

Hernandez receives Community Service award



Kalie Hernandez and her daughter receiving award from Professor Lindsay Guertin, BSN, RN.

Baker defends stance on school mask policies

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER
REGION – Facing increased pressure as the school year looms and the Delta variant spreads, Gov. Charlie Baker recently defended current policies.

During a press conference on Aug. 16, Baker said there are no imminent plans to alter masking recommendations statewide. Even with the nation’s steady rise in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations over the last month, Baker believes Massachusetts is in a far better position than other states in the battle against the virus.

“I’m not considering changing the mask guidance at this time. We pay a lot of attention to the data associated with case counts, hospitalizations, and the tragic loss of life,” Baker said. “The fact that so many people in Massachusetts have been vaccinated has put us in a dramatically different place than many other states across this country.”

Baker also supported the joint decision from the state’s Department of Public Health and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to leave masking policies up

to individual school districts for the fall of 2021.

Statewide, each school committee has voted on policies that will determine how to address the highly contagious Delta variant in the classroom this fall. Information on policies has been mailed out to families.

“Giving the locals the opportunity to own the decisions they make is a big and important issue,” Baker said. “If you look at what has played out in other states where the government has taken away the authority for locals to make their own decisions, that’s not the right way to play this game.”

Several local students, parents, and educators agree with the Governor’s current handling of the Delta variant. Others fear that his hands-off approach is a dangerous gamble. As of last week, every county in the Commonwealth had reached a threshold of COVID-19 transmission that automatically triggers a CDC recommendation for public indoor masking, regardless of vaccination status.

During his Aug. 16 press conference, Baker reiterated his recommendation that students in grades K-6 continue to wear masks indoors.

“We’ve made a very strong recommendation to our colleagues in K-6 education. Because there is not a vaccine currently available for that population, we recommend

that those kids should be masked up until they have an opportunity to be vaccinated,” Baker said.

State officials also recommend that unvaccinated students in grades seven and above, as well as unvaccinated staff members and visitors to schools, wear masks indoors. Additionally, any individual at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19, or with a household member who is at high risk, is encouraged to mask indoors regardless of vaccination status.

Looking ahead, Baker hopes the Commonwealth continues to serve as an example to states that are lagging behind with vaccinations.

“I hope that many other states move as aggressively as the people in Massachusetts have moved to get vaccinated,” Baker said. “Vaccinations are the pathway out of this pandemic – period. I can’t tell you how grateful I am that so many people see that and have gotten vaccinated.”

As the start of school rapidly approaches, state officials continue to promote vaccine clinics for eligible students. Governor Baker said Massachusetts is a national leader among young people ages 12-19 getting vaccinated.

To learn more about the state’s efforts to combat the virus, visit www.mass.gov.

Charlton seeks applicants for talent bank

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – The town of Charlton is establishing a talent bank of interested individuals who can fill vacancies in town boards, committees and commissions should the need arise.

Town officials have released a form on the Town of Charlton website giving citizens an opportunity to express their interest in volunteering for a variety of elected and appointed bodies in town government including opportunities for both registered and non-registered voters in town. The form asks voters to select boards, commissions and committees they are interested in and provides descriptions and insight into what each committee does.

Among the opportunities for registered voters are the Conservation Commission, Council on Aging, Cultural Council, Economic Development Commission, Historical Commission, Personnel Board, Registrar of Voters, and Zoning Board of Appeals. Non-registered voters are limited to the Activities Council, Boston Post Cane Committee, Bylaw Advisory Committee, Cable TV Advisory Committee, Dam Monitors, Lakes & Ponds Task Force, Memorial Day Committee, Old Home Day Committee, and Technology Committee. Registered voters can also express interest in any of these committees and any applicant can list their interest in other parts of town government not listed on the form. The talent pool will be used by the Board of Selectmen to appoint members to fill any vacancies should members leave or there is a lack of candidates for local elections.

The Charlton Talent Bank Form is available on the town’s website, www.townofcharlton.net. The completed form should be returned to the Selectmen’s Office at 37 Main St. in Charlton or faxed to (508) 248-2374. The form can also be emailed to Mary Devlin at mary.devlin@townofcharlton.net.

Beast Mode Baseball enjoys Cooperstown All-Star Village Tournament



Beast Mode Baseball recently competed in the 12-year-old Cooperstown All-Star Village Tournament. The team consisted of, from left, (front row) Jake Ramsey, Preston Enberg, Matte Gale, Chase Morin, Grady Green, Joe Ricardi, (back row) Coach Green, Caden Green, Adam Phaneuf, Coach Ramsey, Kenny Bergeron, Nolan Barton, Alex Croteau, Coach Morin.

CHARLTON — Beast Mode Baseball, based out of Charlton, a travel team consisting of players from Charlton, Webster, Worcester and Paxton, recently competed in the 12-year-old Cooperstown All-Star Village Tournament from July 31 through Aug. 6.

Many of the athletes were asked to play on the 2020 team, but a last-minute cancellation from the state of New York because of COVID uprooted those plans. Luckily, the kids were able to enjoy the tournament this time around.

The team consisted of the following: Jake Ramsey, Charlton

Alex Croteau, Webster
Caden Green, Charlton
Grady Green, Charlton
Preston Enberg, Charlton
Chase Morin, Charlton
Matte Gale, Charlton
Joe Ricardi, Charlton
Nolan Barton, Charlton
Adam Phaneuf, Paxton
Kenny Bergeron, Worcester
Coach Ed Ramsey, Charlton
Coach Jared Green, Charlton
Coach Kevin Morin, Charlton
Founder Julianne Ramsey, Charlton

Ladies Auxiliary of Quinebaug Lodge to host Craft Market



SOUTHBRIDGE — On Sunday, Aug. 29, the Ladies Auxiliary of Quinebaug Masonic Lodge, located on Route 131 at 339 Ashland Ave. in Southbridge, will be hosting a Craft Market from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. This Craft Market offers a great opportunity to find all kinds of unique gifts and crafts for your home or anyone on your shopping list. Everything from hand sewn items, crochet items, candles, signs, soaps, jewelry, active wear, kids and women’s clothing and much, much more. All Covid-19 Guidelines would be greatly appreciated.

Some Vendors including, but not limited to are, Little Hearts Custom Creations, Norah’s Fabric Creations, SOR Creations, Matilda Jane, Jackson’s Creative Cakes and Crafts, Nicole Singer Arts. If you are interested in setting up a tent display and would like more details of space availability and setup information or have any questions or concerns, please contact Norah Proper at 1-413-297-8374 or e-mail her at norahsfabriccreations@yahoo.com.

Courtesy

Just one example of the craft tents set up by Norah’s Fabric Creations that will be at Quinebaug Masonic Lodge in Southbridge on Sunday, Aug. 29.

PET of the WEEK





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End of an era for local business

REGION — What began as a chance encounter in January 2002 led to a business partnership which at one time had grown to more than 40 retail stores throughout New England. On Aug. 1, this chapter came to an end as Mark Amadio and Kyriakos “KK” Konstantakis have just sold their remaining five locations of AMCOMM Wireless and enabled a respected industry peer to enter the New England market.

