more, visit endicott.edu.

Area residents named to dean's list at Quinnipiac University

HAMDEN, Conn. — Maxwell Postma and Nicholas Tourony of Douglas, Colin Gosselin and John Hughes of Northbridge, and Lydia Mason and Kevin Wagner of Uxbridge were named to the dean's list for the Fall 2020 semester at Quinnipiac University.

To qualify for the dean's list, students must earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 with no grade lower than C. Full-time students must complete at least 14 credits in a semester, with at least 12 credits that have been graded on a letter grade basis to be eligible. Part-time students must complete at least six credits during a semester.

About Quinnipiac University Quinnipiac is a private, coeducation-

al, nonsectarian institution located 90 minutes north of New York City and two hours from Boston. The university enrolls 7,000 full-time undergraduate and 3,000 graduate and part-time students in 110 degree programs through its Schools of Business, Communications, Education, Engineering, Health Sciences, Law, Medicine, Nursing and the College of Arts and Sciences. Quinnipiac is recognized by U.S. News & World Report and Princeton Review's "The Best 385 Colleges." The Chronicle of Higher Education has named Quinnipiac among the Great Colleges to Work For(r). For more information, please visit qu.edu. Connect with Quinnipiac on Facebook at facebook.com/quinnipiacnews and follow Quinnipiac on Twitter @QuinnipiacU.

Ithaca College students named to Fall 2020 Dean's List

ITHACA, N.Y. — Ithaca College congratulates students named to the Dean's List for the fall 2020 semester.

Ciara Naughton of Whitinsville Krista Sullivan of Uxbridge

About Ithaca College Founded in 1892, Ithaca College is a residential college dedicated to building knowledge and confidence through

a continuous cycle of theory, practice and performance. Home to some 6,500 students, the college offers more than 100 degree programs in its schools of Business, Communications, Humanities and Sciences, Health Sciences and Human Performance, and Music.

Students, faculty and staff at Ithaca College create an active,

inclusive community anchored in a keen desire to make a difference in the local community and the broader world. The college is consistently ranked as one of the nation's top producers of Fulbright scholars, one of the most LGBTQ+ friendly schools in the country, and one of the top 10 colleges in the Northeast.



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Sutton Historical Society hosting membership drive

SUTTON — The Sutton Historical Society, Inc. a 501(c)3 non-profit, is holding its annual membership drive. Membership forms can be found on our website at suttonhistoricalsocietyinc.org. Membership fees remain the same as 2020 at \$25 for a family and \$15 for an individual.

The Sutton Historical Society's mission is to promote research and learning in the history of Sutton; acquire, protect and preserve personal and real property; and to promote the celebration of patriotic and historic anniversaries. Our organization maintains the General Rufus Putnam Museum, the Eight Lots School House, the M.M. Sherman Blacksmith Shop and owns several historic markers throughout Sutton. Prior to COVID-19, we hosted several speakers, and we currently have a very ambitious cemetery restoration/repair project in process. Annually, we host local elementary students to our various properties. Members also assist with genealogical questions submitted through our website or email.

Please consider continuing your prior year membership or joining as a new member for 2020.

TRIBUNE ALMANAC REAL ESTATE

BLACKSTONE
\$408,500, 57 Rocco Dr, Zenga, Mark A, and Zenga, Alexandra, to Shindell, William A, and Shindell, Michelle L. \$336,921, 36 Mendon St, Sennott, Cory B, to Gouthro, Michael C, and Mahan, Jaqualine E. \$225,000, 97 Edgewater Dr, Whyte, Colleen D, to Whyte, Christopher W.

DOUGLAS
\$405,000, 450 NE Main St, Wnukowski, Brian, and Wnukowski, Jillian, to Ehrlich, Jason P, and Gaffney, Michaela E. \$224,175, 11 A St, Deutsche Bk Natl T Co Tr, to Shaw, Sam R. \$183,300, 54 Compass Point Dr #54, Northbrown LLC, to Roufail, Engie E, and Hanna, Samy A. \$132,500, 69 Hemlock St, Costagliola, Thomas J, and McNeill, Joanne, to Remillard, Jamie, and Remillard, Timothy.

NORTHBRIDGE
\$650,000, 56 Kingsnorth St, Leblanc, Gregory M, to Zarrella, Alissa B, and Zarrella, Kevin P. \$410,000, 80 Edgemere Ave #80, RDA Holdings LLC, to Hanrahan, Lauren, and Kambouris, Dimitri. \$400,000, 1-7 A St, Harris, Kevin D, to N&L Properties LLC. \$290,000, 1983 Hill St, Marchant, Doreen, and US Bank NA Tr, to US Bank NA Tr.

UXBRIDGE
\$579,900, 33 Constitution Way, Kkem RET, and Moore, Kathleen E, to Kemp, Kathleen. \$390,000, 139 Rivulet St, Sawyer, Laura K, to Bishop, Franics F, and Bishop, Louise M. \$270,000, 181 High St, D&C Homes LLC, to Dalio, Thomas S, and Dalio, Jennifer. \$250,000, 1 Loyalist Dr #1, Clancy, John G, to Cohen, Victoria. \$249,806, 6 Princess Path #6, Grenon, Carol A, and Grenon, Ronald N, to Corneau, Lisa S.

BLACKSTONE VALLEY TRIBUNE

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Chief Human Resources Officer named co-chair of Nichols Board of Advisors

DUDLEY — Christine Scarafoni of Sutton has been appointed co-chair of the Nichols College Board of Advisors.

Scarafoni is a human resources executive with more than 25 years of strategic and hands-on tactical experience. Her career has a long track record of success in improving leadership effectiveness, employee engagement and driving change management throughout the companies she has served. Scarafoni has built human resource teams from the ground up, creating high performing teams, that work collaboratively to accomplish business goals.

Scarafoni currently serves as the Chief Human Resources Officer at KLR, a New England Regional Public

Accounting Firm that is ranked among the Top 100 firms in the United States. In addition to her role with KLR, she serves as adjunct faculty member at Nichols College and Suffolk University.

Scarafoni holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Nichols College, as well as a Master of Business Administration and a Master of Science in Organizational Leadership. In addition to her degrees from Nichols College she completed a certificate in Banking and Leadership from ABA Stonier Graduate School of Banking and a certificate in leadership from The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

Scarafoni has served as a volun-

teer member of the Board of Advisors at Nichols College for 7 years. In her new role as board chair she hopes to increase the visibility and involvement of the Board of Advisors on the campus and to continue to grow the relationship between the students and businesses in the community.

The Nichols College Board of Advisors is a volunteer board established in 2007 by the Nichols Board of Trustees. Its members, comprising accomplished alumni and friends of Nichols, advocate for and engage with the college in multiple ways in support of the college's strategic objectives.



ACCURACY WATCH

The Blackstone Valley Tribune 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 A3 in a timely manner.

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.

Neurosurgeon appointed to medical staff at Milford Regional



Justin Slavin

MILFORD — Milford Regional is pleased to welcome UMass neurosurgeon Justin Slavin, MD to the active medical staff. He has joined Ziev Moses, MD at UMass Memorial Surgery at Milford located at 91 Water Street.

Dr. Slavin earned his medical degree from the University of Maryland School of Medicine in Baltimore, MD in 2008 where he also performed a neurosurgery residency. Upon

completion of a fellowship in spinal neurosurgery at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, Dr. Slavin was an attending physician at Greater Baltimore Medical Center. His clinical interests include degenerative spine disorders, minimally invasive spine surgery and spinal microsurgery. He is an assistant professor at the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

"We welcome Dr. Justin Slavin to our active medical staff," states Edward J. Kelly,

president & CEO. "We are pleased to have such a highly trained neurosurgeon join our surgery team."

Appointments can be made with Dr. Slavin by calling UMass Memorial Surgery at Milford at 508-458-4250.

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State offers grant funding to small businesses

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – Gov. Charlie Baker recently announced additional grant funding to assist struggling small businesses.

Last week, Baker announced \$45.3 million in grants for approximately 1,100 small businesses. The funds will be provided as part of the fifth round of the state's COVID-19 Small Business Grant Program.

The majority of the businesses set to receive the latest round of grants are restaurants, bars, and retail stores. The funding comes as many local business owners continue to struggle through a punishing winter.

"Our administration remains committed to supporting the needs of businesses as we continue to navigate the pandemic and its economic impact," Baker said. "We are pleased to award this latest round of grants to help small businesses cover expenses like payroll, rent, and utilities. We look forward to getting more funding into the hands of small businesses across the Commonwealth as soon as possible to support their recovery."

To date, the Baker-Polito Administration has awarded more than \$277 million in financial support to 5,857 small businesses. This funding has been made available through a \$668 million business relief fund.

Additional grants will be announced in the coming weeks for thousands of businesses, officials said. For local restaurant and bar owners, who have been among the most severely impacted by the virus, the funding can't arrive soon enough.

"Our small businesses have been challenged throughout this crisis, and each has played an

important role in stopping the spread of this deadly virus," said Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito. "Since the first applications came in for relief, we have been working to prioritize the small business owners that need the help the most, and I am proud to see so many women-owned businesses, as well as priority sectors, included in this round of grant awards."

In addition to this latest round of small business grants, the state continues to review applications submitted for its Sector-Specific Small Business Relief Grant Program. Businesses set to receive additional funds belong to the following industries: restaurants and bars; indoor recreation and entertainment; gyms and fitness centers; personal services like nail salons and barber-shops; and independent retailers.

Award notifications for the sector-specific program will be made this month.

