



Free by request to residents of Sturbridge, Brimfield, Holland and Wales

SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO [News@StoneBridgePress.news](mailto:News@StoneBridgePress.news)

Friday, February 5, 2021

# Local stores support the United Way!

SOUTHBRIDGE — During the month of December customers at Big Bunny Market in Southbridge and Micknuck's Fresh Marketplace in Sturbridge, were asked to either purchase a holiday tag or round up for the United Way of South Central Massachusetts (UWSCM) to support the programs run by 22 member agencies.

UWSCM 2020 Campaign Chairman Jim Croteau stated, "We appreciate Big Bunny's and Micknuck's customers and the generosity they showed during the holiday season. Over \$2,750 was raised during the two week event and all money raised is used to fund programs that sup-

## Planners eye Fiske Hill project

BY GUS STEEVES  
CORRESPONDENT

STURBRIDGE – The Planning Board opened a public hearing last week on a combined commercial and residential project likely to have noticeable impact on Fiske Hill and Main Street when complete.

Called Fiske Hill East, it envisions creating three commercial lots – an office building, retail site and urgent care facility – on Main Street and, later, developing two large residential tracts in what's now forest. The plans show developer Matt Sosik intends those two areas to become a 120-unit assisted living facility and a 55and up housing community. The documents don't state a number of units for the latter, but it will have emergency access via Southbridge (probably Proulx Avenue or Cournoyer Blvd, although not clearly shown on the plan).

All of them would have direct access via a new, 1030-foot cul-de-sac off Main Street, and the Planning Board's Jan. 26 hearing focused mostly on granting waivers for various aspects of that street's construction. The hearing itself was continued to Feb. 23 at 6:35 p.m. So far, nobody from the public has commented.

Town Planner Jean Bubon said some of the proposed uses – most notably the assisted living facility – are still hopeful. There was a proposal a few years ago, but nothing currently active, she said.

Member Russ Chamberland recalled there was also once a plan for "60 motorhomes in a trailer park" up there, similar to the senior complex on Kelly Road. Whatever it ends up being, project engineer Peter Engle of McClure Engineering said it'll be senior housing "which we understand the town could use."

.....

Turn To **FISKE HILL**, page **A10**



Store Manager, Jonathan Cournoyer presented United Way of South Central MA 2020 Campaign Chairman Jim Croteau with a check in the amount of \$2,760.01 Top salesperson, Maeleanna Pellet-Powers received a \$50 gift card for her great efforts.

port the health, education and financial stability of those in need in South Central Massachusetts."

The United Way of South Central Massachusetts



Micknuck's cashiers Elise Mazeika and Debra Pulsifer. serves the communities of Charlton, Dudley, Southbridge, Sturbridge and Charlton and is located at 176 Main St., Suite 400, Southbridge, MA 01550. To learn more about programs and donate, visit [www.uwscm.org](http://www.uwscm.org), follow on Facebook @UWSCM or call (508) 765-5491.

## Three sites eyed for new Senior Center

STURBRIDGE – The three alternatives examined for the Senior Center all look pretty similar cost-wise, but have some notable differences in terms of what they'd need to be viable projects.

Upgrading and expanding the current site at 480 Main St or building anew at either 70 Cedar St. or 80 Haynes St. will each cost around \$10 million, and all three are already town-owned. But the existing site needs both major building code work, expansion and possibly purchase of a neighboring parcel for parking, while 80 Haynes has a conservation easement, no public utilities, and various ecological constraints. Those factors prompted the study committee to favor 70 Cedar, but even that is also being eyed by the Recreation Committee, who are in the middle of their own feasibility study on building new athletic fields there.

That was the key takeaway from the Jan. 21 presentation of the feasibility study done by Bargmann, Hendrie & Archetype, Inc (BHA) to the selectmen, who are not ready to make a choice.

Afterward, Vice Chair Mary Dowling said she wants to hold one or two public hearings "to hear from seniors who use the current Senior Center," residents of the proposed neighborhoods, and other stakeholders. Among other things, she'd also like to see reuse of the current center examined before it goes to voters, because people are likely to ask about that. She noted she wants to keep it for its historic value, "but that's an added cost."

Indeed, one of the BHA speakers noted 480 Main is "in reasonably good condition," but doesn't meet various building code requirements, has unlockable and not well-sealing windows, needs various equipment including a "complete replacement of the fire alarm system" and sprinklers. It also has some asbestos in window caulking and lead paint inside, lacks janitors' closets, and the basement load-bearing central wall is "of some concern," among other issues.

## Center set to begin administering vaccines Feb. 1



HARRINGTON HealthCare System (HHS) hosted a visit with Massachusetts Congressman Richard Neal, D-Springfield, on Friday, Jan. 29 at its state-designated vaccination center.

SOUTHBRIDGE — Harrington HealthCare System (HHS) hosted a visit with Massachusetts Congressman Richard Neal, D-Springfield, on Friday, Jan. 29 at its state-designated vaccination center. Congressman Neal met with HHS President and CEO Ed Moore, other leadership and various vaccination staff members in the healthcare system to tour the facility.

"Congressman Neal has been a great partner in supporting Harrington HealthCare's efforts to provide access to quality healthcare in our communities. He and his staff have played an instrumental role in assisting us with our COVID-19 relief efforts," said Ed Moore, President and CEO of HHS. "We are grateful for his partnership and support as we work together to fight the impacts of this unprecedented health threat."

"Becoming a state-official site is a huge step

in the right direction. We are pleased to work with the state in providing vaccines to our local community members along with residents statewide," Moore said. "As we continue to vaccinate more people it is important to still take the appropriate precautions such as wearing a mask, stay at least 6 feet away from others outside your household, and wash your hands."

"Harrington Hospital is doing extraordinary work to serve the community and help eliminate the virus," said Congressman Neal. "The partnership they forged with local towns in December to support staffing needs has allowed them to get more needles into more arms as we continue to roll out the vaccination plans. That is an incredible undertaking. They truly are the little hospital

Dowling said she hopes to avoid seeing what happened with a previous proposal to build a soccer field on the Haynes property before the conservation easement existed, and to see what the Recreation study says.

"Haynes has [non-monetary] costs too big to go down," Dowling said. "I don't want to pit conservation people against people who want a new Senior Center, and removing the deed restriction, I don't think it'd fly at Town Meeting."

Chair Mary Blanchard agreed, saying, "I think it's everybody's opinion [Haynes] is not viable." Regarding future reuse, she said that wasn't part of this study, but does need consideration "down the road."

Michael Suprenant was also concerned about the potentially conflicting uses of 70 Cedar, noting it was bought specifically for recreation use. Additionally, he noted there's "considerably" more traffic at the Cedar/Main intersection than at Main/Arnold (the current site), and Cedar has no pedestrian or bicycle access.

But Facilities Manager Robin Chrabaszcz said she believes the proposal situates a senior center there in a way that still leaves some space for two soccer fields on 60 and 70 Cedar as well as trees to buffer it from the road. Town Administrator Jeff Bridges added Sturbridge "will have to upgrade [Cedar Street] regardless of what we do out there."

Architect Joel Bargmann, who led the study for BHA, said 70 Cedar has "great overflow opportunity" for parking and various outdoors uses, but it will require a 10-foot-high retaining wall because of the topography. But there's enough space to build a new center there that's entirely on one floor, which he characterized as allowing for the best flow of people and placement of activities. Haynes could do that, too, but not 480 Main, which is already two-story. Despite that, he said they could put all of the desired features in any of the sites.

"The difference in costs is relatively minor between the schemes – \$350,000-400,000," he said, adding the key issue is choosing the "best site for the long term." The study committee identified 70 Cedar as that site because they felt it provided the best opportunity to meet the needs of a growing senior population, could be used as an emergency shelter, and has land for outdoor programs, among other things.

"The most difficult thing for us as architects is to create a friendly center that encourages socialization without it being contrived," Bargmann said when he began his presentation.

Turn To **VACCINES**, page **A15**

Turn To **SENIOR CENTER**, page **A10**



# 3RD ANNUAL ABC'S OF THE WINTER SEASON 2021

Find the ABC's Crossword inside this issue.

Support these local businesses this Winter!

## A is for Appliance

**Servicing Household Appliances Since 1978. ALL Makes & Models.**

**Complete Line of NEW APPLIANCES**

All Major Brands

6 & 12 Months Financing Available

Service Calls Starting @ \$75 (pending location)

Instant Credit • In-shop repairs

Delivery, Installation & Removal available.

**Dave's Appliance Inc.**  
508-867-3122

Parts Hotline 888-229-1027

42 W. Main St., Brookfield, MA

Hours: Mon-Thurs 9-6 • Fri 9-5 • Sat 10-3

## B is for Bakery

Reserve now for Valentine's Day

Weekend Feb. 12, 13 & 14

**3 COURSE DINNER** for Valentine's Day \$50 pp

Make Sweet Memories at Five Loaves!

By Reservation Only

Friday & Saturday: 5-8pm

FRESH BAKED BREAD • PARTY PLATTERS

PASTRIES, COOKIES & BARS

SPECIALTY CUPCAKES & CAKE ORDERS

13 Mechanic St.  
Spencer, MA 01562

508-885-3760 fiveLoavesbakery.com

Lunch: Tues - Sat 10-3 |  
Dinner: Fri & Sat Reservations Only

**WE MAKE OUR OWN BREAD!**

## C is for Crystals

**TALK OF THE TOWN**

85 Main Street Ware Ma. 413-858-5172

Great gifts for Valentine's Day

A Unique Destination Experience

Health Food & Products

Crystals & Gemstones, Gifts, Books, Cards, Jewelry, Essential Oils, Soap & So Much More!

For our Current Hours and Events

Facebook.com/TalkoftheTownWareMA/

## D is for Dentist

**SPENCER FAMILY DENTAL**

Gentle Caring State of the Art Dentistry For The Whole Family

Cosmetic Dentistry • Restorative Dentistry • Preventative Dentistry

Crowns • Caps • Bridges

Complete and Partial Dentures • Non Surgical Gum Treatment • Root Canal Therapy • Surgical Services

**BREATH CLINIC-WE TREAT CHRONIC BAD BREATH**

HERBAL DENTAL PRODUCTS

All Instruments Fully Sterilized • Most Insurances Accepted

New Patients Welcome! We Strive For Painless Dentistry!

We now offer In-house Dental Insurance. Call for more information!

**Dr. Nasser S. Hanna**  
(Corner of Greenville St. & Main St.)  
284 Main St., Spencer 508-885-5511

## E is for Experience

**LISA CARON REAL ESTATE**

FOR ALL YOUR REAL ESTATE NEEDS

15 Years Real Estate Experience

Lisa Caron, Broker/Owner  
GRI, ABR, LMC, CDPE, SRS, PSA, SRES, MRP  
Notary Public  
c: 508.341.8299

42 W. Main St. • Brookfield, MA 01506  
caronlisarick@aol.com • lisacarson.com

## F is for Ford

**LAMOREUX Ford**

Everybody Talks About Ford and Lamoureux Ford!

**FORD BRONCO SPORT BIG BEND**

SUV I-3 cyl, auto, Iconic Silver, Stk 21BR58 in stock! MSRP \$30,150

Your Price... **\$29,650**

✓ Best Vehicle Lineup!  
✓ Best Sales Experience!  
✓ 26 -Time President's Award Winner!

Family owned & operated since 1977

Community is our top priority!

Hours: Sales Mon-Fri 8:30-6; Sat 8:30-2 • Service Mon-Fri 8-5; Sat 8-12

Visit us on-line at [lamoureuxford.com](http://lamoureuxford.com)

366 E. Main Street, Rte. 9 East Brookfield  
877-LAM-FORD or 508-885-1000

## G is for Gutters

**GARY'S GUTTERS**

~ Locally Owned ~

**Gutter Installations**

COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL

I'll beat any of my competitors' prices by giving you back 10% of your hard earned money off their lowest price **guaranteed!**

FREE ESTIMATES

Fully Insured ~ Installations ~ Cleaning ~ Repairs

**508.353.2279**

[gotogutterguy.com](http://gotogutterguy.com)

## H is for Hardwick

**Your Place To Fight Winter**

Wood Pellets, Coal & Propane

Wild Bird Feed & Feeders

Winter Clothing To Cover You From Head To Foot.

**HARDWICK FARMERS**

Co-Operative Exchange, Inc.

444 Lower Road (Rt. 32), Gilbertville, MA 01031

413-477-6913 [hardwickfarmers.net](http://hardwickfarmers.net)

Mon-Fri 8-6 • Sat. 8-5 • Sun 9-3

## I is for Insects

FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED SINCE 1997

**ACCURATE PEST CONTROL**

JASON HIGHT LICENSE#40308 DAVE HIGHT LICENSE#1649

508-864-0346

**SPECIALIZING IN:**

- Ants • Bedbugs • Bees • Beetles • Fleas • Flies
- Hornets • Mice • Rats • Roaches • Rodents
- Spiders • Ticks • Wasps

One time treatments starting at \$125.

Treat your yard before they take over!

Residential quarterly services starting at less than \$1.50 a day. Stay pest free year long.

**CALL US FOR YOUR FREE QUOTE!**

508-864-0346

11 Old Colony Rd. • Auburn, MA 01501

\*Mention this Ad and receive 10% OFF your first service\* some exclusions apply

For Email Inquiries & Estimates: [Jasonhight24@gmail.com](mailto:Jasonhight24@gmail.com)

## J is for Jewelry

Valentine's Day Specialists

See her face light up when she opens that little black box from Cormier Jewelers.

Priceless!

**Cormier Jewelers & ART GALLERY**

A Family Business for Over 70 Years

136 Main Street • Spencer, MA 01562

[www.cormierspencer.com](http://www.cormierspencer.com)

508-885-3385

Tues, Wed, Fri 10-5 • Thurs 10-6 • Sat 10-3

## K is for Kearns

**KEARNS COLLISION REPAIR**

Since 1969

Always Going The Extra Mile For Our Customers

Free Written Estimates • Damage Appraisal

Color Matching Specialists • Rental Car Services

Warranted Work & Repairs • Diagnostics • A/C Repair

Tune Ups & Engine Repair • Brakes • Alternators

Starters • ABS • Alignments • Tires...and more

Major Insurance Referral Shop

Honoring All Insurance Estimates

1734 Providence Road (Rt 122)  
Northbridge, MA 01534

Ph: 508-234-5211 • Fax: 508-234-2231

[www.kearnscollision.com](http://www.kearnscollision.com)

Fully Certified • RS# 2678

## L is for Loan

Call us for all your lending needs.

Mortgages

Home Equity

Personal Loans

Commercial Loans

Auto, Boat & RV Loans

**CENTRAL ONE**

FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

800-527-1017

[CENTRALFCU.COM](http://CENTRALFCU.COM)

## M is for Moving

**MOVING?**

**FRESH START**

THE MOVING CREW

CALL US TODAY

508-868-4291

[www.FreshStartMovingCrew.com](http://www.FreshStartMovingCrew.com)

MDPU# 31690 | USDOT# 2407387 | MC# 828326

## N is for Nursing

Warm up to a New Career at

**Quaboag**

Rehabilitation and Skilled Nursing Center

47 East Main St., West Brookfield, MA 01585

**POSITIONS AVAILABLE**

Assistant Director of Nurses

Evening Nurse Supervisor

Overnight Nurse Supervisor

Charge nurses: 3p-11p and 7p-7a

C.N.A. 7a-3p and Dietary Aide

We are a Deficiency-Free community facility in a beautiful small town with a family feel.

Sign-on Bonus (\$3000 Health and Dental for FULL-TIME NURSES FOR A LIMITED TIME)

CNA scholarships available to the right applicants. Please inquire for more info.

Please contact Julie Stapleton at:

(508) 867-7716 X3226 or email your resume to [jstapleton@qotcma.com](mailto:jstapleton@qotcma.com)

## O is for Oil

**AMERICAN DISCOUNT OIL & PROPANE**

Need oil & propane right away? Call American today!

**OIL 10¢ Off** PER GALLON (125 GAL MIN)

**PROPANE 20¢ Off** PER GALLON ON YOUR NEXT FILL UP (MIN 75 GAL)

With coupon. One coupon per customer. Exp 2/28/21. Cannot be combined with any other offer or on previous purchases or fuel assistance program.

Order online [Americandiscountoil.com](http://Americandiscountoil.com)

413-289-9428

1182 Park St., Palmer, MA 01069

## P is for Paint

Service Like No Other

**NAL'S PAINT CENTER**

Worcester  
Auburn • Leominster  
Shrewsbury  
Westborough

NAL'S offers a large selection of wall coverings and window treatments.

Find our BOGO Coupon on our website

[nalspaintcenter.com](http://nalspaintcenter.com)

## Q is for Quality Chimney

**CHIMNEY CLEANINGS ONLY \$99**

ALL KINDS OF MASONRY & CONCRETE WORK

Need to get it done? Call me!

FREE Estimates

New & Repairs, Repointing, Rebuilding, Re-lining, Waterproofing, Foundation & Chimney Repair,

New & Stair Repair, Concrete Walkways, Stonewalls, New Roofs, Construction & Carpentry.

**Quality Chimney**

(508)752-1003

## R is for Ramco

**GLASS & SCREEN REPAIR**

Foggy, cracked, or broken glass in your windows or doors?

New Screens made to fit existing windows

We can save you time and money!

We offer Same Day Service on most insulated glass repairs, with great prices!

**Ramco Window Services, Inc.**

1152 Main St (Rt. 9) Leicester, MA 01524

508-892-4200 • [rws4108@verizon.net](mailto:rws4108@verizon.net)

## S is for Stoves

WARM UP THIS WINTER WITH A COZY WOOD STOVE FROM LOPI

VISIT OUR SHOWROOM TO SEE THE DIFFERENCE A LOPI WOOD STOVE CAN MAKE IN YOUR HOME!