“Our initial stores were in West Boylston and Sturbridge,” said Amadio, “and shortly thereafter we grew to stores in Worcester, Webster, and Fitchburg before expanding throughout New England. We began paring down three years ago, selling twenty-five locations to Go Wireless. KK and I moved the corporate office to Charlton, and we retained five retail stores in New Hampshire, all of which will now be sold to BeMobile. While not an easy decision, he and I knew it was the right one for us at this time in our lives.”

“We genuinely embraced each other’s strengths, maintained a win/win philosophy and a passion for our work. This provided the synergy to help us drive through adversity and celebrate our successes. This, along with the opportunity to leverage the power of the

Verizon brand as an Authorized Retailer, enabled the AMCOMM team to provide the best in technology-based mobile and IT solutions. “We partnered with the right company at the right time as cellular service burgeoned,” remarked Konstantakis.

“We are proud of the success we’ve had,” added Amadio. “Our mission was to deliver an exceptional customer experience and to be a vital part of the communities we serviced. We are proud to have accomplished that goal.”

Over the years, Amadio and Konstantakis have employed hundreds of people and created relationships with industry partners, vendors, and consultants.

“Having had the opportunity align our passion and our careers has been truly rewarding. We are proud of the lives we’ve changed through AMCOMM and grateful for those that changed our lives by helping AMCOMM succeed. These individuals know who they are and have left a permanent mark ... period,” added Konstantakis.

“While the sales team and technical teams drove growth and revenue, the back-office team was the glue that held it all together. KK and I were blessed to have had the best of both. Of course, the sup-

port of our families, friends and key mentors and advisors played a strategic role in the success of our business,” Amadio paused to smile then added, “and our sanity.”

So what’s next for this dynamic duo? “More time with our families, certainly,” said Amadio. “It’s time to figure out what I want to be when I grow up,” he joked. “Seriously though, I will say this: Our partnership is not over.”

“The next venture will be a bridge between our past and future,” added Konstantakis.

When pressed as to what that next venture might be, Amadio remained coy, stating “As they say in your business, ‘Watch this space!’”

ALMANAC REAL ESTATE

AUBURN

\$505,000, 108 Southold Rd, Lacey, Jeffrey, and Lacey, Heather, to Kawmi, Dina E.

\$465,353, 5 Whitman Bailey Dr #5, J W Land & Dev LLC, to Morreale-Leeber, Susanne, and Rocco, William A.

\$465,000, 101 Auburn St, 101 Auburn Street LLC, to JBG Holdings LLC.

\$455,000, 15 Goulding Dr, Pappas, Joanna, and Pappas, Charles, to Gray, Christopher, and Gray, Jeena.

\$420,000, 39 Chestnut Ave, Orsi, Megan A, and Orsi, Megan, to Robare, Jennifer.

\$410,000, 150 Pakachoag St, Burroughs Kathleen P Est, and Neslusan, Paul, to Graterol, Juan C.

\$350,000, 18 Ridgewood Dr, Desavage, Michael, to Muchai-Kahura, Tabitha W.

\$290,000, 55 Reithel St, Nicolopoulos, Jacqui O, and Nicolopoulos, Nicholas, to Alexis, Ansy.

\$282,700, 194-198 West St, Williams, Rita L, to Mccuen, Shane.

\$280,000, 1102 Forest Park Dr #1102, Bellino, Melanie M, and Voellings, Conrad C, to Page, Daniel E, and Page, Denise A.

\$251,500, 2902 Forest Park Dr #2902, Generelli, John R, to Romani, Christopher S.

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ROC-KIN'-ON! - 5 & 8:30PM

SATURDAY: COLD TRAIN - 2 & 7PM
LINDA RONDSTADT EXPERIENCE - 4 & 8:30PM


SUNDAY: AMONG THE ACRES - 2 & 7PM
VINTAGE SKYNYRD - 4 & 8:30PM

MONDAY: FRANKIE JUSTIN - 11AM & 2PM
THE RUSTLERS BAND - 12:30 & 3:30PM

On the South Stage

OLD TIME FIDDLERS • MYCHAEL DAVID BAND • COUNTRY KARAOKE • EAST WOODSTOCK CORNET BAND • DYNAMITE RHYTHM BAND • SENIOR GRAPEFRUIT BOWLING • DONUT EATING CONTEST • FLAP JACK TOSS • YOUTH AND ADULT PIZZA EATING CONTESTS

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Selectmen set Sept. 13 date for horse park hearing

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

STURBRIDGE — Economic development in various forms dominated the last selectmen’s meeting, with the bulk of it focused on a 200-acre equine center proposed to be tucked between I-84 and Breakneck Road.

Although in the works for about two years, the project has barely begun in an official sense. Selectmen sent the proponents’ zoning overlay district to the Planning Board for review and public hearing, while setting Sept. 13 for their own hearing on whether they should accept the concept at that location. If approved, both hearings will lead into a Town Meeting vote in October.

Key proponent Richard Fields said he sees the project as being a “family-oriented horse park” with “three silos.” One is a mile-long thoroughbred race track that will feature about 10 races a year, 10 more “festival activities that are horse related,” and 100 jobs. He estimated it will draw 3-5,000 people per race, with nearly 90 percent of the site’s income coming from online betting by people in their own homes.

The project, Fields noted, “cannot go

forward without sports betting,” referring specifically to a bill now in the Legislature to legalize it in general. It passed the House, but a somewhat different version (one lacking the approval of college betting the House had) is now in the Senate. Either way, the Gaming Commission has set an Oct. 1 deadline for new applicants.

The second “silo” is agriculture. Fields aims to start an Agriculture in the Classroom program, community garden, beekeeping site, horse therapy, horse riding lessons and a biodigester turning farm and restaurant waste into energy.

“Part of the issue we have in our society now is that we have lost our connection with the dirt,” he said.

The third part will be collaboration with the town to promote other recreation. He said he’s willing to contribute \$1.5 million to athletic field redevelopment, but will also have recreational space on his property. To him, the goal is to make a place that is “quintessential Sturbridge, and something all of us will be proud of for generations to come.”

Later, when Selectman Mary Dowling raised concerns over the racing industry’s generally poor treatment of horses, Fields leaned on his record as manager at Suffolk Downs. He said he had “zero tolerance” for drugging animals or selling them to slaughterhouses, and has bought “many” to rehabilitate them and “find new homes for them.”

Fields’ attorney Robert George said the zoning overlay they’re proposing specifically excludes putting slot machines or a casino there. His partner Karen Davis noted it’s “a very complicated project. We’ve hit a lot of bumps in the road,” but are willing to work with the town to ensure the broader community benefits.

Town Counsel Jonathan Silverstein of KP Law said he provided the board with recommended changes to the proposed host community agreement, but it’s still in draft form. The next step would be to bring in a peer-review consultant to look at the business model, economic impact reports and

related issues, with Silverstein recommending one he’s worked with and noting the proponents have expressed willingness to fund it. The board approved that recommendation, setting a price cap of \$35,000 on it.

The board expressed a little uncertainty about doing these things before getting the green light from Town Meeting, with Chair Mary Blanchard dubbing “a little bit chicken and egg.” She said she’s seen letters opposing rezoning already.

