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Friday, December 4, 2020

Sturbridge Rotary gives masks to first responders

BY SYDNEY LEANNA
CORRESPONDENT

STURBRIDGE — ‘Tis the season of giving...PPE and generosity! On Tuesday, Nov. 24, Sturbridge Rotary Club members and representatives of the Town of Sturbridge’s First Responders gathered outside the Sturbridge Police Station for a special presentation.

1,000 PPE face masks were generously donated

Come support local food drive!

STURBRIDGE — Calling all shoppers! As the holiday season is fast approaching, hunger levels have continued to rise in Massachusetts. According to Feeding America, one in four children are currently facing food insecurity. A way you can help is by donating to a food drive!

Tantasqua High School’s Project 351 club will be holding a food drive on Saturday, Dec. 12 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 13 from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. This food drive will be held at Shaw’s Sturbridge, in the parking lot! What do you need to donate? The club will provide wish lists to help guide you while you shop. If you’re unable to shop, there’s another way you can help out! Monetary donations will also be gladly accepted. All donations will be going to the Wales Community and Brookfield Ecumenical food pantries, which collectively serve the towns of Brimfield, Holland, Wales, and the Brookfields.

Make an impact this holiday season, and come donate food with the Project 351 club!



Left to right: Sturbridge Rotary President Dr. David Zonia, Fire Chief John Grasso, Jr. and Police Chief Earl Dessert.

to the Sturbridge Rotary Club by a Rotarian in the Connecticut District. Sturbridge Rotary Club President, Dr. David Zonia, presented these face masks to the Town to assist First Responders as they protect and support our Sturbridge community. The First Responders were represented by Interim Police Chief Earl Dessert and Fire Chief John Grasso, Jr. who were most appreciative to receive the donation. Included in those on hand to witness the presentation were fellow Sturbridge Rotary Club members Klaus and Glenys Hachfeld.

Rotary’s Past District Governor Hachfeld commented, “The whole point of this Club is to help the community.” Donations such as these truly exemplify the

Turn To **ROTARY MASKS**, page **A13**

Old Sturbridge Village, Country Bank serve Thanksgiving to families in need



Old Sturbridge Village (OSV) and Country Bank came together again, to offer 750 free meals to families in need this Thanksgiving.

STURBRIDGE — Old Sturbridge Village (OSV) and Country Bank came together again, to offer 750 free meals to families in need this Thanksgiving. The culinary team at the Village prepared, cooked and assembled the meals. Country Bank not only financially supported the project but delivered and distributed the meals as well. The meals were delivered to St. John’s Food for the Poor, YWCA, Abby’s House, Veterans Inc. and Elm Street Congregational Church. In addition, the students of Old Sturbridge Academy created hand-made greeting cards to go with the meals which are sure to bring a warm smile to anyone’s face.

“We wanted to do everything we could to help support families in the community this Thanksgiving,” said James Donahue, President of Old Sturbridge Village. “Country Bank and Old Sturbridge Village share a collective belief that we can make a difference when we work together, and we are doing just that.”

Paul Scully, President and CEO of Country Bank, said, "As a community partner, we care deeply about our communities, and we want to offer our support where it is needed most this holiday season. As we reflect on the past year with gratitude for the Bank's strength and ability to support so many in need, we are also humbled to witness so many great acts of kindness and support throughout our communities from the people and businesses who make this region the remarkable place it is to live and work." Scully added, “The pandemic has taken its toll on the people and places in our communities. We know that many have suffered losses over the last several months. Some have lost their jobs, their business, and others have lost loved ones. There is not a more significant time in our history for community partners to step up and provide support to those in need.”

Sturbridge Coffee Roasters “Think Pink” Campaign benefits Cancer Center at Harrington



Due to the COVID pandemic, instead of doing an in-person check presentation, Elvis Dyer stopped by the Cancer Center over the weekend, to share our check virtually.

SOUTHBRIDGE — Sturbridge Coffee Roasters ran our 6th annual “Think Pink” campaign in which the company donated \$1 for each pound of freshly roasted coffee purchased to The Cancer Center at Harrington Hospital during the month of October in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, as well as offering customers an opportunity to donate to the cause. The campaign ran at both of Sturbridge Coffee Roasters locations in Southbridge and Dudley as well as with online sales.

During the past 6 years, Sturbridge Coffee Roasters has donated more than \$2,600 to the Cancer Center at Harrington through this October campaign.

The campaign is part of Sturbridge Coffee Roasters on-going business plan to give back to the community. “I think everyone knows someone, whether it be family or friends, who have been impacted by cancer and the local services

Turn To **THINK PINK**, page **A13**

TIS THE SEASON TO SHOP LOCAL

Gifts, Gift Cards & Gift Certificate Ideas from these local businesses.

SHOP LOCAL THIS HOLIDAY SEASON! RUNNING THRU DEC. 18

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Now more than ever, it's important to Shop Local!

How to support small businesses this holiday season

The holiday season is an important one for small businesses every year, and it figures to take on heightened importance in 2020. The outbreak of the novel corona-

virus COVID-19 in late 2019 and early 2020 hit small businesses especially hard, with many being forced to close their facilities to customers in an effort to prevent

the virus from spreading.

Estimates regarding the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak on small businesses varied, but many small business owners were forced to let go employees as they confronted steep declines in revenue. A Zen-Business survey of more than 1,000 small business founders, senior managers and decision makers found that 37 percent of small businesses that employ between 11 and 25 people were considering laying off more than one-fifth of their workforce.

As small businesses face difficult challenges,

it's no surprise that many consumers want to support locally owned small businesses this holiday season. Such support not only can help small businesses, but also can help to revitalize local communities.

• Shop online. Online shopping has traditionally been dominated by big box retailers. However, many small businesses increased their e-commerce capabilities to generate revenue. Shoppers concerned about shopping in person this holiday season should explore the delivery and curbside pickup options

available at locally owned small businesses. Even businesses that have not traditionally been allowed to deliver, such as breweries and wineries, have been able to do so during the outbreak, giving consumers unlimited online shopping options.

• Purchase gift cards. Gift cards take the guesswork out of holiday shopping, and such cards are easily shipped or even emailed to loved ones. That's a significant bene-

fit during the 2020 holiday season, when delivery times are expected to be lengthy. Gift cards to local businesses simplify holiday shopping, support small businesses and help shoppers avoid potential delivery delays.

• Share your experience. Word-of-mouth is vital to small businesses at any time, and can be especially valuable as these companies try to overcome the challenges posed by the COVID-19 outbreak. Holi-

day shoppers can share their experiences with local businesses via social media. Share information about the lengths local small businesses have gone to in regard to safety measures, order fulfillment and their delivery and pickup efforts. Such sharing may compel neighbors and friends to follow

your lead and provide vital support to local businesses in need this holiday season.

Small businesses are the backbone of many communities, and the holiday season provides a great opportunity to support such firms as they look to recover from a difficult year.

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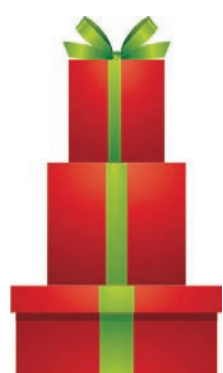
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Santa pays a visit to Southbridge



Gus Steeves

One of the rally participants has a moment with Mickey and Minnie as the various vehicles stage in the A0 parking lot.



Gus Steeves

(Left) Police Chief Shane Woodson and Denise Clemence confer before the parade gets rolling out of the A0 parking lot.



Gus Steeves

A couple of kids on the Common sported huge festive hats like this one.



Gus Steeves

After Santa's passage, the town tree attracts visitors to its glow.



Gus Steeves

A couple young women share a moment framed by one of the gazebo's four giant wreaths.



Gus Steeves

Several kids from House of Destiny's trailer show off their spirit.



Gus Steeves

The lion and friends promote the annual toy drive, which is collecting new, unwrapped non-violent toys at the Police Station and other locations around town.



Gus Steeves

This guy and his missus need no introduction, but probably found it unseasonably warm compared to their North Pole abode.



Gus Steeves

Kids in the Big Bunny trailer set up the smaller members of their display.



Gus Steeves

Several residents check out the Common decorations, including holiday lights that give the leafless tree limbs a ghostly glow.

SOUTHBRIDGE — No snow in sight, but Santa came anyway.

Apparently, he spent much of the day in Southbridge last Saturday. Residents from various neighborhoods reported his passage around town on his 21st century sleigh — a

Turn To **SANTA**, page **A13**



ACCURACY WATCH

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

Town of Sturbridge DPW Heavy Equipment Operator Department of Public Works



The Town of Sturbridge has an immediate full-time opening for a Heavy Equipment Operator in the Department of Public Works, Highway Division. This position is a union position and the successful candidate will be responsible for operating heavy equipment and driving trucks equipped with dump bodies to transport and dump loose materials, among other responsibilities.

A CDL (Class B) and hoisting license (Class 2B) are required. The starting pay for the position is \$23.88 per hour.

For a copy of the complete job description and an application please go to <https://www.sturbridge.gov/your-government/pages/job-opportunities>.

Position open until filled.

The Town of Sturbridge is an EOE.

Give the gift of poetry for Christmas!



Gold In Autumn

Montreal International Poetry Contest Finalist and Woodstock resident Karen Warinsky's first full collection addresses youth, motherhood, loneliness, politics and love. This book "is filled with poetic gems" and is "Just the sort of poetry the world needs right now..."



