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SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO News@StonebridgePress.news Thursday, November 17, 2022 - Friday, November 18, 2022

Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale celebrates centennial

Sturbridge Board of Selectmen Chairwoman Mary Blanchard presents Pastor David W. Cote with a congratulatory proclamation from the Town of Sturbridge.

STURBRIDGE — The Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale celebrated 100 years of faith, service, and community with a centennial service on Sunday, Nov. 13, according to Pastor David W. Cote, M.Div.

The service included congratulatory messages from The American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts, the Southern New England Conference United Church of Christ, and the Sturbridge Board of Selectman, and recognition of eighteen individuals whose membership in the church has spanned fifty or more years.

Chairwoman Mary Blanchard presented the congregation with a congratulatory proclamation from the

Executive Board President Holice Turnbow (front right) recognized long-time Federated Church Members, Ron and Barbara Stietzel, Rick LaVergne, Ray Simpson, Ann Gibson, Linda Misiaszek, and Chris and Bob Knight.

Please Read **CENTENNIAL**, page **A18**

Charlton providing energy cost relief to residents with CEA renewal

CHARLTON — The Town has renewed its Charlton Community Electricity Aggregation (Charlton CEA) contract for two years, offering significant winter energy price relief for enrolled participants. The Town has again bid for electric supply together with the Towns of Millbury and Oxford.

Charlton residents currently participating in the Community Electricity Aggregation program will automatically receive the new prices, which will be fixed for two years (from December 2022 through December 2024). Charlton CEA's new electricity supplier will be Direct Energy Services. This exciting news comes on the heels of National Grid's recent proposal of significant rate hikes for the coming winter months.

National Grid proposed that as of Nov. 1, the default Residential Basic Service Fixed supply rate will be 33.891 cents/kWh, which is significantly higher than the new default Charlton Standard supply rate of 15.540 cents/kWh. National Grid's rates change twice a year for Residential and Small Business customers on May 1 and Nov. 1, but Charlton CEA's new rates will be fixed from December 2022 to December 2024. Future savings cannot be guaranteed.

Charlton residents can confirm that they are enrolled in Charlton Community Electricity Aggregation by looking at their utility bills.

Please Read **CEA**, page **A18**

HOLIDAY MAKES FOR EARLY DEADLINES

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the submission deadline for any press releases and letters to the Editor intended for publication in next week's editions of the Charlton Villager, Sturbridge Villager, and Southbridge News has been moved up to Friday, Nov. 18 at 4 p.m. Submissions can be e-mailed to news@stonebridgepress.news.

Our staff would like to wish our readers a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

Upgrades, staffing highlight school district's five-year Tech Plan

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON — The Dudley Charlton Regional School District is looking ahead to the future of technology in the district with several required upgrades in the pipeline.

The Dudley Charlton Regional School Committee hosted a brief update from District Tech Director Dan D'Arcangelo on Nov. 9 who provided an update on the district's Technology Plan looking ahead to 2027. The five-year plan includes proposed changes and upgrades to infrastructure, cybersecurity, hardware, software, and the tech department in general as well as a potential spending plan to provide the necessary resources to keep the district up to date.

D'Arcangelo began by providing updates on cybersecurity and wireless connectivity, two of the earliest changes in the five-year plan.

"We've already finished upgrading the antivirus to a newer, next-gen antivirus which hopefully will protect the machines better than the old ones did. It offers advanced protection and response protocols that most of the insurance companies want organizations to have."

Please Read **TECH PLAN**, page **A18**

Southbridge voters prefer Amore, McMahon

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE — In some alternate reality, the state as a whole voted the way Southbridge, Sturbridge and Charlton did last week. That world has results that look quite a bit different from ours.

Although Maura Healey is still governor there, Galvin retains his Secretary of State seat, Deborah Goldberg still has her job as Treasurer, and Richard Neal remains US Representative, that world has Anthony Amore as Auditor and James McMahon as Attorney General. Furthermore, three of the four ballot questions there failed; only Question 2 is now law.

In some other world-line that's even farther away from ours, Cristina Crawford won the Treasurer's race and Gloria

Democratic activists crowd the corner outside

Please Read **RESULTS**, page **A3**

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Nichols College to host holiday kickoff celebration

DUDLEY — Nichols College will host its second annual Light up the Hill on Thursday, Dec. 1, at 5 p.m. on the Nichols campus.

Residents from the area towns of Dudley, Webster, Oxford and Charlton are invited to join the campus community in ringing in the 2022 holiday season with several activities, including a tree and Menorah lighting, Christmas caroling, a winter market featuring student entrepreneurs, firepits, cocoa and cookies.

Non-perishable and personal care items will also be collected for the Bison Pantry to benefit students confronting food insecurity.

For more information, contact Cari Cyr in the Nichols College President's Office at cari.cyr@nichols.edu.



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RESULTS

continued from page A1

Caballero-Roca is now Auditor-elect. In our reality, Crawford's Libertarian Party regained ballot status as an official party for the next two years with her 23 percent showing since there was no Republican in that race. Caballero-Roca's Green-Rainbow Party did not get the 3 percent required in either of its two races, nor did the Libertarians in any other race but Crawford's. Another new party, the Worker's Party, also fielded a candidate who didn't reach that level.

Despite just getting 2.9 percent, Caballero-Roca remains undaunted, and hopes others will take her example and seek office. She noted she'd like to try for a state rep seat at some point in the future, having also run for Holyoke mayor previously.

"If you really believe in what you are about to embark on, do it!" she said by email. "Regardless of your circumstances, do it! You are not alone, and this is a struggle millions of people are fighting for: for our rights to be treated as human beings, for the children, for the future, for all of us and the planet. Do it because you believe it is the right thing to do and it is the only way we can effect change in our communities!"

Crawford, on the other hand, said she isn't sure whether she'd run again, noting she benefited from having no Republican in the race.

"However, I learned a lot, and have a lot of knowledge that I didn't have before. I think in the future I would be a good support person for a better candidate," Crawford said.

For Crawford, the real need is to end the domination of the two major parties.

"I really think that we need to attack the two party system and convince the public to vote independent. Not third party," she said by email. "I say this as someone who has been involved in a third party for over 40 years. I'm certainly not quitting, and might run as Libertarian again, but I have doubts about that."

Of the people we spoke to on Election Day itself, their thoughts seem most similar to those of Lauren Gunagan, a Tantasqua junior who was holding signs for the Democrats outside Sturbridge Town Hall as the sun went down. She said she sees this election as a sign of young people "starting to mobilize for the coun-



Charlton's polls were quite busy after nightfall last Tuesday.

try and become more politically aware." To her, youths should see that it is "incredibly rewarding to be part of the future we'll be living in one day" and they need to participate now in part because the world is becoming "increasingly more dangerous."

"The world is growing more and more hostile, but we're the beacons of hope," Gunagan said. "... We need to rally for what we're passionate about, even in adversity."

To Nelson Burlingame, a Charlton voter, "tonight's going to tell us a lot about what people think" about what he sees the key issues to be, particularly fuel costs and inflation. At the time, he was hoping for a stronger showing in favor of slowing change down, particularly regarding "green" technology. Although he said "everybody wants green to a point, but we're pushing too hard, too fast" and need to work on making the technology more effective. To him, the goal of ending fossil fuels by 2050 isn't viable with current technology, for various reasons.

Kelly Yap, on the other hand, argued the primary issues were that "our rights are slowly being taken away," in part because there are "too many churches involved" in politics. She got involved because "it all starts at the local level."

Carol Willard was less philosophical. She said she came out to vote specifically because her neighbor was running for office and thought "all of the questions were important."

To Crawford, one factor in being the candidate was the fact she was her party's only woman; it was her first run for public office. "We had candidates for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Auditor and Secretary of State, but nobody

for Treasurer. Furthermore those candidates were all male, so I thought we needed a female to balance the ticket. It was easy to add my name to the petition."

It was equally easy for Caballero-Roca, who saw many of the same issues still in play as during her previous Holyoke mayoral campaign. "I decided to run this year for the same reasons, as my right to speak truth to power and to position myself as a voice for change, better leadership, and representation of the people and elevate the conversation, so as to break the cycle of the same political circles in Beacon Hill who want to hold on to power while making empty promises to the people, where corruption and lack of transparency and lack of accountability keep dominating the way they keep doing politics as business as usual."

Overall, turnout was high – around 50 percent in all three communities, which Charlton's Town Clerk Karen Lacroix noted was approaching that for a presidential election. Charlton had just 500 in-person early voters and 2,334 mail-in ballots, but mailed out another 500 that were not returned. In Southbridge, there were 2004 early voters and 2267 voted at the polls.

LaCroix said she didn't think early voting needed to be two weeks long, but was generally happy with the turnout.

"It's great. That's what we want – people to vote," she said before going to help a man cast a provisional ballot because his voter registration at the Registry of Motor Vehicles somehow didn't get sent to Charlton.

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



Gloria Caballero-Roca talks to a potential voter during a stand out the Saturday before Election Day.

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2050 Connections – What Are Your Transportation Goals for Southern Worcester County?

The Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) is working on their Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), called 2050 Connections. This plan is updated every four years to reflect the transportation priorities of residents of Central Massachusetts. As part of the LRTP effort, a financial plan is developed which includes the major infrastructure projects that are candidates for federal funds.

August, September, and October were busy months for CMRPC staff. Between outreach events, regional infrastructure meetings and other methods of targeted outreach, the public participation portion of the LRTP has been quite a success. Nonetheless, we are still hoping to see survey responses roll in throughout the beginning of December. Our 2050 Connections survey can be found on the 2050 Connections Hubsite, <http://www.cmrpc.org/2050Connections>, under the "participate" tab, or on the CMRPC website under the "transportation" tab.

As a part of the public outreach portion of this LRTP, CMRPC staff tabled at many public events. One of the most recurring conversations concerning transportation that we had at these outreach events involved public transit. Regarding public transit, we recognize all the needs of older adults, young children and those living with disabilities and strive to represent them in our plan. CMRPC staff are constantly looking for ways in which we can help our residents, whether that is helping towns find the grants they need for infrastructure improvement or amplifying the voices of those who experience transportation related stressors. If you or someone you know would like to share their opinions and goals related to transportation in the region, we strongly recommend filling out our online survey or reaching out via Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter.

Moreover, CMRPC staff have been working together to meet with each town to discuss all topics related to infrastructure that could be incorporated into our LRTP. Specifically, we have met with town officials and infrastructure staff to learn more about their thoughts and experiences with transportation and related topics. Such topics include, but are not limited to, bus systems and bus stops, sidewalks and other pedestrian infrastructure, the East-West rail project, and electric vehicle charging stations. To learn more about these Sub-Regional Infrastructure Summits, please read the CMRPC October newsletter on the CMRPC website under "about us; CMRPC newsletters".

Please consider filling out our survey to tell us what your transportation priorities are and how you envision the future of this region!

Please visit our Hubsite CMRPC.org/2050Connections for more information on the development of the LRTP. Additionally, please be sure to fill out the 2050 Connections survey on the Hubsite. Any other questions, please email gjarvis@cmrpc.org to speak with CMRPC's Public Outreach Coordinator.

Charlton UMC hosting turkey dinner

CHARLTON — The Men's Club is hosting a scrumptious turkey dinner at Charlton City United Methodist Church (74 Stafford St.) on Saturday, Nov. 19 from 5 to 7 p.m. Come and enjoy food and fellowship with friends and neighbors.

Turkey, vegetables, cranberry sauce, and your choice of beverage, along with a delectable dessert, will be served. As always there will be continuous serving and take-out. Adults \$15, children six through 12 \$8, children five and under free.

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Taking a tour through Southbridge history



BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBIDGE — About 20 people got a crash course in architectural history last week, as the library’s Megan Garlie summarized some of her ongoing research into the town’s past.

Some of the places she described are still around, often hidden in much expanded buildings. Some disappeared in various ways many years ago. And some of the people who built them are now well-known as mailing addresses, if not for who they were.