Davis agreed the timing seems a little odd, but it’s largely determined by the Gaming Commission.

She said, “We tried to make it so you don’t have to take a leap of faith” with the proposed zoning change, and are simply asking the board whether using that site is acceptable. All of the other issues will still be addressed later.”

In other business, Economic Development Director Terry Masterson summarized how covid impacted Sturbridge’s economy but it’s currently recovering. Between 2017 and 2019, the town annually saw about \$63 million in meals spending and \$17 million in hotel stays, but those dropped to about \$46 million and \$9 million last year, respectively, he said. This spring, however, saw both return to the older levels.

Additionally, he cited several projects in the works around town. Those include that Teddy G’s recently bought the old Friendly’s, the owner of the JC Penney site has found new tenants for most of that space, and two cold-storage sites are under construction, as is the new Route 20 travel center, featuring an electric vehicle showroom and restaurant. But he noted the Cinemagic space is still vacant.

The board also continued discussing its concerns regarding two major Charlton projects (one of them an Amazon warehouse) with Attorney Art Kreiger. Kreiger said he thinks Sturbridge’s best bet is to focus on widening Route 20, getting better lights and traffic signals, and otherwise ensuring it can handle more traffic. He didn’t think the town would have standing to appeal whatever Charlton or the state Department of Transportation decides.

That prompted Dowling to ask if it might be possible to get MDOT to create a Mass Pike exit for the project, thus taking some traffic off Sturbridge roads. Kreiger said that’d be “a five-year proposition” he didn’t see as being “in the cards” now, although it might be long-term.

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

CORRECTION

DUDLEY — The Ivascyn family of Charlton has brought to our attention that in selecting a photo to run with a press release published last week concerning the establishment of a scholarship in the name of Daniel Ivascyn, we inadvertently chose a photo of his son, who shares his first name.

Pictured here is the Daniel Ivascyn for whom the scholarship was, in fact, named.

Stonebridge Press deeply regrets any confusion that may have resulted from this unintentional error.



CORRECTION

It has been brought to our attention that a press release was inadvertently published in last week’s edition previewing an event called Auburn Day taking place next month in the town of Auburn, New Hampshire, not Auburn, Mass.

Upon further investigation, it was determined that this article was submitted to us mistakenly, and was intended for publication in a similarly titled newspaper covering Auburn, New Hampshire. There was no indication within the press release itself or the accompanying e-mail that it was referring to an out-of-state event, and consequently, our copy editors did not realize the error until last week’s edition had already been distributed.

Bay Path LPN named CNA Instructor



Kellsey Tillotson

NORTH GRAFTON — Kellsey Tillotson, LPN of Spencer was named Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Instructor at Grafton Job Corps in North Grafton. She plays a key role in the planning, selection, preparation, and implementation of learning activities to meet the course objectives of CNA students. She delivers instruction using active learning techniques to different learning styles and abilities. She assists in building health-care knowledge and developing clinical skills of the CNA students aimed at obtaining their certification.

Tillotson is an alumna of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, PN Class of 2018. While a student at Bay Path she was a SkillsUSA District Champion earning a gold medal for competition in Medical Math. Tillotson was an officer of the UNICEF Club, spearheading many successful fundraising activities benefitting children. She volunteered for FAFSA Day, Blood Pressure Clinics at the Charlton Senior Center, and the Site Mobile at Paxton. Tillotson is certified in Mental Health Care, Dementia Care, OSHA10, OSHA 30, BLS Provider CPR and AED. In 2017 she completed the Medical Assistant Certification Program at Grafton Job Corps.

The appointment of Tillotson as CNA Instructor comes at a very challenging time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Before joining Grafton Job Corps, Tillotson has held clinical positions with Washburn House and CareWell Urgent Care both of Worcester. As a novice nurse educator Tillotson is excited about her work and loves it.

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🌿🌿🌿 **Friday's Child** 🌿🌿🌿

Hi! My name is Charissa and I love to sing!

Charissa is an engaging girl of African American and Caucasian descent who enjoys performing and being in the spotlight. Charissa is bilingual and speaks English and Spanish. She is also funny and sociable! She describes herself as playful and lovable. Charissa enjoys telling jokes, singing, dancing, watching TV, painting, and drawing. Charissa loves learning how to play instruments and can play the violin and piano beautifully.

Charissa shares that her favorite class is gym and her least favorite is history. When Charissa grows up, she has expressed interest in becoming a social worker to help others. Charissa has shared that she is proud of herself for reaching her goals. Charissa relates her experiences in life to climbing a mountain and not stopping until she reaches the stars.

Charissa is legally freed for adoption. When thinking about what she wants in an adoptive family, Charissa has expressed that she would like to have her own bedroom, to be able to go for walks in the community, to spend time with friends, go shopping, and work out at the gym. Charissa would like a potential family to know that when meeting someone new, it will take time for her to open up. Charissa has great relationships with her visiting resources and would like to stay connected to them.

Charissa
Age 17

Who Can Adopt?

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

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

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

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Greater Worcester Community Foundation awards more than \$600,000 in college scholarships

WORCESTER — The Greater Worcester Community Foundation (GWCF) recently awarded over \$680,000 in college scholarships to local students for the 2021-22 academic year. More than 400 students were awarded scholarships ranging from \$300 to \$5,000 to assist them in beginning or continuing their college education this upcoming fall.

“With help from the Foundation, our scholarship program is an important investment in the future of our next generation,” said GWCF President and CEO Carolyn Stempler. “By removing some of the financial pressure off of students and families, we can help build a greater sense of belonging and motivation to ensure a more rewarding and impactful college experience.”

Since 1978, nearly 9,000 Worcester County students have received more than \$13.3M in scholarship awards from the Foundation. Each scholarship is endowed by local donors with eligibility criteria that reflects various interests. Over 900 applications were received and reviewed by more than 85 dedicated volunteers.

“Our scholarship program ensures that no one should have to limit their education due to financial barriers,” said Jacob Vazquez, Philanthropy Officer for GWCF’s Scholarship Program. “With our support, we’re helping to ensure a brighter future for the leaders of tomorrow. That increases the value of our program two-fold.”

Recipients were selected through a highly competitive process based on merit, financial need, and special criteria established by Foundation donors. Through GWCF’s scholarship program, college-bound high school seniors can qualify for multiple scholarship opportunities through the Foundation’s single online application. The next application cycle will open in January 2022.