The Baker-Polito Administration also announced nearly \$5 million in small business technical assistance grants for 63 nonprofit organizations

across the state. The program aims to expand economic and entrepreneurial opportunities in underserved communities throughout the Commonwealth.

"These technical assistance grants enable nonprofit organizations throughout Massachusetts to provide crucial services, such as helping people apply for pandemic-related grant and loan programs; individualized business management assistance; and financial training," read a statement released by Governor Baker's office. "The grant recipients, selected through a competitive process, are as diverse as the businesses they serve, including community development corporations, micro lenders, and chambers of commerce."

Since Fiscal Year 2015, the program has awarded more than \$15 million in grants. These funds have directly benefited more than 15,000 jobs and served nearly 3,000 startup businesses across Massachusetts.

To learn more about grant opportunities, visit www.mass.gov.

Uxbridge Church hosting virtual Lenten Series

UXBRIDGE — The First Congregational Church of Uxbridge will be presenting a Lenten Series via Zoom during Lent and starting Wednesday evening on Feb. 24.

The series will be presented by Rev. Frank McKenzie, pastor of the church, and will take place at 7 p.m. each Wednesday evening during lent. You can join us from the comfort and warmth of your own home. If you do not have a computer you can join us by phone and listen to our service.

To obtain a link to this series, or to our regular worship services at 10 a.m. each Sunday, please contact the church office at Uxbridgeucc@outlook.com.

Everyone is cordially welcome to join us.

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PET of the WEEK



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Valentine's Day Facts & Trivia

Wallethub reports 73% of Americans feel it's more important than ever to celebrate Valentine's Day this year given this state of the pandemic. While some festivities may have to be curtailed due to COVID restrictions, statistics show the basic sentiments of the romantic holiday will thrive this February 14th. With this spirit in mind, this week's column will highlight Valentine's Day trivia and fun facts.

F l o w e r

Power: Valentine's Day is one of the biggest flower buying holidays of the year. The red rose, representing love, remains the most popular flower purchased in the U.S. In fact, approximately 250 million roses, most of which are red, are produced for Valentines Day.

While most people know a red rose means "love," did you know the number of roses you give or receive also has significance? Interpreting a message from the number of roses sent and received

is an old fashioned tradition that is making a comeback. Here is the rundown according to Teleflora:

One rose: Love at first sight, or years later "you are still the one."

Two roses: Mutual love and affection.

Three roses: The traditional three-month anniversary gift also simply means "I love you."

Six roses: Infatuation, or "I want to be yours."

Nine roses: Eternal love or "I want to be with



TAKE THE HINT
KAREN TRAINOR

you forever."
10 roses: A perfect 10 means "You are perfection."

12 roses: A dozen means "be mine forever."

24 roses: If one dozen says "be mine," two dozen says "I'm yours." whether you want it or not.

25 roses: This means "congratulations."

36 roses: Three dozen says "I'm head over heels in love" or "I will remember our romantic moments."

40 roses: Forty roses says what 10, 20, or 30 can't: "My love for you is genuine."

**

Valentine History: According to the Greeting Card Association, 145 million Valentine's Day cards are exchanged each year! Did you know the nearby city of Worcester boasts a historical link that cements its place in the early history of Valentine's Day cards? The Central Mass city was hailed as the "Valentine Capitol of the World" well into the 20th century, thanks to an innovative Worcester woman who is credited with turning the lace valentine into a major industry.

The first American made valentines were sold for Valentine's Day, 1849, designed and made by Esther Howland, the daughter of a Worcester stationer. So impressed was Esther when she received a fancy English valentine shortly after graduating from Mount Holyoke College in 1847, that she returned to her Worcester home inspired to recreate the embossed, lacy cards.

Miss Howland began by hiring her friends to assemble the valentines, working from the Howland home on Summer Street. The ornate cards often included gilded lace and color-

ful European decals. Esther's valentines were a huge success and within a few years, she built her cottage business into a \$100,000 a year enterprise. In 1879 she partnered with Edward Taft of North Grafton to establish the New England Valentine Company (NEVCO).

The remarkable achievements of Esther Howland did not go unnoticed, earning the 19th century entrepreneur the title of «The Mother of the American Valentine," and ensuring her place in both local and national history.

Today, collectors covet original Esther Howland valentines, which are identified by embossed paper lace, floral motifs, and bright paper backgrounds. Howland cards often bear a red H on the back. "NEV CO" is embossed on later cards.

**

V-Day Fun Facts:

*Cupid, another symbol of Valentines Day, became associated with it because he was the son of Venus, the Roman god of love and beauty.

*The expression "wearing your heart on your sleeve" has origins in a Victorian Valentine's Day tradition. Girls would write their names on paper, which would be drawn by young man. Once drawn, the man would "wear" the girl's name on his sleeve to claim her as his valentine

To wear your heart on your sleeve now means that it is easy for other people to know how you are feeling.

* For centuries it has been claimed that certain scents have aphrodisiac qualities, with no reliable evidence to back up the claims. However, in 1998, neurologist and psychiatrist Dr. Alan Hirsch published some intriguing findings, which people are still buzzing about today.

His research revealed women are attracted to the smell of black licorice, citrus, and banana nut bread. The study found men felt romantic when they smelled baked cinnamon buns, pumpkin pie, and laven-

der. Surprisingly, cinnamon rolls were found to prompt favorable romantic reactions from both men and women.

*The Chocolate Connection: Dr. Hirsch also noted the euphoria of falling in love and chocolate may be connected because phenyl ethylamine is elevated during the early stages of infatuation and attraction. Since chocolate contains this chemical, both chocolate and falling in love will produce similar changes in brain chemistry, he noted.

* According to the National Retail Federation, one in four people will give Valentine's Day gifts to their pets this year.

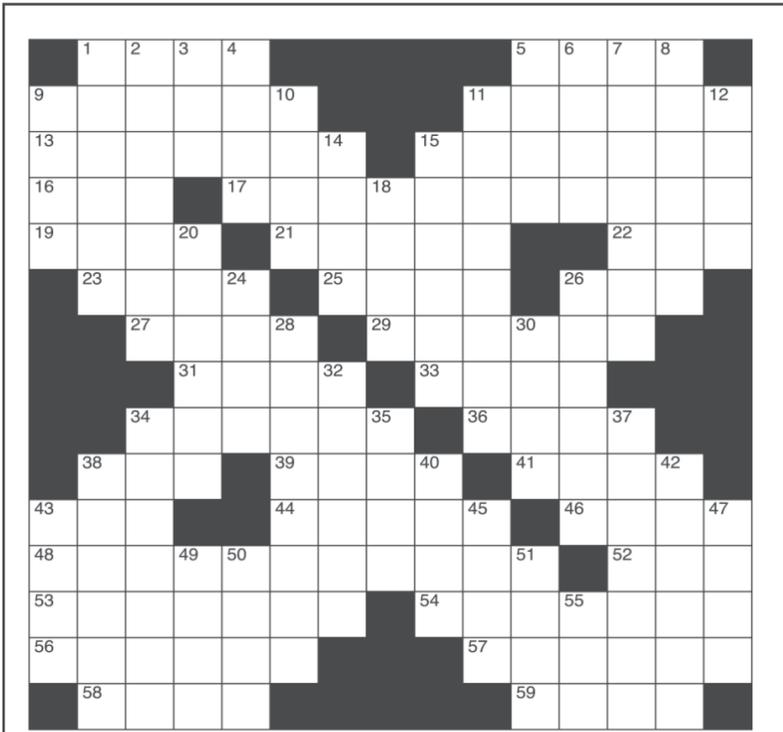
*Alexander Graham Bell applied for his patent on the telephone, an "Improvement in Telegraphy", on Valentine's Day, 1876.

**

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 House Inn.

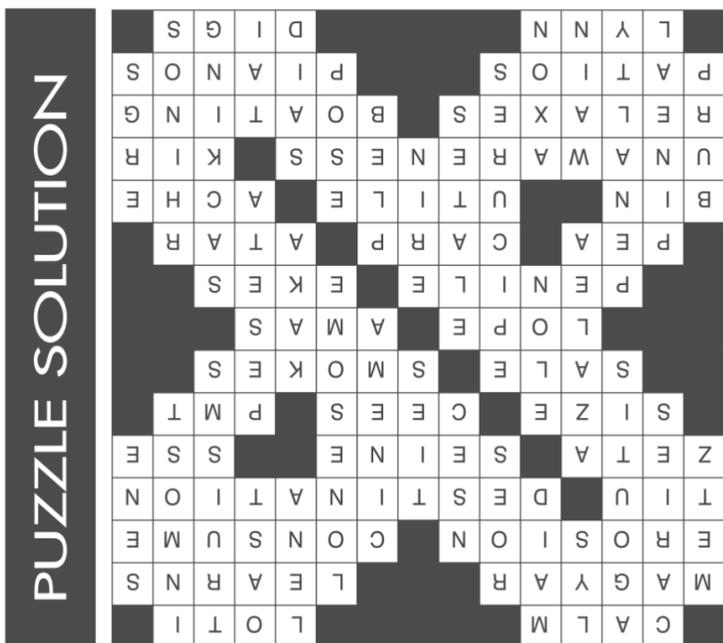


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Composed
- 5. Lesotho currency
- 9. Ethnic group associated with Hungarians
- 11. Gains knowledge of
- 13. Gradual destruction
- 15. Purchase
- 16. Pharaoh of lower Egypt
- 17. Where you're going
- 19. The 6th letter of the Greek alphabet
- 21. Fishing net
- 22. Midway between south and southeast
- 23. A way to sort
- 25. C C C
- 26. Popular sports podcast (abbr.)
- 27. Discount
- 29. Consumes tobacco
- 31. A way to run
- 33. Popular musical awards show
- 34. Pertains to the male sexual organ
- 36. Supplements with difficulty
- 38. Green veggie
- 39. Deep-bodied freshwater fish
- 41. Holy fire
- 43. Usually has a lid
- 44. Being of use or service
- 46. Have a yen for
- 48. Unknowingness
- 52. Dry white wine drink
- 53. Unwinds
- 54. Traveling by sea
- 56. Outdoor entertaining areas
- 57. Stringed instruments
- 58. __ Redgrave, actress
- 59. Moves earth

