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Friday, December 10, 2021

Nativity Drive-Thru returns to Charlton this weekend

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – The Charlton Baptist Church has embraced a new holiday tradition with the return of the church's Christmas Nativity drive-thru event this weekend. The event started in 2020 as a way to help spread Christmas cheer and the story of Jesus's birth and life that most associate with

the holiday in a socially distanced format. The 2020 event was such a success the church has brought it back for another year. One of the co-organizers of the event, Joy Coleman, said it's likely this will become an annual tradition for the church.

"This format did come out of COVID and

Turn To **NATIVITY**, page **A2**



Photo Courtesy

A scene from the Charlton Baptist Church Nativity Drive Thru in 2020. The event returns this weekend for its second year.

Charlton staying with single tax rate

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — Charlton is staying with a single tax rate after the Board of Selectmen held their annual public hearing on Nov. 23. Selectmen met with Director of Assessing Kathleen Stanley for a quick discussion where the board unanimously decided to remain with a single tax rate splitting the tax burden evenly among all citizens and businesses rather than imposing a larger share on the commercial, industrial and private (CIP) properties. Stanley explained that Charlton saw a growth in CIP to

22 percent, while 78 percent of taxpayers are residential. The town experienced \$2.5 million in new growth while the single-family assessment increased from \$289 to \$345. The single tax rate will assess \$13.29 per \$1,000 for the average tax bill down from \$15.01 the previous year. Selectmen were all in agreement that they wanted to avoid adding a larger tax burden to businesses especially in the wake of a pandemic. Selectman Stephen Koronis summed up this sentiment in his statements prior to the board's vote. "We're looking at the CARES Act and all the

other things for small, medium and large size businesses that they're trying to rejuvenate, and everyone is going through a COVID crisis and pandemic. Now is not the right time to adopt a dual tax rate," Koronis said. Board Chair Bill Borowski said he doesn't like the idea of Charlton even considering a dual tax rate noting that many communities that have tried that approach are trying to reverse course. "I've never been a fan of a dual tax rate and a lot of towns who adopt them find themselves trying to get back to a single

Turn To **TAX RATE**, page **A6**

Christmas at Hitchcock returns for second year with more festive fun

BRIMFIELD — Now in its second year, Christmas at Hitchcock is growing. The nonprofit community center in Brimfield is readying for a two-day Christmas event featuring live music, a holiday market, cookie decorating, crafting, a Letters to Santa station, and a live ice carving demonstration, with complimentary coffee and cocoa served all day, all offered free of charge to the public. Christmas at Hitchcock is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 11 from 2 to 6 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 12 from 1 to 5 p.m. at Hitchcock Free Academy, 2 Brookfield Rd., Brimfield.



Turn To **HITCHCOCK**, page **A6**

Helping Hands Society holds annual Christmas Fair

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT



Photos Jason Bleau

Around 70 raffle prizes were available at the Christmas Fair donated by a variety of local businesses, organizations and private donors.

CHARLTON – The Charlton Helping Hands Society celebrated the return of their annual Christmas Fair on Saturday, Dec. 4, one of if not the biggest annual fundraiser for the organization and it's causes. The fair was held at the society's headquarters, the historical Dodge Chapel on Hammond Hill Road, and featured raffles, homemade cookies, and the Santa's Village gift section. Judy Maskell, President of the Helping Hands Society, said the bulk of the funds raised from the event help support a variety of causes and much of it goes right back into the community to those in need. "This event, along with others that we do like summer yard sales and that sort of thing, is really fundraising to maintain our treasury for scholarships. Our overall goal is to help families and individuals who have a need at any time of year. We

Turn To **HELPING HANDS**, page **A6**

EARLY DEADLINES FOR CHRISTMAS

To ensure that the Dec. 24 editions of the Charlton and Sturbridge Villager arrive in subscribers' mail boxes on schedule despite the holiday, the submission deadline for any press releases and letters to the Editor intended for publication that week has been moved up to Thursday,

Dec. 16 at 4 p.m. Submissions are welcome by e-mail to news@stonebridgepress.news. The staff of the Villager thanks our readers for their cooperation with this scheduling change, and wishes one and all a safe and happy holiday season.

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FREE PUBLIC ADMISSION

NATIVITY
continued from page A1

the limitations that we had, but it was such a blessing that there were so many people that were able to do something fun with their family that they weren't able to do last year. They appreciate it so much and it was received so well that we knew we wanted to do this

again. We're in a better place than we were a year ago and while we know the pandemic is not over, we're grateful we could offer this again. It's wonderful because the whole family can come and enjoy the show and they don't have to get out of their cars," Coleman said. While many are familiar with the story of Jesus's birth that is often portrayed through live or model Nativity scenes and on television and the big

screen around Christmas, the story at the Charlton Baptist Church takes things a bit farther exploring many more elements of Jesus's story and what happened before and after his birth. "The idea is that God's love is free, and we want to offer something free to the community," Coleman said. "The event is just the story of Jesus from Caesar's palace where he issues a decree

and then there are nine scenes that take place a go through to the birth of Jesus and part of his life until his death and resurrection. It's the story of Christmas tied in with Jesus's life." The event will be held both Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 11 and 12 from 6-8 p.m. and it a free drive-thru event at the Charlton Baptist Church, 50 Hammond Hill Rd., Charlton.

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SHEPHERD HILL REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

DUDLEY — Principal, William F. Chaplin, Jr. has announced the Honor Roll for Quarter I of the 2021-2022 school year at Shepherd Hill Regional High School.

Class of 2025 – Grade 9

First Honors: Sarah Arnold, David Breault, Jackson Checkosky, Bella DiGregorio, Fiona Duke, Cheyann Dumais, Chloe Dumas, Lily Durda, Donovan Ennis, Caroline Freeman, Trinity Gosselin, Jonathan Hutchinson, Bishoy Ibrahim, Robert Jadczak, Jaden Jaillet, Ryan Jaworski, Rosalie Knowlton, Sebastian Kremmentsov, Timothy Krynsinski, Kathryn LeBlanc, Scott Lehmann, Alexis Leoni, Jazvicious Maisonet, Nolan McGonagle, Collin Moody, Piotr Nemera, Isabel Poplawski, Amber Quadarella, Nicholas Ramsey, Madison Rizzo, Hannah Roberts, Hazel Rucci, Domadious Tawadrous

Second Honors: Anthony Avoglia, Calvin Costello, Ashley Dickaut, Lily Falke, Dominik Gielarowicz, Aniela Hardy, Brady Holden, Cameron Iwanski, Sarah Jalbert, Harrison Jordanoglou, Merolla Khalil, Izabella Lorente, Kaitlyn Maklary, Maggie Montville, Leo Pariseau, Maya Podskarbi, Jacob Reed, Colin Resener, Meghan Stevens, Maximous Tawadrous, Sean Tyrrell, Zoie Unger, Jonathan Vitkus, Jacob Wojcicki

Recognition: Javiel Aponte, Rose Bell, Ashtyn Bennett, Nicolas Benoit, Kasey Blanchette, Christopher Boyd, Jaidden Brooks, Liam Burke, Gianna Cariglia, Alessandro Cortez, Jaden Deauseault, Michael Doktor, Ariana Ducharme, Charli Easton, Sophia Figueroa-Sanchez, Marye Gaffney, Brady Gelineau, Isabella Kalmin, Courtney Lolax, Jeffrey Martel, Atraeyu Norris, Brooklyn Page, Krish Patel, Catherine Pavone, Alisha Plymouthe, Owen Reece, Raymond St. Francis, Leela Start, Dulse Sullivan, Sophina Zacek

Class of 2024 – Grade 10

First Honors: Nicolas Benoit, Lena Bernhardt, Kylie Berthiaume, Abigail Boggio, Kelsy Brown, Ethan Casey, Allison Castaneda-Moreno, Jianna Clouthier, David Cranney, Nicholas Damelio, Logan Daniels, Hayden Davis, Nicholas Dell'Ovo, Kaelyn Donovan, Cora Dubey, Arlo Dzik, Jacob Fredette, Leah Garvey, Liam Gravel, Chloe Graves, Daniel Gronek, Katelyn Hakala, Zachary Hebert, Kyra Hennessey, Ola Jaroszewski, Kierce Jarvis, Rebecca Joesten, Athena Karas, Harry Kennan, Owen Kondek, Kyle LeBlanc, Joanna Lepper, Daniel Lincoln, Alberto Lockward, Cayleigh Mayen, Sofia McCarty, Lillian Nelson, Savannah Padgett, James Palfreman, Madelyn Parker, Kassandra Peloquin, Leo Perry, Luke Poirier, Kayla Pospesel, Adrien Roach, Jandel Sanchez, Kylie St. Laurent, Athanasia Towadros, Athanasios Towadros, Jillian Trelveloni, Gavin Wallace, Helene Weimbs, Zachary Wennerberg, Agatha White, Emma Yaede, Emily Zanauskas

Second Honors: Vanessa Baclawski, Alexander Barbare, Madison Barnett, Adwoa Boateng, Owen Burlingame, Kaylin Caraballo, Nathan Card, Quinn Cushing, Cooper Devish, Calli Ey, Jada Franszen, Lillian Gachau, Kathryn Gadoury, Grace Garon, Alexis Germain, Heidi Jarosz, Juliana Lancette, Alexander Lanpher, Payton Leone, Morgan Lewandowski, Carter Lindsey, Jethro

Mensah, Lucas Miglionico, Mackenzie Millette, Gregory Moreno-Bernal, Justin Murray, Rushi Patel, Sofia Poplawski, Lauren Reilly, Rachel Reynolds, Ronan Shaw, Ashton Sirimongkhoun, Andrew Sullivan, Kaden Wintle

Recognition: Daniel Adamuska, David Adorno, Amelia Anuszkiewicz, Yanitxy Aviles, Max Baez-Morel, Nathaniel Booth, Katelyn Rae Choinski, Skylar Condo, Camron Dagnese, Camden Desmarais, Madeline Desrosiers, Andrew Dubuque, Brynn Dwyer-Sweeney, Ethan Frates, Bianca Ganski, Ryan Gravel, Sara Grupposo, Laisha Hansen, Emma Horner, Bianca LaTulippe, Sevin LaVoie, Caleb Leoncio, Samantha Lotter, Devin Lugo, Andruw Martinez, Sophia McClay, Emilio Navarro, Conor Newman, Alyssa Palermo, Natasha Ramirez, Elton Randolph, Joseph Salonis, Matthew Smolski, Ava Sousa, Maggie Sullivan, Kylee Trahan

