

# ‘Coats for Kids’ collects 1,800 coats for local distribution



Courtesy

The Worcester chapter of the Knights of Columbus recently hosted their annual ‘Coats for Kids’ drive in Northbridge, preparing 1,800 coats for distribution across the county.

**BY KIMBERLY PALMUCCI**  
TRIBUNE CORRESPONDENT

**NORTHBRIDGE** — The Worcester chapter of the Knights of Columbus recently hosted their annual ‘Coats for Kids’ drive in Northbridge, preparing 1,800 coats for distribution across the county.

“This year, the Worcester Chapter will

be distributing approximately 1,800 coats across the county. One of the founding principles of the Knights of Columbus is Charity and this is one of many ways the Knights give back to our communities,” said Rich Green, the President of the Worcester Chapter Knights of Columbus.

The goal of the Coats for Kids program is to ensure that no child in

North America goes without a coat during the winter season, according to the Knights of Columbus. Through the dedication of councils across the United States and Canada, hundreds of thousands of new winter coats have been distributed to children since program inception.

The Worcester Knights of Columbus have been involved in the Coats for

Kids drive for the last 10 years, according to Green.

The effort began years ago when they distributed coats from a Southbridge location, then moved to Spencer. For the last five years, the Mumford Council in Whitinsville has been the home base, Green said.

The Worcester chapter includes 27 councils and

four 4th degree assemblies.

“The councils and assemblies place orders with the Worcester chapter and we then coordinate distribution to them,” Green said. “It makes it much easier to do this than to have all of the councils do it on their own. The State council has also matched to some extent what we have ordered. We can

then give extra coats to each council.”

Each council finds recipients to receive the coats.

“At Mumford, we have given ours to Catholic Charities, local schools, and food pantries,” he added. “The Prayer Shawl ministry at St. Patricks has knitted hats

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## Douglas schools to undergo public school monitoring review

**BY KIMBERLY PALMUCCI**  
TRIBUNE CORRESPONDENT

**DOUGLAS** — To monitor compliance with federal and state special education and civil rights regulations, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s office of Public School Monitoring will conduct a tiered focused monitoring review of the Douglas Public Schools in January.

The review will take place during the week of Jan. 14, 2021; the office of Public School Monitoring visits each district and charter school every three years, according to a statement from Douglas Schools. Areas of review related to special education include student assessments, determination of eligibility, the Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team process, and IEP development and implementation. Areas of review related to civil rights include bullying, student discipline, physical restraint, and equal access to school programs for all students, the district released.

“In addition to the onsite visit, parent outreach is an important part of the review process,” the Douglas statement reads. “The review chairperson from the Office of Public School Monitoring will send all parents of students with disabilities an online survey that focuses on key areas of their child’s special education program. Survey results will contribute to the development of a report.”

During the onsite review, they added, the office of Public School Monitoring will interview the chairperson(s) of the district’s Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC). Other onsite activities may include interviews of district staff and administrators, reviews of student records, and onsite observations.

To request a telephone interview, parents and other individuals may call Corey Steinman, Public School Monitoring Chairperson, at 781-338-3742. If an individual requires an accommodation, such as translation, to participate in an interview, the department will make the necessary arrangements.

Within approximately 60 business days after the onsite visit, the review chairperson will provide the district with a report with information about areas in which the district meets or exceeds regulatory requirements and areas in which the district requires assistance to correct or improve practices. The public will be able to access this report at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/psm/tfm/reports/>.