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Progressive decay of a bone or tooth
- 2. Burrowing rodents
- 3. French/Belgian river
- 4. A professional cleaner
- 5. A Russian river
- 6. Kiln
- 7. True statements
- 8. Most private
- 9. French city
- 10. Masses of fish eggs
- 11. Apart from others
- 12. Monetary unit of Samoa
- 14. Nanosecond
- 15. Film
- 18. Men's fashion accessories
- 20. Flowering shrub
- 24. North Carolina university
- 26. Former monetary unit of Spain
- 28. Foodies
- 30. New Zealand parrot
- 32. Makes very happy
- 34. A payment required for not fulfilling a contract
- 35. Emerald Isle
- 37. The act of terminating someone's employment
- 38. Gland in some mammals
- 40. Commoner
- 42. Large animals
- 43. Belch
- 45. Employee stock ownership plan
- 47. Work units
- 49. Wagon
- 50. Nerve fiber
- 51. Proclaimed
- 55. Japanese delicacy



MILLBURY SENIOR CENTER

COVID-19 Vaccine Assistance Beginning Monday, Feb. 1st Millbury Senior Center will assist seniors 75 and older To register for the COVID-19 Vaccine For an appointment Call the center at 508-865-9154

Blood Pressure Clinic Every Tuesday from 9 A.M. - 10 A.M. The Blood Pressure Clinic is held inside now

Come to front door and we will let escort you from there! Masks required, along with social distancing!

"Grab & Go Meals" Lunch meals will be available to be picked up daily at the front door, 11:30 A.M.

Menu is available on Town Website, www.townofmillbury.org Or our Millbury Senior Center Facebook page A 48 hour reservation is required For more information or reservations call us at 508-865-9154

THE MILLBURY SENIOR CENTER IS ACCEPTING SNAP APPLICATIONS (Food Stamps) Our appointments are on Tuesdays & Thursdays 10 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. Call for an appointment & required documentation 508-865-9154

"This project has been funded at least in part with Federal Funds from USDA. This institution is an equal opportunity provider. The SNAP Logo is a service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. USDA does not endorse any goods, services or enterprises."

The Senior Center is closed to the Public.

While the building is not open to the public the Food Pantry at the Millbury Senior Center is available from 9am to 1pm Monday thru Friday by calling 508-865-9247 for an appointment our food pantry is fully stocked at this time tell us what you need and you can pick it up or we will deliver it.

We are still here to answer any questions you may have and we are available for your transportation to Doctors appointments or if you need to go to the drug store for your prescriptions, we will take you there. If you don't have a mask, we will give you one.

Also if you are in need of a home delivered meal give us a call and we will set you up to get one delivered to you.

Keep safe and remember to wear a mask if you go out and to wash your hands frequently.

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Douglas resident named to International Honor Society

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — Douglas resident, Audrey George, is among select students from Saint Anselm College in Manchester, who have been inducted into the Epsilon Tau at-Large Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, the International Honor Society of Nursing.

This fall Sigma Theta Tau inducted George among 35 students for the 2020-2021 academic year. George is expected to graduate in May 2021 from Saint Anselm College with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

To be considered for induction into Sigma

Theta Tau, students must have completed at least half of the nursing curriculum in baccalaureate programs at accredited institutions of higher education, rank in the upper 35 percent of their graduating class, and have a minimum 3.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

In 1922 six nurses founded Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI), the Honor Society of Nursing, at the Indiana University Training School for Nurses, now home of the Indiana University School of Nursing. The society's name derives from the Greek words for love, courage, and honor.

Currently, STTI has more than 135,000 active members who live in more than 100 countries.

Founded in 1889, Saint Anselm College is a nationally-ranked four-year liberal arts college providing a 21st century education in the Catholic, Benedictine tradition. Located in the greater Boston region in southern New Hampshire, Saint Anselm is well known for its strong liberal arts curriculum, the New Hampshire Institute of Politics, commitment to inclusiveness, a highly successful nursing program, and a legacy of community service.

Kayla Marie Roach named to Husson University's Dean's List

BANGOR, Maine — Uxbridge resident, Kayla Marie Roach, has been named to Husson University's Dean's List for the Fall 2020 semester.

Roach is a senior who is currently enrolled in Husson's Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science/Doctor of Physical Therapy program.

Students who make the Dean's List must carry at least 12 graded credit hours during the semester and earn a grade point average of 3.60 to 3.79 during the period.

For more than 120 years, Husson University has shown its adaptability and strength in delivering educational programs that prepare future leaders to handle the challenges of tomorrow through innovative undergraduate and graduate degrees. With a commitment to delivering affordable classroom, online and experiential learning opportunities, Husson University has come to represent a superior value in higher education. The hallmarks of a Husson education include advanced

knowledge delivered through quality educational programs in business; health and education; pharmacy studies; science and humanities; as well as communication. According to a recent analysis of tuition and fees by U.S. News & World Report, Husson University is one of the most affordable private colleges in New England. For more information about educational opportunities that can lead to personal and professional success, visit Husson.edu.

Tiyana-Marie Bassim named to College of the Holy Cross' Dean's List

WORCESTER — Tiyana-Marie Bassim of Douglas, was named to the College of the Holy Cross Fall 2020 Dean's List. A member of the Class of 2023, Bassim is majoring in Economics.

Bassim was among more than 1,453 students named to the Dean's List for outstanding academic achievement during the fall semester of the 2020-21 academic year.

To qualify, students must pass four or more letter-graded courses with no failing grades during the semester and earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

About Holy Cross The College of the Holy Cross, in Worcester, Mass., is among the nation's leading liberal arts institutions. A highly selective, four-year, exclusively under-

graduate college of 3,100 students, Holy Cross is renowned for offering a rigorous, personalized education in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition. Since its founding in 1843, Holy Cross has made a positive impact in society by graduating students who distinguish themselves as thoughtful leaders in business, professional and civic life.

Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Announces New Board Appointments

WHITINSVILLE — Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor (BRVHNC) announces appointments made to its Board of Directors following its annual meeting in January.

The Board of Directors elected new officers as follows: Chair, Richard T. Moore; First Vice-Chair, Dennis Rice; Second Vice-Chair, Lee Dillard Adams; Treasurer, Yvonne Chita; and Secretary, Todd Helwig. BRVHNC's Immediate Past Chair is Richard H. Gregory III.

Directors re-elected for a three-year term on BRVHNC's Board include Richard H. Gregory III, Dennis Rice, and Gary E. Furtado.

Directors on the Board include Bill Beitler, Robert Billington, Michael D. Cassidy, Bob Contursi, Robert Dandrade, Gary E. Furtado, Pieter de Jong, Jeannie Hebert, David W. Kellogg, Thomas Kravitz, Harry T. Whitin and Donna M. Williams.

About Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor

Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor works with community partners to preserve and promote the Valley's historic, cultural, natural, and recreational resources for current and future generations. Learn more at BlackstoneHeritageCorridor.org.

Dean's, President's lists named at UA

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — A total of 13,128 students enrolled during the fall 2020 term at The University of Alabama made the Dean's List with academic records of 3.5 or above (on a 4.0 scale), or the President's List with academic records of 4.0 (all A's).

The UA Dean's and President's Lists recognize full-time undergraduate students. The lists do not apply to graduate

students or undergraduate students who take less than a full course load.

Faith Adam of Uxbridge was named to the Presidents List.

James Stark of Uxbridge was named to the Presidents List.

The University of Alabama, the state's oldest and largest public institution of higher education, is a student-centered research university that draws the best

and brightest to an academic community committed to providing a premier undergraduate and graduate education. UA is dedicated to achieving excellence in scholarship, collaboration and intellectual engagement; providing public outreach and service to the state of Alabama and the nation; and nurturing a campus environment that fosters collegiality, respect and inclusivity.

Taylor Walsh of Uxbridge graduates from University of New Hampshire

DURHAM, New Hampshire — Taylor Walsh of Uxbridge graduated from the University of New Hampshire in December 2020. He/she earned a BS in RMP:Program & Event Management.

Students who received the honor Summa Cum Laude graduated with a GPA of 3.85-4.0: Students who received the honor of Magna Cum Laude

graduated with a GPA of 3.65-3.84; and students who received the honor of Cum Laude graduated with a GPA of 3.50-3.64.

Students are only graduated after the Registrar's Office has certified that all degree requirements have been successfully completed. Participating in the commencement ceremony is the act of honoring and celebrating academic achievement.

The University of New Hampshire, founded in 1866, is a world-class public research university with the feel of a New England liberal arts college. A land, sea, and space-grant university, UNH is the state's flagship public institution, enrolling 13,000 undergraduate and 2,500 graduate students.



StonebridgePress.com

News, really close to home

BRASSARD

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and spent time as a Human Rights Coordinator advocating for people with Developmental Disabilities.

Brassard added that he still lives in Monson with his wife and two daughters and will be commuting to Grafton for the time being.