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Preschool Screening For 3 And 4 Year Olds Residents Of Sturbridge — BY APPOINTMENT ONLY—

If you have *concerns* about your child's development and would like your child screened:

Please call 508-347-7041 for an appointment on
January 13, 2021 • March 10, 2021

*Early intervention will do developmental screenings for children
birth to 3 years old*

Please call 508-765-0292 for An appointment

Public Notification- Child Find Tantasqua Regional High School

The Tantasqua Union 61 Public Schools are working to locate, identify, and evaluate any child residing in a home, facility, or residence within its geographical boundaries, age three (3) through twenty two (22) years. Who may have a disability and be in need of Special Education or 504 services. This includes children who are not in school, those who are in public, private, or home school; those who are highly mobile such as children who are migrant or homeless; and those who are advancing from grade to grade, who may need, but are not receiving Special Education or 504 Services. In keeping with the mission of Tantasqua Regional/ Union 61 School Districts, and in alignment with the Massachusetts General Laws, this notice is provided as part of the outreach and ongoing liaison with resources within the Tantasqua District (Brimfield, Brookfield, Holland, Sturbridge, Wales). This is to advise you of the availability of the referral process, for Special Education and 504 evaluations, for those children, ages three through twenty two who may be suspected to have a disability and may be determined to be eligible for specialized instruction and/ or related services. Special Education regulations require that principals or other educational administrators make specific efforts to meet student's needs in the general education setting. Those efforts include promotion of instructional practices and provisions of adequate instructional support for students and teachers (MGL, c. 71 B, section 2). If any student has been unsuccessful in making progress

within the general curriculum despite documented instructional support and effort, and is suspected of having a disability, any parent, caregiver, or professional may refer the student for a special education evaluation. To request a referral for a special education evaluation, please submit a letter in writing to Jamie Desjardin School Psychologist/ Team Chair Burgess Elementary School 45 Burgess School Rd Sturbridge, MA 01566 Please provide the student's name, date of birth, current grade and school, parent's names, address and telephone numbers. You should include information about the child's needs, current performance/ functional level and his/ her responses to instructional and clinical interventions. The Public School Special Services Department will review the referral information and contact the parent (s) directly. Written notice of the referral along with the evaluation consent form, if warranted, will be forwarded to the parent. Upon receipt of consent, we will contact you and your staff to assist us gathering information for student evaluation. Please contact Student Support Services at (508) 347-9301 if you need further information regarding the referral process. The Tantasqua Regional/ Union 61 Public Schools will make sure any child enrolled in its district who qualifies for Special Education or 504 services, regardless of how severe the disability, is provided appropriate Special Education or 504 services at no cost to the parent or child.

Christmas Trees

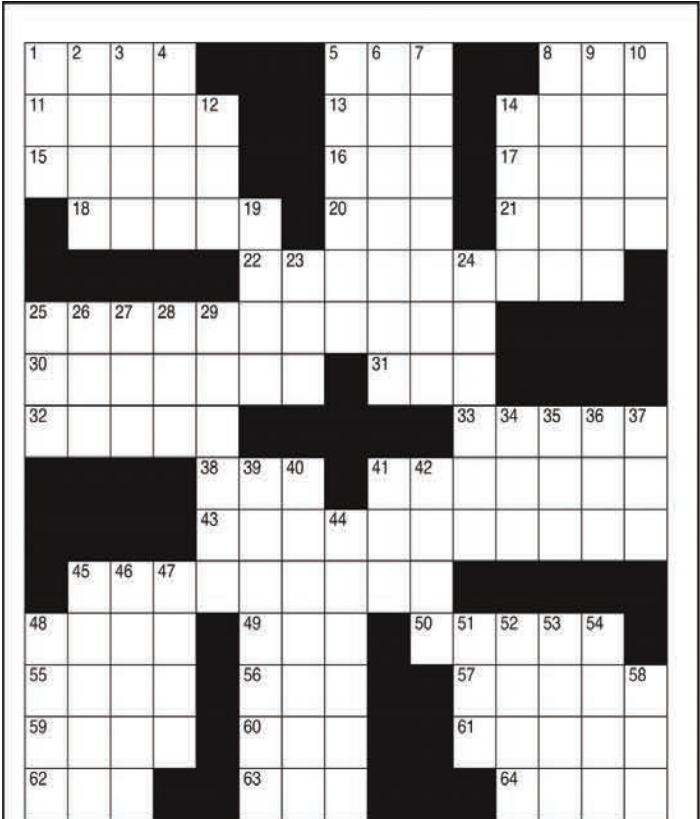


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TREE SALES - NOW OPEN!
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Opposite of west

5. __ Caesar, comedian

8. Helps little firms

11. A way to censor

13. Expresses atomic and molecular weights

14. Chalcedony

15. Type of sword

16. A corporation’s first offer to sell stock to the public

17. Attired

18. A sequence of winding turns

20. Pal

21. Expresses pleasure

22. Amendable

25. Clear

30. A way to cut off

31. Indigenous Thai person
32. Pale brownish yellow color

33. Aquatic plants genus

38. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!

41. Merchants

43. Fix a chair

45. Throws into disorganization

48. Famed German composer

49. Keyboard key

50. Oral polio vaccine developer

55. Partner to pain

56. Where golfers start

57. Jenny __; weight loss program

59. Sailing dinghy

60. Suffix that forms adjectives

61. Speeds at which music is played

62. Body part

63. Fall back

64. Ancient Greek sophist

CLUES DOWN

1. One point south of due east

2. Wings

3. One point south of southeast

4. The shirts on our backs

5. One who works on the seas

6. Select jury

7. Small intestines parts

8. Plant of the heath family

9. Extrasolar planet

10. Creates more of

12. Before

14. Forms over a cut

19. Runs down

23. Exercise regimen __-bo

24. Unkeyed

25. Principle underlying the universe

26. Corpuscle count (abbr.)

27. Residue

28. Company that rings receipts
29. Rugged mountain range

34. Commercials

35. NY footballer

36. They __

37. Soviet Socialist Republic

39. Poked holes in the ground

40. Pitches

41. Your

42. Diana __, singer

44. Important document for inventors

45. Bangladesh capital

46. Fluid that flows in the veins of Greek gods

47. Famed daguerreotype photographer

48. Where military personnel work

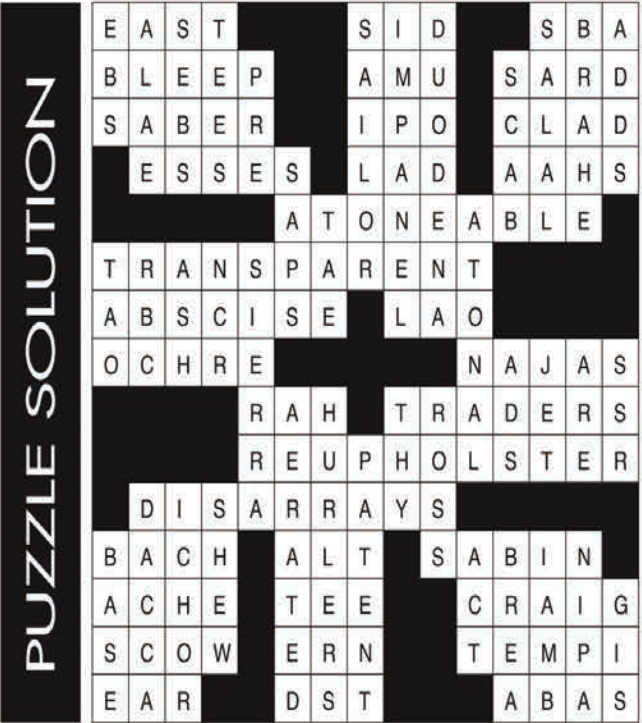
51. Play a role

52. La __ Tar Pits, Hollywood

53. Unstressed-stressed

54. Type of palm tree

58. Judo garments



Quinebaug Lodge participates in mentor program for young adults with autism

SOUTHBRIDGE — On Friday, Nov. 20, the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge held its first “Mentor Program for Young Adults with Autism” movie night. Covid-19 rules were followed, and masks were required, and social distancing guidelines enforced.

Back in February, an informational presentation was held at the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge and the quest speaker was Kayla McRoy, Assistant Director at Nonotuck Resource Associates. McRoy is the organizer of the Community Integration and Inclusion Initiative for young adults with autism. Kayla provided a power point presentation of what this program will entail along with goals and objectives of this initiative and what it means to be a mentor and how the mason organization can help sustain this initiative.

McRoy completed a L.E.N.D. fellowship at UMass Shriver Center in partnership with Suffolk University. L.E.N.D stands for Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and other Disabilities. She is also completing her master’s degree in Public Administration at Suffolk University this December. Her inspiration for this initiative is her younger brother Gage, who has autism. Her fiancé, Brethren Benjamin Marinelli, is a Master Mason and member of Quinebaug Masonic Lodge. What a better place to ask and get volunteers for this community mentor project. After this presentation meeting, several Master Masons volunteered to be mentors for this program. Kayla’s goal and hope is to get other Masonic Lodges in the State involved in this mentorship program.

Kayla applied for and received a grant through



Courtesy

Gage McRoy and his older sister Kayla McRoy who is spear heading this awesome Mentorship Program for Adults with Autism to promote community inclusion. Kayla wants her brother to have the fulfilling opportunity and experiences and this success requires support from his community.

Suffolk University. With the grant money she was able to donate a projector and screen to be able to start her Mentor’s Partnership Program with a special movie night at the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge. This Mentor program will help to increase community access for young adults with autism and to grow meaningful relationships in the community. Her idea was to start with a movie night and to get the Masons involved with community integration, inclusion, and socialization for adults with special needs. The events are a lot of fun and a great opportunity to communicate with Freemasons.

Kayla’s goal and hopes are to expand and engage in community activities for young adults with autism and to promote their social independence within their community. The mentor program will allow the Masons to pair with a young adult and to participate in a community event. This relation-

Turn To **MENTOR**, page **A13**

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – For the 36th straight year, the Massachusetts State Police will team up with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve to assist children in need.

State troopers across the Commonwealth are in the midst of their annual Toys for Tots holiday drive. They have relied heavily on community donations over the years, and the many challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic make donations especially important in 2020.

Donors may drop off new, unwrapped, non-violent toys for boys or girls, ages infant to 14, at any State Police barracks across Massachusetts. The deadline for donations to be received is Friday, Dec. 11.

If you are unable to purchase a toy this year, there are plenty of other ways you can help the cause.

“As always, donors also have the option of making a monetary donation by credit card or through the

mail directly to the Toys for Tots program,” read a statement released by the Mass. State Police.

New this year, donors will also have the option through the Toys for Tots website of shopping for a toy online and donating it through the organization’s new virtual toy box.

For more information about how to make a monetary donation or donate a toy through the virtual toy box, please visit the Toys for Tots Web site: www.ToysForTots.org.

For residents wishing to donate toys locally, you can find the locations of all State Police barracks at www.mass.gov. These include the Brookfield barracks on Route 9, whose officers have taken part in multiple holiday community programs in recent years.

