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Friday, December 2, 2022

# “Protect our communities [or] the outsiders are going to overrun us”

## STURBRIDGE RESIDENTS OPINE ON HISTORIC PROTECTION ISSUES

BY GUS STEEVES  
CORRESPONDENT

STURBRIDGE — The town’s latest effort to protect its history took another step forward with a recent forum seeking public concerns.

The ongoing Public Archaeology Lab project aims at updating the town’s existing historical register and related documents to plan for the next several years, in part by identifying areas that were omitted from previous preservation efforts. The effort’s centered on a public survey of various issues which concluded last weekend and which are now being compiled.

Last month, PAL’s Gretchen Pineo said the project has so far collected a lot of background information from previous plans, old maps, documents and photos, and is now “crowd-sourcing which resources the residents ... think are culturally significant, threatened or should be preserved.”

Those present cited several of them, including specific buildings (including the Blackington/Otis Building and Dowdy Farm), public sites (the Common and Burying Ground), whole neighborhoods (Snellville), and natural features (the river). Several talked a bit about the importance of more broadly informing the public of what historical desig-

nations mean.

For some, the quest is one of fighting Sturbridge’s takeover by corporate interests.

“If we don’t do something to protect our communities, the outsiders are going to overrun us,” Bob Briere said.

He noted resident opposition has sometimes been successful – for example, opposing the horse track – and sometimes not – for example, the Hobbs Brook project and “those two great big buildings going up” on Route 20.

He noted he feels the protection is needed “from town line to town line. ... Nothing in the town of Sturbridge is safe from people coming in with ‘great ideas.’ ... Fortunately, not all of them panned out.”

Pineo noted there are two distinct kinds of historic designation: federal Historical Register listing, which is “honorary” beyond requiring any state or federally-funded project to include consideration of impact on listed properties; and a local historic district, which is written into the bylaws and has legal force. Most places designate all of the structures in a neighborhood in the latter, but Somerville has some individual buildings so designated, she said.

Generally, such districts require surveying the property owners, of whom a majority

must agree to inclusion, and need to be physically contiguous. Some residents in Southbridge are now working to create one downtown, but one woman in Sturbridge’s forum said she’s “not sure how much support we’d get in this town for a local historic district.”

Resident Kirstie Pecci said register listing can make it “a lot easier to sell your house” because there are people who specifically seek such properties. She said it might be possible to convert opponents to supporters by promoting the fact that such listings can also open homes to grants for repairs, and noted she supports a local district “with teeth. Don’t just do the Historic Registry.”

Historical Commissioner Charlie Blanchard said the town has done a lot of individual surveys to see whether various buildings qualify (they have to be at least 50 years old) and should let people know “what we’ve already accomplished.” Some of it is on the town website, including a list of a couple dozen Register properties and earlier projects.

He said the project’s overall goal is to provide historical guidelines for town boards to consider in their projects, and that means making it a “working doc-

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File Photo

The church tower’s missing facade is quite obvious from this angle.

# “Excuses are over”

## COUNCIL GIVES CHURCH OWNER ULTIMATUM

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Town Council gave the owner of crumbling Sacred Heart Church until Dec 5 to present a real plan for addressing the building’s safety after almost six months of no action.

Dave Adams summarized the council’s general feeling by adding “or you’re going to leave it in my hands, and I’m going to make a decision you’re not going to like. Period. ... Excuses are over.”

He was speaking at the end of a 45 minute display of what councilors interpreted as evasion and, in Mike Montigny’s words, “really not caring too much about the situation” at the historic church.

On June 13, part of the western tower’s facade collapsed, sparking an emergency council meeting in which the town ordered owner David Rivera of Randolph to fence it and have an engineer provide a plan to stabilize and/or demolish the towers. At the time, the town’s building department got quick quotes for demolition if necessary, but opted to give him time to save the structure.

Since then, nothing has happened, and the town has sent him multiple letters (both certified and not).

“I shouldn’t be chasing you. You have the problem

on your property. ... Why haven’t we seen hide nor hair of you in four months?” Town Manager Michael McCall said.

Later, he summarized his frustration by saying, “I keep hearing excuses like it’s the town’s fault we didn’t track you down.”

Rivera claimed he has had his property manager visit the site regularly and hasn’t seen any changes. He told the council his engineer has been inside and believes the building is structurally sound, but Acting Building Commissioner Ted Tetreault said he’s concerned it has multiple issues that make it a danger to the neighborhood.

“It’s not what he can do to stop anything else from falling. It’s what’s going to happen if something does,” Tetreault said. He noted the diocese, its previous owner, had local engineers study it and recommend repairs about 20 years ago, but none of them were done.

Regarding attempts to reach him, Rivera claimed he doesn’t answer certified mail and wasn’t getting mail for a month at one point. He said he was reachable by email and cell phone and had spoken to previous Building Commissioner

Turn To **ULTIMATUM** page **A5**

# Charlton maintains single tax rate

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — The Charlton Board of Selectmen held the town’s annual tax classification hearing on Nov. 21 determining that Charlton will continue with a single tax rate for another year.

The yearly hearing saw Director of Assessing Kathleen Stanley present the recommendation of the Board of Assessors to remain with a single tax rate and to refrain from applying any of three allowable exemptions for small commercial, residential, and open space. The single tax rate will continue Charlton’s approach of taxing all taxable entities equally rather than shifting a larger percentage of the burden on commercial, industri-

al, and personal property, an approach known as a split rate.

“The Board of Assessors does still recommend that we stay with a single tax rate,” Stanley told selectmen. “The small commercial exemption, I have a list of the communities that do it. It’s really something that you have to decide way in advance so the answer would be no to that, and the residential, it’s mainly in the city of Boston and down the Cape, where there’s a lot of second homes that that’s used.”

Stanley also confirmed the Board of Assessors recommendation against applying an open space discount.

The decision by the Board of Selectmen was swift and easy with members unanimously voicing support for maintaining the status quo. Board Chair

Stephen Koronis put it simply that he didn’t want to add any burden to Charlton’s growing business economy.

“If we’re hungry for economic development, why, we want to burden anybody or even announce that we’re planning to burden anybody in the future? It just doesn’t make any sense to me,” said Koronis.

The selectmen only briefly discussed any potential for future changes to the tax classification in the future with the consensus being that they want to continue to bring new businesses in rather than adding to their tax burden. The board voted unanimously to maintain the single tax rate and did not adopt any of the exemptions or discounts in accordance with the Board of Assessors’ recommendations.



Photo Courtesy

Quinebaug Masonic Lodge booth with members working hard to accommodate these tasty treats to people who attended this very busy event.

# Masons sell tasty treats during tree lighting

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE  
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER  
QUINEBAUG MASONIC LODGE,  
SOUTHBRIDGE

SOUTHBRIDGE — Saturday, Nov. 26 was a beautiful mild night for the Christmas Tree Lighting festivities at the Southbridge common.

For the past few years, Quinebaug Masonic lodge has participated in this annual event on the common buy selling tasty treats. The smell in the air of French fries and kettle corn cooking stopped peo-

ple in their tracks and caused them to wait in line. To see the smiles on the children’s faces as they tell their parents what they want French fries, hot dogs, fried dough, or kettle corn. There were lamas that children could pet and vendors selling Christmas ornaments that light up that they could wear around their necks or head. Christmas music was playing from the common’s gazebo.

When the parade started, and Santa came by the line to purchase these tasty treats

that Quinebaug Masonic Lodge was selling was still long while many adults and children watched the parade go by. The common was lit up with Christmas lights and decorations of all kinds. Many people mentioned and was very grateful that it was not like last year when the weather was blistering cold. If you are interested and would like more information about Freemasonry and to find a lodge nearest you, visit our Web site at [www.massfreemasonry.org](http://www.massfreemasonry.org)

# CHARLTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Visit our website (charltonlibrary.org) for a full listing of programs and events.

### Movies @ The Library

All showings are in Dexter Hall. No registration. AND NOW WE HAVE POPCORN!!

Tuesday, December 6, 1:00 & 5:30 - CHRISTMAS IN CONNECTICUT starring Barbara Stanwyk. A food writer who has lied about being the perfect housewife must try to cover her deception when her boss and a returning war hero invite themselves to her home for a traditional family Christmas. 1945; NR; 1 hr 41 min.

Tuesday, December 13, 5:30 ONLY - BULLET TRAIN starring Brad Pitt. Five assassins aboard a swiftly-moving bullet train find out that their missions have something in common. 2022; R; 2 hrs 7 min.

Tuesday, December 20, 1:00 & 5:30 - THREE THOUSAND YEARS OF LONGING starring Tilda Swinton. A

lonely scholar, on a trip to Istanbul, discovers a Djinn who offers her three wishes in exchange for his freedom. 2022; R; 1 hr 48 min.

Tuesday, December 27, 1:00 & 5:30 - TURNING RED (animation - Disney Pixar). A 13-year-old girl named Meilin turns into a giant red panda whenever she gets too excited. 2022; PG; 1 hr 40 m.

Silver Needles Knitting Group  
Thursdays from 1:00-3:00 - Upstairs Reading Room

Bring your current project and relax with friends while taking in the view in the upstairs reading room. All are welcome, regardless of skill level; no registration required.

Genealogy Group Meeting  
Thursday, December 1, 6:00-7:30 - Community Meeting Room - No registration required

Tonight's meeting will be a general discussion so bring your research tips, questions, and successes to share! The Charlton Library Genealogy Group is a friendly group of people who share

an interest in genealogy. We meet monthly on the first Thursday of the month from 6:00-7:30 in the Community Meeting Room (unless otherwise noted). Meetings will alternate between general discussion topics and guest presenters. The meetings are free and open to all.

Book Discussion - ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF SOLITUDE by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

Thursday, December 8, 6:30-7:30 - Local History Room (and via Zoom)

Books are available for checkout at the adult circulation desk one month prior to discussion. All are welcome to join us whether you have read the book or not. The group meets in person in the Local History Room. If you prefer to participate remotely via Zoom, the link is on our event calendar (charltonlibrary.org).

Holiday Swag Workshop with Bemis Farm (THIS EVENT IS CURRENTLY FULL)

Saturday, December 10, 11:00-12:00 - Dexter Hall - Registration required

Holiday Concert with Shepherd Hill Show Choir

Tuesday, December 13, 12:30-1:15 - Dexter Hall - No registration

Join us for a special performance by our very own Shepherd Hill Show Choir as they perform your favorite holiday classics!

Community Yoga  
Saturday, December 17, 9:45-10:45 - Dexter Hall - Registration required.

Join local instructor, Linda Davis, for a free monthly community yoga class. All ages and levels are welcome. Children under age 5 must have a caregiver with them at all times. Wear comfortable clothing and please bring your own yoga mat.

A CULE YULE HOLIDAY RECITAL with Charlton Ukulele League & Ensemble

Thursday, December 22, 6:30 - Sibley Reading Area (Main Floor of Library)

Please join us in the upstairs Sibley Reading Area for a Holiday strum along by CULE (Charlton Ukulele League & Ensemble). Cider and cookies, too!

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# Antique photographs



ANTIQUES,  
COLLECTIBLES  
& ESTATES

WAYNE  
TUISKULA

While cataloging photos for our ongoing auction of the Rotman family Worcester, New England and historical items collection, I was inspired to write about collecting and selling photos, specifically how to tell if the items you have in your home might be valuable.

First, a brief history of photography. The idea of capturing images dates back further than you might expect, beginning with the technique of “camera obscura,” which is now known as a precursor to modern cameras. Items were projected from the outside into a dark room or hall through a pinhole. Britannica writes that that the concept dates back more than 2,000 years with the Chinese and ancient Greeks such as Aristotle likely taking part.

On Jan. 7, 1839, members of the French Académie des Sciences first viewed images (daguerreotypes) by Louis-Jacques-Mandé Daguerre (1787–1851). According to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Daguerre wanted to develop a way to permanently capture the fleeting camera obscura images he viewed. Sadly, the “Diorama” where Daguerre kept his photographs burned

to the ground.

Ambrotypes and tintypes (also known as ferrotypes) came into use during the 1850s. They were quicker and cheaper to use than daguerreotypes. The cost ranged from 25 cents to \$2.50 in the U.S.