"It is about a 50-minute drive," Brassard said. "We will reassess as time goes by."

The town announced on July 31 that the previous Town Administrator, Timothy McInerney, and the Select Board had mutually agreed to part company.

"Select Board thanks Mr. McInerney for his years of service and wishes him well in his future endeavors," the town released in a statement. "The parties have entered into a mutually agreeable separation agreement that is based on the previously negotiated severance provision in his employment agreement with the Town."

Friday's Child



Kye
Age 11

Hi! My name is Kye and I love to be outdoors!

Kye is a young boy of African-American and Caucasian descent who is looking for a family with room in their hearts and home to provide him with a forever family. He enjoys legos, sports, and video games. Kye does well when he has a chance to be outside; he loves to run and play. He also likes fishing and camping. Kye does well in school when properly motivated and enjoys interacting with other children, especially those that are older than him.

Legally freed for adoption, a family of any constellation will be considered for Kye, as long as they are willing to maintain his relationship with his sister. Kye does well in a home setting and benefits from structure and routine. Other siblings in the home

are okay, but it would be best if Kye could be the youngest. An active family is highly recommended, as Kye has a great personality with lots of energy.

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.mare-inc.org. The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have a permanent place to call home.

OBITUARIES

Fostine Ann Lajoie, 87



UXBRIDGE-Fostine Ann (Tancrell) Lajoie, 87 passed away Monday, February 1, 2021. She was the beloved wife of the late George Henry Lajoie for 65 years. Fostine leaves behind her loving daughters:

Jane A Barron and her husband James of Whitinsville, MA. Laurie Maselli and her husband Tom of Exeter, RI and Susan Roberts and her husband Kevin of South Kingstown, RI; beloved grandmother to 7, Matthew Archambault and his wife Amanda, Maryjane Morgan Barron, J. Riley Barron, Brandon Maselli, Christian Maselli, Kevin Roberts Jr. and Hunter Roberts and great-grandmother to Hadley and Julian Archambault. She also leaves her brothers J. Edward Tancrell and his wife Connie of Worcester, MA, Norman Tancrell and his wife Roberta of East Greenwich, RI and a sister-in-law, Elizabeth Tancrell of Uxbridge, MA. She was predeceased by her brother Robert Tancrell of Uxbridge, MA. Fostine was a lifelong resident of Uxbridge, and was born October 9, 1933 to J. Edward and Dorothy Morgan Tancrell. After graduating from Uxbridge High School, Fostine worked at State Mutual Life Insurance Company. After her three daughters were born, Fostine did volunteer work as a Girl Scout Leader, Uxbridge High

study monitor, Cheerleading coach, CCD teacher, and was also a crossing guard for the Uxbridge schools. Fostine was very talented making her daughters clothing whether sewing or knitting, and always made a matching outfit for their Barbie Dolls. Fostine was famous for her handmade Irish Knit Sweaters. Fostine hosted many cocktail parties, played the guitar, sang and played tennis with her husband. She spent all of her vacations with her family at the beaches in Rhode Island, weekends in Newport and summers at Misquamicut Beach and Watch Hill, RI. Later, Fostine began working as an Assistant Manager at Unibank for Savings which led to a 25 year career. During that time, she also volunteered on the Bereavement committee for St. Mary's Church and the Uxbridge Food Pantry where she always had a basket of knitted hats and mittens for the taking. Fostine was known for her beautiful smile, bubbly personality, loving and caring spirit and would lend a hand to anyone who needed it. Fostine's Funeral Service were held on Tues. Feb. 9 at 12 noon in Tancrell-Jackman Funeral Home, 35 Snowling Rd., Uxbridge. Calling hours were held prior from 10-12. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the People First Food Pantry, P.O. Box 506, Uxbridge, MA 01569 in memory of Fostine Lajoie. To leave a condolence message for her family please visit: www.Jackmanfuneralhomes.com.

Laura J. Woeller



WHITINSVILLE - Laura J. (Miedema) Woeller, 70, of Whitinsville passed away on Sat. Feb. 6, 2021 at home with her entire family by her side. She was the wife of Herman H. Woeller, Jr.

Laura worked as the assistant Treasurer/Collector for the Town of Northbridge for 23 years before her retirement in 2013. Previously, she had worked as a pharmacy technician at CVS.

She was born in Whitinsville in 1950 the daughter of the late Harmon and Doris (MacRay) Miedema and was a graduate of Northbridge High School in 1968. She was also a member of her class reunion committee.

Laura was a lifelong member of the Fairlawn Christian Reformed Church in Whitinsville, where she was a member of the mother's club, served as a youth counselor and was a Sunday school teacher. She also loved crafting, knitting, sewing, wood crafts and gardening. She loved her grandchildren

dearly and always looked forward to the annual family Summer vacation in Wells, Maine with everyone.

In addition to her husband Herman, she is survived by 2 sons; Christopher S. Woeller and his wife Lora of Auburn, Jarrod M. Woeller and his wife Jacqueline of Whitinsville; a brother Harmon Miedema of Northbridge; a sister Cindy Levesque of RI; 7 grandchildren, Brenden, Jennavieve, Allison, Jacob, Lucas, Mason and Preston. She was predeceased by a sister Kimberly Angers.

Visiting hours were held on Wednesday Feb. 17, 2021 from 4 - 7 PM in the BUMA FUNERAL HOME, 480 Church St., Whitinsville.

Funeral services were held on Thursday Feb. 11, 2021 at 2 PM in the funeral home.

Donations may be made to the Jimmy Fund, 101 Brookline Place Fl. 6, Brookline, MA 02445 or to Dana Farber/Brigham & Women's Cancer Center, c/o Milford Regional Healthcare Foundation, 14 Prospect Street, Milford, MA 01757.

www.bumafuneralhome.com

Send all obituary notices to
Stonebridge Press, PO Box 90,
Southbridge, MA 01550,
or by e-mail to
obits@stonebridgepress.news

UHS

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Northbridge - all of which include field lighting.

The USABC believes that a fundraiser to install lights at the UHS Turf Field can benefit our athletic program and community at large in the following ways:

-Maximize the return on the town's investment in the multi-purpose synthetic turf and track facility. The purpose of a synthetic turf field is to handle unlimited wear and tear during its usable life, but without lights the facility can only be used during daylight hours that quickly diminish during the Fall athletic season and into the Spring.

-More games can be played later in the day, which would allow parents and other family members to attend more games. All Varsity and JV field hockey, Varsity and JV football, Varsity and JV soccer (both boys and girls), and spring track events are currently held during the week typically starting at 3:30pm. This makes it difficult for working parents to make their child's games.

-Night games can charge admissions which can help to offset costs of running sports programs.

-In addition to the excitement and community pride generated by Friday night football games as well as night games in other sports, the ability to hold events/contests in the evening will help to mitigate risks from excessive heat. This continues to cause health-related issues during practices and games that begin in late summer.

-There is significant demand for non-

school sports programs like youth football, soccer, field hockey, lacrosse, etc. for use of the turf field. Extending the hours allows for more revenue opportunities to rent out the field, which also can help to offset maintenance and eventual turf resurfacing costs.

An estimate for the cost to add lights that was requested in April 2020 was quoted at \$250,000 for the lighting equipment and an additional \$150,000 for installation by an electrical contractor. While the USABC feels it is clearly in the best interest of the community to add lights to better optimize the return on this underutilized asset, discussions over school or town funding to do so have led to the conclusion that it would be extremely difficult without private funding due to more pressing budgetary concerns. In addition to monetary funding we will also be looking for in-kind equipment donations and/or contractors that can donate their time and expertise.

To accomplish our goal of fundraising for the lights, the USABC recently re-incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization so all donations can receive favorable tax benefits.

Donations can be made electronically via UniBank's UniPay Online Payment Site by clicking on the link below and typing "Uxbridge Spartans" in the search bar:

<https://unipaygold.unibank.com/CustomerInfo.aspx>

For more information or to make donations, directly please email us at usabc19@gmail.com or visit us on Facebook: Uxbridge Spartans Athletic Boosters Club.

GRANTS

continued from page A1

ic," said Soter. "The funding should provide administrators with the tools needed to properly address COVID-19 concerns. I'm eager to continue working with towns and educators to help in delivering quality education to our students."

School districts can utilize the funding for a

variety of purposes related to COVID-19, such as the purchase of personal protective equipment and hygienic supplies, and for the costs associated with socially distanced on-site learning, as well as remote and hybrid learning. The money can also be used to help low-income and other vulnerable student populations overcome technological impediments to learning, and to ensure that stu-

dents have equal access to social services, mental health, and behavioral health resources.

Soter added that this funding will be distributed by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in two equal installments, with the first payment scheduled to arrive in early February and the remaining balance at the end of April.

K9

continued from page A1

Police K-9 Units who have exemplified true commitment to their town by protecting and serving."

K9 Titan is a three-year-old German Shepherd, according to the contest submission. The team has served together for two years, and K9 Titan is certified in Patrol/Explosive Detection.

"We perform numerous K9 demonstrations for the community and surrounding communities to provide an idea and insight as to how a police K9 unit works," the submission reads. "Whether it be for a school group, a birthday party, or town event, the K9 demonstration always seems to be a great way to bring the police and community together because who doesn't love dogs?"

Titan and Sanchioni are also part of a regional K9 team that covers the central part of Massachusetts.

"My K9 is the only one at my department and the first one in over 25 years," Officer Sanchioni wrote. "Officers and coworkers are quickly realizing the amazing abilities of the K9 and the service it can provide to the community."