Officials thank all donors for helping to brighten the season of giving for children and families. Without

Turn To **TOYS FOR TOTS**, page **A13**

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OFFICE HOURS:

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VILLAGER STAFF DIRECTORY

EDITOR

BRENDAN BERUBE
(508) 909-4106
news@stonebridgepress.news

SPORTS EDITOR

NICK ETHIER
(508) 909-4133
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PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER

FRANK G. CHILINSKI
(508) 909-4101
frank@stonebridgepress.news

BUSINESS MANAGER

RYAN CORNEAU
(603) 677-9082
ryan@salmonpress.news

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

JIM DINICOLA
(508) 764-4325

EDITOR

BRENDAN BERUBE
(508) 909-4106
news@stonebridgepress.news

PRODUCTION MANAGER

JULIE CLARKE
(508) 909-4105
production@stonebridgepress.news

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Weekdays 8:30 – 12:30 and 2:00 – 4:30 and
Sat. 9:00 – 12:00

REAL ESTATE

BRIMFIELD

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Clifford G, and Phaneuf, Sara, to Rush,
Alan, and Rush, Melody.

\$275,000, 75 Tower Hill Rd, Allard-
Vancil, Carol, to Guiney, Daniel A, and
Sweeney, Donna A.

HOLLAND

None

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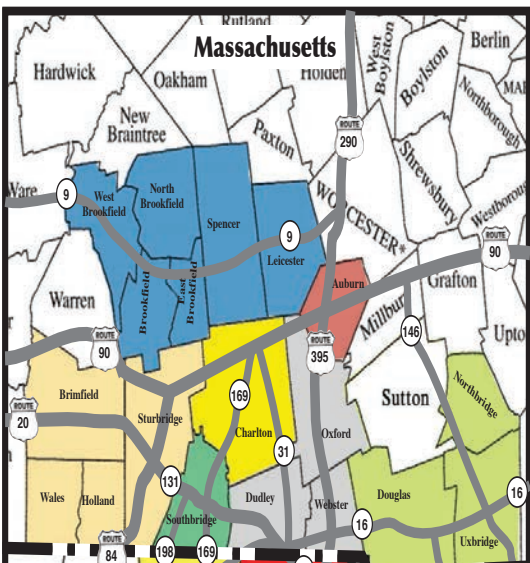
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MIAA announces winter sports safety measures

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – Local student-athletes are looking forward to the return of winter sports, but they’ll have to deal with several new safety measures.

Last week, the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) made multiple announcements following a meeting of its COVID-19 task force. After extensive deliberations, task force members presented an array of modifications and recommendations for winter sports to the MIAA board of directors.

Prior to making modifications, task force members collaborated with officials from the state’s Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, as well as the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

“It is great to see that so many of our student-athletes will be able to take part in the sports they love this winter,” said MIAA President Jeff Granatino. “Many coaches, athletic directors, principals, and superintendents worked hard over the past few weeks to ensure that we would be able to offer interscholastic opportunities for our students.”

The MIAA board of directors voted to approve several sport-specific modifications for the winter season. All modifications are subject to changes from state leaders, depending on the severity of COVID-19 conditions as the winter progresses.

Locally, the decision for individual schools on whether to participate in MIAA-recognized winter sports will be determined by district officials and health leaders.

Currently, the high school winter sports season is set to begin on Dec. 14. Coaches, athletes, and parents are asked to review all sport-specific modifications prior to involvement. Also, be sure that your sport is still listed in the 2020-21 winter sports lineup, as several sports were moved to the “Fall Sports II” season and the spring season.

“The pandemic has reshaped the way education is delivered across the country, and the same can be

said about its impact on athletics,” Granatino added. “Nonetheless, I am confident our student-athletes and coaches will adjust to the new expectations this winter and have an experience as fulfilling and as exciting as what we saw during the fall season.”

Basketball and ice hockey athletes will see some of the most drastic changes to their sports. Masks must be worn throughout the game, and players must utilize social distancing during pregame and postgame activities.

Additionally, access to locker rooms and other venues will be tightly restricted.

For MIAA leaders, it was a challenge to create modifications that strike a balance between maximizing safety while maintaining the basic aspects of gameplay within each sport. Considering the close-contact nature of basketball, hockey, and other winter sports, it is impossible to facilitate social distancing on the playing surface. This means health measures in all other facets of the game must be ramped up, officials said.

MIAA leaders thank all contributors who came together to provide sport-specific guidance, health information, and recommendations.

“Promoting the health and safety of all participants is the association’s imperative,” said MIAA Executive Director Bill Gaine. “Our membership should be proud that our board’s actions reflect allegiance to the MIAA mission.”

Wrestling, indoor track, winter cheerleading, and dance have all been moved to other sporting seasons. Indoor track will take place during the newly created “Fall Sports II” season, which will begin later in the winter. This season will also include sports like football that were postponed from the fall.

Wrestling, winter cheerleading, and dance were moved to the spring season.

For students and coaches who are gearing up for Fall Sports II, it will be a culture shock to prepare for football and other sports in the wintertime. Teams have been limited

this fall in terms of practice availability and off-season preparation.

“We couldn’t do everything that we normally do in practice, but we got some football stuff in,” said Chris Barry, an assistant coach with the Leicester High School football squad. “Ultimately, it gave our team a purpose a few nights a week and allowed us to start building our team for Fall II.”

LHS anticipates its football squad to feature about 60 players this year, an impressive feat considering the many challenges athletes are facing. Players can’t wait for the projected Feb. 22 start date for Fall Sports II, but social distancing regulations will make it difficult to stay in game form this winter.

“We have been told we can work out and lift together, but our weight room is too small to properly social-distance with so many players and coaches,” Barry said. “We typically have 25-35 players attend our lifting sessions in the off-season, but this just won’t work under all the rules and restrictions.”

LHS coaches have used an online platform to send players workouts they can complete at home, without any weights. Coaches and athletes are using similar systems in surrounding communities, with everyone hopeful that all sports seasons can be completed.

For more information on sporting guidance, visit www.mass.gov.

QCC’s Rad Tech program receives activation fund grant

WORCESTER — Thanks to The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts, Quinsigamond Community College’s Radiologic Technology (RT) program will soon have upgraded instructional imaging equipment. The College was recently awarded a 2020 Activation Fund Grant in the amount of \$70,790. The Grant was the second largest awarded to 14 organizations. The funds will be used to purchase cutting-edge digital radiography equipment that will help prepare students for their clinical rotations. The vast majority of hospitals now use digital radiography equipment in place of the more traditional imaging.

“I am so thankful for the support we received from The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts. The Foundation’s generosity in helping our students learn on state-of-the-art digital imaging equipment will give them a huge advantage to seamlessly enter the workforce,” said QCC’s Dean of School of Healthcare, Pat Schmohl.

QCC’s RT program admits up to 20 students per year, depending on the number of available clinical

placements. The program has clinical affiliations with Health Alliance Leominster Campus, Heywood Hospital, Marlborough Hospital, St. Vincent’s Hospital, UMass Memorial Medical Center Memorial Campus, and UMass Memorial Medical Center University Campus. Graduates of the RT program must take and pass the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists credentialing exam in order to be employed as a radiologic technologist.

“The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts is pleased to be able to support QCC in this important initiative to provide Rad Tech students with training using digital radiology equipment, which helps maintain a highly-skilled and up-to-date workforce for the hospitals in the Central Massachusetts region,” stated Jan Yost, President and CEO of The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts.

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

Commonwealth Consulting Group introduces CCGConnect

WORCESTER — Commonwealth Consulting Group (CCG) is branching out. The Worcester-based merchant services company has rolled out a new turnkey solution for software developers called CCGConnect that allows business applications, such as point-of-sale (POS) systems or electronic cash registers ECRs) to integrate in-store (card present) payments.

According to CCG principal, Keith Reardon, “most software companies have to spend a lot of time and resources to implement EMV chip-card transactions into their system. This type of semi-integration and PCI certification can sometimes take months, but with CCGConnect, a software company can copy and paste our coding into their system, pair a terminal, and run a test transaction in under three minutes.”

CCGConnect is delivered in the form of a software development kit (SDK) that bundles everything developers need for the software application to integrate with both current and next-generation payment terminals while remaining outside of PCI-DSS scope. The system also offers cross-border coverage; a single integration can serve merchants in both the United States and Canada.

“By integrating CCGConnect

into an application,” says Reardon, “developers can eliminate the lengthy certification processes and get to market faster.”

The system offers out-of-the-box connectivity with pre-certified payment terminals and no coding is required when new terminals are added.

Once copied into an application, CCGConnect automates the discovery of semi-integrated payment terminals on a merchant’s local network and establishes any required pairing. Once a pairing is established, the SDK is responsible for orchestrating the flow of payment operations between the application and payment terminals. All merchant and cardholder-facing screens are provided.

Additional information about CCGConnect may be found online at ccgpays.com/developers, or by emailing Commonwealth Consulting Group at inquiry@ccgpays.com, or by calling (800) 866-3944.

Commonwealth Consulting Group is a Worcester-based merchant services company that provides its clients with cost-effective payment processing systems and paper supplies, robust e-commerce payment solutions, ATMs, mobile payment systems, gift and loyalty cards.

Friends of the Monson Free Library launch virtual Holiday Bazaar

MONSON — A Virtual Holiday Bazaar will be held by the Friends of the Monson Free Library for the month of December.

The bazaar will feature four resident artists who will offer their work for sale with 10% of the sale price donated to the Friends of the Monson Free Library. Maureen Solomon, potter and painter, will offer jewelry and oil paintings. Each necklace is unique, made of clay with Swarovski crystals or glass beads to add glitter. Oil paintings and wall hangings encompass a variety of themes.

Tod Beall will have stained glass panels and sun catchers for sale. He will also be available as a custom designer, restorer, and repairer of stained glass. His creations are original and use stunning and unusu-

al pieces of glass and metal. Peter Mayberry offers sculptures made of copper, brass, steel, and stainless steel. His work is sketched with soapstone, ground in by hand, heated with a welding torch for color, and sprayed with lacquer. In addition, he will be selling original pieces of jewelry and wall hangings. Penny Lewis, fiber artist, will offer original quilted designs and exquisite appliqué created in a variety of fabrics carefully chosen to accentuate the subject matter of her fiber art creations. She will have table toppers, runners, and quilts of many sizes for sale. For more information about purchasing from these local artists, go to <https://monsonlibrary.com/friends-of-the-library> or contact friends.monsonfreelibrary@gmail.com with any questions.