**HIGGINS ENERGY ALTERNATIVES**

Route 122, Barre MA 978-355-6545

[HigginsEnergy.com](http://HigginsEnergy.com)

## T is for Towing

**WE'RE ALWAYS OPEN!**

**Audette's Towing & Recovery, Inc.**

324 Main Street  
Spencer, MA 01562

- 24 hr. Roadside Assistance
- Tow Service: Cars/Trucks/Construction Equipment
- Construction Supply Delivery
- Motorcycle/Boat/ATV

Fully insured to cover full value of anything we tow.

Call for a free quote! 774-745-8888

USDOT 3206890 MC 1053208-C

## U is for Us

For all your advertising needs, Retail, Classifieds, Help Wanted, Real Estate, Legals call us!

June Simakauskas ~ 508.909.4062

Spencer New Leader, Charlton Villager, Blackstone Valley Tribune, Auburn News

Mikaela Victor ~ 508.909.4126

Southbridge News, Sturbridge Villager, Webster Times, Connecticut Villagers, All Legals

In print and on [www.508local.com](http://www.508local.com)

## V is for VetClean

MOBILE DETAILING AND AUTO RECONDITIONING

**VETCLEAN**

Reporting for duty!!

- Veteran Owned and Operated
- At your home or business to restore your vehicles interior and exterior from everyday wear and tear
- Cosmetic repairs including cracked windshield, rock chip, scratch repair, scuffs & paintless dent removals
- By appointment.

Call Nick at 774-633-7108 or email [vetcleanllc@gmail.com](mailto:vetcleanllc@gmail.com) for more info!

Beautifying America one vehicle at a time!

## W is for Woody's

**WOODY'S Auto Body**

Direct Insurance Repair Shop

EXPERT COLLISION REPAIR

FOREIGN/DOMESTIC/CLASSIC • SCRATCH & DENT REPAIRS

FIBERGLASS REPAIR • MOTOR HOMES

ASE CERTIFIED TECHNICIANS

OUTSTANDING CUSTOMER SERVICE

ALL INSURANCE CO. ACCEPTED

INCLUDING OUT OF STATE

RENTAL CAR OR TRUCK CAN BE ARRANGED FOR YOU

**HOURS: MON - FRI 8-5**

Sean Wood - Owner

324 Main St., Spencer, MA

p: 774.745.8323 f: 774.745.8324

[woodysaautocollisionrepair.net](http://woodysaautocollisionrepair.net)

## X is for eXtra eXtra

EXTRA, EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

In Stonebridge Press' local community newspapers all mailed direct to the home!

Our advertisers trust us and our readers trust our advertisers!

To place an ad in any of our newspapers please contact:

June Simakauskas for the Spencer New Leader, Charlton Villager, Auburn News, and Blackstone Valley Tribune at 508-909-4062 or [jsima@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:jsima@stonebridgepress.news)

Mikaela Victor for the Southbridge News, Sturbridge Villager, and Webster Times at 508-909-4126 or [mikaela@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:mikaela@stonebridgepress.news)

We will be happy to assist you anytime with your advertising needs.

## Y haven't you been to Sheena's?

**Sheena's Salon & Spa**

A city style salon with small town charm

508-885-4477 • 322 Main Street • Spencer, MA 01562 | Sheena Toscano ~ Owner/Stylist

hair | lashes | waxing | skincare | facials | massage

Give your sweetheart a gift certificate for Valentine's Day!

Tues 10-8 • Wed & Thurs 10-7 • Fri 9-5 • Sat 8-2

[SheenasSalonandSpa.com](http://SheenasSalonandSpa.com)

## Z is for Zoom

**CAHILL'S TIRE & AUTO SERVICE**

FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED SINCE 1967

**Winter Service**

- ✓ Coolant Flush ✓ Check Fluids ✓ Pressure Test For Leaks
- ✓ Oil Change Up To 5 Qts. Conv. (synthetic oil extra)
- ✓ Inspect Belts, Hoses, Thermostat, Radiator Cap, Fan Clutch & Water Pump
- ✓ Inspect Battery, Brakes & Suspension

**\$125**

508.987.0603

33 SUTTON AVE., OXFORD, MA

EXT. 4B OFF I-395 • CAHILLSTIRE.COM



# Environmental issues crucial to trail projects

BY GUS STEEVES  
CORRESPONDENT

REGION — As many know, rail trails have become extremely popular community projects across the country. In many places, they cross – or are themselves – “brownfields,” urban areas contaminated by various forms of pollution that make building trails a long, complex and often expensive prospect.

Last week, American Trails took a look at the issues surrounding how to start and fund such projects as part of a series of online events with participants across the US and Canada by looking specifically at projects in Peabody, Mass., and Chattanooga, Tenn.

As George Naslas of engineering firm Weston & Sampson noted, “perceived or real environmental issues” are crucial to redeveloping trails and parks.

“It’s very important to do your due diligence and think of the what-ifs,” he observed. “...No two projects are the same,” because, even if they have the same kinds of contamination, the best way of addressing it may differ.

His colleague Sarah DeStefano agreed, noting, “what you currently see isn’t necessarily what you’re getting.” For example, she said removing obvious debris may leave invisible toxins behind.

Not long ago, Southbridge found that out while considering whether to extend the Quinebaug Valley Rail Trail into downtown from the Golden Greek. That proposal stalled largely due to uncertainty about liability for contamination along the rail route, concern about how to cross Main Street at the Rotary, and how to address the decaying condition of a site near Crane Street.

Sturbridge recently approved work on its section of the same trail, and is close to starting construction on an extension from Westville’s Calcutt Bridge to Farquhar Road. Meanwhile, Webster is being slowly adding sections to its Riverwalk along the French River downtown.

To DeStefano, the variations show why projects should start with what’s termed a Phase 1 environmental site assessment – a deep review of the documents regarding that property’s historical uses with site visits to identify potential liability issues. Among other things, having one of those can help protect municipalities and landowners who hope to use the land for recreation, but it can also indicate what kind of training and/or protection workers will need, how to protect neighbors during construction, and how to use the proposed changes to reduce clean-up costs.

“It’s not our goal just to dig and send material to a landfill,” Naslas said. Sometimes, lower-concentration contaminants can simply be buried and capped with pavement (maybe the trail



Gus Steeves

**Creosote-treated railroad ties like these, seen piled along the Quinebaug Valley Rail Trail between Southbridge and Dudley, are one of the more visible kinds of ecological concerns planners of rail trails need to address.**

itself), while also designing the property to suit various uses and make it “more resilient” environmentally.

He later added, in response to a question, that what’s allowed varies by state. Some situations will allow stable, no-risk, no-exposure contaminants to just stay there, although they may require monitoring. One option in some cases is to build a “reactive cap” that breaks down some contaminants; others include grading or sloping the land, using rip-rap gravel, or even phytoremediation with plants, he said.

In Chattanooga, a riverside trail that began in 1987 is now 11 miles long. The last three miles had to deal with three brownfields, several active industrial sites, seven railroad crossings, and multiple landowners, some of whom were reluctant to cooperate at first, project designer John Brown said. That stretch cost about \$15 million, most of it for construction and cleanup.

“Our marching orders at the time... were to work with the landowners up and down the river,” Rick Wood of the Trust for Public Land added. Doing so required negotiating many approaches to show that participation would have public relations, tax, land-value and other benefits for themselves and the community. In some cases, proponents

bought the land outright; in others, the owners kept it but gave the trail an easement. In some places, the relics of old uses required demolition; in others, they were renovated and incorporated into the trail to highlight the area’s history.

In Peabody, a two-mile trail along the North River is in a much earlier stage of development despite being 34 years old. When done it will extend a trail that now exists in Salem and connect to the MBTA rail network, DeStefano said.

That route passes numerous old tanneries and related firms that were largely active in the early 20th century, but were falling apart by the 1960s. The trail project faces similar issues to that in Chattanooga: many landowners, lots of pollution (including PCBs, petroleum and metals), a crumbling canal wall and risks of flooding. Five of the six brownfields are recorded as contaminated sites, and research found the sixth is unlisted but contaminated, she said.

Brown noted brownfield cleanups often get public support because they turn derelict places “into spaces that can be reused and enjoyed” while assisting parts of town that have largely been ignored.

“Having a project champion or champion team, ...someone carrying that flag from beginning to end,” is often critical

to success, Dan Biggs said. So is having lots of participants; major funding agencies usually want to see multiple sources involved (either with funds, supplies or volunteer labor) – “Think of all the different ways a project can be supported,” he said.

Brown noted later that federal grants usually require full-time construction oversight and other things that “can cost a project a whole lot more than using other sorts of funding.”

Most of his projects have involved working with railroads, who often say no at first because they’re focused on safety and liability.

“They’re in business to be railroads, not greenways,” Brown said. “...Sometimes, dealing with railroads feels like you’re dealing with another country.”

Gus Steeves can be reached at [gus.steeves2@gmail.com](mailto:gus.steeves2@gmail.com).

## STURBRIDGE VILLAGER

### 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](mailto:news@stonebridgepress.com). news during normal business hours. During non-business hours, leave a message in the editor’s voice mailbox. The editor will return your phone call.

### LAND FOR SALE Woodstock CT – \$90,000

11 acres  
205 ft. frontage  
on paved highway  
ready for construction  
**508-344-0732**



## DISPOSE ALL



### DUMPSTER WINTER SPECIAL

(Call Now! This Pricing for a Limited Time)

**8 yd - \$250 for 4 days**

**15 yd - \$300 for 4 days**

**You got it! We’ll take it! Including Metal**

Cost of dumpster will be estimated with a credit for the metal (as long as it’s loaded last)

### BIODEGRADABLE WASTE - no problem!

**Must not be mixed with other items we remove.**

**Call us first or call us last - we’ll get you cleaned up fast!**

**ANYTHING GOES - TRASH, DEMO & METAL**

**CALL TODAY! 774-696-7267**

A Division of  
**Brunelle & Sons Landscaping**  
Spencer, MA



**DON'T  
TEXT  
AND  
DRIVE**

**Family  
Health  
Center**



of Worcester, Inc.

## FAMILY HEALTH CENTER OF WORCESTER, INC.

*Quality primary care, dental care, and health benefits  
assistance for the entire family.*

*Hablamos Español.*

### Free Health Insurance Assistance

Are you uninsured?

Do you have questions about health insurance?

We can help.

Talk with one of our

Health Benefits Navigators today.

32 Orchard Street, Southbridge, MA 01550

(508) 860-7935

Open weekdays 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

[www.FHCW.org/Southbridge](http://www.FHCW.org/Southbridge)

26 Queen Street, Worcester, MA 01610

(508) 860-7700

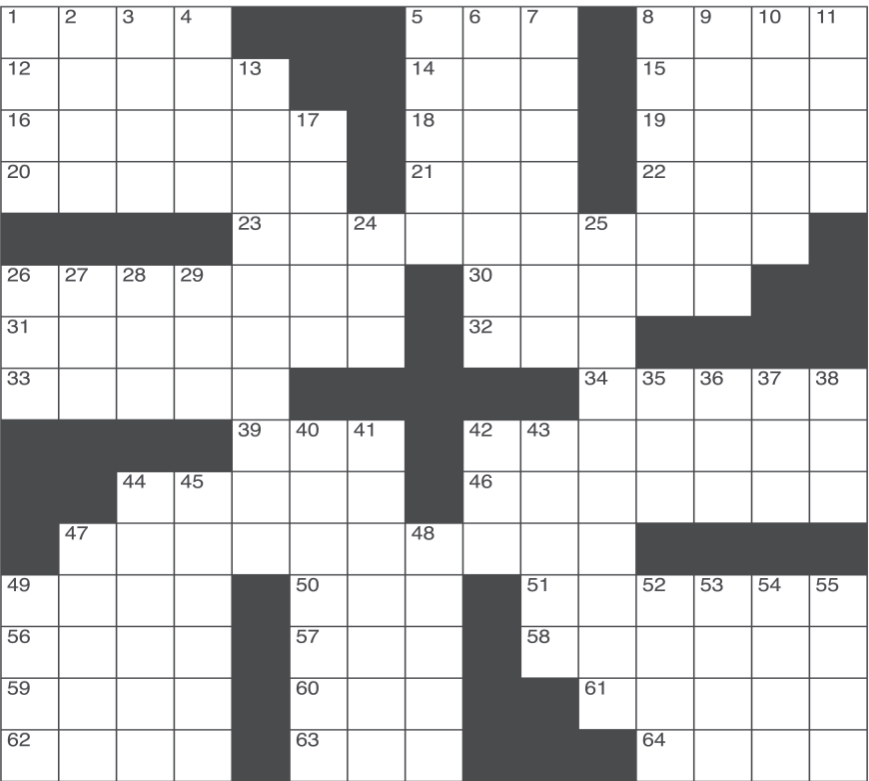
Open weekdays 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Open Saturdays 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

[www.FHCW.org](http://www.FHCW.org)

Open Enrollment  
ends  
January 23rd!



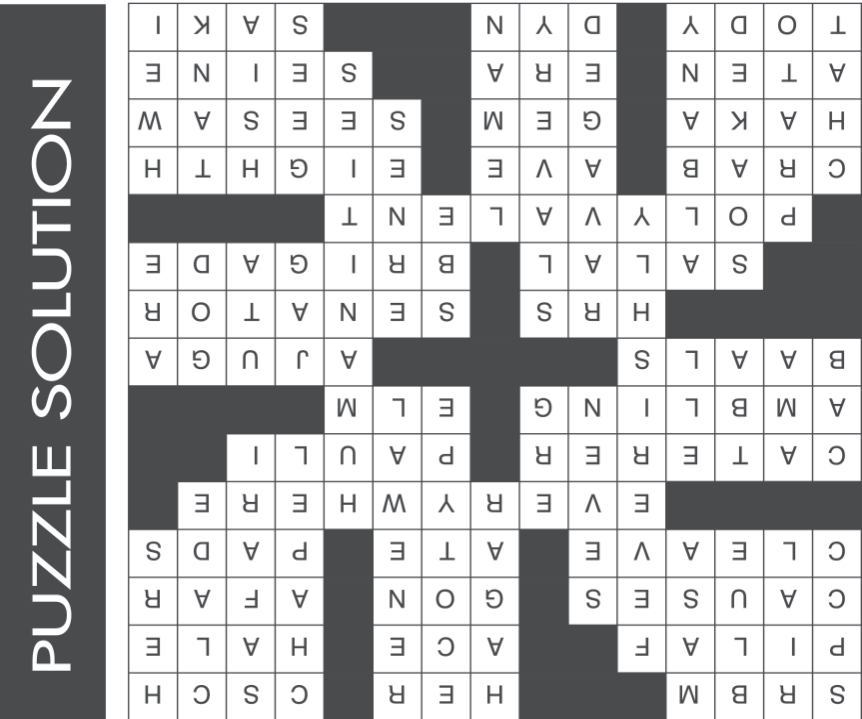


CLUES ACROSS

1. Nuclear near reach weapon  
5. Of she  
8. Hyperbolic function  
12. Rice dish  
14. A team’s best pitcher  
15. Strong and healthy  
16. Induces  
18. Popular manga series  
19. From a distance  
20. Split  
21. Consumed  
22. Cushions  
23. All over  
26. One who provides food  
30. St. \_\_\_ Girl, brand of beer  
31. Walking slowly  
32. Wood  
33. Semitic gods
34. Bugle  
39. 60-minute periods (abbr.)  
42. Congressman  
44. Plant of the heath family  
46. Subdivision of an army  
47. Having many different forms  
49. Shellfish  
50. Latin for hail  
51. Between sixth and seventh  
56. Maori war dance  
57. Precious or semiprecious stone  
58. Teeter totter  
59. Deity  
60. A major division of geological time  
61. Fishing net  
62. Small Caribbean bird  
63. Field force unit  
64. Japanese beverage

CLUES DOWN

1. Prevents oil spills  
2. Monetary unit  
3. The color of the sky  
4. Dough used to make tortillas  
5. Popular comic strip character  
6. Distinct form of a plant  
7. Replenishment  
8. Has its own altar  
9. Expedition to see animals  
10. Group of related organisms  
11. His and \_\_\_  
13. Frenetically  
17. Small integer  
24. Unit of energy  
25. Studies of culture  
26. Taxi  
27. Doctors’ group  
28. Don’t know when yet  
29. Former measure of length
35. Popular CBS series  
36. Skin condition  
37. Christian creator and ruler of the universe  
38. They \_\_\_  
40. Caused severe damage  
41. Work done under harsh conditions for no pay  
42. One point east of due south  
43. Sea eagles  
44. Drenched  
45. State capital  
47. Italian city  
48. Sweetheart (archaic)  
49. Brief talk  
52. Popular disco group: Bee \_\_\_  
53. First Chinese dynasty  
54. Military vehicle  
55. Chinese Moslem



Bay Path nurse alumna is newest triage nurse at St. Vincent’s

WORCESTER — Michelle Elicier, LPN is 2020 graduate of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, where she was actively involved in service-learning.

Elicier volunteered for Bagong Kulturang Pinoy (www.bkpinc.org), promoting literacy and Walk to End Alzheimer’s. She was a member of the UNICEF Club and participated in multiple fundraising activities towards children’s advocacy. Elicier is certified in Dementia Care, Mental Health First Aid (through the National Council for Behavioral Health Mental Health First Aid) and was inducted to the National Technical Honor Society.

After graduation and passing the NCLEX-PN on her first try, she initially worked as an LPN at the Edward Kennedy Health Center. Due to Elicier’s excellent work ethic, she was called back to St. Vincent’s, where she used to work as a medical assistant. The position she was offered is that of a telephone triage nurse for the internal medicine office. Elicier is the new triage nurse!