Class of 2023 – Grade 11

First Honors: Sofia Beaulieu, Ryan Berk, Emma Bousquet, Jacob Brodeur, Ellen Butler, Augustus Cederman, Victoria Chamberlain, Nathaniel Chute, Jillian Cloutier, Olivia Cranney, Colleen Cumming, Connor Daniel, Christopher Davey, Abigail DeWitt, Caroline Doering, Brady Donahue, Emma Drake, Aidan Dugan, Caiden Dumas, Marlee Eckbold, Adam Faucher, Genisa Filep, Haleigh Garrepy, Kaia Gray, Julia Hickey, Abbigael Hill, Keller Holmes, Aria Humphries, Madeleine Johnson, Alicia Kirwin, Olivia Krukonis, Leah Leclair, Abigail Lombardi, Alison Lotter, Luke Miller, Joseph Montville, Nicole Moore, Manar Morgan, Natalie Nayfeh, Colin O'Brien, Maria Piekarczyk, Alek Poirier, Rami Rachid, Zachary Rivas, Sydney Roland, Olivia Salem, Jocelyn Sitko, Alice Torres, Francisco Torres, Julie Traverso, Brook TwoFeather, Nicholas Veronis, Emma White, Meridan Wildes, Gregory Winans, Ashley Wojcicki, Olivia Youssef, Rileigh Zacek, Ashlee Zaleski

Second Honors: Cameron Arduini, Grace Bateman, Samantha Bullen, Joshua Carroll, Shaylan Cashman, Kaylee Fox, Alayna Gadoury, Hanna Gamelli, Ashley Gendreau, Emma Girasuolo, Rachel Lolax, Olivia Lombardi, Emery Mullen, Sierra Nichols, Tenderness Onyekwere, Mason Paine, Pancham Patel, Nicholas-James Penesis-Lawrence, Natalia Rucinski, Natalia Sudyka, Andrew Trudel, Jocelyn Van Minos, Hannah White, Kaitlyn Woodson, Gabriella Yovan, Rachel Zannotti, Julia Zdrok

Recognition: Teddie Amaral, Austin Ayotte, Ethan Barre, Brooklyn Bonczyk, Braden Bullard, Taylor Burdett, Joslyn Butler, Alexander Card, Victoria Cravedi, Troy Cyr, Angelina Demce, Emma Dickinson, Ashley Erickson, Emma Gulkin, Kellen Kinnes, Bryce Langlais, Nicole Machado, Maxton McPhee, Daniel Mosher, Joshua Njoroge, Angelina Ramirez, Madison Stewart, Jessica Surmiak, Daniel Vitkus, Karlee White

Class of 2022 – Grade 12

First Honors: Amanda Adamuska, Jake Beaudette, Delaney Bodamer, Mina Boktor, Julia Butler, Emma Chabot, Zachary Christenson, Ethan Chumsantivut, Alison Ciani, Connor Cluett, Samantha Cox, Amanda Croteau, Samantha D'Arcangelo, Beau Desrosiers, Hannah Dion, Cadence

Donais, Keirsten Doud, Bronson Dubey, Aislinn Ennis, Miguel Figueroa-Garcia, Skylar Finlay, Treyden Finlay, Sydney FitzGerald, Henry Fredette, Taylor Gavaletz, Austin Giarnese, Elzbieta Gronek, Molly Hachey, Elizabeth Harris, Ashley Harvey, Jack Hensel, Yu-Ting Ho, Andrew Kania, Taylor Kochinskas, Emily Kolodziejczak, Patrick Lamarine, Gabriela Laska, Brooke LeBlanc, Mason Lemberger, Abigail Lepper, Jack Levesque, Eda Lindstrom, Jacob Luke, Evelyn Magee, Rhiannon Mansur, Joshua Martin, Sean McCarty, Natasha McClay, Bridget McGonagle, Ryan McKenzie, Connor Montville, Erin Moran, Olivia Mountain, Kyle Norberg, Isabella O'Brien, Payton Parent, Benjamin Perry, Riley Peters, Emilia Pianka, Caroline Poplawski, William Reece, Patrysia Rivera-Kwiatkowska, Gabriel Roach, Jacob Roberts, Zachary Robinson, Kalli Rojas, Alyssa Rupert, Amanda Sampson, Allison Smith, Molly Starczewski, Hannah Stegenga, Hayley Stegenga, Natalie Szabo, Jillian Tucker, Elizabeth Valley, Trevor Wallace, Gabrielle Wheeler, Nina Zurawski

Second Honors: Michalyn Annese, Jordan Beeman, Emily Brill, Nathaniel Brown, Emma Cederman, Ayaan Chaudhry, Alexandria Christenson, Alexis Claudio, Opal Cronin-Loggie,

Ashley DiMasi, Sarah Ducasse, Joseph Dumas, Stephen Ekstrom, Valeria Ellison-Moreno, Lexus Erickson, Nichole Faulkner, Gabriel Flayhan, Logan Fournier, Alyson Gering, Zakary Janusz, Braedon Jarvis, Matthew Kustigian, Margaret Landry, Hannah Langevin, Ava Leo, Grace MacGinnis, Maria Medawar, Jaclyn Morrison, Nickole Nayfeh, Julia Noonan, Raegan Peck, Sebastian Podgorny, Abigail Reilly, Patrick Ryan, Micah Sanborn, Alexander Siwik, Piotr Skoczylas, Cole Smith, Reis Smith, Correena Stanley, Denver Tetreault, Anna Thomas, Sofia Vangel, Mark Wassef, Joshua Yovan, Jayvon Zajkowski-Gonzalez, Juliana Zalewski

Recognition: Mariam Ayoub, Kody Bartkus, Taylor Bjork, Ellora Bowlin, Liam Budic, Joshua Cook, Kiana Diaz, Cy Ducharme, Agnes Faikai, Alec Fasolo, Victoria Garbulewska, Cal Hopkins, Adrian Ignatovich, Amelie Jarvis, David Jurski, Kennedy Kampe, Erin Kilderry, Owyn Law, Kayden LeBoeuf, Julia Libuda, Annaka Lindstrom, Safwan Macharia, Jason Mayotte, Jessica Milewski, Aidyn Murphy, Makayla Nordstrom, Taiyah Pelevan, Antonia Peters, Iverson Ramirez-Ruggles, Heryanna Rodriguez-Baez, Jomar Santiago, Meagan Taylor, David Trevarthan

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Abigail Potvin of Charlton
Sophie Psuik of Uxbridge
Brooke Riccitelli of Uxbridge

Megan Vanelli of Uxbridge
About Stonehill College

Stonehill College, a Catholic institution of higher learning, was founded by the Congregation of Holy Cross in 1948. Located on the beautiful 384-acre campus and former estate of Frederick Lothrop Ames in North Easton, Massachusetts, it

is a community of scholarship and faith, anchored by a belief in the inherent dignity of each person.

Through more than 100 academic programs in the liberal arts, sciences, business and pre-professional field, Stonehill College provides an education of the highest caliber that fosters critical thinking, free inquiry and the interchange of ideas for over 2,500 students.

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

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

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Bay Path LPNs on why giving back matters

CHARLTON — “I’m glad I could help. Thank you. . . and I’d do it again. I’m forever indebted for your patience and guidance. Please donate it back to the program. I’m very thankful for your kindness,” says Heather Sheehan, LPN Class of 2018.

“Thank you for all your inspirations you gave me with all your accomplishments you shared!” adds Tina Parent, LPN Class of 2015

“Always thinking of you. Your voice is in my head every day. I learned so many valuable lessons from you that I am proud to practice in nursing and life. . . thank you!” said Emily Lamoureux, LPN Class of 2019.

“Thank you. Bay Path helped me a lot. I’m happy to help,” Kiana McDonald, LPN, Class of 2017, chimed in.

“Thank you so much for everything you have done and continue to do! You are appreciated more than you will ever know!” said Paige Huie, LPN, CHT Class of 2014

“Just want to help. I’ll do what I can. I’m so glad she got it. Been there, I’m more than happy to help. It’ll be worth it!” added Carleen Berthiaume, LPN, Class of 2019.

There are many reasons why Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Alumni should consider making a gift: to show appreciation for the education that Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy has provided them; to give others a chance to have a similar experience; to stay connected to the Bay Path community.

At many colleges and universities, Alumni Giving starts even

before graduation day. At Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, it begins at Orientation and Acceptance Ceremony when soon to be graduates are paired off with incoming nursing students. It may begin as a request for mentorship, or as an inquiry for used textbooks. Eventually alumni giving evolves and alumni themselves find ways to talk about the importance of alumni giving to the school.

Giving Back Helps Your Own Reputation

According to Hank Coleman, publisher of the finance blog Money Q & A, “Alumni should consider their diplomas like a share of stock in a company, alumni have a personal interest in ensuring that their University’s prestige grows.” Giving back, regardless of the act, or a donation in any size, “plays an essential role in maintaining the value of your own degrees.”

A legacy Practical Nursing Students struggle to find the funds



Photo Courtesy Elizabeth Lartey, LPN of Worcester, and Isabella Boateng, LPN of Manchester, Conn.

to cover educational expenses. Scholarships and grants ensure that these students can manage costs while getting an excellent education. When alumni give back, they are investing in the practical nursing students and are providing a legacy for future generations. Many alumni state that the benefits they received from Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy are intangible, and what alumni give back are not always easy to measure, but one thing is clear: alumni giving back makes a difference. Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is different. Unlike large educational institutions, we look to

alumni, parents, and friends of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy to help connect quality nursing education and a caring, supportive Bay Path Practical Nursing Community.

About Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy

Bay Path Practical Nursing is a 40-week, (10-month), full-time, Monday through Friday, evening program. The program begins mid-August and is completed in late June. Graduates receive a Practical Nursing Certificate and are eligible to take the NCLEX-PN licensure exam.

Masons Christmas Craft Fair is back!

