

# STURBRIDGE VILLAGER

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Friday, May 13, 2022

## Newcomers claim victory in School Committee race

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — While

the Charlton annual town election on May 7 wasn't the most eventful vote in the town's

history, it did result in a pair of newcomers taking seats on the Dudley-Charlton Regional School

Committee, the only contested battles on the entire ballot. Following a rough year

for the School Committee in 2021 where a series of hot button issues ranging from Critical Race Theory to masking and other COVID mandates put sitting members at odds with some members of the public, voters decided it was time for a change as they elected two new members to the School Committee ousting incumbent Kenneth Laferriere while Jordan Evans did not run for re-election. The race saw two separate seats available, one for three years and one for a single year, with two candidates for each race making it the most contested election for the School Committee in over half a decade. The three-year seat went to Kelly Szela, who defeated Laferriere in a 623 to 464 decision. Jamie Ann Dell'Ovo earned Evans' one-year seat over fellow newcomer James Rouleau Knee in a 602 to 408 result. Outside of the School Committee, the rest of the ballot was cut-and-dry. All remaining candidates essentially earned their seats by default with no on-ballot com-

petition or clear write-in options challenging their efforts. William "Bill" Borowski will remain on the Board of Selectmen for another term. Nancy Landry returns as Assessor with write-in candidate Leah Morin elected to fill an assessor vacancy after no candidate was placed on the ballot. Kristen Russell-May returned to the Cemetery Commission while David J. Cantwell remains on the Water & Sewer Commission. Jeanmarie Garmone-Vincent and Kevin Morin return to the Planning Board and Recreation Commission respectively and Jonathan Sanborn remains on the Board of Health. Bradford Charles Howard was elected a constable, a position also previously held by Jordan Evans. Katherine Kaczynski, Cheryl Meskus, and Sherri Westbury round out the elected candidates as Library Trustees. Overall 1,095 of the 10,164 (or roughly 10.77 percent) of registered voters in Charlton cast their ballots throughout the day.



Jamie Ann Dell'Ovo



Kelly Szela

## Golas gets high scores in annual review

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — Charlton's Town Administrator, Andrew Golas, received high marks during his annual review by the Board of Selectmen in April. The town's highest elected board presented their grades for Golas on April 26 where the Town Administrator received no lower than a three in any category based on a five-point scale. The grades rated Golas on board relations, personnel, financial management, community relations, general management, interdepartmental relations, and his ability to meet the goals and objectives set before him by the selectmen. Only four selectmen revealed their grades, as Selectwoman Barbara Zurawski was absent.

Turn To **GOLAS** page **A10**

## Rotary Club of Sturbridge to celebrate 50-year anniversary

STURBRIDGE — The Rotary Club of Sturbridge is planning a celebration of the 50th anniversary of its founding on Wednesday, June 29 at The Publick House Historic Inn.

According to Rotary President Klaus Hachfeld, the event will start with a cocktail hour at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner and dessert in Paige Hall. In addition to current Rotarians, a number of local and regional special guests are expected to attend. Tickets are \$75 per person and will be available on the Rotary

Web site at [sturbridgerotary.com](http://sturbridgerotary.com) through June 16 for anyone from the community who wishes to join the festivities.

The Rotary Club is currently soliciting full-page, half-page, and quarter-page ads for the 50th Anniversary program booklet. If you are interested in placing a personal or business ad or congratulatory message in the booklet, please send an email to [sturbridgerotary50@gmail.com](mailto:sturbridgerotary50@gmail.com) with your contact information and a Rotarian will be in touch to provide addi-

tional information and collect your ad. If you do not have a camera-ready ad, the Club's graphic designer will create one for you free of charge.

The Rotary Club of Sturbridge is one of 50 clubs in Rotary District 7910, covering east-central Massachusetts, USA. The Club meets for dinner on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Publick House Historic Inn, located on Route 131 at the Sturbridge Common.

The objective of Rotary is service – in the com-

munity, in the workplace, and throughout the world. Rotarians develop community service projects that address today's most critical issues, defined by its Seven Areas of Focus: Disease Prevention & Treatment, Water, Sanitation & Hygiene, Peace & Conflict Prevention, Basic Education & Literacy, Maternal & Child Health, Growing Local Economies and Support for the Environment. The Rotary motto is "Service Above Self."

## Teddy G's Pub & Grille announces Team Hoyt New England benefit

STURBRIDGE — Teddy G's Pub & Grille has announced it will be holding a day-long promotion on June 2 to benefit Team Hoyt New England, the non-profit organization inspired by the 40-year running career of local father/son duo Dick and Rick Hoyt and the younger Hoyt's continuing involvement as an athlete rider. "Before he died last year at the age of 80, Dick Hoyt was one of our most loyal patrons," recalls local restaurateur, Ted Gidopoulos. "With his weekly visits, Dick was a familiar face around Teddy G's. We wanted to do something to honor his memory and promoting his legacy just feels like the right thing to do." Teddy G's will be donating 20 percent of the proceeds from all meals sold on June 2 (minus tax, tip, and alcoholic beverages) to Team Hoyt New England, whose mission is to raise awareness of inclusion, educate, inspire,

and enrich the lives of individuals, families and communities by pairing athletes of differing abilities in endurance events to promote the Team Hoyt motto, "Yes, You Can!" "We'll also be having gift basket raffles, and door prizes," adds Jenna Gidopoulos. "Team Hoyt New England branded items will be available for purchase, and representatives from the organization will be on hand to answer questions about their efforts to help those who are physically challenged in becoming actively engaged in the running community." For more information about participating in Team Hoyt New England Day at Teddy G's on June 2, please call (508) 347-1900 or (508) 347-9300 or visit their Facebook page at [facebook.com/TeddyGsPub](https://www.facebook.com/TeddyGsPub). For more information about Team Hoyt New England, visit their Web site at [team-hoyt-newengland.com](http://team-hoyt-newengland.com).



Courtesy

Team Hoyt New England's mission is to raise awareness of inclusion, educate, inspire and enrich the lives of individuals, families, and communities by pairing athletes of differing abilities in endurance events to promote the Team Hoyt motto, "Yes, You Can!"



**ABC's OF SPRING 2022** Support these local businesses!

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See how our mechanics can help your vehicle!




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# Masons host recognition night for veterans and first responders



Brethren's most in uniform holding the Military branch of service flags and First Responder flags.

SOUTHBRIDGE — On Monday night, May 2, family and friends gathered at Quinebaug Masonic Lodge in Southbridge to honor their veterans and first responders. The lodge was packed with Brethren in all kinds of past and present uniforms to represent their service. There were individuals from the Army, Marines, Navy, Airforce, National Guard, along with Firefighters, Paramedics, Emergency Response personnel, and State Police. Wow what a site to see all these brethren showing their pride in some type of uniform or article of clothing to represent their service. The best part of the evening was watching the Color Guards march into

the room to a standing ovation holding the flag of their branch of service. What was impressive was Navy Master Chief Brother Larry Olsen from Joel H. Prouty Lodge of Auburn in his Class A uniform displaying numerous medals and hash markings on his sleeve to signifying his years of service. Master Chief bro. Olsen was at attention, and he gave me goose bumps when he blew his naval Boatswain pipe call, to get the attention of the audience. He recited a touching poem in tribute of our veterans and first responders. For those of you who do not know what a Boatswain Pipe call is, the navy uses this long whistle type object to get the attention of the

sailors to pass commands to the crew on a ship when voices could not be heard due to the sounds of the sea. Other branches of the service use a bugle. Also, Wor. Larry Burbridge, is a Vietnam Veteran and a past master of Quinebaug Lodge. He received a Letter of Commendation from our 24th District Deputy Grand Master (DDGM) RW. Anselme Maxime for serving a second term as Master of Quinebaug Lodge. The members of Quinebaug Lodge hope to continue this tradition for many years to come. If you would like more information about Freemasonry, go to [www.massfreemasonry.org](http://www.massfreemasonry.org) and find a lodge nearest you.



Left to right: DDGM RW. Anselme Maxime presented a Letter of Commendation to Wor. Larry Burbridge for serving a 2nd term as Master of Quinebaug Lodge and is also a Vietnam veteran.



Left to right: Brother Firefighters in their Class A uniforms are Bro. Bob Perrin. Wor. Bill Belanger, Bro. Bill Anderson, and Bro. Gordon Holstrom.

## Get your 2022 vessel safety check

REGION — The United States Coast Guard urges area residents to obtain boat safety checks for the 2022 season at one of the following locations: Memorial Beach Boat Ramp, Saturday, June 11, Nipmuc Cove, Webster Lake; and Wallum Lake Boat Ramp, Saturday, June 18, Douglas State Forest. Bring any type of watercraft from kayaks, canoes, PWCs, sailboats, cabin cruisers, to ski & pontoon boats for a stem to stern check of equipment for compliance to federal and state safety regulations. Vessels can be inspected on a trailer as well as afloat. Trailered vessels, not having Webster access sticker and not launching, can be examined at the entrance gate to

Memorial Ramp. Personal Watercraft, not allowed to launch at the Wallum Lake Ramp on weekends, can also be examined at the gate. Both locations can accommodate boats arriving by water. The stations will be active from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at both these locations. Vessel Examiners are qualified and experienced to answer any boating related questions or concerns along with being trained to spot any potential problems. They will award your vessel with a 2022 VSC decal if it meets Auxiliary standards on items such as: registration & hull numbering, life jackets, fire extinguishers, expiration dates on flares (if required), working navigation lights, overall vessel condition,

etc. A VSC is conducted only with your consent; no reports are filed with any law enforcement agency. There are no citations, legal obligations, or penalties on violations or potential problems found. A VSC decal might result in a boat insurance discount and will indicate to law enforcement on the water that your vessel complies with safety regulations. The Examiner will give the vessel owner options and information on correcting any issues. Often a quick trip to the nearest boating supply vendor is all that is necessary to obtain missing safety items and easily pass a re-inspection, sometimes on the same day. Coast Guard Auxiliary Vessel

Examiners will be around the local lakes at various, un-scheduled times during the boating season; they are few in number and not readily available inland. Can't make it to the station... schedule a VSC online at the link below. Best to take advantage of this scheduled opportunity and start your boating season with a visit to our station and a free 2022 VSC Decal on your craft. <http://www.vesselsafetycheck.org/> CGAux1002@aol.com

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Looking for General Maintenance Laborer

Some experience necessary. Pay will be based on experience. Work will include apartment repairs, painting, carpentry, fence work, farm work, and general labor. 4-5 day work week.

