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Friday, September 10, 2021

CMS Chamber to Welcome Fitzgerald Dance & Fitness with Ribbon Cutting

STURBRIDGE — The Chamber of Central Mass South is pleased to invite the public to the official Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to welcome Fitzgerald Dance & Fitness to the Sturbridge community on Thursday, Sept. 16 at 4 p.m. The Chamber of Commerce, local dignitaries, our neighbors and guests will be on hand to offer congratulations and a warm reception to the new dance studio located on Main Street in Sturbridge. The mission of Fitzgerald Dance & Fitness is to cre-



Courtesy

Did you ever think that exercise could be so much fun? Fitzgerald Dance & Fitness offered classes at Brimfield Winery as the finishing touches are applied to their new Sturbridge dance studio.

ate a love of dance by fostering creativity and artistry for all ages, from children to adults, while incorporating overall health and fitness. Their school-aged program offers an array of classes which include, the Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) technique for ballet, Latin dance, Contemporary, Jazz, Hip Hop, and a Competition Group. FD&F After Dark is their unique program which gives adults the chance to learn social Ballroom/Latin, Adult Ballet, Total Barre Fitness and Yoga. These classes are designed specifically for adults who are looking to exercise and socialize in a fun way.

"I am so excited to share with the community a comprehensive dance experience that can be enjoyed by people of all ages, from children to adults, because the love of dance has no age limit, nor expiration date," said studio owner Julie Fitzgerald.

Fitzgerald began dancing at the age of five. At the age of 13, she found her love for classical ballet and started her training with Boston Ballet School. You can learn more about Julie and her talented staff by visiting the Fitzgerald Dance & Fitness website: www.fitzgeralddanceandfitness.com. Reach the studio by phone at 774-441-0232.

Come, witness the cutting of the official red ribbon, tour the new studio, meet the staff, enjoy light refreshments and take a chance at cool raffle prizes. There is no charge and no RSVP necessary to attend. Fitzgerald Dance & Fitness is located at 71 Main St. (Route 131) in Sturbridge.

If it is time for you to grow your business and join a dedicated and passionate business community, visit the Chamber of Central Mass South online at cms-chamber.org.

"Fore A Good Cause" Golf Tournament to support Hitchcock Academy community center

BRIMFIELD — Hitchcock Academy is a local non-profit community center whose mission is to provide educational, recreational and cultural programming to serve the surrounding communities.

Built in 1855 by Samuel Austin Hitchcock to provide a free education for all students, it served as a high school until the opening of Tantasqua Regional High School in the '50's. It is at that time that it became a community center. There are generations of families in the area who have come to Hitchcock Academy that have benefited from the various programs and events.

Throughout its long history, Hitchcock Academy has changed and continually evolves to meet community needs. It has served as a community meeting space for Boy/Girl Scout Troops, 4H, toddler play groups, AA, art groups, free concerts and movies and summer recreation. There are many who remember the robust free tennis lesson program that fed the high school many talented players. In addition to free programming Hitchcock Academy also offers low-cost programming and events that range from exercise classes to music lessons, animal shows and much more.

Fundraising plays an important role in helping Hitchcock Academy be able to keep program cost low and accessible to all. This is an opportunity to support HFA at the inaugural "FORE a Good Cause" Tournament on Sept. 18 at Heritage Country Club in Charlton. Whether you've never played golf or if you're a golf aficionado, all levels of play are encouraged to participate.

The entry fee includes 18 holes of championship golf at this central Massachusetts' premier public course and includes a cart, prizes, a raffle and the clubs delicious steak dinner. According to Hitchcock Academy Executive Director, Cindy Skowrya, the tournament is called "Fore a Good Cause" because the monies

Turn To **GOLF**, page **A15**

Learn to "Lead Like A Pro" at Joshua Hyde Library

STURBRIDGE — The Joshua Hyde Public Library announces Lead Like A Pro, an event for any volunteer coach, part-time high school coach, full-time college or professional coach, to teach you new ways to enhance your leadership style and become a better coach for your athletes and team.

Join us in the library at 306 Main St., Sturbridge, on Thursday, Sept. 23 at 7 p.m. as

Dr. Matthew Raidbard, author of "Lead Like A Pro," draws on more than a decade spent as a college basketball coach, as well as his own original research to speak about leadership styles and behaviors to help athletic coaches be successful. Presented by the Sturbridge Recreation Department.

"Lead Like A Pro: Effective Leadership Styles for Athletic Coaches" is registered with

Ingram, Baker & Taylor, the American Wholesale Book Company, Follett Library Resources, and is available online with the following retailers: Barnes & Noble, Books-A-Million, & Mascot Books.

For more information, or to register for this event or any of our other programs, please visit our website at www.sturbridgelibrary.org or on Facebook @ [sturbridgelibrary](https://www.facebook.com/sturbridgelibrary).

Ida underscores Baker's emphasis on emergency preparedness

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
 STAFF WRITER

REGION — Just hours after Gov. Charlie Baker proclaimed September as Emergency Preparedness Month, Mother Nature resoundingly underscored his message with the remnants of Hurricane Ida.

Days after slamming into Louisiana as one of the strongest landfalling hurricanes in the state's history, the once Category 4 storm marched northeast in a deadly path of flooding and destruction. On the night of Sept. 1, the storm caused historic flooding impacts across the New York metro area before moving into New England.

In total, the storm was responsible for 56 deaths across the country.

Locally, several roads were made briefly impassable from flooding. Many towns experienced power outages, but the damage was far less than that experienced in the mid-Atlantic states. In New York City, the National Weather Service declared the first ever flash flood emergency for the city. In New Jersey, floods ravaged the northern part of the state while tornadoes struck the southern region.

For Massachusetts leaders, the storm represented the latest example of the importance of emergency readiness. As part of the state's Emergency Preparedness Month, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) is promoting its "30 Days of Preparedness" program. The initiative breaks down emergency preparedness into simple steps residents can take in 30 days to be more prepared by the end of the month.

"To protect our families and communities, it is critical that our residents take steps to prepare for emergencies of all kinds, and Emergency Preparedness Month is an opportunity to do just that," said Baker. "Preparedness can improve public health and safety and can help minimize property damage and the economic impacts of disasters."



Courtesy

The remnants of Hurricane Ida caused flooding throughout the region last week, with multiple roads closed due to rising water.

Visitors to www.Mass.gov/Ready can view a full list of preparedness steps that can be taken in 30 days.

The website also features ways to prepare for specific threats and hazards. From the possibility of tornadoes

Turn To **IDA**, page **A15**

Bay Path Practical Nursing students start donation drive

CHARLTON — Providing prudent nursing care is what Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy students master in ten months however, service learning is also a focus.

Helping members of the community who are in need has been a tradition for the practical nursing students and faculty at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy since 2013. Random acts of kindness and organized activities allows practical nursing students to help the needy. For the current cohort, through the efforts of Marylee Panient, the PN Class of 2022 had the opportunity to assist a patient's family and a community in Cuba.

According to Panient, "with the recent weather we are having, much of the community has been left in a vulnerable state as well as economic struggles and desperate need."

The PN class of 2022 and Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy alumni, faculty, and staff were able to donate personal Hygiene supplies (Toothpaste/ Toothbrush, soap, adult & baby/newborn diapers, etc.), Adult briefs, clothes (male/female of any size), blankets, canned goods, OTC medicine (such as APAP, Ibuprofen), entertainment/ toys, and supplements (such as Pediasure).

"We were able to include everyone in the effort, but much credit goes to



Courtesy

Marylee Panient

the Practical Nursing students for their caring heart and compassionate spirit," Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN Academy Director explained.

The previous years, the PN students helped many children through the UNICEF club.

"This year, PN Class of 2022 wanted to do more even with COVID-19, rather, especially with COVID-19. The pandemic makes it clearer how much we need to be helping those in need," Bolandrina said.

The practical nursing students remain masked in class and continue to keep their distance. Not very different from

last year, and the passion to help, the love and compassion remain the same. Service learning during the pandemic is more meaningful than ever.

"As nursing students, we are thinking of doing something like this once every couple of months and send help to a different community each time," said Panient.

"Most of practical nursing students have the desire to help, the compassion and love for community, so this has been a great opportunity to see everyone come together and contribute to making a difference," Bolandrina concluded.

BROOKFIELD ORCHARDS

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See Local Artisans and Crafters displaying their handmade items, artwork and goodies!
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Bay Path LPN advocates for safe staffing ratios

CHARLTON — Even before the pandemic, safe staffing levels have always been a key concern in the nursing profession. COVID-19 highlighted the nurses' struggles. Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy alumna Ashlee Stevens-Ringuette, LPN from class of 2016 is advocating for change, writing academic papers on implementing safe staffing ratios to improve the nursing environment and quality of care.

A federal staffing standard do not exist. Currently, California is the only state with mandated staffing ratios after legislation was passed there in 2004. California's law outlines exactly how many patients a nurse can take care of in specified units like intensive care units and operating rooms. New York and several other states have laws requiring nurse-led staffing committees.

Stevens-Ringuette wrote that "maintaining safe nurse-to-patient ratios in healthcare facilities is a moral and ethical issue, as well as a patient safety issue." She emphasized that "more research on the frequently forgotten long-term care facilities is needed when it comes to staffing ratio models."