Of course, the history we see was built into a far longer past, one dating to at least 8000 years ago, when the glaciers retreated, and our region became home to a largely-oak forest. At some point, people started living here, living a hunter-gatherer lifestyle for thou-

sands of years with gradual development of agriculture and villages along the lakes and rivers.

The Southbridge/Sturbridge area “was an important Native American crossroads from both a land and water perspective,” she noted. The Quinebaug River and its tributaries featured numerous good fishing sites, fords and fertile spots, with at least two major Native trails running from the river south into Connecticut and east-west from the coast to the Connecticut River.

The first European colonists arrived in the early 1700s, with Experience Deneson the first to actually be born in what’s now Southbridge in 1732. (Then, the town was split between areas claimed by Sturbridge, Dudley and Charlton, with a sliver owned by Connecticut.) Nearby resident Kathy LaPriore said that site, Deneson Rock off Dennison Drive (yes, the spelling changed over time), is now owned by the town, with a public-access right of way, although she has heard that neighboring owners sometimes don’t know it’s public.

Garlie said the colonists formed their first church the following year on the site of today’s Central Baptist Church. Like much of Southbridge history, it was “non-traditional,” she noted. Instead of being a Congregationalist community as most in Massachusetts then were, it was shared by 60 Congregationalist families (the descendants of the Puritans), 120 Baptists, and a smattering of Methodists and Universalists.

For most of the first century, Southbridge was almost entirely agrarian, populated by “dispersed farmsteads with a cluster of buildings near the center.” That center, at what’s now Elm and Main, featured the town’s first businesses – Freeman Tavern, John Gray’s clothing shop in 1790, the first common on Main Street (not today’s common; that was donated by the AO much later), the church, and few other structures.

In 1800, 87 residents got tired of hiking to Sturbridge for public activities and petitioned the Legislature to create a new poll parish. Not much happened for

years; in 1808, a new set of owners were “ordered to act as the original petitioners in parish affairs.” It took until 1816 for Boston to finally grant permission for the creation of a new town, with residents weighing names that included Vienna and Honest Town.

By then, the town was already starting to industrialize. That decade saw the establishment of a cotton mill north of the river with housing on Paige Hill, the Russell Harrington gun and knife factory, the first brick mill in Globe Village (Globe Manufacturing), the Litchfield Shuttle Works.

Such development came with “a tripling of the population” and the influx of a “diverse ethnic composition” to work them. Garlie said such workers usually had 12-hour shifts making a monthly salary of \$10-\$18 for adults, \$8-10 for children. The mills ran general stores at which those workers obtained most things, settling their accounts “every three to six months” and often finding themselves in long-term debt.

Many of the first arrivals were Irish, but French-Canadians started coming in 1830. The latter initially settled mostly in the Globe area, which briefly tried to secede from the rest of town in the 1850s as “Washburn,” according to a Historical Society map. Garlie noted the French concentration there might have played a role, and old documents also indicate that period saw a political shift between Whigs and Democrats that included the demise of the Globe post office.

When Garlie turned to looking at specific buildings, she roughly equally split them between residences, public sites and commercial sites. Some of the more obvious of the latter were the Alden/Delehanty Block in Globe Village (now housing Fins & Tales but originally housing several businesses that became entirely Delehanty furniture during the 20th century); Hamilton Woolen Mill and its old print works; the “Mill Church” (Evangelical Free Union Church, now the Anglican Church); and the town’s Globe Fire Station (now a maintenance building for the schools).

Regarding individual homes, Garlie highlighted places all over town, many of them first written about by Eileen Woodford. Several were associated with the mills, including two homes of Hamilton’s agents. But others pre-date that era including the Freeman Pratt Farm, whose original 1750 section remains alongside the main house built in 1845; Lebanon Hill’s Ammidown-

Harding House (she noted that road was “originally a trail and is one of the community’s oldest roads”); and Pleasant Street’s William McKinstry House, one of the few pre-1816 homes that “hasn’t been turned into an ell or extension of a later house,” she noted.

“This research has led to a lot more questions that answers for me,” she added.

Referring to the Ammidown-Harding House, one attendee who didn’t give her name said she routinely walks by that and has long thought “They did a really beautiful recreation of an old house. But it’s actually old.”

Barbara Day recalled her grandmother working in the local mills. In those days, she and her friends went to Worcester to shop “in the better kind of stores. ... It was a whole society.” She also noted she was “just amazed at how spread out the town was.”

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

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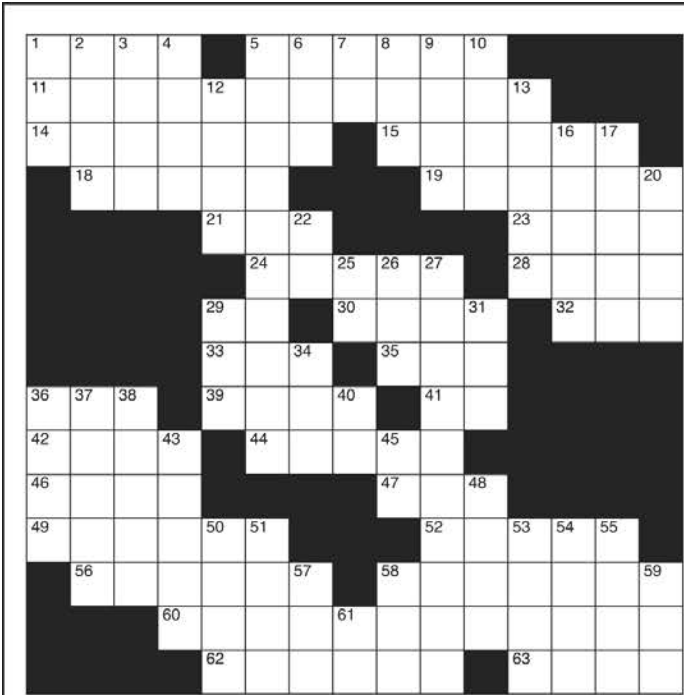
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Greek mountain

5. One dependent on something

11. Gratitude

14. Glazed ceramic ware

15. Paddling

18. Step

19. More greasy

21. Upper-class young woman

23. Light beige

24. Belief in a supreme being

28. Indigenous people of Scandinavia

29. A beloved princess

30. Transfer property

32. Field force unit

33. Automated teller
35. When you hope to get there

36. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)

39. Politicians Fischer and Conroy are two

41. Blood type

42. Stringed instrument

44. Curses

46. Barbary sheep

47. Belonging to a thing

49. Supporters

52. Leaf-footed bug

56. A shower of water

58. Attribute to

60. Intermittent

62. Soda waters

63. Scottish island

CLUES DOWN

1. Klutz

2. Relaxing places

3. Expel saliva

4. The extended location of something

5. Certified

6. Cease to exist

7. Powerful legal pro

8. The OJ trial judge

9. Popular greeting

10. “90210” actress Spelling

12. __ Blyton, children’s author

13. “This Is Us” star Fitch

16. Battery cell with a nickel alode

17. Full of bacteria

20. Remains of an old building

22. Exist

25. It gets you into places

26. Witness

27. The spreading of a disease to another part of the body
29. Father

31. Touch gently

34. Licensed for Wall Street

36. Herring-like fish

37. Lute used in N. Indian music

38. Mirabel shouldn’t talk about him

40. Atomic #62

43. Religious

45. Silvery-white metal (abbr.)

48. Influential civil rights organization

50. Acknowledgment (abbr.)

51. Turn away

53. Kidney disease (abbr.)

54. Smooth-feeling fabric

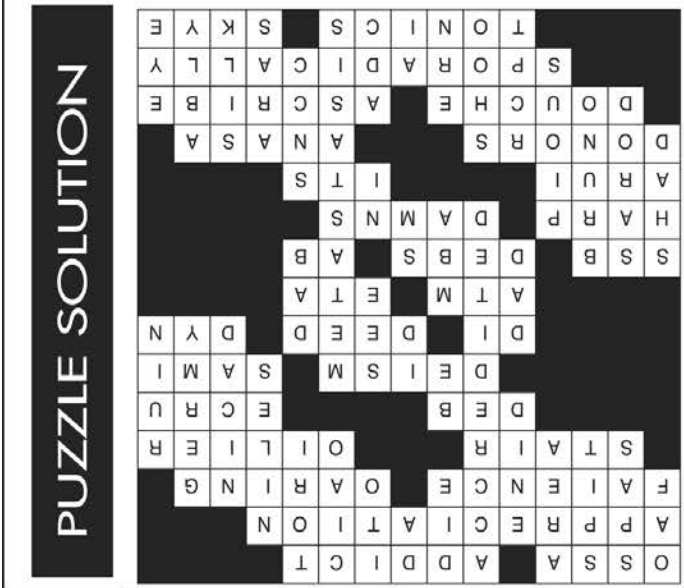
55. Competently

57. Sea eagle

58. General’s assistant (abbr.)

59. It helps you see

61. Emerging technology



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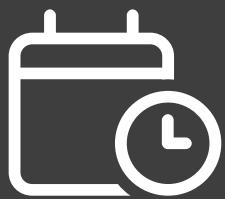
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Submerged canoes open doors to Nipmuc history



Photo Gus Steeves
Cheryl Stedtler, known as Watching Crow among the Nipmuc, takes a moment with her model of a mishoon.

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — For nearly two decades now, Cheryl Stedtler’s main fascination has been underwater, specifically a pair of ancient dugout canoes at the bottom of Lake Quinsigamond.

Back in 2001, a diver from Connecticut saw something unusual in the lake and contacted the state about the permitting process to study it. When he found out how complex that is, he did something decidedly modern – he put its location on eBay for auction. Stedtler heard about it and bid, but a Boston antique dealer outbid her.

She talked to him about what the find would mean to the Nipmuc tribe, and he let her have it. She told the story of the

resulting Project Mishoon to about 30 people at the Dudley Grange last week. The project’s Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/projectmishoon/> and a WPI report on the beginning of this project from 2001 is at <https://digital.wpi.edu/pdfviewer/6t053g42g>.

At that beginning, she recalled, nobody really knew what was there, so she found a state diver willing to go down and take a look. Unfortunately, the original diver never showed up to mark the site, so her diver swam around for an hour and was just about to give up when he saw an odd pattern of rocks that “might be a dugout” just south of the Route 9 bridge.

It was enough for Stedtler to jump through the hoops for a Cultural Resource Management “reconnaissance permit,” which would allow the tribe to inspect the site and identify it, but not move it. Sure enough, it was a mishoon – a centuries-old, heavy Nipmuc dugout canoe made from the bole of a tree, rather than the more famous, light-weight birchbark canoe. Tiny wood samples were dated to the mid-1600s.

In 2007, underwater cameras gave her team a surprise, and she recalls it vividly. The scientist expressed it this way: “How do you feel about twins? There are two there, not one.”

A second mishoon was just 50 feet away. They’ve since found a third, and there are only two other documented historical mishoonash (the Nipmuc plural word) in existence. The other two – one in Weymouth, one from Hubbardston – are “not in great condition” and “not properly preserved,” she noted.

Stedtler said the two closest boats had probably been intentionally sunk with rocks to protect them over winter or to hide them, but they somehow slid from near shore to points about 30 feet deep. Nobody’s sure what happened, and sev-

eral hypotheses exist, including storms, the effect of shifting ice, and even the fact there was a serious earthquake in the 1700s. But whatever did it, she said she’s pretty sure that slide to the cold depths, which left them partly buried, is what preserved the boats for more than three centuries.

Although the rocks themselves are just whatever’s typical of the area, Stedtler said the whole scene “tells us about storage and tradition. ... It’s a thread going from my Ancestors to me to the youth” because she encourages young people to work the site.

That’s also true of the images of the boats themselves. One survey used side-scan sonar to produce the first such “images of mishoonash anywhere.” Although it “looks like a log,” its distinguishing feature is that it’s bright in the center because the sonar reflects more off the harder rocks than the wood, and that can help researchers identify others elsewhere.

As the technology to look at them has improved, they’ve found curious features that raise questions. For Stedtler, one of the more interesting is the fact both of the “twins” have narrow ledges and unusual notches that might show they were used as outriggers or connected catamaran-style by a now-missing central piece.