Cartes de visite (commonly called CDVs) became popular in the late 1850s. A CDV is a small photograph on cardboard backing. Cabinet photos followed soon after and gradually replaced CDVs, coming into use during the 1860s. Cabinet cards are similar to CDVs, but larger and typically include the photographer’s name and location.

Here are some things to look for in your own photos. Most daguerreotypes were portraits of unidentified people and usually don’t have a lot of value. But a daguerreotype of a famous person can be very valuable. A daguerreotype of Sam Houston, who was an important figure during the Texas Revolution from 1834 to 1836, sold for \$33,000 in 2018. A daguerreotype of an outdoor scene can be even more valuable. An image of a San Francisco building draped in bunting sold for over \$140,000 in 2008. Sometimes the cases can be worth more than the image inside it. The Vermont Journal writes that thermoplastic cases were made of shellac and sawdust that was mixed and colored with chemicals before being rolled to create a thin sheet of plastic. A thermoplastic case depicting Washington

crossing the Delaware sold for \$2,600 in 2019.

There are also many examples of other types of photos fetching high prices. An ambrotype of a traveling photographer’s studio went for \$95,000 in 2010. A tintype of Buffalo Bill Cody posed with guns and game sold for \$36,000 in 2016. A CDV of Major Martin Delaney (who was one of the first African American men admitted to Harvard Medical School and a surgeon during the Civil War) in uniform sold for over \$59,000 in 2020.

Baseball player photos also sell very well. A Honus Wagner Sporting Life cabinet photo brought \$264,000 in 2019. A picture is worth a thousand words, and sometimes even six figures.

There are many local photographs in the Rotman memorabilia online auction. We will be holding a preview on Saturday, Dec. 3 and Sunday, Dec. 4 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bidding ends on Wednesday, Dec. 7. We are cataloging items for another online auction featuring art, Civil War memorabilia, samplers and other antiques, collectibles and memorabilia. It will start in December and end in early January. Please visit our Web site, <https://centralmassauctions.com>, for links to upcoming events.

Please contact us at [www.centralmassauctions.com](http://www.centralmassauctions.com) (508-612-6111) [info@centralmassauctions.com](mailto:info@centralmassauctions.com) for antiques and collectibles auction services.



## PROTECTION

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ument” with ongoing community input. For example, he noted they need residents’ help to identify mistakes in the records, noting he’s seen ones including misstatements of a building’s original location and/or age.

Planner Jean Bubon said her office is working on “a story map” highlighting such properties, photos, documents and other material regarding the current

historical inventory, which will be posted soon.

Pineo added the state’s online database goes back to the 1960s, her firm surveyed about 120 parcels in 2018 and the Pioneer Valley Planning Agency “did a similar amount” years earlier. That prompted one participant to urge the town to get a hard copy of the most recent local listings for the library.

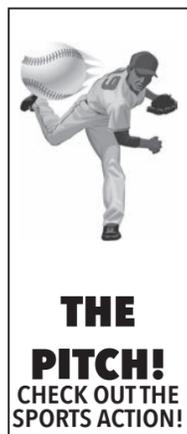
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Join us as our 100 year celebration comes to a close! Thank you to all who participated in our events this past year!  
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# Changes considered for Stafford Street, Center Depot Road intersection

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — Following a review of the Stafford Street and Center Depot Road intersection in Charlton, the Board of Selectmen has recommended the Department of Public Works consider some minor changes to the intersection's approach to better warn drivers of the upcoming stop signs.

Currently the intersection is formatted with stop signs on Center Depot Road while Stafford Street continues without any stops. The crossway has been a point of concern for the town for some time leading to a \$25,000 comprehensive study to explore ways to improve the safety of the intersection. Town Administrator Andrew Golas discussed the results of the study at a November meeting of the Board of Selectmen explaining that Charlton commissioned the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) to conduct traffic counts and an analysis of the roadway to produce a uniform traffic control standard. The result examined several criteria including crash statistics, vehicle counts, and road geometry to determine what, if any, changes were to be recommended for

the intersection.

"They advised that a more favorable recommendation was basically pointed back to their review letter that we had drafted in 2020 which most were implemented by the DPW at that time," Golas said of the CMRPC's feedback. "They did preface to say that Stafford Street and Center Depot Road being non-state roads are ultimately at the discretion of the town as to whether or not to proceed with any other four-way warrant."

The selectmen discussed a variety of potential ideas for the intersection ranging from the possibility of turning the area into a rotary to more realistic and immediate fixes like adjusting the placement of the stop signs and inserting rumble strips. Selectman Bill Borowski felt moving the stop signs on Center Depot Road would help, but Department of Public Works Director Gerry Foskett advised against the change.

"I think if you can visualize the intersection, if you're traveling on Stafford Street entering the intersection headed west towards the city, if you look down the hill that stop sign is set back a way and I like it where it's set. That's where it's been for a lot of years. That's not the reason I'm against the move, the

reason is that if that stop sign is moved forward, I don't think the vehicles coming from the Spencer side on (Route) 31 are adept to stop in time for that intersection.," Fiskett said. "A lot of people don't stop until they get to that sign, so people halfway down that hill headed towards the Charlton City side are going to wonder, are they or aren't they (going to stop). Right now, that's not an issue."

Borowski responded noting that whether it's because of poor driving habits or a failure to see the stop signs in time, the intersection has proved to be a problem and something needs to change.

"For whatever reason, people don't stop there. That's the only reason I can come up with why there are the number of accidents that happen there. It's either they're not stopping, or they are stopping and pulling out unnecessarily. In my opinion, I'd like to see if something else can be tried and we could monitor it," said Borowski.

Over the years, a variety of improvements have been implemented to help resolve the traffic concerns at the intersection including adding flashing lights to the stop signs, improved LED street lighting, and increasing sight-

lines. Foskett stated he believes driver behavior is a bigger problem than the placement of any of the stop signs at this point.

While Foskett said he would respect any decision the selectmen made, he stood his ground in speaking against moving the signs. The idea of inserting rumble strips seemed to be a more agreeable option for all parties to allow for a bit of extra warning to remind drivers to stop at the intersection properly. While Borowski initially moved to install the rumble strips and move the stop signs, he eventually rescinded his original motion and simply moved to recommend the rumble strips be explored instead. Selectmen voted to allow Foskett to determine the best plan of action for warning the drivers of the stop signs with plans to implement a change after the winter and monitor any changes to traffic behavior and safety.

## Cornerstone Bank donates \$2,500 to Hearts for Heat

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with 10 locations throughout Central Massachusetts, has donated \$2,500 to the Leicester chapter of Hearts for Heat, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing winter

heating fuel to families in need.

"With both inflation and fuel prices on the rise, we know this year will pose greater financial challenges to many residents when it comes to heating their homes," said Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman. "We are proud to support this grassroots organization that has been helping families in Worcester County stay warm during the winter for the past 15 years."

Hearts for Heat has chapters in Leicester, North Brookfield, Princeton, Spencer, and other Worcester County towns. It was started in 2007 by Cindy Shea, a local social worker with a teaching background and a passion for helping those in need.

To learn more about Hearts for Heat or to make a tax-deductible donation, visit heartsforheat.org.

## Local students named to Goodwin University dean's list

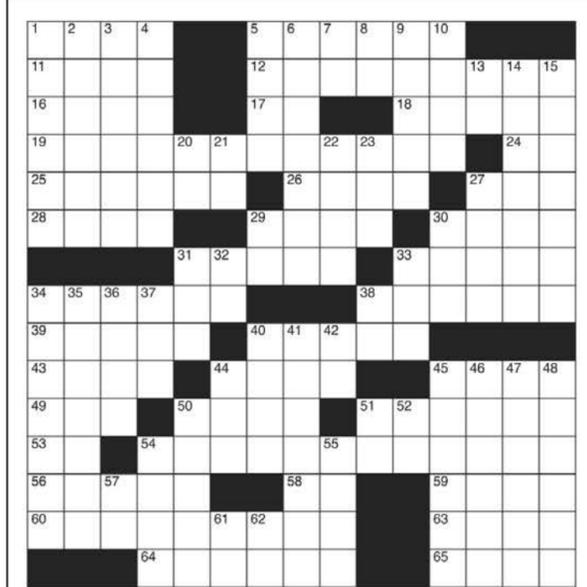
EAST HARTFORD, Conn. — Goodwin University announces 713 students achieved Dean's list status for the Summer 2022 session.

Dominique Howe of Sturbridge

Jordan Hamer of Wales

Goodwin University in East Hartford, Connecticut, is an innovative learning community that empowers hard-working students to become sought-after employees. We tailor our programs

to address the needs of employers, and we shape them to fit the lives of students. Classes are conveniently offered year-round - days, evenings, weekends, and online. Degrees may be flexibly layered across certificate, associate, bachelor's, and master's programs in a variety of in-demand fields. Better still, we surround our students with the personal support and the professional guidance they need - not just to earn degrees, but to change lives for themselves, their families, and their communities. For more information, please visit [www.goodwin.edu](http://www.goodwin.edu).



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Clip a small piece
- 5. Enter forcibly
- 11. Southwestern Native American tribe
- 12. Helps you smell better
- 16. Sun or solar disk
- 17. Low frequency
- 18. Former Houston football player
- 19. Federal crime
- 24. Home to Boston (abbr.)
- 25. Approval
- 26. Those who fight an establishment (abbr.)
- 27. \_\_\_ student, learns healing
- 28. Indian groomer of horses
- 29. Line where two pieces meet
- 30. One might be brief
- 31. Type of sword
- 33. Knife for fruits or vegetables
- 34. Stinkhorns
- 38. Stroke
- 39. Industrial process for producing ammonia
- 40. Sir \_\_\_ Newton
- 43. Wild goat
- 44. Muslim ruler
- 45. Scottish ancestor
- 49. Hat
- 50. Horse mackerel
- 51. Alcoholic accompaniment
- 53. Tech department
- 54. Manifesting approval
- 56. Upper bract of grass
- 58. OFI
- 59. Large wading bird
- 60. Military prisons
- 63. Famed American cartoonist
- 64. Rise
- 65. Greek God of war and courage

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Sewing needles
- 2. Functionary
- 3. Induces vomiting
- 4. The finger farthest from the thumb
- 5. Not moving
- 6. Sports official
- 7. Water purification process (abbr.)
- 8. University of Dayton
- 9. Indo-Malaysian evergreens
- 10. High schoolers' math course
- 13. Yankovic is a weird one
- 14. Adversaries
- 15. Merchandisers
- 20. Radioactive metal (abbr.)
- 21. Atomic #52
- 22. The back
- 23. One-time computer giant
- 27. Female of a horse
- 29. Football's big game (abbr.)
- 30. Vehicle
- 31. Single Lens Reflex
- 32. It's becoming more prevalent
- 33. Political action committee
- 34. Makes lightbulbs
- 35. Natural home of an animal
- 36. In bed
- 37. Superman villain
- 38. The Golden State
- 40. One who leads prayers in a mosque
- 41. They accompany a leader
- 42. Atomic #18
- 44. Electronic countermeasures
- 45. The appearance of something
- 46. Connecting line on a map
- 47. Deep red color
- 48. Secret affairs
- 50. Drenches
- 51. Contains music
- 52. Expression of surprise
- 54. Intestinal pouches
- 55. Where birds are born
- 57. \_\_\_ and behold
- 61. Cools your home
- 62. The First State

## TOWN OF STURBRIDGE PUBLIC NOTICE

### Snow Plowing

#### \*\*\*REVISED PLOWING RATES\*\*\*

The Town of Sturbridge, Department of Public Works is accepting applications for "Snow Plowing for the 2022-2023" winter season.

Applications may be obtained at the DPW office or on the Town of Sturbridge website ([Sturbridge.gov](http://Sturbridge.gov)) under Public Works. Completed applications can be mailed to Sturbridge DPW P.O. Box 182 Sturbridge, Ma 01566 or dropped off at 1 New Boston Road Ext., Sturbridge, MA, 01566 Mon-Friday, 7:00 am to 3:30 pm. Applications open until all routes are filled. Please contact the DPW office at 508-347-2515 or [dpw@sturbridge.gov](mailto:dpw@sturbridge.gov) if you would like applications emailed to you. \*Snow plow drivers that are not owner operators with be required to have workers compensation insurance. Rates vary from \$90-\$120 per hour depending on equipment.