Further, she adds "it is clear that nursing homes, as well as all healthcare facilities, could benefit from safer nursing staff ratios."

Stevens-Ringuette's professional experience includes staff nurse position at the Apple Rehabilitation (Colchester, Conn.) and Wingate at



Courtesy

Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy alumna Ashlee Stevens-Ringuette, LPN from class of 2016 is advocating for change, writing academic papers on implementing safe staffing ratios to improve the nursing environment and quality of care.

Hampden (Hampden). While a student at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, she was inducted to the National Technical Honor Society, was an elected officer for the UNICEF

Club and received a gold medal and silver medal for SkillsUSA district and state competition respectively for the Health Knowledge Bowl. She received the PN Class of 2016 academic excellence award for earning

the highest GPA. Stevens-Ringuette was a finalist for the Massachusetts Vocational Association's Post-Secondary Student of the Year Award. She was a recipient of the 2016 Massachusetts Senior Care Foundation Scholarship. She is currently working on obtaining her bachelor's degree in nursing at Goodwin University (East Hartford, Conn.) with an anticipated spring 2023 completion.

STURBRIDGE VILLAGER

ACCURACY WATCH

The Sturbridge Villager is committed to accuracy in all its news reports. Although numerous safeguards are in place to ensure accurate reporting, mistakes can occur.

Confirmed fact errors will be corrected at the top right hand corner of page 3 in a timely manner.

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

Maggie the Clown to perform during Autumn Fest

SOUTHBRIDGE — Maggie the Clown will be one of the highlights of Autumnfest 2021 that will take place on the Southbridge Town Common on Saturday, Sept. 18 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This event is being sponsored by the Southbridge Business Partnerships. Many activities are being provided free of charge for all--children and adults. Games, bands, performances by the KDS Dance Studio and the Southbridge High School Band will be on hand to create a day filled with fun and camaraderie.

Join Maggie as she entertains children of all ages with her magic, juggling, walk-about antics and balloon twisting. Maggie has been performing for more than 35 years and is a former Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus clown. She has also performed at Disneyland, Disney World, and overseas in Japan and India.

Maggie's



appearance has been partially funded by the Southbridge

Cultural Council, a local agency, supported by the

Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 273 FALL YARD SALE

Saturday, September 18, 2021

Universal Tag Parking Lot, 36 Hall Rd, Dudley

Early Birds (8am to 9am) \$10.00 p.p. fee

9am until 3pm FREE

"New this Year, we are able to accept CREDIT CARDS!"

24,000 sqft of yard sale items - ONE DAY ONLY - Pick your items and Make an offer!

Grouped Items:

Electronics - stereos, speakers, etc. (no TV's) **Tools** - hand tools, lights, flooring etc... **Furniture** - Tables, chairs, bed frames, cabinets, hutches, etc... **Housewares** - glassware, dishes, pictures, mirrors, bowls, cups, small appliances **Sporting goods** - Bikes, skis, baseball equipment, golf, exercise equipment **Clothes** - shirts, pants, jackets, shoes, bags **Kids toys and baby items** - high chairs, bouncy, games, seats **Antiques**



Tuesday/Wednesday 8am-2pm
Thursday/Friday 8am-8pm
Saturday and Sunday 7am-2pm
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Dine-In OR Take-Out

YARD SALE VENDORS WANTED-OCTOBER 9th • 9am - 3pm
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SUN, September 12th | Noon-5pm

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MA STATE COVID REQUIREMENTS WILL BE FOLLOWED

BENEFIT FOR JAMIE'S KIDS



Cupcake Bar, Music, Raffles, Food, Bounce House!
CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT (\$10)

Saturday, September 18th, 2021 • 2pm - 10pm

Brookfield Rod & Gun Club
56 Webber Road, Brookfield, MA 01515

Jamie's was a wife, mother and a friend who lost her life tragically to domestic violence on June 22nd, 2021.

Jamie's three children are now left without a Mother or a Father.

This benefit is to help her Children and to make their lives a little brighter.

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Bravehearts partner with Open Sky for Pen Pal Club

WORCESTER — Throughout the 2021 season, members of the Worcester Bravehearts baseball team had the unique opportunity of getting to know members of Open Sky Community Services through the Braveheart Pen Pal Club sponsored by Cornerstone Bank and Beltone. The summer-long program culminated with a cookout at Fitton Field on August 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.

"It is important for the student athletes of the Worcester Bravehearts to engage in a program like this, so they can develop connections with people who may not have had the same opportunities or experience they have had in their lives," said Peterson. "A partnership like this goes a long way for our players to learn how to become role models in the community especially if they have aspirations to continue their playing careers at a professional level."

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 base-

ball fan helped her grab the ball. Since 2015 the Bravehearts have hosted a Pen Pal Club, but 2021 was the first year the Bravehearts partnered with Open Sky to get in contact with those individuals served by the organization. The Bravehearts Pen Pal Club is sponsored by Cornerstone Bank and Beltone. 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.

About Open Sky Community Services Open Sky was formed through the 2018 affiliation of Alternatives Unlimited and The Bridge of Central Massachusetts. With over 100 programs throughout Central Massachusetts, the organization provides services and supports to more than 4,900 adults, young adults and youth with mental health challenges, developmental disabilities, brain injury, substance use disorders, homelessness or other complex challenges. Open Sky also provides services and supports for LGBTQIA+ youth through its Safe Homes program, as well as expert training for human service professionals and school personnel on evidence-based practices and best practice treatment models through the Bridge Training Institute.

For more information about Open Sky, visit opensky.org.

Book clubs at Joshua Hyde Public Library

STURBRIDGE — The Joshua Hyde Public Library announces our upcoming book clubs: Memoir:

Gateway to Dreams and Reflections & Armchair Travelers. These book clubs will meet one time a month with a new book and discussion. See flyers for books and dates.

Join the Memoir book club on Tuesday, Sept. 14 at 1 p.m. in the library meeting room at 306 Main St. Sturbridge, as we discuss as we discuss the first book, "World of Wonders: In Praise of Fireflies, Whale Sharks, and Other Astonishments," by Aimee Nezhukumatathil.

Join the Armchair Travelers book club on Wednesday, Sept. 15 at 6 p.m. in the library meeting room at 306 Main St., Sturbridge, as we discuss the first book, "The Invisible Man," by H.G. Wells.

For more information about this event or any of our other programs, please visit our website at www.sturbridgelibrary.org or on Facebook @ [sturbridgelibrary](https://www.facebook.com/sturbridgelibrary).

VILLAGER ALMANAC

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

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

— REAL ESTATE —

BRIMFIELD
\$360,000, 140 John Haley Rd, Canavan, Edward M, and Canavan, Anne L, to Ferreira, Luzmarilda G.
\$335,000, 1232 Dunhamtown Brimfield Rd, Ryan, David M, and Ryan, Regina L, to Connor, Sean, and Connor, Elaine.
\$327,500, 156 Wales Rd, Komssi, Michael J, and Komssi, Sarah A, to Sokol, Emily A, and Christian, Nicholas C.
\$100,000, 36 3rd St, Lafleur, Gail A, to GJL RNL NT, and Levine, Gwendolyn.

HOLLAND
\$207,500, 7 Over The Top Rd, Griffin, Benjamin, to Embair, Brian M.

STURBRIDGE
\$340,000, 8 Ridgeview Rd, Butler, Bernadette F, to Hurley, Brianna, and Brown, Eric T.
\$317,000, 223 New Boston Rd, Williamson, Kevin P, to Torres, Ruben, and Torres, Virginia.
\$225,000, 109 Shore Rd, Janik, Marjorie, to Longbottom, Richard H.

Sovereign Grace Chapel hosting photo session fundraiser

STURBRIDGE — Sovereign Grace Chapel will host a Fall Photo Mini-Session fundraiser Sept. 18 from 3-6 p.m. at the Westville Recreation Area.

Fall is almost here! Get some updated individual or family pictures taken while supporting a great cause. Package includes a 10-minute photography session and three edited photos provided by Rebecca Isabelle Photography. Isabelle is a local lifestyle & wedding photographer. You must pre-register for your session no later than Sept. 15 by calling the SGC Fundraising Committee at (774) 280-4517. There are only 12 sessions available, so register today!

All proceeds benefit the Sovereign Grace Building Fund.

SGC has been in existence for more than 30 years, and is prayerfully pursuing the purchase of a building in Southbridge. SGC is thankful for any and all support!