Call 508-450-8926

## Lakeside kids' event planned at Memorial Beach

WEBSTER — The United States Coast Guard will take part in a lakeside event for kids at Memorial Beach on Webster Lake Thursday, June 9 from 4 – 7 p.m. Sponsored by Lakeview Marine, this event has been planned to introduce the kids of our community to the fun that can be had on and around the water! Learn the many ways to enjoy our beautiful lakes - sign up for swim lessons, try out a kayak, learn fishing casting techniques, "Touch a Boat" get up close to recreational & public safety boats from the police and fire departments. The Coast Guard Auxiliary Tri-State Flotilla will have a boating safety tent with information, handouts, and CG coloring books for kids. VSC examiners will also be available there for boat owners wanting a 2022 decal. The posted activities are subject to change based on weather conditions and vendor availability.

FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION  
CALL 508-764-4325

Town of Sturbridge — Seasonal Lifeguard



The Town of Sturbridge is currently seeking applicants for the position of Seasonal Life Guard. Applicants must be certified in Lifeguarding/CPR/AED and First Aid by the American Red Cross. Position runs from June 27 to August 19, 2022. Starting rate of pay is \$16.00 per hour. Sturbridge is a Drug-Free workplace and EOE. Applications can be downloaded at [www.sturbridge.gov](http://www.sturbridge.gov). Please submit applications to Sturbridge Recreation Department 301 Main St, Sturbridge, MA 01566 or email to [recreation@sturbridge.gov](mailto:recreation@sturbridge.gov)

Applications accepted until filled however priority consideration will be given to applicants applying by noon on May 13th, 2022.

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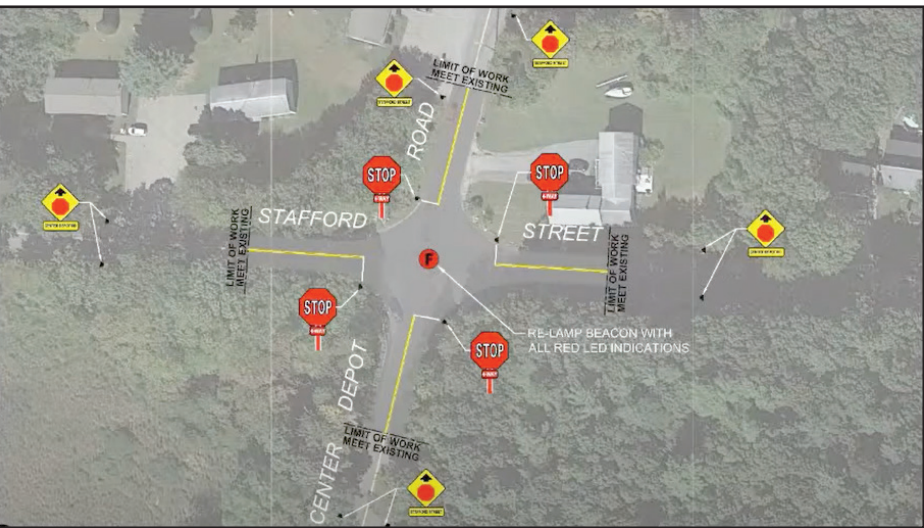
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# Charlton officials prioritizing Stafford Street safety improvements



One of several solutions presented to selectmen for the Center Road and Stafford Street intersection. Another option was to create a roundabout.

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — A study of the Stafford Street Corridor in Charlton has put the town one step closer to addressing safety concerns at several specific intersections pinpointed as areas of concern.

The Board of Selectmen hosted a presentation by Jeffrey Dirk of Vanasse & Associates on April 26, where he reviewed the findings of a multi-year study assessing traffic, vehicle travel speeds, roadway geometry, crash data, and other variables to determine possible safety improvements that could be implemented along that stretch of road. The study examined the causes and frequency of crashes along the corri-

dor while assessing possible short- and long-term improvements that could mitigate further incidents.

“We did collect traffic volumes, pedestrian and bicycle information in the area. We are obviously still having the effects of COVID to everything that’s been presented. Our study has been adjusted with historic traffic counts and everything to try and replicate conditions to the point where, had COVID not happened, here’s what things might look at in the area,” Dirk said of the study.

Specific focus was put on the intersections where Stafford Street meets Brookfield Road and Center Depot Road respectively with the Center Depot Road intersection receiving significant-

ly more attention, but both having high rates of incidents necessitating safety improvements.

“The two intersections at Brookfield Road and Center Depot Road are very high crash locations,” Dirk said. “They both have about 50 crashes over a five-year period, or ten crashes per year, and the crash rates are well in excess of what the Massachusetts Department of Transportation expects for typical crashes at an unsignalized intersection in the Charlton area.”

Dirk provided concept plans for both intersections that included signage, line-of-sight improvements, reconfiguration ideas and other general improvements to help make the intersections safer. Two options provided for the Center Road intersection specifically included an all-stop format and a roundabout. After the presentation, Selectman David Singer called these projects long overdue.

“A lot of time has been lost. [The report] confirms the steps that should be taken. My request would be to have Town Administrator Andrew Golas contact the Highway Superintendent and come back to us with a plan of how we can begin to address the first phase of the enhanced signage, enhanced markings, and sight lines. Take these steps and if that doesn’t alleviate the problem then we can go to further steps, but we’ve got to take these steps,” said Singer.

Selectmen concluded the discussion voting to instruct the Town Administrator to work with the Department of Public Works to install new stop signs and increase visibility lines at the Center Depot Road inter-

section and make necessary immediate improvements to the Brookfield Road intersection. They also instructed that the Town Administrator work with Jefferey Dirk to examine a previous study by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and determine whether an updated study would need to take place.

## VILLAGER ALMANAC

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

### CHURCH LISTINGS

- **Charlton Federated Church**, 64 Main St., 248-5550, Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. [www.fedchurchcharlton.org](http://www.fedchurchcharlton.org)
- **Charlton Baptist Church**, 50 Hammond Hill Road, 248-4488, [www.charltonbaptist.org](http://www.charltonbaptist.org), Sunday worship 10 a.m.
- **Charlton City United Methodist**, 74 Stafford St. 248-7379, web site: [CharltonCityUMC.org](http://CharltonCityUMC.org) Sunday worship and Children’s church 10am
- **St. Joseph’s Church**, 10 H. Putnam Ext, 248-7862, [www.stjosephscharlton.com](http://www.stjosephscharlton.com), Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 p.m., Sunday Mass 8 a.m., Sunday Family Mass 10 a.m., Sunday LifeTEEN Mass 5 p.m., Weekday Mass Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30 a.m.
- **Hope Christian Fellowship**, 6 Haggerty Road, 248-5144
- **Assemblies of God Southern New England District Headquarters**, Route 20, 248-3771, [snedag.org](http://snedag.org), Office hours Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- **Living Word Church of Charlton**, 10 Main Street - Grange building 1st Floor, Charlton, MA 01507, Pastor Craig Bellisario, (508) 233-8349 Sunday Service 10:00am. [www.livingwordhcharlton.com](http://www.livingwordhcharlton.com) [info@livingwordcharlton.com](mailto:info@livingwordcharlton.com)
- **New Life Fellowship A/G, SNED Chapel**, 307 Sturbridge Road, Rt. 20, Charlton, MA, Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
- **Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale** - 8 Maple St. Sturbridge, 774-304-1021 [www.sturfed.org](http://www.sturfed.org) Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

### REAL ESTATE

## BRIMFIELD

\$473,300, 61 Apple Rd, K& M Inc, to Ryan, Timothy M, and Ryan, Christine D.

## CHARLTON

\$380,000, 187 Freeman Rd, Earl, Kara E, and Kneeland, Kara, to Reynolds, Benjamin P, and Aaronson, Rachel E. \$360,000, 42-B Ramshorn Rd, S Middlesex Non-Profit, to Ramshorn Homes LLC.

## HOLLAND

\$290,000, 58 N Wales Rd, Gillis, Paul M, to Smith, Susan.

## STURBRIDGE

\$440,000, 17 Stoneybrook Dr, Webb, Roy, and Webb, Johanna H, to Chartier, Nathanael, and Chartier, Adrienne. \$295,000, 134 Podunk Rd, Kiura, Susan, to Idoko-Chavannes, Ene, and Chavannes, Georges-Ronald. \$250,000, 126 Lake Rd, Ciosek, Edward, and Ciosek, Marie, to Dubin, Nanette, and Masuck, Tony.

# Shepherd Hill Drama Club presents “Choose Your Own Shakespeare”

DUDLEY — The Shepherd Hill Regional High School Drama Club will be presenting “Choose Your Own Shakespeare” on Friday, May 13 and Saturday, April 14 at 7 p.m. in the school’s Connie Vanco Galli Auditorium. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students and senior citizens. Children five and under get in for free. Tickets may be purchased in advance at <https://our.show/cyos> or at the door.