She uses her previous experience in family medicine, her practical nursing skills, and bilingual ability to reach out to patients remotely. She is fluent in English and Spanish. She puts on her scrubs and mask-up. As a triage nurse, Elicier assesses patients and evaluates their symptoms, all by phone to determine the level of care they need.

“I’m grateful to Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, the Director, and all of the instructors. I can’t thank them enough,” she said.

From simple acts of care, assessing patients to communicating test results, and on every phone call she answers, Elicier is confident in her



Courtesy

**Michelle Elicier**

nursing skills. She finds ways to help her patients be at ease in situations that may be stressful and overwhelming. She has mastered the art of prioritizing and triage. She aims to help and guide patients as she hopes someone would help her if she were in the same situation. Care during COVID-19 is challenging but Elicier does not shy away from challenges. Each day, she strives to be the best LPN she can and provide the best nursing care she can, one telephone call at a time.

University of New Hampshire announces Dean’s List for Fall 2020 Semester

DURHAM, New Hampshire — The following students have been named to the Dean’s List at the University of New Hampshire for the fall 2020 semester.

Katherine McGlinchy of Brimfield, earning High Honors

Leia Krans of Sturbridge, earning Honors

Julianna Berube of Sturbridge, earning Honors

Carly Cave of Sturbridge, earning Highest Honors

Morgan Hammond of Sturbridge, earning Highest Honors

Students named to the Dean’s List at the University of New Hampshire are students who have earned recognition through their superior scholastic performance during a semester enrolled in a full-time course load (12 or more graded credits). Highest honors are awarded to students who earn a semester grade point average of 3.85 or better out of a possible 4.0. Students with a 3.65 to 3.84 average are awarded high honors and students whose grade point average is 3.5 through 3.64 are awarded honors.

The University of New Hampshire is a flagshipw research university that inspires innovation and transforms lives in our state, nation and world. More than 16,000 students from all 50 states and 71 countries engage with an award-winning faculty in top ranked programs in business, engineering, law, liberal arts and the sciences across more than 200 programs of study. UNH’s research portfolio includes partnerships with NASA, NOAA, NSF and NIH, receiving more than \$100 million in competitive external funding every year to further explore and define the frontiers of land, sea and space.

To learn more about the opportunities at the University of New Hampshire visit: [www.unh.edu](http://www.unh.edu).

Area residents on Bridgewater dean’s list

BRIDGEWATER – The following area residents were named to the dean’s list for the fall semester at Bridgewater State University:

**Brimfield**

Jim Damon and Joshua Watts

**Charlton**

Shaelyn Donovan, Abby Holden, Carlos Sousa, Gabby Farrenkopf and Madison Pawlina.

**Fiskdale**

Nate Eliason and Allie Morin

**Sturbridge**

Ally Houck, Emily Macey, Alec Merrifield, Cooper Novelline and Alice Van Wickler.

**Southbridge**

Kolby Lamoureux, Nathan Pruitt and Amelia Tieri.

VILLAGER ALMANAC

OPEN TO CLOSE

HOLLAND: 413-245-7108  
Mon – Thurs 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

FISKDALE: 508-347-6486  
Weekdays 9:00-4:30 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00

STURBRIDGE 508-347-6463  
Weekdays 8:30 – 5:00 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00

BRIMFIELD: 413-245-3451  
Weekdays: 9:00 – 4:30 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00

WALES: 413-245-9808  
Weekdays 8:30 – 12:30 and 2:00 – 4:30 and Sat. 9:00 – 12:00

REAL ESTATE

BRIMFIELD  
None.

HOLLAND  
\$775,000, 70 Allen Hill Rd, Korny, Raymond P, to Noe, Kurt A, and Noe, Susan L.

STURBRIDGE  
\$450,000, 138 Paradise Ln, Beaugard, Roger M, to Fontanez, Johnny, and King-Fontanez, Latia.

How to Use

STURBRIDGE VILLAGER

**TO PLACE A RETAIL AD:**  
ADVERTISING EXECUTIVE  
MIKAELA VICTOR  
(508) 909-4126  
[mikaela@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:mikaela@stonebridgepress.news)

**TO FAX THE STURBRIDGE VILLAGER:**  
(508) 764-8015

**TO PRINT AN OBITUARY:**  
E-MAIL: [obits@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:obits@stonebridgepress.news)  
CALL: 508-909-4149

**SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES:**  
**SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES:**  
KERRI PETERSON  
(508) 909-4103  
[kerri@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:kerri@stonebridgepress.news)

**TO SUBMIT CALENDAR OR AROUND OUR TOWNS ITEMS:**  
E-MAIL: [news@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:news@stonebridgepress.news)

**TO SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR:**  
E-MAIL: [news@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:news@stonebridgepress.news)

**TO PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD:**  
(800) 536-5836  
[Classifieds@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:Classifieds@stonebridgepress.news)

OFFICE HOURS:  
MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY  
8:30AM-4:30PM

**VILLAGER STAFF DIRECTORY**

**EDITOR**  
BRENDAN BERUBE  
(508) 909-4106  
[news@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:news@stonebridgepress.news)

**SPORTS EDITOR**  
NICK ETHIER  
(508) 909-4133  
[nick@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:nick@stonebridgepress.news)

**STONEBRIDGE PRESS PHOTO POLICY**  
As a community oriented family of newspapers, Stonebridge Press welcomes photos from readers, business owners, and other outside sources for publication in any of its titles. Any photos submitted for publication become the property of Stonebridge Press, and may be displayed in our newspapers, as well as on our Web site. They may also be made available for resale, with any proceeds going to Stonebridge Press and/or the photo re-print vendor.

**GOT A NEWS TIP, AND IT S AFTER 5 P.M. OR A WEEKEND?**  
CALL A REPORTER S LINE,  
OR SIMPLY DIAL  
(800) 367-9898  
AND LEAVE A MESSAGE.

**A STONEBRIDGE PRESS PUBLICATION**

PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER  
FRANK G. CHILINSKI  
(508) 909-4101  
[frank@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:frank@stonebridgepress.news)

BUSINESS MANAGER  
RYAN CORNEAU  
(603) 677-9082  
[ryan@salmonpress.news](mailto:ryan@salmonpress.news)

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR  
JIM DINICOLA  
(508) 764-4325

EDITOR  
BRENDAN BERUBE  
(508) 909-4106  
[news@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:news@stonebridgepress.news)

PRODUCTION MANAGER  
JULIE CLARKE  
(508) 909-4105  
[production@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:production@stonebridgepress.news)

The *Sturbridge Villager* (USPS#024-955) is published weekly by Stonebridge Press, Inc., 25 Elm St., Southbridge, MA 01550. Periodical postage paid at Southbridge, MA 01550. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Sturbridge Villager, P. O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550



# QCC professor honored with Yankee Congress Dental Assistant Award

WORCESTER — Jennifer McKeon, professor of dental assisting and hygiene at Quinsigamond Community College, has been awarded the 2021 Elizabeth A. Baer Award, by the Yankee Dental Congress.

This annual award is presented to a dental assistant who has made significant contributions to the Massachusetts Dental Assistants Association and the Massachusetts Dental Society. Award winners must have at least 10 years of cumulative membership in the Massachusetts Dental Assistants Association and 10 years cumulative years of practice as a dental assistant in the dental profession.

"I am very honored and excited to receive this award. Betty Anne, who this award is named after, was a certified dental assistant and a dental hygienist, as am I. She put education on the top of her priority list, just as I do," McKeon said.

McKeon has been a part of the dental assisting landscape for many years, beginning her career as an



Jennifer McKeon

Courtesy

"on-the-job" trained dental assistant before becoming a certified dental assistant in 1998. She has called QCC "home" for some time, first attending as a student then part-time instructor, before becoming a full-time faculty member.

"I have a long history with the College that started when I was in high school and took an English class at QCC. This enabled me to earn college credit and graduate high school early," she said.

Fast forward to 2001 when she received her Associate's degree in Dental Hygiene from QCC. In 2002, she began a career educating students part-time at the College where she earned her degree; becoming a full-time faculty member in 2010.

"There were so many professors who molded my life at QCC that I felt honored to become full-time faculty," she added. "The two things that I was passionate about came together. I wanted to give back all that was given to me at QCC, and I could do that by teaching and coordinating the dental assisting program. I could never have asked for a more perfect position at the perfect college."

Amy Booth, professor of Dental Hygiene was one of McKeon's former professors and today is her colleague and friend.

"I am so proud of my 'student.' Jenn has been a great support and we work very well together. In addition to her knowledge of dental assisting, she is humorous and genuine," Booth said.

McKeon is the co-director of the Kid Seal program and works with QCC and the Worcester Public Schools to help promote dental health in area youths. When she is not working with students, Ms. McKeon is the presiding chair and room coordinator at Yankee Dental Congress, as well as the president elect. This year she will also be appointed president of the Massachusetts Dental Assistants Association (MDAA).

"Jenn embodies our dental program and is an amazing role model for our students," said Pat Schmohl, dean of the School of Healthcare. "She is so deserving of this award."

For more information about QCC, contact Josh Martin, Director of Institutional Communications at 508-854-7513 or [orjmartin@qcc.mass.edu](mailto:orjmartin@qcc.mass.edu).

## Seven Hills Family Services awarded contract for DDS Family Support Center

STURBRIDGE — Seven Hills Family Services (SHFS), an affiliate of Seven Hills Foundation, has been awarded a contract to continue operating the Family Support Center for the South Valley/West region by the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services (DDS). The South Valley Family Support Center will be remain located at 208 Charlton Road in Sturbridge.

The Center will serve approximately 450-550 families annually and act as a hub of information, resources, supportive services and activities for people of all ages who have an intellectual disability (ID) or developmental disability, including Autism with and without ID, living with their family, and their family members. With over 10 years of experience hosting FSC's in Worcester, Sturbridge, and Fitchburg, SHFS is well positioned to provide Family Support Center services to people living in this region. The Family Support Center located in Sturbridge provides services and supports to all cities and towns served by the South Valley/West Area Office. These include Brookfield, Brimfield, Charlton, Dudley, East Brookfield, Holland, North Brookfield, Oxford, Southbridge, Spencer, Sturbridge, Wales, Warren, Webster, and West Brookfield.

Seven Hills Family Services has extensive experience in operating these centers and has been the go-to source for families supporting someone with a disability. DDS recently awarded Seven Hills Family

Services four such centers throughout Massachusetts. With an emphasis on providing person-centered and culturally and linguistically competent support services across the lifespan, the Family Support staff will provide a wide array of options to individuals with disabilities and their families that enable them to stay together and live in a nurturing environment, maintain relationships with families and loved ones, and be welcomed, contributing members in their home communities. The Fitchburg Family Support Center is committed to providing both short term and long-term service navigation to families who need more than Information and Referral to access supports or solve a particular issue.

### About Seven Hills Foundation

Headquartered in Worcester, the Seven Hills Foundation currently offers program sites at 160 locations throughout Massachusetts and Rhode Island employing more than 4,500 professionals. Through its affiliates, Seven Hills Foundation offers a continuum of support and services to 45,000 children, adults and seniors with disabilities and other life challenges. Seven Hills Foundation stands as one of the most dynamic and comprehensive health and human services agencies in the country and is widely recognized as a premier provider of comprehensive supports. For more information, visit [www.sevenhills.org](http://www.sevenhills.org).

## Local students named to UMass Amherst Dean's List

AMHERST — Below is a list of local students who were named to the dean's list at the University of Massachusetts Amherst for the fall 2020 semester.

In order to qualify, an undergraduate student must receive a 3.5 grade-point average or better on a four-point scale

### BRIMFIELD

Lydia Maeve Boland  
Mikayla Nicole Colabello  
Abigail Rose Corriveau  
Michael Reese Crosby  
Brenna L Ferrentino  
Justin Riley Guillet  
Nicholas Samuel Henderson  
Erika Elizabeth Madden  
Logan Sean McCarthy  
Allison M McGlinchy  
Griffin Moore  
Hunter A Ramsland  
Brian Daniel Riel  
Catherine Teresa Simonds  
Emma So Stanley  
Bryanna Watts

### FISKDALE

Colin Thomas Eliason  
Elizabeth Stone Flandreau

Olivia Sara George  
Ming Huang

### HOLLAND

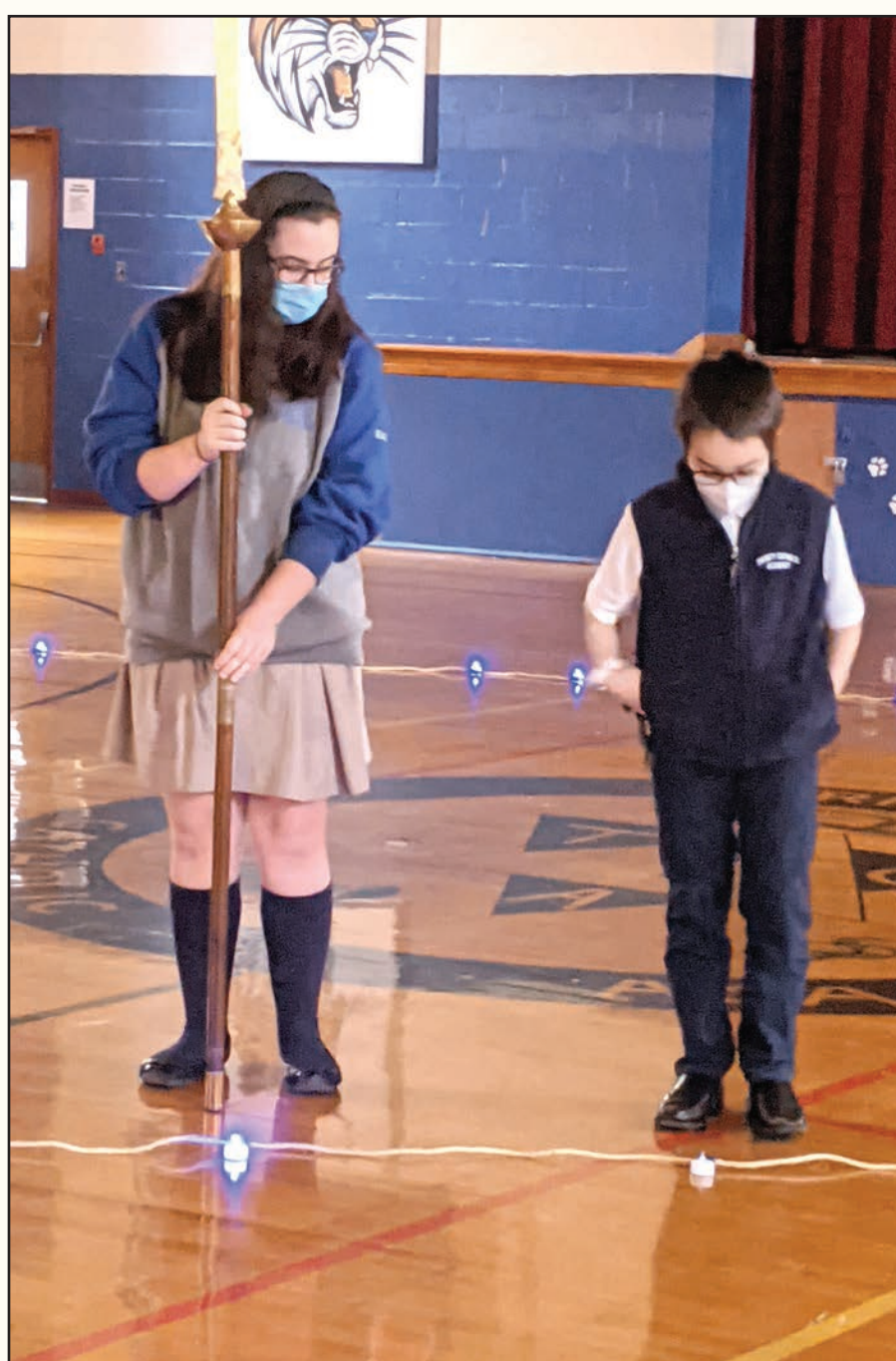
Serena Mae Chiasson  
Katelyn Elizabeth Lauritsen

### STURBRIDGE

Eric David Silveira  
Charlie J Bouhanna  
Joseph Anthony Distefano III  
Michael Francis Distefano  
William Ray Farland  
Thomas Roger Goodwin  
Jared M Hammond  
Elise Hankis  
Aaron Laokham Inthirath  
Lily Isabella Kent  
Roman Gabriel Krochmalnycky  
Jared Jeffrey Langevin  
Joseph Daniel Matte  
Thomas Richard Mazeika  
Thomas Michael Muir  
Ndidiamaka Ngozi Onwubueke  
Adon Jon Osimo  
Kendra Jane Salvuiolo  
Fey Thurber  
Garret Aiden Webb

### WALES

Kyle John Boone



Courtesy

## TRINITY CATHOLIC ACADEMY OBSERVES NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

On Jan. 22, Trinity Catholic Academy participated in a National Day of Prayer led and closed by Fr. Ken Cardinale and directed by seventh and eighth grade students. The Catholic Church designated this particular day as a day of prayer for the legal protection of unborn children in preparation for the upcoming Virtual March for Life in DC this week. This is an annual practice that has been observed by TCA for over 10 years with an extra-large rope Rosary in the gym while the entire student body takes part. (picture), a "Living Rosary."

With a few adjustments/arrangements, they were able to continue the annual activity through what else? Zoom! The seventh and eighth grade conducted the physical Living "lit" rosary in the gym, while each class followed along by zoom in their own manner. The younger classes followed along with a "color sheet" of the rosary, others with a rosary made of pool noodles, and older grades standing and resighting the rosary. The seventh and eighth Grade completed the activity with a short continuation of their novena for pro-life to complete the devotion. TCA will take part in the Virtual March for Life in D.C. on Jan. 29.