Students from the following high schools will be receiving scholarships for the 2021-22 academic year:

- Abby Kelley Foster Charter Public School
Acton-Boxborough Regional High School
Advanced Math and Science Academy
Algonquin Regional High School
Ashland High School
Assabet Valley Regional Vocational High School
Auburn High School
Bancroft School
Bartlett High School
Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School
Bedford High School
Bellingham High School
Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School
Burncoat High School
Claremont Academy
David Prouty High School
Doherty Memorial High School
Douglas High School

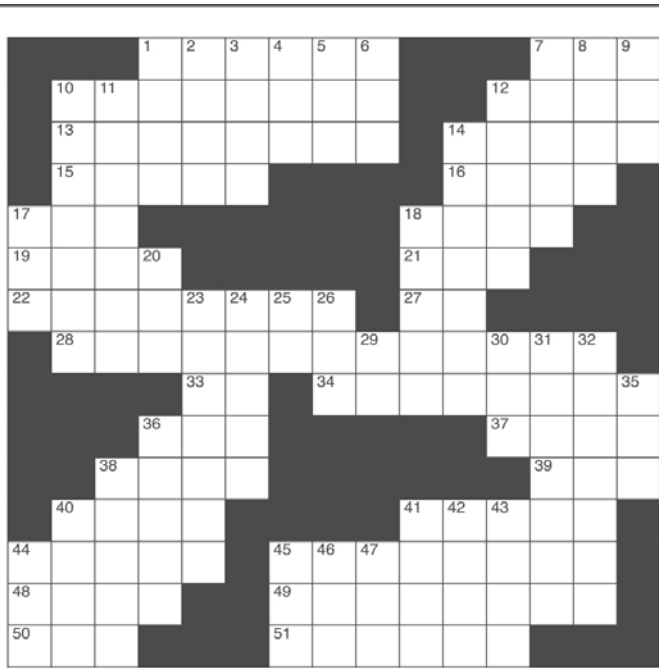
- Dover-Sherborn High School
Fitchburg High School
Framingham High School
Framingham High School

- High School- Resiliency for Life
Franklin High School
Grafton Memorial High School
Groton-Dunstable Regional High School
Holliston High School
Hopkinton High School
Joseph P. Keefe Technical High School
Leicester High School
Leominster High School
Lincoln-Sudbury High School
Littleton High School
Lunenburg High School
Marianapolis Preparatory School
Massachusetts Academy of Math & Science
Maynard High School
Medfield High School
Medway High School
Millbury Memorial Jr/Sr High School
Millis High School
Minuteman Regional High School
Narraganset Regional High School
Nashoba Regional High School
Nashoba Valley Technical High School
Natick High School
Needham High School
Nipmuc Regional Middle/High School
North Brookfield High School
North High School
Northbridge High School
Norwood High School
Notre Dame Academy
Oakmont Regional High School
Oxford High School
Phillips Academy Andover
Quabbin Regional High School
Quaboag Regional Middle/High School
Shepherd Hill Regional High School
Shrewsbury High School
South High Community School
St. John’s High School
St. Paul Diocesan Junior-Senior High School
Sutton Memorial Jr/Sr High School

- Tahanto Regional High School
Tantasqua Regional High School
Tri-County Regional Vocational High School
University Park Campus School
Wachusett Regional High School
Walpole High School
Wayland High School
Wellesley High School
Westborough High School
Westford Academy
Worcester Technical High School

For more information, please contact Philanthropy Officer for Scholarships, Jacob Vazquez at jvazquez@greater-worcester.org.

About the Greater Worcester Community Foundation
Greater Worcester Community Foundation (GWCF) is central Massachusetts’ leading community foundation dedicated to improving the quality of life in the region by connecting donors to high impact non-profits and community partners. The Foundation employs its expertise and resources to address the region’s most urgent needs. Since 1975, GWCF has worked in partnership with donors to build a \$163 million endowment and awarded close to \$125 million in grants that have helped transform communities and build a strong and vibrant region. We apply our knowledge, relationships, and resources to our work every day, combining passion and discipline to pursue a vision of Worcester’s success that works for everyone. For more information on GWCF programs and how to give, please visit www.greaterworcester.org.

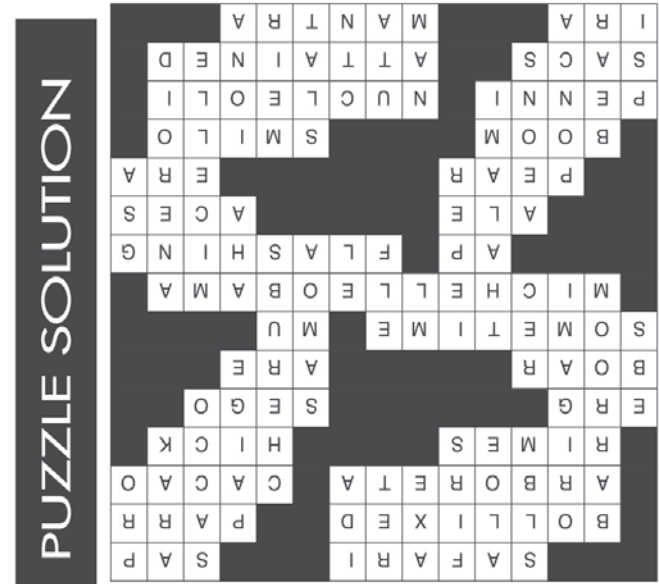


CLUES ACROSS

1. Nature expedition
7. Take the energy from
10. Bungled
12. Young salmon
13. Botanical gardens
14. Source of chocolate
15. Country singer LeAnn
16. Yokel
17. Unit of energy
18. Plant of the lily family
19. Tusked wild pig
21. Form of “to be”
22. Formerly
27. Letter of the Greek alphabet
28. Former First Lady
33. News organization
34. Shining brightly and intermittently
36. Brew
37. Teams’ best pitchers
38. Edible fruit
39. Pitching stat
40. ___ or bust
41. Baby product manufacturer
44. Monetary unit of Finland
45. Small spherical structures in cells
48. Pouches
49. Reached
50. Investment account
51. Oft-repeated slogan

CLUES DOWN

1. Nuclear undersea weapon
2. Helps the skin
3. Evergreen coniferous trees
4. Relieve of employment
5. A way to drench
6. Journalist Tarbell
7. ___ and Venzetti
8. Alcoholic liquor
9. An athlete who plays for pay
10. Where to get drinks
11. Japanese art form
12. Baseball great Satchel
14. Winged angelic beings
17. One point south of due east
18. Group of islands in Polynesia
20. A place to play: ___ center
23. Masses of gray matter in the brain
24. Belgian city (alt. sp.)
25. Millilitre
26. Beloved Will Ferrell film
29. Railway above ground
30. Satisfaction
31. Aggregate of molecules
32. Type of barometer
35. Type of college teacher (abbr.)
36. Long periods of time
38. Native people of Nebraska and S. Dakota
40. Deliver
41. Thin, narrow piece of wood
42. Modern Israel founder
43. Small NY college
44. Pounds per square inch
46. Veterans battleground
47. Popular kids’ channel



Individuals served by Open Sky participate in Worcester Bravehearts Pen Pal program

WORCESTER — Thirteen individuals served by Open Sky Community Services had the unique opportunity of getting to know Worcester Bravehearts baseball players this season through the team’s Pen Pal Program. The summer-long program culminated with a cookout at Fitton Field on Aug. 11 where the pen pals were able to meet in person.

The Community Membership team at Open Sky coordinated with Dave Peterson, Bravehearts General Manager, and Nate Gonelli, Director of Sales, to connect individuals served by Open Sky with Worcester Bravehearts players. The pen pals corresponded back and forth through a journal over the course of the

summer to help the Bravehearts players feel welcome in Central Mass.

The individuals served by Open Sky who participate in the program had intellectual/developmental disabilities, mental health challenges or brain injury. This was an opportunity for them to be a part of the community and form a connection with the players.