STURBRIDGE VILLAGER

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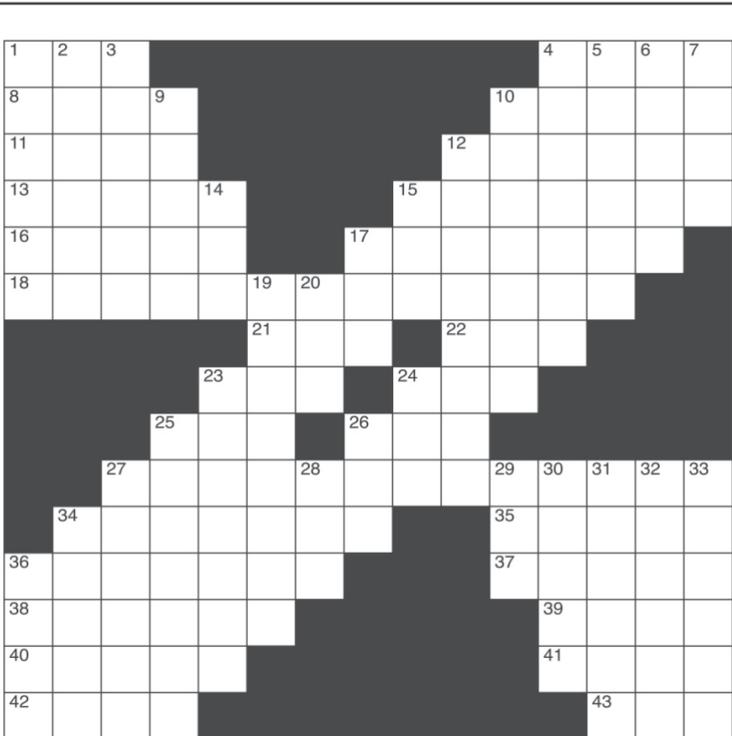
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CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1. It governs Federer and Nadal's sport | 23. Computer giant |
| 4. Golden apple tree | 24. When you hope to get there |
| 8. Central Mexican river | 25. Corporate executive title (abbr.) |
| 10. Horn | 26. Shout of welcome or farewell |
| 11. Egg-shaped | 27. Imaginary awards for good deeds |
| 12. With tooth | 34. A citizen of Iran |
| 13. French modernist painter | 35. It can be sounded |
| 15. Disprove | 36. Making dirty |
| 16. Painful intestinal obstruction | 37. Romanian city |
| 17. Baby shoes | 38. Baking ingredient |
| 18. Make the grade | 39. Share a common boundary with |
| 21. Type of screen | 40. Succulent plants |
| 22. Christian fraternal organization (abbr.) | 41. Penny |
| | 42. Jr. U.S. Senator Paul |
| | 43. "Laurie Partridge" actress Susan |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. A type of bomb | 23. Humorous expressions |
| 2. Pacific island country | 24. Christmas and New Year's Day each have one |
| 3. Earth is one | 25. Filled up |
| 4. A place to gather around | 26. Nerve that serves the forearm (abbr.) |
| 5. Expressed opposite views | 27. One of British descent |
| 6. Group that lives near Siberia | 28. A way to get at |
| 7. Ore deposit | 29. Food-related allergic reaction |
| 9. Language related to Eskimo | 30. Group of arteries near the pelvis |
| 10. Narrative piece of music | 31. Picked up |
| 12. The distance covered by normal stride | 32. Being three in one |
| 14. Glycoprotein hormone (abbr.) | 33. Obscene |
| 15. Mathematical term (abbr.) | 34. Dravidian language |
| 17. Popular beer | 36. Growl |
| 19. Jabbing | |
| 20. Historic Swedish castle | |

PUZZLE SOLUTION

Y	E	D							D	N	V	R
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					O	N	R	O	C			
					L	E	V	A	B			

State reports year's first case of West Nile Virus

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION - It's fun to be outdoors for fall-time events, but officials are reminding residents that this time of year brings elevated risks of contracting mosquito-borne diseases.

Last week, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health announced the first human case of West Nile virus (WNV) in the Commonwealth this year. The person is a woman in her 80s who was likely exposed to the virus in Middlesex County, officials said.

Middlesex County is currently listed in the state's moderate risk category for WNV. The risk of infection is also moderate in the Greater Boston area, as well as several towns in Bristol County and Worcester County.

Thus far, there have been no Massachusetts deaths in 2021 associated with WNV, but officials are warning residents to take precautions.

"This is the first time that West Nile virus infection has been identified in a person in Massachusetts this year," said Acting Public Health Commissioner Margret Cooke. "Risk

from West Nile virus has been slow to increase this year. This is an important reminder that we all need to continue to take steps to protect ourselves and our families from mosquito bites."

The substantial amount of rain across the region in July, combined with the recent hot weather, have resulted in an increase in the population of the Culex species of mosquitoes, known to spread West Nile virus and breed in places where standing water accumulates.

In 2020, there were five human cases of WNV infection identified in Massachusetts. WNV is usually transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. While WNV can infect people of all ages, people over the age of 50 are at higher risk for severe disease.

"Most people infected with WNV will have no symptoms," read a statement released by the Mass. DPH. "When present, WNV symptoms tend to include fever and flu-like illness. In rare cases, more severe illness can occur. People have an important role to play in protecting themselves and

their loved ones from illnesses caused by mosquitoes."

Officials recommend taking several steps to protect yourself from mosquitoes, including the application of insect repellent when outdoors. Use a repellent with DEET, permethrin, picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus. DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age, and should be used in concentrations of 30 percent or less on older children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under three years of age.

Additionally, avoid outdoor activities during peak mosquito hours from dusk to dawn. Wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and socks when outdoors to help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.

At home, be sure to drain all sources of standing water, where mosquitoes typically lay their eggs. Check rain gutters and drains, and empty any unused flowerpots, wading pools, or wheelbarrows. Moreover, change the water in birdbaths frequently.

"Water troughs provide excellent mosquito breeding habitats and should be flushed out at least once a week to reduce mosquitoes near paddock areas," the DPH statement read. "Horse owners should keep horses in indoor stalls at night to reduce their risk of exposure to mosquitoes. Owners should also speak with their veterinarian about mosquito repellents approved for use in animals."

If an animal is diagnosed with WNV or EEE, owners are required to report it to the Department of Public Health by calling 617-983-6800.

Residents should also ensure they

have tightly fitting screens on all windows and doors, officials said.

For more information, including all updates on WNV and EEE positive results, visit www.mass.gov/dph/mosquito. You can also call the DPH Epidemiology Program at 617-983-6800.

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Gateway Players Theatre presents "The Cemetery Club"

SOUTHBRIDGE — Performance dates are Oct. 8, 9, 15 & 16 at 7:30 p.m. and Oct. 17 at 2 p.m. All performances will be held at the Fellowship Hall of Elm Street Congregational Church, 61 Elm St. in Southbridge. Parking is available on Elm Street, or in the parking deck behind the Southbridge Town Hall.

This comedy will be directed by Lou-Ellen Corkum, and produced by Kathi Grenier. The cast features Jim Douglas, Chris McTigue, Joan Stewart, Carol Allard Vancil, and Gail White. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$13 for seniors and youth under 18. Tickets may be reserved by calling Gateway at 508-764-4531. Online credit card ticket sales will be available shortly at www.brownpapertickets.com. Presented by permission through special arrangement with

Samuel French, Inc. Audience size for the performances will be limited in order to maintain social distancing. All audience members at all performances will be required to wear masks regardless of their vaccination status.

Three Jewish widows meet once a month for tea before going to visit their husbands' graves. Ida is sweet tempered and ready to begin a new life; Lucille is a feisty embodiment of the girl who just wants to have fun; and Doris is priggish and judgmental, particularly when Sam the butcher enters the scene. He meets the widows while visiting his wife's grave. Doris and Lucille squash the budding romance between Sam and Ida. They are guilt-stricken when this nearly breaks Ida's heart.

What are you doing for lunch today?

SOUTHBRIDGE — Tri-Valley, Inc. is looking for reliable people to pack meals for delivery to elders in Southbridge from the Community Dining Center located at the Southbridge Community Center on Chestnut Street.

All volunteers receive training. Anyone who can give as little as two hours per week of their time to help with this important task is asked to call Kathi Grenier, Nutrition Center Coordinator at 774-289-9438.

Tri-Valley, Inc. is a private, non-profit agency providing in-home and community based services in 25 towns in south cen-

tral Massachusetts. The agency receives funding from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through the Executive Office of Elder Affairs and Federal financial support under the Older Americans Act furnished by the Central Massachusetts Agency on Aging and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Funds are also received from other public and private sources. All donations are welcome and memorials may be established. For information about services call Tri-Valley at 1-800-286-6640 or visit our Web site at: www.trivalleyinc.org.

Socially Speaking...

This feature is for churches, senior centers, libraries, or other civic organizations who have events coming up.

Call June at 508-909-4062 or email jsima@stonebridgepress.news (Charlton Villager); or Mikaela Victor at 508-909-4126 or email Mikaela@stonebridgepress.news (Sturbridge Villager) for advertising sizes and prices



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Gateway Players announce auditions for "Bethlehem's Inn"

SOUTHBRIDGE — Gateway Players Theatre of Southbridge will be holding auditions for "Bethlehem's Inn" by Joshua Powell, on Sunday, Sept. 19 and Monday, Sept. 20 at 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall of Elm Street Congregational Church, 61 Elm St., Southbridge.

Entrance is on Park Street (around corner). The cast for this Holiday production includes five women age 20-60, and eight men age 20-60. Some roles may be doubled up. Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script, and actors will be expected to show proof of vaccination. Performance dates are Dec. 3, 4 & 5. Rehearsal days to be decided. Presented by permission through the author. Patricia Haddock is the Director, and Kathi Grenier is the Producer. For questions about

auditions, call 508-764-4531, and leave a message. Marcus is an inn owner in Bethlehem, but longs to make his business more profitable so he can move to Jerusalem and open an inn there. He views the current census as an opportunity needed to do that. His sister Becca, the manager Philip, and the hotel staff are all struggling to accept

his new vision for the small inn and bring it to fruition. When Marcus denies two special guests a room at the inn, he begins to second guess his plans for the future.