“Choose Your Own Shakespeare” is a play that combines a choose-your-own-adventure format, in which the audience gets to choose how the story progresses, with Shakespearean characters that we all know and love from “Macbeth,” “Romeo and Juliet,” and “Hamlet.” The play follows the main character, Holly, as she ventures through “Shakespeare Land,” trying to find her way, and figure out why everyone talks so weirdly and has such complex drama in their life.

The SHRHS Drama Club is well known in the community for their past performances of “Alice: Wonderland and Glass,” “The Westing Game,” and our night of one-acts featuring “A Mad Breakfast” and “The Real Inspector Hound.” Ashley Harvey (Class of ‘22) is very excited to be putting on her first full-length play. She has written two other plays before, one of them being “The Ultimate Betrayal,” which was part of “The Show Must Go On... Over Zoom!” a collection of three student-written short plays performed in the spring of 2021. Harvey co-directs alongside Performing Arts Director Kristin Griffiths and Assistant Director James Foley. For more information, please contact Kristin Griffiths via email at [kgriffiths@dcrsd.org](mailto:kgriffiths@dcrsd.org).

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**CLUES ACROSS**

- Amounts of time
- A ship's place at a wharf
- Point a finger at
- Large, burrowing rodent
- Raises the stakes
- Measure of illumination
- Cast out
- One who is staid
- A word used for emphasis
- Military missions
- Wet with rain
- Selling at specially reduced prices
- Word element meaning ear
- \_\_\_ student,
- Blood relation
- Make into leather
- One billionth of a second (abbr.)
- Containing salt
- A seat
- A type of fine pottery
- You're caught red-\_\_\_!
- "Heat" director Michael
- Expression of creative skill
- Title of respect
- Crony
- Payroll experts
- Actress Remini
- Famed consumer advocate
- Indigenous Thai person
- Fitzgerald and Baker are two
- Cooking tool
- Decorate a cake with frosting
- The seventh note of a major scale
- Transfer from private to state ownership
- A set of five
- Removes
- Foolish persons
- Lower parts of a wall

**CLUES DOWN**

- Old EU money
- Some put it on steak
- Sign language
- Sowed on the ground
- Tags
- Everyone has one
- Arguments
- N. African capital
- Midgame (abbr.)
- Change as needed
- Functioning as a consonant
- An island in the north Atlantic
- Carpenter's tool
- Small football player
- Ghosts say it
- Explain through logic
- Having ten
- Criticize
- Arms of the sea
- Belonging to a bottom layer
- \_\_\_ Caesar, comedian
- Licensed health care pro (abbr.)
- Swiss cottage
- Cleft lip
- Loud, unpleasant noise
- Disfigure
- Kayakers traverse them
- Authored
- Small freshwater fishes
- Macabre poet
- Carthaginian statesman
- Principle underlying the universe
- Common Japanese surname
- The bill in a restaurant
- Small constellation
- Chap
- Equal
- One quintillion bytes (abbr.)

**PUZZLE SOLUTION**

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	A	C	C	U	S	E		A	G	O	U	T
	D	O	U	B	L	E	S	D	O	W	N	C
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# Cornerstone Bank pledges \$34,500 for sponsorship of Worcester State University’s Bridge to Excellence: Summer STEM Retention Program

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with 12 locations throughout Central Massachusetts, is proud to announce its renewed sponsorship of the Worcester State University Bridge to Excellence: Summer STEM Retention Program. The bank is providing \$11,500 per year over the next three years for a total of \$34,500 by 2024 to help the program’s incoming science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) majors. The goals of the program are to strengthen the school’s retention in these important fields and help more students complete their degree. This is the second three-year sponsorship pledge Cornerstone Bank has made in support of this program.

“We had the opportunity back in 2018 to sponsor the pilot program, which was a great success,” said Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman. “We are happy to extend our commitment to give students some much-needed support toward obtaining their degrees in vital STEM fields. The transition to the first year of college is a big one, and the extra support students receive through this program helps ensure they can be successful.”

The Summer STEM Retention Program is composed of three main elements. The first allows students to take their first-year seminar course over the summer to lighten their first fall semester course load. Second, students are offered extra support with their math courses through exclusive tutoring services. And third, students participate in a service project to give back to the community that supports them while gaining valuable skills and experience.

“During our initial sponsorship, our contribution helped Worcester State support 60 students,” continued Tallman. “We are excited to see this program grow, helping more students pursue their passions in fields that are increasingly in demand.”

About Cornerstone Bank  
Cornerstone Bank was formed in 2017, born of a long history of supporting the community, and providing a strong foundation to help people and businesses thrive. Serving Worcester County, Massachusetts, Cornerstone Bank’s local presence and community-based banking model enables a unique ability to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone provides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations with branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts. Cornerstone works to connect customers with opportunities, through a broad range of deposit and loan products, and services. Built on Trust is not just a tagline, but also one of our guiding corporate values. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone stands on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. To learn about Cornerstone Bank’s personal and business banking offerings, please visit [cornerstonebank.com](http://cornerstonebank.com) or call 800-939-9103.

# Sturbridge residents lace up their sneakers for Walk Challenge 2022

STURBRIDGE — Sturbridge and other area residents demonstrated they were ready to “lace up their sneakers” and participate in the Council on Aging’s Walk Massachusetts Challenge 2022 at the kickoff event last Wednesday.

The kickoff was originally scheduled to take place on the Town Common but had to move indoors to the Senior Center because of the threat of rain.

The Center was busy all afternoon with people signing up or calling in to let the council know they were registering online.

The actual Walk officially started on Sunday, May 1 and will run through Oct. 31.

Rebecca Mimeault, vice chair, said the Council did not yet have an exact count of signups because of the ongoing online registrations. She also said it is not too late to sign up online at [www.walkmachallenge.com](http://www.walkmachallenge.com).

Originally designed by the Massachusetts Councils on Aging (MCOA) as a program for adults aged 60 and above, Walk Massachusetts is now an intergenerational initiative for anyone aged 5 and over. Walkers under the age of 60 are encouraged to sponsor an older adult (such as a parent, grandparent, friend or teacher) to walk with or for. The walk is an opportunity for all family members to take part.

“This is a great example of the young and young-at-heart working together towards the same goal,” said Leslie Wong, Director of the Sturbridge Council on Aging and Senior Center.

While there is no cost to participate in the walk, participants who complete their challenges will become eligible to win cash prizes for themselves, as well as for the Council on Aging, which would use any award towards their fitness programming. Walkers select the time and place for their walks.

Participants can select from four different challenges based on distance or frequency. The challenges range from walking at least 30 minutes for 88 days in the 1788 Challenge (celebrating the year Massachusetts became a state) to walking, jogging or running 351 miles (about 2 miles a day) in the Commonwealth Challenge, which is based on the number of cities and towns in the state.

For more information, call the Senior Center at 508-347-7575



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TCA STUDENTS PERFORM “ALICE @ WONDERLAND”

On May 5, students at Trinity Catholic Academy put on an amazing production of the musical “Alice @ Wonderland!” This was their first musical in four years, and it was worth the wait - the students did an amazing job acting, singing, and dancing their hearts out! A special thanks to all who went down the rabbit hole with the students - Mrs. Greffin, Mr. Pariseau - Director, Ms. Casey, Mrs. Nagelshmidt, Mr. & Mrs. Paradis, Mrs. Smaltz, Mrs. Postale, Mr. Rich, and all the families that supported the production through concessions and came out to show their support! An entertaining evening was had by all. Trinity Catholic Academy is a Pre-K to Grade 8 STREAM school, that promotes academic excellence, the arts, and athletics with respect, compassion, and service, among our diverse family, inspired by the wonder, beauty, and complexity of the Holy Trinity.

Old Sturbridge Academy students gain national recognition for collaborative book project

STURBRIDGE — Old Sturbridge Academy Charter Public School (OSACPS) students participate in an event each year called Better World Day – a national event showcasing student learning that contributes to a better world. The day, celebrated on May 6 this year, is an annual hallmark of the EL Education Partnership the school participates in. This year, OSACPS students will be recognized nationally with the kickoff of their collaboratively authored book project entitled “Lifting Every Voice.”

“Lifting Every Voice” is an original work focused on telling the stories of civil rights leaders, citizens, events, buildings, and objects from the 19th century, specifically those stories that have been pushed to the margins. The project will comprise authentic student research using primary resources available in the Old Sturbridge Village (OSV) research library and collections, along with interviews with experts about the stories of underrepresented voices. Later this year, the students will present the final publication at the EL Education National Conference held in December.

EL Education is a national nonprofit that offers curriculums, resources, and achievement goals for public schools and districts. The organization is guided by a vision of education equity and student potential. Their annual event, Better World Day, focuses on student achievement through presenting learning projects and engaging in acts of service that demonstrate the power of experience-based learning.

To learn more about Old Sturbridge Village Academy, visit: <https://www.osacps.org/>. To learn more about EL Education and Better World Day, visit: <https://eleducation.org/news-and-events/better-world-day>.

school community, helping all students to become reflective inquirers, articulate communicators, critical thinkers, and skilled problem solvers. Old Sturbridge Academy Charter Public School, an EL Education school working in partnership with Old Sturbridge Village, fosters a learning environment that represents all aspects of the diversity spectrum. The school is distinguished by four key elements of EL Education: a commitment to community, a commitment to high-quality work, a commitment to real world applications and a commitment to imagination, exploration and immersion. Learn more at: <https://www.osacps.org/>.