The third boat, found three months after the second, is “not in good condition.” It did, however, encourage the state to expand the Nipmuc permit to cover the whole lake, and they’ve scanned a lot of it. That’s resulted in finding a lot of strange things including cars, guns, old amusement park devices, a vault, 19th century steamers, a dock, horse carts, and many 55-gallon drums.

Today, the tribe is discussing what to do with the mishoonash – whether to

excavate and preserve one or all of them, or just protect them in situ. Stedtler said if they do excavate, they do have a place to store one or both boats in large tanks of lake water while they slowly replace the water in the wood with a preservative (probably propylene glycol). That process can take three to five years, but whether it’s worth doing depends on “how structurally sound it is” after being raised.

More importantly, though, “this whole project has brought attention to relearning this tradition” of making and using mishoonash, she said. “It’s such a tangible connection to our Ancestors” and the water itself. That’s important to the Nipmuc, whose name means “Freshwater People;” many of their pre-colonial villages were on lakes across central Massachusetts and parts of northern Connecticut, and they were closely related (by language, culture and marriage) to the other Algonquian tribes of the region.

The tribe has since started making new ones based on the old designs, creating their first one in centuries last year. It’s a complex, laborious process that requires cutting down a white pine or chestnut tree, burning the tree’s core slowly, and scraping out the ashes over a week of round-the-clock work. The whole community supports the team of workers by providing food, songs, other entertainment, and ceremony, which culminates when the new mishoon is launched.

“Its life has changed from being a tree to being a boat, so it’s introduced to the water” with ritual, Stedtler said. She noted mishoonash were generally built where they were used, because they’re too heavy to carry any distance.

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



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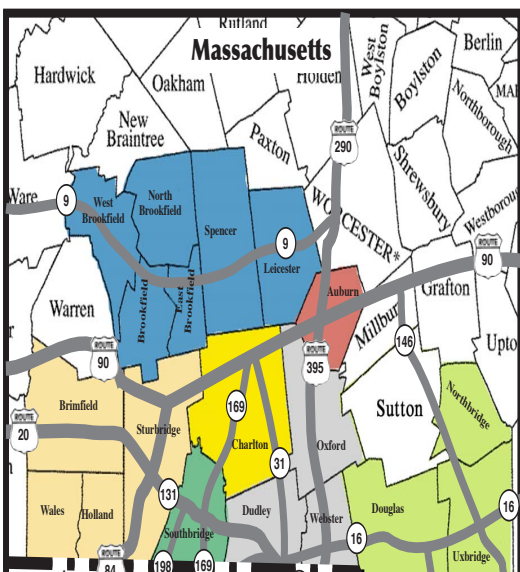
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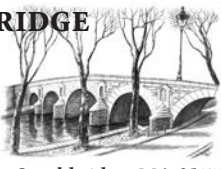


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Put a little love in your heart

Alongside the bright red ribbons, boughs of holly, and countless images of Jolly old Saint Nick that seem to greet us everywhere we go during the holidays, those of you who have braved the malls or, better yet, browsed the shops in your own community so far this season have likely encountered another holiday icon in your travels — the dedicated volunteers who bundle up and brave the chilly air to collect donations for organizations such as the Salvation Army.

Always seeming to be ready with a cheerful greeting and a warm smile for the crowds of shoppers who file past them every day, these hearty souls serve as an important reminder to all of us that now, more than any other time of year, is the time to turn our thoughts toward the less fortunate among us ... and that sometimes, the greatest gift of all can be a helping hand in a time of need.

With the cloud of economic uncertainty leading many of us to tighten our belts more than usual when it comes to our holiday shopping this year, and the stress of dealing with family politics or traveling away from home for the holidays occupying our thoughts, it can be all too easy to forget that times are that much tougher for those who have been victimized by the ravages of COVID and its aftermath. Right here in our own backyard, there are a great many families who have fallen on hard times, often through no fault of their own, and have nowhere left to turn for help but the generosity of strangers.

Fortunately, there are no shortage of charitable organizations scattered throughout the area that are prepared to meet the growing demand for assistance, but only with the support of their respective communities. So, whether it be through a donation of canned goods to your local food pantry; a donation of used clothing to your local thrift shop; or simply by slipping a handful of bills into one of the bright red Salvation Army coffers manned by those spirited, bell ringing volunteers, we encourage our readers to think of their fellow man and put a little love in their hearts, as Jackie DeShannon once sang, and remind themselves of the true meaning of the season by offering a helping hand to their neighbors in need.



POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

TOBY
MOORE

We’ve all been disgusted by something in our lives.

Disgust is a feeling of aversion a person has towards something offensive. It can take the form of a mild dislike or intense loathing. Disgust has the effect of causing a person to physically turn away from what is disgusting to them.

If you saw hundreds of maggots worming through your food, you’d feel

Letter submission policy

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

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

OPINION

Turkey Tips and Tricks Is a Roth IRA conversion right for you?

Few holidays compare to a traditional Thanksgiving celebration. Unlike Christmas, which can be a rush of excitement and energy, Thanksgiving provides extended families the perfect pause to relax and simply enjoy each other’s company.

Whether you’re cooking at home or traveling this Thanksgiving, the highlight of an annual feast is undoubtedly the turkey, served up as a crowning centerpiece of the both the table and the holiday. Read on for some kitchen tips from experts (some old, some new) sure to help you achieve a Norman Rockwell-worthy Thanksgiving celebration.

**

Not sure how big a turkey to buy? A general rule of thumb is to allow one pound of uncooked turkey per person from an 8 to 12 pound turkey. Larger birds have a larger proportion of meat to bones, so three quarters of a pound per person should serve well when purchasing heavier birds.

Want a more precise estimate? Butterball.com offers a” Plan Perfect Portions Calculators and Conversions” on its website that calculates the exact amount of turkey and stuffing per person, as well as how long it will take to thaw a frozen turkey.

Other tools on the website include a timing checklist, temperature conversions and a weights and measures conversion.

**

If you buy a frozen turkey, it is important to thaw it safely. The National Turkey Federation offers the following guidelines to properly defrosting frozen turkeys: Like all protein foods, should be thawed in the refrigerator, never at room temperature. When foods are thawed at room temperature, surface bacteria can rapidly multiply to dangerous levels at temperatures of 40 degrees F and above. For safety and superior quality, leave turkey in the original packaging and place in a shallow pan. Thaw, in the refrigerator, using the simple formula: whole turkeys thaw at a rate of four to five pounds per 24 hours. Example: A 15-pound frozen bird will take three to four full days to thaw in the refrigerator. To speed thawing, keep turkey in the original tightly sealed bag and place in a clean and sanitized sink or pan. Submerge in cold water and change the cold water every 30 minutes. The turkey will take about 30 minutes per pound to thaw. Refrigerate (at 40 degrees F or below) or cook the turkey when it is thawed. Do not refreeze uncooked, defrosted turkey.

**

Stuffing is a delicious requisite for most Thanksgiving meals, but if you plan on stuffing the turkey it’s important not to do so until just before it is placed in the oven for roasting. If preparing the stuffing ahead of time, wet and dry ingredients should be refrigerated separately and combined right before stuffing the turkey. The turkey should be stuffed loosely, with about three quar-



TAKE
THE
HINT

KAREN
TRAINOR

ters of a cup of stuffing per pound of turkey. It’s also important to test the internal temperature of the stuffing as well as the turkey. The internal temperature in the center of the stuffing should register 160 to 165 degrees F.

**

Did you know even a pre basted bird can benefit from hand basting? Basting gives your bird color, crisps the skin and helps hold in juices. Rub the bird with a few tablespoons of softened butter and pour two cups of turkey broth, chicken broth or water into your roasting pan. Baste every half hour or so. And be sure to baste quickly, because the oven temperature will reduce every time you open the oven door.

**

Love a turkey with crispy skin? The secret is to blot all excess moisture out with paper towels before seasoning and cooking. Otherwise, steam from the moisture creates steam and prevents it crisping up.

**

Deep frying a holiday turkey is a popular tradition. Experts say turkeys from about eight to 12 pounds are the perfect size for deep frying. And keep in mind the oil you use should have a high smoke toleration. Only oils that have high smoke points should be used. According to the National Turkey Federation, peanut, refined canola, corn oil, rice oil and peanut oil are all good candidates.

**

Here’s a tip that’s appeared in this column before, but it’s worth repeating: Experts claim there are three simple secrets to perfect homemade gravy: 1. Cook the flour in the fat thoroughly before adding liquid to avoid a starchy flavor; 2. Avoid lumps by stirring in the flour with a wire whisk; and 3. The key to best flavor is salting it right.

**

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

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

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

Disgust can be a motivator

revolted enough to throw it away and maybe lose your appetite for a while! If you saw someone do something evil, you’d be upset enough to tell someone about it and call the police. If you hear someone say something that offends you, you may feel unpleasant enough never to see them again.

What happens when you’ve had too much alcohol and have a terrible hangover that ruins your day? Are you disgusted enough to quit and maybe go to rehab?

What happens when you’ve been eating so much that you’re far from achieving your weight loss goals? Does it disgust you enough to get in the gym and watch what you eat?

Do you feel disgusted when you lash out at someone and overreact to something they did or said?

Sometimes, change requires you to be disgusted. Self-disgust with your life, situation, relationship, addiction, and finances can catalyze change.

Jim Rohn tells the story of a married woman whose husband controlled all the money. She’d have to ask him first whenever she wanted to buy something. Every time she did, he acted annoyed and said, “what for?” She felt so low, so disgusted; she said to herself, “Never again!”

She picked up a few books and began to study. She had the plan to start a successful business. After much hard work and probably a little luck, she became vice president of a very successful company. She never asked her husband

for money ever again. The tables had turned, and I’m sure her husband had to ask her for money from time to time!

My father struggled with weight gain his whole life. One day as he visited with the doctor for a checkup, the doctor very seriously said, “do you want to end up like your father and die of a heart attack at 57?” My father replied, “no!” And the doctor said, “then you need to make a change.”

He came home absolutely sick with himself. He didn’t want to be overweight any longer but knew all too well that he could not stay disciplined enough to remain on any one diet forever. Determined to make a change, he scheduled a visit with another doctor to get bariatric surgery.

In the face of all the difficulties involved with bariatric surgery, he optimistically decided to change the course of his life. The revulsion he felt awakened a determination that helped him make a lifelong change. Not only did he lose the weight and keep it off, but he may also have extended his life by many years.

A Philadelphia lady had struggled with alcoholism her whole life. She was able to quit periodically, but she always fell off the wagon eventually. When the pandemic hit, she slipped up and started stealing her daughter’s alcohol. Her daughter confronted her about it; she was so upset with herself that she entered rehab, where she learned to live without substances. A great change!

One lady was dumped and cheated on



FINANCIAL
FOCUS

TREVOR
NIELSON

Depending on your situation, it might be appropriate to make some year-end financial moves. But there’s one in particular that may allow you to take advantage of the current investment climate while providing potential benefits far into the future.

This move is called a Roth IRA conversion — the process of converting all or a portion of a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA. Traditional IRAs are often funded with pre-tax dollars, so contributions can lower your taxable income, and earnings can grow tax deferred. A Roth IRA, however, is funded with after-tax dollars, so you get no immediate tax deduction, but earnings and contributions can be withdrawn federally tax free, as long as you meet several requirements, including holding your account for five years and not taking withdrawals until you’re at least 59 and a half.

If you’re attracted to the prospect of tax-free withdrawals in retirement, you might consider converting some or all of your traditional IRA dollars to a Roth IRA. Yet, there’s one major issue to address: taxes. Any deductible contributions to your traditional IRA, and the earnings generated by these contributions, will be fully taxable the year of the conversion. If you’ve invested in your traditional IRA for many years, this tax bill could be considerable.

But if you were interested in converting some of your traditional IRA funds to a Roth in 2022, you might have one advantage, tax-wise — and that’s the state of the financial markets. As you are no doubt aware, it’s been a rough year for stocks, so the value of some of the investments in your traditional IRA may have fallen, perhaps substantially. If you were to convert these assets to a Roth IRA, your tax bill might be quite a bit lower than it would have been last year amid the lengthy bull market.