Emma Earls an award winner at Hamilton College Convocation

CLINTON, N.Y. — Emma Earls, of Sturbridge, was named the recipient of The Dr. Edward Fitch Prize in Latin at Hamilton College's annual Convocation ceremony on August 25. Earls, a sophomore, is a graduate of Deerfield

Academy. Members of the administration welcomed students and new faculty, and academic achievement prizes were awarded to students at the ceremony officially marking the beginning of Hamilton's 210th academic year. The Dr. Edward Fitch Prize in Latin, founded by E. Root Fitch, Class of 1886, is awarded annually to that student who, on completion of one or two years of Latin, has maintained the best record in that subject.

To be eligible for the award, the appointee must elect Latin in the following year. Originally founded in 1793 as the Hamilton-Oneida Academy, Hamilton College offers an open curriculum that gives students the freedom to shape their own liberal arts education within a research and writing-intensive framework. Hamilton enrolls 1,850 students from 49 states and 49 countries. Additional information about the college can be found at www.hamilton.edu.

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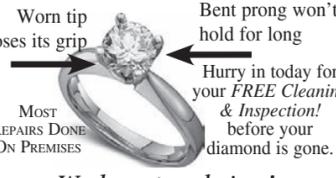


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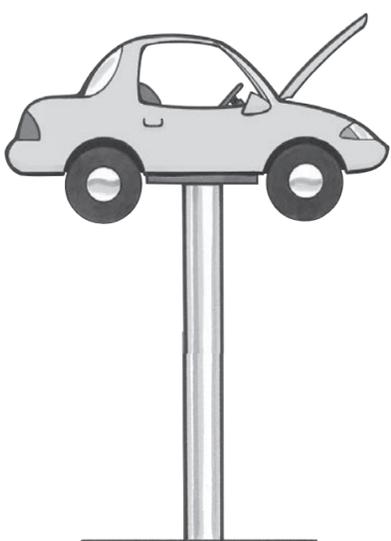
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EDITORIAL

*'Tis the season...
for fairs*

The first day of fall is just around the corner, and while we love the summer months, there is no season better than fall. One of the reasons for that is, of course, the slew of county fairs taking place all around us.

While entertainment and rides have evolved over the years, there is something so refreshingly simple about a fair that brings everyone down a few notches. When we remember why county fairs came to be, we are reminded of the simplicity that once was the way of life for our ancestors.

Each year, the fair served as a vehicle for farmers to show off their produce and livestock in various categories. As the years progressed, more activities of course took place, however at the core is farm life.

When walking around through the different exhibits, complete with crafts and baked goods, the feeling of down home, old fashioned living welcomes us like a warm morning sunrise. To make things even better, it is the one place where just about the entire community will venture off too, making for a grand reunion of sorts.

We cannot write about a fair, without talking about fair food. Each year, we tell ourselves the same thing — 'no fair food this year.' Or perhaps you tell yourself something completely different, such as 'I cannot wait for fried dough and maple syrup'. But the fact remains, you should not exit the fair gates without eating a caramel apple or a steak bomb. An honorable mention goes out to kettle corn, fresh lemonade, soft pretzels and nachos.

The music scene at the county fair tends to lean towards country. This is just fine with us, as it helps to set the perfect backdrop to our ears for watching a draft horse pull or a demolition derby.

There is never a dull moment at a fair, especially for youngsters. There are petting zoos, contests and plenty of stores selling anything you can think of. Funny thing about the shops, they seem to be selling the same things they had in stock for the past 25 years. Mirrors, with a horse pictured in the middle with the silver or gold trimmed frame, invisible ink, rabbit foot key chains and a plethora of leather goods.

The midway games are a treat. We never really could figure out the basketball hoop, although we know there's a trick to it. The dart game, where you send one, hopefully straight into a balloon is a blast, but again, there's a technique involved.

In the states, the first fair took place in Pittsfield, Mass. in 1807, and was organized by Franklin Watson. Eventually, it became known as the Berkshire Country Fair and is still running today.

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OPINION

VIEWS AND COMMENTARY FROM STURBRIDGE, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND AND WALES

Tips to Preserve Garden's Bounty

the Old Fashioned Way

The pleasures of the New England harvest season are truly bountiful. Ripe, red tomatoes heavy on the vine, stately rows of corn stalks, and pots of leafy herbs promise home grown goodness for the family table. Whether plucked from your own backyard or purchased fresh from local gardens or farmers markets, preserving the "just picked" flavor of the New England harvest is a seasonal quest.

While freezing has long been a favorite form of "keeping" crops and traditional canning is enjoying a comeback, the old fashioned method of drying garden vegetables often gets overlooked by home gardeners. A modern dehydrator isn't necessary, as all it takes is an oven, some trays and a bit of time to maintain all the flavor, integrity and wholesomeness of the season's harvest.

Dry to Preserve

Drying is one of the oldest forms of food preservation, and a reliable technique that can be easily employed to stretch the goodness of home grown vegetables. Dehydrating removes moisture and therefore halts the growth of bacteria and molds, extending the life of precious garden crops.

Proper preparation of vegetables to dry is very important. Pick produce at peak of ripeness and rinse in cool water to remove dirt and debris. Dry thoroughly and cut into uniform thicknesses to ensure even drying time. Some vegetables, such as tomatoes, corn, carrots and potatoes should be blanched before drying to kill potential bacteria and enzymes that can decrease flavor and color during storage. Common foods that do not require pre blanching include mushrooms, peppers, onions, garlic and herbs. Blanch vegetables by boiling or steaming. Immediately drop into cold water briefly to stop cooking and drain and dry vegetables while still warm. (The warmth will aid the drying process.)

Place vegetables in a food dehydrator, or if drying in oven, arrange in a single layer on a wire cake cooling rack set on top of a sheet tray to allow air circulation. The optimum temperature for successful drying is 140 degrees. This low temperature ensures moisture has completely evaporated, therefore lowering the risk of mold from any trapped moisture. If your oven doesn't have as low a setting, try the "warm" setting checking the temperature with a thermometer to avoid cooking the vegetables. Check temperature periodically to ensure oven maintains an even 140 degrees.

It can take several hours for garden produce to be properly dried. Sufficiently dehydrated vegetables and herbs will be crisp and brittle. Vegetables cut in thicker slices such as tomatoes should be dry but not hard (a bit pliable). Dried goods must be cooled completely before storing. Air tight containers such as zipper lock bags, glass mason jars and plastic freezer tubs are all good candidates for storage of dehydrated vegetables. Dried produce should be stored in a cool, dark place and can last from a few months up to a year, depending upon the vegetable. Refrigeration can extend the life of some dried vegetables, just be sure they are stored in an air tight container and always use within one year of packing. To ensure the product remains dehydrated, it is very important to check the contents periodically and discard any food that has become rehydrated, smells "off", or is moldy or tainted in any way.

Garlic Braids and Pepper Wreaths

Garlic braids dangling from kitchen rafters and colorful hot pepper wreaths hung near the chopping block offer not only homegrown décor, but a handy "pick as you use" year round supply of garden produce. Storing garden garlic and dried peppers in a creative way is not only satisfying for the home gardener, but the finished products serve as ideal "garden gifts" throughout



TAKE THE HINT

KAREN TRAINOR

the seasons.

**** Garlic Braid: Give Bountiful Bulbs a "Twist":** Garlic is easy to grow, and even a novice gardener can produce enough garlic bulbs to store for use all year round via a well constructed garlic braid.

To do: Gather up about a dozen of fresh garlic bulbs with greens attached. Begin braiding greens of three garlic bulbs, and then begin adding more bulbs as you continue up the braid. Add a new bulb on the right and work it into the braid, then a new one in the middle and do the same, then add a bulb on the left, layering the bulbs in an attractive braid as you move up the length. At this point the braid technique resembles "French braiding" of hair. For larger bulbs bring greens in from the outer edges (forming an x with the other greens) for an attractive French braiding rope. Continue braiding until all bulbs are used.

To finish off your garlic rope, wind a length of twine or raffia around the greens close to the top bulb. Tie off and tie ends together to form a loop to hang the rope. Hang in a well ventilated, warm area to dry for two to three weeks. When dry, simply snip off desired bulbs. For long term storage, hang braid in a cool storage area or root cellar.

Onions and shallots can be braided in the same manner.

**** Pepper Wreath: Pick Perfect Peppers:**

Note: Before stringing hot peppers be sure to wear gloves to ensure safety while handling. Texas A & M University advises using waxed dental floss to string and dry hot peppers like jalapenos, as the strength of their oils can dissolve normal thread.