### Valentine's Day & Every Day GIFTS & DINING GUIDE

Visit these fine local establishments for great gifts, to dine-in, take-out, or to buy gift certificates

To advertise on this page, contact June at [jsima@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:jsima@stonebridgepress.news) or 508-909-4062

~ Support Local Businesses ~



## CHARLIE'S

Diner • Bar • Grill • Functions

WE ARE OPEN

FOR INDOOR DINING!

BREAKFAST • LUNCH • DINNER

Friday & Saturday Night  
After 5:00

Stuffed Cod w/Calamari

Full Menu - Take out still available

5 Meadow Rd., Spencer, MA 01562

Gift Cards 508-885-4033

[www.charliesdiner.com](http://www.charliesdiner.com)

Hours: Sun, Mon & Wed 8-8 • Thurs, Fri, Sat 8-9

Join us for some Sweet Specials Valentine's Day Weekend  
Fri, Sat, & Sun, Feb. 12, 13 & 14. Reservations recommended.

## Spencer Country Inn



Buy Entree Get 1 1/2 price  
(dine-in only) Cannot be used on  
holidays or private parties  
With this ad. Exp 2/28/21

Reservations accepted. Nightly dinner specials.

SUNDAY BRUNCH 10am-1pm

All You Can Eat \$15.95 (plus tax & gratuity)

Fish N' Chips To-Go ~ Fridays Only \$11.95



500 Main St., Spencer, MA  
508-885-9036

[www.spencercountryinn.com](http://www.spencercountryinn.com)

HOURS

Lunch: Fri & Sat 11:30-2:00

Dinner: Fri & Sat 5:00-Close

Sun. Brunch: 10am-1pm

We will be serving Valentine's Day Dinner,  
Sunday, February 14 from 5-8pm.

Reservations recommended.

GIFT CERTIFICATES



honesty people respect  
accept na TRUST belief  
relationships loyalty accept

(Your Neighbors)

To find out how you can earn more trust from your neighbors.  
Contact your sales representative [StonebridgePress.com](http://StonebridgePress.com)



# Cornerstone Bank announces new Vice President, Marketing

SOUTHBIDGE — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with 12 locations throughout Massachusetts, is pleased to announce that Alan Whitney has joined the team in the role of Vice President, Marketing. Alan comes to Cornerstone with more than 25 years of relevant industry experience.

“Alan is a seasoned veteran with fresh ideas and unbridled enthusiasm,” said Todd Tallman, president of Cornerstone Bank. “We are excited to see how he can help us continue to grow and provide an even better experience to our customers.”

Whitney held past positions with Agrium Advanced Technologies and Shemin Landscape Supply. Prior to joining the workforce, he served his country for six years in the United States Navy after graduating with a degree in Business/Marketing from Western New England University. He currently serves as the Chairman for the Ware, Massachusetts Board of Selectman, the governing body of the community in which he resides with his wife, Laurie.

“I look forward to building upon the successes Cornerstone Bank has already achieved. In just my few short weeks here, I have noticed the slogan ‘Built on Trust’ is more than just words. Every member of the team works hard every day to earn and maintain the trust of our customers,” said Whitney. “That’s what sets us apart and one of the main reasons I’m so excited to be a part of the organization.”

#### About Cornerstone Bank

Cornerstone Bank is an independent, mutual savings bank serving residents, businesses and communities throughout Central Massachusetts. Our customer promise, Built on Trust, is not just a brand, but also a corporate focus. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone Bank rests on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. Deposits are insured in full by a combination



Alan Whitney

of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Depositors Insurance Fund. The Bank is an Equal Opportunity Employer, Equal Housing Lender and SBA Preferred Lender. To learn about Cornerstone Bank’s per-

Courtesy

sonal and business banking offerings, please visit [cornerstonebank.com](http://cornerstonebank.com) or call 800-939-9103.

## Alyssa Slade named to Deans’ List at Bryant University

SMITHFIELD, R.I. — Bryant University is pleased to recognize the students who have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to academic excellence and achievement. Alyssa Slade, class of 2022, from Brimfield, has been named to the Deans’ List for the fall 2020 semester.

“The challenges of the last year have revealed the character and grit of our community of scholars,” said Provost and Chief Academic Officer Glenn Sulmasy, JD, LL.M., reflecting on Bryant’s successful fall semester. “I am impressed and proud of their resilience, dedication, and innovative spirit.”

Congratulations to Alyssa on this outstanding achievement!

#### About Bryant University

For 158 years, Bryant University has been at the forefront of delivering an exceptional education that anticipates the future and prepares students to be innovative leaders of character in a changing world. Bryant delivers an innovative and uniquely integrated business and liberal arts education that inspires students to excel. With approximately 3,800 graduate and undergraduate students from 38 states and 49 countries, Bryant is recognized as a leader in international education and regularly receives top rankings from U.S. News and World Report, Bloomberg Businessweek, Forbes, and Barron’s. Visit [www.Bryant.edu](http://www.Bryant.edu).

## Becker College announces Dean’s List for Fall 2020

WORCESTER — Becker College is proud to announce the Dean’s List for the fall 2020 semester. The Dean’s List recognizes all full-time students (24 or more credit hours earned for the academic year; 12 minimum each semester (September through May) whose term grade point average is 3.50 or higher with no grade below a B- and no incomplete (I) or withdrawal/failing (WF) grades.

Salyce Mejia of Fiskdale is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Morgan Brooks-Hoenig of Sturbridge is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Veterinary Science, Veterinary Technology.

Founded in 1784, Becker College is an undergraduate and graduate, career-focused private college, providing a supportive and inclusive learning community that prepares graduates for their first to last careers. Nearly 1,700 students from the United States and around the world attend Becker College, which has campuses both in Worcester and Leicester, Massachusetts. With nationally recognized programs in nursing, game design and animal studies, Becker has been consistently ranked as a “Best College” for undergraduate education by The Princeton Review.

## 7 ways to celebrate Valentine’s Day in a socially distant manner

The last year has been challenging for social butterflies, as the COVID-19 pandemic has limited opportunities to socialize in person with close friends and family members.

Social distancing guidelines affected various holidays throughout 2020, but such guidelines were issued after Valentine’s Day 2020. Valentine’s Day may be the easiest holiday to celebrate while still adhering to social distancing restrictions. After all, Valentine’s Day is typically a day to spend time alone with the person you love.

The following are seven socially distant Valentine’s Day celebration

ideas.

1. Order a take-out dinner for two from a favorite local restaurant. It gives you the night off from cooking and helps support a small business.
2. Watch a romantic movie on your preferred streaming service.
3. Treat each other to a pair of cozy pajamas and spend the day under the covers catching up on cuddles and rest.
4. Bundle up and, if weather allows, take a hand-in-hand stroll through a park or favorite sightseeing spot. Just follow any protocols for remaining safe, such as wearing masks.
5. Those who reside in climates that are mild in February can rent a small boat and enjoy a few hours on the open water far away from others.
6. Purchase the ingredients to a recipe you both enjoy and prepare the meal together. Don’t forget to leave room for dessert.
7. Take turns giving one another back massages at home.

These are just some of the ways Valentine’s Day can be enjoyed safely while adhering to pandemic-related safety guidelines.

## Harrington Physician Services welcomes Dr. Jessica Mack

SOUTHBIDGE — Dr. Jessica Mack has joined Harrington Physician Services in Southbridge providing physical medicine and rehabilitation services.

Board Certified in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R), Dr. Mack will join Dr. Sean Stevenson in Harrington Physician Services Medical Arts Suite 205 in Southbridge. Dr. Jessica Mack will provide interventional pain procedures, including spine and joint injections in addition to performing electrodiagnostic studies including Nerve Conduction Studies (NCS).

PM&R is a specialty that treats a wide variety of medical conditions affecting the brain, nerves, bones, joints and muscles. The specialty recognizes comprehensive management of chronic musculoskeletal and neurologic conditions, emphasizing improvements in functional status and quality of life.

Patients interested in scheduling an appointment can call 508-909-8590.

PM&R takes a multidisciplinary approach to a patient’s treatment plan. Physiatrists write specific programs that help maintain and increase range of motion, strengthen muscles, improve proprioception (awareness of joint position in space) and muscle relaxation, among other objectives.

Dr. Mack attended the University

of Michigan where she completed her fellowship and PM&R residency program. She received her medical degree from the University of New Mexico School of Medicine in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Jessica Mack, MD, is a well-rounded academic scholar featured in many publications and investigative studies.

Harrington’s PM&R office is located in Suite 205 of its Medical Arts building at 100 South St., Southbridge, which also houses Harrington Physician Services’ general surgery practice.

Harrington HealthCare System is a comprehensive regional health-care system serving more than 25 communities across south central Massachusetts and northeastern Connecticut. The system includes Harrington Hospital in Southbridge, Harrington HealthCare at Webster and three additional major medical office buildings: Harrington HealthCare at Charlton, Harrington HealthCare at 169, also in Charlton, and Harrington HealthCare at Spencer; Harrington Physician Services, our primary care and multi-specialty physician group; UrgentCare Express at Harrington in Charlton and Oxford; The Cancer Center at Harrington in Southbridge, and the region’s largest Behavioral Health programs for mental health and substance use.

## LOCAL SERVICE PROVIDERS



**AUTO SERVICES**  
Master Technicians  
Over 28 Yrs. Experience  
ASE  
All Repairs Welcome  
**Desmarais Auto Repair**  
Free Diagnostics  
While-you-wait  
All Repairs Guaranteed  
24 mos. or 24,000 miles  
1067 Stafford St. • Rochdale, MA  
(Across from Rochdale Park)  
508.892.9800

**CATEGORY OF YOUR CHOICE**  
  
Your Ad Here  
Call Today!

**ROLL OFF DUMPSTERS**  
**PEPIN**  
WASTE SERVICE  
Your Local Roll-Off Specialist  
Weekend Special  
10 yd. Rental 1 Ton  
\$275  
3 sizes available. Call for pricing.  
Roll Off Containers  
Weekend Dumpsters  
for the Homeowner  
Houses • Attics • Cellars  
Construction Sites  
10-15-20 Yd.  
508-892-4193 • 508-769-6603  
Leicester, MA  
Fully Insured

To advertise in The Local Service Provider Directory  
Contact June at 508-909-4062 [Jsima@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:Jsima@stonebridgepress.news)







# Fall Home & Auto

This section reaches 47,000 households  
in 7 Massachusetts newspapers.

Call 508-764-4325  
or email [ads@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:ads@stonebridgepress.news)  
for more information

## BEST WINDOW COMPANY

**KUBALA**  
HOME IMPROVEMENT  
The Door and Window Experts  
MACSL100114 | MAHIC150118 | CTHIC0619712

Award Winning  
High Performance  
Windows & Doors

100% FINANCING AVAILABLE | Lifetime Warranty

**508-784-1550**

BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS A+ f



## BUILDER

**Todd A. Ethier**  
**TAE**  
B·U·I·L·D·E·R  
INCORPORATED

**Remodeling Expert**

- ◆ FINISHED BASEMENTS
- ◆ ADDITIONS ◆ GARAGES
- ◆ SIDING ◆ ROOFING ◆ DECKS
- ◆ WINDOWS ◆ DOORS
- ◆ KITCHEN ◆ BATHS

Quality Building Since 1985  
Licensed & Insured  
**508-764-2293 ◆ 774-230-3967**

## Granite & Marble

**SHREWSBURY**  
MARBLE & GRANITE, INC.

Buy Factory Direct & Save  
WINTER SALE

50 COLORS • \$39 per sq. ft. Installed  
(40 sq. ft. or more) Cannot be combined with other offers.

Biggest Selection of Marble,  
Granite & Quartz of ANY Fabrication Shop  
300 Colors To Choose From  
Please call for appointment 508-523-3769

508-842-9800 • [shrewsburymarbleandgranite.com](http://shrewsburymarbleandgranite.com)  
620 Boston Turnpike (Rte 9 E), Shrewsbury, MA  
(1/4 mi. east of Home Depot - Big Blue Bldg)  
Mon-Thurs 8-5, Fri & Sat & 9-4

Advertise on this page  
for one low price!  
Get 7 papers.  
Call 508-764-4325

- Spencer New Leader
- Webster Times
- Sturbridge Villager
- Auburn News
- Charlton Villager
- Blackstone Valley Tribune
- Southbridge News

## Oil & Propane

**AMERICAN DISCOUNT OIL & PROPANE**

Need propane or oil right away?  
Call American today!

**OIL 10¢ Off** (125 GAL MIN)  
**PROPANE 20¢ Off** (MIN 75 GAL)  
PER GALLON ON YOUR NEXT FILL UP (MIN 75 GAL)

With coupon. One coupon per customer. Exp 2/28/21. Cannot be combined with any other offer or on previous purchases or fuel assistance program.

Order online  
[Americandiscountoil.com](http://Americandiscountoil.com)  
**413-289-9428**  
1182 Park St., Palmer, MA 01069

Use promo code **palmer123** when ordering online

## Paving

**G. COOPER PAVING**  
New Beauty Blacktop  
**413.544.5381**

DISCOUNTS ON REFERRALS! FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED

SENIOR DISCOUNT 10% OFF \$200 OFF NEW DRIVEWAY INSTALLATIONS

DRIVEWAYS • PARKING LOTS  
SEALCOATING • STONE  
HOT TAR CRACK FILL

"Big Or Small, We Do It All!"  
**FREE ESTIMATES**

# Home & Auto



### DRAINS/HANDYMAN

**MAIN STREET DRAIN CLEARING & HANDYMAN SERVICES**

Wallpaper  
Painting  
Plumbing  
Carpenter  
Flooring

If we don't do it you don't need it done!

Senior Citizen (65+) Discounts  
Give me a Call  
Rich at  
**508-963-1191**

### ELECTRICIAN

**TNT ELECTRICAL SERVICES**

Timothy N Tripp  
Licensed Electrician

67 Hillcrest Drive  
Southbridge, MA 01550  
**508.909.5114**  
**774.601.3107**

[Tntelectricalserviceinc@gmail.com](mailto:Tntelectricalserviceinc@gmail.com)  
MA#100257JR  
NH#17425J

### ELECTRICIAN

**TERRENCE W. ALDEN JR.**  
LICENSED ELECTRICIAN

New Construction  
Remodelling  
Kitchen & Bath  
Service Updates

W. Brookfield, MA  
**1.774.230.9606**  
[Talden1987@gmail.com](mailto:Talden1987@gmail.com)

**Fully Insured**  
Accepts credit card payments & free online bank transfers  
Licenses:  
MA-13705-21777A,  
NH-13932M, RI-B013781

### Electrician

**BRIAN WOOD**

Master Electrician  
Residential • Commercial  
o: 508.764.3925  
c: 508-505-0111  
35 Years of Experience  
I specialize in:  
New Construction  
Renovations  
Pools and Hot tubs  
Lighting (int. & ext.)  
Repairs and Maintenance  
Electrical Panel upgrades  
[Bpwelec@gmail.com](mailto:Bpwelec@gmail.com)  
Facebook:  
Brian Wood Electrician

### ROOFING

**GUARANTEED**  
Roofing & Building  
Maintenance LLC

Roofing, Siding,  
Gutter and  
Gutter Cleaning

Contact:  
Daniel Truax  
508-450-7472  
[gbmaintco.com](http://gbmaintco.com)

Senior Citizen Discount  
Credit Cards Accepted  
Over 30 years of satisfied customers  
Fully Insured - Free Estimates

A+ Rating BBB  
MA HIC Lic #146620  
MA CSL #099487

### HANDYMAN

**WHAT DA YA NEED?**

Jay Martinelli  
MA HIC Reg #200253  
Fully Insured

General repairs  
and finishing  
related to all  
aspects of home  
improvement.

**508-686-0336**  
Email:  
[whatdayaneed@gmail.com](mailto:whatdayaneed@gmail.com)

### Handyman

**No Job Too Small**  
Home Improvement  
-Insured-  
MA Reg #174661

- General Carpentry
- Laminated Floors
- Remodeling
- Kitchen, Bath & Cellar
- Painting
- Handyman Services
- Floor Leveling
- Power Washing and MORE!

See Our Work Online  
[nojobtoosmallhomeimprovement.com](http://nojobtoosmallhomeimprovement.com)  
Tel. 508.414.7792  
Sturbridge, MA

### H.V.A.C.

**Central Air Conditioning Installed UNDER \$10,000**

**RUDD EQUIPMENT**  
13 Seer • Up to 1250 sq.ft.  
**MITSUBISHI**  
Ductless Split  
**HEAT PUMPS**  
Electrical Work Extra  
**MASS SAVE**  
Certified Contractor

**David's**  
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING  
30 Years Experience  
[davidsheatandac@gmail.com](mailto:davidsheatandac@gmail.com)  
[davidsheatandac.com](http://davidsheatandac.com)  
**508.450.6264**  
LICENSED/INSURED  
Free Estimates

### MASONRY

**C & J**  
MASONRY HARDSCAPE  
RETAINING WALLS  
OUTDOOR  
LIVING CONSTRUCTION

Chimney Repair  
Foundation Repair  
Steps, Patios  
Pool Surrounds  
Pressure Washing  
Property Maintenance  
Water Proofing  
Delivery of Aggregate  
Cord Wood

Brian French  
(413)222-5542  
[frenchyn45@gmail.com](mailto:frenchyn45@gmail.com)

### PAINTING

**Scott Bernard's PRECISION PAINTERS**  
Finest Craftsmanship Since 1979

Interior-Exterior  
Paints, Stains,  
Wallpaper and  
Fine Faux Finishes

Satisfaction  
Guaranteed

Free Estimates  
**774.452.0321**

### Pest Control

**ACCURATE PEST CONTROL**  
Full Pest Control Services  
Over 28 yrs. experience  
Reasonable Rates  
Owner Operated

**508-757-8078**  
Ask for  
David or Jason  
Hight  
Auburn MA

### Plastering

**Glenn LeBlanc Plastering**

Specializing in  
small  
plastering jobs;  
ceilings,  
additions,  
patchwork and  
board hanging

Over 30 Years  
Experience.  
3rd generation.  
CALL  
**508-612-9573**

### PLUMBING

**JOHN DALY Plumbing**

Water heaters, Faucets,  
Toilets, New pex water piping,  
Outside hose connections  
replaced or added,  
Dishwashers, Garbage  
disposals, Water filters,  
Tub & shower valves,  
Tub & shower replacements  
Any repair or  
replacement needed.