At the season-ending cookout, individuals from Open Sky gave baseball caps with the agency’s logo to their Bravehearts pen pals and in return received signed books, baseball cards and Bravehearts baseball caps. Peterson welcomed the individuals from Open Sky, and Matt Small, COO of Open Sky was

in attendance as well. Everyone had a chance to talk, get autographs and take photos. Several of the pen pals exchanged information and plan to stay in touch even once the season has ended.

The individuals from Open Sky attended the game that evening and Lori Holden, an individual served by the agency, got to take home a pop-fly ball after it landed near her and a kind baseball fan helped her grab the ball.

Open Sky is proud to partner with several local sports teams to ensure that the individuals served by the agency have every opportunity to be a part of the Central Mass community.

QCC announces Super Saturday registration event

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College is hosting two “Super Saturday” registration events before the fall semester begins on Sept. 8.

An in-person “Super Saturday” event will be held on Saturday, Aug. 28, at QCC’s Welcome Center, 670 West Boylston St., Worcester, from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Students can save time waiting in line by scheduling an appointment through the College’s new virtual waiting line service, Easy Queue (EZQ), www.QCC.edu/EZQ.

“These events are designed for students who are unable to register during the week, or who prefer to get their registration needs taken care of remotely,” said QCC President Luis G. Pedraja, Ph.D. “At QCC, we are doing everything possible to remove barriers that prevent students from attaining a higher education.”

To learn more about QCC’s Super Saturday events, visit www.QCC.edu/saturday

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

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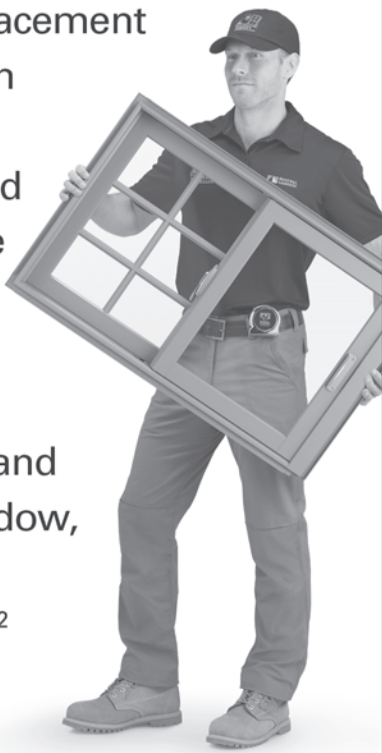
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What’s the Difference?

There are four differences between Picture A and Picture B. Can you find them all?

A



B



Answers: 1. Tire is black 2. Extra letter on cart name 3. Golf ball on green 4. Extra clubs

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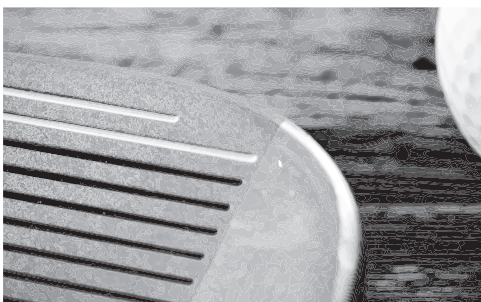
ANSWER: SCOTLAND



- ENGLISH: Golf
- SPANISH: Golf
- ITALIAN: Golf
- FRENCH: Golf
- GERMAN: Golfspiel



GOLF BALLS ORIGINALLY WERE MADE OF WOOD. TODAY THEY HAVE A SOLID RUBBER CORE, A MANTLE AND A HARD COVER.



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: GOLF CLUB



Solve the code to discover words related to bargain hunting. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 4 = E)

- A. 15 11 12 26 10 1 24 23
Clue: Money off
- B. 12 14 20 4
Clue: Reduced price
- C. 6 18 11 26 4
Clue: Cost of something
- D. 6 1 18 26 9 14 12 4
Clue: Buy

Answers: A. discount B. sale C. price D. purchase

SUDOKU

1				2		5		4
				7			8	1
			5					9
					7	8		
9		3		5	4			7
		6			9			
		9		4	8	6		
	3					4		
			1					

Level: Intermediate

Here’s How It Works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

3	5	9	2	6	1	7	4	8
8	1	4	5	9	7	2	3	6
2	7	6	8	4	3	9	1	5
5	4	3	9	1	8	6	7	2
7	2	6	8	1	9	3	4	5
4	1	2	7	5	4	9	8	6
6	9	8	7	3	2	1	5	4
9	3	7	8	1	6	4	5	2
1	8	2	6	7	4	5	3	9

ANSWER:



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School days, school days...

It's that time of year again, when back to school photos will infiltrate your social media feeds. We love this time of year when a more structured schedule takes hold; however come June, we are ready for the daily routine to be a bit more relaxed.

We always consider late August into September to be a new year. Yes, the actual new year begins on Jan. 1; however, the start of a new school year always brings a clean slate, and who doesn't love that?

This time of year brings with it memories for all of us, even if we are not headed back into the classroom. We recall in the height of the '80's when Trapper Keepers were all the new rave (a release of the vintage originals can now be purchased online). Back then, anyone who walked into a drug store would be greeted with a wall of the colorful organizers, with notebooks and pencil cases to match.

Having a brand new Trapper Keeper with pencils neatly tucked away the night before school started was step one. Next, the perfect outfit would have to be picked out, after all, the first day outfit set the standard for the rest of the year. During these first few days of school, the excitement was always at an all-time high. It's the famous week three, when things start to settle, and the groove of the school routine has become the norm, once again.

As with most things, we enjoy tracking history. The drastic changes that have occurred over the years are quite interesting, so we thought we would share our findings.

During the 1800's, a typical rural area would have one room schoolhouses, with one teacher for grades first through eighth. The younger students would sit in the front of the classroom, with the 'big kids' seated in the back. Memorizing lessons was the priority back then, where students had to recite what they had learned. Paper bags and lunch boxes were not used for lunch, instead children would pack a lunch and carry it to school in a tin bucket.

During the early 1900's, only half of the children between the ages of five and 19 attended school. This was during the Industrial Revolution where children were needed at home to help work the farms or were put to work in factories. One study reports that in the present, 264 million children are still not educated.

We've heard it all before, but it's true, most students would walk or ride their bikes to school in all kinds of weather up to five miles away. Today, most students take the bus or are dropped at school by their parents. In some areas, there have been initiatives taken to promote the 'old school' way of transporting kids via bike or walking.

Way back when, if a student misbehaved, they were placed in a corner and had to wear a dunce cap. Discipline has changed quite a bit, however; we remember a slew of kids standing along the brick wall during recess in the 1980's at a New Jersey elementary school. Some students may have had to stand against the wall for not returning a permission slip, or for talking in class, but we won't mention any names.

Home Economics classes have been replaced with a more modern swing than when they first emerged in the 1950's and lasted through the '70's. Back then, students, mostly female, were taught how to cook and sew. In the late 80's, those classes saw more male students as it became a requirement for all. We remember sewing 'Nerd' (as in the candy) stuffed animals and Oreo cookies in our class. When it was time to cook, we have fond memories of baking a holiday cake and forgetting to add baking powder, or was it flour? Either way, that cake took on a life of its own, we fondly remember taking red icing and writing 'Scrooged' over it.