Wreath: To make a pepper wreath with slim peppers, you'll need to wash and dry a generous amount of fresh peppers. With a sharp knife, make two slits at the top of each pepper, under the cap. Using 12 gauge wires form a sturdy round circle (for larger wreaths double the wire or use a heavier gauge. To form circle, stretch wire over a bucket or clay flower pot. Make a loop at one end. Thread peppers onto the wire through the slits, pushing them together at different angles until the wreath is full and looks attractive. Make a hook at the end of the wire and hook onto the loop. Hang up to dry for about two weeks.

Swag: To string a swag of peppers, wash and dry thoroughly. Thread a heavy duty needle with fishing line or unflavored wax dental floss. Tie a knot at the end of the line and thread through the stem of the pepper, pushing peppers close together and off to each side as you form the swag. For decorative effect, alternate red and green peppers. Continue stringing until swag is desired size. Tie off and loop top and hang to dry.

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.

Enthusiasm

POSITIVELY SPEAKING TOBY MOORE

When people decide to pursue a dream, they usually get fired up and motivated. They lose weight; make a business plan, build the team, hire the lawyers, contact the agents, write the book, rent the office, and tell everyone they know; They make sure to dot all the i's and cross all the t's!

It's easy at the beginning of a dream to keep a good attitude; we know our success is imminent. It is in this stage of a plan when people's enthusiasm is usually through the roof.

If the dream doesn't happen as fast as we think it ought to, sometimes people quickly become depressed, the negative voices in their head begin to say, "it's been too long; it's never gonna happen" "Just give up; who do you think you are?" "You weren't cut out for this! stop wasting your time!" "No reason to stay sober, just have a drink and smoke!"

Suddenly, the enthusiasm is gone. What was once a happy and exciting endeavor has now become something different. Fear, doubt, complacency may have set in, and being fired up and excited about the possibilities is just a fading memory.

For most, this is just too much to handle. After just a couple of days of feeling like that, they'll give up and wish they'd never have tried in the first place.

What happened? It started so well! Lots of things can happen that lead to a downfall of a dream, but the most dangerous thing that can happen is a loss of enthusiasm.

Without the enthusiasm that was first brought to the dream, the dream may become unobtainable. Sometimes it takes so long that when the opportunity for success finally presents itself, it's ruined because the loss of enthusiasm can make you uninteresting at best, jaded and bitter at worst.

Without that original fire you brought to the dream, it will be hard for anyone to want to buy what you're selling or even want to be of any help whatsoever.

Have you ever had a non-enthusiastic teacher hold your attention for very long? How long can you sit through a sermon from a pastor who doesn't seem to care what they are teaching? Have you ever wanted to buy a product from a non-enthusiastic salesperson? How do you feel when your waiter acts like they hate their life? Do you want to tip them?

I got my oil changed a couple of weeks back, and I was the first customer of the day! I drove into the garage, sure to be greeted with a smile. The young man working the front just glared at me as I pulled in; it was uncomfortable! He was heartbroken at my presence; I wanted to drive away as fast as possible, but unfortunately for him and me, I had to get the oil changed right then and there.

The one ingredient missing from the above scenarios that would make everything better is enthusiasm! Without enthusiasm, you're blah!

Enthusiasm makes you likable, it makes you interesting, and it makes people want to help you!

On the long road of accomplishing a significant dream, finding a way to keep your enthusiasm will be your most important task and maybe your most difficult.

Napoleon Hill said that "Enthusiasm is the steam that makes the engine work."

The word "enthusiasm" has its origins in the Greek language and translates to "God Within!"

The ancient Greeks used it to describe people who possessed superhuman abilities! If you accomplished great things, the Greeks would say you have Enthusiasm!

Have you ever seen a non-enthusiastic person described as having a god within them?

It's almost exclusively the fired-up, motivated, interested, and person who is full of life who has that quality! That's the type of person the Greeks would say has a god living within them!

Have you lost your enthusiasm? Get it back! Get fired up! Let people see the power inside of you!

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Thousands of trout being stocked this fall



THE GREAT
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Mass. Fish & Wildlife released information on the upcoming fall stocking last week that reported more than 65,000 trout would be available for this year. They are hoping to start stocking in mid-September if the waters cool. You can check out the daily stocking list starting in Mid-September on the MFW Web site.

A public hearing will be held on Zoom at 9:30 a.m. on Sept. 28, on the proposed changes in the pheasant hunting regulations. A proposal to allow bird hunters to harvest an unlimited amount of pheasant annually, and add a pheasant & quail stamp to requirements for all bird hunters will be discussed. For more information, go to the Mass. Fish & Wildlife hearings page. The Fish & Wildlife board will take up the proposal immediately following the hearing.

A freshwater invasive snakehead was recently caught in Mass. waters. The invasive species could cause a lot of problems to the native species if they become out of control. It is illegal to stock any species of fish in Massachusetts waters without a permit, especially nonnative fish.

The early Canada Goose season opened Sept. 1 in Central Massachusetts! The early season runs through Sept. 24, with a 15-bird daily bag limit. The early goose season is geared to alleviate the overpopulation of nuisance birds that are fouling our water, beaches and golf courses. The first segment of the Mass. waterfowl season opens on Oct. 11 in the Central District. For a complete list of all the waterfowl regulations, go to the Mass. Fish & Wildlife Web site.

This week's picture of Don Cook with his Thresher shark that was brought to the boat in less than 20 minutes. This species of shark is very



Courtesy

This week's picture shows Don Cook of Uxbridge with his 250-pound Thresher shark he caught last week with a few of his buddies while fish at Stellwagen Bank.

good eating, and this writer was given a steak from the big fish to convince me that they are very good eating. It was great. Tasted like a piece of swordfish after grilling it.

This week's second picture shows Eva and Logan Henchey with a few seabass that they caught while fishing with their Mom, Grandfather and Papa last week. They were fishing on the Southwest side of block Island.

Reports of numerous sightings of bear and bobcat for the last few weeks in the valley is good news for some residents, and a bit scary for others. Last week, a large bobcat was spotted in South Uxbridge by numerous residents. They have been blamed for the loss of small pets over the years, but they are not a concern for adults. Residents in rural areas need to keep a watchful eye on their pets and young children. Deer populations are also high, but they will have plenty of food to sustain them through the winter, with the huge Achorn crop this year.

Deer hunters are already setting up their tree stands in anticipation of opening day of archery season on Nov. 27. A youth deer hunt will be held on

Oct. 2 this year and a paraplegic hunt is planned for three days starting on Oct. 28. If you no someone that is confined to a wheelchair, or some other major disability, invite them to join you for the three-day deer hunt. There are many veterans that would appreciate the invite, and time spent in the outdoors. Who deserves it more!

The Whitinsville fish & Game Club is getting ready for their annual field



Courtesy

Andrea and Logan Henchey with a few seabass they caught last week while fishing on a charter boat out of Galilee, R.I.!

Day which will be held on Sept. 18 this year. They are planning a big day for all to enjoy, with a chicken bar BBQ, and plenty of other food from the kitchen. The Chicken BBQ tickets need to be purchased prior to the event. All ranges will be open to the public and there is plenty of free parking and music!

Take a Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

Keep gardening after the first fall frost



GARDEN
MOMENTS
.....

MELINDA
MYERS

There is nothing worse than frost in the forecast and a garden full of vegetables not quite ready for picking. Use some simple strategies to extend the growing season and keep enjoying garden-fresh vegetables.

Fortunately, some vegetables like cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, kale, and Brussels sprouts tolerate frost and even taste better after a slight chill. Most of these can tolerate temperatures as low as 24 to 28 degrees Fahrenheit.

Leeks are another vegetable that thrive in cooler temperatures. Many tolerate temperatures as low as 20 degrees Fahrenheit. Just mound some protective mulch around the plants and continue harvesting. Leave some of your carrots, turnips, and parsnips in the ground for winter. Just cover the soil with straw or evergreen boughs after it lightly freezes. Dig as needed or during a winter thaw. You will enjoy their wonderfully sweet flavor.

Protect frost-sensitive plants with old bed sheets and even mattress pads. Cover the plants in late afternoon and remove them as soon as the temperatures climb above freezing. Keep them handy and be ready to cover whenever frost is in the forecast.

Make it easier by using all-purpose garden fabric row covers. This spun material allows air, light, and water through while protecting the plants from frost. Loosely cover the plants and anchor the edges with stones, boards, or garden pins. You only need to remove the fabric to harvest ripe vegetables. Otherwise, it can stay in place until the vegetables stop producing or you decide it is time to end the season.

Create a high tunnel over garden beds filled with large plants. Use hoops and row covers to allow easy access for harvesting while protecting the plants. Systems like Maxi Garden Hoops stand seven feet tall and five feet wide when installed. Simply cover the set of three hoops with row cover fabric.

Cloches have long been used to jump start the season or extend it beyond the first fall frost. You will find a variety of shapes and sizes available. Select one large enough to cover your plants and protect them as needed. Look for those with vents to prevent plants from overheating and ones like the cool weather



Courtesy — Gardener's Supply Company

High tunnel systems with hoops and row covers work well on garden beds filled with large plants, allowing easy access for harvesting while protecting the plants.

row cloches (gardeners.com) that allow water through while trapping in the heat.

Don't let unripe tomatoes go to waste if you are unable or unwilling to protect them from frost. Harvest any that are starting to show color before the killing frost and finish ripening them indoors. The bottom of the tomato should be greenish white or starting to color up. Store your green tomatoes in a cool (60 to 65 degrees) location to extend their storage life.