Still, lower taxes aren’t the same as no taxes. Ideally, you probably don’t want to take money out of the IRA itself to pay the taxes, since this might reduce some of the benefits. So, if you don’t have another source from which you can draw, you may find that a conversion might not make as much sense.

However, you could lower this tax bill by making smaller conversions over several years. And you might ultimately find this strategy worthwhile, because moving from a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA can offer some advantages. For one thing, since qualifying Roth IRA withdrawals won’t be counted as income, they won’t cause additional taxation of your Social Security benefits or bump up your Medicare premiums. (If you wait until retirement before making the conversion, the conversion itself could have these effects, at least for the years in which it takes place.)

Also, with a traditional IRA, you typically must start taking withdrawals once you reach 72, but a Roth IRA doesn’t have this requirement. So, if you don’t need all your Roth IRA funds to support your retirement lifestyle, you can pass the reminder, tax free, to your beneficiaries. Consequently, a Roth IRA can play an important role in your estate planning.

Whatever the benefits of a Roth IRA, it’s essential that you consult with your tax advisor before making a conversion decision. It’s a big move — so you’ll want to be sure it’s right for you.

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

by her boyfriend. Her depression and heartbreak were almost too much to bear. She saw the signs and knew better but chose to ignore them. She was so sick with herself for not speaking up that she made a significant change! Initially, she sought therapy, and as she began unraveling her life, she could identify other things that bothered her and made changes accordingly.

Sometimes, you have to hit a new low to feel strong enough to make a change. Although we all wish we had changed our lives before we felt disgusted. Self-disgust doesn’t have to be the end, but it can often be a new beginning that leads to a life you’ve always wanted.

An exciting time for deer hunters

I need to apologize to my readers for the short column last week. It seems as though someone hacked into my computer, and it was almost impossible to send any e-mail including my column. The hacker managed to send all types of e-mail to people on my contact list. I had online computer repair straighten out my computer, and it is nearly back to normal now! Darn Whackos!

This past week proved to be exciting for sportsmen that did any form of hunting or fishing. Now it is almost time for the shotgun deer season to start, Nov. 28 to be exact. Reports from archers that they are encountering many deer while sitting in their tree stand or ground blind is good news. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate, and provide some great hunting opportunities for all hunters. Because of the lack of acorns in most of the state, deer are sustaining their appetite by eating green grass, which is plentiful this year, and should keep them well fed until deep



THE GREAT
OUTDOORS
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RALPH
TRUE

snow covers it all up. They will also forage on tree branches, and young fruit trees, and if things get really bad, they will eat hemlocks, which give them very little nutrition. That is when many deer die! It is not a pretty sight!

A bit more on the pheasant hunting situation that arose a couple of weeks ago at the Westhill dam in Uxbridge and Northbridge. As I stated about the clearing of most prime habitat by the Corps of Engineers at the main field, which is leased by Mass. Fish & Wildlife. There sure had to be no communication by the Corps to MFW about their plans to do some work on the site.

The total destruction of the main field, not only destroyed habitat for pheasant but also was used by deer, wild turkey, and many non-game species of birds, snakes, etc. that was essential to wildlife overall. This same thing happened more than 20 years ago, and sportsmen came to the rescue by acquiring fertilizer from the

state, and the help of the late Dan Cahill of Mendon with his tractor to spread the fertilizer. It took a couple of years to regrow the destroyed habitat, but it did come back. Why did this happen again?

Unfortunately, an incident happened this year at the TriRiver area causing the division to take action, and to stop stocking birds at the site. It only took one incident by an irresponsible hunter to cause the closing of the area, at least for this year. The state will hopefully consider the stocking of the area next year.

Hopefully, ice fishing is not too far away, but if this warm weather persists, it could be another poor year for ice fishing anglers. Ice fishing can be enjoyed by the entire family, and often have sportsmen bringing along numerous types of wild game to cook and feed them. If you are lucky enough to be there when the food is ready, most if not all anglers will offer some to other anglers on the ice. It also gives the sportsmen a chance to tell stories about their hunting and fishing adventure of years past. Most stretch the stories a bit. Like the old saying goes, all fishermen are liars except you and



me! I am not too sure about you! There is no harm done as most stories are basically true! They always are more interesting to hear year after year, with

a bit more fabrication.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending

Auction, antiques, and collectibles news



ANTIQUES,
COLLECTIBLES
& ESTATES

WAYNE
TUISKULA

In a followup to the local news story I wrote about in my last column, I'm excited to announce that the auction of Worcester, New England and other historical memorabilia starts this week. The collection belonged to the Rotman family of Worcester. While the Rotman name is most well-known for their furniture store, the family ran a highly successful sports card and memorabilia business. They also held telephone bid auctions during the 1980s and 1990s. We will be offering nearly 700 lots of items they collected. The Rotman's collection online auction will begin this week, with bidding closing on Wednesday, Dec. 7. There will be a preview at Rotman's Furniture on Saturday, Dec. 3 and Sunday, Dec. 4. Pickup for local bidders will be held on Saturday, Dec. 10 and Sunday, Dec. 11.

As for other antique news, I shared in a September column that Paul Allen's art collection could bring over \$1 billion at auction. The auction took place earlier this month and far exceeded that estimate, topping \$1.6 billion. CNBC reported that five paintings sold for over \$100 million. The top selling painting was Georges Seurat's "Les Poseuses, Ensemble," which brought \$149.2 million.

In more noteworthy auction news,



CBS News reported that the only known poster for the 1959 Moorhead, Minnesota Buddy Holly concert recently sold. Holly was touring with Richie Valens and the "Big Bopper" (J.P. Richardson) when their plane tragically crashed, killing Holly, Valens, Richardson and everyone on board. The poster had fallen from a telephone pole soon after the show was cancelled and was picked up by a maintenance man who placed it in a closet. After being forgotten for about 50 years, the poster sold for \$447,000 earlier this month, setting a record for a rock and roll poster. The previous record was for a poster from the Beatles 1966 concert at Shea Stadium.

CoinNews.net reports that Mike Coltrane's estate collection recently



went on the auction block. Many of the coins were minted soon after our country's independence. A 1792 President Washington cent went for \$136,000. A 1794 half cent that, according to coinnews.net, was the second or finest example known, brought \$168,000. A half cent from 1793 sold for \$180,000. A "New Jersey Copper" was the top seller at \$192,000. The entire collection sold for \$2.4 million. That's certainly more than just pocket change.

It was nice seeing many of you at our recent Townsend Historical Society, Worcester Senior Center and Leicester Historical Society appraisal events.

We had two online auctions close this week and we have two more sales scheduled for this year. As mentioned, the Rotman's online auction begins this week. We will also have a large auction of art, historical memorabilia and other antiques and collectibles beginning in two weeks. Please visit our website <https://centralmassauctions.com> for links to upcoming events.

Please contact us at www.centralmassauctions.com (508-612-6111) info@centralmassauctions.com for antiques and collectibles auction services.

Give the gift of preserving the garden's harvest



Give a gift that helps your supplies and equipment.

Photo Courtesy — Gardener's Supply Company

Tomato press and sauce makers turn garden-ripe tomatoes into a seed-free, skin-free sauce with the turn of a handle.

favorite gardeners enjoy the flavors of their garden well past the end of the growing season. Both new and experienced gardeners often spend their gardening budget on plants and seeds, leaving little or none to invest in food preservation equipment and supplies. Prepare your favorite gardener for the next harvest season with some food preservation

Canning jars, freezer containers, spice cubes and airtight bottles for canning, freezing, and storing dehydrated herbs and vegetables are always welcome gifts. These supplies come in handy throughout the harvest season and are often in short supply when food preservation is at its peak.

Most gardeners grow their own fresh herbs and drying



GARDEN
MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA
MYERS

is the easiest way to preserve the harvest. Simply gather stems, secure with a rubber band, and suspend in a warm, dry location. As the stems dry and shrink, the rubber band does as well, keeping the stems secure. Use a spring clothespin to secure the herb bundles to wires or other support. Create your own drying set up or invest in one of the commercial herb drying racks. If space is limited, your gift recipient will appreciate a system like the Stack-it Herb Drying Rack (gardeners.com) that allows them to dry lots of herbs in a very small footprint. The drying system you purchase or create should provide the needed space for the harvest and allow sufficient air circulation for fast drying.

Herbs with high moisture content like basil, oregano, lemon balm and mints will mold if not dried quickly. If this has been a problem in the past, try placing a small bunch in a paper bag with holes in the side and stems outside the bag. Hang these from a drying rack or speed up the process by using a microwave or food

dehydrator.

Many gardeners grow onions, garlic, and potatoes for long-term storage. All three of these vegetables prefer cool, dark storage locations with good air circulation. Separate potatoes from onions that give off pungent gases that can taint the potatoes' flavor.

Avoid plastic bags that retain moisture and can shorten these vegetables storage life. Breathable potato and onion storage baskets have been used by gardeners for centuries. Boost the style and space savings with the Stackable

Bamboo Harvest Storage Basket with Lid. Just stack as needed and place on the rolling base for easy storage and accessibility.

Help your gift recipient turn their harvest into something delicious. Fermentation is a relatively easy preservation technique that has been used for thousands of years. Preserve some of your cucumbers as pickles, cabbage as sauerkraut, and berries as preserves with fermentation.

For most projects you just

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Professional Directory

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Tantasqua welcomes visitors for holiday craft fair



Members of the Gelineau family, of West Brookfield, sell hand-crafted items.

STURBRIDGE — Tantasqua Regional High School recently welcomed thousands of guests for its annual holiday craft fair.

Held on Nov. 12, the 10th annual event provided the perfect opportunity for guests to get started on their holiday shopping. Dozens of local vendors offered their wares, and community organizations were also well-represented.

Both the school’s cafeteria and gymnasium were packed with crafters, and guests enjoyed visits from a few special guests throughout the day.

Officials thank all TRHS student volunteers who assisted at the event. Representing the school’s SkillsUSA program, volunteers helped vendors throughout the fair.



Nikki Singer, left, and Nora Proper greet guests.




Denise Senosk, of Brookfield, is looking forward to a fun day with her granddaughter Kylie Hoyt.



Kristin Plaza, left, and Kate Cormier represent FosterMA.



Grace Lavalley, of New Braintree, gets ready for the event.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Residents of Southbridge, Massachusetts

Saturday December 3, 2022 ~ 9 am to 1 pm

Casella Waste Services Facility

At 165 Barefoot Road (across from the landfill)

In order to accommodate everyone, there is a 10-gal limit per household for paint and chemical wastes.

As of November 1, 2022 mattresses will no longer be accepted.

Materials That Will Be Accepted At NO CHARGE for SOUTHBIDGE RESIDENTS ONLY:
Oil Based Paint, Pesticides/Herbicides, Cleaning Products, Household Batteries, Thinners/Strippers/Removers/Solvents, Acids/Bases, Automotive Oil/Antifreeze/Gasoline, Stains/Preservatives, Mercury, Fluorescent lights and Photo Chemicals. Small Electronics (other than those listed below), Yard Wastes (leaves, brush or shrubs), Bulky furniture.

Materials That Will Be Accepted FOR A CHARGE:
Appliances \$20 each (computer monitors, televisions, refrigerators, dehumidifiers, air conditioners, water coolers or freezers). Propane tanks, car/truck tires, car/truck batteries \$20 each. **Mattresses: As of November 1, 2022, mattresses will be accepted for a \$25 fee at the Oxford Transfer Station located at 200 Leicester Street, North Oxford, MA, between the hours of 8:00 am and noon on Collection Event Days.**

MATERIALS THAT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AT 165 BAREFOOT ROAD FACILITY:		
• NO Asbestos, PCBs, explosives or shock-sensitive materials, ammunition, compressed gas cylinders, radio-active wastes, pathological wastes, infectious waste, or medicines.		
• CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION DEBRIS (SEE NOTE BELOW FOR ALTERNATE DELIVERY SITE)		
• NO COMMERCIAL WASTE	• NO LATEX PAINT	• NO METAL
• NO RECYCLING/CARDBOARD	• NO FOOD OR HOUSEHOLD TRASH	

On December 3, 2022, Southbridge Residents may bring up to 2 cubic yards (approximately 4'x4'x4') of construction and demolition waste, free of charge, to the Casella Oxford Transfer Station located at 200 Leicester Street, North Oxford, MA, between the hours of 8:00 am and noon.