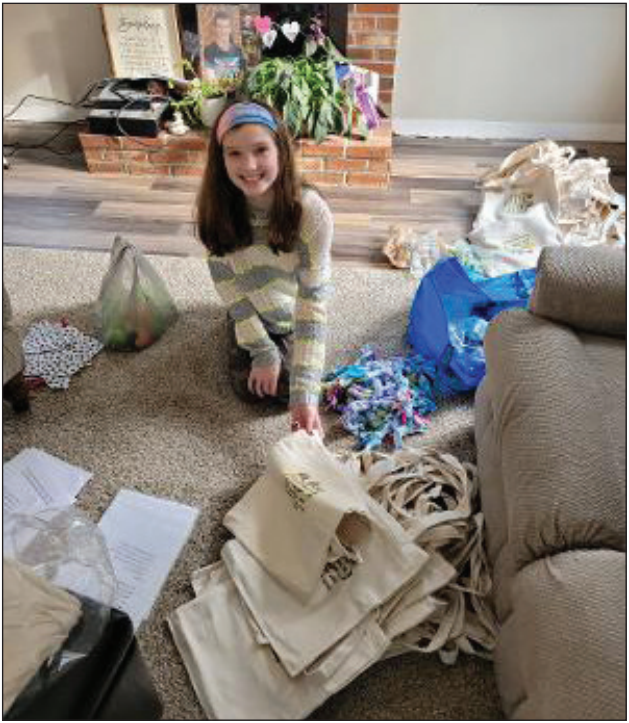
## New dog owner kits earn junior Girl Scout a Bronze Award

**HOPEDALE**— Rory Goyette from Historic Hopedale Troop 11582 earned her Girl Scout Bronze Award, the highest recognition for achievement in Girl Scouting at the Junior level. Her project focused on helping families adopting dogs. Rory made 25 new owner kits for the Dog Orphans, Inc., a private, nonprofit, no-kill, shelter in Douglas that has been helping dogs since 1971. The bags included the shelter logo on it and contained dog toys made from recycled t-shirts, hand made dog bandanas, home made dog treats, dog cologne and tennis balls donated by PetSmart in Millbury.

By completing the Girl Scout Bronze Award girls develop more confidence by meeting new people, building courage to stand up for an issue they are passionate about and make their community a better place by putting their plan into action.

Historic Hopedale Girl Scout Service Unit serves over 150 girls in grades K-12 in Hopedale, MA and is part of Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts. For more information, please visit [www.gscwm.org](http://www.gscwm.org).

Dog Orphans, Inc., was founded 50 years ago by a small group of animal lovers dedicated to saving dogs from pain and suffering. Located in Douglas, they house stray, homeless and unwanted dogs until suitable permanent homes are found.



## Douglas Adult Social Center delivers Thanksgiving meals to seniors



Courtesy

Volunteers with the Douglas Adult Social Center have recently delivered more than 60 Thanksgiving dinner meals to senior residents throughout the community.

**BY KIMBERLY PALMUCCI**  
TRIBUNE CORRESPONDENT

**D O U G L A S** — Volunteers with the Douglas Adult Social Center have recently delivered more than 60 Thanksgiving dinner meals to senior residents throughout the community.

The social center credits the success of this effort to the “tremendous outpouring of support with food and monetary donations” from residents and businesses in town.

“The Douglas Adult Social Center does such a fantastic job of providing the seniors in the community with many services and program opportunities,” said State Rep. Joseph McKenna. “As COVID, and the resulting quarantine, has been

particularly difficult on seniors facing increased isolation, I was happy to play a small role in supporting this holiday dinner to provide a little glimmer of normalcy and community.”

McKenna was among the volunteers who helped with the effort. The Social Center reported that the volunteers were greeted with “much appreciation.”

“A very special thank you to everyone who made this Holiday special for so many,” the Center released in a statement.

“I’m always happy to support the Social Center’s programming, especially when it involves outreach to people where they live, to let them know they’re

Turn To **DOUGLAS** page **A13**



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## Gifts that can make social distancing more enjoyable

Exchanging gifts with loved ones is a holiday season tradition. That tradition figures to continue this year, though families will almost certainly have to adjust the ways they exchange gifts.

The outbreak of the novel coronavirus COVID-19 in the winter of 2019-20 changed how people across the globe live their lives. Social distancing guidelines encouraged people to limit get-togethers, particularly indoor gatherings. Experts anticipate restrictions on indoor gatherings will continue in the early part of the winter of 2020-21, which could force families to rethink how they get together during the holiday season.