My department knows that if there is a person or item that needs to be located that we will find it. They also know that I will be there whenever they need us as we respond even off duty at all hours when needed."

The Hopkinton K9 program was established and funded by a grant which provided initial startup money and was designed to last for three years. That funding is nearing its end, and the K9 team needs to come up with other means of supporting K9 Titan. If awarded, the money would be used to support operational needs such as vet expenses, food, replacing equipment, and more.

For more information or to submit a vote, visit: k9.hometownfoundation.org/submission/view/7

Public voting goes until Feb. 28 at 11:59 p.m. Winners will be announced on March 6. The first vote is free, and additional votes cost \$1, every dollar of which will benefit The Hometown Foundation's Police K-9 Program.

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EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Why we listen to the groundhog

Tuesday, Feb. 2 was Groundhog Day, and it was reported that Punxsutawney Phil came out of his burrow at Gobbler's Knob, where he saw his own shadow. This means that we will have six more weeks of winter. We'll take it!

This North American tradition is derived from the Pennsylvania Dutch superstition that if the groundhog sees its shadow due to clear weather, it will go back to its den and winter will last just a few weeks longer. If the animal does not see its shadow due to the clouds, spring will come early.

This lore originated from German speaking areas where the groundhog is considered the most accurate forecasting animal. Each year, a Groundhog Day ceremony is held in Punxsutawney, Pa., and is always well attended.

The Pennsylvania Dutch, immigrated from German speaking parts of Europe. Groundhog in German is 'grun'daks.' In Europe, the Germans had an existing tradition of marking Candlemas as 'Badger Day,' where if a badger appeared on a sunny day, casting a shadow, winter would be extended. In some areas a bear or a fox took on the forecasting responsibility.

In Irish folklore, St. Brigid's Day, Feb. 1, is the first day of spring, which begins the farmer's year. Seeing a hedgehog was a sign of good weather.

The earliest mention of Groundhog Day appeared in 1840, in the diary of James L. Morris of Morgantown, Pa., who was talking about his German neighbors. In 1886, the observance of Groundhog Day was mentioned in the Punxsutawney Spirit newspaper. It noted, "Up to the time of going to press, the beast has not seen its shadow." One year later, a group of townspeople went to Gobbler's Knob in search of the groundhog and so began the tradition. Pre-COVID, gatherings to celebrate in Punxsutawney grew as large as 40,000.

Clymer Freas, who was born in 1867 and passed away in 1942, is said to be the one who created the idea of Groundhog Day. Freas was the Editor of the Punxsutawney Spirit. In 1899, a Groundhog Club was formed in town including a hunt and a feast. It is said that groundhog tastes like a cross between chicken and pork. We'll pass on finding out.

In 1993, Bill Murray and Andie MacDowell starred in the comedy "Groundhog Day," which is now considered a cult classic. We must admit to enjoying Mr. Murray more in "What About Bob?" but that's an editorial for another time. Baby steps.

LETTERS

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

We think you're important enough to tell all our readers to turn to the Opinion pages and read your Letters to the Editor.

But first, you have to write us!

Mail your letters to the Blackstone Valley Tribune, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550.

Or e-mail your letters to the editor at news@stonebridgepress.news.

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 particular 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!



OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Blackstone Valley and beyond

A MOMENT IN HISTORY
.....
BEVERLY GUDANOWSKI UXBRIDGE

Have you ever heard of the amazing and brilliant Condoleezza "Condi" Rice, the second woman to serve as Secretary of State and the first African American to hold this most senior cabinet position? Secretary Rice served from 2005 to 2009. Prior to that, from 2001 to 2005, she served as the first woman and first African American National Security Advisor in the United States.

Unfortunately, most Americans are unaware of the accomplishments of this extraordinary woman simply because she was appointed by a conservative, Republican President, George Bush. Maybe we should remember that it took a conservative, Republican President to be the first to place an African American woman in these extraordinary positions of power. Secretary Condi Rice stood on an equal footing with world leaders, backed by the most powerful leader in the world, the U.S. President.

Secretary Condi Rice holds the record for the most miles logged in the position of Secretary of State and dedicated her efforts to Transformational Diplomacy to build and sustain democratic states around the world. She relocated American diplomats to Iraq, Afghanistan and Angola, requiring them to become fluent in two foreign languages. Easy for her to say - she speaks Russian, French, German and Spanish! I did say she was brilliant. President Bush figured that out very quickly. Some never did.

In fact, the late Senator Robert Byrd, a southern Democrat, vigorously opposed her appointment. Byrd, a notorious former member of the KKK, filibustered the 1964 Civil Rights Act for 14 hours. Fourteen hours. As recent-

ly as 2001, Byrd uttered language that is unacceptable to most Americans because it is hurtful to African Americans. Yet, the current liberal President gave the longest eulogy at Byrd's funeral in 2010. There were no African American leaders at Byrd's funeral, except for former President Obama.

Condi Rice was born in 1954 in Birmingham, Alabama, the child of a Presbyterian minister and a teacher. "Bombingham" was a powder keg in the 1950s and 1960s. The South was segregated and some were devoted to keeping it that way. Incendiary devices were thrown into neighbors' homes. Fathers and uncles sat on porches with shot guns. Her family heard the explosion at the Sixteenth Street Baptist church from miles away. Two of the four little girls killed in the 1963 blast were her playmates.

Because of these events, Rice became a staunch supporter of the Second Amendment, the right to bear arms.

Secretary Rice's family refused to submit to segregation. Her grandparents did not allow their children to use segregated drinking fountains or restrooms. "If you're thirsty, or have to go to the bathroom, come home," they said.

Her parents believed one could alter inequality through education, hard work, and a good vocabulary.

And study she did. At the tender age of 15, she entered the University of Denver, to become a con-

cert pianist. When she discovered other students were better musicians than she was, Rice transferred to international relations and ultimately achieved a doctorate with a specialty in the Soviet Union. By 1981, she was a faculty member at Stanford University. In 1986, she advised the Joint Chiefs of Staff on nuclear strategy in the administration of the late President Bush. After serving as Provost at Stanford in the 1990's, she joined the second President Bush on the National Security Council, ultimately rising to Secretary of State.

In her book, "Extraordinary, Ordinary People," there is a photograph of Rice as a child standing outside the White House during a family trip to Washington. Her father quoted little Ms. Rice as saying, "I will work there someday." Secretary Rice wrote that her parents convinced her that even if she could not have a hamburger at Woolworth's segregated lunch counter, she could grow up to be President of the United States. [Maybe we can draft her for the next Republican Primary? - She is a conservative, after all.]

Secretary Rice writes a loving memoir of her parents and how they set her on a trajectory to soaring heights. Most importantly, her book is the story of how a little African American girl from the Jim Crow South was taught to have the bravery and courage to become one, if not the, most powerful woman in America and negotiate on an equal footing with the most powerful leaders in the world. Only in America. Could you be brave enough to withstand discouragement and barriers to freedom and become a Patriot and build up this great nation of ours?

Watch out for tax scammers



Sadly, identity theft happens throughout the year - but some identity thieves are particularly active during tax-filing season. How can you protect yourself?

One of the most important moves you can make is to be suspicious of requests by people or entities claiming to be from the Internal Revenue Service. You may receive phone calls, texts and emails, but these types of communication are often just "phishing" scams with one goal in mind: to capture your personal information. These phishers can be quite clever, sending emails that appear to contain the IRS logo or making calls that may even seem to be coming from the IRS. Don't open any links or attachments to the emails and don't answer the calls - and don't be alarmed if the caller leaves a vaguely threatening voicemail, either asking for personal information, such as your Social Security number, or informing you of some debts you supposedly owe to the IRS that must be taken care of "immediately."

In reality, the IRS will not initiate contact with you by phone, email, text message or social media to request personal or financial information, or to inquire about issues pertaining to your tax returns. Instead, the agency will first send you a letter. And if you're unsure of the legitimacy of such a letter, contact the IRS directly at 800-829-1040.

Of course, not all scam artists are fake IRS representatives - some will pass themselves off as tax preparers. Fortunately, most tax preparers are honest, but it's not too hard to find the dishonest ones who might ask you to sign a blank return, promise you a big refund before looking at your records or try to charge a fee based on the percentage of your return. Legitimate tax preparers will make no grand promises and will explain their fees upfront. Before hiring someone to do your taxes, find out their qualifications. The IRS provides some valuable tips for choosing a reputable tax preparer, but you can also ask your friends and relatives for referrals.

Another tax scam to watch out for is the fraudulent tax return - that is, someone filing a return in your name. To do so, a scammer would need your name, birthdate and Social Security number. If you're already providing two of these pieces of information - your name and birthdate on social media, and you also include your birthplace - you could be making it easier for scam artists to somehow get the third. It's a good idea to check your privacy settings and limit what you're sharing publicly. You might also want to use a nickname and omit your last name, birthday and birthplace.

Here's one more defensive measure: File your taxes as soon as you can. Identity thieves often strike early in the tax season, so they can file their bogus returns before their victims.

To learn more about tax scams, visit the IRS website (irs.gov) and search for the "Taxpayer Guide to Identity Theft." This document describes some signs of identity theft and provides tips for what to do if you are victimized.

It's unfortunate that identity theft exists, but by taking the proper precautions, you can help insulate yourself from this threat, even when tax season is over.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Darren Parent, your local Edward Jones Advisor at 5 Albert St., Auburn, MA 01501 Tel: 508-832-5385 or Darren.parent@edwardjones.com.

Antique finds

There has been a lot of antique news since my last antique and collectibles news column. Three important antique finds have been reported within the past month, beginning with some coins that were literally uncovered in Poland.