About Old Sturbridge Village

Old Sturbridge Village, first opened to the public in 1946, is one of the country’s oldest and largest living history museums, celebrating life in early New England from 1790-1840. It is the largest living history museum in the Northeast, celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2021. Each year, more than 250,000 visitors interact with costumed historians, experience up-close demonstrations of early American trades, and meet heritage breed farm animals. Situated on 200 scenic acres, the Village is a collection of more than 40 historic buildings - including homes, meetinghouses, trade shops, working farms, restaurants, shops and three water-powered mills.

Located just off the Massachusetts Turnpike and Routes I-84 and 20 in Sturbridge, Mass., Old Sturbridge Village is open year-round, but days and hours vary seasonally. Daily admission is: \$28 for adults, \$26 for seniors, \$14 for College Students, \$14 for children ages four to 17, with children 3 and under admitted free. Admission includes free parking. Village Members and Season Pass holders receive free standard daytime admission. For details, visit <https://www.osv.org/plan-your-visit/>.

About Old Sturbridge Academy

Old Sturbridge Academy Charter Public School provides k-8 students with rigorous, real world learning experiences in a supportive and nurturing

Old Sturbridge Village is also the managing partner of Coggeshall Farm Museum in Bristol, R.I. Members at OSV receive reciprocal membership at Coggeshall Farm Museum.

Friday’s Child



Kealan - 05/08 Age 8

Hi! My name is Kealan and I like bubbles!

Kealan is a curious boy of Caucasian descent who loves to babble and smile when he is happy. Kealan also loves music and lights up when he hears his favorite songs!

Kealan is on the Autism spectrum and is currently in preschool. Kealan can say a few words, but mainly uses noises and movement to make his needs known. Kealan has a g-tube for feeding and has made tremendous progress with gaining weight. Having decreased vision cases Kealan to only see about 3-4 feet away without his glasses.

Legally freed for adoption, Kealan’s social worker is looking to place him with a family that is able to meet his

needs and help him thrive. A family would need to be able to keep up with Kealan’s many medical and developmental appointments and help advocate for him in school.

<https://www.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/chil>

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The process to adopt a child from foster care includes training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you. These steps will help match you with a child or sibling group that your family will fit well with.

To learn more about adoption from foster care, call the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) at (617) 964-6273 or visit [www.mareinc.org](http://www.mareinc.org). Start the process today and give a waiting child a permanent place to call home.

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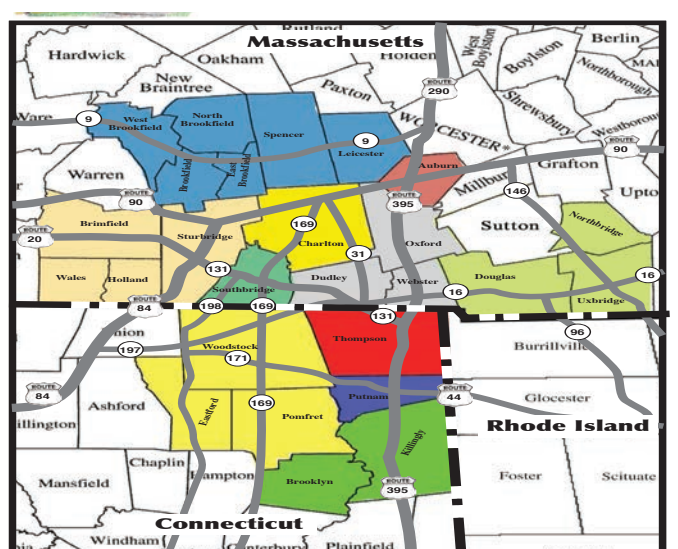
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# Spring cleaning can improve your health

It's been a week mixed with sunshine and rain, which means that spending time inside organizing and cleaning (along with watching the Red Sox) has been top on our list. Spring cleaning, a chore that happens every year feels great when complete. Why is it that something so tedious and boring could be so good for us?

Did you know that cleaning actually supports your immune system? Cleaning is of huge benefit, especially to those with allergies. Getting rid of dust, pet dander, mildew and mold can trigger the immune system causing unnecessary illness. Those with cluttered homes tend to suffer the worst. To avoid indoor allergies, vacuum regularly, this to include your furniture.

Cleaning reduces stress. While cleaning, your brain is able to relax. This mindless activity can give you a chance to de-stress. Experts say that cleaning for as little as twenty minutes can reduce anxiety by up to 20 percent. It's a win/win. Sure, it's no day at the spa, but constructive relaxation is always good. Using products with scents said to induce relaxation such as lavender is also an expert tip.

Heart health can be improved by cleaning by way of exercise. Just a half an hour of vacuuming can burn up to 100 calories. It's a known fact that people who like to keep their homes clean tend to take more interest in their overall health and well being.

A tidy bedroom is said to help you sleep better. Individuals who make their beds are roughly 20 percent more likely to get a more restful night sleep. Seventy-five percent of people polled sleep better on clean sheets, in a room with less clutter.

When you are in a tidy area, your production increases. Less clutter, means less distraction which is said to clear up mental space. A study from 2011, from the Journal of Neuroscience, used MRI's to track the brain's response to cleanliness. More clutter, was found to significantly limit the brain's processing capability.

Checking off the cleaning to do list can make you feel more satisfied and can boost your mood. A clean, fresh house is said to naturally boost endorphins and boost energy levels which leads to a decrease in depression.

Cleaning and organization can have a domino effect in that it can lead to sprucing up other areas of your life. Interesting, was the one finding that stated when individuals were placed in a clean, well organized space they were more likely to choose healthier menu items.

In the wise words of William Morris, "Have nothing in your house that you do not know to be useful, or believe to be beautiful."

# OPINION

## To the Editor A unique opportunity for Charlton

To the Editor:

Most people realize the age 60-plus population in Charlton is growing. Did you know it is as large as those from both Dudley and Charlton who attend our public schools? (3,452 students vs. 3,489 seniors)

Since 1993, when a new senior center was publicly discussed, other services in town have been a priority, such as public safety vehicles, the schools, and a fire station. They all deserve their funding, and these resources continue to be needed. Yet, more space is still needed for our seniors. Let's not forget to consider them.

Charlton now has an opportunity to focus on the 14.8 percent of our population who

are over 60. An already built 12,000 sf building that, with some modifications, will provide seniors with much-needed space for meals, activities, events, services, and offices is available at 107 Dresser Hill Road. That is three times the space now available! Borrowing \$3 million for the building, modifications, another building (about 4,000 sf) and about 4 acres, will make this senior center a reality.

Vote yes on Article 21 at the Charlton Annual Town Meeting on May 16 at Charlton Middle School, 2 Oxford Rd., Charlton.

CINDY COOPER  
CHARLTON

## New opportunities for 529 plan owners



FINANCIAL  
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TREVOR  
NIELSEN

If you want to provide educational opportunities for your children or grandchildren, you may want to consider investing in a 529 plan. In recent years, this plan has gotten more flexible, and potentially more powerful, than ever.

## Yesterday's mistakes don't define you

The Irish dramatist George Bernard Shaw coined, "Youth is wasted on the young." He later went on to say, "they're brainless and don't know what they have; they squander every opportunity of being young, on being young."

I read that today, and immediately wondered why he said this. I interpreted that he was a little bitter about his own life, and possibly felt regretful that he had squandered the opportunities of his youth. I don't know if he did or did not; although I learned about him in school, I am certainly not a George Bernard Shaw historian.

We've all made mistakes; we've all done things we wish we wouldn't have. Some of us have failed to recognize an opportunity and squandered our resources, but life happens, and we aren't perfect.

I've indeed spent many an hour wishing I would have done things differently when I was younger. I know many people wish they could go back and do it over. We think that if we could go back and do it again, we'd be much further along in life. We believe if we could've had a second chance, the relationship wouldn't have ended; the business would've succeeded; we would've graduated from school, or we wouldn't have said that hateful comment.

We've heard it said that we should live a life without regret, that's a good maxim to live by, but I suspect every one of us has regrets. The problem with regret is that if we don't process it the right way, we can allow ourselves to become defined by our failures.

Regret can be helpful if it causes you to make a positive change so that it doesn't happen again, allowing you to become a better person in the process. It's good if the regret forces you to go back and make something right that went wrong.

Maybe it will cause you to go back and finish what you started.

It could cause you to apologize, ask forgiveness, or stop making unhealthy lifestyle choices that you became addicted to long ago.

If you can go back and finish what you started, that's a huge blessing. Get started, and don't waste time!

Sometimes it's been too long; it's too late, and the opportunity has passed. If positive change isn't going to come from your regret, you're just beating yourself up. Is that helping you or harming you? If you beat yourself up for too long, you're in danger of letting your mistakes define who you are.

"I messed up in my last relationship; I'm just bad at relationships," "I failed in business; I guess I'm a terrible businessperson," or "I've made such bad choices in life, and I guess that's how I'll always be."

There comes the point when living in regret becomes unhealthy, and can lead us down the road of bitterness and resentment. The guilt and the shame that comes with regret can morph into depression and anger. If you allow yourself to feel that way for too long, you'll start to believe that's who you are, and there is no hope for change.

Living in bitterness causes low self-confidence, and leaves you unable to have a healthy relationship. You won't be able to see the good in others. You'll only see the bad, and you might blame everyone for genuine or imagined grievances.

Another option is acceptance. Maybe it's time to apologize for beating yourself up for so long. Forgive yourself for making the wrong decisions; stop being so hard on yourself. Just 'cause you messed up in the past doesn't mean that's who you are. You're only human, and your decisions yesterday don't have to be your decisions today. Let it go, think about the future life you'd like to have, and make decisions that will lead you to that life. When you live like that, the darkness of the past will begin to recede, and the future will shine brighter and brighter.