Spread the tomatoes out on heavy paper or wrap them individually in newspaper so the fruit do not touch. They will ripen over the next few weeks. Speed up the process by moving a few tomatoes to a warm, bright location a few days before they are needed. Enjoy green tomatoes fried, in relish, salsa, pies or one of many more ways.

And when the season finally ends for you, start planning for next year. Many of these same strategies can be used to jump start the season for an earlier harvest.

Melinda Myers is the author of more than 20 gardening books, including *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* DVD series and the *Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program*. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by *Gardener's Supply* for her expertise to write this article. Her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

Some of my best estate finds



ANTIQUES,
COLLECTIBLES
& ESTATES
.....
WAYNE
TUISKULA

People often ask me "what's the most interesting or valuable item you've sold?" After selling antiques and collectibles for over 30 years and running auctions for over 20, there are plenty of items that come to mind.

One of the first estates I handled after starting my auction business was full of treasures that were literally buried. The estate belonged to a doctor who served as an officer during World War II. He held on to many things throughout his lifetime, including newspapers and magazines. His newspapers covered many valuable items that were hidden beneath.

However, there were larger items that were clearly visible when I first walked through the home. There were marble-top Victorian tables as well as other Victorian era furniture. Furniture sold much better 20 years ago than it does now, and we sold marble-top tables from the estate for around \$400 then. Two fireplace mantles that were also from the Victorian era sold for just under \$1,000 each. There were five or six stacking bookcases that brought around \$200 per stack at auction then.

I had to dig a bit deeper for other smaller valuable pieces. I found a wooden folding camera in a purple velvet lined box brought a little over \$1,000 at auction. A bookcase held a small bud vase marked "LCT." The approximately six-inch vase was a "pulled feather pattern" by Louis Comfort Tiffany and sold for close to \$1,000 at auction.

The doctor whose estate I was handling had served in the South Pacific during World War II and had many photographic negatives from his time in the service as well as other times during his life, including photos and negatives from the 1939 New York World's Fair. These photos and negatives sold for well over \$1,000 when split into several lots.

There were also some paintings in the estate, including one by Impressionist painter Joseph H. Greenwood of Spencer, Mass. According to a Worcester Art Museum biography, Greenwood "left school at age 11 to work in the local boot factory and later wire mill. Meanwhile, he scavenged chicken feathers for brushes and wallpaper scraps for pigment to create his first works of art." A wealthy mill owner recognized his artistic talent and paid for two terms of study for Greenwood at Wilbraham Academy. Greenwood made a living painting local landscapes. The Greenwood painting I found in this estate had been damaged, but still sold for over \$2,000.

A collection of phonographs was the most valuable find. There were Edison cylinder players that were selling in the \$300 to \$500 range at the time. A metal



sign advertising Edison records picturing Thomas Edison sold for nearly \$1,000. But the best find was a Berliner gramophone. Emile Berliner manufactured phonographs that played discs in competition with Edison's cylinder players. The Berliner gramophone hit a high note with bidders when it sold for over \$5,000 at one of our auctions.

Our current online model railroad and die-cast car auction ends on Sept. 22. Our online estate auction with 1950s and 1960s Corvettes, boat motors, tools and other estate items will be open for bidding by September 22nd. I'll be teaching my "Evaluating your antiques" night class Nov. 10 at Bay Path Evening School in Charlton and on Nov. 13 I'll also be appraising items virtually for the Townsend, Mass. Historical Society. Please visit our website for more details on upcoming events: <https://centralmassauctions.com>

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Tips for first-time RV drivers

Whether it's the welcoming weather or the chance to follow a favorite football team or, of course, the awe-inspiring foliage, fall compels many people to hit the open road. A car or truck might suffice for a day trip or weekend getaway, but those who want to travel more extensively often do so in an RV.

Recreational vehicles, or RVs, provide a taste of home away from home for millions of people every year. RVs allow people to visit even the most remote locations without having to worry about finding food or lodging. As welcoming as the interior of an RV can be, it's also easy for first-time RV drivers to feel a little intimidated. RVs are the largest vehicles many people will ever operate, and even long-time drivers will likely need some time to adjust. That adjustment period can go smoothly if drivers take steps to grow more comfortable behind the wheel before embarking on their trips.

- Recognize that practice makes perfect. A cross country RV trip is a dream vacation for many people, but drivers must learn to crawl before they can walk. RVs are much bigger and heavier than cars and trucks, and practice runs can help drivers grow acclimated to that size. Don't begin a practice run without first noting the class and height of the vehicle. The online camper resource Camper Report notes that Class C RVs average 10 feet in height, while Class A RVs are typically between 13 and 14 feet tall. Measure the height of your RV prior to your first practice run so you can be sure you can make it beneath all overpasses on your route.
- Take a companion along. Drivers



behind the wheel of a car or truck may not give a second thought to driving in reverse or navigating their way around parking lots. But such situations require some forethought, and even a little help, when driving an RV for the first time. A traveling companion can direct drivers into and out of parking spots until they grow more acclimated to operating an RV.

- Utilize leveling blocks. RV leveling blocks help RVs stay level when parked on sloped surfaces. The RV experts at TheRVGeeks.com note that RVs need to be level in order for equipment to work properly.

That's problematic if you park at a campsite with uneven ground. Even if equipment is functional when parked on marginally sloped surfaces, navigating your way through an RV parked on such ground is inconvenient if not annoying. Leveling blocks also can keep jacks from sinking into soft ground, making them an inexpensive yet useful accessory for any RV trip.

- Practice dumping your tanks. Drivers whose RVs have toilets will eventually need to dump their waste. Drivers should practice this in advance of their first trip so they are practiced when the time comes

to do it on the road. Tutorials on YouTube can teach drivers how to dump their tanks. Drivers also can invest in a highly rated, thick sewer hose to avoid being sprayed with waste while out on the road.

RV travel is a great way to experience the open road. First-time RV drivers can try various strategies to get used to what it's like to be behind the wheel of these unique vehicles.

A closer look at the autumnal equinox

Each September, the Northern Hemisphere experiences the autumnal equinox, which marks the official beginning of fall. In the Southern Hemisphere, spring is arriving at this time.

Each year there are two equinoxes, the vernal and the autumnal (March and September, respectively). Shortly after the autumnal equinox, days begin getting shorter and the nights get longer. The autumnal equinox always occurs between September 21 and September 24. In 2021, the autumnal equinox takes place on September 22.

The word equinox is from the Latin "aequi," meaning "equal," and "nox" or "night." That means that during each equinox the hours of day and night are nearly equal in length across the planet. During the equinox, the part of the Earth that is closest to the sun is the equator, explains History.com. That helps make night and day equal in length.

According to the Farmer's Almanac, the Autumnal Equinox on September 22, 2021, arrives at 3:21 p.m. EDT, 2:21 p.m. CDT, 1:21 p.m. MDT, and 12:21 p.m. PDT.

Camping for beginners

Camping is an opportunity for individuals of all ages to venture into the great outdoors. Camping can be an immersive outdoor activity that includes hiking, cooking and sightseeing, all in a single, memorable trip.

According to KOA's 2021 Annual North American Report, more than 70 percent of North American campers changed their camping habits in 2020. First-time campers increased fivefold between 2019 and 2020, and experts note the pandemic likely had a great deal to do with that spike.

Even though camping seems like a relatively easy activity, first-time or novice campers should familiarize themselves with some of the basics of camping before embarking on their trips. Camping beginners can consider these tips to make the most of their time in the great outdoors.

- Practice in your backyard. If you have a backyard, practice setting up a tent and other camping equipment in the yard first so this becomes second nature by the time you reach the campsite. Sleep outside in the yard and learn the sounds of nature to get a feel for camping, including spending time in a sleeping bag. It's a lot easier to make initial adjustments in the backyard as opposed to at the campsite.

- Camp in warm weather. Novices may want to camp in warm weather first. This way you will not have to purchase a lot of gear just to keep warm. In addition, you'll have more daylight to set up your tent and enjoy long evenings outside.

- Rent or borrow gear at first. Try out gear before you purchase anything to figure out what you need. The experts at REI say that if budget allows, go bigger on the tent to give occupants a little more wiggle room, such as a six-person tent for a family of four. Experiment with sleeping



bags with different temperature ratings so you'll be able to gauge just how hot or cold you'll be inside of them.

- Check out other camp setups. Visit a campsite by tagging along with an avid camper to see what others use. You'll need to bring all of your supplies, so find out how people pack light and how they differentiate between necessities and luxuries. You'll likely want foldable camp chairs, lanterns, camp cooking utensils, a cooler, and a camp stove. If you camp at an established campsite, there may be grills or designated areas for campfires.

Camping is an enjoyable pastime that has inspired scores of devoted campers across the globe. Novices can learn the basics and then expand on their camping knowledge with each ensuing adventure.

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Sacoya is an outspoken, charismatic teenage girl of African-American descent who is always open to exploring new activities and settings. She loves to play active sports like soccer, basketball, cheer-leading, swimming, gymnastics, and dancing. Sacoya was on a local soccer team, as well as a Pop Warner Cheerleading team and really enjoyed it. Sacoya does very well in community activities, is very personable, and makes friends easily. She loves school and is on target academically with extra support in the classroom.