SOUTHBRIDGE — ‘Tis the season to be jolly! The Quinebaug Masonic Lodge Ladie’s Auxiliary is hosting a Christmas craft fair, located on Route 131 at 339 Ashland Ave. in Southbridge, on Saturday, Dec. 11 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. This Christmas craft fair offers a great opportunity to find all kinds of unique gifts and stocking stuffers for your home, family and friends. Everything from jewelry, soap, sewn items, resin art, knitted kids items, sublimation tumblers, candles, sauces and color street items.

Some vendors include, but not limited to, are Emma’s Village Soap, SOR Creations, Keep Me in Stiches, Zen Bear Foods, Krafty Mendala, Cooper Beech Handmade and Norah’s Fabric Creations. Come on down and look at all the crafts for sale and check out the Masonic pictures and symbols throughout the rooms these items are being sold. Members of Quinebaug lodge are very proud of this annual event. If you would like more information, please contact our Ladies Auxiliary Coordinator Norah Proper at 413-297-8374.



Photo Courtesy Craft Fair back in September 2021 in the parking lot of Quinebaug Masonic Lodge in Southbridge. This indoor Christmas Craft Fair will have much, much more.

The Lighting Ceremony



In Memory of Cole William Victor At Powdermill Park In Spencer 43 Smithville Rd, Spencer Ma

Please Join Us On December 12th From 4-5pm 43 Smithville Rd, Spencer MA



We will be offering free refreshments while singing some Christmas carols and visiting with Santa before lighting the tree!

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Facebook Family Foundations 5

Website: <https://familyfoundations5.doodlekit.com/>

Friday’s Child



Hi! Our names are Ash and Emily and we want to be adopted together!

Emily and Ash are friendly and sweet siblings who are looking to be adopted together. Emily is a kind, humorous, sweet, and helpful girl. Very sociable, she makes friends easily, although she sometimes can miss social cues. She enjoys drawing, painting, watching anime and YouTube videos, and going swimming. She easily engages in conversations and loves to talk about her day. Ash, who uses they/them pronouns, works hard on building self-esteem, getting involved in the community, expressing emotions, and exploring their gender identity. In school, they do very well in the classes that they enjoy. Ash does report that they are shy but can be outgoing when they feel comfortable.

Legally freed for adoption, Emily and Ash would thrive in a supportive and committed two-parent family or in a strong single-parent home. The ideal family would provide these siblings with structure, clear boundaries, and a nurturing and attentive environment. A home with other children in it would be welcomed as well as families with no children. Their new family must be willing to help these siblings maintain contact with their biological younger brother.

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.

The Life Cycle



BEYOND
THE PEWS

.....
REV. JOHN H.D.
LUCY

Merry Christmas! Because Advent usually, as it does this year, starts the Sunday after Thanksgiving, it's appropriate to greet one another with a "merry Christmas" from Thanksgiving all the way to Jan. 6, Epiphany, the end of the Christmas season.

Which gets me to thinking about

the church's liturgical seasons. I'm so thankful for the variety of traditions different churches have to celebrate Christmas, like the Charlton Baptist Church's Drive-Thru nativity scene or my church's Christmas Fair or the Blue Christmas worship service we and the Federated Church of Charlton have done. I'm also thankful for my mother's family's heritage (Puerto Rican) of celebrating all the twelve days of Christmas and not opening gifts until Epiphany. These traditions combined remind us that life isn't and shouldn't be a long slog punctuated with only a few special days. Life is a series of cycles and seasons. The church calendar highlights that fact. Even Christmas isn't a day, it's a season.

According to the Church calendar, Advent is the start of a new year. Advent

is a time of waiting for what has not yet been fulfilled, knowing and trusting God will provide. Christmas is a season of rejoicing for God amongst us, Emmanuel; God isn't some far-off deity. Then comes "ordinary time" until Lent when we are constantly reflecting on how we can live our "ordinary" lives with him who was and is both human and divine. Then the season of Lent, a time of darkness, wilderness-walking, and asking God to cleanse us not only of sin but also of guilt and regret. Easter comes to show us that it's always darkest before the dawn. Then Pentecost and its long season until Advent because the Holy Spirit surrounds us even and especially through the mundane.

We repeat the cycle year after year, season by season, because God knows we don't reach the mountaintop one

day, Christmas or Easter, and then all is right with the world. We never escape the daily grind, the guilt and regret, times of hopelessness and waiting, waiting, waiting for something better, for some prayer to become reality. Life has its seasons, and so we best come to know and experience God and find peace if our minds, bodies, and spirits acknowledge and live out the seasons, finding God in them.

Not every church follows the liturgical seasons, and that's okay, but I invite you to pay attention to the Church seasons anyway. Let's not celebrate Christmas day and take down decorations the day after. Let's instead celebrate the whole season long, and every season, and discover a more joyful and peaceful way of living.



HELPING HANDS
continued from page A1

also want to help to maintain the Chapel which we call our home," Maskell said.

The raffle items for the event came from a variety of sources including businesses, local agencies and organizations and private donations amounting

Members of the Helping Hands Society greet customers at the homemade baked goods table.

to around 70 different items valued at hundreds of dollars. Maskell said seeing the continued support of businesses, locals, visitors and members of the society itself was a heartwarming way to bring the holiday spirit to Charlton after a long 2021.

"It's wonderful to see the people back



Volunteers from the Helping Hands Society got into the Christmas spirit greeting guests during the Christmas Fair.

one member who made a quilt that's on the raffle. Our members put in an awful lot of time, and they know that's what it takes to be successful anyway."

HITCHCOCK
continued from page A1

Performers will include Frozen Red, Jason Wood, Clark Howell of The Time Stretchers, and the Brimfield handbell choir. The repertoire will be a mix of holiday, classical, and contemporary tunes. Performers will play from the historic building's balcony overlooking the front lawn, where guests are welcome to sit and sip on cocoa and coffee, or dance and sing along.

Inside, attendees can visit a holiday market on Saturday which will offer a

number of very giftable selections such as locally made honey, maple syrup, candles, and more. On Sunday from 2-4 p.m., all ages are welcome to pop in and make a holiday swag from foraged pine cones and greenery. On both days, young and young at heart can decorate homemade sugar cookies to munch on or take home, partake in holiday crafting fun, and write a Letter to Santa.

A collection will be running for Toys for Tots, and participants can make an ornament for a Community Tree and holiday cards for veterans.

A most special moment will be when Santa will share a reading of "Twas The

Night Before Christmas on the front porch. The reading will take place on Saturday at 5pm, and on Sunday at 4 p.m.

Maddie's Dogs will be on site both days with food options.

Hitchcock will gratefully welcome donations to its 2021 Friends Campaign all weekend, and all month long, as it makes its march to its year-end goal of \$10,000.

To learn more about Hitchcock and its program offerings, visit www.hitchcockacademy.org.

TAX RATE
continued from page A1

tax rate, but once those taxes get cut it's really hard to say "well we're going to increase you now," Borowski said calling it a "vicious feedback cycle" that pushes businesses out of town leaving citizens to pick up the loses regardless.

Selectmen voted unanimously to remain with a single tax rate. The board also voted against embracing a small business exemption and also voted not to impose an open space discount completing their housekeeping measures for the night.

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When thing like speed limits change, we're the first to know. You could be the second **Your Community Paper.** Told ya.

LEGALS

Town of Sturbridge Board of Selectmen Public Hearing

Notification is hereby given that an application has been filed by Old Sturbridge, Inc., for a Change of Manager/Change of License Manager from Lisa Anne Hartigan to Michael Edward Heenan., for the premises located at 1 Old Sturbridge Village Road, Sturbridge MA 01566 with the Sturbridge Board of Selectmen. In accordance with MGL Ch. 138, a public hearing will be held on Monday, December 20, 2021 at 6:35 p.m. at the Sturbridge Town Hall, 2nd floor, Veteran's Memorial Hall located at 308 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566.

Your advertisement must appear 10 days prior to the public hearing to comply with Massachusetts General Laws and /or Town of Sturbridge Bylaws. Failure to comply may result in your application being denied or delayed.

NOTE: The Town of Sturbridge, its Boards, Commissions or employees will not be responsible for the cost of the above legal advertisement.

December 3, 2021
December 10, 2021

Town of Sturbridge Board of Selectmen Public Hearing

Notification is hereby given that appli-

cations have been filed by Nicalmay, Inc. d/b/a Enrico's, for a Change of Officers/Directors/LLC Manager /Change of License Manager, Change of Stock Interest and Change of Pledge of License, Stock and Inventory, for the premises located at 500 Main Street, Sturbridge with the Sturbridge Board of Selectmen. In accordance with MGL Ch. 138, a public hearing will be held on **Monday, December 20, 2021 at 6:35 p.m.** at the Sturbridge Town Hall, 2nd floor, Veteran's Memorial Hall located at 308 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566.

December 10, 2021

STURBRIDGE TAX TAKING

To the owners of the hereinafter described parcels of land situated in STURBRIDGE in the county of WORCESTER and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and to all others concerned:

You are hereby notified that on Tuesday, December 28, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. at the Sturbridge Town Hall pursuant to the provisions of General Laws Chapter 60, Section 53 as amended, and by virtue of the authority vested in me as Collector of Taxes, it is my intention to take for the Town of Sturbridge the following parcels of land for non-payment

after demand, of the taxes due thereon, with interest and all incidental expenses and costs to the date of taking unless the same shall have been paid before that date.

BARBARA A. BARRY
COLLECTOR

BROWN DAVID H, & BRENDA M, LAND & BUILDING located at 275 CEDAR STREET in STURBRIDGE, containing 5.010 ACRES shown on Assessor's Map 20201017275, recorded at WORCESTER DISTRICT REGISTRY OF DEEDS - Book/Page 43778/0395. Tax for FY-2020 \$3,569.87.

KHAN KHALIB, LAND located at 214 A ARNOLD ROAD in STURBRIDGE, containing 39,639.000 SQ FT shown on Assessor's Map 12301023214A, recorded at WORCESTER DISTRICT REGISTRY OF DEEDS - Book/Page38883/0088. Tax for FY-2020 \$11.41.

KHAN KHALIB, LAND located at 218 A ARNOLD ROAD in STURBRIDGE, containing 1.380 ACRES shown on Assessor's Map 12301033218A, recorded at WORCESTER DISTRICT REGISTRY OF DEEDS - Book/Page 38883/0088. Tax for FY-2020 \$19.02.