A key benefit of a 529 plan is that earnings are generally tax free, provided the money is used for qualified educational expenses. As the owner of the plan, you can essentially name any beneficiary you want, and you're free to change the beneficiary as needed. Contribution limits are quite high, so you can put away considerable sums in a 529 plan – and you may want to, because college costs have risen steadily over the years. In fact, for the 2021-22 academic year, the College Board reports that the average cost (tuition, fees, room and board) of a public, four-year college or university is more than \$27,000 for in-state students and nearly \$56,000 for students at private schools.

But 529 plans are no longer just for higher education. Over the past few years, the rules governing 529 plans have changed, so they can now be used for:

K-12 tuition expenses (up to \$10,000 per student, per year),  
Apprenticeship programs registered with the U.S. Department of Labor, and  
Student loans (\$10,000 lifetime limit for student loan repayments per each 529 plan beneficiary and another \$10,000 for each of the beneficiary's siblings.)

And soon, a major change will affect the relationship between grandparent-owned 529 plans and the financial aid packages awarded to their grandchildren. Families applying for aid have not been required to report grandparent-owned 529 account assets on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). However, under previous rules, you had to report withdrawals from the grandparent-owned plans as untaxed student income, which could reduce aid eligibility by up to 50 percent of the amount of cash received.

But that's changing for the 2024-25 FAFSA, which won't require students to report cash support, including money taken from a grandparent-owned 529 plan. Instead, a student's total income amount will be reported directly from federal income tax returns. This means that a grandparent-owned 529 plan won't have any effect on need-based financial aid eligibility. This benefit to families is already here, because 2022 will be used as the base year for the 2024-25 FAFSA, so any withdrawals taken in 2022, and also going forward, won't need to be reported as student income.

With this change, families will now have more options on using 529 plans without jeopardizing financial aid. You can generally withdraw any amount from the aggregate of all 529 plans for higher education costs, but only the qualified withdrawals – the ones used for typical education-related expenses – will be tax-free. The earnings portion of non-qualified withdrawals are taxable and could also incur a 10 percent penalty.

Given the new rules affecting a grandparent-owned 529 plan, you should consult with a financial professional to determine how this plan can work with other strategies to help meet educational expenses while, at the same time, not detracting from the progress you'd like to make on other important goals, such as a comfortable retirement.

In any case, consider looking into a 529 plan – it was already a great tool for education funding, and it can now offer your family even more options.

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Trevor Nielsen, your local Edward Jones Advisor in Sturbridge at 508-347-1420 or trevor.nielsen@edwardjones.com.*

## Growing tomatoes in pots

Keep garden-fresh tomatoes close at hand this season. Grow one or more in containers on your patio, balcony, or front steps.

Any tomato can be grown in a pot, but determinate varieties are smaller and more compact, so they are a bit easier to manage in a container. They produce fruit in a relatively short period of time, making them great choices for preserving as well as using fresh. Look for a D or determinate on the plant tag, seed packet or in the catalog description.

Indeterminate tomatoes, often identified with an I, are large, sprawling plants. These are usually staked or grown in wire cages to save space, reduce pest problems and make harvesting easier. They continue to grow, flower, and produce fruit until the frost kills the plant. Indeterminate tomatoes usually produce more tomatoes, but the harvest is later in the season than determinate varieties. New containers



GARDEN  
MOMENTS  
.....  
MELINDA  
MYERS

with built-in trellises or creative gardeners crafting their own makes growing indeterminate tomatoes in pots an easier possibility.

Grow one tomato per container for maximum productivity. Use a 5-gallon or bigger container for large varieties and at least a two to three gallon or similar size pot for smaller varieties. Some research suggests growing tomatoes in a pot that is at least 14 inches but preferably 20 inches wide will yield greater results. Adding flowers and herbs to the container boosts the beauty and diversity of your container garden but will reduce the number of tomatoes produced.

Growing tomatoes in containers also allows you to extend the season. Start earlier by moving the planter inside when the weather is harsh and back outside when the weather is warm and sunny. As the weather turns cold at the



Courtesy — All-America Selections

Terenzo is a productive red cherry determinate tumbler tomato excellent for hanging baskets.



# From trout to turkey



THE GREAT  
OUTDOORS  
.....  
RALPH  
TRUE

Hope all of the moms out there had a great day with family and friends last weekend. Many moms were having a great day fishing with their children and grandchildren this past Saturday. Fishing at a few of the fishing derby's last weekend was great, and were well attended. This week's two pictures show some of the attendees with their prize-winning fish. It did not matter if they were trout or not for some youngsters, as long as they were catching fish. I was impressed with the turnout of fishing men, women and children, and the cold wind did not deter them from enjoying the day.

Local lakes and ponds continue to be stocked with some impressive trout from Massachusetts hatcheries. The large brown trout that are being stocked weekly are extremely impressive this year, with numerous trout fishing anglers giving high marks for the state's efforts to raise the impressive trout. They have come a long way from the '50's and '60's, when fish were raised at the Sutton hatchery, which usually measured six to 10 inches. A 12-inch trout was considered a "Whopper" back in the day.



Courtesy  
One of this week's pictures shows three-year-old Elise Bangma and her dad Mike with a trout she caught this past weekend at the Pout Pond fishing derby in Uxbridge.

Striper fishing is heating up, with many slot limit size fish being caught and retained for the table fare. The Providence River is producing a lot of legal-size fish and it should be red hot



This week's picture shows Eliana and Dexter Weed, along with their parents and dog fishing & relaxing at the Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club kids' fishing derby last Saturday!

by the time you read this column. The windy conditions should have also slowed making fishing for stripers a lot more enjoyable. Snagging a few menhaden before fishing should help in catching a few stripers. Remember that only

circle hooks are allowed when using bait for striper fishing.

Two major changes in the amount of summer flounder and seabass being caught by commercial fishermen for 2022 have been increased 35 percent for summer flounder and 28 percent for seabass, by Marine fisheries. No increases have been made for the recreational angler? We lose again!

Turkey hunting has been slow for some hunters, while others have already limited out. My brother Ken harvested two birds on the same day this past Thursday and was happy with his accomplishment. Although the birds were both jakes the meat on both birds was impressive, and will provide him with some great eating for the summer outings. Some people are trophy hunters, but he and I are happy to harvest a bird that provides some great eating. Like I always said, you cannot eat the beard.

Now that Covid is infecting less people, our lives are getting back to normal, whatever that is. It has motivated numerous Rod & Gun Clubs to start planning outdoor events like the annual clambake at the Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club. The club has planned to hold their clambake on June 11 this year, with ticket prices to hold at \$55 each, which will be sold on a first come first serve basis. Do not miss this great event that has not been held for a few years. More meals are being planned in the coming months.

Take a Kid Fishing & Keep them Rods Bending!

## Quick Fixes for Less Than Perfect Flea Market Finds

It's Brimfield flea market week and if you're an avid "antiquer" you know from experience few vintage wares have survived the years unscathed. To usher in a new season of flea markets, tag sales and estate auctions, this week's column will review some of my favorite tricks to transform your tarnished treasures into fabulous finds!

**\* \* \***

**Foil Folly:** Was that antique mirror a deal because of its peeling silver? Before you dish out big bucks to resilver the glass, try "foiling" the eye by taping pieces of aluminum foil to the backs of the offending spots.

**\* \* \***

**Clearer Choice:** Or, if you can't live with a tinfoil patch, completely remove silver from the back of the old mirror with a razor blade. Fit a new mirror cut to the size of your frame and attach it to the frame behind the old glass. Voila! You have the look of the old glass with a nice clear view!

**\* \* \***

**Perfect Polish:** To save serious cash on commercial wax wood restorers, check your shoe shine kit. Lackluster wood finishes on mahogany or cherry furniture or frames can



TAKE  
THE  
HINT  
.....  
KAREN  
TRAINOR

be instantly renewed with a coat of cordovan color wax shoe polish.

**\* \* \***

**Renew Wrought Iron:** Black and brown sponge-on shoe polish are also great touch up tools for old wrought iron pieces.

**\* \* \***

**Shine On:** If you are a fan of hammered aluminum, but hate the dull finish on the aged metal, try polishing the aluminum with silver polish to add a high gloss shine. This works especially well on large showy pieces such as canister sets.

**\* \* \***

**De-Warp DoWops:** Vinyl records can be a great retro find, but not if they're warped. Try this trick to put them on the straight and narrow: Put records on a flat surface under a heavy piece of flat glass (such as a cutting board). Put a weight on top if necessary. Then place in direct sunlight. The warmth from the sun will relax the vinyl and it should eventually lie flat. (Test this method

before you use it on a valuable record). type or any other you can find, and place it over the record in direct sunlight.

**\* \* \***

**Marble Fix:** Marble repairs can break the budget, but this do-it-yourself tip does the trick for a lot less! Small cracks in marble can be hidden with a mixture of wax and chalk dust. Melt a candle the color of the marble, blend in chalk dust to give it body and apply to the crack carefully with a paintbrush.

**\* \* \***

**Scratch Cover:** Retro plastic furniture and accessories are hot collectibles. But many of the vintage pieces on the market are well used - and scratched up! The good news is, you can sometimes hide surface scratches on plastic simply by applying a good coat of car wax.

**\* \* \***

**Repair Veneer:** If the veneer is bubbled up, place a piece of stiff cardboard on the wood and press with an iron set at medium heat. Press until you the heat softens the glue and you can feel the wood give a bit. Then press down and weight the area until the glue has redried.

**\* \* \***

**Got Milk?** If you have a decorative plate with

a crack - don't fret! If it's for display only, try this tried and true tip to disguise the imperfection: Gently boil the plate in skim milk. Believe it or not, the proteins in the milk oftentimes seals the crack invisibly!