You **MUST** provide a valid form of identification showing you are a resident of Southbridge (Driver's license, Town tax bill, etc.) or you will have to pay a fee to use the facility.

The Oxford Transfer Station will be accepting **RESIDENTIAL** construction and demolition debris **ONLY**. **NO OTHER** wastes or recycling will be accepted in Oxford. No commercial wastes will be accepted free of charge.

Construction and Demolition Waste is waste building materials and rubble resulting from construction, remodeling, repair or demolition of buildings, pavements, roads or other structures (including but not limited to concrete, bricks, asphalt pavement, masonry, plaster, gypsum wallboard, metal, lumber and wood).

See Southbridge Cable Access Channel 192 for more information

No pre-registration is necessary. Proof of residency will be required.

If you have any questions about the event or acceptable materials, please call **Casella Waste Services at 888-532-2735**

Lindsey Andrew joins McCurdy Investments, LLC



Lindsey Andrew

STURBRIDGE — McCurdy Investment, LLC is pleased to welcome Lindsey Andrew to its investment team. Andrew is a registered Investment Advisor Representative and is passionate about helping others and looks forward to sharing her knowledge and experience with clients.

Andrew graduated Magna Cum Laude from Suffolk University with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology in 2011.

“While my original plan was to be a math teacher if headed in different directions,” she said. “I began my career in the beverage industry in numerous sales roles, selling some of the most beloved brands for 10 years.”

She is also a passionate dancer who remains active by teaching dance at her childhood studio.

Andrew married her college sweetheart, Ian Andrew, of Holland. Together they have two beautiful and happy children, Ethan and Penelope. They reside in Auburn with their two dogs, Monty and Daisy.

Southbridge honors those who “put their lives on the line”

SOUTHBRIDGE — Veterans’ Day sure didn’t feel like November, with some of the several dozen people who attended the town’s formal ceremony at the World War Memorial in short sleeves and even a few in shorts. But that didn’t change the hour-long event’s “solemn pride in the heroism of those who died” and the many who survived the various wars of US history. As Sen Ryan Fattman noted, the day honors all who “put their lives on the line every day, whether it’s foreign or domestic.”

He was speaking in a context of the story of his own brother, who’s in officer training to deploy to Iraq in February. Despite having not yet seen combat, Fattman said his brother has already seen things that have “changed” him, including colleagues killed in accidents and working with veterans who have told him their experiences of “five or six tours of duty.”

He also noted his grandfather was a World War II vet, a man who “always

tried to find the silver lining in everything despite the horrors he saw.” Fattman said he won his Purple Heart in an unusual manner: by being among the few survivors of a Japanese ambush on Okinawa (they survived by diving into a latrine pit).

To State Rep Peter Durant, the key point is that veterans are mostly the “normal, average person” who “put themselves in harm’s way” for everyone else.

Other speakers noted there are about 388,000 veterans in Massachusetts, and 19 million total across US history.



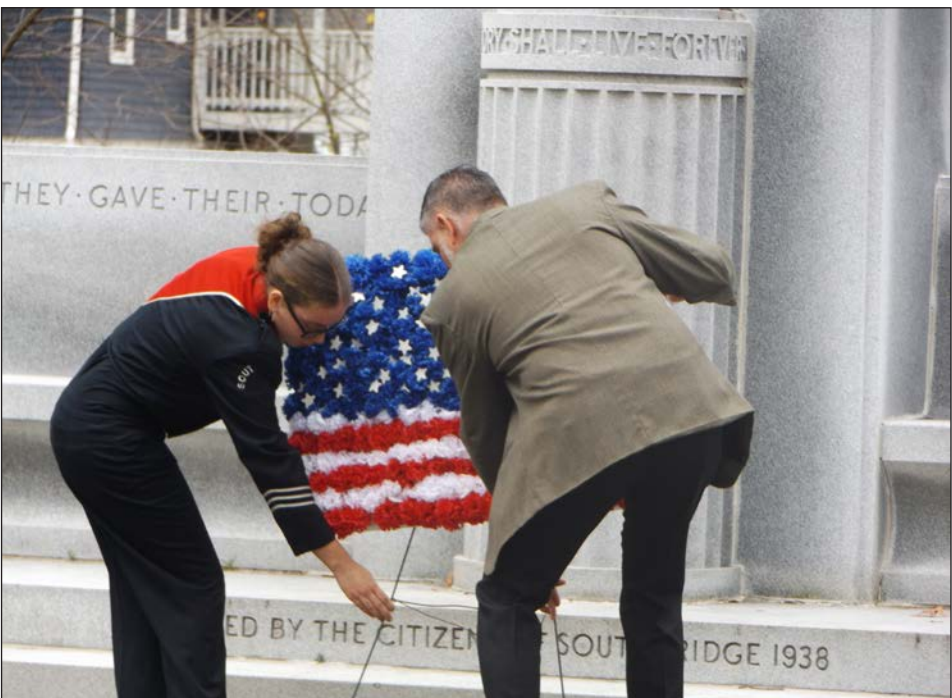
Photos Gus Steeves
Curt Litchfield, Bill Rivernider and Edward Delage chat before the ceremony starts.



Iraq veteran Korey Chenier listens to the speakers while hanging out with his service dog Kadence.



Rep. Peter Durant (left) and Sen. Ryan Fattman hold the ends of a giant check commemorating the state’s grant to support the renovation of the World War Memorial. That project’s bid is being opened this week and initial work should begin shortly, with most of it being done next spring.



7480: Emma Pelloni and Keith Roberts plant the flag wreath.



The Southbridge High band plays a medley of the armed services’ theme songs.




The flags over the monument dangle intertwined.



Event MC Dave Adams sets the microphone for Madison Shreier’s National Anthem performance.

🌿🌿🌿Friday’s Child🌿🌿🌿



Hi! My name is Aiden and I love cats and dogs!

Aiden is a pleasant, inquisitive, and friendly young boy of Caucasian descent. He is enrolled in middle school and is successful with supports. He is healthy and physically active; Aiden loves spending time outdoors. He likes to collect Pokémon cards, ride his bicycle and scooter, and play basketball. Aiden also loves cats and dogs.

Legally freed for adoption, Aiden would do well in a two-parent or single-parent household with no other children. A family with strong understanding of children with a trauma history and the behaviors that follow is needed for Aiden. He is a loving boy who would do best in a structured and nurturing family. A family that loves the outdoors, playing sports, and spending time together would be ideal. Aiden has so much to bring to a family that can offer him the stability, love, and attention that he needs. Aiden visits with his biological mother twice a year per an Open Adoption Agreement and has an older sister he needs to keep in contact with.

<https://www.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/6688>

Can I Adopt?

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. As an adoptive parent, you won’t have to pay any fees, adoption from foster care is completely free in Massachusetts.

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

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

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www.StonebridgePress.com

TCA seeks support for media center through GivingTuesday campaign

SOUTHBRIDGE — Trinity Catholic Academy will be joining millions of people around the world to participate in the global generosity movement unleashing the power of people to transform their communities. This Giving Tuesday, TCA hopes to inspire generosity through our third annual GivingTuesday Campaign.

Between Nov. 14 and 30, Trinity’s goal is to continue to provide academic excellence by improving and upgrading the technology in our Media Center. As a STREAM school technology is a crucial part of our curriculum. Community support will enable us to meet these needs and continue to provide our students with a premium education.

Through your generosity of the past

two years Trinity has been able to purchase 75 Chromebooks in 2020 and build a brand-new state of the art science lab in 2021! We thank the community for their support through matching gift options, donations, and volunteers.

Trinity Catholic Academy has focused on providing students with a quality education and a solid foundation for more than 30 years. We strive to continue this legacy by supplying our students with the tools and resources needed to secure a bright future. We look forward to an exciting fundraiser, but it surely takes “a village!”

This GivingTuesday is made possible through “Network for Good” along with the TCA Advisory Board, Endowment Board, Local Community



Partners, and our faithful supporters. Feel free to follow the progress of this project on Facebook and the TCA Web site this month.

Trinity Catholic Academy, a Pre-K to Grade 8 STREAM school, promotes academic excellence, the arts, and athletics with respect, compassion, and service, among our diverse family, inspired by the wonder, beauty, and complexity of the Holy Trinity. www.trinitycatholicacademy.org.

LEGALS

(SEAL)

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
Docket No. 22 SM 003339
ORDER OF NOTICE

TO: Michael Bonner, Laurie Angers and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. C. 50 §3901 (et seq):

Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, as Trustee of Wampus Mortgage Loan Trust claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Southbridge, numbered 32 Canal Street, given by Michael Bonner and Laurie Angers to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, acting solely as a nominee for Ocwen Loan Servicing LLC, dated March 17, 2017, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 56857, Page 188, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/ have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant’s/ Defendants’ Servicemembers status. If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before 12/19/2022 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER Chief Justice of this Court on 11/7/2022.

Attest: Deborah J. Patterson, Recorder
November 17, 2022

CHARLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on November 30, 2022, on the application of Karen Spiewak.

The applicant has submitted a Request for Determination of Applicability for the expansion of an existing structure to accommodate a new construction within the 100FT Buffer zone of Glen Echo Lake. The project site is located at 187 Sunset, Charlton, MA

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Charlton Conservation Commission will be conducted via remote means. Members of the public who wish to participate can access the meeting remotely, via Zoom Conferencing by calling 1-646 558 8656 and using meeting ID # 892 9898 0343 Passcode 458971 or using the link below <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89298980343?pwd=V-jlMZGIhUGRnYzRkR1c2eTJTL3lW-Zz09>

Copies of the RDA may be examined electronically by visiting this Website: <https://www.townofcharlton.net/262/Conservation-Commission>

Thomas O’Malley
Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission
November 17, 2022

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200

Docket No. WO22P1663EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
Steven V Canty
Date of Death: 03/24/2019

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Lisa Dipietro-Canty of Charlton MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that **Lisa Dipietro-Canty of Charlton MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/03/2022.** This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 03, 2022
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
November 17, 2022

Public Notice
Notice is hereby given under Chapter 138, Section 12 of Massachusetts General Laws of a public hearing to be held in the George Parent Meeting Room, second floor of the Town Hall, 41 Elm Street, Southbridge, MA, on Monday, December 5, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.

This hearing pertains to CFC Chicken Grill, to be located at 52 Central St., Southbridge, MA. Anyone wishing to speak will be given the opportunity to be heard.

This notice is also published electronically on www.stonebridgepress.com and on www.masspublicnotice.org

Town of Southbridge
November 17, 2022

TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE PUBLIC HEARING TAX CLASSIFICATION

A public hearing will be held by the Town Council on Monday, December 5, 2022 at 6:30 P.M. in Council Chambers, Town Hall. This public hearing will be held pursuant to Chapter 40, Section 56 on the adoption of a residential factor for tax purposes and the adoption of percentages of the local tax levy to be borne by each class of real and personal property. Any person wishing to speak will be given the opportunity to be heard.

TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE
Michael McCall
Town Manager
November 17, 2022

MORTGAGEE’S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

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

To wit:

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

bounded and described as referenced below.

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

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

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

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

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

November 17, 2022
November 24, 2022
December 1, 2022

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Division Docket No. WO22P3456EA
Estate of:
Richard Choinski
Date Of Death: 9/14/22
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above-captioned estate by Petition of Petitioner **Wayne Choinski of Charlton MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Wayne Choinski of Charlton MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

November 17, 2022

(SEAL)

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
Docket No. 22 SM 003370
ORDER OF NOTICE

To:

Kelly Connolly; Kenneth P. Freehart and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):

Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Southbridge, numbered 161 Dennison Cross Road, given by Kelly Connolly, Kenneth P. Freehart to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Sierra Pacific Mortgage Company, Inc., dated October 17, 2019, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 61247, Page 47 and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/ have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant’s/ Defendants’ Servicemembers status. If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before December 26, 2022, or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

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

Attest: Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
21892
November 17, 2022

OBITUARIES

Nancy M. Dauksz, 80

OXFORD - Nancy M. (Clarke) Dauksz, 80, of Fort Hill Road, passed away Thursday, November 10, 2022, with her loving family by her side. Born at home in Manchaug, MA, on November 9, 1942, she was the daughter of the late George D. and Ruth E. (Farrar) Clarke.