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visit [www.townofcharlton.net](http://www.townofcharlton.net) or more information.

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**BRIMFIELD: 413-245-3451**

Weekdays: 9:00 - 4:30 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00

**WALES: 413-245-9808**

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Sat. 9:00 - 12:00

## CHURCH LISTINGS

• Charlton Federated Church, 64 Main St., 248-5550, Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. [www.fedchurchcharlton.org](http://www.fedchurchcharlton.org)

• Charlton Baptist Church, 50 Hammond Hill Road, 248-4488, [www.charltonbaptist.org](http://www.charltonbaptist.org), Sunday worship 10 a.m.

• Charlton City United Methodist, 74 Stafford St. 248-7379, web site: [CharltonCityUMC.org](http://CharltonCityUMC.org) Sunday worship and Children's church 10am

• St. Joseph's Church, 10 H. Putnam Ext, 248-7862, [www.stjosephscharlton.com](http://www.stjosephscharlton.com), Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 p.m., Sunday Mass 8 a.m., Sunday Family Mass 10 a.m., Sunday Life/TEEN Mass 5 p.m., Weekday Mass Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30 a.m.

• Hope Christian Fellowship, 6 Haggerty Road, 248-5144

• Assemblies of God Southern New England District Headquarters, Route 20, 248-3771, [snedag.org](http://snedag.org), Office hours Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

• Living Word Church of Charlton, 10 Main Street - Grange building 1st Floor, Charlton, MA 01507, Pastor Craig Bellisario, (508) 233-8349 Sunday Service 10:00am.

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

info@[livingwordcharlton.com](http://livingwordcharlton.com)

• New Life Fellowship A/G, SNED Chapel, 307 Sturbridge Road, Rt. 20, Charlton, MA, Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

• Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale- 8 Maple St. Sturbridge, 774-304-1021 [www.sturford.org](http://www.sturford.org)

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

• Bethlehem Lutheran Church- 345 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566

Phone 508-347-7297

Web: [www.bethlehemsturbridge.org](http://www.bethlehemsturbridge.org)

Services - Sunday 9:30 am

Pastor Dan Purtell

## PUZZLE SOLUTION



# Airport Diner 'Josh's Place' Ready for Takeoff with Grand Opening

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Chamber of Central Mass South hosted a Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at Josh's Place on Thursday, Dec. 1 from 10 a.m. to noon. Chef Josh Letendre was excited to welcome the community to his great American Diner located at the Southbridge Municipal Airport.

Open seven days a week from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m., Josh's Place features American standards cooked up for breakfast and lunch in a classic diner displaying memorabilia from the 1990s. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy the unique views, complimentary mini breakfast sandwiches and coffee at the Grand Opening celebration.

Owner and chef Josh Letendre was born and raised in Sturbridge and began his culinary career at the landmark Rom's Restaurant working there from age 15 until they closed.

"The Roscioli family had a big impact on my professional career," says Letendre.

He then "branched out in the culinary world working in various styles from fine dining to small mom and pop spots that range from gastro pubs to brick oven pizza spots to diner style eateries."

"I have the knowledge, ability and passion to deliver to the community," said Letendre. "The last five years have been a ride with beating cancer and, in the last three years, being an



executive in the Boston culinary scene was one of the highlights of those times. Going through all that has given me a whole new perspective on life where I do not waste any more time. So, when I saw this beautiful venue up for bid, I just had to jump at the opportunity at giving back to the community. My loyal, hard-working crew and I look forward to feeding each and every one of you. We, of Josh's Place, look forward to seeing you for many years to come."

The Ribbon Cutting ceremony will be presented by the Chamber of Central Mass South at 10 a.m. sharp. The ceremony will include presentations by local dignitaries and the snipping of the official red ribbon

followed by a grand opening celebration. We cordially invite you to join in as the Chamber and our guests provide a warm welcome and best wishes to Chef Josh and his crew!

All are welcome to attend the grand opening celebration and ribbon cutting. There is no cost and no need to RSVP.

Josh's Place is located at 220 Airport Access Rd., Southbridge. Reach Josh's Place by phone at 508-909-6453 and follow on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/JoshPlaceDiner](http://www.facebook.com/JoshPlaceDiner).

If it is time for you to grow your business and join a dedicated business community, visit the Chamber of Central Mass South online at [cmschamber.org](http://cmschamber.org).

## Sturbridge PD welcomes new officer

STURBRIDGE — Police Officer Derek Ames was sworn in last month following his appointment by the Board of Selectmen.

The ceremony took place during the Board's Nov. 21 meeting. Ames has served as a police officer since 2020, most recently working as a member of the Ware Police Department.

Ames holds a B.S. in business and healthcare management from the University of Connecticut. Ames is also a veteran of the United States Marine Corps.

"On behalf of the men and women of the Sturbridge Police Department, congratulations on your appointment, Officer Ames. We look forward to working with



Photo Courtesy

**Police Officer Derek Ames was recently appointed to the Sturbridge Police Department.**

you, and we thank you for your service to this country," read a statement released by Sturbridge Police Chief Earl Dessert.

### ULTIMATUM

continued from page A1

Andy Pelletier several times and Building Inspector Mike Julian about a month ago. (Julian said it was more like three months.)

Rivera has owned the church since 2018 and said he wants to find another congregation to use it while converting the other campus buildings into apartments. But he said, "I have to finish doing what I'm doing on other jobs before I can get to that."

He was contradictory when talking about his intentions for addressing the structural issues. At one point, he said he'd recently hired a contractor, Mario Monaco of Empire Historical Masonry Restorations in Sturbridge, to "take the towers down to be a little more safe" and repair the rest of the building. A little later, he said his plan is not to take the towers down, but seal them for the winter then put new veneer on them in spring 2023.

Monaco passed around the signed contract dated Nov 1 and said he wants to start work "the second week of December." He admitted he's not an engineer, but a mason, and said his family-run firm has worked on several historical buildings around Massachusetts, often for colleges.

He generally agreed with Tetreault and Julian about the cause of the issues — "years of water getting in between [the facade and structure] and the whole nine yards" — but said he thinks the towers are "solid" and "aren't coming down."

Tetreault said the town will need an engineer's plan. "It's not the mason's job to say 'if I do this, it'll be good,'" he noted, adding the project must go through the state's Chapter 34 review, which will say what it needs to meet code, to even get building permits. He estimated the cost to repair at "over a million," while demolition would be about \$220,000, including removal.

Back in June, Pelletier and Julian

gave the council and others present a tour of the site, pointing out several other issues the church has. Many of them involve cracks in various parts of the facade, some of significant length, and individual fallen facade stones. Others include bowing or subtle tilting of some sections of the building, the fact several (mostly small) windows are wide open to birds and the elements, and other less obvious issues. In many cases, it isn't yet clear which issues are just facade problems and which might be structural in nature.

At that time, Pelletier told the Council by email, "The engineer conveyed that he has identified nothing that would indicate that the steeples would fail catastrophically but that he has ongoing concerns regarding the facade stones. The mason proposed a temporary solution to minimize the facade failure by "Netting" the areas of loose facade. I instructed the owner to: 1. Before mid-week next week [June 22],

submit a written statement from the engineer confirming his verbal statement; 2. Before Friday of next week [June 24], submit a plan and schedule to contain the facade, and 3. Thereafter develop and submit a plan for permanently making the structure safe."

The latter has not been completed.

## Saint Nicholas Fair

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## REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

**BRIMFIELD**  
\$90,500, 90 Washington Rd, Smith Julie A Est, and Smith, Serena M, to Martin, John E, and Martin, Nichole A.

**CHARLTON**  
\$96,000, 128 Freeman Rd, Freeman RT, and Gagner, Paul E, to Williams, Tony L.

**HOLLAND**  
\$375,000, 9 Park Rd, Carter, Chad E, to Howell, Elizabeth A.

\$360,000, 12 Forest Ct, Tanaka-Reader, Andrew Y, and Tanaka-Reader, Rebecca C, to Piecuch, Leontino, and Piecuch, Rosetta.

\$148,000, 8 Sandy Beach Rd, 8 Sandy Beach Rd RT, and Johnson, Erin, to Gousy, John.

**SOUTHBRIDGE**  
\$658,900, 11 South St, Peak Properties Inc, to Qirko, Julian.

\$340,000, 261 South St, Scheffler Enterprises Inc, to Senosk, Thome J.  
\$340,000, 39-43 High St, Champeau, Kevin L, and Cuddy, John A, to Champeau, Paul B.

\$269,900, 20 Maple St, Manna, Monique S, to Rosa, Dayana.

\$235,000, 14 Cathy Ln, Stlaurent, Marie, to Cardrant, Diane M.

**STURBRIDGE**  
\$368,000, 15 Cedar St, Beeman RT 2020, and Beeman, Arnold B, to Barbosa, Anastasia N.

\$210,000, 59 Whittemore Rd, Therrien, Patrick, to Wyllie, Kiernan P, and Wyllie, Sarah R.



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# Women's Foundation of Boston awards Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts \$25,000

REGION — Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts (GSCWM) is thrilled to announce that it has

received a \$25,000 Catalyst Grant from the Women's Foundation of Boston (WFBoston). The grant will fund new donor technology software.

GSCWM is one of 11 nonprofits that exclusively serves women and girls awarded the supplemental Catalyst Grant.

According to Christina Gordon, Co-Founder and CEO of the Women's Foundation of Boston, "This supplemental alternative grant offering allows us to deepen our impact and support a greater number of effective women-and-girl-serving nonprofits. As with our annual multi-year grants, the rigorous process for choosing recipients

of our Catalyst Grants is based on mission-alignment and proven outcomes."

The grant will fund new technology software to improve fundraising efficiency, donor engagement and volunteer awareness.

"This funding will allow us to upgrade our communication with our amazing donors and we are incredibly grateful to the Women's Foundation of Boston," said Pattie Hallberg, GSCWM CEO.

To join, volunteer, donate or reconnect, contact GSCWM at info@gscwm.org or visit www.gscwm.org.

About Girl Scouts of Central & Western Massachusetts

Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts serves nearly 5,000 girls in grades K through 12 with the strong support of over 3,000 adult volunteers in 186 towns and cities in central and western Massachusetts. The Girl Scout program allows girls to discover the fun, friendship, and power of girls together while building their personal leadership qualities. GSCWM supports girls by giving them extraordinary opportunities to explore, experience, and learn about their world and helps girls recognize that they are vital members of their communities.



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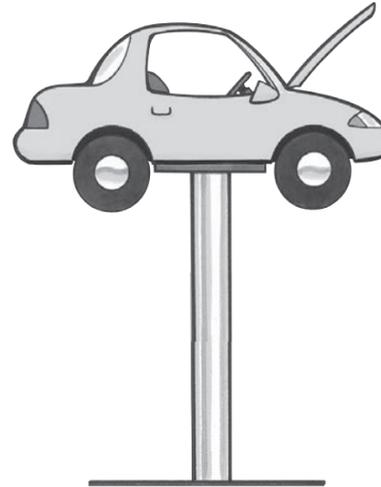
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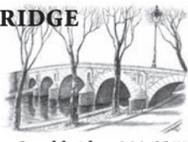


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 EDITOR

## May you never be too grown up to search the skies on Christmas Eve

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

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

However there comes a time when our children are grown, and the holidays can seem to be more of an obligation and a day to get through. Not only that, but we also long for the days when we had all our family members alive, when the holidays were the 'good old' days'. Moving forward, for some, can be quite depressing. Hopefully, that isn't the case for many, but for those who feel that sense of Grinch-esque dread, we have some tips that can help put the spark back into your hot apple cider.

If you remember what it felt like to have an amazing holiday, use those memories to pass down the same magic onto someone else. Even if it's not a child. Do something creative to make someone's holiday one they can remember, something they don't expect. When you take the time to essentially play Santa Claus, the joy you get back is tenfold.

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

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

The point of the holidays is to spend time with our favorite people. While we can't go back in time and re-live the days when trains circled our Christmas trees we can live in the present and create new adventures with memories that will put a smile on your face for years to come.



Insightful

### Letter submission policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author's name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author's name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted.

It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.