Industrial Arts classes are few and far between, however are still offered in some places with a more technological twist. Back in the day, students would take large pieces of wood, run it through a planer, sand it, stain it and create all sorts of things from entertainment centers to cut out wooden apples using a jigsaw. We remember leaving notes for our friends in the afternoon class. We would slip them in the lockers and hope we remembered whose locker belonged to who. No texting back then.

Cursive writing was always fun. It was a great feeling when you made that lower case 'j' just right. Who knew that years later, hand writing would happen less and less and our cursive skills would be a thing of the past. Handwriting is, however, making a comeback in some schools.

We think it goes without saying, that the best memories involve a good old fashioned pencil sharpener. Trying to get the pencil as small as possible in one go, meant that you were talented. If that pencil still had a full eraser, you were batting a thousand. It was an even better day if you could get your hands on an electronic sharpener.

Cheers to a new school year, and to new memories.

OPINION/COMMENTARY

Celebrating Apple Season

Here in "apple country" we welcome in the harvest season each year with apple fairs, apple festivals and various apple theme parties. Going to the country on a weekend afternoon to pick fresh apples from the trees has become a tradition for many New England families. And coming home to steam fresh applesauce, bake sweet pies, and candy coat apples is a delightful autumn ritual anticipated all year long!

In celebration of apple season, this week's column will feature some interesting apple ideas and recipes. And remember readers, send in your best apple recipes and you could win a three course dinner for two at the Publick House!

Pleasures of Picking: If you're picking apples off the trees, don't pluck or pull! Twist the apple firmly yet gently and the apple will come off the branch with the stem intact - picture perfect!

Perfect Pick: Can't make it to the orchard to pick your apples? In the store, look for apples are firm with an even color and smooth skin. Apples with a green stem means they've been freshly picked and not stored away. And if the apple has a blossom, it should be green.

Chill Out: Always refrigerate your apples. An apple at room temperature spoils ten times faster than if its refrigerated. The optimum temperature to keep apples at their best flavor is about 35 to 38 degrees. While refrigerators aren't typically that cold, be sure to keep apples in the chilliest area of your refrigerator. To further extend the freshness of apples, store them in a perforated plastic bag in the refrigerator. With this method apples can last up to four weeks, depending on the apple and how ripe it was when picked..

Frozen Assets: Did you know you can freeze apples? Simply peel, core, slice them and seal in heavy-duty zipper freezer bags.

Easy as Pie: To make quick work of apple pie preparation, freeze prepared apples in a metal pie tin. When frozen, pop out and transfer to a ziplock freezer bag. When you want to make a homemade apple pie, simply transfer the frozen apple filling into a pie crust and follow your favorite recipe.

A is for Apple: Cornell University researchers reported in the journal Nature in 2000 that one apple packs more cancer-fighting antioxidant



TAKE
THE
HINT

KAREN
TRAINOR

capability than a 1,500-miligram dose of vitamin C.

Food for Thought: Research from the University of Massachusetts Lowell suggests that apple juice may protect against oxidative damage that contributes to age-related brain disorders such as Alzheimer's disease. And it may also help to maintain brain performance.

Superior Strains: Studies show apples are not all alike when it comes to health benefits. In fact, Red Delicious apples, which account for 27% of U.S. apple production, have two times more antioxidant activity than Empire apples, according to a Canadian study. Northern Spy came in second; followed by Cortland, Ida Red, Golden Delicious, McIntosh, Mutsu and Empire.

Coffee Cider: Apple cider is at its best this time of year, and coffee cider merges the fresh New England cider taste with classic coffee. This hot drink is a favorite at fall get togethers. Here's how you can make it easily in your drip coffee maker:

Place one quarter cup of coffee grounds and one quarter teaspoon ground cinnamon into the brew basket of coffee maker. Then place one quarter cup brown sugar or honey and one cup of apple cider in the bottom of the pot. Add three cups cold water to the coffee maker and brew. When brewing cycle is complete, stir until well mixed. Serve in mugs with cinnamon sticks. A quick note: The glass pot and brewing basket may require a little more cleaning after this recipe, but it's worth it!

Guilt Free Baked Apples On a diet? You can indulge in this sweet treat - sans the guilt!

Ingredients: Six firm apples; granulated sugar substitute; raisins; butter (optional)

Directions; Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Peel six apples and core, leaving about an inch at the bottom. . Mix together cinnamon and about a cup of granulated sugar substitute to taste. Arrange apples in a glass baking dish. Fill each apple with the cinnamon mixture. Add a dot of butter or but-

ter alternative to each apple. Sprinkle raisins on top. Pour about a half cup of hot water into the bottom of the pan. Cover loosely with tinfoil and bake for about 45 minutes or until apples are softened but not overcooked.

Note: New England apples popular for baking include Cortland, Rome, Jonagold, Gala, Golden Delicious, Northern Spy, Ida Red and Braeburn.

Shrunken Apple Heads Made from apples, these hideous heads are sure to be the hit of your Halloween party!

Materials: whole apples, whole cloves, rice, lemon juice, salt.

Instructions: Peel a large apple and brush with a mixture of lemon juice and a couple of teaspoons of salt to prevent browning. Use a vegetable peeler or sharp knife to carve out eyes, nose, mouth and ears. Don't be too fussy, as details won't show once the apple has dried. Some suggestions: Poke whole cloves in eye sockets; place raw rice in the mouth for teeth. Allow apples to dry in a warm, dry place for two weeks. To expedite the drying process, place apples in the oven at lowest temperature for several hours, then allow to sit at room temperature for a few days. Shape the faces as they shrink and harden.

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

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

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

Changes in the weather



THE GREAT
OUTDOORS

• • • • •

RALPH
TRUE

Mother Nature has decided to send a hurricane with wind & rain into our week at a terrible time, as many families and friends take vacation days, hoping to enjoy the outdoors. We cannot complain too much though as our neighbors to the West and South are enduring fires, mudslides and flooding for months. Global warming is real, and the change in our weather is only going to get worse. There are still many non-believers on global warming, and I do not know what it will take to convince them that it is real.

Fresh water bass fishing continued to provide some great fishing last week ,with one youngster catching a three-and-a-half-pound smallmouth bass. Heavy rain causes a lot of high water on lakes and streams, but sometimes it improves fishing for some species on lakes and ponds. Back in 1954, Hurricane Carol hit New England and dumped a large amount of rain causing floods and devastation to the area. After a few days, anglers were fishing the Arcade Pond in Whitinsville using shiners for bait, and the action was great. Huge pickerel and large-mouth bass were caught during a week or more at the culvert on Main Street that once allowed water to flow into the Blackstone River. The area is now a parking lot!

A few local anglers fished aboard the Yankee Fleet in Gloucester, and had a great day of fishing, catching numerous Haddock, Cod, Cusk and pollock. Unfortunately, all of the cod had to be returned back to the ocean because of the closure of cod on all of the Gulf Coast. Starting in September anglers can retain one cod daily on the Gulf Coast.