Buy your own fixtures & faucets, or I will supply.  
Serving all of  
Worcester County  
Lic.#MPL-21763  
Since 1988  
Call John 508.304.7816

We are home owners' plumbers!  
[jdtrainman714@aol.com](mailto:jdtrainman714@aol.com)

### ROOFING

**David Barbale ROOFING**  
Roofing/Gutters  
Repair Work

Fully Licensed  
and Insured

MA Lic #CS069127  
MA HIC Lic #1079721  
INS. #CAC032585

**C: 508-397-6709**  
**O: 508-248-6709**  
[davidbarbale.com](http://davidbarbale.com)

### Roofing

**SAUNDERS & SONS ROOFING**  
When you need a roof,  
hire a roofing company,  
that's what we do!

Call Bill Toll-Free  
1-866-961-Roof  
**508-765-0100**

Lifetime material warranty  
& 25 yr. labor warranty  
available  
MA Reg #153955  
CSL #095459  
CT-HIC #0638641  
Fully Insured,  
Free Estimates  
Family Owned and Operated  
Now Accepting All  
Major Credit Cards

BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS A+

### ROOFING

**GUARANTEED**  
Roofing & Building  
Maintenance LLC

Roofing, Siding,  
Gutter and  
Gutter Cleaning


Contact:  
Daniel Truax  
508-450-7472  
[gbmaintco.com](http://gbmaintco.com)

Senior Citizen Discount  
Credit Cards Accepted  
Over 30 years of satisfied customers  
Fully Insured - Free Estimates

A+ Rating BBB  
MA HIC Lic #146620  
MA CSL #099487

This section reaches 47,000 households in 7 Massachusetts newspapers.





Serving Sturbridge, Brimfield, Holland and Wales

PO Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550  
Telephone (800) 367-9898  
Fax (508) 764-8015  
www.StonebridgePress.com

FRANK G. CHILINSKI  
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE  
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

We can bridge the divide between us

It has been one of the most tumultuous times in recent history in regard to politics, and the divide taking place across the country is very real. This Editor has noticed plenty of disagreements take place between individuals with opposing viewpoints. Being privy to all sorts of news stories and situations where politics are discussed puts us right in the heart of it.

This may not be the case in every situation; however, we have noticed that residents in small towns do not let politics divide them. Sure, you have members of various select boards going head to head about an issue, you have citizens up in arms over certain topics, but people out about the town have remained quite hospitable to each other.

During one event we recently covered, we witnessed two long-term residents from the same town who could not be further apart in viewpoints have a refreshingly peaceful and genuine discussion. Imagine a long haired ‘hippie’ woman holding protest signs and a die-hard Republican, former Marine and hunter dressed in steel toe boots, joking around with each other and having a genuine laugh, then wishing each other well with sincerity, you wouldn’t have believed it. But it happened.

Since that moment, we have noticed more and more situations like this unfold. Hands are being shaken and smiles are being exchanged despite the so called political ‘divide’ that has ripped through the country. We think citizens in small towns, no matter who or what they are about can genuinely appreciate each other’s differences. A person may not agree with hunting or wouldn’t head out into the woods themselves, however they could see a neighbor who shot an eight-point buck and offer a friendly congratulations. We have seen conservatives with a snowbank of over a foot covering their driveways be plowed out by someone with a ‘Bernie’ sticker on their plow truck. We have seen posts on social media that have nothing to do with politics invoke laughter from both sides.

In a small town everyone knows everyone, and if they don’t they are only separated by one person. In such small towns, that allows for communities to rally around each other and to make sure at the end of the day, that we all had a good one. It’s cold up here, the winters are long and brutal. That camaraderie of wanting to protect our small town niche has benefits that have always stood the test of time. You may be a Republican, Independent or a Democrat but you all root for the New England Patriots. Perhaps now maybe Tampa, but having that home town pride is something that connects us all.

**Power Outage Tips**

BEFORE

- Follow directions from local officials
- Check flashlight and radio batteries
- Charge mobile devices
- Add warm clothes and blankets to emergency kit
- Keep gas tank full
- Take cash out (ATM’s may not work)

DURING

- Conserve energy
- Go to community warming shelters & check on neighbors, family, seniors and homeless
- Only use generators in open areas away from windows and home to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning

AFTER

- Throw out unsafe food

Who to Call → Where to Meet → What to Pack

www.Ready.gov/blackouts

Ready

OPINION

VIEWS AND COMMENTARY FROM STURBRIDGE, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND AND WALES

Strategies to Drive Safely in the Snow

Hot on the heels of a classic Nor’easter, it’s time once again to review our annual winter driving tips to keep safe while navigating icy, snowy roadways. When the wintry weather finds you slip sliding away this season, keep in mind these common sense strategies to up your odds of a safe trip.

Accelerate slowly to reduce wheel spin. If starting from a standstill on slick snow or ice, start in second gear so the vehicle is less likely to spin the tires. The transmissions on some vehicles have a winter mode that automatically starts in a higher gear.

On snowy or slippery roads, decelerate slowly too. It helps to increase your following distance to five to six seconds.

Reduce your speed and drive smoothly. In slippery conditions, tires lose their grip more easily, affecting all aspects of your driving: braking, turning, and accelerating. The key is to drive as smoothly as possible, avoiding sudden actions or rapid movements of any kind. Drive as if you have a bowl of water in your lap and don’t want to spill any.

Don’t lock your wheels when braking. Locked wheels can make the vehicle slide or skid. If you have a vehicle without an antilock braking system (ABS), you may need to gently apply the brakes repeatedly to avoid having them lock up the wheels.

Know your brakes: Whether you have antilock brakes or not, keep the heel of your foot on the floor and use the ball of your foot to apply firm, steady pressure on the brake pedal

Perform one action at a time when accelerating, braking, and turning. Asking a vehicle to do two things at once—such as braking and turning, or accelerating and turning—can reduce your control. When taking a turn, for instance, slowly apply the brakes while the vehicle is going straight. When it’s at the right speed to take the turn, let up on the brakes and smoothly turn the steering wheel. After you’re through the turn, slowly depress the accelerator to regain your speed.

Tackling the Hills: Don’t power up hills. Applying extra gas on snow-covered roads will just make your wheels spin. Try to get a little inertia going before you reach the hill and let that inertia carry you to the top. As you reach the crest of the hill, reduce your speed and proceed downhill slowly

Clear Clogs: Make sure the exhaust pipe is not clogged with snow, ice or mud. A blocked exhaust pipe can cause deadly carbon monoxide gas to leak into



TAKE THE HINT

KAREN TRAINOR

the passenger compartment of the vehicle while the engine is running.

Did you know tires are your most important weapon against slipping and sliding? Take into account these top tire tips:

Cold temperatures decrease the air pressure in tires, which adds to the rolling resistance caused by snow and slush. So be sure to check tire pressure regularly, especially after there has been a sharp drop in temperature.

When buying all weather or snow tires have them installed on all four wheels. This provides even traction all the way around and gives you top notch steering and stopping.

Can’t replace all four? If you can only afford two snow tires, some tire experts suggest you get them mounted in the rear. Here’s why: If your front tires skid, you can still maintain some control over the car by steering those wheels. But if your rear tires lose contact with the road, it’s much harder to control where the car goes. For that reason, the tires with the greatest amount of traction are supposed to go on the back

Make sure you have enough tread on your tires. The drive tires must provide traction to push your vehicle over wet pavement and through snow. The steering tires must have traction to steer the vehicle. Experts say you should have at least one eighth inch of tread to plow through snow effectively.

Note: The driving advice above was culled from various sources including AAA; State Farm Insurance Agency; Consumer Reports; and Michelin Tires.

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.

Joy! It’s an inside job

A long-time friend, Brenda Badger Bonser posted a meme this week. For those unaware, a “meme” is a picture that someone has added a message to make a point. Brenda posted a picture of a joyful child. It read, “Don’t wait for things to get easier, simpler, better. Life will always be complicated. Learn to be happy right now. Otherwise, you’ll run out of time.”

It doesn’t surprise me that Brenda felt it important to post this. Brenda was always a person with a kind word upon her lips and a smile for everyone. Brenda radiated joy and still does.

Thank you, Brenda, for your beautiful posting. We all needed to hear this. We know it to be true. We all recognize our lives aren’t infinite, yet we often live as though we have forever to do the things we want to do.

Brenda’s meme conveys a short and concise message accompanied by a matching picture. In a way, it’s like a much shorter version of my weekly column. My mission with this column is to provide enough information to influence mindsets from negative to positive, hopefully turning readers from pessimists to optimists. I want to help others understand that we have far more control over our lives than they believe.

Most people travel through life looking for others to blame and others to resolve their issues. Too often,



POSITIVELY SPEAKING

GARY W. MOORE

they are looking for the government to solve their problems. The government has never been good at solving the problems of citizens. Optimistic people tend to be more self-reliant.

Instead of looking for solutions from the government, optimists just want the government to get out of the way. I don’t look for my doctor to solve all my medical problems. I want help and support from my doctor, but I have taken control of my healthcare. No one will be a better advocate for my health than me.

Optimists look for a better outcome and believe it will happen. Not through wishful thinking, but because they believe something better is coming. That belief motivates them to act to make it so. Optimists believe by working in concert with others, positive things can happen... but if they sit and wait for someone to take them by the hand and make things better, they will always be disappointed. The commonly heard phrase, “If it is to be, it’s up to me” is true.

Joy is something grander than happiness. Joy is a fruit of the Spirit, and when we find joy it’s infused with comfort and wrapped in peace. It’s an attitude of the heart and spirit, but we won’t find it unless we seek it and understand it is within us, waiting to be felt and expressed.

So, back to Brenda’s meme... happy...

With ultra-low rates, should you still invest in bonds?



FINANCIAL FOCUS

JEFF BURDICK

If you’ve been investing for many years and you’ve owned bonds, you’ve seen some pretty big changes on your financial statements. In 2000, the average yield on a 10-year U.S. Treasury security was about 6 percent; in 2010, it had dropped to slightly over 3 percent, and for most of 2020, it was less than 1 percent. That’s an enormous difference, and it may lead you to this question: With yields so low on bonds, why should you even consider them?

Of course, while the 10-year Treasury note is an important benchmark, it doesn’t represent the returns on any bonds you could purchase. Typically, longer-term bonds, such as those that mature in 20 or 30 years, pay higher rates to account for inflation and to reward you for locking up your money for many years. But the same downward trend can be seen in these longer-term bonds, too – in 2020, the average 30-year Treasury bond yield was only slightly above 1.5 percent.

Among other things, these numbers mean that investors of 10 or 20 years ago could have gotten some reasonably good income from investment-grade bonds. But today, the picture is different. (Higher-yield bonds, sometimes known as “junk” bonds, can offer more income but carry a higher risk of default.)

Nonetheless, while rates are low now, you may be able to employ a strategy that can help you in any interest-rate environment. You can build a bond “ladder” of individual bonds that mature on different dates. When market interest rates are low, you’ll still have your longer-term bonds earning higher yields (and long-term yields, while fluctuating, are expected to rise in the future). When interest rates rise, your maturing bonds can be reinvested at these new, higher levels. Be sure you evaluate whether a bond ladder and the securities held within it are consistent with your investment objectives, risk tolerance and financial circumstances.

Furthermore, bonds can provide you with other benefits. For one thing, they can help diversify your portfolio, especially if it’s heavily weighted toward stocks. Also, stock and bond prices often (although not always) move in opposite directions, so if the stock market goes through a down period, the value of your bonds may rise. And bonds are usually less volatile than stocks, so they can have a “calming” effect on your portfolio. Plus, if you hold your bonds until maturity, you will get your entire principal back (providing the bond issuer doesn’t default, which is generally unlikely if you own investment-grade bonds), so bond ownership gives you a chance to preserve capital while still investing.

But if the primary reason you have owned bonds is because of the income they offer, you may have to look elsewhere during periods of ultra-low interest rates. For example, you could invest in dividend-paying stocks. Some stocks have long track records of increasing dividends, year after year, giving you a potential source of rising income. (Keep in mind, though, that dividends can be increased, decreased or eliminated at any time.) Be aware, though, that stocks are subject to greater risks and market movements than bonds.

Ultimately, while bonds may not provide the income they did a few years ago, they can have a place in a long-term investment strategy. Consider how they might fit into yours.

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.



# The fishing is great...for some



THE GREAT  
OUTDOORS  
.....  
RALPH  
TRUE

This past week's bitter cold weather sure had local lakes and ponds making ice for fishermen to get out and enjoy the outdoors. Unfortunately, the fish were not cooperating for some, with very few anglers catching fish, but they were just happy to be enjoying fishing with friends and family. Many anglers had a good fire going to keep them warm, as the temperature, driven by wind, had the wind chill factor at minus 10 degrees on Friday and Saturday. There was the smell of good food in the air as I stopped to visit some of the fishing parties at local ponds. A fishing party at the Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club, for Cub Scout Pack 2 from the Uxbridge VFW had a good number in attendance, but the fishing success was very slow. The group still had a great time slipping and sliding on the ice, and were treated to some great food by Steve Bedard and his crew.

As of this past Saturday, local lakes and ponds that had safe ice included: Wallum Lake, Manchaug Pond, Whiting Reservoir, Meadow Pond, Bad Luck in Douglas, and Webster Lake in Webster, to mention a few. This past Sunday, fishing picked up for numerous anglers I spoke to, with largemouth bass, perch and pickerel keeping anglers busy tending the ice fishing gear! As this column was being written, the weather forecast for Tuesday was predicting a foot of snow. It is sure going to hamper fishing for some ice fishing anglers, especially the elderly and handicapped. It sure makes me think about moving to Florida, or some other warmer place, at least for a few months.



Cub Scout Pack 2 fishing at the Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club last Saturday.

This writer received a fishing report from my brother Ken and his son Mark this past Sunday. The pair fished Webster Lake this past Sunday and had an extremely slow day of fishing. Ice tilts baited with shiners were mostly quiet, with only a couple of yellow perch being caught. Jig fishing was not much better with only a couple of yellow perch caught. They were the only fishermen on the lake at the state boat ramp. Normally, they catch a few trout and pickerel, but not this past Sunday. They still had a good time fishing. Any time a father and son can spend time together fishing, it is a good day!

This writer received a notice from Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife's Marion Larson, Chief Information & Education Officer last week, in reference to the proposed hunting and fishing license increase for 2022. It sure is a bad time to think about increasing the licenses in the wake



Courtesy

This large yellow perch was caught by John Schreiber this past week in local waters.



Courtesy

This week's picture shows, left to right, Kevin Gray, Jared Negro, and Kyle Smith, enjoying some ice fishing in local waters. Fishing was very good, with numerous species of fish being caught.

## Grow quick, easy and nutritious microgreens



GARDEN  
MOMENTS  
.....  
MELINDA  
MYERS

Add fresh flavor to your meals year-round with microgreens. These easy-to-grow greens need minimal space and no special equipment for a flavorful and nutritious harvest in little more than a week.

Use microgreens on salads, soups, pizzas, omelets, in stir fries or as a snack. These tiny seedlings are packed with more nutrition than their mature counterparts.

Add a bit of spice to soups and sandwiches with radish and mustard microgreens. Try red cabbage, chard, beets and amaranth for some added color. Sunflower's somewhat nutty flavor makes it perfect for snacking. Let some of your pea microgreens grow a bit taller to use in stir fries.

Fill a shallow container with a two-inch layer of moist potting or seed starting mix. Sprinkle seeds over the soil surface and lightly cover with potting or seed starting mix. Water gently to ensure good seed-to-soil contact.

Continue to water often enough to keep the soil slightly moist. Reduce your workload and keep the planting mix consistently moist by covering freshly planted containers with plastic. Once the greens break through the soil, remove the cover and move the container to a sunny location or under artificial lights.

Increase the fun and success with a microgreen growing kit like the Organic Herb and Microgreens Grow Kit from Gardener's Supply (www.gardeners.com). This set up is the perfect size for your countertop or other small space. The full spectrum light is adjustable so you can raise or lower it as needed whether growing short microgreens or taller herbs.

Or skip the growing mix and mess with a Jute Microgreens Starter Kit. Set the jute mat in the shallow tray, add seeds, and water. Then compost the jute mat after harvesting your greens.

Follow the planting directions on the seed packet. You typically need two to three tablespoons of seeds for an 11-by-21-inch tray. Buy enough seeds to make additional plantings every week or two to ensure a constant supply. Microgreens like most vegetables taste best and are most nutritious when eaten fresh. And these tasty bundles do not last long in storage.

The microgreens are ready to har-



Courtesy — Gardener's Supply Company

Small grow light kits make growing herbs and microgreens indoors easy and convenient for harvesting and cooking.

vest once the plant forms the first set of true leaves. These are the leaves that resemble those of the mature plant. This takes anywhere from 7 to 14 days, depending on the room temperature and type of microgreens you are growing.

Use scissors to clip the greens off at ground level. If you prefer to use the whole seedling, roots and all, you will need to wash off any of the seed starting mix clinging to the roots.

Once you harvest all the greens, it is time to replant. Save money and be kind to the environment by composting the used planting mix and reusing containers. Convert shallow fast-food containers into planting trays. Disinfect these or other planting trays before using them for subsequent plantings. Just soak the containers in a 10% bleach and water solution for ten minutes. Then rinse in clear water before planting.