# OPINION

## Guide to Choosing a Holiday-Worthy Christmas Tree

A holiday tree is the center of the yuletide celebration. Decked out in garland and adorned with ornaments, the stately Christmas tree is not only a tradition but the source of both merriment and sentiment. It's no wonder choosing a special evergreen is a task not to be taken lightly. Whether freshly cut, balled and bagged, or artificially constructed, the choices are pleasantly plentiful.

Read on for ways to ensure this year's pick is truly trim-worthy!

Oh Evergreen!: Selecting a Christmas tree is a fun family tradition, but getting caught up in the festivities, one can overlook the requirements of a successful pick. The first thing to remember is in a lot or on a farm, a tree can look much smaller than it will in your home. Rule number one is to always bring a tape measure to ensure a proper fit.

When choosing a freshly cut evergreen, look for nice, even coloring throughout the tree with no signs of browning. Also, beware of brittle branches, which are another sign of an old tree that may not last the season in a heated home. Look for flexibility in a bough.

To test freshness, pick a needle and bend it. A fresh fir needle will snap; a fresh pine needle will bend, but not break. The old "shake tip" really reveals a tree's freshness. Simply shake from the trunk, or wave a bough and observe how many needles fall off. If it is more than several, keep looking.

Live trees balled with the root and wrapped in burlap or containers (a.k.a. balled and bagged trees) are a great choice if you plan on planting the tree after the holidays. The most important consideration with a balled and bagged tree is to make sure the tree species can thrive in your climate zone.

Once you've chosen a holiday tree, it's necessary to prep it for inside enjoyment. If you're using a cut tree, when you get home make a fresh cut at the base. This will help the tree better take up water. It pays to keep in mind that a properly watered tree will keep about a month inside. Be sure to keep the water level above the base of the tree. Believe it or not, a freshly-cut tree can consume a gallon of water in 24 hours!

To prevent fallen needles, add one of these to the base: three tablespoons glycerin; three tablespoons sugar; or a few crushed aspirin.

After Christmas is over, the holiday tree will need to be properly disposed of. Check your city or town transfer stations for recycling options. Some municipalities recycle trees and grind them into mulch that is repurposed back into the community as such.

Faux Forest: If a fresh cut tree is impractical, an artificial tree can be a good investment - if you choose wisely. When evaluating artificials, buy the best you can afford as skipping



TAKE THE HINT  
 KAREN TRAINOR

on such a purchase will shorten its lifespan. Did you know a well made artificial tree can last a decade or more? Choose trees with many branch tips and multiple needles, thus creating a "fullness" that rivals the real deal.

Look for easy to set up models with hinged branches for quick and easy set up. High end trees often come equipped with an abundance of lights. Make sure the tree stand is sturdy enough to hold a tree laden with heavy ornament and garlands. Lastly, consider a tree that can easily refold into a box or bag, for hassle free storage.

Love the smell of a real tree? You can mimic the fresh scent of balsam simply by sprinkling your carpets with a pine scented carpet freshener before vacuuming. Since smell is the most potent of our senses, visitors to a house that smells like the holidays will feel doubly welcomed!

Christmas Tree Preservative: If your family loves decorating a real tree, but you hate the mess of fallen needles, and the fear of sparking branches - don't despair! And don't spend big bucks on commercial preservatives either. This recipe will save the tree, some money, and maybe even a few frayed nerves: Ingredients: one gallon water; one cup ammonium sulphate (available from garden supply store); two tablespoons borax (available from grocery or hardware store); a few aspirins or three tablespoons glycerin, or three tablespoons sugar. Instructions: Mix first three ingredients together well. Pour into a spray bottle. Spritz on tree and pour the remainder into the tree stand instead of in water. Saw off the bottom of the trunk, one to two inches and use a drill to bore a narrow hole up through the middle of the trunk. Then fill the hole with cotton, and pack tightly. Put the base in warm water as soon as possible. Warm water will melt the sap, allowing the tree to drink more easily.

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 renown 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 E-mail KDRR@aol.com. Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn.

## Is a donor-advised fund right for You?

You can find many ways to support charitable organizations. One method that's gained popularity over the past few years is called a donor-advised fund. Should you consider it?

The answer depends on your individual situation, because donor-advised funds are not appropriate for everyone. However, if you're in a position to make larger charitable gifts, you might at least want to see what this strategy has to offer.



FINANCIAL FOCUS  
 TREVOR NIELSON

Here's how it works: Contribute to the fund. You can contribute to your donor-advised fund with cash or marketable securities, which are assets that can be converted to cash quickly. If your contribution is tax deductible, you'll get the deduction in the year you make the contribution to the fund. Of course, these contributions are still subject to IRS limits on

charitable tax deductions and whether you itemize your deductions. If you typically don't give enough each year to itemize and plan on making consistent charitable contributions, you could consider combining multiple years' worth of planned giving into a single donor-advised fund contribution, and claim a larger deduction in that year. This move may be especially impactful if you have years with a higher amount of income, with an accompanying higher tax rate. If you contribute marketable securities, like stocks and bonds, into the fund, a subsequent sale of the securities avoids capital gains taxes, maximizing the impact of your contribution.

Choose an investment. Typically, donor-advised funds offer several professionally managed diversified portfolios where you can place your contributions. You'll want to consider the level of investment risk to which your fund may be exposed. And assuming all requirements are met, any investment growth is not taxable to you, the donor-advised fund or the charity that ultimately receives the grant, making your charitable gift go even further.

Choose the charities. You can choose grants for the IRS-approved charities that you want to support. You decide when you want the money donated and how it should be granted. You're generally free to choose as many IRS-approved charitable organizations as you like. And the tax reporting is relatively easy — you don't have to keep track of receipts from every charity you support. Instead, you can just keep the receipts from your contributions to the fund.

Although donor-advised funds clearly offer some benefits, there are important trade-offs to consider. For one thing, your contributions are irrevocable, which means once you put the money in the fund, you cannot access it for any reason other than charitable giving. And the investments you choose within your fund will carry some risk, as is true of all investments. Also, donor-advised funds do have investment management fees and other costs. So, consider the impacts of these fees when deciding how you want to give.

In any case, you should consult with your tax and financial professionals before opening a donor-advised fund. And if the fund becomes part of your estate plans, you'll also want to work with your legal advisor. But give this philanthropic tool some thought — it can help you do some good while also potentially benefiting your own long-term financial strategy.

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

should be helping me but were not. If you have a lot to accomplish, it's only natural to plan, have a list of to-do's, and try to accomplish as much as possible. If you are on a deadline and have commitments, you must follow through with; it's almost impossible not to nervously anticipate each moment and how it will all get done. It comes with the territory.

I used to think that Living in the moment was the same as Living for the moment. Living in the moment and living for the moment aren't exactly the

## Juggling your holiday commitments

We are deep into the holiday season, and almost all of us are busier during the holidays than during the rest of the year: parties to attend, gifts to buy, and people to visit. With all the tasks we're already juggling, the holiday season can make it extra tricky to keep all the balls in the air!

If you look around this holiday season, you'll notice some people can handle the extra workload with a smile, and others grit their teeth every step of the way.

Can we learn to become more graceful under pressure?

There's a thing called "Living in the Moment." I'm sure you've heard of it. I've heard the phrase a few million times, but I've only recently paid attention to what it means.

Living in the moment sounds so sim-



POSITIVELY SPEAKING  
 TOBY MOORE

ple I thought I was naturally doing it all along. How could we do anything but live in the moment? After all, we all live through a series of moments every day!

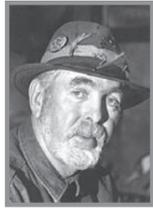
In the last couple of years, I took on a lot more responsibility than I was used to. As my workload increased, I reacted less gracefully than I would have liked. Although I was getting most everything done, I was constantly worried about what to do next. Always so afraid of not getting everything done that I couldn't properly focus on the task at hand.

I was rushing through each task as fast as possible, unable to perform at my best, and simultaneously feeling stressed and anxious about everything and everyone else. My fearful thoughts turned to bitter thoughts as I mentally complained about those who I thought

# On the hunt

Shotgun deer season opened this past Monday under ideal conditions, although some hunters that like to track deer in the snow may need to wait a bit longer. Deer hunting in the valley is a far cry from when I was hunting in my early years. There were few deer in the area, so we headed into the hills of Petersham, and hunted along the outskirts of the Quabbin Reservoir! We were fortunate enough to find a family that owned numerous acres of land that gave us permission to hunt. We were able to park our cars on their property just across the street from their home.

On opening day, we headed out real early, as we had to make the one and half hour journey to Petersham. We encountered a long line of traffic which was mostly other deer hunters heading into Petersham, Oakham and other great deer hunting spots in the area. The long line of traffic moved very slowly, as the old cars and trucks of the time had drivers driving a more normal speed than the crazy drivers of today. The car's headlights seemed as though there was a train heading in the same direction, until many driv-



THE GREAT  
OUTDOORS  
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TRUE

ers stopped to have a hot breakfast at some of the many eating establishments along the way. After the long drive, we finally reached our destination a half hour before opening time to hunt. We were all excited to start our annual deer hunt that consisted mostly of our family and a few outcasts. During our day in the woods, we would hear a few shots being fired, but our turn to discharge our shotguns often never happened. Finally, after a few years of hunting the area I heard a few shots, not far from where I was hunting. Suddenly, a nice eight point buck appeared, not far from where I was standing. After firing a couple of shots at the buck, I headed into the direction that I had last seen him. Suddenly, a wave of excitement came over me as I spotted the buck laying only a few yards away from where I had last seen him. It was the first buck I had ever shot.

We had no radios, as hunters do today, so I sat down and waited for a couple of my family to come looking for me. They had heard the shots, so it did not take long for them to find me. After a few high fives and pictures, the deer was field dressed and dragged out to

the car. Numerous hunters that accompanied me over the years were Dick Baker, who harvested a nice eight point buck, my brother Mel a nice doe and former police chief Emerick harvested a nice doe. Numerous other deer were harvested over the years at the site, and we always shared our venison with the nice people that allowed us to hunt their property. We were known by other local hunters as flatlanders!

Today, we seem to have more deer in our area, than the areas we hunted long ago. We also have coyotes, black bear, and numerous other species of wildlife that we did not have back in the '60's. Today, we only need to walk out our back door to hunt deer, although we have lost all of our native pheasant, and woodcock due to development. Grouse have all but disappeared from the valley area also.

I am sure I will hear stories of successful hunters all this week, and there are going to be some big bucks that were harvested this week. Remember that all deer harvested this week need to be brought to a checking station for this week only. There is no online checking of deer!

*Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!*



Photo Courtesy

For 15 years, Joe L. has been employing WTA TAGS trying to draw a big horn tag in Montana. His persistence has paid off! After booking with Worldwide Trophy Adventures in Montana, Joe and his guide passed on several smaller rams over three days. Late on day four, they glassed-up this band and then made their loop. They were then able to get into position and book this boomer out of the group at 450 yards. Congratulations, Joe, on this truly remarkable trophy.

# Selecting and keeping your Christmas tree looking its best

The hunt for the perfect tree is oftentimes an important part of family tradition. Buy local whenever possible by supporting local Christmas tree growers. Purchasing locally grown trees also reduces the risk of spreading unwanted pests into your landscape. Your local University Extension Service and Department of Natural Resources provide updates on any threats.



GARDEN  
MOMENTS  
.....  
MELINDA  
MYERS

ornaments, but the soft needles have less bite than the popular Scots or Scotch pine. This evergreen has stiff branches that support heavier ornaments and its needles hold even when dry.

Check for freshness. A fresh tree will last throughout the holidays. Run your hand along the stem. The needles should be pliable yet firmly attached to the branch. Avoid trees with lots of moss, lichens, vines, broken branches, and other signs of poor care.

Look at the overall shape and size of the tree. Stand the tree upright to make sure it will fit in the allotted space. Check the trunk. It should be straight and the base small enough to fit in your tree stand.

Make a fresh cut, removing at least an

inch from the base of the trunk before setting it in the stand. Straight or diagonal cuts work equally well. A diagonal or V-shaped cut may make it difficult to properly support the tree in the stand.

Proper watering is key. Fill the stand with water and check it often. Fresh trees can absorb as much as 2 quarts of water in the first 24 hours. Keeping your tree stand filled with water is the best way to keep your tree looking its best throughout the season.