The Archaeological Institute of America reports that medieval coins were recently found in a Polish cornfield. Archaeologist Adam K dzierski was researching the 1935 discovery of a hoard of coins when a local priest informed him that it was rumored that there were additional coins still buried in the field. K dzierski found a "900-year-old hoard, stored in linen pouches placed in a pot, includes Czech, Danish, Hungarian, and German coins; lumps of silver; fragments of lead; and four gold rings." The more than 6,000 pieces were believed to have been the dowry of Maria who was a sister of Princess Zbysława of Russia. Maria was also believed to be the "daughter of Svyatovslavovich Isiaslovovich, Prince of Kiev" according to the Archaeological Institute of America. It is believed they were buried "during a time of turmoil in 1146." Further investigation of the area is being planned.

The Smithsonian Magazine reports that a Geneva, N.Y. man (David Whitcomb) found a treasure trove of photographs in the attic of a building that he recently purchased to open his law practice. The two previous building owners were unaware of the attic's existence because a drop ceiling had been added to the top floor decades ago that hid the view of the attic. Along with the photographs, Whitcomb found frames, old cameras, and backdrops. The Smithsonian reported that "according to Ben Hooper of United Press International (UPI), the items probably belonged to James Ellery, or J.E., Hale, a prominent photographer active during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Hale's name was written on many of the objects in the attic, including letters and photographs, and he once owned a studio next door to the New York building." Two of the photos were of famous figures from the women's rights movement, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Susan B. Anthony. Hale took the photo of Susan B. Anthony in 1905, a year before she died. David Whitcomb consigned the collection to a nearby auction house. The collection is expected to sell for \$100,000.

The Canadian Broadcasting Company (CBC) reported that an Edmonton, Alberta antique dealer (Alex Archibald) recently purchased a home that had belonged to a



hoarder. He paid \$10,000 for the property, sight unseen. The home and contents were the estate of a local piano teacher (Bette-Jean Rac) whom Archibald had known before she passed away. A grand piano initially caught his attention.



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES
.....
WAYNE TUISKULA

He has turned up many more valuable objects since he purchased the home and has been searching through it. Archibald found typical things you would expect to find in an old estate including clothes, shoes, books, and magazine. He found many more valuable objects as well though. Archibald said, "our most impressive finds included wallets full of cash, a 100-ounce silver bar, and bags full of gold and diamond rings." He found some of the clothing to be valuable pieces by well known designers. The estate items were sold in three auctions which ended up bringing \$400,000. Archibald kept the grand piano and moved it to his antique shop. He may not be able to hit a higher note than he already has though.

We are still accepting quality consignments for our spring multi-estate online auction such as gold jewelry, sterling silver flatware, antique paintings, coins, and other older collectibles. Our online auction with paintings from the estate of equestrian artist Fay Moore ends on February 17th. Our next online auction Session 2 of antique, vintage, and contemporary toys will soon be available for bidding.

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

Derbies offer fantastic fishing

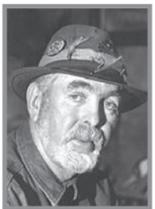


Left to right: Rob Sullivan, Lary Lyons and Brian Lightbound at the 200 Sportsmen's club this past Saturday.

This past weekend provided a couple of days for anglers to enjoy some great ice fishing locally. Although the ice was not the best to fish on, anglers attended many ice fishing derbies that were held in the area. The 200 sportsmen's club in Webster had over 75 anglers fishing the club's derby. Pond Chairman Rob Sullivan did a great job signing up the fishermen and recording the catch of bass, perch, & pickerel. A report of a couple of Eagles flying over the pond prior to my arrival was interesting. The Eagles in the Valley area are the direct results of sportsmen's monies being used for this great restoration project. This week's picture shows Sullivan, Joe Foisy, and Brian Lightbound. Foisy had caught a big 17-and-

a-half-inch largemouth bass, and released it. Captain Mel True and his buddy Brett, also had a great day fishing, landing numerous brook trout and yellow perch, as did many other contestants. After leaving the 200 sportsmen's derby, I visited a few other ponds in the area that all had fishermen on them. Some ponds had good ice, while others were marginal for safety. The following day anglers were out in force again, enjoying a few hours of fishing before the big football game that evening. Some areas had slow fishing, while others had a great day with anglers chasing flags. It looks as though striper fishing this year will have the same regulations again, with the only change requiring

commercial rod and



THE GREAT OUTDOORS
RALPH TRUE

reel anglers to use circle hooks. The slot limit for stripers will again be implemented for recreational anglers as of last word. Massachusetts anglers will again enjoy an early season for seabass, with a limit of five fish daily. Rhode Island anglers are hoping for an early season on seabass, and are also hoping for a reduction in length for summer flounder to 17 inches for recreational anglers. Wishful think-



This week's picture shows Cole Bromley with a few of his friends that limited out on nuisance Canada geese last week. They brought along their friend Cody, who is a paraplegic friend of the group.

ing! The late Canada Goose season will end on Feb. 15 in the Central District, but it was not before Cole Bromly and his buddies harvested their limit of 5 birds, as this week's picture shows. They brought along their good friend Cody, who is a paraplegic, but that did not stop him from enjoying the hunt. It takes good friends to bring along handicapped sportsmen on their hunting and fishing trips, many of whom are war veterans. With the absence of sportsmen's shows this year because of the pandemic, many sportsmen are visiting their local bait and tackle shops in the valley, for their fishing gear, or shopping online. It is a shot in the arm for the small tackle shops that have survived, but at one time there were two or three in

every town in the valley. Harding's Boat livery on the Meadow Pond in Whitinsville had supplied live bait and boat rentals for many years. Francis Joslin had a tackle shop in the basement of Bakers Dept store in the town of Whitinsville, and Police Chief Vic Nelson of Douglas, also ran a small tackle shop on Main Street in that town back in the day, to mention a few. There was also a Bait & Tackle shop in Douglas in back of the Goodness store not that long ago by the Manning family, and even this writer sold live bait from my home for a number of years. My brother and I also sold live bait at our home on Main street in Whitinsville to local anglers. We erected a huge sign on the lawn advertising crawlers and garden worms for sale when my mother was at work. It had a huge

nightcrawler standing six feet high, painted with a face smiling, which we thought was great, until my mother came home and had us remove the sign immediately. We were not happy! I sure wish I had a picture of it. There were a few shiner fishermen using nets to catch bait to sell to local bait shops. Huge seines were used by a couple of men in areas like the Mumford River, which yielded thousands of red fin shiners per day. Numerous large snapper turtles were often caught in the nets and were given to George Bramen (a member of the Whitinsville Rod & Gun Club) which he used to make turtle soup. It was delicious! Ah, the Good Old Days! Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending.

The guiding power of influence

I've spent my week reading and pondering the guiding and power of influence. The influence others have on us as well as the influence we have on others. Influence is power and it is a double-edged sword. There's of course positive as well as negative influences, and we must choose who we associate with wisely. The late Motivational/ Inspirational Speaker, Jim Rohn, said, "You are the average of the five people you spend the most time with." This is going to be a working column, as I am going to ask you to do more than just read. I'd like you to participate. Ask yourself, "Who are the five people you spend the most time with now," and "who were the five people you spent the most time with during your formative years as a child?" This exercise will help you understand the influence people had on you and are having now. When you were young, if

the kids you hung around with smoked, you are/were probably a smoker. If they were shoplifting, you probably joined in. And if they were good students who took their education seriously, you were probably a good student. Our greatest childhood influencers were usually your caregivers ... your parents and guardians. My sisters and I laugh and often talk about how we are still influenced today by our parents. It's unavoidable. As Rohn said, we are the average of the five people we spend or spend the most time with. My mother certainly understood the power of influence, as I can hear her saying, "Don't hang around that kid. He'll only lead you into trouble." She understood, not from education but from experience. Like I said, I spent the week focused on influence. I made an honest and sobering list of what and who has influ-



POSITIVELY SPEAKING
GARY W. MOORE

enced my life. My second request is that you do the same, but let's begin with a reflection of now. Who do you hang around with? Who are the five people you spend the most time with? Once you have the list, take each name, and make notes. Do I want to imitate them? Is their quality of life what I want for mine? What are they doing to me? How are they influencing me? Has my time with them changed me? And is that okay? If you will take a hard, honest, and serious look into your associations, you will be surprised. Positive influences and examples will have a profound influence on your life. So will negative influences. Both will take you

somewhere ... but ask yourself, "is it someplace you really want to go?" It's easy to dismiss the influence of others but its not honest. Make a list and examine each name. Everything matters. Every word spoken. Every action taken leads us somewhere and impacts our lives. Ignorance is never your best policy. Understanding who and how you are being influenced is. What am I becoming? I don't care how old you are, we are all on a journey somewhere. Is your journey taking you where you want to go? Ask yourself, "Who has power over you? Who is influencing my journey?" Now, take positive and decisive action. If you have participated so far in this exercise, you should have a clearer idea of who and how you are influenced. Now let's talk about the three steps you can take to improve your life. Disassociation (hard choice) Get the losers out

of your life. Limited association - people you enjoy but add no real value to your life. Increased association. Associate on purpose with people of positive substance. These actions should be clear, so I won't spend too much time on them. Dump the people who are negatively influencing you. Limit the time you spend with casual friends who add nothing to your life and seek out people whose influence will improve your life and add to your success. Never spend major time on minor things. Spend major time on/with positive influences. Spend more time with people of accomplishment and high character. It's your life. You can spend your time with whom ever you want, but you must always weigh the time against what kind of return you are getting. Always be cautious and discerning about who and what you let into your mind.