LAKE ALUM REALTY TRUST, LAND & BUILDING located at 23 BROOKFIELD ROAD in STURBRIDGE, containing 11,479.000 SQ FT shown on Assessor's Map 17302327023, recorded at WORCESTER DISTRICT REGISTRY OF DEEDS - Book/Page 13063/0347. Tax for FY-2020 \$9,083.80.

LOT #11 ROCKY ROAD RT, HILL LAWRENCE J & MCCANN BRIAN M, LAND located at 114 -1 NEW BOSTON ROAD in STURBRIDGE, containing 7,404.000 SQ FT shown on Assessor's Map 45502143114-, recorded at WORCESTER DISTRICT REGISTRY OF DEEDS - Book/Page 44140/0209. Tax for FY-2020 \$161.67.

SULLIVAN JEAN M, Subsequent Owner: SULLIVAN, DOUGLAS S & JULIE, LAND & BUILDING located at 42 CHAMPEAUX ROAD in STURBRIDGE, containing 2.320 ACRES shown on Assessor's Map 20601932042, recorded at WORCESTER DISTRICT REGISTRY OF DEEDS - Book/Page 59959/129. Tax for FY-2020 \$233.85.

December 10, 2021



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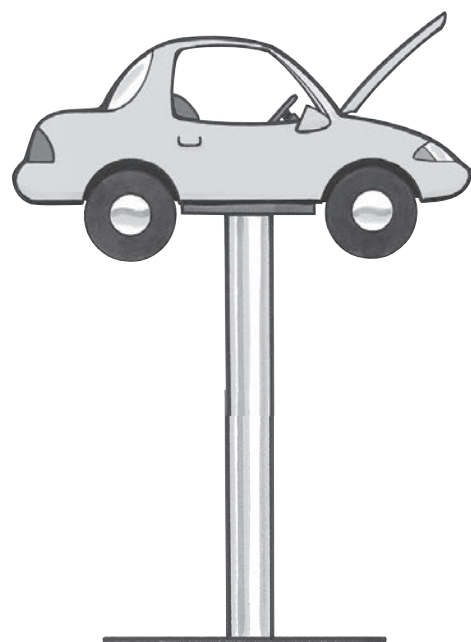
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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

From apples to oranges (in stockings): The origins of Christmas traditions

Driving about town is fantastic this time of year, as more and more homes are decorated with bright lights to welcome the holiday season. Some people go all out, and others...well, they don't, and that's OK too. The important thing to remember as we get older is that right now, as you read this, there are countless children counting down the days until Santa arrives, or just finishing up with Hanukkah.

As our Editor was dragging their family tree into the house over the weekend, they started to think about how silly this tradition was. Why cut down a tree and drag it indoors, decorate it, and vacuum up pine needles all month long? We will admit, having the tree is fun, especially at night. With that, the research into holiday traditions began.

Did you ever wonder where the tradition of the Christmas stocking came from, or why traditional Christmas colors are red, green and gold or why Kentucky Fried Chicken in Japan is so busy on Christmas? There are endless myths and fables surrounding the Christmas holiday, but there are even more interesting facts. While researching Christmas, and digging deep, we found a plethora of fun and thought-provoking facts worth sharing with our readers.

The first one notes that early images of St. Nicholas depict him as a strict disciplinarian rather than the overweight, jolly man in the red suit we see today. Way back when, a common Christmas eve tradition was to tell scary ghost stories by the fire, boo.

In 1914, during the Great War, a truce between the United Kingdom and Germany was held. They decorated their shelters for the holiday and exchanged gifts and even played a game of football with each other.

When a child drops a letter in the mail to Santa in America, the mail is sent to Santa Claus, Ind.

Thanks to the province of Nova Scotia, which, since 1918, has been sending the city of Boston an enormous Christmas tree as a thank you for supporting them during the Halifax explosion.

Pope Julius I proclaimed Dec. 25 as the official day to celebrate the birth of Christ in A.D. 350.

For the past 40 years, people in Japan eat Kentucky Fried Chicken for Christmas dinner and must make their orders two months in advance.

British illustrator John Callcott Horsley invented the first Christmas card in 1843.

In England from 1649-1660, Puritanical guardian of the realm Oliver Cromwell outlawed Christmas celebrations and carols, which he and his fellow Calvinists viewed as vestiges of Catholic excess.

The first artificial Christmas trees were made in Germany out of dyed goose feathers (we're still trying to picture this one).

X is the Greek letter "chi," which is an abbreviation for the word "Christ" in Greek — hence the abbreviation X-mas being used so often.

Several European countries thought that good and evil spirits were active during the Twelve Days of Christmas. These 'spirits' then became known as Santa's elves.

Have you ever wondered what a 'Yule' log actually is? We have too. It is a large log that is burned during the Twelve Days of Christmas as a symbol of health, fertility, luck and is said to ward off evil spirits.

In Bolivia, there is a celebration called the 'Mass of the Rooster' that takes place on Christmas Eve. Some folks bring roosters to the mass to symbolize the thought that a rooster was the first animal to announce the birth of Jesus.

In 2010, the Columbian government hung lights on jungle trees. When the FARC guerrillas sauntered by, the trees lit up and released banners asking the terrorists to lay down their weapons. As a result, 331 guerrillas peacefully re-entered into the community.

Here's an interesting one: the Bicycle card company created playing cards during WWII that revealed an escape route for POW's in Germany.

In the song "The Twelve Days of

Turn To **EDITORIAL** page **A9**

OPINION

Take the risk

I encourage people to follow their dreams.

Following my dreams has been the single most excellent motivator in my life; it's what gets me out of bed in the morning. My biggest dream I am still chasing today, although life has brought me to a place where I'm chasing it most unusually and uniquely, I'm more convinced of my destiny than ever before.

Dreams can change; old dreams can be replaced with new ones. If you didn't pursue a goal earlier in life, it's never too late to follow the same one or a new one now. I say go for it, and you'll find that doors will open; you'll be presented with opportunities you would never have had if you played it safe instead.

Through the years, I've often wondered why everyone doesn't chase after their dreams. Is it because they don't have them? Is it because they don't believe it's possible to achieve them?

I've heard people describe their dream as a pipe dream, defined in the dictionary as an unattainable hope or plan. I guess they say that because, at the outset, they told themselves it wasn't possible, or maybe they tried, gave up, and decided it wasn't meant to happen.

For those of you who do believe it's possible to accomplish your dreams, you may have weighed the risk. Many people are risk-averse. Some might say that taking the risk of following your dream is careless and self-destructive. I believe the opposite. I would never categorize carelessness and self-destructive behavior in the same category as following your dreams - no matter how risky.

Many of you who were reading this were fans of my father, Gary W. Moore, who started this column four years ago. He was an author who is most known for his novel, "Playing with the Enemy," which is still in print today. "Playing with the Enemy" earned him a great deal of fan mail. It was his first book,



POSITIVELY SPEAKING
TOBY MOORE

and everyone seemed to love it.

One person wrote to my father and told a story of how he was a successful lawyer with a great family and how "Playing with the Enemy" taught him to forgive himself. He had gone through many years of regret, beating himself up and feeling like a failure.

When my dad told me the story about this man, I thought to myself, "How could he possibly feel like a failure? He was a successful lawyer with a great family; what more could he want?"

It turns out he was an outstanding boxer in his younger years. He decided to pursue a law career and give up his dream of being a professional boxer because it was just too risky. In the years after his decision, he began to have regrets; as time went on, the regrets started to grate at his soul. It wasn't until he read my father's book decades later that he decided he needed to forgive himself.

That story has stuck with me through the years. He didn't follow his dreams because he felt it was too risky.

It reminds me of my favorite quote by Jim Rohn: "It's all risky, the minute you were born it got risky, if you think trying is risky - wait till they hand you the bill for not trying. If you think investing is risky - wait till you get the tab for not investing. It's all risky, getting married is risky, having children is risky, going into business is risky, investing your money is risky, It's all risky; I'll tell you how risky life is - you're not going to get out alive...."

If you think following your dreams is risky - wait till they hand you the bill for not following your dreams.

It's all risky. Are some dreams riskier than others? It all depends on what you're willing to risk.

Are you willing to risk facing the consequences for not stepping into the fullness of your destiny?

Retirees fear becoming a burden

It's human nature to want to make things easier for our loved ones – and to have great concern about adding any stress to their lives. In fact, 72 percent of retirees say that one of their biggest fears is becoming a burden on their families, according to the Edward Jones/Age Wave Four Pillars of the New Retirement study. How can you address this fear?

First, don't panic. In all the years leading up to your retirement, there's a lot you can do to help maintain your financial independence and avoid burdening your grown children or other family members. Consider these suggestions:

Increase contributions to your retirement plans and health savings account. The greater your financial resources, the greater your financial independence – and the less likely you would ever burden your family. So, contribute as much as you can afford to your IRA, your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan. At a minimum, put in enough to earn your employer's matching contributions, if offered, and increase your contributions whenever your salary goes up. You may also want to contribute to a health savings account (HSA), if it's available.

Invest for growth potential. If you start investing early enough, you'll have a long time horizon, which means you'll have the opportunity to take advantage of investments that offer growth potential. So, in all your investment vehicles – IRA, 401(k), HSA and whatever other accounts you may have – try to devote a reasonable percentage of your portfolio to growth-oriented investments, such as stocks and stock-based funds. Of course, there are no guarantees and you will undoubtedly see market fluctuations and downturns, but you can help reduce the impact of volatility by holding a diversified portfolio for the long term and periodically rebalancing it to help ensure it is aligned with your risk tolerance and time horizon. Keep in mind, though, that diversification does not ensure a profit or protect against loss in a declining market.

Protect yourself from long-term care



FINANCIAL FOCUS
JEFF BURDICK

costs. Even if you invest diligently for decades, your accumulated wealth could be jeopardized, and you could even become somewhat dependent on your family, if you ever need some type of long-term care, such as an extended stay in a nursing home or the services of a home health care aide. The likelihood of your needing such assistance is not insignificant, and the care can be quite expensive. In fact, the median cost for home health services is nearly \$55,000 per year, while a private room in a nursing home can exceed \$100,000, according to Genworth, an insurance company. To help protect yourself against these steep and rising costs, you may want to contact a financial professional, who can suggest an appropriate strategy, possibly involving various insurance options.