**\* \* \***

**Trunk Trick:** Vintage trunks are affordable finds, but they often come with a musty odor from basement storage. Here's a quick fix: Simply sprinkle some powdered cat litter box deodorizer generously in the trunk. Close it up and let it sit for a week. Better yet, after you've mowed the lawn, toss some grass clippings inside and close the lid. Stir the grass each day for a week. The chlorophyll from the grass will absorb the smell!

**\* \* \***

**Weld Wicker:** Old wicker is gorgeous, but it isn't always without its splits and breaks. Here is the easiest way to repair old wicker: For breaks that require the two pieces to be fused: Coat each half of the break with Elmer's glue, applying glue to area around break points. . Cover wicker on both sides with wax paper and clamp the broken piece between boards overnight. If the break requires further strength, it can be further rein-

forced by weaving wire through the surrounding wicker to secure. Wicker splits can be repaired in the same manner.

**\* \* \***

**No Ink Spots:** Old games and boxes sometimes still wear their original price tags written in permanent marker. Try wetting a Mr. Clean Eraser and carefully rubbing away the ink. This works well on glossy finishes. Be careful, if you start wearing away the paper, stop. Or try removing marker on washable surfaces with hair spray. Spray on and immediately wipe off. Repeat as necessary.

**\* \* \***

**Dolly Makeover:** Vinyl baby dolls and Barbie dolls are hot collectibles, but vinyl is prone to staining, so dark spots are a common dolly blemish. Doll restorers claim Clearasil or OXY-10 acne creams and sunlight can fade such stains. To try: apply the cream to the stain only and set it in direct sun for as long as it takes to fade. This could take several days or weeks depending upon how dark the stain is. According to experts "green ear syndrome," which can develop from the chemical reaction of earrings on early Barbie dolls can also be treated with the method above.

**\*\*\***

**\*\***

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

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

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

### GARDENING

continued from page A8

end of the growing season, cover the planter or move it into a frost-free location as needed. Some gardeners even move a pot or two inside to finish off the tomato season.

Grow tomatoes in a container with drainage holes or a self-watering pot that has a reservoir to hold water and extend the time between watering. Further reduce the need to water by adding an organic, sustainable soil amendment like Wild Valley Farms' wool pellets (wildvalleyfarms.com) to the potting mix. Made from wool waste, this product reduces watering by up to 25 percent. Adding a low nitrogen, slow-release fertilizer at planting will eliminate the need to fertilize weekly. Just make a second application, if needed, midseason.

Plant tall tomato transplants a few inches deeper than they were growing in their container. Remove the lowest leaves that would otherwise be buried in the soil. Cover with soil and water. This is also a good time to install any stakes, trellises, or cages to support taller varieties.

Initially, check tomatoes growing in containers every day and water often enough to keep the developing root system moist. Reduce watering frequency as plants become established. Feel the top few inches of soil and water the established plants thoroughly whenever this is dry. Mulch the soil with evergreen needles, shredded leaves, or other organic mulch to keep the soil

consistently moist and suppress weeds. Consistent soil moisture encourages more flowering and fruiting, while reducing the risk of blossom end rot, cracking, and misshapen fruit.

Harvest tomatoes when fully colored or leave them on the plant a few more days for an even sweeter flavor. You'll enjoy the convenience of harvesting

fresh tomatoes right outside your door for use in salads, sauces, and other favorite recipes.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including *Small Space Gardening* and *Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* DVD series and the nation-

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

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# OBITUARIES

## Elizabeth K. “Betty” (Driscoll) Lindsay

Charlton- Elizabeth K. “Betty” (Driscoll) Lindsay 75, passed away May 5, 2022 at Beth Isreal-Deaconess in Boston. Her husband Walter P. “Butch” Lindsay died in 1993. She leaves 2 sons; Mark J. Lindsay of Charlton and Tommy R. Pruitt and his wife Gwynn A. Pruitt of Southbridge a daughter, Teresa Pruitt of Southbridge 7 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, 1 brother Carl Laforte and many nieces and nephews. Betty was born in Worcester April 2, 1947 daughter of the late Paul E. and Margaret H. (Cleveland) Driscoll. She worked for many years as a toll

collector on the Mass Pike. Betty enjoyed sitting on her deck at her lake house, puzzles, humming-birds, helping others, going to visit friends in Vermont and the Carolina’s, her grandchildren and family good times at the lake. Calling hours were Tuesday, May 10, 2022 from 5-8pm in the ROBERT J. MILLER-CHARLTON FUNERAL HOME, 175 Old Worcester RD. Burial will be at a later date in West Ridge Cemetery in Charlton. To place an on-line condolence, please visit: miller.funerals@verizon.net In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to :Second Chance Animal Services, 700 Worcester St. Southbridge, MA. 01550.

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# Central MA Regional Planning Commission launches Imagine 2050 survey

WORCESTER — The Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) is excited to announce the launch of our first survey for Imagine 2050: A Vision for Central Massachusetts. Imagine 2050 is a region-wide comprehensive planning initiative that will establish long-range strategies for the 40- community region. Survey link: <http://www.cmrpcregionalservices.org/survey>. Working with residents, business owners, governments, and institutional partners, CMRPC will facilitate development of the community-driven plan. The project aims to identify the resources, problems, possibilities, and needs of the region; these findings will inform a plan to improve the welfare and prosperity of those who live, work, and visit Central Massachusetts. Imagine 2050 is intended to help local, regional, and state actors make informed public policy and investment decisions. Community needs and preferences will be identified through robust community engagement processes. Recommendations will derive from community surveys, listening and visioning sessions, data and trend analysis, and scenario planning. This represents the region’s first comprehensive planning effort in more than 20 years. At CMRPC’s September Quarterly Commission Meeting, Executive Director Janet A. Pierce called on residents and other stakeholders to get involved: “Imagine 2050 is an opportunity to help define the future of Central Massachusetts. If you love where you live, you should participate. If there are things you would like to see changed about the region, you should participate. Whether you live in the heart of Worcester or the heart of New Braintree, we are asking for your insight and your preferences. Please join us in charting a path for all of Central Massachusetts.”

This preliminary survey covers a wide array of topics under the themes of economy, environment, and equity. The survey’s goal is to create a vision statement for Imagine 2050. Look out for CMRPC staff, who will be on the road this summer through “Imagine on the Go”, promoting surveys at your favorite summer events & facilitating visioning sessions to hear from as many Central Massachusetts residents as possible. Paper surveys will also be available in each community. Box locations are posted at <http://www.cmrpcregionalservices.org/survey>. About CMRPC About the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission: CMRPC is the designated planning entity for Central Massachusetts. Founded by the Legislature in 1963, CMRPC provides a variety of planning services to our constituencies and bring a regional perspective to planning and development. One of 13 Regional Planning Agencies in Massachusetts, CMRPC serves the City of Worcester and 39 surrounding communities in the southern two-thirds of Worcester County. CMRPC’s programs include Regional Collaboration and Community Planning, Transportation, Homeland Security, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and other services.

## GOLAS

continued from page A1

Selectman David Singer was the only selectman to grade Golas below a four in any category; however, he noted that this is due in-part to factors outside of Golas’s control. Singer provided mostly fours only grading Golas a three in two categories: personnel and community relations. Singer acknowledged that COVID prevented Golas from being as involved in the community as he planned and fully expects the Town Administrator to be a presence as pandemic restrictions continue to fade. He did however provide some commentary on how he feels Golas can improve when it comes to the personnel aspect of the job. “I think we need to pay more attention going forward on our processes for background checks, hiring, promotion, and terminations,” said Singer. “I think this is something Andrew would have to work on with Human Resources. This is not solely on him. I think that’s a workshop we should have with Andrew.” Selectwoman Patsy Rydlak gave Golas fours in every category specifically commenting on how Golas has greatly improved the relationship between his office and the departments he oversees. “I do want to commend the overall culture and attitude in this Town Hall. It’s so much better. It wasn’t like this, and I’ve talked to a lot of the employees personally and for regular business stuff. Everybody is so much happier. That’s huge. Happy employees mean better customer service for our residents,” said Rydlak. Selectman Stephen Koronis gave Golas fours in most categories but provided the first perfect scores of the review with fives in board relations and financial management. While he felt there was room for improvement, Koronis was especially impressed with Golas’s ability to quickly adapt to the expectations of the town and its citizens. “In his short time here, Andrew has developed a keen sense of how the town runs and of how the taxpayers may view a potential issue or project,” said Koronis. “He’s picked that up in a very quick period of time. I think he’s got a good handle on it.” Selectman Bill Borowski also awarded Golas fives for financial management and board relations and fours for the rest of the categories. He said he has been particularly impressed with the relationship Golas has formed with the Board of Selectmen itself, even revealing his regret for having originally doubted Golas’s hiring during the interview process in 2019.

“[Golas] keeps the board informed of any noteworthy items between meetings and is very responsive to inquiries including in his off hours. Moreover, he works collaboratively knowing that we act as his Board of Directors, and he has to find a happy medium in reacting to five very distinct personalities,” Borowski said. “Andrew never oversteps his authority, but instead looks for the consensus of the board before executing a plan. I’m especially pleased when he offers forth multiple recommendations and asks how the Board of Selectmen would like to proceed.” Selectwoman Barbara Zurawski’s grades were kept secret until she could discuss them with Golas in person. All grades will then be made part of the public record. Taking into account the scores that were revealed by the four selectmen present, Golas had an average overall grade over four points with only community relations and personnel falling below a four with a 3.75 average. Even with his high scores, Golas came away determined to work even harder to serve Charlton as an efficient and effective Town Administrator. “I appreciate the feedback and I’m glad there’s some areas that (the Board) feels like I can improve upon. At some point I’d like to get them all to fives, but I know that’s idealistic,” Golas said. “Let’s build on this, let’s get strategic goals together for next year and let’s get this even better and try to match the scores from this year so we can show improvement. It’s a team effort from the people that work here, the people I work with, the Board of Selectmen, it all goes into this. It’s all the success of the community.”