Striper fishing on the Cape Cod Canal provided sporadic action for some anglers last week. Reports of great striper fishing in Rhode Island with many large fish being caught. Just about any striper baits and jigs are producing fish ,including umbrella rigs , live eels and jigs. There are a lot of school stripers in the bays which are also holding some legal-size fish. Fly fishing anglers are enjoying some great fishing.

Reports of some great fishing for fluke around the Five Cottages area was good news last week with numerous keeper fluke. The Snug Harbor fishing report stated that eight- and nine-pound fluke were caught last week at areas around Block Island. Seabass fishing is also very good around the rocky bottom areas.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

LETTERS

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

We think you're important enough to tell all our readers to turn to the Opinion pages and read your Letters to the Editor.

But first, you have to write us!

Mail your letters to the Auburn News, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550.

Or e-mail your letters to the editor at news@stonebridgepress.news .

You'll need to provide your name and place of residence, along with a phone number, so we can verify the letter is yours.

We don't have a set limit, but if you keep it around 600 words or so, you're going to have a better chance at seeing all your words in print.

If you want to write a bit longer about a particular issue, maybe a guest Your Turn column is your cup of tea. If you do that, try to keep it between 700-800 words.

Remember, libelous remarks and/or personal attacks are a no-no and could lead to your letter not being published.

So, what are you waiting for? Start writing!



Antique and vintage cars selling well



Before I dive into today's topic of collectible cars, I have some exciting baseball card news to share. The T206 Honus Wagner card that I thought might set an auction record did just that on Aug. 16. It's now the highest priced baseball card ever sold, hitting a home run when it went for \$6.6 million.

America is said to have a love affair with cars. Some believe the love affair ended many years ago as styles have changed. The muscle cars of the 1960s have been replaced with today's SUVs. But many baby boomers and middle-aged buyers want to own cars from the era when they grew up, or even from before they were born. Past columns have discussed automobile memorabilia like advertising signs and gas pumps. I'll focus on the cars themselves

in this article.

The New York Times reported that the pandemic did not hurt the collectible car market. In fact, the Times reported that "rather than back away from classic automobiles because of the pandemic, buyers flocked to them, sometimes in stunning numbers." The New York Times noted that collectors were "choosing to quarantine themselves in what some might consider the ultimate safe distancing bubble — the cockpit of a classic car."

There are a few examples of older cars selling well at auction over the past several years. When they were first produced, Model Ts were mass-produced and therefore affordable. They were manufactured from 1908 to 1927.

A 1910 Ford Model T Touring car sold for \$35,000 at auction in 2019. The Stanley Motor Carriage Company of nearby Newton, Mass., built steam powered "Stanley Steamers" (nicknamed "flying teapots") beginning in the late 19th century until 1924. A 1919 Stanley Steamer sold for \$60,000 in 2019.

Cars that you may have seen on local roads in the 1960s and 1970s are also bringing phenomenal sums at auction.

Here are some 2020 auction results:

1958 Chevrolet Apache 32 Napco Pickup - \$68,200
1971 Dodge Charger R/T - \$86,900
1955 Cadillac Series 62 Convertible - \$88,000
1957 Ford Fairlane 500 Skyliner - \$99,000
1963 Lincoln Continental Convertible - \$106,700
1970 Plymouth Road Runner - \$176,000
1970 Ford Mustang Boss 429 Fastback - \$225,500
1970 Plymouth Superbird - \$151,800
1962 Chevrolet Corvette Convertible - \$242,000
1970 Chevrolet Chevelle Convertible - \$154,000
1963 Chevrolet Corvette Split Window Coupe - \$151,250
1968 Mercury Cougar GT-E 1 of 101 Produced - \$132,000
1969 Chevrolet Camaro RS/SS Pro Touring - \$126,500
1968 Ford Mustang GT500CR Fastback - \$225,500



ANTIQUES,
COLLECTIBLES
& ESTATES
• • • • •
WAYNE TUISKULA

And here are some auction results from this year:

1963 Corvair 95 Pickup - \$49,500
1958 Chevrolet Impala Resto Mod Convertible - \$253,000
1971 Plymouth Cuda Convertible - \$962,500
1967 Chevrolet Chevy II Hardtop - \$132,000
1968 Dodge Hemi Charger R/T - \$231,000
1957 Ford Thunderbird F-Code - \$203,500

As for more recent models, CNBC reported that a 1995 McLaren F1 race car recently sold at Monterey Car Week for \$20.5 million. It was the "most expensive car to sell at auction since 2018." Hopefully, it's good on gas.

We will be offering a 1962 Corvette as well as other Corvettes in an online auction that will end on October 13th. There are also vintage boat motors, bicycles and other estate items in that sale. Our next online model railroad and die-cast car auction is underway. I'll be appraising items virtually for the Townsend Historical Society on Nov. 13. My "Evaluating your Antiques" class will take place on Nov. 10 at Bay Path Evening School in Charlton. Please visit our website for more details on upcoming events: <https://centralmassauctions.com>

Contact us at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique Auctions, Estate Sales and Appraisal Services www.centralmassauctions.com (508-612- 6111) info@centralmassauctions.com

Community Connection

Your guide to local businesses and events! To join us, please call June at 508-909-4062 or email jsima@stonebridgepress.news.

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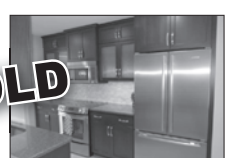
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SUTTON - 30 Jones Rd! 9 Room 2,156' Colonial! 5.31 Acres of Privacy! Long Circular Drive! New Granite Kitchen! Dining, Living & Fireplaced Family Rooms w/Hardwood Floors! Year Round Sunroom w/2 Skylights! 3 Bedrooms! 24' Master w/ Master Bath! 2.5 Bathrooms Total! 12x24 3 Season Porch w/3 Skylights! Expandable Attic! Wraparound Deck! 2 Car Garage! Central Air! Super Easy Access to Rte 146! **\$549,900.00**



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

WEBSTER LAKE - 62 Bates Point Rd! Middle Pond! Absolute Prime 51' Level Waterfront Lot w/Western Expo! Beautiful Sunsets! Fantastic Panoramic Lake Views! 11 Rooms, 6 Bedrooms, 4 Bathrooms, 3,269' A/C'd Colonial! Custom SS Appliance Granite Kitchen! Formal Dining Rm w/Cherry Hardwoods! Lake Facing Living Rm w/Cathedrals, Cherry Hardwoods! Slider to Waterfront Deck! Spacious 1st Flr Master Bedroom w/Full Bath, Cherry Hardwoods & Walk-in Closet! Fireplaced Lower Level Family Rm! 1st & 2nd Floor Laundries! 2 Car Garage! **\$979,900.00**

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ON DEPOSIT
THOMPSON CT: 3 bdrms, 2.5 ba, 3 acres 105 Porter Plain Rd \$424,900

ON DEPOSIT
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Put kitchen scraps and landscape trimmings to work in the garden

Convert landscape and garden trimmings into valuable compost. Incorporate this soil amendment into garden soil to improve drainage in clay soil and increase water-holding ability in fast draining sandy soils. It also promotes healthy plant growth more resistant to insect and disease problems and keeps plant-based kitchen scraps and garden waste out of landfills.