Nancy worked hard to get her GED and later attended secretarial school while raising five children. She then worked as a switchboard operator at Liberty Mutual in Worcester and Westborough for 19 years, retiring in 2005.

Nancy was a loving matriarch known for her independence and ability to persevere — and smile — through life's greatest challenges. Her favorite activities always included her family, whether she was visiting Scarborough Beach and Myrtle Beach with her sisters, or tending to her yard and growing fresh blueberries to use in pancakes for her grandchildren. She famously took pictures at every family gathering, eager to preserve happy memories from holidays and apple picking trips at Tougas Farms. Nancy kept her purse impressively packed with snacks for her family, right next to her treasured Salada tea bags. She was especially proud of her children, who make a positive difference in the world through their respective careers.

She is predeceased by her first husband, Gerald Siplas of Oxford, who died in 1962; her second husband, Charles Dauksz of Webster who died in 1985; and her sister Cheryl Stone of Oxford, who died in 2004.

She is survived by her five children, Gerald Siplas and his wife Deborah of Worcester; Thomas Siplas and his wife Melody of Oxford, Michael Siplas of Fitchburg, Dr. Cathrine Kaplan and her husband Michael of South Easton, and Matthew Dauksz and his wife Cori of Shrewsbury; a brother, George D. Clarke Jr. of Putnam, CT; three sisters, Judith Caissie of Oxford, Barbara Jakubowski of Dudley, and Martha Clarke of Charlton; as well as seven grandchildren, two-great grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

A funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 19, 2022, at Paradis-Givner Funeral Home, 357 Main St., Oxford. Burial will follow at Notre Dame Cemetery in Worcester. Calling hours are Saturday from 9:00-11:00 a.m. at the funeral home, prior to the service. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Beacon Hospice, 36 William St., Leominster, MA 01453, or to Boys Town, 14100 Crawford St., Boys Town, NE 68010, or to a veteran's organization of your choice.

Sturbridge: Arnold “Will” Wilson loved his family, his life, and his community.

Will treasured the many years he had with his wife and children. On spring vacations to far-flung states, he was a champion of history, guiding the family through Revolutionary War battlegrounds, underground caverns, and museums dedicated to bygone eras. On summer camping trips to New England seashores, he was an architect of sandcastles, a surfer of waves, a builder of campfires, a roaster of marshmallows, and a leader of off-key acapella songs at twilight. On fall adventures through gold and amber forests, he was a scout for swimming holes, a seeker for apple-cider doughnuts, and a record-holder for Poohsticks. On winter skiing trips to the Green Mountains, he was a sherpa of warm jackets and knitted hats, a cautious guide down steep and snowy trails, and a chauffeur for children slumbering softly in the backseat.

Will cherished the moments he was given, celebrating – in equal measure – the gleeful giggles of his grandchildren or the gentle blessing of a solitary, windswept walk in the woods and fields about town. Ever selfless, he worked tirelessly to preserve and develop the Leadmine Trail adjacent to Old Sturbridge Village in hopes that all residents would enjoy his favorite hiking spot as much as he did. Ever an adventurer, he reveled in traveling, never caring whether the destination was the backyard, a quiet farm in a nearby town, or a castle in the European countryside. To Will, all destinations were simply excuses to share a journey, enjoy a good story, and linger over a candlelit meal.

Will served his community with strength and fairness. As a naval officer, he shepherded soldiers to safety in Lebanon. As school committee chair for Tantasqua, he guided the district toward expansion and success. As a member of the Sturbridge Planning Board, the Board of Selectman, and the Finance Committee, he held an unwavering commitment to open-minded discussions and fair-minded decisions, and was widely respected for achieving compromise – without animosity or offense – in the pursuit of balanced growth. A graduate of Northeastern and Tufts universities, he was a mechanical engineer for CPC Engineering for three decades, applying his skills with youthful enthusiasm, an affable demeanor, and a ready smile.

Through all the years and all the seasons, his love of family, life, and community shone ever bright, clear, and true. He shall be deeply missed.

Will is survived by his loving wife and best friend Chris, his son Tim and wife Lynne, son Mark and wife Heidi, and son Keith and fiancée Hope. He was also blessed with six loving grandchildren: Mariah, Olivia, Benjamin, Lily, Darwin and River – each will remember him fondly and carry him in their hearts always.

A celebration of life will take place on Tuesday, November 29th at noon at The Barn on Cedar Street in Sturbridge for those who wish to gather and share stories about a man who had an enduring, positive impact on so many. A luncheon buffet will be provided, so please RSVP c/o Mark Wilson at markwilson004@gmail.com if planning to attend.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests a donation be made to:

The Sturbridge Trails (Trails Gift Account)
Town of Sturbridge
ATTN: Finance Department
308 Main Street
Sturbridge, MA 01566

“Every Town Deserves a Good Local Newspaper”

www.Stonebridgepress.com

Journal of Antiques & Collectibles to host New Year’s Day Antiques & Collectibles Show

STURBRIDGE — The Journal of Antiques and Collectibles—a national monthly magazine for dealers, collectors, antiquers, and enthusiasts of antique collectibles—will be returning New Year’s Day 2023 to the Sturbridge Host Hotel & Convention Center in Sturbridge with its New Year’s Day Antique Collectibles Show, sponsored by the Sturbridge Tourist Association.

Produced by Weathervane Enterprises, Inc., publisher of Journal of Antiques and Collectibles, the New Year’s Day show will feature 50 hand-selected local and regional dealers covering 11,000 square feet with authentic, quality antiques and antique collectibles. The Antique Collectibles Show made its debut on New Year’s Day 2020, welcoming over 700 guests eager to kick off the New Year with some old finds. This year’s show kicks off with optimism as we all welcome in a new year and a return to doing the things we love.

“This New Year’s Day show provides a wonderful opportunity for us to showcase some of the best and most knowledgeable local and regional dealers of antique collectibles,” says Maxine Carter-Lome, president of Weathervane Enterprises, Inc. and publisher of the Journal of Antiques and Collectibles. “It is the perfect way to spend the day as these dealers will create spaces adorned with special finds that are sure to spark memories and inquiry.”

With something for everyone, this year’s dealers offer a mix of 18th through early 20th century period items, including Primitives, Decorative Objects, Folk Art, Glassware, Textiles, Vinyl Records, Books, Oil Paintings, Small Furnishings, Estate Jewelry, Coins, and so much more!

The Exhibit Hall will be open on Sunday, Jan. 1 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., offering guests ample time to walk the festively decorated floor and meet the dealers. In addition, a Concession Café will be open outside the Exhibit Hall from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m., with beverages, snacks, and breakfast and lunch options. A Hospitality Table will provide great take-home information on future shows and antique publications. Items of interest to antique lovers will be raffled off all day on the show floor, adding to the excitement and experience.

\$10 Admission, \$8 online (starting Dec. 1) at www.theantiquecollectiblesshow.com. For more information, visit theantiquecollectiblesshow.com. Follow Us on Facebook @ AntiqueCollectiblesShow, or contact Maxine Carter-Lome directly at 508-347-1960, ext. 402 and at weathervanepublishing@gmail.com.

Gateway Players bring “A Charlie Brown Christmas” to the stage

SOUTHBRIDGE — Gateway Players Theatre of Southbridge presents “A Charlie Brown Christmas” by Charles M. Schulz, based on the television special by Bill Melendez and Lee Mendelson. Stage adaptation by Eric Schaeffer, presented by special arrangement with Arthur Whitelaw and Ruby Persson. Performance dates are Dec. 2 at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 3 at 2 p.m., Dec. 9 & 10 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 11 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 production will be directed by Lou-Ellen Corkum and Lynn Boucher, and produced by Kathi Grenier. The cast includes Mikey Dearn, Valerie Agos-Langlois, Erin Simpson, Sean Nault, Chris McTigue, Deb Hollett, Billy Bolster, Mitzi Flanagan, Samantha Jones, and Kennedy Prashaw.

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 are available at <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/5616851>.

Presented by permission through special arrangement with Concord Theatricals.

A stage adaptation of the classic animated TV special featuring Charlie Brown, Snoopy, Linus and the gang discovering the true meaning of Christmas. Please join us for this classic holiday story.

BULLETIN BOARD

Have an upcoming event or Fall Festival? Post it here!

Call June at 508-909-4062 or email jsima@stonebridgepress.news

For Advertising Information Call 508-764-4325 email: ads@stonebridgepress.news

Its Gobble Gobble Time!

Saturday, Nov. 19th, 5:30-7:00pm

Cooking our famous turkey dinner with the fixings. Turkey, mashed potatoes, peas with pearl onions, stuffing, gravy, squash, and cranberry sauce plus Pumpkin Pie W/ Whipped cream.

\$15.00 for adults, \$8.00 for children 6-12, under 5 free. Max \$50.00 per family. *Limited quantities.*

— Call to reserve a table or order a take out —

Charlton City United Methodist Church
74 Stafford St., Charlton City, MA.
508-248-7379



Countdown to

BLACK FRIDAY

Window and Door Sale!

★ Our
Biggest
BOGO Deal
Ever ★

ENDS
NOV 28

When it comes to protection from the elements, your **windows** are **as essential** as your roof and walls. Safeguard your home against drafts and replace your windows and doors **before winter**.



November 1st–November 28th only!

Buy 1 window or door, get 1 window or door **50% OFF¹**

Minimum purchase of four.

PAY NOTHING FOR ONE FULL YEAR¹



\$0 **0** **0%** **FOR 1**
Down Monthly Payments Interest **YEAR¹**

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



It's almost like getting FREE windows and doors for a whole year!¹
Replace your windows and doors this holiday season, and you'll pay nothing until November 2023.¹ It's a gift to yourself that won't put a dent in your wallet this time of year.

Inferior vinyl windows can cost you more in the long run.
Choose a poor-quality vinyl window and you'll be searching for another window sale in a few years! Take advantage of this sale on our Fibrex® windows, and you'll be set for decades!²

We make the holiday season less stressful.
Unlike most other companies, we handle the entire process, from selling to installation to warranty—with no middleman!



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



Limited appointments available!
Call for your **FREE** Window and Door Diagnosis
1-800-209-2746

¹DETAILS OF OFFER: Offer expires 12/10/2022. You must set your appointment by 11/28/2022 and purchase by 12/10/2022. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Buy one (1) window or entry/patio door, get one (1) window or entry/patio door 50% off, and 12 months \$0 down, 0 monthly payments, 0% interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry/patio doors between 11/1/2022 and 12/10/2022. 50% off windows and entry/patio doors are less than or equal to lowest cost window or entry/patio door in the order. Military discount applies to all active duty, veterans and retired military personnel. Military discount equals \$300 off your entire purchase and applies after all other discounts, no minimum purchase required. Subject to credit approval. Interest is billed during the promotional period, but all interest is waived if the purchase amount is paid before the expiration of the promotional period. Financing for GreenSky® consumer loan programs is provided by federally insured, federal and state chartered financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, or familial status. Savings comparison based on purchase of a single unit at list price. Available at participating locations and offer applies throughout the service area. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. License number available upon request. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. "ENERGY STAR" is a registered trademark of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of Andersen Corporation. ©2022 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. ©2022 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved. ²See limited warranty for details. ³Review aggregator survey of 5-star reviews among leading full service window replacement companies. December 2020 Reputation.com.

Incumbents dominate as Commonwealth goes blue in midterms

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

REGION — Election Day didn't present too many competitive battles for Dudley, Oxford, and Webster in 2022, but the three towns still helped play a role in deciding the Commonwealth's political future helping choose a new Governor and the fate of several different questions posed on this year's ballot.