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*In the Stonebridge Press Newspapers*

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# Sturbridge Historical Society meets May 26

STURBRIDGE — The Sturbridge Historical Society meeting will be held on Thursday, May 26 at The Publick House Historical Inn on the Sturbridge Common.

Our guest speaker will be Emily Thomas, history professor at Nichols College on the life of Clara Barton.

Emily Thomas's program will cover Clara Barton's long and active life as a teacher, civil war nurse, and president of The American Red Cross. After

highlighting her teaching career and work at the patent office in Washington, D.C., she will focus on her work during the Civil War, including Battles of Antietam and Fredericksburg.

The program will conclude Clara Barton's founding of The American Red Cross in 1881.

Emily Thomas received a BA in History and an AMA from Clark University in Worcester and has been teaching history at Nichols College.

Since 2000, her teachings include Women's History, Medical History, Civil Rights Movements and a history of ghosts. She is a tour guide and researcher at the Clara Barton Birthplace Museum in North Oxford, and is currently working on an encyclopedic volume of Clara Barton's life that will be published by Rowman and Litchfield.

Historical Society meetings are free of charge with dessert and meet-

ing room provided by Michael Glick, Publick House Innkeeper. Our sincere thanks go out to Mr. Glick.

Meetings are held September through May on the fourth Thursday of the month except November and December. November meeting is held the first Thursday in December.

All meetings start at 7 p.m. Public is welcome.

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Welcome to our

ABC's of Spring Word Search!

We hope you will enjoy this challenging puzzle. To be included in a random drawing of correct answers, please mail your puzzle to ABC's of Spring Word Search, P. O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550, or take a picture and email it to jsima@stonebridgepress.news by WEDNESDAY, MAY 25th. The winner of a \$25 gift card to an ABC business will be announced in the June 3rd issue. Good luck!

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COMMENTS (feedback is appreciated):







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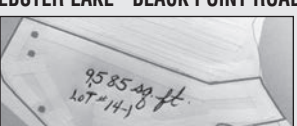
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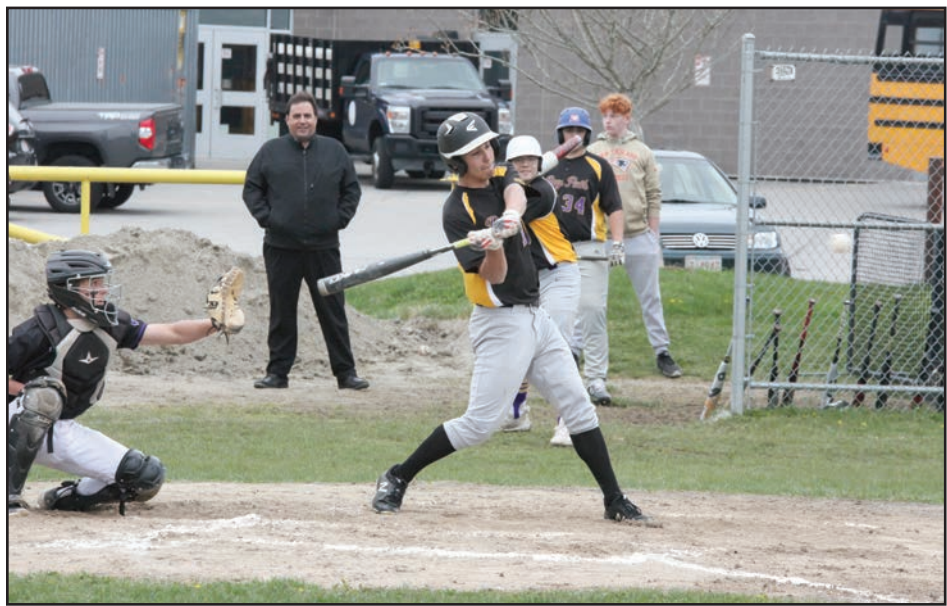
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SPORTS

One-run game again goes Bay Path’s way  
in win over Beavers, 6-5



Bay Path’s Brandon Martocci rips a second inning single against Blackstone Valley Tech.  
BY NICK ETHIER  
SPORTS EDITOR

CHARLTON — When the Bay Path Regional and Blackstone Valley Tech varsity baseball teams are set to meet one another, Mark Sansoucy — head coach of the Minutemen — described just how big of a game it can be.

“Those are the games you circle at the beginning of the year...it’s always BVT, AMSA, Worcester [Tech],” Sansoucy said whenever Bay Path plays the Beavers, the Advanced Math and Science Academy or the Eagles, all important tilts in the Colonial Athletic League.

And the Minutemen and BVT certainly provided close contests during this 2022 season. Bay Path edged Valley Tech in the season opener, played on April 4, 10-9. And, in the most recent outing, the Minutemen again emerged victorious, also by a single run, 6-5.

“That was a big one. They’re always tough, always a good team. They hit the ball hard and have good pitching, and they’re well-coached. To beat them twice in a season is big,” Sansoucy said of the Beavers.

“That’s the second one to them,” Valley Tech head coach John Burke said of losing to Bay Path, and the Beavers’ third one-run loss of the season. “It’s just executing a few of the small things along the way. It’s all very little stuff and it’s been biting us.”

The Minutemen improved to 9-1 and have automatically clinched a berth into the upcoming Division 4 State Tournament. Valley Tech, meanwhile, dropped to 4-6.

“They’ve got a good team,” Burke said of Bay Path. “They’ve been rattling off wins and it would have been nice to get one back on them.”

The Beavers struck first for one run in the top of the first inning when Evan Charron roped an RBI double into right-center field. But the Minutemen countered with three runs in the home half of the first. With the bases loaded John Schramm was clipped by a pitch to send a run in and then Matt Rousakos dropped into a fielder’s choice. But, instead of the at-bat resulting in a double play, a throwing error allowed two more runs to cross home plate.

Valley Tech tied the game in the second inning when Sean Sage hit an RBI groundout and Jake Rinaldi (2-for-3) followed with an RBI single to left field, but Bay Path again regained the lead in the home half. There, Schramm had his second RBI on a fielder’s choice.

The Minutemen kept the 4-3 advantage through the third and fourth innings until BVT grabbed their first lead in the top of the fifth. Corey Magill (2-for-3) tied the game with an RBI single up the middle. Magill then scored when he attempted to steal third base and a throwing

error saw the ball bound into the outfield.

That ended the outing on the hill for Rousakos, Bay Path’s starter, who went 4-plus innings. Dale Nussey took over from

there and finished the fifth frame, and pitched the sixth, allowing no runs on one hit with four strikeouts and no walks.

But the Beavers had the lead, and the momentum, as play shifted to the bottom of the fifth. With Adam Pratt on the mound — Pratt relieved Sage, who pitched the first three innings — and pitching well, BVT’s defense spun a double play to open the inning.

“We had the momentum, we rolled the double play ball, and then the inning got a little sloppy,” explained Burke.

With Kaiden Brochu (single) and Jon Nussey (walk) on base, pinch hitter Joe Fritze tied the game with an opposite field RBI single into right field. With the game tied, Bay Path retook the lead when Pratt tried to pick off a base runner. But his coinciding throwing

error plated the go-ahead run.

After both teams failed to score in the sixth inning, the Minutemen’s Zach Fritze (2-for-3 at the plate) closed the door with a seventh inning save. An error, hit by pitch and sacrifice bunt had two runners in scoring position, but when BVT’s Nick Laflamme sent a hard shot down the first base line that was snagged by Rousakos, the game came to its dramatic close.

“He’s tough, he’s nails. He’s hard-nosed. He thrives on stuff like that — feeds off that,” Sansoucy said of Zach Fritze, noting that he never thought about intentionally walking a Valley Tech player to load the bases and have force outs across the diamond.

Sansoucy is thrilled with his young squad’s

start to the season.

“I knew that we had a lot of really good young kids, but were they varsity ready was the question, and they’re all stepping up,” he said.

Sansoucy added that four players — Brochu (.611), Schramm (.536), Dale Nussy (.400) and Dylan McDonald (.400) — are all near the top of the league in batting average.

The Beavers, meanwhile, are hopeful to turn their season around before it becomes too late.

“We’ve been hitting well, but some days we throw it well and don’t field it well. Some days we field it well and don’t throw it well. It’s just getting everything clicking at the right time,” Burke explained. “At some point you’ve got to start winning games. It’s there. It’s just a matter of closing games out.”

Minutemen to honor season for Bay Path alum Coach ‘Sully’

CHARLTON — On Monday, April 25, following the Bay Path Regional varsity baseball team’s home opener — where the Minutemen defeated Monty Tech, 9-3 — the program recognized Coach Gregg “Sully” Szalay.

Sully had coached fall baseball for about six years and had been associated with the Bay Path baseball team since head coach Mark Sansoucy started coaching back in 1997. His support and dedication was above and beyond. Sully was the first one there to help or do whatever the Minutemen were planning or just trying to get something done without ever asking for anything in return. He loved being around anything that involved Bay Path sports.

Sully passed away unexpectedly after the last fall ball game a couple of weeks before his 50th birthday. Bay Path is dedicating the season to Sully. The Number 14 behind the mound was his high school number and his name “SULLY” will be on the sleeve of the Minutemen’s home jerseys. Sully graduated from Bay Path in 1989. He was a four-year varsity baseball player for coach Jim Gomes and Mike Hubbard. He also played basketball. His senior year he was awarded the sportsmanship award. He will be dearly missed.