St. Joseph’s hosting drive-through Advent celebration

CHARLTON — St. Joseph’s Church will host a drive-through Advent experience, “The 12 Trees of Christmas,” on Saturday, Dec. 19 beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Join us for a unique celebration of song and creativity. Enjoy sacred music in your car on 89.5 FM, and drive under the portico to view depictions of “The 12 Days of

Christmas” on evergreens in front of the church. The trees will be decorated by members of our parish family and will be on display until the Feast of the Epiphany.

Don’t let the pandemic steal your Christmas spirit this year. Let’s prepare for our Lord’s birthday in safety, comfort and joy!

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EDITOR

EDITORIAL

The keys to a happy holiday season

It's official — the holiday season has arrived, with the first big one under our belts. Thanksgiving is the perfect segue into Christmas and Hanukkah. It's when all of the fall decorations, and the dilapidated pumpkins get tossed and the candy canes and red and whites come out. Black Friday and Cyber Monday has passed, and now it's time to put things into cruise control until the big day arrives.

When we were younger, the holidays were magical and fun for most of us, with a minimal amount of stress and an abundant amount of gifts to those fortunate enough to receive any. As we get older and have families of our own, holidays remain fun, as we pour that magic into making our own family's holidays memorable.

Despite our current situation, holiday spirits remain high. Taking a drive around town, decorations are popping up every day. The night sky serves as the perfect backdrop for flashing holiday lights. Many people have started to decorate historically early, as a way to bring some sense of normalcy and positivity to others.

It may be difficult this season; however, try to do something creative to make someone's holiday one they can remember, something they don't expect. When you take the time to essentially play Santa Claus, the joy you get back is tenfold.

As for relieving stress, don't put too many expectations onto yourself and respect your own limits. You don't have to do everything, you can delegate. As for shopping, you can find just about anything online, even from local shops making gift buying easier. If shopping isn't your thing, hand out gift cards with a handwritten letter.

Throughout the season, take in the lights and remember to take in the holiday spirit of those around you. Go for a walk in the snow and listen to how quiet everything is. Begin and end each day with something you find enjoyable. We find that watching holiday movies, eating sugar cookies, drinking hot chocolate and listening to holiday music really can be uplifting. "A Christmas Carol," while a bit creepy at times, does put things into perspective. If you haven't read the book in a while or watched the movie, now is the time.

No, things won't look as they normally do this season. With that said, people throughout history have turned lemons into lemonade. This season it's especially important to support local small businesses, many who now offer items online. Throughout this season, let's all focus on lifting each other up as this pandemic eventually will take its place in history.

In the words of Hamilton Wright Mabie, "Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love."



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OPINION

VIEWS AND COMMENTARY FROM STURBRIDGE, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND AND WALES

Economical Holiday Tips

Now that Thanksgiving is over, holiday decorating can begin in earnest! But if you think decking the halls means digging deep into your pockets, think again. Through the years this column has shared many economical ways to add a holiday touch to your surroundings during the yuletide season. With many budgets still tight, this year is an ideal time to review (and hopefully adopt) some of these quick and easy holiday ideas. Read on as this week's column spotlights some festive favorites!



TAKE THE HINT

KAREN TRAINOR

soap flakes in a bowl. Add the water and beat with a rotary egg beater until the mixture becomes thick and stiff. Add the food coloring a drop at a time while beating, until the snow becomes an icy-white color.

- ****
- Christmas Tree Preservative:** If your family loves decorating a real tree, but you hate the mess of fallen needles, and the fear of sparking branches - don't despair! And don't spend big bucks on commercial preservatives either. This recipe will save the tree, some money, and maybe even a few frayed nerves:
- Ingredients:** one gallon water; one cup ammonium sulphate (available from garden supply store); two tablespoons borax (available from grocery or hardware store); a few aspirins or three tablespoons glycerin, or three tablespoons sugar.
- Instructions:** Mix first three ingredients together well. Pour into a spray bottle. Spritz on tree and pour the remainder into the tree stand instead of in water
- Saw off the bottom of the trunk, one to two inches and use a drill to bore a narrow hole up through the middle of the trunk. Then fill the hole with cotton, and pack tightly. Put the base in warm water as soon as possible. Warm water will melt the sap, allowing the tree to drink more easily.
- Note:** To prevent fallen needles, add one of these to the base: three tablespoons glycerin; three tablespoons sugar, or a few crushed aspirin.
- ****
- Wreath and Bough Treatment:** Here is a solution that can help retard a fire on your decorative wreath and boughs. It does not fire-proof the fresh greens, so continue to use standard fire precautions.
- To make:** Mix together five tablespoons Borax and four tablespoons Epsom salts in two quarts of water. Fill a spray bottle and spritz the tree or wreath completely, then allow to dry.
- ****
- Jack Frost Window Paint:** Remember when Jack Frost use to leave his artistic designs on the windows overnight? Few childhood delights compared to waking up to a snowy morning to a magical window frost! Thanks to double paned windows, Jack's appearances are few and far between today. But with a little imagination, you can whip up some faux frost that'll create a crystal ice painting on even the most insulated windows!
- Ingredients:** A few tablespoons of Epsom salts; one can flat beer; cotton balls.
- Instructions:** Use a cotton ball to dab the mixture onto clean windows. Treat only the corners for a realistic look. As the mixture dries, it crystallizes.
- ****
- Christmas Tree Flocking:** Years ago, families used to gather on Christmas Eve to paint snow flocking on the branches of the holiday tree. Why not bring back the charming tradition of flocking the tree this year? With this recipe it's easy and more fun than ever.
- Ingredients:** two thirds cup liquid starch; two cups soap flakes; two to four tbsp. water; blue food coloring.
- Instructions:** Mix together the liquid starch and soap flakes in a bowl. Add the water and beat with a rotary egg beater until the mixture becomes thick and stiff. Add the food coloring a drop at a time while beating, until the snow becomes an icy-white color.
- Mix together the liquid starch and

- Recycle Tree Trims**
- No matter how carefully you choose your fresh tree, branches often have to be trimmed. The fragrant needles from pruned branches can be recycled into festive favors:
- Scented Sachets:** Balsam pine needles are the stuff pricey pine pillows are made of. String-tied muslin bags of pine needles are top sellers at gift shops. To whip up a festive balsam "pouch," cut two rectangles of fabric from wool or flannel (old flannel shirt material is ideal). Depending upon how many needles you have, you can stuff small sachet pillows nice and tight with ground up needles, adding a drop of balsam essential oil for good measure. For finely ground needles, you will need a net or double flannel lining to prevent the grindings from escaping. To finish it off, use an elastic band to tie off the top. Wrap a festive ribbon around it and glue on a tiny pinecone or two.
- Pine Pillows:** If you don't have an abundance of fallen needles, you can still capture the scent of balsam. Fill a cheesecloth or net pouch with the tips of Christmas tree branches. Add some polyfill stuffing, and sprinkle in a few drops of pine or balsam essential oil. Secure open end shut. Stuff the cheesecloth filled pouch into a travel size zippered pillowcase. Add polyfill as well as a few more drops of essential oil. Be sure to use enough stuffing so pillow is stuffed solid, yet still soft.
- Note:** Balsam pillows and sachets have long been given as a gesture of friendship so they make the ideal hostess gift.
- Pine Potpourri:** Wish you could retain that delightful pine scent of your Christmas tree? This homemade Pine Potpourri offers a fresh, evergreen scent any time of year!
- Mix together:** ½ cup bayberry leaves; ½ cup snipped balsam needles; ½ cup miniature pine cones; ½ cup rose hips; 2 tsp orrisroot; 2 drops pine-scented fixative or oil.
- Mix the bayberry, balsam, pine cones and rose hips in a large bowl. Add the orrisroot and fixative and stir gently. Store in a jar with a tight fitting lid.
- Note:** To rejuvenate and extend your pine potpourri, try this economical trick: Put some ground corn cob material (sold as cellulose or litter material at the pet store) in a jar. Add several drops of essential oil, place lid on jar and shake. Shake the jar every day for about a week or so. Add it to your potpourri, to give it body and hold the scent.
- ****
- Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House**
- Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renowned restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I'm in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I'm counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!
- Do you have a helpful hint or handy tip that has worked for you? Do you have a question regarding household or garden matters? If so, why not share them with readers of Stonebridge Press newspapers? Send questions and/or hints to: Take the Hint!, C/o the Southbridge Evening News, PO Box 90; Southbridge, MA 01550. Or email KDRR@aol.com. Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn.

Managing your retirement plan under a new employer



FINANCIAL FOCUS

JEFF BURDICK

Your employer-sponsored retirement plan is a valuable asset. But sometimes things happen that can affect the status of your plan. So, for example, if you work for a hospital that changes ownership, and you have been participating in a 403(b), 457(b) or 401(k) retirement plan, what should you do with it now?

Basically, you have four options:

- Cash out your plan. You can simply cash out your plan and take the money, but you'll have to pay taxes on it, and possibly penalties as well. So, unless you really need the funds and you have no other alternative, you may want to avoid liquidating your account.
- Roll your account into your new employer's plan. If it's allowed, you can roll over your old 403(b), 457(b) or 401(k) plan into your new employer's plan. Before making this move, you'll want to look at the new plan's investment options (which should be numerous) and fees (which should be low). If you move the money directly to the new plan, you won't be taxed at the time of the transfer, and your funds can continue to grow tax-deferred.
- Leave your plan with your old employer. If your account balance is above a certain level, you may be able to leave your plan with your old employer's plan administrator. You won't be able to contribute any more money to the plan, but if you like the investment options you've chosen, keeping the money in your old plan might be a viable choice.
- Move your account into a traditional IRA. One possible advantage to moving your 403(b), 457(b) or 401(k) into a traditional IRA is you'll open up a world of new investment options, because you can fund your IRA with virtually any type of vehicle, including stocks, bonds, mutual funds, certificates of deposit (CDs) and exchange-traded funds. And if you already have a traditional IRA, you can combine the new funds with the old ones, making it easier to track your holdings. As is the case with leaving your money in your old employer's plan or transferring it to a new plan, you'll continue to benefit from tax-deferred growth. Keep in mind, though, that IRAs have costs, too, possibly including transaction costs to buy or sell new investments. (One more thing to keep in mind: When you want to move a retirement plan to an IRA, you may want to make a direct rollover, so the old plan's administrator moves the money directly into the IRA, allowing you to avoid immediate taxes. If you were to make an indirect rollover, you'd get the money yourself, but your old employer would have to deduct 20 percent for federal taxes, and you'd have to deposit the entire balance, including the withholding, into your IRA within 60 days.)