On the state level, the elections for the region presented few challengers to the established candidates. Worcester and Hampton District State Senator Ryan Fattman and State Representative for the 18th Worcester Joe McKenna, both Republicans, were uncontested in their bids for reelection and thus easily returned to Boston. Republican Peter Durant, who represents the 6th Worcester District, was also

uncontested in his reelection bid. Representative Paul Frost of the 7th Worcester District faced a perennial rematch against Terry Burke Dotson, the fifth time the two have challenged each other on Election Day, and once again Frost was victorious. Republican Lou Evangelidis was also reelected as Worcester County Sheriff, the only GOP candidate to win in the Sheriff races on Election Day. On the national level, incumbent congressmen also ruled the day in the Commonwealth as Democratic Congressman Jim McGovern of District 2 fended off a challenge from Republican Jeffrey Sossa-Paquette and District 1 Congressman Richard Neal, also a Democrat, defeated Republican challenger Dean Martilli.

In the race for the next Governor of Massachusetts,

Dudley, Oxford, and Webster were in the minority by the time the votes were counted. The state's most recent Attorney General Maura Healey dominated in a landslide victory over Republican challenger Geoff Diehl flipping the Governorship from Republican to Democrat with Gov. Charlie Baker not running for reelection. It's only the second time since the 1980s that Massachusetts has seated a Democratic Governor. Healey's win is historic making her the first woman to lead the Commonwealth and one of the first openly lesbian Governors in the country. While most of the state supported Healey's election bid, Dudley, Oxford, and Webster all supported Diehl, a President Trump-backed candidate who only earned more than 60 percent of the votes from a handful of

towns in the Commonwealth while Healey dominated in several parts of the state including the Boston area. Healey's win also gives Democrats complete control in the Senate, House, and the Governor's office in Massachusetts. Democrats also won many of the other state offices up for grabs, most notably Andrea Joy Campbell became the state's new Attorney General succeeding Healey and Willaim Francis Galvin was reelected Secretary of State.

Voters also had their say on four questions on the ballot, although Dudley voters also had a fifth question pertaining to the purchase of a new fire apparatus. Statewide, voters chose to support Questions 1, 2, and 4. Question 1 will install a new 4 percent tax levy on incomes above \$1 million to support education and trans-

portation. Question 2 alters the regulations and reporting of dental insurers and Question 4 will allow people who cannot verify their citizenship or immigration status to submit alternate forms of ID to apply for driver's licenses. Question 3, which would have changed the limits on the number of alcohol licenses retailers can hold among other alterations to current similar regulations, was the only question that failed.

Dudley voters had an additional question on the ballot, Question 5, which sought to exempt from the provisions of Proposition 2 ½ \$775,000 for a new fire engine to replace the aging Engine 3. The measure was approved at several town meetings in 2022 before being put on the November ballot and passed at the polls by a vote of 2,194 to 1,813.

CMS Chamber celebrates Form First Physical Therapy grand opening

STURBRIDGE — All are invited to attend a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Grand Opening celebration at Form First Physical Therapy on Monday, Nov. 21, from 3-6 p.m. The new office is located at 48 Main Street (Route 131) in Sturbridge.

Form First Physical Therapy provides personalized treatment options for all of their patients. Whether you are returning to sports, recovering from surgery, suffering with chronic pain or seeking to improve mobility, Form First Doctors take the time to address your needs and work with you to establish an individualized plan of care every time. The new office in Sturbridge began accepting clients on Nov. 1.

Featured services at Form First Physical Therapy include: Sports Injury Rehabilitation, Pre and Post Surgical Rehabilitation, Chronic Pain Management, Mobile in-home or Virtual Therapy Options.

The Ribbon Cutting ceremony will be presented by the Chamber of Central Mass South at 3 p.m. with local dignitaries and the snipping of the official red



Photos Courtesy

Meet the Murrays, owners of Form First Physical Therapy, newly opened in Sturbridge.

ribbon. After the ceremony, all are invited to meet the owners, Nick Murray PT DPT and Christina Murray PT DPT, enjoy light appetizers and a compli-

mentary glass of wine.

Guests will have the opportunity to "Ask a PT" and get a professional opinion on any injury or pain they might have, as well as receive a free fall risk/balance assessment. Form First will also offer raffles for local restaurant gift cards at their Grand Opening.

"We are thrilled to be part of the Sturbridge community and look forward to helping our friends and neighbors achieve their therapy goals," says Form First Physical Therapy owner Nick Murray.

Everyone is welcome to attend. There is no cost and no need to RSVP. Just come on by and join in as the Chamber and our guests provide a warm Sturbridge welcome and best wishes to our newest members! You may learn more about Form First Physical Therapy at their website: www.formfirstpt.com or reach them by phone at (774) 318-8272.

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

Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale Holly Berry Fair returns

STURBRIDGE — The Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale will hold its annual Holly Berry Fair on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the church's Fellowship Hall at 8 Maple St., Sturbridge.

Holly Berry Fair chair, Nancy Castendyk says this year's fair will showcase more than 25 local artisans and their crafts under one roof for all of your holiday shopping.

"We've assembled quite an assortment of really unique and interesting artists this year," said Castendyk. "This popular fair will offer something for everyone, from hand-crafted pottery to folk art and hand-knitted items!" Koinonia, the Federated Church women's group will also be offering a variety of baked goods.

Featured local artisans include Katherine Argotta, "Earth and Spirit Ceramics," Charles Battersby, "Sunset Leather," Mary Bernstein, "Big Bhang Tie Dye Designs," Nancy Castendyk, "The Penny Wooden Dolls & Angels," Sandra Castle Country Signs, Laurie Dearnley, "Laurie's Nature Photography

Collection," Bonnie Fancy Knitted & Crocheted Items,

Collette & Roger Gage, "Emma's Acres Alpaca Clothing," Karen Graves, "Karen's Kreations, Country Tin, Chairs, and Mirrors," Roger Hall, "My Shop Wood Craft," Barbara Karpowicz, "Hand Made With Love Fabric Snowmen," and Natasha Lester, "Beads By Tea Handmade Jewelry.

The fair will also feature Sandy Lund Hats & Shell Wreaths, Linda McGourty, "Genie In A Bottle Painted Bottles with Lights," Linda McManus Table Runners & Pocketbooks, Chad Maramo, "The Artistic Touch," Patricia OBrien-Briere, "Art and Soul Pottery & Jewelry Creations," Pete Robitaille, "Cornerstone Creations Concrete Art," Mary Shaw Christmas Decorations, Shari Sumwalt, "Shari's Pet Stuff

Pet Beds," Faith St. Pierre Christmas Decorations, Mary Lou Volpe, "Crafts by LouLou Rustic Pallet Décor," and Julie Zucker, "Tarnished Angels Primitive Folk Art Dolls.

For additional information about the Holly Berry Fair or other upcoming events, please visit the Church website at sturfed.org, visit the Church's Facebook page @ [FederatedChurchSturbridgeFiskdale](https://www.facebook.com/FederatedChurchSturbridgeFiskdale), or contact the Church office at (774) 304-1021 or churchoffice@sturfed.org.

The Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale joyfully celebrates Christ's presence and God's grace in our lives. Members of the community are welcome and invited to join in worship on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. Services are also live-streamed on the church's Facebook page.



Photo Courtesy

The Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale Holly Berry Fair will feature gift-quality arts and crafts from more than 25 local artisans, like these Penny Wooden Dolls from Nancy Castendyk, and this country painted checker board from Karen's Kreations.

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SPORTS

Running Rams pick up hard-earned victory over Auburn



Nick Ethier photos

Shepherd Hill's Luke Miller is off to the races and doesn't stop running until he reaches the end zone for a 61-yard touchdown.

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

AUBURN — The Shepherd Hill Regional varsity football team is at its best when methodically rushing the ball down the field, taking minutes upon minutes of time off the clock in the process. A perfect example of that came when the Rams played at Auburn High's Memorial Field on Thursday, Nov. 10 in a non-playoff matchup.

With Shepherd Hill holding a 31-16 lead and 10:15 remaining in the game, the Rams' defense forced the Rockets into a turnover on downs at The Hill's own 5-yard line. What transpired next was a 16-play, 95-yard drive that nearly took eight minutes off the game clock by the time Lucas Welton found the end zone from 23 yards out.

Shepherd Hill won the game, 38-16.

"That's how we play football. It's what we try to do all the time and at the end of the day it's a testament to the kids that they came out in the second half and knuckled down and really went to what we do and played within themselves," explained Dave Buchanan, head coach of the Rams. "I'm so proud of them because they've been through it and this senior class has been through it with a really difficult year. They've worked so, so hard. This time of year, when it's just tough, they came out and were so focused and were so ready to work tonight. I'm so proud of the effort they put forth."

Shepherd Hill trailed by a point at halftime, 16-15, but scored on all three of its second-half possessions, while Auburn was unable to score on any of its three times holding the ball.



Auburn defender Christian Sacco saves a touchdown by tackling Shepherd Hill's Lucas Welton near the goal line.

"When we are executing and we are clicking, that's where we want to be," said Buchanan.

The Rams struck first back in the first quarter with about four minutes gone, Luke Miller rushing in a 61-yard score after spinning off his linemen and bouncing out to the right. Miller also tacked on the extra point kick, and it was a 7-0 game.

The Rockets responded on their next possession, it culminating with quarterback Mason Voeng (7 of 16, 76 yards, TD, INT) hitting Dan Handfield on an 8-yard scoring strike. Nathan Cook then rushed in the two-point conversion, and Auburn held an 8-7 lead.

With the game now in the second



Caden Marotta of Shepherd Hill carries the ball and bounces out to the right side.



Shepherd Hill's Jaden Mello dives to break up a pass, nearly intercepting the ball in the process.

quarter, the Rockets added to the lead when Keating Oliver rushed up the middle and didn't stop until he found the end zone from 4 yards out. Jayden Ortiz then hit Oliver with the two-point conversion pass.

Shepherd Hill cut the halftime deficit down to 16-15 when quarterback Luke Hill hit Welton on a 22-yard pass and Jaden Mello took a poor snap and turned it into a two-point conversion rush.

The second half then saw Welton score twice from 23 yards out, which was sandwiched in between by a Mello 1-yard TD. Welton (rush), Andruw Martinez (pass from Mello on another fumbled snap) and Miller (PAT) added

the extra points.

Welton (14 carries, 148 yards), Miller (15 carries, 120 yards) and Mello (13 carries, 74 yards) were the leading rushers for the Rams, who improved to 3-7 in what has been a trying season as they prepare for their Thanksgiving Day game.

"At this point, when you get to November, we want Thanksgiving. It's a great rivalry with Tantasqua, and we are very excited to be there. We are very excited to have the opportunity to host them this year," said Buchanan.

Auburn is now 6-4 and also have a Thanksgiving Day game. The Rockets will host Leicester High for the second annual Tarantino Cup.

HIGH SCHOOL NOTEBOOK

Thursday, Nov. 10
Fitchburg 33, Tantasqua 28 — The Warriors were edged by the Red Raiders during an untimed down in a non-playoff matchup at the Reservation. Tantasqua touchdowns included an Adam Howe 20-yard pass to Landon Rice, a Howe 17-yard run, a Brandon Denham 7-yard run and a Howe 10-yard run. Kicker Luke Marvin added four extra point kicks. The Warriors (4-6) will play at Shepherd Hill Regional (3-7) in their annual Thanksgiving Day matchup.

Annual Cops N Kids N Lions Steve Ide Memorial Toy Drive underway

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Lions Club and the Southbridge Police Department are pleased to sponsor our annual holiday toy drive. The Steve Ide Memorial Toy Drive—Sponsored by Cops and Kids and the Southbridge Lions Club. Steve Ide, a long-standing member of the Southbridge Lions club, was instrumental in the creation of the Cops N Kids N Lions project back in 2016 and his perseverance helped make it the huge success it has become.

Please help us bring Christmas to

deserving children in our area by donating new, unwrapped, non-violent toys starting Nov. 19 through Dec. 12. All toys will benefit local families. Of particular need are toys for adolescents ages 10 through 16.