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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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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' AC'd Colonial! Custom SS Applianced 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**

WEBSTER LAKE - 305 Beacon Park! Lake View 1,280' 5 Rm Townhouse - 10 Acres Park Like Grounds w/Panoramic Lake Views! Yr Round Living or as 2nd Home - Summers on the Lake - Winters in Florida! Move-in Condition! Applianced Kit! Din Rm w/Slider to the Composite Deck! Frplc Liv Rm w/Wall to Wall Carpeting & French Dr to the Deck! Updated Half Bath! Spacious Master w/Wall of Closets & Full Bath w/Recent Sky Light! 2nd Bedroom w/Wall to Wall Carpeting & Full Bath just outside its Door! 2 Bdrms & 2.5 Updated Baths! Garage w/Opener! Lakeside Heated Pool & One of the Best Sandy Beaches on the Lake! Canoe Rack! Rented Boat Dock through 2022, Longer Possible! Great Fireworks Viewing! **\$335,000.00**

WEBSTER LAKE - 504 Treasure Island! 6 Room Townhouse Overlooking the Pool! 1,874 Sq Ft! Stainless Steel Applianced Granite Kitchen! Open Floor Plan! Dining Room - Full Mirrored Wall - Sliders to the Trex Deck! 2 Bedrooms! Master Bath! 2.5 Baths! Fireplaced Family Room! Garage! Central Air! Gas Heat! CVac! 2 BOAT SLIPS! Sandy Beach! Complex Recent Siding & Roof! **\$400,000.00**

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Featured Open House!

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DUDLEY - 10 MILL ROAD
Beautiful family home! 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, newer widows & heating system. Mini split system. Hardwoods. Lg eat-in kitchen /Corian counters & Island! Warming fireplace with handsome mantel. Generous dining room, spacious enough for your family gatherings. lower level fireplace family room, Harmon pellet insert! 2 car garage.
Reduced **\$340,000.**

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WATERFRONT THOMPSON - BECOLA RD

SORRY, SOLD!
5+ Acre Waterfront Land on "Little Pond/Schoolhouse Pond. Private Setting. Open Field. 250+ feet Waterfrontage. Dead end road!
\$179,900

WEBSTER - 23 EMERALD AVE.

ON DEPOSIT
Extraordinary Find! Beautiful 2 Family! Owner occupied with pride and it shows. Grand Front Entry! 3,012 Sq Ft - living area. 12 rooms, 6 bedrooms, 2 updated Baths. 2nd Flr - Granite Countertops! High ceilings & Hardwood Floors. Modern Kitchens. Manicured 13,525 SF Lot with a Hip roof 3 car garage!
\$439,900

WEBSTER - 135 LAKE STREET

SORRY SOLD!
A RARE FIND! A TRULY ABOVE AVERAGE-TOP NOTCH-HIGH QUALITY-TWO FAMILY! SPACIOUS, CLEAN, UPDATED! Apt# 2 - 1,536 SF+ & 3 BRs, 2nd Flr Apt# 1 - 1,290 SF+ & 2 BRs -1st floor. Oil & Natural Gas Heat. Hardwood flrst granite tops. Enjoy the L-Shaped Covered Farmers Porch! Level Lot!
\$399,900.

PUTNAM CT - 89 PERRY ST UNIT# 250

ON DEPOSIT
Heritage Pines Condo Town House - Everything one would expect and then more! 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, all Hardwood floors, granite, stainless steel appliances. central air, 2 decks, 2800 sq ft +/- of finished living area., and so much more!
\$319,900.

WOODSTOCK CT - 110 JOY RD

ON DEPOSIT
WELCOME TO MIDNIGHT FARM! 1876 Antique Colonial. Included separate Building - Studio/Store both situated on 2.5 Acres Professionally Landscaped! 5 Bedroom, Lg Living room, Fireplaced Dining room, Library, Master Bdrm, Renovated Kitchen! 3 Stall Garage! Picturesque Location!
\$455,000.

Featured Island Listing! Webster Lake - 22 Long Island

ON DEPOSIT
Once in a lifetime opportunity to own a Webster Lake Waterfront Cottage on Long Island! Properly named the "Grand View". Sandy beach, boat house! Antique Cottage w/5 Rms, 3 BRs, a stone fireplaced w/pellet stove, eat-in kitchen w/modern appliances, full bath! washer/dryer. Screened porches. Included, 25% ownership share in a main land waterfront lot at 38 Point Pleasant Rd, in sheltered Mumford Cove! land provides boat slip & winter storage. A FAR AWAY PLACE NEAR BY!
\$389,900.

WEBSTER • 22 EASTERN AVE

ON DEPOSIT
LOOKING FOR AN AFFORDABLE, HUMBLE ABODE, THAT WON'T BREAK THE BANK? Convenient Location, corner lot! 1288 SF+ - 4 BRs w/1st Flr Mstr BR, Half Bath! Eat-In Kitchen, Dining/Living Room Combination! 3-Season Porch. 2nd Flr - 3 BRs. Reshingled Roof, Replacement Windows, Updated Electric, Buderus Boiler. Part finished walk-out bsmt! Garage!
\$215,000

LAND WEBSTER/OXFORD/DUDLEY/DOUGLAS
Webster - Douglas Rd (Rte. 16) 26 ACRES on Sugarloaf Hill. 1000+/- ft of road frontage
SORRY SOLD! \$200,000
Oxford - 4 Leicester St - Approx. 8.47 ACRES! River Frontage Possible to be Subdivided!
\$89,900
Webster - Upper Gore w/View of the Lake! 1+ Acre! Artesian Well, Septic Design & Conservation - DONE.
\$115,000.
Webster - Cooper Road 2 Buildable Lots! Water & Sewer Access. Zoned Lake Res.! **ON DEPOSIT! Each \$24,500.**

WEBSTER • 233 - 235 NORTH MAIN STREET

SORRY, SOLD!
large 3 Family - a rare find! 1st Floor spacious 2 bedroom apartment. 2 - 2nd floor, 3 bedroom apartments Walkout basement to off street parking.
\$289,900.

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

ON DEPOSIT

Webster Lake - 300 Killdeer Island
OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS! A WEBSTER LAKE waterfront property on Killdeer Circle, you won't want to miss! Offers a prime waterfront location! 64' of water frontage and a gently sloping landscape to waters edge. Crystal clear, sandy bottomed shoreline. Everyday is a new day at the Lake! Nicely arranged floor plan. 5 rooms 2 bedrooms, 2 baths! Walk out lowerlevel to nice size patio! Garage.
\$650,000.

WEBSTER - 401 TREASURE ISLAND CONDO

SORRY, SOLD!
Deck & Slider to the Patio! Natural gas heat! 2 Boat Slips! Heated Pool! Natural Sandy Beach!
\$439,000.

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AUGUST'S SINGLE FAMILY HOMES REAL ESTATE MARKET

CHARLTON			
	August 2020	August 2021	Trend
Median Price	\$406,000	\$500,00	▲
Market Volume	\$5,344,664	\$5,407,400	▲
# of Homes Sold	14	11	▼
Avg Days on Market	36	40	▲
Month Supply Inv.	1.66	1.35	▼

OXFORD			
	August 2020	August 2021	Trend
Median Price	\$295,000	\$327,450	▲
Market Volume	\$3,839,100	\$4,078,400	▲
# of Homes Sold	13	12	▼
Avg Days on Market	25	21	▼
Month Supply Inv.	.99	1.01	▲

Contact us to find more about your neighborhood market & what your home is worth! Inventory is extremely low!

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 WEBSTER: Contemporary Cape, 3.3 acres, 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, updated kitchen, Master bath, Cathedral ceilings, Air conditioning 42 Rawson Rd ~ \$464,900	 CHARLTON: Waterfront, Log home on Glen Echo Lake, Great 2nd home, 2 bedrooms, Cathedral Ceiling, Walkout basement, Finish additional room. 199 Sunset Dr ~ \$329,000
 PAXTON: 1,900 sq. ft., 3 bedroom, 1.5 baths, Worcester/Paxton Line, Fireplace, 2 car detached garage 4 Boynton Pkwy ~ \$449,000	 HOLLAND: Waterfront Lot, Hamilton reservoir, Build or use as an escape to the lake Candlewood Dr ~ \$169,000
 ATHOL: Island Waterfront, 4 rooms, 2.6 acres, own your own Paradise Island, Pontoon Boat 54 Island #2 Lake Ellis ~ \$424,900	 WEBSTER 3 Room Apartment Available Now 1 Bedroom All Inclusive Utilities \$1500 Per Month

Major benefits to early holiday shopping

Some people begin their holiday countdowns the day after the festivities have come and gone. With 365 days until the next celebration, it may seem like one has all the time in the world to complete holiday tasks. But before long, holiday crunch time arrives and some people find themselves rushing around to buy gifts and other essentials.

A 2020 Gallup poll found the average holiday shopper planned to spend \$942 on gifts in 2019. The personal finance site Mint.com from Intuit reported roughly \$729 billion was spent during the holidays in 2019 — making it the biggest holiday season to date.