Once your tree is in place, you can add lights and decorations. Then take time throughout the busy holiday season to relax with your favorite winter beverage and enjoy the beauty of your Christmas tree.

*Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the recently released Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great*



*Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video and 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 her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.*

# The precious gift of time unwrapped

In Japanese there is a word, Komorebi, which refers to how light filters through the trees. It encapsulates not only the vision of light coming through the trees but also the feeling one gets when seeing the light. As we notice the beauty of the light, the stateliness of the trees, the impermanence of the shadows, our thoughts are called away from all those things that cloud our mind and brought into the present moment. In these moments of noticing, we are without the need to worry about the future. We are without the need to obsess about the past. Instead, if we allow ourselves, we find ourselves firmly placed both physically and mentally in the single present moment.

This call into the present is brought on by the awe and beauty of that solitary moment, and is enhanced by the recognition that this beautiful moment is temporary; soon enough the light will move on. These captivating moments are like oxygen for the soul and should not be overlooked. They remind us of our interconnectedness in a much wider web of creation

and allow us to release the pressures that tend to build in us every day.

Far too often in our lives, we spend time regretting what we've done and simultaneously fretting about what is before us. Our calendars often look like prison bars with so many time slots blocked off and filled with our to do lists. It seems that we are trapped in the hamster wheel of life without any true appreciation for the life we are living. It seems that we are both everywhere and nowhere at the same time because our mind is scattered in many different directions with so many competing calls on our time.

The best inoculation against this 21st century plague is to take time to notice the small things like how light pours through the trees or rain drops cling to a branch or the pattern in which frost builds up on your window. Some people may call these things insignificant and yet, it is through noticing, these little fleeting moments, that we are able to ground ourselves in the now and teach ourselves to be more fully present to all the moments in our

BEYOND  
THE PEWS  
.....  
REV. DAWN M. ADAMS  
FIRST  
CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF BRIMFIELD

lives. These natural wonders help to break the myth that society tries to sell us that our time is everlasting and that we can continually fit in and do more.

These little moments are, in fact, around us all the time, but many of us have lost the desire, or perhaps better said, the ability, to see them. The world around us has become a backdrop that we breeze by without taking much notice. It is almost an impediment to accomplishing our daily goals. At the very least, it contains superfluous information that we need not pay attention to. In reality though, it is in these precious moments that we can find the meaning of all of

our moments.

In a world where time seems to be as rare and valuable as gold, we must not overlook the beauty of these transitory fragments of time. In fact, it would be a worthy venture to cultivate moments of noticing the richness of the natural world around us. These touchpoint moments can both ground us in that particular moment and also offer us a calmness which can be savored as we move back into the busyness of life.

While being attentive to these natural wonders around us might seem like a waste of time, (What does a caterpillar or a mushroom or a leaf have to do with our life?), it is in fact the essence of real time, a reminder of what life is about. We are not our calendars. In my faith, it is the difference between Chronos and Kairos time. Chronos signifying the time on our calendars and clocks; and Kairos time representing the holy / sacred time which operates outside of measured time.

It is in these exercises of noticing that we learn what time can be like if we allow ourselves to slow down and become more aware of our connection with the larger world. It is in these acute noticing that we begin to see that time and life is more than chores, bills, jobs, and responsibilities. It is in these moments that we begin to see the sacred shimmer.

Time is a gift and a finite resource that we too often give away without recognizing its value and with little in the long run to show for it. May we all search out these little moments becoming more attuned with the world around us and better recognizing our part within it.

*Rev. Dawn M. Adams is the minister of the First Congregational Church of Brimfield, UCC. If you would like to know more about Pastor Dawn or the church visit [BrimfieldUCC.org](http://BrimfieldUCC.org) or follow us @BrimUCC.*

**MOORE**  
continued from page A8

same, but they do share some qualities. Living for the moment is simply enjoying your life without caring about the future.

How is that different than Living In the Moment?

Living in the moment is accepting where you are, being aware of your emotions and thoughts, and allowing yourself to fully engage in the present moment without anticipation and worry for the next.

Eckhart Tolle said, "Are you able to be present in what you're doing, or is what you're doing no more than a means to an end? And approaching every moment with the hurried attitude of just needing to get this moment out of the way so you can get to a better one?"

If you're living in the moment, your focus is on what's happening now. You aren't thinking about what is for dinner or what you'll wear to work tomorrow. You aren't reliving moments from the

past or being distracted and concerned about future events - you're focused on what you should be doing in the present moment.

Some have asked if you can live in the moment and be a long-term planner? Is it ok to multitask and live in the moment? The answer is yes and yes!

If you have to multitask and perform several jobs simultaneously, you can do all that while staying in the moment. If you're a long-term planner with a big vision, it can sometimes be a distraction to dream about the future. Staying in the moment can help you get the daily chores finished.

Living in the moment is especially useful when dealing with people during the holidays, helping you to treat everybody with dignity and respect.

Living in the moment is associated with less stress and better decision-making, especially when combined with an attitude of acceptance and gratitude. Rather than letting the season's stress ruin your holiday cheer, take a breath, accept, be thankful, and live in the moment.

**Family Dining & Gift Guide**

Too Busy to Cook for the Holidays? Ask your favorite local restaurant if they offer dine-in or take-out for Thanksgiving and/or Christmas!  
OR Treat yourself to a nice dinner out anytime!  
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[www.spencercountryinn.com](http://www.spencercountryinn.com)

Lunch: Fri & Sat 11:30-2:00  
Dinner: Fri & Sat 5:00-Close  
Sun. Brunch: 10am-1pm

# LEGALS

## NOTICE OF SALE

### Lein Sale

Request a Notice of Lein Sale be Published on the following listed Units

#### Household & Misc, Items

Unit No 075 Christopher Jones  
71 Hope Ave Apt #2  
Worcester, MA 01603

#### Household & Misc, Items

Unit No 103 Michael McDonald  
10 Playground Drive  
Woodstock, CT 06281

#### Household & Misc, Items

Unit No 323 Monica Wardie  
884 Worcester Street  
Southbridge, MA 01550

#### Household & Misc, Items

Unit No 342 William Brown  
25 Village Drive  
Southbridge, MA 0155

#### Household & Misc, Items

Unit No 514 Merri Brooks  
5 Railroad Street  
Millbury MA 0157

#### Household & Misc, Items

Unit No 347 Eric Paul  
14 Summit Terrace  
N. Brookfield, MA 01535

#### Household & Misc, Items

Unit No 627 Melissa Kennelly  
345A Village Street  
Millis, MA 02054

#### Household & Misc, Items

Unit No 681 Larry Bourassa  
67 Mechanic Street  
Spencer, MA 01562

#### LEIN SALE WILL BE HELD:

Date: 12/14/2022

Time: 12 Noon

Location: 94 Brookfield Rd., Charlton  
MA 01507

November 25, 2022

December 2, 2022

## MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Holly A. Moran, to Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc., dated September 17, 2003, and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 31726 at Page 52, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder by assignment from Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., S/B/M Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc., to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee of the LB Igloo Series IV Trust, dated May 5, 2021, recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 65100, Page 244; and by an assignment from US Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee of the LB-Igloo Series IV Trust to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee of the LB-Cabana Series IV Trust, dated July 23, 2021, recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 65813, Page 83, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at 12:00 P.M. on the 13th day of December 2022, at 9 Cricket Drive, Sturbridge, MA 01566, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

To wit:

That certain lot or parcel of land with any buildings thereon located in the Municipality of Sturbridge, Worcester County, State of Mass.;

bounded and described as referenced below.

Being shown as Lot 11 on a Plan of Country Hill Estates by Wayne Morse and Donald Murray, dated February 19, 1964 and filed with the Worcester Registry of Deeds, in Plan Book 280, Plan 45, to which reference may be made for a more particular description. Subject to all rights, restrictions, covenants and easements of record, insofar as the same may be in force and applicable.

For title see deed dated 9-15-83 from Elizabeth K. MacGrath, aka, Elizabeth K. Sladdin, to Holly A. Moran, recorded in the Worcester County Registry of Deeds Book 7913, Page 349.

Premises to be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

Terms of sale: A deposit of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by wire transfer to Demerle Hoeger LLP, 10 City Square, 4th Floor, Boston, MA 02129 within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. In the event of an error in this publication, the description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee of the LB-Cabana Series IV Trust, Present holder of said mortgage, By its Attorneys, Demerle Hoeger LLP  
10 City Square, 4th Floor  
Boston, MA 02129  
(617) 337-4444

November 17, 2022

November 24, 2022

December 1, 2022

## STATE OF VERMONT SUPERIOR COURT FAMILY DIVISION BENNINGTON UNIT DOCKET NO. 92-5-19 Bnjv In re: D.S.

### NOTICE OF HEARING

TO: JOSE SANTIAGO, JR., father of D.S.

The State of Vermont has filed a petition to terminate residual parental rights to D.S. You are hereby notified that the court has scheduled for a trial to be held on **March 21-24, 2023, at 9am each day at the Bennington Superior Court, Family Division, 200 Veterans Memorial Drive, Bennington, Vermont 05301.** You are notified to appear in connection with this case. Failure to appear at these hearings can result in termination of parental rights. The State is represented by the Attorney General's Office, HC 2 North, 280 State Drive, Waterbury, VT 05671-2080. Other interested parties include Shakiria Rodriguez and D.S.

Honorable Howard A. Kalfus  
Family Court Judge  
11/3/2022

November 24, 2022

December 1, 2022

## Sturbridge Planning Board Public Hearing Application for Site Plan Approval Interstate Towing

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 40A, §11, the Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing at the Sturbridge Center Office Building, 301 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA on **Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at 6:35 PM** on the application of Wrecker, LLC, 1660 Westover Road, Chicopee, MA 01020. The applicant requests Site Plan Approval in accordance with Article XIX of the Zoning Bylaw to allow the construction of a new 7,000 square foot building for the purpose of Interstate Towing, Inc's auto towing and recovery business, to be located at 698 Main Street (Route 20) Sturbridge, MA.

A copy of the site plan and application can be inspected at the Sturbridge Town Website at <https://www.sturbridge.gov/planning-board/pages/recent-fillings> or arrangements can be made to view the application packet by contacting the Sturbridge Planning Department at (508) 347-2508 or by email at [jlacy@sturbridge.gov](mailto:jlacy@sturbridge.gov).

Any person interested or wishing to be heard on this proposal should appear at the time and place designated. Members of the public may watch the meeting online via the Town's on demand video broadcast or via cable television on Channel 191. In the event of a remote hybrid meeting, notice shall be posted on the Planning Board website and those that wish to participate will find specific information on how to access the meeting on the website. Please note that the meeting/hearing will not be suspended or terminated if technological problems interrupt the virtual broadcast, unless otherwise required by law.

Charles Blanchard

Chairperson

November 24, 2022

December 1, 2022

### (SEAL)

## THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT Docket No. 22 SM 003393 ORDER OF NOTICE

TO:

David Birri, Individually and as Personal Representative for the Estate of Steven A. Birri, Jessica Parker, and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 et seq.:  
THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON F/K/A THE BANK OF NEW YORK AS TRUSTEE FOR FIRST HORIZON ALTERNATIVE MORTGAGE SECURITIES TRUST 2006-FAI claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in **Sturbridge**, numbered **66A New Boston Road**, given by Steven A. Birri to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), as mortgagee, as nominee for Prime Mortgage Financial, Inc. its successors

and assigns, dated January 13, 2006, and recorded or filed in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 38211, Page 280, and now held by Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status. If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before 12/26/2022 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act. Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of this Court on 11/10/2022

Attest:  
Deborah J. Patterson  
Recorder  
December 1, 2022

### Town of Sturbridge Public Hearing Notice

Notification is hereby given that an application has been filed by Hamilton Rod and Gun Club for a Change of License Type from Club to General On-premises at the premises currently located at 24 Hamilton Road, Sturbridge, MA 01566 with the Sturbridge Board of Selectmen. In accordance with MGL Ch. 138, a public hearing will be held on Monday, December 19, 2022 at 6:35 p.m. This hearing will be held at Veterans Memorial Hall, Sturbridge Town Hall 308 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566  
December 1, 2022

### Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court

#### Probate and Family Court

#### Worcester Probate and Family Court

#### 225 Main Street

#### Worcester, MA 01608

#### (508) 831-2200

#### Docket No. WO22C0422CA

#### CITATION ON PETITION TO

#### CHANGE NAME

#### In the matter of:

#### Carlos Ruben Borrás Marcano

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Carlos Ruben Borrás Marcano** of **Southbridge MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

**Carlos Ruben Marcano**

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Worcester Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/13/2022. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.** WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.