Toy Drop-Off Locations are the Southbridge and Sturbridge Police Departments, the Southbridge Fire Department, Harrington Hospital, Southbridge Town Hall, Cornerstone Bank, Big Bunny Market, Southbridge Hotel and Conference Center, Savers

Bank, The Italian Club and all Southbridge Credit Union locations.

Also, monetary donations can be made at any Southbridge Credit Union location or with any Southbridge Lions member. Checks should be made out to Southbridge Lions Toys Program.

Contact us for sponsorship or donation opportunities at copsnkids@southbridgemass.org.

Please help us bring Christmas joy to deserving children in our area.



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MYERS

continued from page A9


need the fruit or vegetables, water, salt, and spices. The desired ingredients are placed in a covered vessel like a Stoneware Pickling Crock. Weights are used to keep the fruit and vegetables submerged in water throughout the fermentation process.

Consider smaller fermentation kits for those with limited space. A three-liter glass jar with an air-lock lid and ceramic weights will allow you to ferment small quantities of vegetables.

Reduce the workload and boost the enjoyment for those making tomato juice, sauces, and soups. Hand crank and electric tomato presses, strainers and sauce makers allow gardeners to separate the skins and seeds from the tomato meat for quicker and easier processing.

Giving a gift that helps preserve flavors from the recipient's garden will be useful and remembered for seasons to come.

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



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CEA

continued from page A1

ing at the Supply Services Section of a recent electric bill. If it says “Supplier: NextEra Energy Srvc MA-Charlton Agg,” then that account is enrolled. If it says something else such as Basic Service Fixed or names a supplier other than NextEra, then that account is not enrolled. Starting with the electricity bill participants receive for December 2022, the Supplier name will change to Charlton CEA’s new supplier “Direct Energy Srvc-Charlton Agg.”

In December 2022, all Charlton CEA participants will automatically be transitioned to the new price for the program option in which they are now enrolled. No action is necessary for program participants.

Residents and businesses can enroll in Charlton CEA or switch rate options at any time. To make a switch use the online form at charlton-cea.com or by calling the Charlton CEA program at (855) 639-8103. charlton-cea.com shows the current program rates through December 2022. Rates from December 2022 onward are shown below. It can take one or two billing cycles for the

supplier change to appear on the utility bill.

Residents should be aware that while the default supply product is Charlton Standard, - which meets all renewable energy content requirements of the Commonwealth, Charlton CEA also offers a 100% renewable product, Charlton 100 percent Local Green., In Charlton 100% Local Green, 100% of the electricity is sourced from renewable resources. Households that elect to enroll at in Charlton 100% Local Green can do so by using the online form at charlton-cea.com.

Please note that because utility Basic Service rates change every six months for Residential and Small Business customers and every three months for Large Business customers, future savings for the Charlton Community Electricity Aggregation program cannot be guaranteed. Charlton CEA participants can opt-out of the program at any time, without penalty, and return to utility Basic Service.

The community should also be aware that third-party electrical suppliers have been contacting residents via door knocking, telephone outreach and mailings, claiming to be partners with the Town of Charlton as electrical sup-

New Charlton CEA Prices:		
	Charlton Standard (Town Default)	Charlton 100% Local Green
Price	15.540 ¢/kWh	18.358 ¢/kWh
Voluntary Renewable Energy Content	None	Adds voluntary renewable energy (MA Class I RECs) to total 100% renewable content
Duration	December 2022 to December 2024	December 2022 to December 2024

pliers. Any communication about the program can be found on the Town’s municipal website (townofcharlton.net). In addition, no one affiliated with the program will come to your house and all communication will have the Town seal.

Contact the Town at 508-248-2209 or nesgovagg@nexteraenergyservices.com with any questions.

The Charlton CEA Program cannot guarantee savings compared to utility

Basic Service for the duration of the Program pricing because future Basic Service rates beyond April 2023 are unknown.

The products labeled “Green” contain additional Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) above that required by MA law. The additional RECs qualify for MA Class I designation from generation located within, or delivered to, New England.

CENTENNIAL

continued from page A1

Sturbridge Board of Selectmen. Church Member Lucette Favreau read a letter from Rev. Elizabeth Garrigan-Byerly, Executive Conference Minister for Area Conference Ministry of the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ.

“Thanks be to God for the bold vision of your ancestors,” Garrigan-Byerly wrote. She went on to acknowledge every contributor, from “those who unlock the doors...tend the grounds...and clean the sanctuary” to “those who tend to the spiritual and worshipping needs of the community.”

Church Member Loretta Medeiros read

a letter from Rev. Yvonne Miloyevich, Central Association Coordinator of the American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts who wrote, “May our good Lord unify and strengthen you all for the journey and challenges ahead.”

Executive Board President Holice Turnbow recognized eighteen Members whose association with the Church extends as far back as 1947. The group included Bob Briere (1947), Rick LaVergne (1953), John Boniface (1954), Beverly Morse (1954), Steve LaVergne (1957), Ann Gibson (1957), Ray Simpson (1958), and Linda Simpson (1959). Also recognized were Bob Knight (1959), Bob McDonald (1963), Jackie Gay (1966), Linda Misiaszek (1967), Ron and Barbara Stietzel (1967), John and Judy Taylor (1971), Christina Knight (1972), and Judy LaVergne (1972).

In his sermon, Pastor Cote reminded those assembled that the Church’s history pre-dates the creation of the Federation by nearly 200 years. “Our history began in 1736 when the Congregational Church

was built,” he said. “It functioned as the town’s meetinghouse during the week and a church on Sunday mornings when the body came together.” The Baptist meetinghouse that eventually found a home at Old Sturbridge Village was constructed in 1747, and the Unitarian Church opened its doors in 1864.

It wasn’t until 1922 that the three churches came together and created the Federated Society whose centennial is being celebrated this year.

“This is a major milestone for the church,” Pastor Cote said. “We’re thankful for our history and confident of a great future.”

Centennial committee member, Jim Mansfield said the group has sealed a time capsule that is set to be opened during the Federation’s sesquicentennial year in 2072. The capsule includes a story and two of the 2,500 masks created and distributed by Church members as a community project during the Covid-19 pandemic. Also included are a story about the death of Queen Elizabeth,

and one predicting the end of printed newspapers; a collection of 2022 coins; a church cookbook; a hymnal; a calendar and brochures from Old Sturbridge Village; a cell phone, a Centennial seed card; a typical Sunday bulletin; a roster of the 50+ Members, and copies of the proclamations and congratulatory letters.

The Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale joyfully celebrates Christ’s presence and God’s grace in our lives. Members of the community are welcome and invited to join in worship on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. The services are also live-streamed on the Church’s Facebook page,

FederatedChurchSturbridgeFiskdale. For additional information about The Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale, please visit the Church website at sturfed.org or contact the Church office at (774) 304-1021 or churchoffice@sturfed.org.

Emma Earls participates in Hamilton College production of “Measure for Measure”

CLINTON, N.Y. — Emma Earls, of Sturbridge, played the role of Escalus in the Hamilton College Fall Theatre production of William Shakespeare’s “Measure by Measure.” Earls, a junior majoring in creative writing, is a graduate of Deerfield Academy.

Directed by Hamilton College Professor of Theatre Craig Latrell, “Measure for Measure” is a play about political discord, morality, authenticity, and a woman’s right to control her body, a topic that continues to resonate today.

Hamilton College, a leading liberal arts institution located in Clinton, New York, is where exceptional students explore passions through an open curriculum and robust research, internship, and off-campus study opportunities. Students graduate ready to lead purposeful lives thanks to highly regarded faculty mentors, generous resources that support each student’s interests, and a loyal alumni network. The College’s need-blind admission policy ensures access for talented students with limited financial means. Learn more at www.hamilton.edu.

TECH PLAN

continued from page A1

like us to have,” D’Arcangelo said.

He later discussed ongoing updates to the district’s wireless connectivity infrastructure including upgrades to the district’s network switches which assist in forwarding data packets between devices.

“We’re in the process now of submitting an E-Rate category-two program for the network switches,” D’Arcangelo said. “We’re looking to replace all 90 network switches next year. The current switches will be five to six years old by the time we replace them. They run 24/7, so they just need to be replaced as part of general maintenance.”

Looking ahead, the district will be in need of a whole new fleet of computers in the near future. D’Arcangelo said a good portion of the active computers will need to be replaced due to outdated software capabilities.

“We have 1,200 computers we have to upgrade to Windows 11 or above in less than two years. Windows 10

support will end on Oct. 14 of 2025. At that point Microsoft no longer supports Windows 10. There are no security updates. Anything not upgraded needs to be removed from the network. Part of that upgrade is going to be replacing 500 computers. There are a bunch of computers that will not run Windows 11 or above. They’re five to nine years old and they need to be replaced,” said D’Arcangelo.

He also informed the School Committee that the entire fleet of 1,800 Chromebooks will need to be replaced before 2027. An exact cost for these replacements was not provided during the meeting but D’Arcangelo indicated that it would be too much to ask the public to pay for it all at once.

Members of the School Committee discussed the potential workaround of embracing a “bring your own device” or “BYOD” approach allowing students to bring their own laptops or Chromebooks to school instead of providing a computer for every child while still investing in a certain number of computers to provide for those families who can’t afford the technol-

ogy. This approach is already being embraced agt the high school level, but Superintendent Steven Lamarche noted that they have not found a good way to implement the practice in lower grades.

D’Arcangelo’s final note in the update was the need for additional staff in his department. He explained that the Tech Department has worked with only three employees for 15 years. However, as technology has become a larger part of the school experience, he feels that the workload is overwhelming him and his personnel.

“We’re averaging around 2,200 tickets. That’s a low-ball number. We’ve already closed almost 1,000 this year and it’s the middle of November. We’re kind of treading water in a couple of areas. We’re definitely looking to get some assistance,” said D’Arcangelo.

The School Committee did not implement any immediate course of action to help implement any of the proposals in D’Arcangelo’s plan. A copy of the five-year Technology Plan has been made available on the School Committee’s page of the district Web site.

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Catholic Charities invites volunteers to assist on Thanksgiving Day

WORCESTER — Catholic Charities Worcester County announced today that they are still accepting volunteers to deliver and serve Thanksgiving dinner to those in need. Whether delivering meals or serving the noontime meal at St. Paul Cathedral, volunteers will have an opportunity to visit with people who would otherwise be alone this Thanksgiving.

For more than 60 years, the Bishop of Worcester has hosted a dinner provided by Catholic Charities Worcester County to assure a meal and fellowship to homebound elders, people with disabilities, homeless individuals, and those who would otherwise be alone on Thanksgiving and Christmas. Both sit-down dinners at the Cathedral of St. Paul and home-delivered meals are available to those in need on these important holidays. In 2021, the Bishop's Holiday Dinners on Thanksgiving and Christmas provided over 6,000 home-delivered meals to those in need by nearly 1300 volunteers.

Volunteers are needed at both the sit-down dinner located at the Cathedral of St. Paul, 38 High St., Worcester; and meal delivery from St. Peter's Catholic Elementary School. Sit-down dinner volunteers should arrive between 11:30 a.m. and noon, and can register at this

link: <https://www.ccworc.org/cathedral-registration/>. Meal delivery volunteers begin arriving at 8am to receive the meals and delivery route. Meal delivery volunteers should register at this link: <https://www.ccworc.org/bishops-dinnervolunteer/>. Meals will be picked up drive-through style at the gym at St. Peters Catholic Elementary School, entrance on 10 Hammond St., Worcester, MA 01610. If you would like to request a meal, call 508-798-0191 or go to the following link: <https://form.jotform.com/222785930706159>.

Most Rev. Bishop Robert J. McManus invites anyone and their family to join him at St. Paul's Cathedral for a Thanksgiving dinner. Catholic Charities provides bus routes to and from St. Paul's Cathedral and will pick up individuals at: Lincoln Village, Booth Apartments, Seabury Heights, Green Hill Towers, Belmont Apartments, Green Island NOC, Greenwood Gardens, Canterbury Towers, Elm Park Towers, Pleasant Towers, Murray Avenue Apartments, Marble Apartments, and Webster Square Towers.

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