Create your estate plans. If you were ever to become incapacitated, you could end up imposing various burdens on your family. To guard against this possibility, you'll want to ensure your estate plans contain key documents, such as a financial power of attorney and a health care directive.

It's safe to say that no one ever wants to become a financial burden to their family. But putting appropriate strategies in place can go a long way toward helping avoid this outcome.

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

Readers Share Favorite Tips and Tricks



TAKE THE HINT
KAREN TRAINOR

It's time once again to share some helpful hints readers send my way. As we gear up for the holidays, the following readers took time from their busy schedule to pass along a tip or trick they've picked up along the way.

Remember readers, you can win a three course dinner for two at Publick House! Just send in your favorite hint! Good luck!

Want to save both money and calories? A reader figured out the correct ingredients to splitting a box mix in half – no waste!

I have another hint for your column: The two of us love cupcakes from a cake mix but a full box is too much. I divide the mix to one egg and divide the liquid the same. The full mix usually requires 2 or 3 eggs and produces 24 cupcakes so you can cut it down to 8 or 12 using only one egg.

Paul Davignon
Uxbridge, MA 01569

This reader's recycling hint is a triple win!

For scented jar candles that you think have burned down as far as they will go but have leftover wax at the bottom (sometimes as much as a half inch or more), don't discard the wax. Break up the leftover wax in cubes and put them in a wax warmer/melter. They will melt nicely and continue to give off the scent and you will have saved money not buying wax cubes, and stopped the wasted wax form being added to the landfill!

Donna Joyce,
Southbridge, MA

Oopsie!: A solution for the absent minded - this reader passed along a tried and true tip, that continues to come to the rescue!

If you seal an envelope and then realized you forgot to include something inside, just place your sealed envelope in the freezer for an hour or two. Viola, it unseals easily.

Donna Lewandowski
Charlton, MA

A longtime reader passes along another of her successful remedies:

This tip worked, several months ago and again today. A small piece of husk from an oat grain e.g. oatmeal, was stuck near the back of my tongue. Coughing forcefully didn't work, gargling with warm or cold water did not work.

I took a wooden long handled Q-tip, but regular size would work too, it is dry on the head and touched quickly and pulling forward, secured the husk and drug it to the front of my mouth to remove safely (do not put too far back on the tongue to gag!).

Also I teach CPR AED First Aid Professional Rescuers and if necessary, would use this for someone. My dad, during the aging process, choked often, so I have spent many years helping him, and I have taught CPR etc. since 1985.

Also, if the person is conscious, can speak, just can't get it off their tongue, a small piece of dry bread (1 inch), chewed well and swallowed will move it down.

Viola Bramel
Northbridge, MA

Publick House Dinner for Two Winner Congratulations to Donna Joyce of Southbridge for her moneysaving candle tip above. Her name was drawn for a three course dinner for two!

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House – Contest has resumed!

Your tips can win you a great three course dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renowned restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I'm in the business

Turn To **TRAINOR** page **A11**

If it's important to you,



It's important to us.

StonebridgePress.com

A tale of two hunts



THE GREAT
OUTDOORS
.....
RALPH
TRUE

Local deer hunters had a somewhat slow day this past Saturday west of Route 146, but hunters that put their time into areas north of 146 harvested a good number of deer this past Saturday. A quick ride on Saturday to get results of the deer harvest at Bob's checking station was shocking but not unrealistic, taking into account the high harvest of deer by archers a few weeks earlier: A total of 82 deer were checked in for the week at the Webster station, as of noon Saturday, which included a six-point, 174-pound buck. Lenny Audette harvested a huge 10-point buck in Uxbridge last week. Unfortunately, no picture was available at the time of this writing.

A report by a Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife employee that only one deer had been checked in at noon on Saturday was a far cry from only a few years ago at

the Webster station. Because of the high population of archers that now hunt deer in this state they now harvest more deer than during the shotgun season, which is one of the contributing factors. Thirty-five automobiles were lined up along Route 16 from Douglas to Webster on opening day and only half that many by last Saturday. All of the deer checked in were in good shape, according to the staff at the Webster station.

This year, MF&W officials were swabbing the nose of deer to get a more accurate account of how many deer were infected with the Covid virus. No update on the results were available at the time of this writing. Unfortunately, MF&W does not share to much information on the deer harvest until next year, which makes it harder to inform our readers. The new checking system for registering harvested deer on line during the archery season, the last week of shotgun, and the entire season on Black Powder has made it a lot easier for sportsmen to comply with the requirement.

Massachusetts shotgun deer season will end this Saturday December 11, and the black powder season will

open on Monday, Dec. 13. The black powder season will end at the end of the month Dec. 31. The high tech black powder guns are now rifled, and are extremely accurate up to 100 yards, at least for those that are highly experienced in their use. There are still deer hunters that prefer to use the old flintlock rifles, making it a lot more challenging to harvest a white tail deer. Good luck!

The new MF&W licensing system is now up and running. This is the first year in a long time that an increase in license fees went into effect. The fees will automatically increase for the next few years. If you have not been following the news on license increases for hunters and fishermen for the last 12 months, you will when you apply for your 2022 licenses and permits.

Duck hunting will reopen on Dec. 13 in Central Massachusetts with a daily bag limit of six birds. The final season will close Jan. 1. Canada goose hunting will also reopen on Dec. 13. Hopefully, the snow will not blanket the fields during the season, making for some great shooting opportunities. If snow does cover the fields, hunters will need to



Photo Courtesy

This week's picture shows a happy angler Dan Southwick, with a huge pike he caught a few years ago while ice fishing. Could this be you this year?

hunt rivers and streams, which is a lot more dangerous for man & dog. When a freeze up occurs during the late seasons, it drives the geese and ducks to open water, which often has a coating of ice along the shoreline. It can be dangerous for both man & dog.

Over the years, numerous hunters and dogs have lost their life because of thin ice. Do not let it happen to you. On Jan. 15, the late Canada goose season opens in Massachusetts,

and the daily bag limit goes to five birds. Your federal duck stamps are still good to hunt migratory birds into 2022, but you do need to purchase a new 2022 hunting license and state migratory stamp to hunt.

Ice fishing can not be far off, I hope! More on this subject next week. Be sure to stay off of unsafe ice.

Take a Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

Brighten someone's holiday season with Christmas cactus



GARDEN
MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA
MYERS

The holidays have arrived and so has the Christmas cactus. Set this favorite holiday plant in a basket, decorative pot or foil wrap and it will be ready to give as a gift or add to your holiday décor. With proper care this holiday favorite can flower for four to eight weeks and grow for decades, becoming a family heirloom handed down from one generation to the next.

The plant sold as a Christmas cactus may actually be a Thanksgiving cactus. The true Christmas cactus blooms later and has small segments with rounded edges. The Thanksgiving cactus, though often sold as the Christmas cactus, has toothed or jagged segments and typically blooms prior to Christmas.

Fortunately, their growing requirements and care are basically the same so the plants will do fine no matter the name on the label. These, or hybrids of the two plants, flower with cool nights and long uninterrupted dark periods. A third holiday plant, the Easter cactus, sets flowers in spring as the days start to lengthen.

Christmas and Thanksgiving cacti are epiphytes that naturally grow on trees in shaded and humid forests along

the coast of Brazil. They all prefer bright indirect light, high humidity and a thorough watering when the top few inches of soil begins to dry. Don't over water but don't let the soil dry completely. Water a bit more often when the plant is in bloom.

Grow them in an organic well-drained potting mix for best results. Water thoroughly and pour off the excess that collects in the saucer to avoid root rot. Reduce maintenance and improve the growing conditions with the help of gravel trays. Place a layer of pebbles, decorative stones or marbles in the saucer or bottom of the foil wrap or basket. The pot will be elevated above any excess water that collects in the pebbles. As the water evaporates, it increases the humidity around the plant.

Keep your flowering cactus in a cool bright location to extend its bloom time. Avoid drafts of hot and cold air, moisture stress and other changes in the environment that can cause buds and flowers to drop.

Fertilize with a dilute solution of flowering houseplant fertilizer once it has finished blooming and throughout spring and summer as needed. Grow your cactus in a north-facing window or set back from an east- or west-facing window where it receives bright indirect light throughout the year. Too much sun turns the leaf segments dark red.

Don't be anxious to move these plants to a bigger container. They prefer to be somewhat potbound and can remain in the same pot for years.

Encourage a new flush of flowers with cooler night temperatures around 55 to 60 degrees and slightly drier soil. An uninterrupted dark period will also help promote flowering.

Start the dark treatment in early to mid-October for holiday flowers. Cover the plants or move them to a location free of any artificial light, indoors or outside, each night and provide bright indirect light each day. Any interruption in the dark period from outdoor, street or reading lights can delay or prevent flowering.

Many experts find providing the same dark treatment as poinsettias, 14 hours of dark each night, promotes flowering. Michigan State University recommends providing 16 hours of total darkness and eight hours of light for at least eight days to promote flowering.

Add a Christmas cactus to your indoor plant collection and share a few with friends and family over the holidays. These easy-care flowering beauties are sure to brighten the recipient's mood and holiday décor.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including The Midwest Gardener's Handbook and 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



Photo Melinda Myers

Christmas cactus is a general name given to a small group of cacti called Schlumbergera that are native to southeastern Brazil's coastal mountains.

and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine. Her Web site is www.melindamyers.com.

EDITORIAL

continued from page A8

Christmas," the verse referring to "true love" is a reference to God. A "partridge in a pear tree" represents Christ and the "two turtledoves" represent the Old and New Testaments.

Did you ever wonder why the colors red, green and gold are affiliated with Christmas? The color green is a symbol of life and rebirth, red symbolizes the blood of Christ and gold is a symbol of light, wealth and royalty.

Christmas trees are grown for roughly 15 years before they are purchased.

In Poland, spider webs are a common decoration for trees because a spider, according to legend, wove a blanket for baby Jesus.

In 1836, Alabama was the first state in the country to officially recognize Christmas.

Mistletoe is considered sacred to the Druids because it produces fruit and remains green throughout the winter. The Druids never let the plant hit the ground and believed that it was a cure for infertility and warded off evil spirits.

President Teddy Roosevelt, widely acknowledged as one of the first environmental advocates, banned

Christmas trees from the White House in 1901.

Apples were the first Christmas tree decorations.