Date: November 17, 2022

Stephanie K. Fattman

December 1, 2022

### (SEAL)

## THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT Docket No. 22 SM 003375 ORDER OF NOTICE

TO:

Wes Noel

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (et seq):  
Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Southbridge, numbered 4 Hartwell Terrace, given by Wes Noel to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Drew Mortgage Associates, Inc, dated June 19, 2015, and recorded at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 53882, Page 354, and now held by the plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status. If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before December 26, 2022 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the grounds of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on 11/10/2022

Attest:

Deborah J. Patterson

Recorder

December 1, 2022

### Commonwealth of Massachusetts

#### The Trial Court

#### Probate and Family Court

#### Worcester Probate and Family Court

#### 225 Main Street

#### Worcester, MA 01608

#### (508) 831-2200

#### Docket No. WO22C0551CA

#### CITATION ON PETITION TO

#### CHANGE NAME

#### In the matter of:

#### Kristen Marie Saad

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Kristen Marie Saad** of **Sturbridge MA**

requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

**Kristen Marie Bogosian**

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Worcester Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/20/2022. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.** WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.

Date: November 14, 2022

Stephanie K. Fattman

Register of Probate

December 1, 2022

### Commonwealth of Massachusetts

#### The Trial Court

#### Probate and Family Court

#### Worcester Probate and Family Court

#### 225 Main Street

#### Worcester, MA 01608

#### (508) 831-2200

#### Docket No. WO22C0550CA

#### CITATION ON PETITION TO

#### CHANGE NAME

#### In the matter of:

#### Karen Mary Boudreau

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Karen Mary Boudreau** of **Fiskdale MA**

requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

**Karen Mary Shaugnessy**

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Worcester Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/27/2022. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.** WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.

Date: November 14, 2022

Stephanie K. Fattman

Register of Probate

December 1, 2022

### (SEAL)

## THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

### LAND COURT

### DEPARTMENT OF

### THE TRIAL COURT

### 22 SM 003192

### ORDER OF NOTICE

To:

Patricia A. Trucheon

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):  
Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. as Trustee for Mortgage Assets Management Series I Trust claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Southbridge, numbered 340 Hamilton Street, given by Patricia A. Trucheon to Financial Freedom Senior Funding Corporation, a subsidiary of Indy Mac Bank, F.S.B., dated May 2, 2008, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 43138, Page 1 and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status. If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before December 26, 2022 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act. Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on November 17, 2022.

Attest: Deborah J. Patterson

Recorder

22375

December 1, 2022

# OBITUARIES

## Donald E. LeBlanc, 85

Donald E. LeBlanc, 85, Southbridge- Eugene LeBlanc, 85, of Southbridge, died on Tuesday, Nov. 22th, after a long illness with his family by his side.

He leaves his wife of 58 years, Domenica Maria (Lombardi) LeBlanc; his son, Donald, Jr. and his wife Denise of Westborough; his two daughters, Mary-Melissa Rush and her husband Richard of Charleston, SC and Kristyn Dyer and her husband James of Southbridge; his son-in-law Jeffrey Slomski of Auburn; and his six grandchildren, Sarah, Juliana, Holden, Brendan, Maggie and Frances. He was predeceased by his beloved daughter, Karyn Slomski. He also leaves his brother, Neal LeBlanc of Sturbridge; his sister, Leslie Setterlund of Brimfield; his brother-in-law, Joseph Lombardi of Sturbridge; and nieces and nephews.

He was born in Southbridge the son of Eugene R. and Rita A. (McCarthy)

LeBlanc. He graduated from Mary E. Wells High School and served four years in the US Navy receiving an honorable discharge. He was employed at and retired from Federal Express in 2001. He was lucky to have enjoyed many years of retirement playing golf and following his two favorite basketball teams – the Boston Celtics and Holy Cross Crusaders. Most of all, he treasured the time spent with his family.

His funeral was held on Saturday, Nov. 26th, from the Daniel T Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, with a Mass at 11:00am in St. Mary's Church of the St. John Paul II Parish, 263 Hamilton St., Southbridge. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery, Southbridge. Calling hours in the funeral home were held on Saturday, Nov. 26th, from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m., prior to the Mass.

The family requests donations can be made in his memory to Saint John Paul II Food Pantry, 279 Hamilton Street, Southbridge, MA 01550.

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

**SOUTHBRIDGE/SPENCER-** Marie A. Dupont, of Southbridge and formerly a longtime resident of Spencer, died Saturday, Nov. 26th in Harrington Memorial Hospital, Southbridge.

Her brother; Francis X. Dupont died in 2002; her brother; Her brother; Edward Dupont died in 2002 and her sister; Constance Dupont died in 1995.

She leaves her lifetime friend whom she lived with; Irene Lusignan (and her family) of Southbridge. She also thought the world of Irene's great grandson; Odin Lusignan.

She was born in Spencer; the daughter of Homer and Eliza (Branconner) Dupont. She was a certified nurs-

es' assistant at St. Francis Home in Worcester for 15 years, retiring in 1999. She previously worked at the American Optical in Southbridge for 14 years. She was a longtime member of the former St. Mary's Church in Spencer where she was a Eucharistic Minister. She was an avid bowler with her elderly friends at American Lanes in Southbridge and enjoyed trips to the casino.

Private graveside services and burial will be held in Mary, Queen of the Rosary Cemetery, Spencer. The J. HENRI MORIN & SON FUNERAL HOME, 23 Maple Terr., Spencer is assisting the family with arrangements.

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

## Shirley Anne Stengel, 84



**Southbridge-** Shirley Anne (Krocker) Stengel passed away peacefully on Tuesday, November 1st, 2022 at the age of 84. Born in Lansing Michigan, she was the daughter of Florence and Steven Krocker.

In September 1956, she enlisted in the US Army and lived life as a proud veteran. While Shirley was employed at Commerce Insurance in Webster for many years, her true passion was letting her creativity soar through sewing and crafting. She was a regular at local fabric stores and ensured her grandchildren had uniquely designed, per-

sonalized Christmas stockings every other year.

Shirley is survived by her daughter Patricia Dufresne, her grandchildren Heather Dufresne Caban, Elizabeth Lazo Singh, Ashley Lazo, Samantha Lazo, John Dufresne, Jacob Lazo, and Hannah Lazo as well as her nieces Tami Risner, Trina Jecks of Michigan and good friends Donald and Karen Dufresne. Shirley also had 6 great-grandchildren she adored and will forever be known as "Mrs Clause" to Solomon, Sebastian, Sammi, Olivia, Salvatore and Zuri.

Shirley is predeceased by her daughters Lisa Lazo and Barbara Pease, her son Fredrick Pease, and her sister Kay Boyd.

Burial services with military honors were held Saturday, November 26th at twelve o'clock in the afternoon at Oakridge Cemetery in Southbridge.



**If it's important to you,  
It's important to us.**

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

## Holiday fun at Hitchcock

**LIVE MUSIC, COOKIE DECORATING & CRAFTING, GAMES, FOOD, AND MORE FOR ALL AGES**

**BRIMFIELD** — Christmas at Hitchcock returns on Saturday, Dec. 10 from 1 to 6 p.m. The popular all ages event will include live music, cookie decorating & crafting, games, food, and more. The event is free of charge and there is no registration required. It will include both indoor and outdoor activities, so attendees should dress accordingly.

Live music will be performed from the building's balcony by Tony Valley, Cody Peck, Patrick Timothy Yeo, and others. Listeners can keep warm by fire barrels dotted on Hitchcock's lawn, sipping from free pours of delicious hot chocolate provided by Sturbridge Coffee House. Maddie's Dogs Food Truck will be on site selling food as well.

Inside, attendees can decorate cookies, make Christmas crafts, play "reindeer games" and enjoy story time with one of Santa's elves. Vendors will also

be selling local products such as honey, maple syrup, crafts, and other gift items.

Renowned ice carver Mike Rondeau will be doing a live ice carving during the event. 4-H will be bringing a pony for attendees to greet and pet. Weather-permitting, attendees will be encouraged to build a snowman on Hitchcock's lawn.

Christmas at Hitchcock feels like a family Christmas party combined with a larger scale holiday event. Our space is so much like a home, yet we have all the trimmings and trappings of an event with all the activities going on.

Attendees can also bring a donation to the organization's Toys for Tots collection, and donations to Hitchcock's annual Friends Campaign which aims to raise \$10,000 toward operating expenses through individual donations, are also warmly welcomed.

More information can be found lead-



ing up to the event as details are confirmed on Hitchcock's website at [www.hitchcockacademy.org](http://www.hitchcockacademy.org). The event is generously sponsored by Hitchcock Pool Water.

Hitchcock Academy is a community

center located at 2 Brookfield Rd. in Brimfield serving the community with educational, recreational, and cultural programming. More information can be found at [www.hitchcockacademy.org](http://www.hitchcockacademy.org).

**Country Bank announces "Season of Difference" campaign with \$125,000 in support for local communities**

**REGION** — The winter holidays are going to be a lot brighter for a lot of people, thanks to Country Bank's annual Season of Difference campaign, during which the bank has pledged 28 days of making a difference in the communities they serve.

The bank's team members (aka, Difference Makers) will deliver \$80,000 in donations to local food pantries, as well as \$5,000 each to the Friends of the Homeless, Salvation Army and the USO.

The campaign kick-off is on Saturday, Nov. 26—Small Business Saturday—with Difference Makers purchasing gifts cards from local businesses and distributing them throughout their banking centers on Tuesday, Nov. 29.

In addition, the bank's team members will be supporting holiday sponsorships and events, volunteering at nonprofits, providing gifts for 300 seniors in nursing homes, 400 gifts for children, and 300 gifts to homeless shelters, ringing the bell for the Salvation Army, and more.

"As a community partner, we care deeply about our communities, and we want to make a meaningful difference where it is most needed this holiday season," said Paul Scully, President, and CEO of Country Bank. "As we reflect on the past year with gratitude for the bank's strength and ability to support so many in need, we are also humbled to witness so many great acts of kindness and support throughout our communities from the people and businesses who make this region the remarkable place it is to live and work."

To find out what the bank is doing each day of the campaign, follow the bank's social channels or visit [www.country-bank.com/seasonofdifference](http://www.country-bank.com/seasonofdifference).

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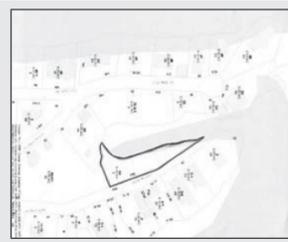
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# SPORTS

## Miranda runs wild, helps Pioneers overpower Bartlett

**SOUTHBRIDGE SENIOR NOW A TWO-TIME THANKSGIVING MVP**



Nick Ethier photos

From left, Southbridge's Jonathan Miranda and Adriel Olivo pose for a photo after both win individual awards from the Pioneers' Thanksgiving Day game with Bartlett. Miranda holds the Captain Vincent Sabatinelli Trophy for Game MVP, while Olivo possesses the Harry J. McMahon Award for Most Valuable Defensive Player.

BY NICK ETHIER  
SPORTS EDITOR

SOUTHBRIDGE — Dating back to the early 1970s, no player since Bartlett High's Noel Lefebvre has won the Captain Vincent Sabatinelli Trophy for Game MVP two times in the storied Southbridge versus Bartlett Thanksgiving Day football rivalry. Until now.

The Pioneers' Jonathan Miranda, who won the award last season thanks to a two-touchdown performance, outdid himself this year at Harry J. McMahon Field. Miranda totaled four rushing touchdowns and nearly 200 yards in Southbridge's 50-28 victory in the 102nd playing of the Thanksgiving matchup.

"Our line executed the right way and they gave me the openings. I did what I had to do," Miranda, a senior, said of his outing.