Gardening doesn't get much easier than this. You will enjoy the fresh flavor all winter long as you wait for the outdoor growing season to begin.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses* "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and the nationally-syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by Gardener's Supply for her expertise to write this article. Myers' Web site is [www.melindamyers.com](http://www.melindamyers.com).

of a pandemic. For those that have a computer, they should take advantage of the three Zoom platforms being held on Feb. 4 and 9, at 6:30 p.m. & the Feb. 6 meeting being held at 10 a.m.! Instructions for joining the online sessions, or by phone can be found on [mass.gov/masswildlife-funding](http://mass.gov/masswildlife-funding). Massachusetts Fish & wildlife will also release a list of their proposed increases in the spring, and will hold formal publi-

hearings at that time? This writer would urge all hunting and fishing license holders in the state, to take the time to make their voices heard at the times mentioned. The public may also provide public input using an online form on [mass.gov/masswildlife-funding](http://mass.gov/masswildlife-funding) or by mail to Mass. Wildlife, License Fee, 1 Rabbit Hill Rd., Westborough MA 01581.

Take a Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

## Friday's Child



Deniol  
Age 14

Hi! My name is Deniol and I love basketball and soccer!

Deniol is a sweet and social boy of Hispanic descent. Those who know him best describe him as polite, eager to please and very kind. Deniol makes friends easily and gets along well with other children and with adults. Deniol's favorite activity is playing sports, especially basketball and soccer, as well as playing video games. He hopes to be a police officer when he grows up and likes to watch television shows that feature police officers.

At school, Deniol's teachers report that he puts a lot of effort into his work and wants to do well in class. Deniol receives extra support in school, and participates in social-skills and life-skills groups. He

gets along well with his classmates and teachers.

Legally freed for adoption, Deniol is looking for a loving family that can provide him with support, structure and consistency. An ideal family will also be able to advocate for his needs, and help him utilize appropriate community services. Although his social worker believes that he will do well in a family of any constellation, with or without children, she believes that he will do particularly well in a family where he can have siblings. A family who enjoys being active would also be a good match for Deniol.

### Who Can Adopt?

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

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

To learn more about adoption from foster care, call the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) at 617-964-6273 or visit [www.mare-inc.org](http://www.mare-inc.org). The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have a permanent place to call home.



# OBITUARY

## Raymond A. J. Gagnon, 77



Raymond A. J. Gagnon, 77 of East Dennis, MA passed away suddenly at home on January 21, 2021. Born and raised in Worcester, MA, he was the beloved husband for 57 years of Jeanne (Collette)

Gagnon, also of Worcester.

He leaves behind his loving children Darlene (Gagnon) Vincent and her husband Dr. Harold Vincent of North Kingstown, RI, his son Raymond Gagnon Jr. of Dennis, MA and his daughter Christine Gagnon of East Dennis, MA.

Raymond was Pèpère to his cherished grandchildren: Kathryn, Colin and Connor Vincent of RI; Liliana and Isabelle Gagnon of NH; and Colette Gagnon of MA. He is survived by his brother Roger Gagnon of St. Augustine, FL and his sisters Lorraine Haddad of Worcester, MA and Diane Faucher of Windham, NH. He was predeceased by his brother Russell Gagnon of Sutton, MA.

Raymond was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and an officer in the Southbridge

Police Department before becoming a licensed real estate broker and tax assessor for the town of Sturbridge, MA. He moved to Cape Cod in 1984, assuming the responsibility as the tax assessor for the town of Dennis, from which he retired in 1999. He continued to serve on the Board of Assessors until 2015.

A man of all trades, he could fix almost anything and enjoyed working with his hands. He renovated and built several homes in Sturbridge and Dennis. In retirement, he enjoyed his hobbies of manufacturing stained glass and coin collecting. Raymond was a devout Catholic who deeply loved his family and spending time with his children and grandchildren.

A memorial Mass in his memory will be held in the spring at Our Lady of the Cape Catholic Church in Brewster. Charitable donations can be made in his name to Our Lady of the Cape Parish, 468 Stony Brook Road, Brewster, MA 02631.



## FISKE HILL

continued from page A1

Most of the waivers were from formalities that have been waived for several previous projects in town. All but one passed unanimously; the exception passed with Chamberland voting no.

That issue concerned the radius of the curve at the Main Street end. Engle designed it to be 24 feet in a 50-foot right of way (ROW), but the regulations call for 32 feet in a 60-foot right of way. He argued he wanted to “minimize impervious area [pavement] to take the brunt off the stormwater management system” and reduce the number of trees to be cut. He also noted widening it to the regulation size was unnecessary for the traffic it’d get.

Chamberland, however, saw it through the lens of a retired firefighter who was used to driving ladder and other large trucks. He was concerned 24 feet wasn’t wide enough and wanted 32 feet “with all the activity that’s going to be on that road.”

Bubon noted other similarly-sized side streets, most of them residential, were typically 22-26 feet wide with no fire department issues she was aware of. The board’s majority (6-1) opted to split the difference and require 28 feet, although Engle said the extra pavement “won’t make [Conservation Commission] happy.” (That board is also holding a hearing on this project regarding wetlands-related issues.)

Bubon said the fire department never expressed a concern like Chamberland’s despite having had the plans for weeks, but she was willing to contact them again for further input. In fact, she said fire, police, health and building departments all indicated no concerns, while DPW and peer reviewer John Shevlin of Parr Corp. made some minor modifications to the traffic and stormwater plans.

Shevlin’s most notable observation was finding “a little bit of a discrepancy” in the traffic counts that might require some revision, and he noted the developer will have to talk to the Mass Department of Transportation about the intersection and probable crosswalk on Main Street. With some tweaks, he said he thinks “traffic should be addressed properly” by the proposal.

The proposed road is itself twice as long as a cul-de-sac should be, but Engle said that’s necessary to provide access to the residential parcels. Bubon said the current 500-foot limit was set in 1965, but many longer dead ends have been built with no “issues that I’m aware of, provided there’s a cul-de-sac with a turn-around for emergency vehicles and buses.” She also noted the proposed emergency access route to Southbridge will be built during phase one of the 55+ project, saying the Southbridge Planning Board waived holding a hearing on it.

The other waivers will allow the developer to leave part of one side without a sidewalk (due to proximity of the stormwater detention basin), make a slightly smaller turn-around (175 feet vs 200), use 6-inch rather than 8-inch water mains (because Main Street’s line is only six inches), and reduce the amount of soil atop the drainage pipe (to ensure it has enough slope to work properly). Two others affected the plan paperwork, by allowing a different size and scale of map and allowing it to not show every single 10-inch tree within 50 feet of the road. Regarding the latter, Engle noted doing so would make the plan “pretty busy” since the ROW covers four acres of forest and they plan to preserve as many trees as possible. Bubon asked him to simply flag the trees on-site they’ll be keeping instead.

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

## MOORE

continued from page A8

ness comes from external events and forces. My family makes me happy. Joy is different. It’s an inside job. It comes from our decision to live our lives with joy. And you know what? I’ve never once met a joyful pessimist. I’ve never even met a happy pessimist.

Choose to be joyful and happy. Choose to believe the best in others and believe the best is yet to come. It’s a beautiful thing to see when others realize we expect them to be good, their inner self tries not to disappoint us.

Here’s my challenge. Find your joy today. Find it in this moment... at home or at work... in a quiet time or a busy situation. Find joy with your spouse, your kids or with a person you

are meeting for the very first time... or find it in a quiet moment, alone. You will only find it within you.

Optimism makes our lives and the world a better place. Last week I spoke of the pandemic of pessimism and how pessimism can spread like a virus. It’s also true of optimism.

So how and where do you look for happiness and joy? For happiness, look around you and seek it in every circumstance. For joy, look within your heart and mind.

I have found joy this morning in writing to you.

Will you join me?

Gary W. Moore is a freelance columnist, speaker, and author of three books including the award-winning, critically acclaimed, “Playing with the Enemy.” Follow Gary on Twitter @GaryW Moore721 and at www.garywmoore.com.

## SENIOR CENTER

continued from page A1

His colleague Rachel Young described what they’ve built or seen in other senior centers, with the multipurpose room being “the heart of any senior center” because it “does a lot of heavy lifting.” Right now, that room is efficiently used, but “burdens” the staff with set-up and breakdown duties due to its relatively small size. She recommended a 1,500-2,500 square foot space that could be divided, part of it attached to the kitchen

for meals and/or cooking classes.

Elsewhere, Young is proposing fitness spaces with various kinds of equipment (and some parts with none) to accommodate the broad range of senior interest and abilities, other kinds of recreational spaces, meeting rooms and “informal congregation spaces” where people can just talk, play cards and the like.

The entire study is on the town’s Web site.

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



# Community Connection

**GRAND OPENING!**

**VP Dollar Store** **FEBRUARY 6TH NOON-6**

*Come celebrate the Grand Opening of the newest dollar store in Spencer!*

- ~ Raffles ~
- ~ Music by DJ all afternoon ~
- ~ Discounts Throughout the Store ~
- Milk • Bread • Beverages
- \$1 Hot Coffee
- Toys • \$1 Greeting Cards
- Food & More!

160 Main Street (corner of Main & Maple) Spencer, MA 01562

Are you invested properly? Get a second opinion.

**Jeff Burdick, AAMS®**  
Financial Advisor

419 Main Street  
Sturbridge, MA 01566  
508-347-1420  
www.edwardjones.com

**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

MKT-5894K-A Member SIPC

**Morin JEWELERS**  
Fine Jewelry & Gifts

The Jewelry store where you buy with confidence

**WE BUY GOLD**

**Specializing in Custom Designs**

**All types of Jewelry Repairs**

**MASTER JEWELERS™**  
BRILLIANCE YOU DESERVE®

409 Main St. Southbridge, MA  
morinjewelers.com • 508-764-7250  
Located at CVS Plaza

**Charlton Oil Company**  
Propane

508-248-9797

**Don't Pay Too Much for Propane**

PROPANE	PRICE PER GAL.	Tanks Filled to 80%
75-150	\$2.20	
150-300	\$1.85	
300-500	\$1.65	Driver Discretion
500 PLUS...	CALL OFFICE	

**DON'T PAY TOO MUCH FOR OIL!**

- Monday price 2/1/21 was **\$2.07** per gallon\*  
100 gallon minimum
- Call for the most up to date daily price or visit us at www.charltonoil.com

**"Call Us First!"**  
\*prices subject to change

**New Low Auto Rates From National Carrier!**

Ask us about it!

**Call or email today**

We offer policies for  
AUTO  
RENTERS • HOME  
BUSINESS  
LIFE  
DISABILITY  
MOTORCYCLE  
BOAT

*You'll have peace of mind knowing our Insurance Professionals have your back!*

**MICKNUCK'S FRESH MARKET PLACE**

570 MAIN STREET Rt. 20 FISKDALE, MA  
TEL: 508-347-0116 FAX: 508-347-6985

**VISIT OUR STORE FOR WEEKLY SPECIALS!**

**Hearthstone Market & Catering**

**Grab 'N' Go Home-style Lunch, Dinner, and Tasty Treats**

**Catering Available!**

Rt. 20, 630 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566  
508-347-7077

Open 7 Days a Week • 11am-7pm

hearthstonemarket1@gmail.com • hearthstonemarketandcatering.com

**BAIR INSURANCE AGENCY**

www.bairinsurance.com  
edwardbair@bairinsurance.com

**~ Online Quotes ~**

Serving area towns since 1980

58 A.F. Putnam Road  
Charlton, MA 01507

p: 508-248-4204 f: 505-248-1199  
Conveniently located near scenic Buffumville Lake

MAPFRE

TRAVELERS CONCORD GROUP INSURANCE

**Email Us!**

Email us your thoughts to:  
news@stonebridgepress.news

**Got Space? we do.**

**Contact Your Sales Representative Today.**

**508-764-4325**





# DOOR & WINDOW



# SUPER DEAL



**CALL BY FEBRUARY 28<sup>TH</sup>**



# SAVE \$325

**ON EVERY WINDOW<sup>1</sup>**

Minimum purchase of four.

# SAVE \$700

**ON EVERY PATIO AND ENTRY DOOR<sup>1</sup>**

**PLUS**

# SAVE AN EXTRA 3% ON YOUR ENTIRE ORDER<sup>1</sup>

Minimum purchase of four.

**WITH**

**\$0 Down • 0 Monthly Payments • 0% Interest for 1 YEAR<sup>1</sup>**

Minimum purchase of four. Interest accrues from the purchase date but is waived if paid in full within 12 months.

## Patio & Entry Doors:

- Our beautiful doors will **transform the look of your home** and are built to operate even during extreme temperature changes.

## Windows:

- The combination of our composite Fibrex® frames and our reinforced window seals helps provide **year-round comfort**.
- Fibrex resists rot and corrosion and is available in six colors that won't crack, peel or flake, which means **our windows are virtually maintenance free.\***

## Renewal by Andersen:

- We aim to make replacing your windows and doors **an affordable project and the best home improvement experience you've ever had**.
- For your peace of mind, we've adjusted our operations to **serve you in the safest way possible and make your home more secure**.

**Now offering virtual appointments, too!**



**RENEWAL by ANDERSEN**  
FULL-SERVICE WINDOW & DOOR REPLACEMENT



Renewal by Andersen is the only brand to win both J.D. Power awards for Windows and Patio Doors in 2020

**Make your home more secure. Book a Virtual or In-Home Appointment.**

# 1-800-209-2746

For J.D. Power 2020 award information, visit [jdpower.com/awards](http://jdpower.com/awards). <sup>1</sup>DETAILS OF OFFER: Offer expires 2/28/2021. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Get \$325 off each window and \$700 off each entry/patio door and 12 months \$0 down, 0 monthly payments, 0% interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry/patio doors between 2/1/2021 and 2/28/2021. 3% off your entire order, minimum purchase of four (4) or more windows or entry/patio doors required, if you purchase by 2/28/2021. 3% savings offer applied after initial discount. Military discount applies to all active duty, veterans and retired military personnel. Military discount equals \$300 off your entire purchase and applies after all other discounts, no minimum purchase required. Subject to credit approval. Interest is billed during the promotional period, but all interest is waived if the purchase amount is paid before the expiration of the promotional period. Financing for GreenSky® consumer loan programs is provided by federally insured, federal and state chartered financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender or familial status. Savings comparison based on purchase of a single unit at list price. Available at participating locations and offer applies throughout the service area. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. License number available upon request. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. "ENERGY STAR" is a registered trademark of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of Andersen Corporation. ©2021 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. ©2021 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved. \*See limited warranty for details.





# REAL ESTATE



**Jules  
Lusignan**



**T.A.  
King**



**Maureen  
Cimoch**



**Ellen  
Therrien**



**John  
Kokocinski**



**Adrienne  
James**

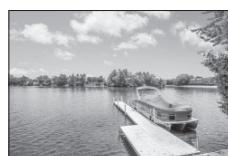


**SMART** MLS

[www.LakeRealty.net](http://www.LakeRealty.net) • [www.WebsterLake.net](http://www.WebsterLake.net)

111 East Main Street, Webster, Massachusetts 508-943-9306 508-987-0767 1-800-552-7444  
Licensed in MA & CT

*Listings Always Needed – We're Always Busy Selling!*



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

**WEBSTER** – 6 Nicholas Circle! 8+ Rm Center Hall Colonial! 1.22 Acres! Sought After Neighborhood! Great Commuter Location Accessible to Many Major Routes! Spacious Stainless Steel Applianced Cabinet Packed Eat-in Kitchen & Formal Dining Rm! 23 x 24 Frplce Family Rm w/Cathedral Ceiling & Slider to the Huge Deck! Front to Back Living Rm! 1/2 Bath w/Laundry Closet! The 2nd Floor You'll Find the Comfortable 12X17 Master w/Walk-in Closet & Full Bath w/Linen Closet! 2 Additional Bedrooms plus an Office/Nursery/Bedroom all w/Ample Closets! 2nd Full Bath off the Hall w/Linen Closet! 2.5 Total Baths! Lower Level Ideal for Storage or Future Expansion! 2 Car Garage w/Electric Openers w/Double Door Entry to the Basement for Moving Larger Items aka Boys Toys! 2 Z Oil Heat, 2 AC, Separate Oil Water Heater! Irrigation! Don't Delay! **\$418,900.00**

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



**WEBSTER LAKE** – 112 Gore Rd! NORTH POND! Sucker Brook Cove! 8 Rm, 3 Bdrn, 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**

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

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

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



**hope2own.com**  
508.943.4333

Sharon Pelletier - Owner Broker  
Licensed in MA, CT & RI

**We Want  
Your Listings!**

**June Cazeault \* Laurie Sullivan \* Matthew Ross \* Lori Johnson-Chausse \* William Gilmore II \* Brian Bohenko**

#### FEATURED NEW LISTING!

##### WEBSTER • 233 - 235 NORTH MAIN STREET



Large 3 Family a rare find! Occupied by the owner for many decades. Entire 1st floor is one spacious apartment. Each apartment has 2 bedrooms. 30 x 44 beautiful fieldstone Foundation, with walkout to off street parking. **\$289,900.**