Why do we hang stockings by the chimney with care? Apparently, there were three sisters who were too poor to afford a marriage dowry and were bound to end up on the streets. Bishop Saint Nicholas filled their stockings with gold coins, and their lives were forever changed.

We hope you enjoyed these fun Christmas facts, and hope that you have a happy holiday season filled with endless laughter and memories to last a life time.

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Merry Christmas to all and thank you for your support during this past year. May 2022 bring us all the best of health, an abundance of joy and prosperity, and may we continue to enjoy delicious food and drink at Charlies!

~ Steven, Emily, chefs, bartenders, and waitstaff



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SPORTS

Bay Path Regional Winter Schedule

All schedules are subject to change. To find up to date schedules, please visit [arbiterlive.com](#).

Boys' Basketball

Dec. 10 vs. Southbridge High, 6:30
Dec. 13 vs. North Brookfield High, 6:30
Dec. 16 at Parker Charter, 6
Dec. 22 at Tri-County Regional, 6:30
Dec. 30 vs. Keefe Tech, 6:30
Jan. 3 at North Brookfield High, 6:30
Jan. 5 vs. Assabet Valley, 6:30
Jan. 10 at Abby Kelley Foster, 6:30
Jan. 18 vs. David Prouty Regional, 6:30
Jan. 19 at Worcester Tech, 6:30
Jan. 21 at Blackstone Valley Tech, 6:30
Jan. 26 vs. Advanced Math and Science Academy, 6:30
Jan. 31 at Oxford High, 6:30
Feb. 2 vs. Keefe Tech, 6:30
Feb. 7 vs. Abby Kelley Foster, 6:30
Feb. 8 vs. Auburn High, 6:30
Feb. 14 at Southbridge High, 6:30
Feb. 16 at Monty Tech, 7

Girls' Basketball

Dec. 10 at Southbridge High, 5
Dec. 14 at North Brookfield High, 6:30
Dec. 16 vs. North High, 5:30
Dec. 20 at University Park, 5:30
Dec. 22 vs. Tri-County Regional, 6:30
Jan. 3 vs. North Brookfield High, 5
Jan. 5 at Assabet Valley, 6:30
Jan. 10 vs. Abby Kelley Foster, 5
Jan. 11 at Tri-County Regional, 5
Jan. 14 at Parker Charter, 6:30
Jan. 18 at David Prouty Regional, 6
Jan. 19 vs. Worcester Tech, 5
Jan. 21 vs. Blackstone Valley Tech, 5
Jan. 26 at Advanced Math and Science Academy, 5
Jan. 27 vs. Bartlett High, 5
Jan. 31 vs. Oxford High, 6:30
Feb. 7 at Abby Kelley Foster, 6:30
Feb. 8 at Bartlett High, 6:30
Feb. 14 vs. Southbridge High, 6:30
Feb. 16 vs. Monty Tech, 6:30

Shepherd Hill Regional Winter Schedule

All schedules are subject to change. To find up to date schedules, please visit [arbiterlive.com](#).

Boys' Basketball

Dec. 10 vs. Algonquin Regional, 7
Dec. 17 vs. Marlborough High, 7
Dec. 21 at Oakmont Regional, 7
Dec. 23 at Bartlett High, 6:30
Jan. 4 vs. North Middlesex Regional, 6:30
Jan. 7 at Nashoba Regional, 7
Jan. 11 at Westborough High, 7
Jan. 15 vs. Grafton High, 2
Jan. 18 vs. Groton-Dunstable Regional, 7
Jan. 21 at Marlborough High, 7
Jan. 25 vs. Oakmont Regional, 7
Jan. 28 at North Middlesex Regional, 7
Feb. 1 vs. Nashoba Regional, 7
Feb. 8 vs. Westborough High, 7
Feb. 11 at Groton-Dunstable Regional, 7

Girls' Basketball

Dec. 10 at Algonquin Regional, 7
Dec. 17 at Marlborough High, 6
Dec. 21 vs. Oakmont Regional, 7
Dec. 23 vs. Millbury High, 7
Jan. 4 at North Middlesex Regional, 7
Jan. 7 vs. Nashoba Regional, 7
Jan. 11 vs. Westborough High, 7
Jan. 15 vs. Grafton High, 12
Jan. 18 at Groton-Dunstable Regional, 7
Jan. 21 vs. Marlborough High, 7
Jan. 25 at Oakmont Regional, 7
Jan. 28 vs. North Middlesex Regional, 7
Feb. 1 at Nashoba Regional, 6
Feb. 3 at Tantasqua Regional, 6:30
Feb. 8 at Westborough High, 7
Feb. 11 vs. Groton-Dunstable Regional, 7
Feb.20 at Westborough High Invitational, TBA
Feb.22 at Westborough High Invitational, TBA

Tantasqua Regional Winter Schedule

All schedules are subject to change. To find up to date schedules, please visit [arbiterlive.com](#).

Boys' Basketball

Dec. 10 at North High, 6:30
Dec. 14 vs. Northbridge High, 6:30
Dec. 17 at Uxbridge High, 6:30
Dec. 21 vs. Oxford High, 6:30
Dec. 29 at Nashoba Regional, 5:30
Jan. 4 at Auburn High, 6:30
Jan. 7 at Southbridge High, 6:30
Jan. 11 vs. Leicester High, 6:30
Jan. 13 vs. Holyoke High, 5:30
Jan. 14 at David Prouty Regional, 6:30
Jan. 17 at Sutton High, 6:30
Jan. 20 vs. Millbury High, 6:30
Jan. 24 at Grafton High, 6:30
Jan. 25 vs. Doherty High, 7
Jan. 27 vs. South High, 6:30
Feb. 1 vs. Minnechaug Regional, 6:30

Feb. 3 at Bartlett High, 6:30
Feb. 10 vs. Quaboag Regional, 6:30

Girls' Basketball

Dec. 13 at Northbridge High, 6:30
Dec. 16 vs. Uxbridge High, 6:30
Dec. 20 at Oxford High, 6:30
Dec. 23 at Notre Dame Academy, 6:30
Dec. 29 vs. Leominster High, 4
Jan. 3 vs. Auburn High, 6:30
Jan. 6 vs. Southbridge High, 6:30
Jan. 10 at Leicester High, 6:30
Jan. 13 vs. David Prouty Regional, 6:30
Jan. 21 at Millbury High, 6:30
Jan. 25 vs. Grafton High, 6:30
Feb. 1 at Minnechaug Regional, 7
Feb. 3 vs. Shepherd Hill Regional, 6:30
Feb. 4 vs. Bartlett High, 6:30
Feb. 8 at South High, 6:30
Feb. 10 vs. Quaboag Regional, 5

Pro boxing returns to Webster for first time in 27 years

NEW ENGLAND'S FUTURE VIII SET FOR DEC. 18



Photos courtesy Cristian Nunez

Carlos Marrero, III (L) and Wilfredo Pagan battled to a draw this past August.

WORCESTER — Rivera Promotions Entertainment (RPE) is bringing professional boxing back to Webster for the first time in 27 years on Saturday night, Dec. 18, at Webster Town Hall. RPE's popular "New England Future VIII" will be headlined by a rematch of arguably the 2021 New England Fight of the Year to date between Puerto Rico-native Wilfredo "El Sucaro" Pagan (6-1-1, 3 KOs) and Carlos Marrero, III (2-6-2), who fought to a thrilling 6-round split draw this past Aug. 14 in Worcester.

Three-time, two-division World champion, RPE promoter Jose Antonio Rivera, fought in the last show in Webster back on Nov. 18, 1994, when the then 11-0 Rivera stopped Gerry O'Campo in the fourth round at Municipal Auditorium. Rivera also fought at the Municipal Building in Webster on Dec. 10, 1993, knocking out Julio Torres in round three. Fighting on that same card was his close friend, 3-0 Worcester heavyweight Bobby Harris, whose son Bobby "BH3" Harris, III will be fighting on the RPE Dec. 18 card.

"Being able to run a boxing event at the Webster Town Hall is very exciting for me," Rivera said. "I remember



Main event fighters Wilfredo Pagan and Carlos Marrero, III will meet in a rematch of their exciting draw earlier this year, once again, for the vacant New England Junior Welterweight title.

fighting there in '93 and '94 and the place being packed. The fans are so close to you, it has a Blue Horizon feel to it with fans right above your head in the balcony section. In our 'New England Future' series, we like to showcase boxers from all over New England and we are happy to bring that to Webster, Massachusetts. The fans will not be disappointed with our line-up of boxers from Worcester, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Lowell, Southbridge and other cities and states throughout New England."

Pagan, fighting out of Southbridge, and Bridgeport's Marrero, III will be fighting again for the vacant New England Super Lightweight

Championship in the 6-round main event.

The original Pagan-Marrero was an extremely entertaining, non-stop clash in which momentum swung round by round from one fighter to the other. One judge scored the fight 58-56 in favor of Pagan, another 55-59 for Marrero, and the last 57-57.

Tickets are priced at \$75 (reserved seating) and \$45 (general admission) and available for purchase or by contacting Jose Rivera (elgallojar@gmail.com/508.864.6954), AJ Rivera (anthoneerivera@gmail.com/774.272.2269) or any of the fighters. Doors open at 6 p.m. ET, first bout at 7 p.m. ET.

Attorney Gina Plata-Nino appointed to Open Sky Community Services Board of Directors

WORCESTER — Open Sky Community Services, a behavioral health and human services agency based in Worcester, has elected Gina Plata-Nino to their Board of Directors. Plata-Nino is an attorney at Central West Justice Center, an affiliate of Community Legal Aid, and specializes in food insecurity.

Plato-Nino has been recognized for her extraordinary efforts on behalf of people who relocated to Massachusetts after being displaced by Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico, and more recent-

ly for efforts to assist the community during COVID through the Worcester Together coalition.

She was honored with the Massachusetts Bar Association's Rising Star Award in 2019 for effective advocacy around the issue of SNAP/ Food Security. In 2021, she was the recipient of the Katherine Erskine Award for Business and Law from the YWCA.

She is a graduate of Northeastern University School of Law and served as a judicial law clerk in the Massachusetts Appeals Court. She has also practiced

law at an international law firm in Southeast Asia.