Families also may want to think outside the box when buying gifts for their loved ones, targeting items that can make social distancing easier. The following gift ideas can make a socially distant holiday season that much more special for a loved one.

Streaming subscription  
Movie theaters have been closed for

months in many areas. But movie lovers still want to see their favorite flicks, so a streaming subscription to a service such as Netflix or Amazon Prime can be just what they need to stay entertained while social distancing this winter. For fans of classic films, including indie movies, foreign films and big studio productions, a subscription to the Criterion Channel might make the perfect gift. Curated by the Criterion Collection, this streaming service provides access to a library of more than 1,000 classic and contemporary films, making it an ideal gift for the family film buff.

Cooking classes  
Many people have spent the last several months honing their culinary skills. Gift givers can help them take those skills to the next level by enrolling them in online cooking classes. The options are endless and some even include access to legendary celebrity chefs like Gordon Ramsay. Many online cooking classes feature monthly memberships

or single classes, making them ideal for loved ones of all skill and interest levels.

Technology  
Technology has helped many people stay connected with friends and family while social distancing, so a new tablet, laptop or desktop computer can be just what people need to fully engage in family Zoom sessions or weekly virtual happy hours with coworkers and friends. If a new tablet or laptop stretches your budget, consider a pair of noise-canceling headphones, which can make it easier to concentrate while working remotely in a crowded house.

Crafting kit  
Hobbyists may have had their passions for crafting reinvigorated while social distancing, making a crafting kit an ideal gift to help them fill their downtime. Beginner's kits also can make an ideal gift for novices looking for an engaging, time-consuming hobby.

Certain gifts can be a perfect fit during a socially distant holiday season.

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# NORTHBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR TO PLAY FOR BRYANT

Northbridge High School senior Kayley Tivnan of Whitinsville recently signed a letter of intent to play Division I field hockey at Bryant University. Tivnan, who has played on the NHS varsity team since her freshman year and served as captain this fall, posted 55 goals and 29 assists during her high school career. She helped the team to a SWCL A League title in 2018, and was selected as a High School All Star in 2020. In addition to field hockey, she also plays on the varsity lacrosse team at NHS. Off the field, she is a member of the National Honor Society and volunteers for St. Patrick's Pre-School & Kindergarten Religious Education, the annual Buddy Walk, and the Balmer Food Pantry.



# MARIANAPOLIS PREP SCHOOL ANNOUNCES TRIMESTER 1 HONOR ROLL

THOMPSON, Conn. — Below are the students who have earned their place on the Trimester 1 Honor Roll.