Association can also be through the writing of positive people. We can't spend time with George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Billy Graham or Martin Luther King, but we can through their words and writings they left behind. I asked you to participate and I hope you will. Even more so, I hope you'll talk to your children and grandchildren about the power of influence. Helping them understand at an early age will positively impact them for the rest of their lives. Next week, let's talk about the power of influence you have on others. Gary W. Moore is a freelance columnist, speaker, and author of three books including the award-winning, critically acclaimed, "Playing with the Enemy." Follow Gary on Twitter @ GaryW Moore721 and at www.garywmoore.com.

Low light, low maintenance houseplants

Don't let a lack of brightly lit windows stop you from gardening indoors. Include some low maintenance, low light houseplants and maintenance strategies to boost your success. Low maintenance gardening starts with proper plant selection. Match the plant to the growing conditions and your gardening style. ZZ plant is a favorite low light, low maintenance plant. You will see it in hotels and shopping malls where light and care are often limited. Avoid overwatering that can lead to root rot and death of this plant. You will need to do a bit of searching to find a few of the newer ZZ plant varieties. Zenzi is compact with curled leaves while Raven has dark purple black foliage that contrasts nicely with green and chartreuse leaves of nearby plants. Peace lily is another popular low light plant found in a variety of public places. It requires moist soil to thrive, making it the perfect plant for those that tend to overwater. Increase your success by mixing organic Wild



GARDEN MOMENTS
MELINDA MYERS

Valley Farms' wool pellets (wildvalleyfarms.com) into the potting mix. This sustainable soil additive retains moisture, reducing watering by up to 25 percent. It also adds air space, improving the growing conditions for all indoor plants and helps reduce the risk of overwatering. Pothos and philodendron are traditional low light favorites. New cultivars provide a fresh look to these indoor beauties. Neon pothos has vibrant neon green foliage sure to brighten any spot in your home. Pearls and Jade has smaller cream and green variegated leaves. It is slower growing but just as tough as other pothos. Show off their trailing habit in a hanging basket, container displayed on a shelf, or set upon a pedestal. You'll find a variety of philodendrons for your indoor garden. Brasil has dark green heart-shaped leaves with a golden stripe down the middle. Brandi, another trailing philodendron, has olive green heart-shaped leaves with silver splashing. These can be allowed to trail or trained up onto a trellis.



Melinda Myers
Aglaonema 'Siam Red' (Red Chinese Evergreen) is a popular low light plant that can brighten up any space with its beautiful foliage.

benign neglect. Individual long strappy leaves sprout from the ground to create a mass of greenery. This growth habit has made it a popular groundcover in milder climates. Variegated varieties with splashed or striping can be difficult to find but add to its beauty. New varieties of Chinese evergreen have found their way into many garden centers. Their green leaves may have silver highlights like those of Calypso, Cecilia and Golden Bay. Or add a bit of red to your indoor garden with be Red Gold and Ruby Ray Chinese evergreen. Low light indoor plants allow you to add greenery where you once thought it was not possible. Their added beauty will help lift your spirits, reduce stress, and increase focus while improving your indoor air quality. Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and the nationally-syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Wild Valley Farms for her expertise to write this article. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

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WEBSTER LAKE – 7 Cedar Drive! Middle Pond! 8 Rm English Tudor across the street from w/Direct Waterfront Lot – Full Lake Access! Offering the Option of an In-Law Apartment or Plenty of Room for Family & Friends! Entry Foyer enters from 3 Sides w/locked door access into the house, stairway to the lower level in-law and the convenience of a Half Bath! The 1st Floor features Applianced Kit w/Breakfast Bar, Open Floor Plan – Frplcd Beamed Cathedral Ceiling Great Rm (Dining & Living Rms), Comfortable Bdrm & Hall Full Bath w/Laundry! Upstairs to the Spacious Master w/Master Bath & Slider to Lake View Deck! Additional Bdrm w/Built-ins! Lower Level with 2nd Kitchen, Open Dining & Living Area w/Brick Hearth, Full Bath & Possible (4th) Bdrm! Central Air! Huge Carport! Detached 3 Car Garage! Lakefront Lot w/Deck, Concrete Patio & Boat Dock! Take Advantage of the Low Interest Rates & make this House Your Home! Summer's Just Around the Corner! **\$489,900.00**

WEBSTER – 6 Nicholas Circle! 8+ Rm Center Hall Colonial! 1.22 Acres! Sought After Neighborhood! Great Commuter Location Accessible to Many Major Routes! Spacious Stainless Steel Applianced Cabinet Packed Eat-in Kitchen & Formal Dining Rm! 23 x 24 Frplce Family Rm w/Cathedral Ceiling & Slider to the Huge Deck! Front to Back Living Rm! 1/2 Bath w/Laundry Closet! 2 Additional Bedrooms plus an Office/Nursery/Bedroom all w/ Ample Closets! 2nd Full Bath off the Hall w/Linen Closet! 2.5 Total Baths! Lower Level Ideal for Storage or Future Expansion! 2 Car Garage w/Electric Openers w/Double Door Entry to the Basement for Moving Larger Items aka Boys Toys! 2 Z Oil Heat, 2 AC, Separate Oil Water Heater! Irrigation! Don't Delay! **\$418,900.00**

WEBSTER LAKE – 124-2 Gore Road! 1.68 Acres! Private Retreat Lot with 320' of Road Frontage and 200' of Waterfront! Located in North Pond! Beautiful Panoramic Views! Sucker Brook Cove! Lot has been split from a larger parcel! Survey, Home Rendering and Conservation Items Addressed - Order of Conditions Pending! This is the Opportunity to Build a Unique Home with Spectacular Views! Direct Lake/Boat Access! Water and Sewer in the Road! Walk to Restaurants! Surrounded by Wildlife, including Swans and Eagles! **\$175,000.00**



WEBSTER – 69 Minebrook Rd! Conveniently Located 7 Rm Split Entry! 1.04 Acre Lot! House set well off the Road for added Privacy! Open Floor Plan! Eat-in Applianced Kit w/Island & Seating, Tile Flr, Tile Backsplash & Ceiling Fan! Din Rm w/Hrwd Flrs & Slider to the Deck Overlooking the Private Backyard! Frplcd Liv Rm w/Hrwd Flrs! Ideal for Entertaining! Down the Hrwd Hall find a Full Bath w/Tile Flr & 3 Bdrms w/ Wall to Wall Carpeting! Master Bdrm w/ Dble Closets, Ceiling Fan & Master Bath w/ Marble Tile Flr & Shower Surround! Hrwd Stairs, the Finished Lower Level Fam Rm w/Recessed Lighting, Stone & Tile Hearth w/Woodstove, 1/2 Bath w/Tile Flr, Laundry Rm w/Sink & Tile Flr, Utility Rm w/Storage! 2 Car Garage w/Electric Openers & Door to Backyard! Oil Heat! Steel "T" Beam Construction! Shed! Won't Last!! **\$349,900.00**

WEBSTER – 55 Hillside Ave! 7 Rm, 4 Bedroom Cape! Great Highway Access! Walk to Memorial Beach! View July 4th Fireworks from Your Backyard! Liv Rm w/Hrwd Flrs, Ceiling Fan & Pellet Stove! Eat-in Kit! Fam Rm! Full Bath! 1st Flr Master w/ Hrwd's & Ceiling Fan! Oil Heat! Vinyl Sided! Younger Roof! Replacement Windows! Town Services! Fenced Yard! 1 Car Garage! **\$239,900.00**

WEBSTER LAKE – 20 Bates Point Rd! Middle Pond! Western Exposure w/Panoramic Lake Views! Beautiful Sunsets! 7 Rms, 3 Bdrms, 2.5 Baths! Recently Renovated from Top to Bottom! Move-in Ready! Professionally Landscaped! Exterior Stonework Front & Back! Open Floor Plan! 1st Level w/Huge Family Rm w/Lake View & Access out to Stone Patio, 1/2 Bath & Laundry, Travertine Tile Throughout! 2nd Level w/ Custom Granite Kitchen w/Stainless Steel Appliances, Center Island w/Seating & Large Pantry! Spacious Living Rm w/Sliders to 14X34 Composite Deck! Dining Area w/Water Views, Hardwood Floors Throughout, Bath w/Tile Shower, Guest Bedroom or use as Office! Lake Facing Master Bedroom w/Walk-in Closet & Private Deck! Bathroom w/Double Sinks, Tiled Shower & Separate Tub! Comfortable 3rd Bedroom w/Lots of Storage! Level Lot w/Room for Entertaining and Enjoying All The Lake has to Offer! **\$749,000.00**

CHARLTON – 74 Daniels Road! Completely Renovated 9 Rm, 4 Bdrm, 2.5 Bath Gambrel w/Attached In-Law Apt! Picturesque 3.39 Acres! Deeded Water Rights to South Charlton Reservoir! Extensive Updates! House w/New Roof, Siding, Kit, Bthrms, Windows, Int Doors, Electrical, Flooring, R60 Insulation in Attic, Water Heater, Well Pump & More! In-Law w/Open Flr Plan, Kit, Bdrm w/Walk-in Closet, Full Bath w/Laundry! Both Fully Applianced! 2 New Driveways, Irrigation, AG Pool! Shed! Security! Generator Hookup! **\$489,900.00**



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WEBSTER • 233 - 235 NORTH MAIN STREET
Large 3 Family a rare find! Occupied by the owner for many decades. Entire 1st floor is one spacious apartment with 2 bedrooms. 2 - 2nd floor apartments have 3 bedrooms each. 30' x 44' beautiful Fieldstone Foundation, with walkout basement to off street parking. **\$289,900.**