##### OXFORD - 12 WINTER STREET



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

##### THOMPSON - 5+ ACRE WATERFRONT LAND - BECOLA ROAD



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

##### THOMPSON - 25 TERRACE DRIVE



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

##### WEBSTER - 103 UPPER GORE RD



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

##### LAND WEBSTER/OXFORD/DUDLEY/DOUGLAS

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

##### WEBSTER - 29 WEST AVE.



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

##### WOODSTOCK - 33 DEER MEADOW LANE



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

##### DUDLEY - 22 ROBERTS ROAD



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

##### WEBSTER - 20 KINGSBURY



**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.**

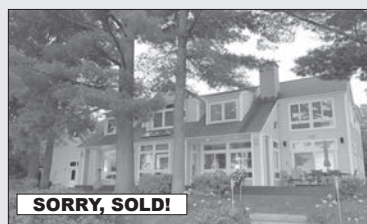
##### WEBSTER - 52 CUDWORTH ROAD



**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



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

##### Lake Shirley - 647 Reservoir Rd



**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.**



#### PUT YOUR TRUST IN US

#### TEAMWORK AND EXPERIENCE

Jo-Ann Szymczak 774-230-5044

Diane Luong 774-239-2937

Maria Reed 508-873-9254

ReMax Advantage 1

25 Union St., Worcester MA 01604



CALL FOR A MARKET ANALYSIS

Licensed in MA & CT

#### 55+ Community Development Opportunity



**Dudley:** Ready for developer to go forward. Market is anxious for housing for seniors - This is a great opportunity! Seller will also consider dividing as 2 oversized lots suitable for custom homes.  
**61 Airport Road - \$699,900**



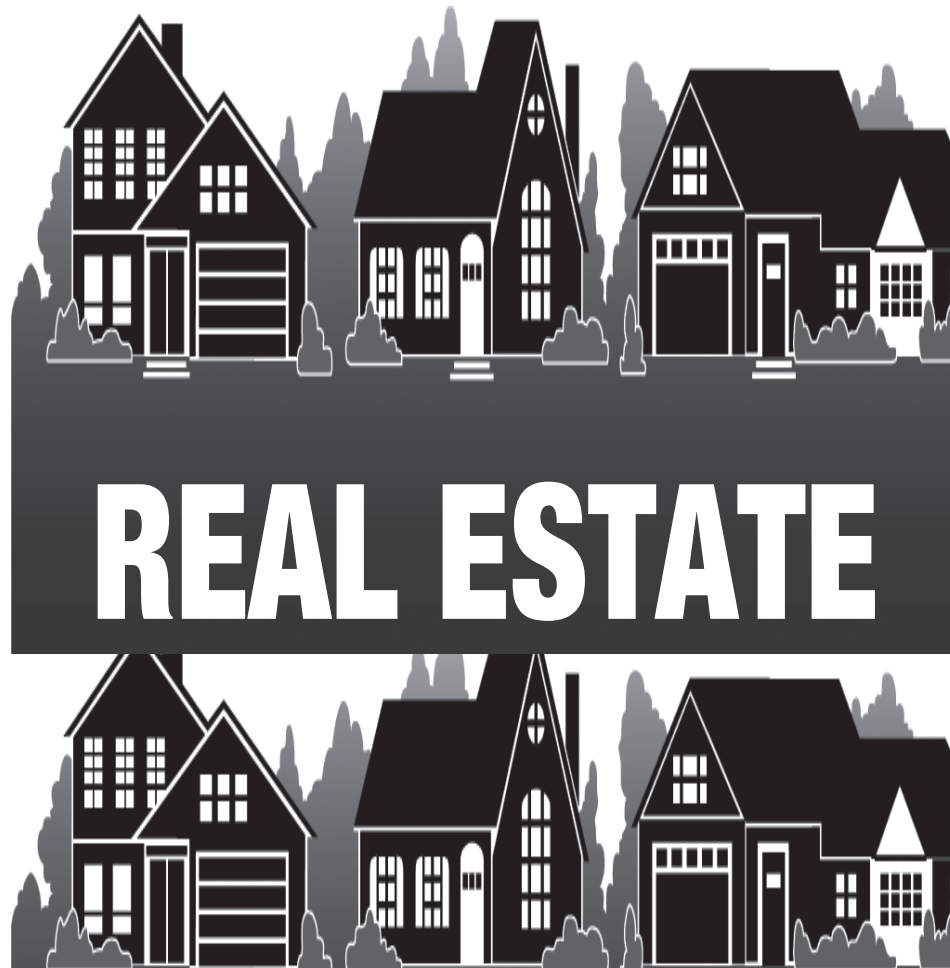
*Sunshine Terrace - \$49,900*

**Thompson CT:** 1 bedroom mobile home. Eat-in kitchen, modern bath recently remodelled, Open living room and office are, 2 parking spaces, 55+ Community.



*10 Vecchia St - \$143,500*

**Webster:** Condo - 1st floor. Totally renovated, Walls, electrical, plumbing, kitchen bath, 2 Bedrooms, Garage







## MEET YOUR LOCAL REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS

Perfect for Realtors, Mortgage Companies, Banks, Real Estate Attorneys, Home Inspectors, Chimney Inspectors, Lead Removal businesses, Insurance Companies, etc... any business involved in the buying or selling of real estate.

To join this section, please contact your local sales rep, 1-800-367-9898 or email [jsima@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:jsima@stonebridgepress.news)

**EXIT**  
Real Estate Executives

**Why call the Michelle Terry Team to sell your home?**

**We have a great marketing plan that includes:**

- Home staging services
- Home warranties
- 3D videos
- Professional photography
- Ramped up open houses!
- And so much more...

**Give us a call today! 508-202-0008**

**YOUR LOCAL REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS**

130 W. Main Street  
Spencer, MA 01562  
Michelle Terry • Broker /Owner  
[michelleterryteam.com](http://michelleterryteam.com)

**Homes for Heroes®**

Firefighters Law Enforcement Military Active, Reserves and Veterans Healthcare Workers/EMS Teachers

Contact our client coordinators for additional buyer assistance  
Linda Selligslap 508.864.3245 Vicki Bennett 774.633.6762

**ReMax Advantage 1**  
25 Union St., Worcester MA 01604

**CALL FOR A MARKET ANALYSIS**

Licensed in MA & CT

Jo-Ann Szymczak 774-230-5044  
Diane Luong 774-239-2937  
Maria Reed 508-873-9254

**ERA Key Realty Services**  
"Put 36 years of combined real estate experience to work for you!"

Donna Flannery  
508-885-6665  
[donnaflannery.com](mailto:donnaflannery.com)  
[donnaflann@aol.com](mailto:donnaflann@aol.com)

**ERA**  
REAL ESTATE

Kayleen Flannery-Sauvageau  
508-612-9843  
[Kayleen00@aol.com](mailto:Kayleen00@aol.com)

415B Main Street, Spencer, MA 01562

**THERE'S A NEW MORTGAGE LENDING TEAM IN TOWN!**

**Daniel Kirschner**  
Mortgage Loan Officer, NMLS # 772868  
[dkirschner@baycoastbank.com](mailto:dkirschner@baycoastbank.com)  
Phone: 774-230-7750

**Amy Dufresne**  
Mortgage Loan Processor  
[adufresne@baycoastbank.com](mailto:adufresne@baycoastbank.com)  
Phone: 508-675-4479

BayCoast MORTGAGE COMPANY  
489 Washington Street  
Auburn, MA 01501

New Jersey—BayCoast Mortgage Company, LLC, 330 Swanton Mall Drive, Swanton, MA 02777, 877-462-2676, Licensed Mortgage Banker, NJ Banking and Insurance Department New Hampshire—Licensed by the New Hampshire Banking Department #19631-AM Rhode Island—Rhode Island Licensed Lender Virginia—BayCoast Mortgage Company, LLC, NMLS # 1082048 (<http://www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org>) All loans subject to credit approval. NMLS # 1082048

**Jules Lusignan**  
#1 in Sales 2006-2020  
South Worcester County  
**\$157,327,280.00 SOLD**

**Lake Realty**  
A 41 Year Company!

111 East Main St., Webster, MA  
Thinking of selling? Call 1-800-552-7444  
[www.LakeRealty.net](http://www.LakeRealty.net)  
[www.WebsterLake.net](http://www.WebsterLake.net)



**MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE AT PUBLIC AUCTION**  
**Thursday, February 11, 2021**  
**3:00 PM-UXBRIDGE**  
145 Hazel Street  
multi-unit, 1.140 ac lot,  
House #1: 2-fam, 6 rm, 3 bdrm, 2 bth  
House #2: sgl fam, 4 rm, 2 bdrm, 1 bth  
Worcester(Worc): Bk 38967, Pg 279  
**TERMS:** Cashier's or certified check in the sum of \$5,000.00 as a deposit must be shown at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify as a bidder. **No CASH.** No personal checks will be accepted. Cashier/certified checks should be made out to whomever is going to bid at the auction. The balance to be paid within thirty (30) days at the law offices of Korde & Associates, P.C., 900 Chelmsford Street, Suite 3102, Lowell, MA 01851, Attorney for the Mortgagee.

Auctioneer makes no representation as to the accuracy of the information contained herein.

**BAY STATE AUCTION CO, INC.**  
**NORTH CHELMSFORD (978) 251-1150**  
[www.baystateauction.com](http://www.baystateauction.com)  
MAAU#: 2624, 2959, 3039, 2573, 116, 2484, 3246, 2919, 3092, 3107



# REAL ESTATE

Town-to-Town Home Town Service,  
**BIG TIME RESULTS**

# CLASSIFIEDS

# 1-800-536-5836

**Place your ad today!**

**FOSTER PARENTS WANTED:**  
Seeking Quality Homes Throughout Central MA To Provide Foster Care To Children In Need. 24/7 Support Generous Reimbursement, \$1000 Sign-On Bonus. Call For Details.  
**Devereux Therapeutic Foster Care.**  
(508)829-6769

**Devereux**  
ADVANCED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

**LEE'S COINS & JEWELRY**  
\$ BUY & SELL \$ ALL GOLD & SILVER ITEMS Specializing in NUMISMATIC COINS, Bullion Items, gold & silver of any form! Qualified with over 30 years experience & a following of many satisfied customers. We also sell a nice selection of fine jewelry, antiques & collectibles. Bring in your items & see what they are worth. You won't leave disappointed. Honesty and fairness are our best policies! Lee's Coin & Jewelry, 239 West Main Street, East Brookfield (Route 9-Panda Garden Plaza) 508-637-1236 or cell: 508-341-6355

**APARTMENT FOR RENT**  
**BROOKFIELD**  
1 BR, 2ND Floor  
Off street parking  
Available NOW  
Electric or Gas Heat  
**\$580/mo**  
Has all appliances  
No Dogs  
**Call Dave**  
**413-262-5082**

**FIREWOOD**  
Cut, Split & Delivered  
Green or Seasoned  
**Call Paul**  
**508-769-2351**



**LIVE BAIT FOR ICE FISHING**  
**Open 24/7**  
**Spencer**  
**508-885-5416**

**SEASONED HARDWOOD**  
**\$250 per cord**  
**Delivered**  
**Spencer, MA**  
**Call 774-696-7267**

**LOOKING FOR**  
1 Bedroom apartment in Webster  
Will consider surrounding towns  
**Call**  
**508-461-6219**

**550 MOBILE HOMES**  
Trailer For Sale w/enclosed porch located at Indian Ranch, Webster, Site: G13. Completely furnished, All appliances included & extras, Refrigerator, Over/under Wash/dry, AC/Heat. View at [www.indianranch.com](http://www.indianranch.com). Contact Arthur or Sage 508-892-4578

**JOB OPPORTUNITY FOR CNA'S**

**CNA Openings – Part Time**  
**St. Joseph's Abbey, Spencer**

12-bed rest home.  
Monk residents only  
Every other weekend, Saturday and Sunday  
12-hour shift, 5:30am-5:30pm  
8-hour shift, 5:30am-1:30pm  
Starting Wage: \$15.50/hr;  
Differential: \$1.50/hr

Send resume and contact info to:  
[cellarer@spencerabbey.org](mailto:cellarer@spencerabbey.org)

**FIREWOOD**  
3/4 Seasoned/standing dead hardwood custom cut to your specs. Delivered to your home.  
**12"-14" \$300 per cord.**  
**16-18" \$260 per cord.**  
**Call: 508-282-0232**

**FIREWOOD**  
3/4 Seasoned/standing dead hardwood custom cut to your specs. Delivered to your home.  
**12"-14" \$300 per cord.**  
**16-18" \$260 per cord.**  
**Call: 508-282-0232**



**Economic Development Project Facilitator**  
**Town of Douglas**

The Town of Douglas seeks qualified applicants for the part time position of Economic Development Project Facilitator to work under the supervision of the Town Administrator. Complete job description and application via web site [www.douglas-ma.gov](http://www.douglas-ma.gov).

The employee will work nineteen (19) hours per week. Annual salary \$28,636. Requirements: high school diploma or equivalent, ten (10) years of private sector management experience, no less than two (2) years of service on a public board or commission of the Town of Douglas. Must have ability to attend evening meetings with various town boards, and a valid motor vehicle operator license.

Send cover letter with resume and Town of Douglas employment application to Matthew Wojcik, Town Administrator, Town of Douglas, Municipal Center, 29 Depot St., Douglas, MA 01516. Position will remain open until filled.

AA/EOE.

**PAQUETTE**  
**ELECTRIC CO., INC.**

**CONNECTICUT MASSACHUSETTS RHODE ISLAND**  
**JOURNEYMAN ELECTRICIANS WANTED**

**Long-Term Positions!**

**Excellent Wages & Benefits Including:**

- Medical / Dental / Prescription Insurance
- Disability Insurance • Life Insurance • HSA Plan
- 401K Plan • Paid Vacations & Holidays
- Performance Bonus

Apply in person or online at: [www.paquelec.com](http://www.paquelec.com)

**Paquette Electrical Co., Inc.**  
368 Killingly Rd., Pomfret Center, CT 06259

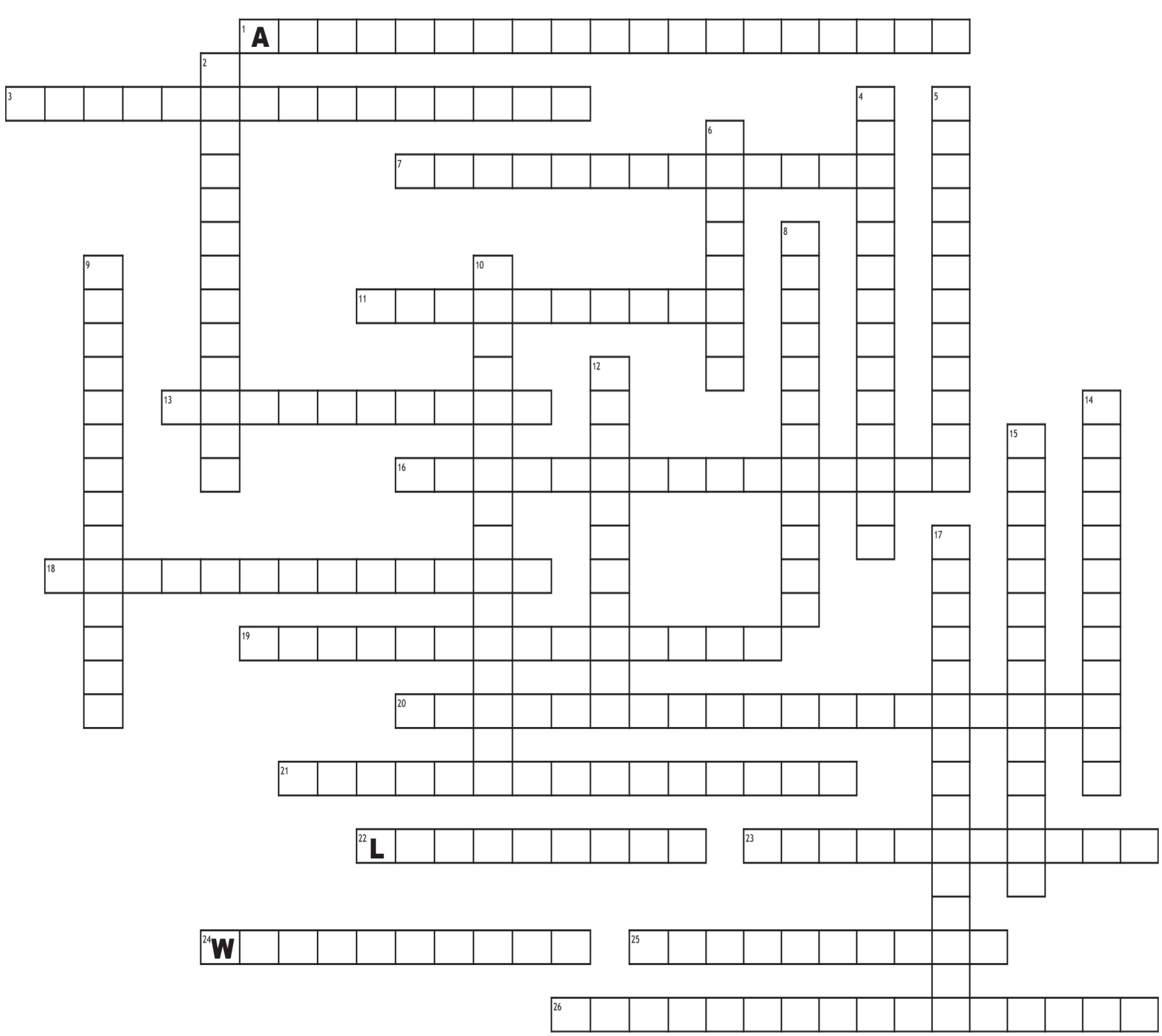
**860-963-7078**

CT Lic#0198020 RI Lic #A-004955 E/O Employer MA Lic #20353A



# 3rd Annual ABC's of the Seasons

## WINTER EDITION



**Across**

- 1. Family owned & operated since 1997
- 3. Find our BOGO Coupon on our Website
- 7. Crystals & Gemstones
- 11. Auto, Boat & RV Loans
- 13. MDPU# 31690
- 16. Winter clothing to cover you from head to foot
- 18. 45 years in business
- 19. Since 1978. All Makes & Models.
- 20. We treat chronic bad breath
- 21. Color matching specialists
- 22. 15 years Real Estate Experience
- 23. Foggy, cracked, or broken glass
- 24. ASE Certified Technicians
- 25. Reserve now for Valentine's Weekend
- 26. Use promo code palmer123

**Down**

- 2. Family owned and operated since 1977
- 4. In print and online
- 5. 508.353.2279
- 6. Reporting for Duty!
- 8. Warm up to a new career
- 9. Need to get it done? Call me!
- 10. We will be happy to assist you anytime
- 12. Family owned and operated since 1967
- 14. Give your sweetheart a gift certificate for Valentine's Day
- 15. 24 hr Roadside Assistance
- 17. Family owned for over 70 years

**ABC'S OF THE SEASONS, WINTER EDITION**

Hint... answers don't always include entire business name.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle which paper you found this in:

*Spencer New Leader, Webster Times, Charlton Villager, Sturbridge Villager, Auburn News, Blackstone Valley Tribune, Southbridge News*

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Please find the answers to this crossword puzzle on page 2 of this section. Enter to win a \$25 gift card to one of these local businesses by mailing in your completed crossword to **ABC Crossword Puzzle, Stonebridge Press, P. O. Box 90, 25 Elm Street, Southbridge, MA 01550**  
OR scan & email or take a picture and email it to [jsima@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:jsima@stonebridgepress.news) by Thursday, February 18.  
Random-drawing for winner of all correct entries to be announced in the February 26th issue of the Express. One entry per person.  
Please support these ABC's businesses and tell them you saw their ad in your local paper! Good luck!