Head of School List  
Olivia-Mae Acquaah-Harrison, Charlton; Abigail Alicandro, North Oxford; James Alves, Uxbridge; Kaitlin Baca, Webster; Greyson Baldaro, Oxford; John Barnwell, Danielson, Conn.; Morgan Beaudreault, Dayville, Conn.; Lillian Belsito, Millbury; Maya Benway, Acton; Abigail Boria, Charlton; Benjamin Bouchard, Douglas; Celia Bouchard, Douglas; Samuel Bouchard, Douglas; Vincent Bourgeois, Thompson, Conn.; Campbell Braun, South Grafton; Jessie Calkins, Charlton; Stephen Canavan, Ashford, Conn.; Hansen Cao, Shenzhen, China; Dominika Chmielewski, Webster; Lauren Conde, Danielson, Conn.; Sidney Corriveau, Brimfield; Spencer Courville, Charlton; Anna Czechowski, Webster; Giana DeCesare, Chepachet, R.I.; Alexandra Delano, Charlton; Joseph DiPietro, Worcester; Danielle Doiron, Charlton; Fiona Doiron, Charlton; Ava Fabiano, Killingly, Conn.; Chiara Faiola, Auburn; Courtney Fleming, Douglas; Felicia Fongemie, Ashford, Conn.; Barbara Forgues, Shrewsbury; Fabian Gabriel, Zlin, Czech Republic; Alexandra Giorgio, Millbury; Ashley Giorgio, Millbury; Xiayuan Gong, Wuxi, China; Madelyn Grundstrom, Moosup, Conn.; Emily Hammond, Sutton; Angelina Hargrave, Charlton; Sofia Hargrave, Charlton; Donovan Hendrick, Willimantic, Conn.; Sophie Hendrick, Willimantic, Conn.; Philip Heney, Douglas; Thu Hoang, Hai Phong, Vietnam; James Hoban, Millbury; Maura Hoban, Millbury; Patrick Hoban, Millbury; Kaylynn Horan, Putnam, Conn.; Nghi Huynh, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; Mackenzie Jutras, Greenville, R.I.; Ethan Kalmin, Dudley; Claire Kelleher, Auburn; Zachary King, Plainfield, Conn.; Avery Kurzontkowski, Shrewsbury; Kate Landis, Brooklyn, Conn.; Molly Landis, Brooklyn, Conn.; Abigail Leahy, Leicester; Juhyoung Lee, Seoul, South Korea; Lauren Lemire, Southbridge; Qianhui Lin, Beijing, China; Zachary Litke, Brooklyn, Conn.; Sydney Lundt, Woodstock, Conn.; Bridget MacDonough, Grafton; Ian MacKenzie, Woodstock, Conn.; Kiera MacKenzie, Woodstock, Conn.; Szymon Mamro, Webster; Claire Marchand, Holden; Delia Marchand, Holden; Wednesday Maskova, Sestajovice, Czech Republic; Tessa McCabe, Douglas; Benjamin McGarry, Thompson, Conn.; Conner McLeod, Foster, R.I.; Keegan McLeod, Foster, R.I.; Emma

McQuiston, Webster; Katherine Melnick, North Grosvenordale, Conn.; Sara Michailides, Chepachet, R.I.; Ayame Mizuno, Nagoya, Japan; Zaire Moore, Thompson, Conn.; Luciana Najjar, Northborough; Abbie O'Brien, Plainfield, Conn.; Declan O'Connor, West Boylston; Riley O'Connor, Dudley; Jenna Olivieri, Douglas; John Perveiler, Oxford; Long Pham, Hanoi, Vietnam; Katrina Piekelnia, Dudley; Morgan Polinski, Webster; Wiktor Potem, Webster; Jill Reardon, Fiskdale; Brianne Rett, Uxbridge; Lucas Rhoads, Stafford Springs, Conn.; Olivia Richardson, Lincoln, R.I.; Emma Russell, Brooklyn, Conn.; Anthony Russo, Brooklyn, Conn.; Thomas Santos Soares, Porto Alegre, Brazil; William Savoie, Northbridge; Cassidy Semo, Dudley; Trinity Semo, Dudley; Emily Shamback, Sterling, Conn.; Andrew Shultz, Oxford; Zachary Stoddard, Pomfret Center, Conn.; Maya Summiel, Dayville, Conn.; Matthew Tomasino, Leicester; Violeta Torres, Plainfield, Conn.; Thang Tran, Da Nang, Vietnam; Daniel Twohig-Mann, Douglas; Rachel Ullstrom, Auburn; John Vigliotti, Worcester; Caroline Vigneault, Southbridge; Caroline Villa, Auburn; Tram Vo, Phan Thiet, Vietnam; Aurora Voas, Oxford; Emily Walsh, Thompson, Conn.; Yunpeng Wang, Shenzhen, China; Kyle Woodruff, Southbridge; Wenyang Yuan, Beijing, China; Anthony Zurowski, Plainfield, Conn.