OXFORD - 12 WINTER STREET
Home "Sweet" Home! TOTALLY Renovated! New Roof - Updated Electrical - New Heating System!! Bedroom, 1.5 Bath - 2 Story Conventional Home. Dead-End St. Rare find, Large Lot .77 Acre - Inside -Neutral Palette of Complimentary Paint Colors throughout the Entire House! Loads of Character! **\$281,000.**

THOMPSON - 5+ ACRE WATERFRONT LAND - BECOLA ROAD



5+ Acre Waterfront Land - on "Little Pond". Also known as Schoolhouse Pond. Private, pastoral setting. Open Field surrounded by tree line. 250+ feet waterfrontage. At the end of a Dead end road! **\$179,900**

THOMPSON - 25 TERRACE DRIVE

Off Thompson Hill! At the end of a Dead end road well maintained & loved! Kitchen with double wall ovens, gas cook-top, granite countertops. Formal dining room, Fireplaced Living room! master, on the first floor, 4 bedrooms total! 2nd full bath -second level. 2 car garage! assisted sale **\$325,000.**

WEBSTER - 103 UPPER GORE RD

Home "Sweet" Home! TOTALLY Renovated! New Roof - Updated Electrical - New Heating System!! Bedroom, 1.5 Bath - 2 Story Conventional Home. Dead-End St. Rare find, Large Lot .77 Acre - Inside -Neutral Palette of Complimentary Paint Colors throughout the Entire House! Loads of Character **\$319,000.**

LAND WEBSTER/OXFORD/DUDLEY/DOUGLAS

Oxford - 4 Leicester St - Approx. 8.47 ACRES! River Frontage Possible to be Subdivided! **\$89,900**
Webster - Upper Gore w/View of the Lake! 1+ Acre! Artesian Well, Septic Design & Conservation - DONE. **\$115,000.**
Webster - Cooper Road 2 Buildable Lots! Water & Sewer Access. Zoned Lake Res! **Each \$24,500.**
Douglas-Mount Daniels 2.5 Acres abuts Douglas State Forest! **ON DEPOSIT! \$132,900**

WEBSTER - 29 WEST AVE.

Cozy 2 Story House with 3 BIG Bonuses! #1. Land almost 1 ACRE! #2. Zoning is MR-12 - Possible Multi Family Use - Investment Opportunity! #3. Large Over-sized 2+ Car Garage, Work Bench, Power & 2nd Floor! Great Space for the Hobbyist, DIY or Contractor! 1ST Floor - Living rm, Bedroom, Large Kitchen/Dining Area with Galley Pantry & Full Bath! 2nd Flr, 2 Bedrooms! All New Carpets - Recent Paint! Multi Level Back Deck with Jacuzzi! **\$255,000.**

WOODSTOCK - 33 DEER MEADOW LANE

Beautiful 2,422 Sq Ft Colonial! 4 Bedroom! 3 Bath! Fireplace, 2 Car garage! So much more! assisted sale **\$415,000**

DUDLEY - 22 ROBERTS ROAD

Lovely 3 bedroom Ranch! Single door 2 car garage with storage! Eat-in kitchen. Fieldstone Fireplaced Living Room! 3 bedrooms, hardwood floors, Remodeled bathroom! Lower Level fieldstone walls/ fireplace! In-ground pool! - 3.58 ACRES includes extra lot. **\$312,000.**

WEBSTER - 20 KINGSBURY

NEW TO THE MARKET! Custom Sprawling Split 2800+ SF! Central Air! Kitchen, Dining Room, Cathedral Ceiling Living Room, 3 Bedrooms! Granite Counters & New Flooring! New Boiler - Hot Water Tank - Oil Tank! FULL finished Lower Level w/ Full Bath & Laundry! THERE'S MORE! 2 Car Garage, renovated to include Hydro Heat, AC & 1/2 Bath! Great for Fitness Studio, Game Room or Home School! Over 1.4 Acres! **\$360,000.**

WEBSTER - 52 CUDWORTH ROAD

1.99 ACRE INDUSTRIAL ZONED LOT! GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE & WORK FROM HOME! Amazing 1790 Antique Colonial! Undergone major updates & renovations, maintaining Antique Charm! Great Room graced by an Open Hearth Stone Fireplace! Soaring Cathedral Ceilings! **\$499,900.**

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagogmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

Webster Lake - 100 Lakeside Ave



WEBSTER LAKE! PANORAMIC VIEWS! BEAUTIFUL SUNSETS! Extraordinary Waterfront Contemporary! Architect designed with Lake Living in mind. Custom Built with Attention to High Quality & Detail. Outstanding open concept, water view from almost every room. Nicely situated on a .25 acre level peninsula, 180'+- prime lake frontage! Enhanced by a all natural shoreline! All you need to live is located on the 1st floor. Grand 2 story foyer, cozy fireplaced living room, gourmet kitchen, lake facing dining / formal dining room, media room & spacious 1st floor guest BR Suite w/ private bath. Incredible 2nd floor fireplaced lake-facing corner master suite w/luxurious private bath, 3 more 2nd floor BRs & full bath! Something Special! **Remember, Timing is Everything!** **\$1,075,000.**

Lake Shirley - 647 Reservoir Rd



Lakefront! Lake Shirley! Modern Flare on a Lakefront Colonial! 1st level Formal large entry foyer, living room, gas fireplace, chef kitchen, Impala black granite, center island, 3 season porch, overlooking the lake. 1st FL bedroom suite w/ shower and jacuzzi tub. 2nd floor Master Suite! Lower level Summer kitchen, full bath, game room. Crown moulding & hardwood floors throughout, wired sound system, radiant floors. oversize 2 car garage. Additional Guest House! assisted sale **\$1,040,000.**



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JANUARY'S SINGLE FAMILY HOMES REAL ESTATE MARKET

AUBURN

| | January 2020 | January 2021 | Trend |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|-------|
| Median Price | \$310,000 | \$350,000 | ▲ |
| Market Volume | \$4,265,000 | \$6,466,100 | ▲ |
| # of Homes Sold | 14 | 18 | ▲ |
| Avg Days on Market | 60 | 24 | ▼ |
| Month Supply Inv. | 1.08 | .27 | ▼ |

WEBSTER

| | January 2020 | January 2021 | Trend |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|-------|
| Median Price | \$262,000 | \$274,450 | ▲ |
| Market Volume | \$3,165,500 | \$5,173,900 | ▲ |
| # of Homes Sold | 10 | 20 | ▲ |
| Avg Days on Market | 43 | 19 | ▼ |
| Month Supply Inv. | 1.33 | .54 | ▼ |

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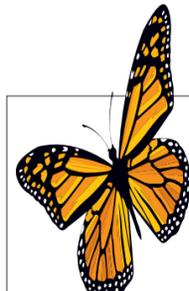
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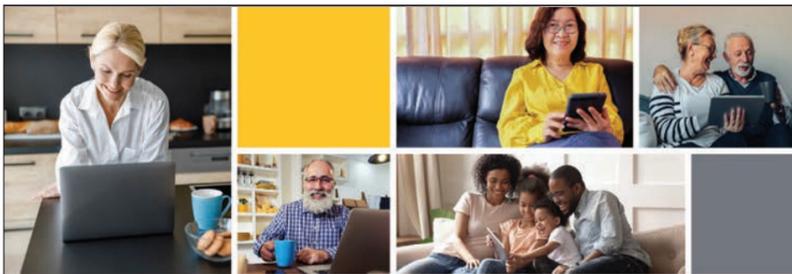
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Why 'Presidents' Day' actually goes by another official name

An official list of federal holidays in the United States won't feature "Presidents' Day" among the observed holidays. Some may say that's preposterous, as they're certain that post offices and other federal entities are closed on such a day each February. While the third Monday of February is commonly referred to as "Presidents' Day" throughout the United States, the day is legally referred to as "Washington's Birthday."



According to the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, this holiday is designated as "Washington's Birthday" in section 6103(a) of title 5 of the United States Code, which is the law that specifies holidays for federal employees. Though other institutions, such as state and local governments and private businesses may use other names, it is OPM policy to always refer to holidays by the names designated in the law.

lished in 1885 in recognition of George Washington. After his death in 1799, Washington's birthday on February 22 became a day of remembrance, according to History.com. Its observance as an official holiday was signed into law in 1879 by President Rutherford B. Hayes. Originally, the holiday only applied to the District of Columbia, but in 1885 it was expanded to the entire country.

History of Washington's Birthday
The idea to give presidents a little extra fanfare originally was estab-

lished in 1885 in recognition of George Washington. After his death in 1799, Washington's birthday on February 22 became a day of remembrance, according to History.com. Its observance as an official holiday was signed into law in 1879 by President Rutherford B. Hayes. Originally, the holiday only applied to the District of Columbia, but in 1885 it was expanded to the entire country.

Abraham Lincoln, another revered American president whose birthday was February 12, also was largely celebrated during the month of February as a state holiday, particularly in his home state of Illinois. In the 1960s, when Congress proposed a measure known as the Uniform Monday Holiday Act that designated Monday as the day to celebrate various federal holidays, the proposal also included a provision to combine the celebration of Washington's and Lincoln's birthdays to provide more equal recognition of these two influential leaders. The name Presidents' Day was proposed at that time. However, when the bill moving the celebration of Washington's birthday to the third Monday in February went into effect in 1971, Congress rejected the name change, so it remained Washington's Birthday. That name stands to this day.

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