Which of these choices is best for you? There's no one "right" answer for everyone. You'll want to consider all the options and possibly consult with your tax advisor and financial professional. But do all you can to protect your retirement plan – you've worked hard to build it, and you'll need to rely on it to help you pay for your years as a retiree.

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.

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Dogs are man's best friend. My life without my two dogs, Twig & Molly, would not be as enjoyable if I did not have them around. A daily walk with them at a local Rod & Gun club helps keep them in shape. The walks are good for this writer also, although I still am slightly overweight because of my eating habits. The dogs wake me up as soon as the light breaks. Molly is first! She quickly jumps in my bed and walk's up my stomach until her face is right over mine. One long lick on my face and I am out of bed. Twig is next although she does not jump in my bed like Molly.

Taking the dogs out to the back yard, often requires a good grip on their leashes because of the high population of rabbits in the back yard. Molly occasionally digs out a spot under the fence to go hunting alone in the woods. A quick blast on the whistle brings her back to the gate in short time. It is nice to see the rabbit population making a comeback in the valley area, but Molly needs to be made aware of the dangers lurking in the woods. The two dogs are inseparable, and remain protective of each other. Coyotes, Fishercat & Bobcat pose a real threat to domestic dogs and cats, and their populations are increasing every year.

Every year, families plan on purchasing a dog for Christmas, and it is often the wrong time of year to do so. It is a hectic time to bring in a puppy, and often brings more work keeping the dog safe in its new environment. Maybe this year could be different because of the pandemic. Many parents are working from home, away from the stresses of everyday life, especially for the next three months or so.

A new dog in the family could be just the right move this year, as long as you can afford one, as it can become very costly if they need to be brought to a veterinarian. It is a 10-to-15-year commitment to insure a happy & healthy life to the new puppy. Be sure to select the proper breed for you and your family, and never ever purchase a puppy from a pet store. You need to insist on seeing both parents of the pup and



Courtesy

A local angler, Fernando Puglesa, landed a 36-inch Northern Pike in a local river in Whitinsville this past weekend.

also get references. Every pup is cute when they are young and looking at a litter of pups is sometimes overwhelming. Take your time and do your homework. Temperament of the adult dogs is extremely important. What you see is what you will get!

Choosing a dog from an animal shelter is a big risk. Not knowing where the dog came from, how it was treated, etc. needs to be carefully thought over before making a decision. There have been many great dogs purchased at dog shelters, but it is a big gamble. They all need a second chance and adoption of a family pet or hunting dog is the way to go for some families. Good Luck!

Deer hunting opened for shotgun this past Monday under less-than-ideal conditions, with a rainstorm brewing late afternoon and Tuesday. Archers had a great season deer hunting this year and the harvest could well surpass last year's record-breaking season. Many big bucks sporting large antlers have

been reported by a local processing shop, and other reports from sporting goods stores with deer in the 200-pound-plus range is not uncommon. It will be interesting to hear the final results of the archery deer harvest in the coming weeks from MFW.

Fortunately, deer hunters in the valley do not need to travel to Petersham to do some deer hunting. In my younger years, we needed to travel a bit to get a shot at a deer. There was a line of cars a couple of miles long on opening day, carrying hunters to the areas around Petersham and surrounding towns. It was a lot of fun back then even though we never brought home the venison like we do today. We are so fortunate to have such a healthy deer herd in our back yard.

A local angler, Fernando Puglesa, landed a 36-inch Northern Pike in a local river in Whitinsville this past weekend. The fish was released back into the river to fight another, day but not before the angler took a cou-

ple of pictures. The fish did not have much girth, as this week's picture shows.

Duck hunters locally have reported on the lack of mallards this year. There are plenty of wood ducks, but the absence of mallards was a bit disappointing to many local waterfowl hunters. Goose and duck hunting closed Nov. 28, and will reopen Dec. 14. The next season will hopefully get better, as lakes and ponds freeze up. It is a dangerous time for duck hunting for both man & dog, especially on the coast. Wind & freezing temperatures make for great waterfowl hunting, but extreme caution needs to be practiced at all times. More on this next week!

What was the organization on the Meadow Pond called The Sea Scouts back in the '50s? Stay tuned in next week.

Stay safe, wear a mask and practice social distancing!

Take a Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending.

Feeling groovy

The opening lyrics to Simon and Garfunkel's hit song, Feeling Groovy, are "Slow down, you move too fast." Lately, I've found this to be sound advice.

Arlene and I built three homes and an office building in our life together. We enjoyed each experience and wouldn't trade the time we spent together in creating these homes and spaces.

Today, I'm sitting in my daughter and son-in-law's kitchen. It's beautiful ... a work of art. The cabinets are white. The light fixtures are large clear globes. The floors are white marble.

As I sit here watching my daughter clean the globes, I said, "Are you sure you want these? They'll be a nightmare to keep clean."

"You say that about everything lately. You walk through our new home pointing out how much work or money it's going to be to main-

tain," she responded.

I was embarrassed and surprised by my comments, but she's right. I didn't realize how much time and experience has changed me. I don't think I'm being negative, but practical.

In the past, maintenance, whether in time or expense never crossed my mind. We liked what we liked and created our visions of home and workspace together. My daughters' new kitchen is gorgeous, but all I've been seeing is how much work it will be to keep it clean. When did I change... and why?

Evolving priorities.

I've decided I only want to spend my time left on earth in four areas.

1. I want to spend more time talking with and listening to God.
2. I want to be with my family and close friends.



POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

GARY W.
MOORE

3. I want to focus on writing this column and my new books, and,

4. I want to chase Arlene around the house.

Anything else isn't important and takes my time and attention away from what is.

I don't want to clean the house, mow the grass, or shovel the snow. I've spent the last forty plus years maintaining homes and spent the last twenty-six years working in and for an even larger home and forty acres... and for what? All it did was burn my time, energy, and resources, while keeping me from doing things that are more important and fulfilling. I now have clarity. I see what is important in my life and that's where my focus should be.

Time changes our priorities. I can remember my foolishness in believing my choices of automobile and

size of home was representative of how important I was or how happy I could be. I couldn't have been more wrong. If I could go back and live my life again with my priorities of today, I believe I'd been a better employer, husband, and parent. I believe I'd live life with less stress. Maybe I wouldn't have cancer.

And I've slowed down. Not because of age or health, but because I see life differently. Energy is in shorter supply today and it forces me to think of the most useful way to spend it. And when I'm in a hurry, so much of life passes as a blur. I don't want to miss the important things as they pass. And besides, speeding is getting to the end as fast as you can. The end is not someplace I'm in a hurry to be.

When we are young, we believe we are immortal. The things we have... time, money, loved ones, a good job,

Turn To **MOORE**, page **A13**



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Holiday antique and auction news



ANTIQUES,
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• • • • •
WAYNE TUISKULA

Many holiday related stories have been featured in recent antique and auction news reports. Several Christmas related antiques recently brought strong prices at auction, according to the Antiques and Arts Weekly. A “red-robed Santa sitting in the gondola under a wicker dirigible with propellers on the side and holding his bag of toys” sold for \$7,800 at auction in November. “Santa in red robe riding a white fur nodding reindeer with orange decorative harness” went for \$13,200. “Santa riding a clockwork nodding donkey” with “a feather tree in one hand and the donkey outfitted in a vibrant harness” reached \$15,600. “Santa on nodding polar bear, 29 inches high with composition feet, hands and head with a mohair beard, the bear covered in rabbit fur” brought \$36,600. Antiques and the Arts reported that the Santa and polar bear seller is a member of the Golden Glow of Christmas Past Collectors group (goldenglow.org). A “German composition Santa on sleigh behind six reindeer, all on a wheeled platform measuring 35 inches long” sold for well above the \$1,500 estimate, according to the same Antiques and the Arts Weekly article. The auctioneer believed that two factors which contributed to strong bidding on this piece were that there were six reindeer, instead of the typical four, and that the reindeer were in different positions, instead of staring straight ahead as is typical. The antique Santa and reindeer toy sold for \$72,000 to a buyer in the United states. A 46-year-old Army vet and his



wife made an important discovery in a drawer of their newly purchased home in South Carolina, according to Fox Business. Fox Business writes that “the two cases (they found) contained 64 coins in total, including 46 gold \$5 liberty coins and 18 Morgan silver dollars. The Liberty \$5 coins were minted between 1849 and 1907, while the Morgan silver dollar was coined between 1878 and 1904.” The estimated value of the coins is \$25,000. Exemplifying the holiday spirit, the couple immediately returned them to the elderly couple who had sold them the house. KSTP TV reported that the Santa Claus and Rudolph figures from the 1964 “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer” TV special recently sold at auction. Prior to the auction, the

New York Times reported that the figures were “constructed of wood, felted wool, leather and lead armature” and cost around \$5,000 each to make in 1964. The two figures were expected to sell for between \$150,000 and \$250,000, according to the New York Times article. KSTP reported that “the seller was Peter Lutrario, 65, of New York, who told The Associated Press before the auction that he thought he would never part with the dolls but wanted to be able to take care of his children and grandchildren with the money.” The undisclosed buyer paid \$368,000, well above the estimates. The Lutrario family stockings will certainly be stuffed this Christmas. We are cataloging die-cast toys for an online auction that will end

in early 2021. This will be the first of multiple toy auctions. Later auctions will feature rare antique toys from the 19th and 20th centuries. We will also be auctioning hundreds of paintings from the estate of Fay Moore. Moore is well known for her horse racing and other equestrian paintings. Additional auctions are also being planned. Please sign up for email updates on our website or follow us on Facebook for more information. Contact us at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique Auctions, Estate Sales and Appraisal Services www.centralmassauctions.com (508-612- 6111) info@centralmassauctions.com.



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We wish you a happy and safe holiday season!