Dean's List  
Isata Bah, Shrewsbury, United Kingdom; Callista Bibeau, Danielson, Conn.; Rayliana Bonnell, Oxford; Patrick Brooks, Worcester; Jamie Calkins, Charlton; Zuzana Cejkova, Jindrichuv Hradec, Czech Republic; Martina Concato, Vicenza, Veneto; Xander Cook, Uxbridge; Jasmine Creighton, Webster; Sydney Duby, Worcester; Benjamin Duquette, Webster; Olivia Duquette, North Grosvenordale, Conn.; Nicholas Fennelly, Charlton; Jaiden Foskett, Charlton; Lily Givner, Oxford; Isabella Gonzalez, Plainfield, Conn.; Timothy Hall, Plainfield, Conn.; Garret Hippert, Brooklyn, Conn.; Kualim Johnson, Auburn; Thomas Kennison, Somers, Conn.; Caroline King, Rochester; Ayana Kobayashi, Nagoya, Japan; Haruna Kobayashi, Nagoya, Japan; Olivia Kowalski, Charlton; Katerina Looney, Dudley; Alana Lorusso, North Oxford; Evan Lundt, Woodstock, Conn.; Ian Martin, Moosup, Conn.; Salvatore Masciarelli, Northbridge; Sean Michailides, Chepachet, R.I.; Kylie Miller, Webster; Charles Mukweva, Harare, Zimbabwe; Michael Nespala,

Celakovice, Czech Republic; Nhan Nguyen, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; Hayley O'Connell, Webster; Collin O'Connor, Sutton; Linh Pham, Hanoi, Vietnam; Sophia Rabor, Dayville, Conn.; Emma Raps, Webster; Grace Rhoads, Stafford Springs, Conn.; Morgan Royston, Oxford; Hannah Schoemer, Oxford; Olivia Sczuroska, Pomfret Center, Conn.; Alex Spetseris, Webster; Lily Tessmer, Lancaster; Chinh Tong, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; Owen Trainor, Brooklyn, Conn.; Ashley Vandenbrouck, Oxford; Isabella Vigliotti, Worcester; Elizabeth Walker, Thompson, Conn.; Anna Wildes, North Uxbridge; Kang Xu, Xi'an, China; Zhihe Ye, Beijing, China; Abdullah Zameer, Woodstock, Conn.; Xingyu Zhu, Wenzhou, China; Yutian Zhu, Hangzhou, China

Honor Roll  
Aaron Barnwell, Danielson, Conn.; Nicholas Boligan, Thompson, Conn.; Grace Booth, Webster; Domenic Capalbo, Worcester; Kara Corriveau, Brimfield; Claire Crossman, Oxford; Bridget Duffy, Shrewsbury; Ruiyi Gao, Hohhot, China; Audrey Hammond, Sutton; Lily Hayes, Danielson, Conn.; Camille Larson, Charlton; Michael Levesque, Narragansett, R.I.; Kaya Lukasek, Webster; Riley Martin, Moosup, Conn.; Sydney Masciarelli, Northbridge; Jacob McCabe, Douglas; Olivia Montione, Dudley; Andrew Peck, Paxton; Dominic Penny, Charlton; Luis Arturo Perez Povedano, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; Elena Polsky, Thompson, Conn.; Kaeleigh Sullivan, Douglas; Maggie Vo, Worcester; Wondimu Weinberg-O'Brien, Worcester; Tyler Whiteley, Foster, R.I.

BLACKSTONE VALLEY TRIBUNE

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The *Blackstone Valley Tribune* is committed to accuracy in all its news reports. Although numerous safeguards are in place to ensure accurate reporting, mistakes can occur. Confirmed fact errors will be corrected at the top right hand corner of page A3 in a timely manner.

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

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\$425,000, 278 Lincoln St, Garipey, Melissa R, to Dutile, Frederick, and Dutile, Diane.

\$405,000, 247 Lincoln St, Katori, Kevin C, and Katori, Jennifer L, to Felaco, Krista.

\$156,500, 12 Willow Brook Ln, Independent Building Corp, to Dirosario, Michael, and Dirosario, Sara.

DOUGLAS

\$622,000, 50 Oak St, Tsimgiannis, Odisefs, to Deter, Jonathan L, and Abasciano, Melissa.

\$355,000, 156 Yew St, Foley, Cassie L, to Tsonos, Moshoula M.