Frank Koumanelis, head coach of the Pioneers, heaped plenty of praise toward Miranda.

"He's a tremendous, tremendous football player," said Koumanelis. "He's a throwback player. He runs the ball well, he's got good sight, he's got good moves, but defensively he's awesome. He loves to hit. He deserved it today...close to 200 yards and a lot of tackles."

Bartlett head coach Dane Laboissonniere noted that Miranda was too much for the Indians to handle on both sides of the ball.

"We can't really match-up up front with some of their guys in terms of our size. They had some big guys, Miranda's a big back and we wore down as the game progressed," said Laboissonniere. "Jon Miranda is the engine on defense, too. I won't be crying any tears when he crosses the stage in June."

With Miranda scoring twice and Adriel Olivo adding a touchdown, Bartlett kept the game close with first half touchdowns by Quiava Brown Jr. He scored on a 60-yard reception and a rushing TD, making the score 20-14.

Miranda then added his third touchdown, though, this one a 10-yard rush, and quarterback Blake Andrews hit Aubrey Moeng on the two-point conversion pass, and Southbridge took a 28-14 lead at intermission.

"Now it's 28-14, we turn one over



Jonathan Miranda of Southbridge follows the block from teammate Akeem Rose while carrying the ball.



Adriel Olivo of Southbridge leaps to make a nice catch versus Bartlett.



Southbridge's Justin Lee reaches up for an interception.

BELOW: Blake Andrews (1) and other Southbridge football players bask in the glory of winning the Thanksgiving Day game against Bartlett, 50-28.



going into half and then it was like we couldn't stop throwing interceptions for the rest of the game. You're not going to overcome those sorts of mistakes," said Laboissonniere.

The Indians opened the third quarter with an interception, their third of the game, and Miranda scored a play later and added the two-point conversion to make it 36-14.

The next Southbridge score was the result of another Bartlett INT, a pick-six by Olivo and Kyle St. Laurent adding the two-point run. Another pick-six, this one by St. Laurent, ballooned the Pioneers' lead to 50-14.

The Indians added a pair of fourth quarter touchdowns — Brown scoring on a 42-yard run and Caiden Steeves hitting Jose Colon on a 49-yard pass, and then Brown throwing to Colon for the two-point pass — but it was too little, too late.

Bartlett finished 1-10 in Laboissonniere's return to the sidelines following a year away in which the Indians endured an 0-10 campaign. Laboissonniere believes that the future can be bright for Bartlett.

"We're returning 25 of 27 guys on the roster. We've got a good senior class next year. They haven't ever had a consistent weight program, so a big thing for these kids is offseason training. January 4 we're going to be in there," said Laboissonniere. "I've had two 2-9 seasons in my career and both years we came back and made the playoffs following them. If we can follow suit there, we'll see what happens. I've got a good feeling about us for the future."

Southbridge finished 6-4 after a one-win season in 2021.

"It's a Thanksgiving Day win, two in a row. It feels good and I'm happy for the seniors. We had a good group of seniors that went through a lot the past two years, three years," said Koumanelis.



Following Southbridge's 50-28 victory over Bartlett on Thanksgiving, head coach Frank Koumanelis, left, proudly holds his framed No. 50 jersey, which was presented to him by athletic director Jason Linders. After 39 years coaching in Southbridge, Koumanelis plans to take on a mentor role in 2023.

"This really puts the frosting on the cake."

The proverbial cake could also be for Koumanelis who, barring any change in plans, will no longer be the head coach of the Pioneers after 39 years on

the sidelines, either as a head or assistant coach.

"What I want to do, and they want me to do, is probably bring somebody along, mentor somebody, but I don't want to be the face of the program," said Koumanelis, who was presented with his framed No. 50 high school jersey as a gift.

"For me, it's the culmination of a career," added Koumanelis, a 1968 Southbridge graduate. "Growing up, and I tell these kids, my football life was beating Bartlett. That was more important than Super Bowls or anything like that. I tried to instill that in the kids."

"Winning on Thanksgiving is the greatest feeling ever, especially in front of the home crowd and all the alumni," said Miranda, proving that Koumanelis' words did in fact register to the current crop of student-athletes.

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The church is located at 50 Hammond Hill Rd. in Charlton, and admission is free of charge.

# SPORTS

## Defensive minded Rams shut out Tantasqua on Thanksgiving



Jason Bleau photos

Brandon Denham of Tantasqua has the running room to move the ball down the field.



With bodies strewn about on the ground, Lucas Welton of Shepherd Hill carries the ball down the sideline.

BY JASON BLEAU  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — After a painful Thanksgiving Eve loss in 2021 in Sturbridge, the Shepherd Hill Regional varsity football team got its revenge at home in 2022 in a big way during their annual matchup against Tantasqua Regional on Thanksgiving morning in 2022.

The Rams started off slow in the 48th annual meeting of the two schools with a strong drive halted by a holding penalty. Tantasqua didn't fare much better on their first possession when a fumble ended their strong drive. Both teams were held scoreless after the first quarter.

Tantasqua's second quarter started off the same as the first, with a fumble recovered by Shepherd Hill, this time setting up the Rams with good field position that they would convert to points as Luke Miller scored the only offensive touchdown of the game with a 2-yard run giving Shepherd Hill the early lead they would never relinquish.

Ball control continued to be an issue for the Warriors, who nearly lost a blocked punt to the Rams early in the second quarter before recovering the ball themselves. However, Tantasqua squandered its chance to get back into the game when they fumbled the ball away again, allowing William Sirleaf to score a defensive touchdown to put the Rams up 14-0. Shepherd Hill would carry that lead into the second half and double down on defense to hold the Warriors scoreless despite Tantasqua showing plenty of grit and recovering a Rams' fumble. That 14-0 would be the final score of the game.

Warriors' head coach Nate Orzech was blunt when talking about his team's performance acknowledging



Shepherd Hill's Luke Miller scored a touchdown and was the Offensive Player of the Game in the Rams' 14-0 Thanksgiving Day victory against Tantasqua.

that Tantasqua is a capable team that needs to reduce their errors if they want to win games.

"We just have to play better and we need to take care of the ball. We're a good team when we can take care of the ball and we don't take penalties. We obviously didn't do that in the first half today, so we need to take care of those mistakes," said Orzech. "It always hurts to lose. The kids worked hard the last week and a half to win. We didn't come out here to lose, so of course it hurts." Shepherd Hill head coach Dave



A Tantasqua lineman clears the way for a Tantasqua running back

Buchanan said he was proud of his team's performance, particularly on defense where they struggled all year until the final game where it mattered most.

"I can't say enough for how hard the kids worked to get ready for this game. Thanksgiving football is this really neat tradition we have in Massachusetts. It means so much no matter how your season goes, and the kids will always compete and battle. It's the most well attended game every year and these kids worked their butts off. We executed our defensive gameplay well. Even when they were misaligned they found

a way to fix themselves and play out of position. I'm so proud of what they did defensively because that's been kind of our bugaboo all year. Today was our best defensive performance of the season," said Buchanan.

Miller was named Offensive Player of the Game while Cameron Murphy of Tantasqua was awarded Defensive Player of the Game. As a result of the Thanksgiving matchup, both teams finished the season with the same record of 4-7. Shepherd Hill's win continues their dominance in the annual holiday matchup, which now sits at 38-9-1 in favor of the Rams.



The Shepherd Hill line tries to move the Tantasqua players backward.

## SHEPHERD HILL EARNS MULTIPLE MID-WACH ALL-STAR BIDS

The following are the Shepherd Hill Regional student-athletes who were named fall season Midland-Wachusett League All-Stars:

- Football
- Brady Gelineau (Offensive)
- Lucas Welton (Offensive)
- Josh Harrison (Defensive)
- Devin Rowden (Defensive)
- Luke Miller (Academic)
- Boys' Soccer
- Jack Barrows (First Team)
- Shawn Maple (First Team)
- Dan Gronek (Second Team)
- Adrien Roach (Second Team and Academic)
- Girls' Soccer
- Katherine Alicea (First Team)
- Arianna Watson (First Team)
- Victoria Cravedi (Second Team)

- Colleen Cummings (Second Team and Academic)
- Field Hockey
- Madeleine Johnson (Second Team and Academic)
- Volleyball
- Lisset Cruz (Second Team)
- Ashley Wojcicki (Academic)
- Golf
- Ashtyn Bennet
- Boys' Cross-Country
- Andrew Trudel
- Girls' Cross-Country
- Grace Bateman
- Emily Hultgren
- Emery Mullen
- Meghan Stevens
- Karlee White
- Lily Bateman (Academic)

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Talaysia  
Age 16

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Legally freed for adoption, Talaysia would love to have a family to call her own and just wants to be loved. Talaysia's social worker is looking for that loving family who will provide her with the support and comfort she needs. She would benefit from being an only child in a family of any constellation. It is very important to Talaysia that she is able

to preserve her connection with her aunt, who resides in North Carolina.  
<https://www.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/7901>

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# SPORTS

## Oxford beats Bay Path in annual Battle for Buffum

CHARLTON — The Oxford High varsity football team had a tremendous season, missing out on a State Championship appearance at Gillette Stadium by one point in the semifinal round, and they concluded it with a successful Thanksgiving Day victory over rival Bay Path Regional.

Playing in the Battle for Buffums at George L. Fowler Memorial Field, the Pirates ran away with a 42-6 victory as they finished the season with a record of 10-2.

After the Minutemen scored first on a Jonathan Desmarais 2-yard TD run to take a 6-0 lead, Oxford scored the final 42 points. The scoring plays, in order, were as follows:

Lucas Lambert run, Lambert to Connor Fantasia pass, Lambert to

Jordan DeLeon pass with a Lambert to Fantasia two-point conversion pass, Lambert to Robbie Fisher pass with a Lambert to Brett Morgan two-point conversion pass, and a pair of Zak Parmenter runs.

Lambert, the Game MVP, was 14 of 19 passing for 247 yards, and he added another 78 yards rushing on 12 carries. Parmenter was named the Offensive MVP, Quinn Clarkson the Defensive MVP.

Bay Path dropped to 7-5, but their season did not end there. The Minutemen advanced to the Large School State Vocational Championship game, where they will "host" Monty Tech. The game, to be played Thursday, Dec. 1 at 6 p.m., is at Shepherd Hill Regional.



Bay Path's Kaiden Brochu eludes the reach of Oxford defender Cameron Lavallee while carrying the football.



Nick Ethier photos

Connor Burke of Bay Path (10) makes a nice play defensively to tip the ball away from Oxford's Brett Morgan.



Bay Path's Jonathan Desmarais lunges into the end zone for a Minutemen touchdown.



Casey Gallagher of Bay Path finds daylight in the middle of the field while carrying the ball.



Oxford's Lucas Lambert reaches the football into the end zone for a Pirates' touchdown.

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# Traveling for the holidays? 'Waterproof' your home before you leave

SOUTHBRIDGE — For many, the holiday season includes travel, whether it is to join a family gathering or enjoy a holiday vacation. These traditional holiday trips stand to amplify an already growing travel demand. The U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics\* reports that for July 2022, the number of people boarding a U.S. airline plane for domestic or international travel grew to 69.9 million, up 8.6 percent from July 2021 numbers. As the holiday travel season approaches, the water and fire remediation specialists at SERVPRO® caution homeowners that they need to go beyond buying tickets and packing a suitcase before they leave on a trip. Homeowners need to «waterproof» their homes.

“Your home is subject to water damage from inside and out when you head out on a trip,” says Rick Isaacson, CEO of Servpro Industries, LLC. “Leaking or burst pipes can wreak havoc on the inside of your home. Severe weather can pose a flooding threat inside and outside your home. If you are planning to travel this holiday season, there are six important steps you can take before you leave to help ensure your home will be ready and welcoming when you return.”

Ask Someone to Check on the House While You're Gone. Taking the simple step of asking a friend or family member to stop by while you're gone may catch a potential problem before it becomes a disaster.

Check for leaks. Inspect pipes under kitchen and bathroom sinks, check your water heater for cracks or rust, and ensure that hoses connected to dishwashers, refrigerators, and washing machines are leak free.

Insulate exposed pipes. Insulating exposed pipes can help prevent them from freezing in cold climates, but wherever you live, your home needs constant air circulation to help prevent water damage and mold caused by condensation. Keep the HVAC system turned on and open the cupboard doors under sinks to promote airflow.