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GARDEN MOMENTS

MELINDA MYERS

When squirrels are busy storing nuts for winter, it's time for gardeners to start gathering amaryllis bulbs to sustain them through the dreary months ahead. Ordering now will ensure you have lots of choices, so you can select an assortment of different flowers styles, colors, and bloom times.

The flowers of double amaryllis are packed full of petals and sure to brighten any day. Double King lives up to its name with three or more layers of brilliant red, velvety petals. Each bulb produces multiple flower stems, so you'll enjoy weeks of blossoms.

Sweet Nymph is another double and its softer coloring is equally beautiful. The flowers feature layers of creamy white petals with coral pink stripes and are sure to add a bit of romantic charm to your winter.

Add some energy to your indoor décor with amaryllis Dancing Queen (longfield-gardens.com). The bold eight-inch blooms are comprised of layers of ruffled snow-white petals with delicate scarlet-red stripes.

The flowers of Exotic Star have an unusual shape and color that have earned it lots of fans. The asymmetrical petals are parchment-white with narrow, garnet-red stripes and apple green highlights.

Bring in some fresh spring green color with amaryllis Evergreen. Pale chartreuse petals give it a fresh, modern look. Each bulb produces



Courtesy

Sweet Nymph double amaryllis has layers of creamy white petals decorated with coral pink stripes.

two stems with four to six flowers each. Enjoy them as a living bouquet or cut a few stems to display in a vase.

Grow Ice Queen when looking to add elegance to your winter décor. Its enormous, frosty white flowers have lime green accents and combine nicely with evergreen boughs and holiday decorations. Plant the

bulbs by early November to get flowers for the holidays.

Charisma is another variety that blooms in early winter. The two-tone petals have a unique ombre effect. Enjoy the changing colors this variety exhibits as it transforms from bud to fully open flower.

Amaryllis are long lasting cut flowers and the variety Picotee is

no exception. Each of its pure white petals are outlined with a very thin red line. A lime-green center adds freshness. Beautiful displayed in a pot or in a vase.

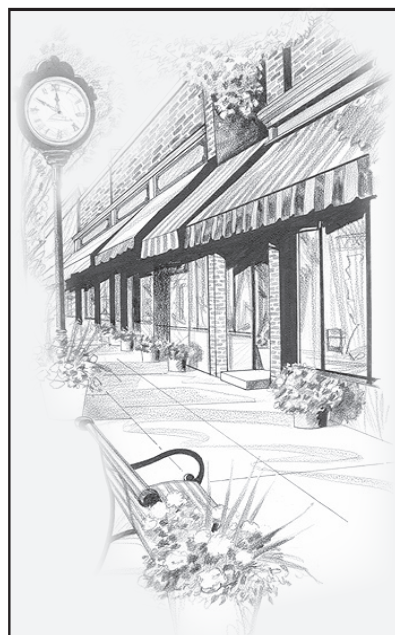
Rosy Star is another eye-catching amaryllis with snowy white blossoms that are decorated with brush stroke highlights in three shades of pink. The apple green throat adds to this variety's elegance and appeal.

As more people discover the joy of growing amaryllis, flower breeders are busy introducing new cultivars. Gervase is a good example of these exciting new options. Each blossom is a little different, with ruby-red petals adorned with variable stripes and veining. You will have plenty of blooms to enjoy as large bulbs can produce twelve or more spectacular blossoms.

Maximize your enjoyment by growing your amaryllis where you can watch the daily transformation, from the first bud breaking through the soil until the flowers begin to unfurl.

Growing amaryllis indoors will keep you gardening all year round, no matter where you live. You'll enjoy the mood-boosting benefits and stress relief, and the colorful blossoms are sure to brighten your winter days.

Melinda Myers has written numerous books, including *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* DVD series and the nationally-syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by Longfield Gardens for her expertise to write this article. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.



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How to be a frugal holiday shopper

The holiday season is a joyous but often expensive time of year. The average American will spend \$700 on holiday gifts and other trimmings this year, totaling more than \$465 billion says the National Retail Federation. In a 2017 survey for CIBC, Canadians said they were planning to spend an average \$643 on gifts and another \$300 on decor and entertaining. Such spending can compromise household budgets, making the post-holiday hangover that much more difficult.

Holiday shoppers may want to emphasize being frugal this holiday season. Here are some strategies to follow.

- Establish a firm limit on gift amounts. The more the merrier is a popular sentiment during the holiday season, but spending more on a gift doesn't necessarily mean it will be better received. Many humorous, whimsical, practical, or even glamorous gifts can be had for \$30 or less.
- Combine financial resources. If there's a splurge in mind for a particular person on a list, find out if someone else is willing to serve as a co-gifter. For example, siblings can chip in for a gift for Mom or Dad if



they have their sights set on something expensive.

- Consider a grab bag or secret gift exchange. Families or groups of friends can opt for a grab bag this year. In such arrangements, each person brings a gift worth no more than a previously agreed on amount of money, and individuals take turns pulling gifts out of the bag. This is a great way to stay within budget and is a particularly helpful arrangement for big families.
- Shop all sales. Utilize sales to your best advantage to score deals on various items. Those who plan ahead can shop off-season to help stretch a budget over the course of the year rather than over one or two months.
- Include some homemade gifts. People with a talent for knitting or crocheting can create blankets or other gifts. Bakers can whip up tasty, edible treats. The holidays are a prime time to put your unique talents to use and turn them into beloved gifts.

The holidays certainly can be expensive, but people can rein in spending by acting frugally when gifting.

Keep safety in mind when gifting toys

Few people garner as much delight from opening holiday gifts as young children. The holiday season is a wonder to behold, culminating with brightly wrapped presents just waiting to be revealed.

For parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and friends, nothing is more memorable than watching the pure joy on a child's face when he or she opens a holiday gift. As a result, well-meaning gift-givers sometimes forget to consider safety when seeking out toys and games for kids.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission says there were more than 250,000 toy-related injuries treated in American hospital emergency departments in 2017. Most of these injuries were attributed to nonmotorized scooters, toy balls and toy vehicles. However, any toy that is not age-appropriate has the potential to cause harm. That is why the organization Prevent Blindness America, which spearheaded the campaign to make December Safe Toys and Gifts Month, advises caution when gifting youngsters.

The following are some guidelines when gifting young kids, courtesy of PBA, the CPSC and Kids Health® by Nemours.

- Always read labels to see if the toy is right for a child's age. Don't buy a toy that is too mature for a child even if you think it would be a big hit.
- Consider a gift recipient's temperament and behavior before purchasing a toy. While one child may



be mature enough to handle a toy, another of the same age may not be ready for it.

- Recognize choking hazards in toys, which may include marbles, small balls and uninflated balloons. Button batteries, which come in many electronics, can be a choking hazard and cause damage to intestines if swallowed.
- Toys with strings and straps can strangle young children and should be avoided.
- Inspect all toys for sharp edges or points. Even stuffed animals with internal wires can stab, cut or shock.
- Avoid toys that have parts that fly off, as they can injure the eyes or other parts of the body.
- Look for nontoxic labels on toys, including crayons, markers and other art supplies.
- Toys made of fabric should be labeled as flame-resistant or flame-retardant.
- Painted toys must use lead-free paint.
- Look for the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) label, which signifies that the toy has passed the group's safety inspection standards.
- Monitor toy usage during play, and frequently examine toys to see if wear and tear has made them into hazards.

The holiday season is an exciting time for children eager to play with new toys and games. Ensuring those gifts are safe can make for a healthy giving season.

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OBITUARIES

Mary J. Ryan, 96



BRIMFIELD- Mary J. Ryan, 96, passed away November 23, 2020 at her home with family by her side. She was born on January 13, 1924 in East Longmeadow to the late Joseph and Spazietta Arlotta. Mary proudly served her country as a cook in the U.S ARMY until 1945. Prior to her time in the service she worked at the Springfield Armory. She also worked at Englewood Hospital in NJ in the dietary department until her retirement. Mary moved to Brimfield,

MA in 2000 and became a parishioner of St. Christopher's Church and a member of the Brimfield Senior Center, where she loved playing bingo. She was an avid baker and enjoyed spending time in the kitchen. Mary was preceded in death by her loving husband, James Ryan in 1994, and her daughter, Patricia Alfonso in 2000. She was also predeceased by her eight siblings, Sisto, Giny, Conge, Joe, Don, Sue, Bina, and Anne. She is survived by her children; daughter, Mary Lacombe, her husband Mark, and son, Donald Ryan; grandson, Ryan Alfonso, his wife Gena, and their three children, Patrick, Nathan, and Ryan Jr.; granddaughter, Michele Lacombe, her boyfriend Joey Martin; granddaughter, Melissa Barrows, her husband Brian, and their son, Landon. She also leaves behind many nieces and nephews including Mary, Sandi, Jo, and Madeline. Funeral services are being held privately for Mary's family. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Brimfield Senior Center, P.O. Box 172, Brimfield, MA 01010. Please visit www.beersandstory.com to sign the online guest book.

THINK PINK

continued from page A1

Harrington provides our community are immense," said Elvis Dyer, Sturbridge Coffee Roasters owner.

About Sturbridge Coffee Roasters

Sturbridge Coffee Roasters is your local, fresh roasted coffee shop. The business opened in 2004 in Sturbridge, Mass., in a small space where beans were roasted and delicious coffee drinks were served

MOORE

continued from page A9

good health... we assume we'll have forever. Yet in a blink of an eye, one or all of what we have can be gone. As time passes, we learn how fragile life is. It changes our perspective and fine tunes our focus. Time and experience teach us that the possessions in life that we eagerly collect on our search for meaning, are meaningless.

Legacy.
What will we leave behind? For Arlene and me, it's great children and grandchildren with their priorities in order. Are they all there yet? Of course not. They have not lived enough life yet, but I'm confident the building blocks are there to help them.
For me, I'll leave behind my written words. Some will disappear as

to locals and tourists. We quickly discovered that our customers also wanted a place to relax with their coffee, which led to the relocation 5 miles down the road to our present location in Southbridge. In August 2014, the business was sold to the current owner and coffee lover, Elvis Dyer. In July 2015, we opened our second location in Dudley, Mass followed by a dedicated roasting facility in Southbridge in 2019. Our bean offerings continue to expand to provide opportunities for coffee lovers to experience new flavor profiles and beans from around the world.

wasted gibberish, while others may hang around as useful life lessons. I hope something I've shared will help others live an optimistic and happier life.