Composting is as simple as placing disease- and insect-free plant debris into a pile and letting it rot. Don't add meat, dairy, or fat that attracts rodents or weeds that have gone to seed, invasive plants or perennial weeds that can survive the compost process and end up back in the garden.

You can enclose the pile in a bin to keep the process neat, tidy, and out of sight. Some gardeners prefer tumbler composters for added ease when it comes to loading, unloading, and turning the pile. Dual bin tumblers allow you to stockpile the raw materials in one bin while actively composting in the other.

Always check with your municipality first. Some have restrictions on the type of bins that are acceptable while others may offer them at a discount.

Start your pile in an accessible space



GARDEN MOMENTS

MELINDA MYERS

decorative bins. Turn the pile frequently, moving the more decomposed materials in the center to the outside and less decomposed to the center.

Speed things up by mixing nitrogen and carbon rich plant debris, topping with soil or compost, and adding a bit of fertilizer. Including equal parts of nitrogen rich (green) materials like herbicide-free grass clippings, fruit wastes, vegetable clippings and manure with carbon rich (brown) cornstalks, evergreen needles, straw and fall leaves will speed the process. But don't let this recipe prevent you from composting. All plant waste will eventually decompose as weather, insects and micro-organisms digest the materials over time.

Start with an eight- to 10-inch layer of garden trimmings. Cover with an inch of soil or compost and sprinkle with fertilizer to help speed things along. Repeat until the pile is at least three feet tall and wide. Moisten the pile to a consistency of a damp sponge.

Turn the pile as time allows or frequently for faster results. Move the more decomposed materials from the center to the outside of the pile. It's



Melinda Myers

Composting can be as simple as collecting disease- and insect-free plant debris, placing it in a pile and letting it rot.

decomposition.

The more effort you put into composting the sooner you will have rich organic matter for your garden. But even casual composters end up with a wonderful amendment for the garden.

Compost is ready when it is brown and crumbly. Mix finished compost into potting mixes for containers, work it into garden beds or spread a one-inch layer over the soil surface of perennial gardens every other year.

Start putting your landscape trimmings in a heap and watch the magic happen.

Melinda Myers is the author of over 20 gardening books, including *The Midwest Gardener's Handbook* and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* DVD series and the nationally-syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program*. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

AWARD

continued from page A1

ing as an active member of the Advisory Committee, volunteering as a mentor, speaking at information sessions & workshops, and participating in the Mock Code Team preparation day.

While a student at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Hernandez was voted as a student representative. She was inducted into the National Technical Honor Society and was a member of the UNICEF Club. Hernandez participated in the admissions panel interviews and competed in SkillsUSA earning a Silver Medal in both District and State level for the Practical Nursing category.

Hernandez takes pride in the work she does at the Holyoke Public Schools and credits her training and education at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy especially her School Nurse Observation experience in her success. Hernandez has formed a tight bond with the Bay Path Community that has allowed her to work cohesively with faculty, staff, students, and fellow alumni.

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Town of Douglas Meeting Minute Recorder

The Town of Douglas is seeking an individual to provide part-time (30 - 50 hrs/mo) assistance to the Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Building Facilities Construction Committee, and the Capital Improvements Committee by recording meeting minutes. Organizational, interpersonal skills, and proficiency in computers is essential. Ability to take shorthand is preferable. Availability to view remotely, online, up to 10 meetings per month is required. Upon demonstrated ability of efficiency, accuracy and reliability the possibility of transcribing some meetings from recordings may be possible. Compensation will be in the range of \$14.96 – \$16.00/hour, depending on qualifications. Send resume to Matthew J. Wojcik, Town Administrator, 29 Depot Street, Douglas, MA 01516. Position will be open until filled.
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Charlton officials to Study Stafford Street traffic concerns

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – The Charlton Board of Selectmen has greenlit a study that they hope will provide clearly direction in creating solutions for traffic concerns along Stafford Street.

The Stafford Street corridor connects Route 20 and Center Depot Road and has been a source of concern among citizens for some time. Selectman Bill Borowski said he has personally received communication from residents seeking solutions for that roadway which sees commuters traveling at high speeds.

“The catalyst for this is, I think, anyone who has lived in town for any amount of time realizes that Stafford Street and the Center Depot Road area inclusive of the straightaways that turn them into speedways cause a lot of issues. I received a bunch of phone calls. I went out and took a bunch of pictures. We tried to cut down some shrubs to make it look a little better. It’s a constant source of contention,” Borowski said.

The study, which will cost no more than \$10,000 coming from the town’s contractual obligations line item in the budget, will provide some clarity on potential solutions for that roadway especially with upcoming developments only potentially making traffic even worse through that area.

“The reality is, with Route 20 getting developed with multiple distribution center, that’s going to turn into a cut through,” said Borowski. “I hear tons of suggestions. Some of them sound good, some of them don’t, but I think we need someone who really knows what they’re talking around to actually take a look at this.”

Borowski also reached out to the office of Sen. Ann Gobi to inform her of their intentions to improve that roadway in case the need arises to seek out state funding. The Board of Selectmen approved going ahead with the study sticking to the \$10,000 limit with the hopes that it will bring new data not previously divulged through previous studies by the Department of Transportation.



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Welcome to our 3rd Annual ABC's of Summer Scramble!

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Thank you to all who entered our Scramble Contest
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Talk of the Town

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Cornerstone Bank donates \$5,000 to Quinsigamond Community College Student Emergency Aid Fund

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with 12 locations throughout Central Massachusetts, has donated \$5,000 to Quinsigamond Community College's (QCC) Student Emergency Aid Fund, which was established in March of 2020 to help offset tuition costs for students at risk of having to drop out of school due to financial hardships.

"One of our major charitable goals revolves around access to education," said Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman. "This past year and a half has proven difficult for so many people, and QCC has found a way to help their students stay enrolled and finish their degrees despite sudden financial hardships. We hope our contribution can help students continue to work towards their graduation goals."

The Student Emergency Aid Fund has helped almost 600 students stay in college, with 90 percent of those who received aid not having to drop a class. QCC serves about 10,000 students every year with the vast majority coming from low- to moderate-income families. More than 80 percent of QCC students receive some form of financial aid.

"During the pandemic, 72 percent of students at QCC had a reduction in their working hours and almost half lost their jobs," continued Tallman. "Even in our newfound normal, many of these students are struggling to pay their tuition. We are committed to helping ensure that students who wish to continue their education have the opportunity to do so."

About Cornerstone Bank
Cornerstone Bank is an independent, mutual savings bank serving residents, businesses and communities throughout Central Massachusetts. Our customer promise, Built on Trust, is not just a brand, but also a corporate focus. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone Bank rests on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. Deposits are insured in full by a combination of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Depositors Insurance Fund. The Bank is an Equal Opportunity Employer, Equal Housing Lender and SBA Preferred Lender. To learn about Cornerstone Bank's personal and business banking offerings, please visit cornerstonebank.com or call 800-939-9103.

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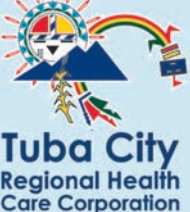
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