About Open Sky Community Services Open Sky was formed through the 2018 affiliation of Alternatives Unlimited and The Bridge of Central Massachusetts. With more than 100 programs throughout Central Massachusetts, the organization provides services and supports to more than 4,900 adults, young adults and youth with mental health challenges, developmental disabilities, brain injury, substance use disorders, homeless-

ness or other complex challenges. Open Sky also provides services and supports for LGBTQIA+ youth through its Safe Homes program, as well as expert training for human service professionals and school personnel on evidence-based practices and best practice treatment models through the Bridge Training Institute.

For more information about Open Sky, visit openskycs.org

ALL WE KNOW IS LOCAL ~ StonebridgePress.com



Santa pet photo shoot a success!



On Saturday, Dec. 4, the parking lot at the Cornerstone Bank in Charlton was busy with four legged friends, children, and adults, very anxious to have their photo taken with Santa in his sleigh. Friends of Charlton Animal Shelter (FOCAS) has been putting on this annual event for over 10 years now. Cornerstone Bank in Charlton has sponsored and hosted this great event with them. People were so excited and happy that Covid-19 did not cancel the event

this year. The lobby was filled with the excitement of dogs wagging their tails, some dressed up in holiday outfits, and their owners all smiles as each took turn for a photo with Santa. There were about 45 dogs, two hamsters and lost count of the number of children and adults that waited for the opportunity to sit in the sleigh with Santa. For more information on what FOCAS does, go to www.focascharlton.org.

Photo Courtesy

CMS Chamber urges holiday shoppers to Keep It Local

REGION — 'Tis the season to shop small and shop local! The Chamber of Central Mass South encourages you to make your holiday gift purchases at our local shops, restaurants and attractions. Keep your dollars in our community where they can do the most good, at neighborhood businesses in our local towns.

While we shop small, we can also celebrate large! We invite you to join your local Chamber of Commerce for some holiday cheer with our Members and Guests on the evening of Tuesday, December 14th! Be a part of the celebration at The Publick House in Sturbridge featuring fantastic food, a festive atmosphere in a glowing hall, great prizes and surprises, a 50/50 Raffle, and our chance to celebrate the season with our Members and friends.

We will be collecting for The Center of Hope's Holiday Giving Program at the Holiday Fun at Five. Many of the individuals served by The Center of Hope struggle financially and without help from the Holiday Giving Program, they may not receive a single gift. By contributing to the Center of Hope's Holiday Giving Program, you can help put smiles on faces this holiday season. We will have a basket under the tree at the Holiday Fun at Five to collect gift cards in denominations of \$10 or \$20. We thank you for your kindness and generosity! The cost to attend the party is \$20 for Members who register, \$25 at the door, or \$30 for non-Members. RSVP to register by December 10 by phone at 508-347-2761 or email info@cmschamber.org. All are welcome!

Save the date in 2022! The Chamber of Central Mass South cordially

invites the public to attend a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Grand Opening at Premier Exteriors and Design on Wednesday, Jan. 5 from noon to 1:30 p.m. Located at 500 Main St., Sturbridge (Fiskdale), the former Bank of America branch location, Premier Exteriors and Design offers services including metal & asphalt roofing, vinyl siding, energy efficient windows and doors, gutters and gutter protection, custom decks, fences and hardscaping options. Premier Exteriors and Design opened for business at their Sturbridge location in September of 2021.

The Grand Opening event will feature a Ribbon Cutting ceremony presented by the Chamber of Central Mass South, presentations by local dignitaries, and opportunities for guests to meet the staff and tour the showroom. There will be light refreshments, coffee and soft drinks, and guests who place an order for services on this day will receive a 5 percent discount. All are welcome to attend. There is no cost and no need to RSVP. Just swing by and join in as the Chamber and our guests provide a warm Sturbridge welcome and best wishes to this new business.

"We are excited to become members

of such a great community," said Rob Germain, Event Marketing Manager at Premier Exteriors & Design. "We would love to learn who you are and show you how we can help you save money today and live better tomorrow."

Learn more about Premier Exteriors and Design at their website: www.premierexteriorsanddesign.com. Reach them by phone at 413-207-6074.

Southbridge Credit Union is the Chamber's Featured Member of the Month. Members of the Chamber of Central Mass South since 1966, Southbridge Credit Union partners with our community businesses to help them succeed! Their array of business borrowing solutions can improve cash flow, expand your business, purchase assets, refinance debt or borrow funds. SCU's business borrowing solutions are there when you need to make things happen. "We're local. We're experienced. We've got you!" Learn more at www.southbridgecu.com/business-loan-products/.

Be part of a vibrant business community and learn how Chamber Membership can help grow your business. Call 508-347-2761 or visit cmschamber.org for more information.



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TRAINOR

continued from page A8

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.

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OBITUARIES

John G. Argitis

Sturbridge- John G. Argitis passed away peacefully at his home on December 1, 2021 with his family by his side.



A Michigan native, he was born in Detroit and raised in Marine City on the shores of the St. Clair River. His mother, Helen Zawadzke was a German Immigrant and his father, George Argitis was a Greek Immigrant. John was the youngest member of the family. He was pre-deceased by his sisters Mary Reichle, Margaret Bassett, Irene Jacht, Loretta Jacht, Evelyn Jacht and Raymond Jacht.

John proudly served his country on the Great Lakes in United State Merchant Marine and as a gunner on B-29 Bombers in the Army Air Corps.

John's lifelong career in manufacturing and plastic molding began after his military service. In 1962, he was offered a position at American Optical Company in Southbridge, Massachusetts. This career move changed his life as he decided to make Massachusetts his home. In 1965, John wed Ann Marie Monahan and they began their journey of 56 years together. They raised their children on Cricket Drive in Sturbridge, where they made many life-long friends. John's love of water brought the family to Big Alum Lake, where they shared many memorable days.

In 1978, John left American Optical for a new opportunity at G & F Tool and Die and later fulfilled his dream of owning his own business by purchasing the company in 1986. Today, his legacy in plastics and manufacturing lives on through his son and valued colleagues at G & F Precision Molding.

John was an avid sailor, skier, traveler, and winemaker. His wine continues to be enjoyed by family and friends. John and Ann Marie also enjoyed spending the winter months at their home in Naples, Florida, where they made many more friends. In his later years, John spent enjoyable hours at the Sturbridge Senior Center lunching with numerous friends.

John proudly served on many charitable boards, including the Harrington Memorial Hospital and chairman of the Southbridge Credit Union. He made many positive contributions to the community he loved.

John will be remembered as a strong, fun-loving, caring man with an infectious smile. He earned his business success through wisdom and skill, but always recognized it would be impossible without those who worked with him. His generosity, love of family and friends; as well as his business leadership, will be remembered.

John's favorite non-profit organizations include Old Sturbridge Village, St. Anne's Church and the University of Massachusetts Medical School. Donations to these organizations, or a favorite charity in lieu of flowers are invited to remember John.

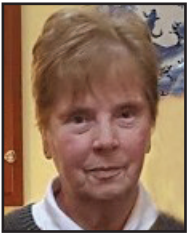
John leaves his loving wife Ann Marie and his son John J. Argitis of Fiskdale, Massachusetts; as well as his son David W. Argitis, his daughter in-law, Laura Argitis and his granddaughter, Madison Argitis of Yarmouth, Maine. He also leaves many cherished relatives in the Worcester area and Michigan.

A Funeral Mass for John was held on Saturday, Dec. 4th, at 10:00am in Notre Dame Church of the St. John Paul II Parish, 446 Main St., Southbridge. Burial will be private. There are no calling hours.

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

Celine A. Chamberland, 75

Sturbridge- Celine A. (Lafrenais) Chamberland, 75, of First St., passed away on Tuesday, Nov. 23rd, in the Saint Vincent Hospital, Worcester after a brief illness.



She leaves her beloved husband and best friend of 36 years, Mark Standrowicz and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by a brother, Norman Lafrenais.

Celine was born in Southbridge the daughter of Ephrem J. and Lea M. (Mandeville) Lafrenais.

She graduated from high school and went onto attend Becker College and obtain her Associates degree in business. Celine started her career in insurance and owned and operated

Vic's Spa in Southbridge for more than 15 years. She started at Morse Lumber as a bookkeeper and purchaser then obtained her Construction Supervisor License. She then worked for Midland Lumber supervising and building custom homes. Celine also consulted with architects in planning and refitting public buildings for alternate use. Celine made gardening and landscaping her passion creating beautiful spaces to enjoy. Spending time at the beach with Mark and having 5lbs lobsters were her favorites.

Funeral services and burial for Celine are private. There are no calling hours.

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

William P. Curboy, Jr., 74

Southbridge: William P. Curboy, Jr., 74, of Dresser St., passed away at home on Thursday, Dec. 2nd, surrounded by his loving family.



He leaves his beloved Life Partner of 38 years, Ann F. Costello; his son William P. Curboy III (Allison) of Blackstone, daughter Susan R. Curboy of Whitinsville, daughter in law Kellie

Curboy of Fort Myers, FL; Erik Costello (Jennifer) of Medway; Lauren Costello (Jeffrey) of Holliston and Lindsey Costello (Alex) of Sturbridge; his brother, Stewart J. Curboy (Michelle) of Holland; his two sisters, Imelda Lundstrom (Gordon) of Southbridge and Deborah Cote (Rene) of Warren; five grandchildren, Ashley Curboy, Brian Curboy (Erica), Kyle Curboy, Allison Curboy and Haley Costello; five great grandchildren, Avery and Abel Curboy, Lillie Kaske, McKenzie Curboy, Christopher and Kelliann Davis.

He was predeceased by a son, Christopher R. Curboy in January 2021; two brothers, John M. Curboy and Martin R. Curboy.

Bill was born in Southbridge the son of the late William P. and Marguerite L. (Chabot) Curboy, Sr. He worked as an English teacher in the town of Holliston

for 34 years prior to retiring. Bill earned a bachelor and master's degree in education from the University of West Alabama in Livingston Alabama. While at UWA Bill played football and was the Treasurer of the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity. In addition to teaching in Holliston, Bill was very involved in various school activities for many years; coaching sports (football, basketball, tennis), National Honor Society, senior class advisor, and running the radio station. Bill chaperoned many kids on the yearly class trips to Europe. Additionally, Bill sponsored and coached on the Metro West Special Olympics team for 12 years and was awarded coach of the year in 2002. Bill also coached for 2 years for the College of Pharmacy basketball team.