And this may surprise you, but I find that I am grateful for cancer. There is nothing like facing the end to sharpen your senses and realize what is important and what is not.
For me, Faith, family (and dear friends), and legacy are what's important. Anything else is a distraction.

Are your priorities in line?
What's important to you?

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

have enough to eat, warm clothes to wear, and a roof overhead. Holiday gifts for young ones might not fit into the budget, perhaps even more so this year, when many people's earnings have been impacted by the coronavirus. That is why we are proud to support the USMC reserves once again in the mission to ensure that all children, regardless of their family's situation, have gifts this Christmas and holiday season."

Elizabeth A. Herman, 94



OLATHE, KS/ HOLLAND: Elizabeth A. "Bette" (Hathaway) Herman, 94 of Olathe, Kansas, formerly of Holland, passed away on Saturday, November 21st at the Research Medical Center, Kansas City, Missouri, after a brief illness.

Her beloved husband, Richard

Herman, died in in 1995. She leaves her four children; Laura Tobin of Olathe, Kansas whom she lived with for twenty years, Richard Herman of St. John's, Florida, Katharine Woodward of Wendell and Keith Herman of Holland; as well as eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren. She was predeceased by her brother, Lawrence Hathaway, who died in 1990.

Bette was born in Middletown, Ct, the daughter of Lawrence and Eda Hathaway.

She worked for Hebert Candies in Sturbridge as a manager for thirty-five years prior to retiring in 1993. Bette enjoyed her family and friends, going to Bingo and the casinos, movies and theater, and traveling.

Funeral services and 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

ROTARY MASKS

continued from page A1

Rotary motto, "Service above Self."

The Sturbridge Police Department is also doing their part, of course, to give back to the community. They recently partnered with the organization "Cops For Kids With Cancer," working together to help families who are especially struggling this holiday season by providing much needed financial help. Please consider donating to this cause online at: <https://copsforkidswithcancer.org/>

SANTA

continued from page A3

fire truck. After nightfall, he joined the Rolling Rally organized by Denise Clemence and other volunteers of Southbridge Holiday Visions, doing one last circuit around downtown alongside Mickey and Minnie

MENTOR

continued from page A4

ship with their mentor will be the start to help establish other new relationships. If you would like more information about this program please contact

donation-sturbridge-police-2020/.

Let's help them surpass their \$2,500 goal!

With all that's transpired this year, we're reminded now more than ever that taking care of our community is truly what matters the most!

Sturbridge Rotary Club is one of 35,000 clubs worldwide providing humanitarian service as members of Rotary International. Beyond the regional and international help that we provide, we are most proud of providing support for local issues impacting the members of the Sturbridge community.

Mouse, a giant rabbit, the Lions Club lion, and several DPW, police, fire and civilian vehicles.

Although Covid nixed the traditional festivities on the Common, Santa swung by to light the town's Christmas tree and several dozen people informally gathered there for pictures and just to hang out.

Kayla directly, she can be reached at mcroy@nonotuck.com. If you would like to learn more about Autism please visit <http://www.autismspeaks.org/> or Shared Living and Adult Family Care please visit www.nonotuck.com (Nonotuck Resources Associates).

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Friday's Child



Chance and Keith
Age 11 and 12

Hi! Our names are Chance and Keith and we are ready to find our forever family!

Chance and Keith are vivacious boys of African American descent. Chance is a kind-hearted and soft-spoken child. He is described as gentle yet playful by those who know him best. Chance loves physical play such as basketball, soccer, bike riding, and swimming. He loves Pokémon and Legos, too! Chance reports that he likes school, and his favorite subject is math.

Keith is a quiet, reserved young boy who is known to be a good friend. He is very athletic and enjoys sports and participating in activities outside. He also likes to read. Keith is a great advocate for himself and for his siblings. He has great relationships with his caretakers and he is able to make friends easily.

Legally freed for adoption, Chance and Keith would like to grow up together in a permanent, loving family. The children have requested that their future family consists of a mother, father, and some pets. A family must be open to maintaining birth family contact through an Open Adoption Agreement. Both boys would benefit from continued visits with their older siblings.

Who Can Adopt?

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

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

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



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WEBSTER – 20 Kunkel Ave! **SUNNY SHORES!** First Time Offered! 8 Rooms, 4 Bedrooms, 2.5 Bath Colonial! Featuring an Appliance Eat-in Cabinet Packed Kitchen! Formal Dining Room! 1st Floor Family Room w/Hardwood Floor! 1st Floor Half Bath w/Laundry! Gleaming Hardwood Staircase to the 2nd Floor w/4 Bedrooms! Master w/ Master Bath & Walk-in Closet! Many Recent Updates including Roof, Central Air, Hot Water Heater, Dishwasher & Refrigerator! Back Deck Overlooks Large Fenced Yard! 7 Zone Irrigation System! Farmer's Porch! Shed! 2 Car Garage w/Openers! This Home has Everything You Need and Then Some! Expandable Basement! Desirable Neighborhood w/Webster Lake Beach & Boat Ramp Access Nearby! Convenient to Route 395! **\$369,900.00**

CHARLTON – 64 Bond Rd! Gorgeous 2,800' 8 Rm, 3 Bdrm, 2.5 Bath Contemporary Ranch set on a Professionally Landscaped 1.49 Acres w/Natural Stone Walls! Quality Craftsmanship Throughout! Featuring a Spacious Granite Kitchen w/Cherry Cabinets & Hrdwd Flrs! Formal Dining Rm! Spacious Frplc Family Rm w/Cathedral Ceilings, Built-in Bookcases, an Open Flr Plan for All Your Entertaining Needs! Capacious Master Bdrm Suite w/Master Bath & Huge Office! Mostly Finished Walk-out Lower Level Featuring a Large Exercise Rm, Bar Area, Plenty of Storage & 3rd Garage! Unfinished Bonus Rm Over the 2 Car Attached Garage! Private Back Yard for Entertaining w/Multi Level Decks and New Patio! Listed by Another, SOLD by C21 Lake Realty! **\$535,000.00**

WEBSTER – 9 Lake Parkway! Newly Remodeled 6 Rm Cape Conveniently Located! 3 Bdrms & 1.5 Baths! New Granite Kit w/SS Appliances, Siding, Gutters, Windows, Ext Doors, Oil Tank, 1/2 Bath, Plumbing, Electrical, Lighting! Oak Hrdwds! Recent Steam Boiler & Roof! Enclosed Porch! Deck! Garage w/ Opener! Private Back Yard! **\$279,900.00**

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

WEBSTER LAKE – 112 Gore Rd! **NORTH POND!** Sucker Brook Cove! 8 Rm, 3 Bdrm, 1.5 Bath Ranch is Ready for You! Southwestern Exposure! Gorgeous Sunsets! Unique Waterfront! An Open Floor Plan! Lake Views from Nearly All Rooms! 2x6 Construction! Energy Efficient Blinds in Every Room! 4 Oil Tanks - Fill Up Once a Year! C/Air! Gas Fireplace! Whole House Fan! Meticulously Cared For! Large workshop! 3 Car Garage! Carport! 2 Sheds w/Electric! Back Yard is Perfect for Family Gatherings! Plenty of Off Street Parking! Summer is Here! **\$539,900.00**

HOLDEN – 315 Holden St! 6 Rm Ranch! Meticulously Maintained! 2 Spacious Bdrms, Full Tiled Bath & 1 Car Garage! Move In Ready! Granite Oak Cabinet Kit w/Tiled Back Splash & JennAir Stove! Frplc Liv Rm! Fam Rm! Gleaming Hrdwds! Perfect Yard w/Major Landscaping this Year! New Roof 2019! **\$344,900.00**

SHREWSBURY – Waterfront – Flint Pond w/Direct Boating Access to Lake Quinsigamond! The Quiet of Flint, All the Action of Quinsig! Privacy Galore on Sargents Island – 4.27 Acres – 2,000' Waterfront! Beautiful Sunrises & Sunsets! Looking for a Getaway, Principal Residence or Second Home, Winters in Florida, Summers on the Island! Tons of Potential, Do a Little or Do a Lot! 4+ Rm, 1 Bdrm, 1.5 Bath "A" Frame with the Ability to Finish the Walk-out Lower Level, add a Family Rm, Bdrm, Bathrm! Nature Abounds, Visited by Deer, Fox, Eagles & More! In Time for Summer! **\$579,900.00**

GRAFTON – 168 Brigham Hill Rd! 8 Rm Garrison Colonial set on 1.3Acres! 4 Comfortable Bdrms & 2 Full Bthrms! Freshly Painted, Floors Recently Refinished! Spacious Kit w/Lunch Counter! SS Appliances w/Gas Cook-Top! Grand Dining Rm for Family Gatherings! 19x26 Living Rm w/Pellet Stove! Master Bdrm w/Dble Closets & Hot Tub! Bright & Airy Mudroom out to the 2 Car Garage! Furnace & Hot Water Tank 5 Years Young! Radon tested at 2.5! Newer Roof on Garage & Breezeway! New Well Water Tank Installed! Title V in-hand! Property Abuts Grafton Land Trust - Hiking Trails Right Out Your Back Door! Convenient to Routes 90, 9 & 20! Immediate Occupancy! **\$449,900.00**

WEBSTER LAKE – 62 Bates Point Rd! Middle Pond! Absolute Prime 51' Level Waterfront Lot w/Western Expo! Beautiful Sunsets! Fantastic Panoramic Lake Views! 11 Rms, 6 Bdrms, 4 Bathrooms, 3,269' AC'd Colonial! Custom SS Appliance Granite Kit! Formal Din Rm w/ Cherry Hrdwds! Lake Facing Liv Rm w/Cathedrals, Cherry Hrdwds! Slider to Waterfront Deck! Spacious 1st Flr Master Bdrm w/Full Bath, Cherry Hrdwds & Walk-in Closet! Frplcd Lower Level Fam Rm! 1st & 2nd Flr Laundries! 2 Car Garage! **\$949,900.00**