Courtesy photo  
Coach Gregg “Sully” Szalay’s brother, Glen, receives a token of appreciation from Bay Path head coach Mark Sansoucy during Sully’s recognition on April 25.



Sully’s number, 14, is proudly displayed behind the mound.



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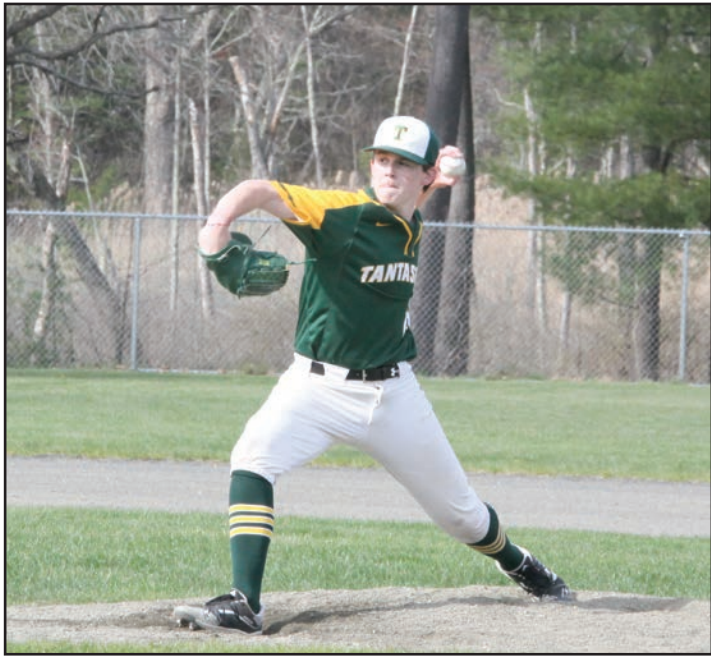


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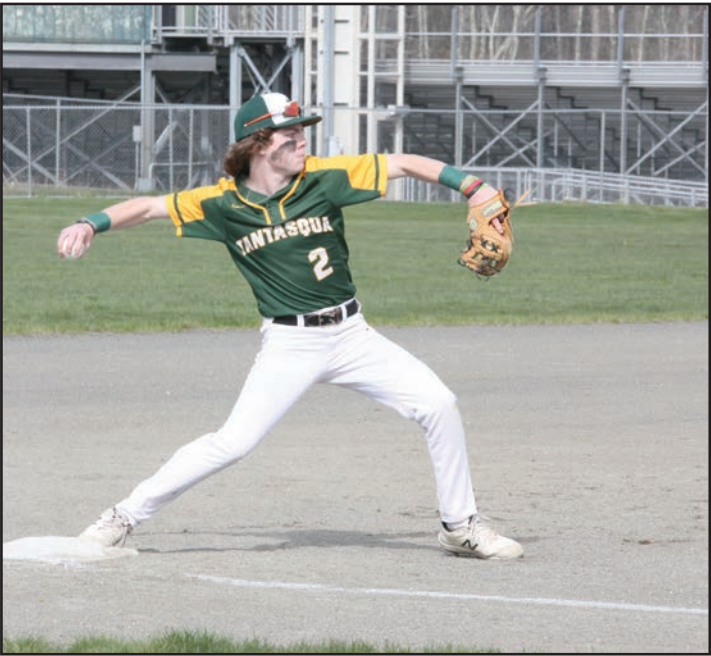
Tantasqua starting pitcher Miles Blake rears back before sending the ball to the plate.

BY NICK ETHIER  
SPORTS EDITOR

STURBRIDGE — When Tantasqua Regional southpaw Miles Blake threw the game’s first pitch to Millbury High’s Nick Kolifrath at precisely 4 p.m. on Thursday, May 5, the Warriors’ Joe Amaru was an inconspicuous member of the starting nine. Amaru was stationed at his first base position and slated to bat ninth in Tantasqua’s lineup.

But, when the game was decided, Amaru had much to do with the Warriors’ 6-2 win over the Woolies, which kept Tantasqua undefeated at 10-0.

Amaru went 2-for-3 at the plate and had two RBI’s, including the winning



Third baseman Colm McGrath of Tantasqua touches the bag for a force out before throwing across the diamond with hopes of turning a double play.

run in the bottom of the sixth inning, and also relieved Blake and pitched 1-2/3 innings of scoreless relief to pick up the victory.

“He was struggling a little bit earlier in the year and then we figured out his swing with his front leg kick,” Tantasqua head coach Jon Leroux explained when speaking of Amaru’s plate presence before turning his attention to the tall right-hander’s pitching abilities. “He’s been pounding the zone for us. This is his third win of the year, always coming in relief.”

When asked which aspect of the game he’ll think about most when heading home, Amaru said that it was his hitting.

“I’m mostly a pitcher for all my other teams, so to be able to deliver the hit, I felt that more today,” said Amaru.

Amaru’s sixth inning winning base-knock came with Cole Nussey on third base, Jack Ricciuti on second and Lucas MacNevin on first. On a count where most hitters would take the pitch, Amaru sent Nathan Kozlowski’s offering up the middle, which plated both Nussey and Ricciuti.

“I think I had a 3-0 count, so just seeing the pitch — perfect pitch, fastball down the middle — I had to drive that,” explained Amaru.

Tantasqua added to its lead and made it 6-2 when Devin Krochmalnyckyj’s hit resulted in an error, which scored MacNevin and Amaru.

Amaru, who pitched a 1-2-3 top of the sixth inning before his winning hit, walked the leadoff batter in the seventh before retiring the next two. Due to a pitch count that will allow him to pitch in the Warriors’ next game, Amaru exited and Hunter Normandin took over. Normandin finished the job by striking out the Woolies’ Blake Samuelson on five pitches.

“Our pitchers threw strikes and didn’t give up too many free bases, which was great,” said Leroux, as Blake, Amaru

and Normandin combined on a five hitter while walking four, hitting one and striking out eight.

Blake worked the first five innings, which impressed Leroux.

“He’s banged up a little bit. His hip was bothering him, so we leaned on his off-speed a little more than we normally do, and it worked well. He got us five innings, which we needed him to because we have a game tomorrow and a game Monday,” Leroux said of Blake.

As far as Normandin goes, he played a superb second base before finishing the game on the hill. In the top of the second inning, he showed his range by running to his right, sliding to stop the ball, popping back up and firing over to first for the out. Then, in the fifth, he leapt sky-high and perfectly-timed a lined shot hit his way for an unbelievable catch.

“He’s an excellent defender. Up the middle we have as good a crew as anyone in Central Mass. He and Devin [Krochmalnyckyj] turn a lot of double plays,” Leroux said. “He saved us some runs today, he really did.”

The Warriors took a 1-0 lead in the third when Normandin provided an RBI on a groundout and then tied the game at 2-2 in the fifth after Millbury grabbed a 2-1 lead in the top of the frame. There, Krochmalnyckyj plated Colm McGrath (3-for-4) with a sacrifice fly.

The win over the Woolies (7-4) improved Tantasqua’s chances at capturing the Southern Worcester County League (SWCL) title.

“The last time we won the SWCL was 2015. It was a shortened year because there was a lot of snow in the beginning of the year. Our goal is to go win the league,” Leroux said.

The Warriors are in good shape to do so, having already beaten perennial powers Auburn, Northbridge, Oxford and now Millbury.

“To beat all of those teams, that’s a good stepping stone for us going forward,” said Leroux.

Amaru noted that the cohesiveness of the squad has led to the team’s success.

“We help make each other better. We have relationships that are going to last longer than baseball. Being together like a family, it’s easier to do well on the field,” said Amaru.

HIGH SCHOOL NOTEBOOK

Tuesday, May 3

Auburn 3, David Prouty 2 — The first doubles team of Ava Bergeron and Ayla Messier (6-2, 6-2), plus the second doubles tandem of Grace Haftarczuk and Bella Costello (6-2, 6-1) earned the points for the Panthers in a very close girls’ tennis loss to the Rockets.

Thursday, May 5

Tantasqua 10, Worcester 3 — The Warriors improved their record in girls’ lacrosse to 6-4 after defeating Worcester. Kelsie Lucas (4 goals, assist), Maeve Ashworth (3 goals, 2 assists), Kaydie O’Neil (2 goals), and Sophia Parker (goal) filled up the stat sheet for Tantasqua.

Friday, May 6

David Prouty 5, Burncoat 0; David Prouty 5, Burncoat 0 — The Panthers were able to play numerous individuals as the girls’ tennis team blanked Burncoat in a double header. In the first match, the winners were Jess Fulmer (first singles, 8-1), Mel Reil (second singles, 8-4), Greenly Waugh/Allison Decelle (first doubles, 8-0) and Eva Laporte/Juliana Rondeau (second doubles, 8-1). In the second match, the winners were Lindsey Soter (first singles, 8-3), Ayla Messier (second singles, 8-1), Ava Bergeron/Rianna Ortiz (first doubles, 8-0) and Grace Haftarczuk/Bella Costello (second doubles, 8-0). The third singles matches were forfeited by Burncoat.

Sturbridge Legion tryout dates

Any baseball players interested in playing Sturbridge Legion Baseball that are born on Jan. 1, 2003 or later are eligible to pay. All players that live in Sturbridge or attend Tantasqua Regional High School are all eligible to play for the Sturbridge team, also players from surrounding towns may also be eligible to play. Team will conduct tryouts Saturday, May 21 from 10 a.m. to noon and Sunday, May 22 from 1 to 3 p.m., both tryout dates will be held at Tantasqua Regional High School varsity baseball field. For more information you can contact team manager Jim Rosseel (774) 230-1784, email: jimrosseel@hotmail.com or coach Rich Wetherbee (508) 981-0897, email: qcards@aol.com.

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