Turn Off the Main Water Valve. If you don't already know where this is, this is a good time to find out and shut it off if your home will be unattended and vacant during your trip.

Clear Gutters and Downspouts of Debris. Clear out debris, dirt, leaves, and sticks and position downspouts to direct water at least ten feet away from the home to prevent flooding.

Inspect and Test the Sump Pump. If

you have a sump pump, test it before you leave by filling the sump pit with water and watching to see if the pump empties out the water. This can mean the difference between finding a dry or flooded basement when you arrive home.

“SERVPRO specializes in water damage remediation so we know how difficult it can be to deal with flooding caused by burst pipes, failed sump pumps, or heavy rainfall, even if you discover the problem right away,” says Isaacson. “It would be even more heartbreaking to return to your home after a holiday trip to find that water has been creating chaos while you were away. Taking steps to ‘waterproof’ your home before you leave on your holiday trip can help ensure you return to a dry, safe home, rested and relaxed from your time away.”

SERVPRO specializes in fire and water cleanup and restoration services and repair services, helping to remediate damage for both commercial and residential customers. For more information about SERVPRO, please visit [www.servpro.com/](http://www.servpro.com/). For more information on SERVPRO in the Southbridge area, please contact please contact one of the local business owners below.

\* For SERVPRO of Shrewsbury/Westborough, please contact Donny McKendall who can be reached at (508) 393-7898 or [donny.mckendall@servproworchester.com](mailto:donny.mckendall@servproworchester.com).

\* For SERVPRO of Southern Worcester County, please contact Don McKendall who can be reached at (508) 234-3399 or [Don@servpromckendall.com](mailto:Don@servpromckendall.com).

\*<https://www.bts.gov/newsroom/july-2022-us-airline-traffic-data>

About SERVPRO For more than 50 years, SERVPRO has been a trusted leader in fire and water cleanup and restoration services, construction, mold mitigation, and biohazard and pathogen remediation. SERVPRO's professional services network of more than 2,000 individually owned and operated franchises spans the United States and Canada, responding to property damage emergencies large and small from million-square-foot commercial facilities to individual homes. When disaster strikes, homeowners, business owners, and major insurance companies alike rely on SERVPRO to make it “Like it never even happened.”

## A vision of the coming Holidays

SOUTHBRIDGE — As it has for years, Southbridge kicked off the holiday season in style last weekend. Santa and Mrs. Claus, elves, grinch, manger characters and a whole menagerie of other Christmas favorites paraded around town and gathered on the Common Saturday evening.

Behind the scenes were several dozen volunteer elves – garbed as such and not – of Southbridge Holiday Visions and community groups, running crafts, games, the parade, cocoa and coffee-distribution, and coordinating the immigration for Santa and his crew.

Photos Gus Steeves



Kids from Pop Warner get into the spirit in the parade's staging area behind the Hotel.



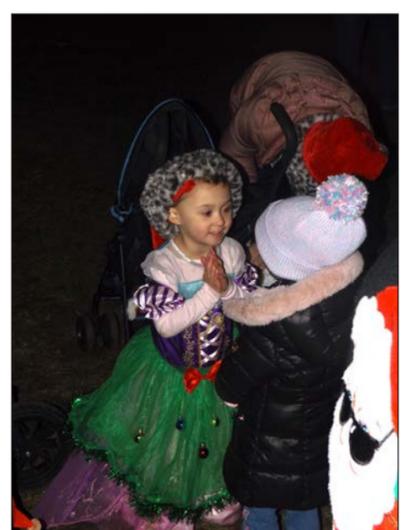
Mrs. Claus cuddles a kid.



Santa and Mrs. Claus visit town before their busy season begins.



Madison Schreier sings.



Two kids rejoice at seeing each other.



A shepherd cradles his dog in the Methodist Church's manger float.



Members of the Southbridge High band play a carol.

### ALL WE KNOW IS LOCAL ~ StonebridgePress.com



# Southbridge Lions Club hosts annual Football Banquet

SOUTHBRIDGE — Tuesday, Nov. 22, was the Southbridge Lions Club Annual Football Banquet for the Southbridge High team players, the cheerleaders, coaches, school Athletic Director and parents. Monday brought many members of the Lions into the Italian Club, where the festivities were held, to make the

place look festive for the one hundred or so that would be in attendance. On Tuesday, the Lion's world-famous cooking crew arrived and began the preparation of an Italian feast.

Lions' member Mike Caplette did introductions of the speakers, including Southbridge high school Athletic Director, Jason Linders. Mr. Linders mentioned the success of the volleyball team and the Cheerleaders, and spoke to the development of "competitive maturity" and the setting of high expectations for student athletes.

Tyler Ramsey was then introduced as the primary speaker of the evening.



Ramsey was a student athlete from Southbridge several years ago. He went on to play at Marist College.

He spoke to the kids of his over-all career and his football career. He stressed to the players how the Thanksgiving game

was the highlight of his career. He said that this game is felt by your

whole body; it is bigger than any other. That when you win, you win for yourself, for your

teammates, especially for the seniors, for the coaches the students and for the entire town

of Southbridge. This tradition is very deep. It was a great pep talk.

Coach Frank Koumanelis spoke to the players about how important this game is and how it

is emotional. The team with the most and deepest emotion while playing, will win.

Lions member Gary Fontaine then took the microphone and presented Coach Koumanelis with a

Certificate of Appreciation for his years of service to the town, the school, the team and the

kids. Thirty-Nine years' worth of coaching for Southbridge. Thanks, Coach!

## Five bidders vying for school roof projects

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON — The top bidders for the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District middle schools roof projects have been revealed after the district released a request for proposals earlier in the year. A committee charged with overseeing the hiring for the projects met on Nov. 7, where they assessed and rated five proposals for consideration by the School Committee.

The replacement of the Dudley and Charlton Middle School roofs was approved during the September primary elections as part of Phase 1 of the school district's multi-year capital improvement plan. That voted allowed for \$7.5 million in

spending to rehab the roofs of both schools which have experienced a variety of issues such as leaking due to their age. Richard Mathieu, District Director of Finance and Operations, revealed the bidders during a Nov. 9 School Committee meeting which were presented in order of recommended preference.

"After reviewing the proposals and scoring them in four different categories we reached a consensus ranking. The top ranked firm was Russo Barr Associates of Woburn. The second was Gale Associates of Weymouth. Third was Nault Architects of Worcester. CSS Architects of Wakefield was fourth and fifth was RGB architects from Providence," said Mathieu. "All

five firms were very strong and presented valid arguments as to why they should be the choice. I think we were fortunate that we had five strong competitors."

Mathieu then turned over the final decision to the School Committee recommending they choose at least three candidates for consideration. While Mathieu didn't reveal the exact bids, he did say all five bidders were "in the ballpark" and recommended the School Committee allow negotiation with all five companies if necessary. The School Committee agreed and voted to allow Mathieu to negotiate with all five companies on a final price which will be brought to the School Committee before the end of the year for further consideration.

## Sturbridge resident Named a UWIL Fellow

AMHERST — UMass Women into Leadership (UWiL) has named its 2023 fellowship class. Carol DeRose of Sturbridge is one of the 24 selected as a 2023 Fellow. DeRose is a member of the class of 2025 and is a Political Science and Natural Resources Conservation double major at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

UWiL is a selective leadership training and professional development program that prepares students from Massachusetts's flagship public university for public leadership. By introducing students to public leaders and providing opportunities for them to see first-hand the different career opportunities available in public service, UWiL provides pathways into leadership and gives students the confidence to succeed—all while helping to address the gender gap in politics and creating a pipeline from public education into public service.

Already this fall, UWiL has provided students the opportunity to engage with leadership across the Commonwealth—from Boston to Springfield—in addition to meaningful on-campus programming. The highlight of the UWiL program is a weekend workshop, which will kick off March 24, with a keynote by Varshini Prakash, Executive Director and Co-Founder of the Sunrise Movement focused on climate change mitigation and climate justice.

Since 2015, UWiL has provided mentorship, academic training, job preparation and leadership coaching to nearly 200 students who have gone on to hold elected office, receive national scholarships, attend graduate school, and work at a diverse range of nonprofit and public organizations advancing the public interest. The program hosts special events and field trips for students to cultivate applied experience in policy and government, including a weekend long workshop that brings together local, state, and national leaders for students to meet and learn from. Each year,

UWiL also provides more than \$15,000 in scholarships to support students who are doing meaningful unpaid/low paid work in the public sector. To learn more about UWiL and how to support the program, visit [umass.edu/uwil](http://umass.edu/uwil).

## Eastern student Jordyn Sretter of Charlton presents at COPLAC conference

WILLIMANTIC — Eastern hosted the Northeast Regional Undergraduate Research, Scholarly and Creative Activity Conference of the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC) on Oct. 28 & 29. The conference provided a platform to display the work of 49 students from six liberal arts colleges in the Northeast, including a number of Eastern students.

Among these students was Jordyn Sretter '26 of Charlton, a sophomore majoring in Economics. Sretter's project, titled "Collaborative Research: Research Experiences for Undergraduates in Big Data Analytics in Healthcare" was a Poster Session and was supervised by Steve Muchiri, Fatma Pakdil.

Sretter's abstract reads: This study focuses on analyzing trends in readmission and length of stay (LOS) of pneumonia patients between 2010 through 2014 on a national scale, using the Nationwide Readmissions Database (NRD) provided by the Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP) in the U.S. The study also examines the impact of LOS on the likelihood of hospital readmission, emphasizing discharge disposition and patients' underlying conditions. It also illustrates various readmission trends depicted by patients under different payers, medical comorbidity, and discharge disposition.

COPLAC is a group of 29 public liberal arts colleges across the country, of which Eastern is a member. Presenters spanned a variety of fields and disciplines from the analysis of children's horror films to the effects of social media on users' behaviors.

## Fundraiser to support Nursing Students for SkillsUSA Competition

CHARLTON — Members of the Practical Nursing Class of 2023 are hosting a raffle to benefit competitors to the 2023 SkillsUSA district conference.

The raffle item, donated by Gearlyn Wetherbee of Charlton is Victoria's Secret gift package valued at \$120.

Raffle tickets are \$5 each or three for \$10. Those who purchase raffle tickets are supporting members of the Practical Nursing Class of 2023 competitors in the five categories of Medical Math, Medical Terminology, First Aid/CPR, Practical Nursing, and Health Knowledge Bowl. Tickets may be purchased from the fundraising liaison, Theresa Boakye of Worcester. Boakye, originally from Berekum, Ghana may be reached through the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy office, 508-248-5971, ext. 1674.

Boakye said, "The outpouring

of support from the class has just been incredible."

She added that all PN SkillsUSA competitors will benefit from this fundraiser.

The SkillsUSA district competition is scheduled for March 2023. The PN Class of 2023 is planning a spring fundraiser as well. Last year seven Bay Path Practical Nursing students competed at the National SkillsUSA Conference from June 20-24 in Atlanta, Georgia after winning gold medals at the state level.

About Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy

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



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## Nichols College supports veteran cause with 22 laps

DUDLEY — Nichols College President Glenn M. Sulmasy, JD, LL.M., presented donations totaling more than \$1,600 to Bill Moore, founder, CEO and president of Project New Hope Inc., representing funds raised from the college's annual Sweat for Vets 22 Laps event held on Nov. 10.

The charity event, which is sponsored by the Veteran and Military Services group at Nichols, has been a campus tradition since 2019. Participants, comprising students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members, take a 22-lap run or walk around the track on Vendetti Field. They and others are encouraged to donate \$22 to the cause.

The significance of the 22 laps is that, according to the Veteran Administration, 22 veterans are lost to suicide each day.

Founded in 2011, Project New Hope Inc. is a Worcester-based nonprofit organization that provides services and resources to veterans, service members and



Nichols President Glenn Sulmasy (center) presents donations totaling more than \$1,600 to Bill Moore, CEO of Project New Hope Inc. Also pictured are members of the Veteran and Military Services group at Nichols, from left, Tom Stewart, April Girardin, and Boyd Brown.

their families, such as therapeutic retreats, food and baby care pantries, and other humanitarian programs.



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