# Valentine's Day gift ideas for animal lovers

A stuffed teddy bear, a heart-shaped box of chocolate and a bouquet of red roses have long been staples of Valentine's Day giving. While these can make fine gifts, this year those who want to shake things up a bit can offer alternativess that cater to their loved one's ideals. In lieu of stuffed animals, these community- and conservation-inspired ideas may be well received.

### Adopt an animal

Collecting stuffed animals may be a replacement for wanting a pet of one's own. If the conditions for getting a pet are favorable, meaning recipients have the money, space and time to properly care for a pet, then couples can extend their love to a companion animal. This is one gift that shouldn't be a surprise, as it is a commitment that requires both people be on board. Visit animal shelters together to choose your pet.

### Support a conservation group

If animal adoption is not the right step

at this time, offer a romantic partner a stake in the welfare of an animal facing endangered or critical status through symbolic adoption. Various organizations enable people to make donations toward the conservation of animals in the wild. Support large cats, birds of prey, and others through a charity such as the World Wildlife Fund, National Wildlife Federation and Defenders of Wildlife.

### Take a trip

Visit animals in the wild by planning a trip to a national park in North America or other areas around the world. If schedules or finances prohibit a trip at this time, purchase entry tickets to a conservation center or nearby zoo that specializes in certain breeds of animals. Even local wildlife rehabilitation hospitals may offer tours or enable people to foster injured or orphaned animals.

### Plan a day around wildlife



Make this Valentine's Day memorable with an entire day immersed in nature and wildlife. Plan a hike through a nature preserve; pack a picnic to enjoy midday. Make a donation in a spouse or partner's honor at a park that he or she holds dear. Consider sponsorship with a plaque on a bench or fund educational classes at a learning center. The recipient will enjoy seeing his or her name displayed.

### Donate toys

In lieu of gifting a stuffed animal to a romantic partner, consider purchasing stuffed animals or toys and donating to a favorite charity, like a children's hospital in his or her honor. Deliver those items in person and spread a little extra love on Valentine's Day.

Animal lovers may appreciate Valentine's Day gifts that highlight their passion for domesticated pets and wildlife.

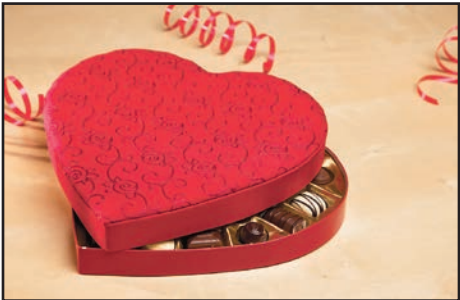
## Origins of the heart-shaped chocolate box

Hearts abound on February 14, and few symbols (and gifts) are more widely associated with a holiday than heart-shaped boxes of chocolate are with Valentine's Day.

Chocolates became trendy in the mid-19th century when the first chocolate bar was made by British company J.S. Fry & Sons by combining cacao powder with sugar and cacao butter to make a rich, melt-in-your-mouth treat that was markedly different than the gritty and greasy drinking chocolate that was losing popularity in Europe. Within a few years, competitor Cadbury introduced the first box of chocolates. It was called the "Fancy Box" and it didn't take long to become wildly popular.

The marriage of chocolate and heart-shaped boxes seemed a natural progression, but the National Valentine Collectors Association says that heart-shaped boxes actually predate chocolate boxes. Various heart-shaped vessels, including "betrothal pendants" and silver boxes in the shape of hearts, were popularized a century earlier. There even were heart-shaped porcelain boxes as well as ones for sewing.

Having already introduced a chocolate box, Richard Cadbury marketed the first Valentine's Day box in 1861. It was filled with delicious chocolates, and later could be saved as a keepsake to store special notes or other mementos, according to the North American



Packaging Association. Furthermore, the gift fit with Victorian sensibilities in that it was demurely suggestive, NPR reports. Its introduction coincided perfectly with Valentine's Day, which also soared in popularity around the same time.

Giving chocolate on Valentine's Day also proved popular in North America. The American chocolate company Hershey's introduced its Hershey's Kisses in 1907, and in 1912 the Whitman's Sampler arrived. In the 1920s, Russell Stover unveiled their own heart-shaped boxes, which today still include the "Red Foil Heart" and the "Secret Lace Heart." Russell Stover has since become the No. 1 boxed chocolate brand in the United States.

Today, more than 36 million heart-shaped boxes holding 58 million pounds of chocolate are sold each year, reports the education resource SoftSchools. They have become a quintessential symbol of Valentine's Day celebrations.

## The story of Cupid

What would Valentine's Day be without images of a golden-tressed boy armed with bow and arrows? The arrows represent feelings of love and desire, and they are aimed and cast at various individuals, causing them to fall deeply in love — or fall out of it.

In Roman mythology, the boy is known as Cupid and is the son of Venus, the goddess of love. Portrayed as a cherubic and mischievous toddler, this magical boy was purported to be the matchmaker of gods and mortals alike.

For students of Greek mythology, Cupid represents Eros, the Greek word for "desire." He was the son of Aphrodite, Venus' Hellenistic counterpart, and would play with the hearts of mortals and gods, sometimes leaving mayhem in his wake. In Greek mythology, Eros was more teenager than bubbly baby, and capitalized on his status as a heartthrob rather than the cherubic status of Roman mythology, according to Richard Martin, a Stanford University professor. While Cupid may have been an adorable imp, some historians say Eros had a darker side, going so far as to describe him as calculating and sinister — forcing the wrong people into love-lorn matches.

According to Museum Hack, while Cupid could make people fall in and

out of love, he also was once in love himself. In this telling, Cupid is a young man when Venus learns that a mortal girl is born with such great beauty that others start to forget to worship Venus, adoring this girl instead. Upset about the misdirected adoration toward this mortal, Venus asks Cupid to have the girl, Psyche, fall in love with a monster. Cupid agrees, but once he sees Psyche he "accidentally" hits himself with one of his own golden arrows and falls in love with Psyche. The resulting match does not prove easy, and through a series of unfortunate events, Psyche must prove her love to Cupid and accomplish various tasks to win back his heart. Eventually, Psyche does and achieves goddess status.

Cupid has been portrayed both as a young man and child through Renaissance art and beyond. When Valentine's Day became popular in the 18th and 19th centuries, Cupid was linked to Valentine's Day celebrations due to his matchmaking abilities. His popularity only continued in the early 20th century, when Hallmark began to manufacture Valentine's Day cards featuring Cupid.

Cupid helped push people together in ancient mythology, and he can even be the catalyst for modern day matchmaking as well.

## Valentine's Day gift ideas for guys

A holiday devoted to love and affection is nestled in the middle of the chilly days of February. Valentine's Day is a big day for retailers, and many advertising campaigns focus on gifting women everything from jewelry to chocolate to stuffed animals. That focus may not be unwarranted, but men also deserve tokens of love and appreciation on Valentine's Day.

With February 14 right around the corner, it's time to start thinking about shopping for items that show you care. Consider this list of carefully curated gifts that can provide inspiration for gifting the special man in your life.

- Gaming gear: The appeal of video games is hard to ignore. A new report from the gaming industry researchers at DFC Intelligence indicates that billions of people across the globe play video games. The next gaming generation is approaching with the PS5 and Xbox Series X. Gift ideas can include consoles and peripherals like headsets, gaming chairs and laptop keyboards, among others.

- At-home luxury: Some men steer clear of massage therapy clinics or spas. That doesn't mean they should forgo the benefits of a deep massage. With a portable back and neck shiatsu massager, he can enjoy a massage while watching the game or streaming movies or television shows.

- Treat bouquet: Floral bouquets may be unusual gifts for men, but a bouquet of another sort certainly may be a winning Valentine's Day gift. More and more companies are getting creative with food bouquets. From cupcake



bouquets that require a double-take to ensure they're edible to exotic jerky bouquets, there are items to tempt every palate.

- Cordless earbuds or headphones: Fitness enthusiasts, movie lovers or music fans know that the freedom to move around can be impeded by cords on headphones and earbuds. A new pair of Bluetooth-enabled wireless headphones can be just the thing to make men smile this Valentine's Day.

- Coffee mill: Many people are sticking closer to home these days. That may mean skipping a favorite coffee shop and barista on the way to work, and brewing a cup of Joe before heading to the home office. According to Sam Spillman of Dillanos Coffee Roasters near Seattle, the 2019 Barista winner of the U.S. Coffee Championships, coffee loses flavor minutes after it is ground. Buying whole beans and grinding fresh before every brew ensures a more flavorful cup. Gifting a coffee grinder, particularly a burr grinder, can help improve the taste of that morning brew.

These are just some of the many gift ideas to make men smile this Valentine's Day.

### VACCINES

continued from page A1

that could."

Since the inception of the Massachusetts distribution plan, which began in mid-December, Harrington has administered over 4,500 vaccines. This included Health care workers, local nursing home facilities, and first responders. In addition to these efforts, HHS will begin administering vaccines to individuals ages 75 or older as early as this Monday, Feb. 1.

Harrington's state-official vaccine distribution center is operating at the Southbridge Community

Center located at 153 Chestnut Street. Individuals who qualify to receive the vaccine at this time and who are interested in scheduling an appointment to be vaccinated should visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccination-locations-for-individuals-in-eligible-groups-and-phases>.

Harrington also continues to operate two COVID-19 drive-thru testing sites located in Southbridge and Webster. To date, Harrington has tested over 45,000 community members. To schedule an appointment, or for more information on COVID-19 testing, please visit [www.harringtonhospital.org](http://www.harringtonhospital.org).



## HEALTH & HOME

**A special supplement dedicated to the Health and Wellness of people, pets, and Spring Home Improvement**

Advertise in this special supplement coming to the *Spencer New Leader, Auburn News, Charlton Villager, Sturbridge Villager, Southbridge News, Webster Times, and Blackstone Valley Tribune*, and tell readers how your business can help promote health & wellness for all, or spruce up your home for Spring.

**Your business not health, home or pet related?**  
*115,000 readers will still see your ad!*

**A Fresh Approach to Healthy Living & Home Improvement**



**Publication Date: April 23, 2021**  
**Sales Deadline: April 8, 2021**

Ad Sizes		
Full Page Cover		\$1000
Full page inside	\$800 B&W; \$850 color	
1/2 page	\$500 B&W; \$550 color	
1/4 page	\$300 B&W; \$350 color	
1/8th page	\$200 B&W; \$250 color	

Contact your sales representative

<b>June Simakauskas</b> 508-909-4062 <a href="mailto:jsima@stonebridgepress.news">jsima@stonebridgepress.news</a>	<b>Mikaela Victor</b> 508-909-4126 <a href="mailto:mikaela@stonebridgepress.news">mikaela@stonebridgepress.news</a>
---	---

## Crooked Creek Farm

~est. 1992~  
East Brookfield, Massachusetts



**BEST FARM FRESH MEATS IN CENTRAL MA**  
**PASTURE RAISED • NATURAL MEATS**

**10% off our Select Cut Meat Packages**  
*Please call for full details.*



**ASK US ABOUT OUR FREE LOCAL DELIVERY!**

To purchase your meat packages **CALL/TEXT: (774) 200-7308**  
[www.CrookedCreekFarmMA.com](http://www.CrookedCreekFarmMA.com) Email: [crookedcreekfarmma@gmail.com](mailto:crookedcreekfarmma@gmail.com)

**Find Us on Social Media**





# Presidents' Day Sale

## HUNDREDS OF DEALS

### MATTRESS SALE!

TWIN: Reg. \$299  
**NOW \$219<sup>99</sup>**  
FULL: Reg. \$499  
**NOW \$299**  
QUEEN: Reg. \$599  
**NOW \$349**

### 1000s OF APPLIANCES IN STOCK FOR PICKUP OR DELIVERY

**SLEDS • TOBOGGANS • ICE SKATES**

18 CU. FT. REFRIGERATOR Reg. \$799 <sup>99</sup> <b>\$699<sup>99</sup></b>	SIDE BY SIDE STAINLESS STEEL REFRIGERATOR Reg. \$1099 <sup>99</sup> <b>\$1099<sup>99</sup></b>	KITCHENAID DISHWASHER Reg. \$799 <sup>99</sup> <b>\$799<sup>99</sup></b>	OVER THE RANGE MICROWAVE OVEN Reg. \$218 <sup>99</sup> <b>\$188<sup>99</sup></b>	GE SELF-CLEANING SMOOTH TOP STOVE Reg. \$649 <sup>99</sup> <b>\$599<sup>99</sup></b>	<h3>TV SALE</h3> <p>75" LG Reg. \$999.99 <b>\$899.99</b> 55" TV Reg. \$399.99 <b>\$299.99</b> 65" LG Reg. \$699.99 <b>\$549.99</b> 43" LG Reg. \$349.99 <b>\$299.99</b> 32" Smart TV Reg. \$169.99 <b>\$139.99</b> 50" LG Reg. \$799.99 <b>\$449.99</b> 86" LG Reg. \$1999.99 <b>\$1799.99</b> ALL SONY &amp; SAMSUNG TVs ON SALE!</p> <h3>PRE-SEASON BIKES IN STOCK</h3>
20 CU. FT. UPRIGHT FREEZER <b>\$999<sup>99</sup></b>	GE COMBO WASHER & DRYER Reg. \$1599 <sup>99</sup> <b>\$1299<sup>99</sup></b>	DELUXE ELECTRIC DRYER Reg. \$449 <sup>99</sup> <b>\$449<sup>99</sup></b>	5 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER <b>\$239<sup>99</sup></b>	DELUXE DISHWASHER Reg. \$399 <sup>99</sup> <b>\$349<sup>99</sup></b>	
FAMOUS MAKER GAS OR ELECTRIC RANGE Reg. \$449 <sup>99</sup> <b>\$449<sup>99</sup></b>	DELUXE TOP LOAD WASHER Reg. \$449 <sup>99</sup> <b>\$449<sup>99</sup></b>	MAYTAG TOP WASHER Reg. \$649 <sup>99</sup> <b>\$649<sup>99</sup></b>	GE TOP LOAD WASHER Reg. \$699 <sup>99</sup> <b>\$699<sup>99</sup></b>	7 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER <b>\$279<sup>99</sup></b>	

PRICES GOOD WHILE SUPPLIES LAST  
INSTANT FINANCING UP TO \$10,000

Check [www.whitcosales.com](http://www.whitcosales.com) for special coupons

# WHITCO

HOURS: 9 TO 9 - 7 DAYS  
140 Main St., Spencer, MA  
**508-885-9343**

WHEN YOU SEE  
**BULLYING,**  
USE **THIS**  
**EMOJI**  
TO DO SOMETHING  
**ABOUT IT.**

**I AM A WITNESS**  
[WitnessBullying.org](http://WitnessBullying.org)

### Hearthstone Market & Catering

Stuck in a dinner rut?  
No time to cook?  
Let us help!

We have a large variety of  
home cooked meals  
offered daily.

## 15% OFF

Your purchase of  
\$35.00 or more with coupon

Hearthstone Market & Catering ~ valid until February 28 2021

Rt. 20, 630 Main Street  
Sturbridge, MA 01566 • 508-347-7077  
Open 7 Days a Week • 11am-7pm  
[hearthstonemarket1@gmail.com](mailto:hearthstonemarket1@gmail.com) • [hearthstonemarketandcatering.com](http://hearthstonemarketandcatering.com)

# LOVE YOUR COMMUNITY:

## Spend Locally!

# Need to go to the dentist?

## New patients SAVE \$100 on cleanings, exams and x-rays\* when you use Chewsi®

### Sturbridge Dental

3 Wallace Road | Sturbridge

Dr. Jeremy Nguyen, DMD  
General Dentist

### No insurance? No problem!

Sturbridge Dental has teamed up with Chewsi® to help you save big on everything from cleanings and crowns to teeth whitening, implants and more. You name it, you save. Plus, with Chewsi there are no monthly fees, no limits, no maximums. And right now with Chewsi, new patients can save \$100 on a comprehensive exam, cleaning and x-rays\* (a \$279 value).

## chewsi®

Make an appointment at 508-347-9336 or visit  
[Simply.ChewsiDental.com/Sturbridge](http://Simply.ChewsiDental.com/Sturbridge) to learn more.

\*New patients only. Only available by using Chewsi. Cannot be combined with other offers, insurance discounts or Medicaid. Some restrictions may apply. Expires 2/28/21.