Though the pandemic changed the holiday shopping landscape in 2020, a return to normalcy appears to be on the horizon for the 2021 holiday shopping season. In fact,



Shop sales
A Coresight Research survey found that more than 25 percent of shoppers expected to start holiday shopping earlier than usual in 2020, when retailers offered their promotions earlier than normal to compensate for a decline in brick-and-mortar shopping. While it remains to be seen what retailers will do this year, shopping early means people are not beholden only to holiday sales promotions; they can take advantage of major sales throughout the year, including Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Memorial Day, Labor Day, back to school season, tax-free weekends (often offered in August), and even retailer-specific sales like Prime Day.

Avoid delays
Continued pressure on shipping companies as online shopping has become so prevalent inadvertently leads to delays. Couple this with supply chain disruptions due to the pandemic, and certain items may be out of stock or on back order.

“With potential product shortages continuing, if you see something you know you want, go ahead and buy it,” said Karl Haller, retail industry expert at IBM Global Business Services.

Shopping early also assists those who have to ship gifts domestically or internationally. Shopping early ensures those presents get to their recipients on time.

Getting a head start on holiday shopping is advantageous to shoppers who want to budget, save and ensure items are available.

the adage of “the early bird catches the worm” could help shoppers scoop up gifts and bargains before the holiday shopping rush begins. Individuals who start their holiday shopping early this year may discover there are many benefits to such an approach.

Spread out spending

Those who begin shopping well before the holiday season arrives can spread their spending over several months rather than a short period of time. This can make shopping more affordable for those who may have limited financial leeway. It may be easier to swallow spending an extra \$100 per month throughout the year as opposed to having a \$1,000 bill at year’s end.

Design ideas to give your home a farmhouse feel

Farmhouse style homes are having a moment. A 2020 survey from Homes.com asked more than 5,000 adults across the United States about their favorite house style from a list that included bohemian craftsman, mid-century modern ranch, French chateau, and Tudor, among others. Modern farmhouse was the runaway winner, as participants in 42 of the 50 states indicated this simple, cozy style was their favorite.

Home renovation projects can help homeowners put their own unique stamp on their homes, and such projects can be both aesthetic and functional in nature. The following are some farmhouse design elements homeowners can consider as they look to transform their home interiors with this popular style in mind.

• **Exposed beams:** Exposed beams instantly evoke images of a farmhouse. The home improvement experts at BobVila.com note that this rustic renovation project can utilize real wood or faux beams that look like the real thing. Decorative beams that have nothing to do with a home’s structural integrity can be installed by skilled do-it-yourselfers. However, even faux beams are heavy, and BobVila.com recommends homeowners have an engineer assess their existing structure prior to installation.

• **Distressed wood finishes:** Distressing is designed to make something look less than perfect.

Distressed wood finishes can be found throughout many farmhouse style homes. Furniture and picture frames can provide the distressed look farmhouse fans are looking for. This is a relatively inexpensive project that many homeowners can tackle on their own after watching some online tutorials that recommend the right tools and techniques to get the job done right.

• **Kitchen sink:** Many components combine to create a truly classic farmhouse kitchen. But perhaps no component is more essential than the classic farmhouse sink. The renovation experts at HGTV note that a classic farmhouse sink features a deep, wide basin. Farmhouse sinks are large enough to handle all the dishes that come after a big family meal. Old-fashioned porcelain sinks are worth consideration by homeowners who want their kitchen sinks to evoke a traditional farmhouse feel.

• **Countertops:** HGTV recommends butcher block countertops for homeowners who favor European farmhouse style. Homeowners overhauling their kitchens to create a farmhouse feel should consider installing a large island with a walnut butcher block countertop for an authentic farmhouse feel.

Farmhouse style homes are wildly popular. Some simple renovations can help homeowners with a fondness for farmhouse style bring this classic look into their homes.

Open House Directory

(C) Condo	(X) Condo	(M) Multi-Family	(T) Townhouse
(B) Business	(U) Duplex	(S) Single Family	(A) Adult Community
(P) Land	(L) Mobile Home	(A) Apartment	(W) Waterfront
ADDRESS			
STYLE			
TIME			
PRICE			
REALTOR/SELLER/PHONE			
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12			
DUDLEY			
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Safety first when clearing land

New homeowners often see their homes as blank canvases. Looking at a home as a blank canvas is typically associated with its interior, but it also can apply to landscaping.

Homes are empty of furniture and decorative items like photos and art on the walls when new homeowners move in. That makes it easy to see the interior of a home as a blank canvas. But that's not

always so easy in the garden or the yard, where brush, overgrown plants or trees and other eyesores might have been left behind by the previous owners. A landscape must be cleared out before it can be seen as a blank canvas. Though clearing land may seem like a straightforward process, no one knows what lies beneath overgrowth or neglected areas of a yard or garden. Do-it-yourselfers can typically clear land on their own, but some safety strategies should be kept in mind to ensure the process goes smoothly.

utility companies before they begin to clear any land so they can determine if any underground lines are beneath areas they intend to clear out.

- Get a lay of the land. Carefully inspect the area to be cleared prior to starting the project. Inspections can reveal the density of any vegetation that may need to be removed and reveal if there are any harmful plants like poison ivy growing. Many DIYers can remove small trees on their own, but a professional tree service may be necessary for large trees or those located close to the house. Homeowners won't want to cut down a tree, even a small one, if it can potentially fall onto the house. In addition, homeowners who are unfamiliar with chippers or stump grinders may be better off hiring a tree service to clear trees.

- Don't go it alone. No one should clear land alone. Even small projects are best tackled by at least two people. Should someone get injured during the project, the presence of another person ensures someone can immediately call for help. In addition, clearing land can be more difficult than it appears, and having at least two people to pull old shrubs or carry tree branches reduces the risk of injury.

Safety should be the utmost priority as homeowners prepare to clear land on their properties.

IDA
continued from page A1

and hurricanes in warmer months, to ice storms and blizzards in the winter, New England residents have to be ready for all kinds of wild weather.

"Emergency Preparedness Month is a time each year to make ourselves and our families better prepared," said Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito. "While MEMA and other agencies continue to strengthen our state's preparedness for the next disaster, we encourage the Commonwealth's residents and businesses to take simple steps to prepare before the next emergency."

Added Acting Public Safety and Security Secretary Director Terrence Reidy, "Massachusetts faces a variety of hazards and threats that can cause damage. Residents can improve their personal preparedness and build community resilience by knowing their risks, taking steps to prepare themselves, and knowing what to do in an emergency."

MEMA officials will play a pivotal role in the monthlong preparedness campaign. MEMA is the agency charged with ensuring the state is prepared to withstand all types of emergencies and disasters, including natural hazards, accidents, deliberate attacks, and technological and infrastructure failures.

"Even though getting prepared may seem overwhelming, it can be simplified by breaking it down into smaller, more manageable steps," said MEMA Deputy Director Pat Carnevale. "We encourage you to complete one task

each day throughout the month and you'll be better prepared by the end of the month."

A few preparedness steps include ensuring you have flashlights and extra batteries; stocking up on bottled water and other supplies; readying your vehicle with blankets, water, and medical supplies in case you become stranded on the road in a storm; and making sure your home is winter-ready.

During September, MEMA and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health will share information on their respective social media accounts about emergency preparedness topics. These include emergency planning, building an emergency kit, preparing for disasters, youth preparedness, and community preparedness. Meanwhile, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation will feature signage along highways to raise awareness of Emergency Preparedness Month.

Additionally, MEMA is continuing to expand partnerships with federal, state, and local government agencies, as well as the private sector, families, nonprofits, and businesses.

"MEMA ensures the Commonwealth's ability to rapidly recover from large and small disasters by assessing and mitigating threats and hazards, enhancing preparedness, ensuring effective responses, and strengthening our capacity to rebuild and recover," read a statement released by the agency.

For additional information about MEMA and emergency preparedness, visit www.mass.gov/mema.

- Wear appropriate PPE. Personal protective equipment should be worn when clearing land. The appropriate PPE when clearing land includes attire and other gear that many homeowners likely already have on hand. A long-sleeve shirt, puncture proof pants and gloves and slip-resistant work boots should be worn when clearing land. Homeowners also may want to invest in a hard hat if they will be cutting branches off of trees or cutting trees down. A face shield also may be a good bet depending on the scale and potential dangers of the project.

- Contact your utility company. Overhead power and telephone lines are visible to the naked eye, and homeowners should be conscious of those lines as they cut any high branches. But underground lines are not visible, and that can make clearing land dangerous. Homeowners are urged to contact their

GOLF
continued from page A1

raised support HFA operations and, "help lower the costs of our programs, in keeping with the vision of our founder, Samuel Hitchcock.

Golfers interested in taking advantage of mid-September's perfect weather can sign up for this event, at HFA's Web site: www.hitchcockacademy.org or contact

them at 413-245-9977. Businesses can still sponsor a hole for just \$100 in support of this treasured community asset.

Skowrya says she is optimistic that this fundraiser will build enough support to become an annual event.

"I think Samuel Austin Hitchcock would be pleased that the community he cared so much about recognizes that their patronage is essential to maintaining his vision," Skowrya said.

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