Bill impacted the lives of many kids over the years and valued friendships with his fellow colleagues. Above all he loved his family and friends, cherished Ann, and was proud of his kids. Bill was most appreciative of his transplant donor and family whose gift gave him 11 more years with his own family.

Calling hours for William will be held on Friday, Dec. 10th from 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM in the Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St. Southbridge.

Funeral Services and burial will be private and held at a later date.
www.morrillfuneralhome.com



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Jeff Burdick, an Edward Jones financial advisor in Sturbridge, is supporting both a Thanksgiving can drive and Toys for Tots by using his office as a drop-off location for a canned goods and unwrapped toys drive. Canned items in need are stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, gravy, pickles, canned vegetables, canned fruit, and instant potatoes. Residents may help support this effort by bringing in items to the Edward Jones branch office during the hours of 9am-4pm from November 8th to December 9th. The branch address 419 Main St, Sturbridge Mass.

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WEBSTER - 20 Scenic Ave! Views of Webster Lake! 7 Rm Colonial! Work-in Appliance Kit w/Granite Island & Dining Area! 24' Living Rm w/Laminate Wood Flooring, Slider to Composite Deck! 3-5 Bdrms Total! Master Bath! 2.5 Baths Total! Finished Lower Level! Oil Heat! Roof 2019! **\$399,900.00**

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

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

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

WEBSTER LAKE - 701 Beacon Park! 5 Rm End Corner Garden Unit - One Level Living - No Stairs! 10 Beautiful Acres of Park Lake Grounds w/Fantastic Panoramic Lake Views! 1,100' of Living Space! Ample Room for Year Round Living or as 2nd Home - Summers on the Lake - Winters in Florida! Well Maintained! 2 Bdrms! Master Bath, 2 Baths Total! Beautiful Lakeside Pool, Spectacular Beach, Best on the Lake! Detached Garage! **\$299,000.00!**

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

WEBSTER LAKE - 33 Loveland Rd! South Pond - Fantastic 19,243' Waterfront Lot with 125' of Prime South Facing Natural Shoreline which Highlights this 5 Room, 2 Bedroom, 3 Season Cottage! Start Your Lake Memories Here! Cute & Cozy, the Way the Lake Use to Be! Open Floor Plan with Lots of Glass and Panoramic Lake Views! Just Enjoy it as it is, or Add on to it, or Take it Down and Build Your Dream Home Here! Don't Need the Entire Lot, Subdivide it and Bring the Cost Down! Perfect Gentle Slope to the Water! Town Services! **\$949,900.00**



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SOUTHBRIDGE - 140-148 HAMILTON ST.

Multi-Familys - 4 Buildings! 9 Occupied Residential Units! 1 Occupied Commercial Unit! Huge BONUS, Drive through Heated Garage, can accommodate up to 18 Vehicles! **\$975,000.**



DUDLEY - 10 MILL ROAD



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

WEBSTER - 23 EMERALD AVE.



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

WEBSTER - 10 THOMPSON RD



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

WEBSTER • 22 EASTERN AVE



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

THOMPSON CT - 15 WAGER RD



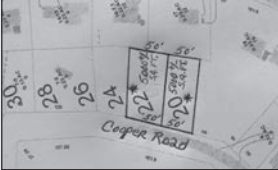
Cape with 3 bedrooms, gleaming hardwoods, stone fireplace. Septic (2019), replacement windows, family and dining room, fresh paint throughout! Generator hook up, and updated Buderus boiler with holding tank. Garage under. This one maybe for you! assisted sale **\$279,900.**

Featured Island Listing! Webster Lake - 22 Long Island



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

WEBSTER - 20 & 22 COOPER RD



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Oxford - 4 Leicester St. - Approx. 8.47 Acres! River Frontage. **NEW PRICE \$79,500.**
Webster - DOUGLAS RD 26 ACRES! on SUGERLOAF HILL 1000 +/- of frontage! **SORRY, SOLD! \$200,000.**
Webster - COOPER RD - 2 BUILDABLE LOTS! Water & SEWER Access. Zoned Lake Res.! **\$24,500. Each**

OXFORD - 10 BEVERLY STREET



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

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

WEBSTER LAKE - 300 KILLDEER ISL.



Killdeer Circle! Gently sloping landscape to waters edge. Crystal clear shoreline. Ranch with 5 rooms, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths! Walkout lower level to patio! Garage! **\$650,000.**

TREASURE ISLAND - CONDO



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

WEBSTER - 401 TREASURE ISLAND



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

WEBSTER LAKE - 1301 TREASURE ISL.



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



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WEBSTER



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WEBSTER



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Trinity Catholic Academy extends “Giving the Gift of Science” through December



SOUTHBIDGE — TCA recently held its second Giving Tuesday Campaign in two years, resulting as a great ‘kick-off’ for a new Science Lab for the school. As many may know, the current Science Lab is the same facility that was used by St. Mary’s High School Students in 1964. The school is

grateful for having reached 65 percent of its goal in such a short time. TCA will persist with efforts to make an updated lab a reality. TCA feels blessed that more community partners, alumni near and far, families, and community members have already contributed to support this great project beyond



last year’s Giving Tuesday results. On Dec. 12, Trinity Catholic Academy is hosting the 2021 Holiday Extravaganza at La Salle Notre Dame on Main St. in Southbridge featuring more than 30 vendors, and a visit from Santa. Admission is free! Adding to the day’s experience, live music will be performed from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. by fifth grade parent, Tony Postale, former parent Gereen Langmeyer together as “11 On The Outside” along with TCA alumnus, Elizabeth Valley’18! These TCA family members past and present will be performing in the main hall. Regular raffles, featuring gift

items of all kinds and two additional raffle opportunities will be held to assist in reaching the ambitious goal for “Giving the Gift of Science to TCA.” One of the added raffles features two Bruins Club level Tickets vs the Hurricanes. The second added raffle will feature local artist, Lauria Tiberii’s, painting creations on slate, a basket of cheer, several gift cards and more! Drawings will be held by the end of the day on Sunday and awarded the same day. You need not be present to win. The school wants to thank all who volunteered their time to have the fun event to look forward to.

Recycling Committee rebranding as Keep Charlton Beautiful Committee

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — The Charlton Recycling Committee is rebranding as it makes the move to join the Keep Massachusetts Beautiful coalition after a promising growth to their partnership over the last year.

In 2021, many Charlton residents participated in Keep Massachusetts Beautiful’s cleanup efforts leading the Recycling Committee to con-

sider becoming a larger part of the organizations cause by localizing their efforts to Charlton. Committee Chair Debbie Marquis appeared before the Board of Health in November, who oversee the Recycling Committee, to discuss the partnership and why this requires the committee to change its name.

“One thing that we thought we would do in the future is to become a chapter town under Keep Massachusetts Beautiful. One of the prerequisites for that

is to change our name from the Charlton Recycling Committee to the Keep Charlton Beautiful Committee. All of the towns, and there are many of them in Massachusetts that have joined, get a logo from the group and get a web page on their big site,” Marquis said.

The Board of Health fully supported the change but inquired about the benefits the partnership would provide for Charlton as a whole. Marquis said Keep Massachusetts Beautiful will provide resour-

ces and increase exposure for Charlton and its beautification efforts as it has for the more than thirty other communities that are part of the partnership.

“We would get more exposure. We’d get Facebook exposure,” Marquis said. She added that Keep Massachusetts beautiful founder and Executive Director Neil Rhein has offered any support that they need as part of the partnership. “We’ll just try to build it up and get photos of people picking up

litter – We’ll just do whatever we can to keep people in town keeping it clean and beautifying it. We’ll see how it goes.”

The membership will coast the committee between \$200 and \$300 a year supported by the sales of their committee products. The committee will be a joining under “option 2” of the membership which is the stage where the group is an elected or appointed town body rather than simply a smaller more volunteer oriented community coalition.



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Nichols College rings in the season with Light up the Hill

DUDLEY — The Nichols College campus and local communities gathered for the first Light up the Hill on Thursday, Dec. 2, to celebrate the holidays with a new tradition.

Nichols President Glenn Sulmasy and his wife Marla led hundreds of students, faculty, staff, family members and neighbors in singing carols at the college green wearing Nichols beanie caps. The group then paraded to Copper Quad, where they counted down the seconds on a tree and menorah lighting, enjoyed hot cocoa, made photo ornaments, and warmed up near firepits. The Nichols bison mascot, Thunder, was on hand to spread holiday cheer.

The event was also an opportunity to support the Blessed Backpack Brigade, an organization based in the Dudley/ Webster area that assists the homeless, unemployed, elderly, impoverished, veterans, and others. Collection bins were filled with much-needed items such as winter coats, gloves, hats, socks, hand warmers, toiletries, and non-perishable food items. The donations will be distributed locally among the needy.

Kate Joseph, vice president of Blessed Backpack Brigade, was amazed at the turnout.

“We are beyond grateful to President Sulmasy, First Lady Marla Sulmasy, graduate assistant Cari Cyr, and the entire Nichols community for the opportunity to be a part of the inaugural Light up the Hill event,” she said. “We had a wonderful time caroling,



enjoying hot cocoa, and taking photos in front of the tree with Thunder. We were truly taken aback by the generosity that we witnessed -- because of our Bison friends, we will now be able to provide many clients with crucial wish list items to help them brave the cold winter months. It means a great deal to us, and even more to those we will help because of you. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!”

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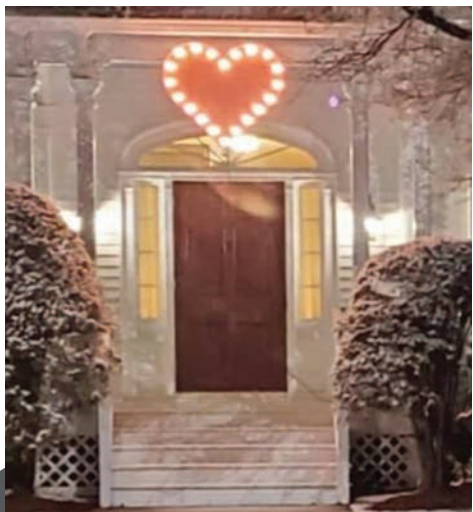
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