WEBSTER LAKE - 11 Bay View Rd! One of the Lake's Premier Properties! 9,822' of Nice! .68 Acres of Park Like Grounds! 297' Waterfront! \$4 Million Spent, Nothing Spared! 17 Rms! 5 Water View Bdrms, 5.5 Bathrms! Brazilian Cherry Hrdwd Flrs, Grand & Spiral Stairways! Elevator, Ground Flr to Master Suite! In-door Resistance Swimming Pool, Hot Tub & Bthrm w/Steam Shower off Exercise Rm! Billiard Rm! Media Rm! Center Isl Granite Kit w/Viking Gas Range, Sub-Zero Frig, Pantry & Breakfast Bar! Open Flr Plan! Din Area, Fam Rm w/Entertainment Center w/Wet Bar! Formal Din Rm, Frplc Liv Rm & Atrium! Library w/Deck! Waterfront Master Suite w/Office, Bdrm w/Triple Glass Dr to Private Deck w/Lake Views, 3 Walk-in Closets, Bathrm w/Multi-Head Shower, Whirlpool, Dble Vanity, Separate Commode/Bidet/Sink Area! 16 Z's of Updated Geothermal Heat/A/C! Recessed Lights & Fire Sprinklers Through Out! 3 Car Garage! Generator! Slate Roof! Reward Yourself! **\$2,499,900.00**

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WEBSTER - 11 PERRYVILLE ROAD
Beautiful Split entry home, situated on 1 acre, nicely landscaped lot! Vaulted ceiling! 6 rooms, 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, Fireplace! Central Air - 2 Zones! Covered deck. All town services! 2 car garage under. Shed! **\$289,900.**

DUDLEY - 22 ROBERTS ROAD
Lovely 3 bedroom Ranch! Single door 2 car garage with storage! Eat-in kitchen. Fieldstone Fireplace Living Room! 3 bedrooms, hardwood floors, Remodeled bathroom! Lower Level fieldstone walls/fireplace! In-ground pool! - 3.58 ACRES includes extra lot. **\$312,000.**

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WOODSTOCK CT - 110 JOY RD
ON DEPOSIT
Quisential Woodstock Farmhouse w/Spectacular views of Pond. Detached Studio Building! 2.5 Acres. Prof. Landscaped. 5 Bedrooms. Fireplaced Dining, library/Music room. Master Bedroom, 2 Full Baths! Renovated Kitchen. Upstairs, 4 Bedrooms w/Full Bath. **New Price \$399,900.**

WEBSTER - 21 3RD STREET UNIT: B
ON DEPOSIT
Condominium - Living leisurely! 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath (including master suite) home. Freshly painted! Recessed lighting, gas fireplace, and sliding doors, to beautiful balcony. Walkout basement! built-in outdoor grilling spot. Easy access to 1395. **\$224,900**

N. ATTLEBORO - 523 KELLY BLVD.
SORRY, SOLD!
Farmhouse style home! Sun-drenched interior! Spacious floor plan! living room, eat-in kitchen, 6 rooms total, 4 bedrooms, 2 baths! Heated by gas / hot water baseboard! Outdoor kitchen, pool! Jacuzzi tub/shower. Located just minutes from Rt 95 & 495! assisted sale **\$408,500.**

WEBSTER - 103 UPPER GORE RD
ON DEPOSIT
Estate Sale! **LOCATION, LOCATION! Scenic Upper Gore Rd! Amazing View of Beautiful Webster Lake!** Main level has 3 Bedrooms, Kitchen, Dining Rm, Common Bathrm, Master Bedroom & Master Bath - Fireplaced Living Room! Finished Lower Level, 1/2 Bath, Laundry, Large room w/Pellet Stove & Direct Garage Access! Tiered deck, w/Screened porch, leads directly to your "Salt water" In-ground Pool! **\$319,900.**

LAND WEBSTER/OXFORD/DUDLEY/DOUGLAS
Oxford - 4 Leisester St - Approx. 8.47 ACRES! River Frontage Possible to be Subdivided! **\$99,900**
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OXFORD - 4 SPICEBUSH LANE
SORRY, SOLD!
One level living with added 35 x 18 finished walk-out lower level. Cathedral ceilings, skylight dining, hard-wood flooring and central air. Stainless appliances w/large double oven. Over-sized 30 x 14 deck, quiet cul-de-sac! **New Price \$314,900.**

SOUTHBRIDGE - 14 SERVANT WAY
SORRY, SOLD!
Young ranch with heated 2 car garage, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Efficient Propane heat, central air! Open floor plan! gas fireplace! Master Suite w/bathroom, Master California Closet! assisted sale **\$279,900.**

OXFORD - 115 CHARLTON ROAD
SORRY, SOLD!
Beautiful home set back off road providing privacy and oversized yard. Kitchen w/granite counters & abundance of cabinets. Cathedral ceilings kitchen, dining and living room. Open floor plan! large deck with large backyard through sliders in dining room. Hardwood floors! Tile baths. Master bedroom/master bath! Finished walkout lower level w/bar! 2 car garage. Extras above ground pool! **\$369,900.**

WEBSTER - 20 KINGSBURY
SORRY, SOLD!
NEW TO THE MARKET! Custom Sprawling Split 2800+ SF! Central Air! Kitchen, Dining Room, Cathedral Ceiling Living Room, 3 Bedrooms! Granite Counters & New Flooring! New Boiler - Hot Water Tank - Oil Tank! FULL finished Lower Level w/ Full Bath & Laundry! THERE'S MORE! 2 Car Garage, renovated to include Hydro Heat, AC & 1/2 Bath! Great for Fitness Studio, Game Room or Home School! Over 1.4 Acres! **\$360,000.**

WEBSTER - 52 CUDWORTH ROAD
SORRY, SOLD!
1.99 ACRE INDUSTRIAL ZONED LOT! GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE & WORK FROM HOME! Amazing 1790 Antique Colonial! Undergone major updates & renovations, maintaining Antique Charm! Great Room graced by an Open Hearth Stone Fireplace! Soaring Cathedral Ceilings! **\$499,900.**

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

Webster Lake - 100 Lakeside Ave
SORRY, SOLD!
WEBSTER LAKE! PANORAMIC VIEWS! BEAUTIFUL SUNSETS! Extraordinary Waterfront Contemporary! Architect designed with Lake Living in mind, Custom Built with Attention to High Quality & Detail. Outstanding open concept, water view from almost every room. Nicely enhanced on a .25 acre level peninsula, 180'+/- prime lake frontage! Enlivened by a all natural shoreline! All you need to live is located on the 1st floor. Grand 2 story foyer, cozy fireplaced living room, gourmet kitchen, lake facing dining , formal dining room, media room & spacious 1st floor guest BR Suite w/ private bath. Incredible 2nd floor fireplaced lake-facing corner master suite w/luxurious private bath, 3 more 2nd floor BRs & full bath! Something Special! Remember, Timing Is Everything! **\$1,075,000.**

Lake Shirley - 647 Reservoir Rd
SORRY, SOLD!
Lakefront! Lake Shirley! Modern Flare on a Lakefront Colonial! 1st level Formal large entry foyer, living room, gas fireplace, chef kitchen, Impala black granite, center island, 3 season porch, overlooking the lake. 1st FL bedroom suite w/ shower and jacuzzi tub. 2nd floor Master Suite! Lower level Summer kitchen, full bath, game room. Crown moulding & hardwood floors throughout, wired sound system, radiant floors. oversize 2 car garage. Additional Guest House! assisted sale **\$1,040,000.**



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AUBURN			
	October 2019	October 2020	Trend
Median Price	\$283,750	\$349,000	▲
Market Volume	\$7,804,001	\$6,977,000	▼
# of Homes Sold	26	20	▼
Avg Days on Market	33	14	▼
OXFORD			
Median Price	\$286,700	\$322,000	▲
Market Volume	\$4,351,152	\$4,303,820	▼
# of Homes Sold	16	13	▼
Avg Days on Market	41	20	▼

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Shopping Word Find

Find the hidden words in the puzzle.

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HOLIDAY	RETURN	TOYS
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M Z H T E H A R E R K A		
Q I O W L U E V T U Q D		
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R Y I A H O L I D A Y V		
E N O B I T L Q L L Y E		
G T A T D L Z C J I B Z		
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THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- **1783:** U.S. GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON BIDS FAREWELL TO HIS OFFICERS AT FRAUNCES TAVERN IN NEW YORK CITY.
- **1881:** THE FIRST EDITION OF THE LOS ANGELES TIMES IS PUBLISHED.
- **1954:** THE FIRST BURGER KING IS OPENED IN MIAMI, FLORIDA.



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ANSWER: CHRISTMAS GIFTS

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Empowering Women in Business Conference celebrates 10 years

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – Nichols College will continue a yearly tradition honoring a decade of empowering women despite the limits imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Dudley-based college announced in a press release that the school will host its 10th annual Empowering Women in Business (EWIB) Conference which was postponed from its original April date and will instead take place on Dec. 10. Each year, the conference helps give a voice and inspiration to female entrepreneurs, business owners, executives, and students providing resources and activities to empower them to succeed. The conference includes keynote speakers each year comprised of women who have found success in a variety of business backgrounds.

The conference will be virtual for 2020, and will include the originally planned keynote speaker Valerie Weisler, the founding CEO of the Validation Project, a global youth empowerment organization that works with over 6,000 teenagers in 105 countries to turn passion into positive action through mentoring and social justice assignments. Her



Courtesy Photo

Valerie Weisler, the founding CEO of the Validation Project, will serve as the keynote speaker in the 10th annual Empowering Women in Business Conference which will be held virtually on Dec. 10.

self-designed kindness curriculum is taught in nearly 1,000 schools. Across the world.

“Valerie has channeled her experience of being bullied into an international organization that helps thousands turn their struggles into their superpowers,” said Rachel Ferreira, director of the Institute for Women’s Leadership which was established by Nichols College President Susan West Engelkemeyer in 2013. “What she has accomplished is beyond impressive, and her message will be a source of inspiration for this year’s EWIB participants.”

The 2020 Empowering Women in Business Conference will take place over Zoom from 12:30 until 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 10. Participants much register for the event at the cost of \$20 per person, \$10 for Nichols faculty, staff and alumni, or \$5 for Nichols students. Those interested in attending the virtual conference can visit www.empowering-women.biz/.

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“I am Definitely glad to be a part of the team as well. I feel like I’m home and everyone has been wonderful.” — Nicole V. (LPN)

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