\$320,000, 28 Franklin St, Brazeau, Elaine L, and Brazeau, Lorraine L, to Brazeau, David M.

\$265,000, 9 Robin Dr #9, Burnat, Michael, and Burnat, Lillian, to Bellacqua, Amanda L, and Morrell, Tejay T.

\$210,000, 268 Wallum Lake Rd, Haley, William, and Haley, Beth, to Dauntless Path LLC.

UXBRIDGE

\$5,930,400, 35 Balm Of Life Spring Rd, JA Uxbridge LLC, to SROA 35 Balm Of Life SPR.

\$575,000, 35 Connor Pass, Waugh, Peter D, and Waugh, Monica N, to Narisety, Mithun.

\$370,000, 46 Fisher St, Dullaghan, Genevieve L, and Marley, Sharon E, to Schultz, Matthew, and Virgilio-Schultz, Abigayl.

\$185,000, 21 Bailey St #3B, Dickie, Robert H, and Dickie, Diane P, to Baton, Bruce E, and Baton, Sheryl L.

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# Winter storm leaves thousands in the dark



Courtesy

Accidents were reported throughout the area during last weekend's snowstorm, including this wreck in Charlton.

REGION – A powerful winter storm overspread the region last weekend, causing several accidents and widespread power outages.

At the height of the Dec. 5 storm, nearly 50,000 customers statewide were without power, with multiple communities picking up over a foot of snow. The speed limit was reduced on the Mass. Pike, which saw several accidents.

Surface streets were equally treacherous, with accidents reported in Charlton, Leicester, and Spencer. Police in

those communities also received multiple reports of downed power lines.

In Sturbridge, Route 148 was closed in the area of Warren Road due to fallen trees and power lines. Meanwhile, the Warren Fire Department helped provide assistance during multiple accident responses on the Mass Pike.

The storm also caused several local events to be postponed. The fifth annual Stuff the Bus campaign, which had been slated for Dec. 5 in three towns, had to be postponed to Saturday, Dec.

12. Run each year by AA Transportation, the Stuff the Bus program enables the community to donate toys for local youngsters. On Dec. 12, AA Transportation will bring buses to Spencer, North Brookfield, and Leicester. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., AA employees at each site will collect new, unwrapped toys.

AA Transportation officials thank all donors for their continued support and patience through the postponement.

## Grow your own herbal centerpiece for the holidays

Dress up the table and your holiday meals with a centerpiece of fresh herbs. You and your family will enjoy snipping a few fresh sprigs to season your meal to your own taste.

Purchase plants so they will be ready to harvest for the holidays. Many garden centers now carry herb plants year-round and some grocery stores sell herb plants in their produce department.

Include herbs your family likes and those that complement your menu. Grow plants in individual containers or plant several in one larger decorative pot. Select a container with drainage holes and one that complements your table setting.

Double pot plants when using a decorative container that lacks drainage holes. Plant herbs in a smaller pot with drainage holes. You can set several individual pots in a larger container. Place pebbles in the bottom of the decorative pot. These elevate the inner pots above any excess water that collects in the bottom of the decorative pot. Better for the plants and less work for you.

Use a quality, well-drained potting mix when moving herbs into another container. Be sure to place a saucer or tray under the pot to protect your furniture. Set on a decorative placemat for added protection and add a few seasonal items to complete your display.



Include some basil to dress up a pizza, salad, or soup with just a few leaves. Add some oregano for seasoning any tomato-based dishes such as pizza and pasta. Use fresh thyme to add flavor to cheeses, eggs, tomatoes, and lentil. Lemon thyme makes a nice tea.

Chives' mild onion flavor is great on potatoes, but consider adding it to soups, dips, seafood dishes, and omelets. Just snip a few leaves and cut them into smaller pieces before adding them to your dish.

Parsley is high in vitamin C and often added to soups, pasta, salads, and dressings. Harvest a sprig at the end of the meal to freshen your breath.

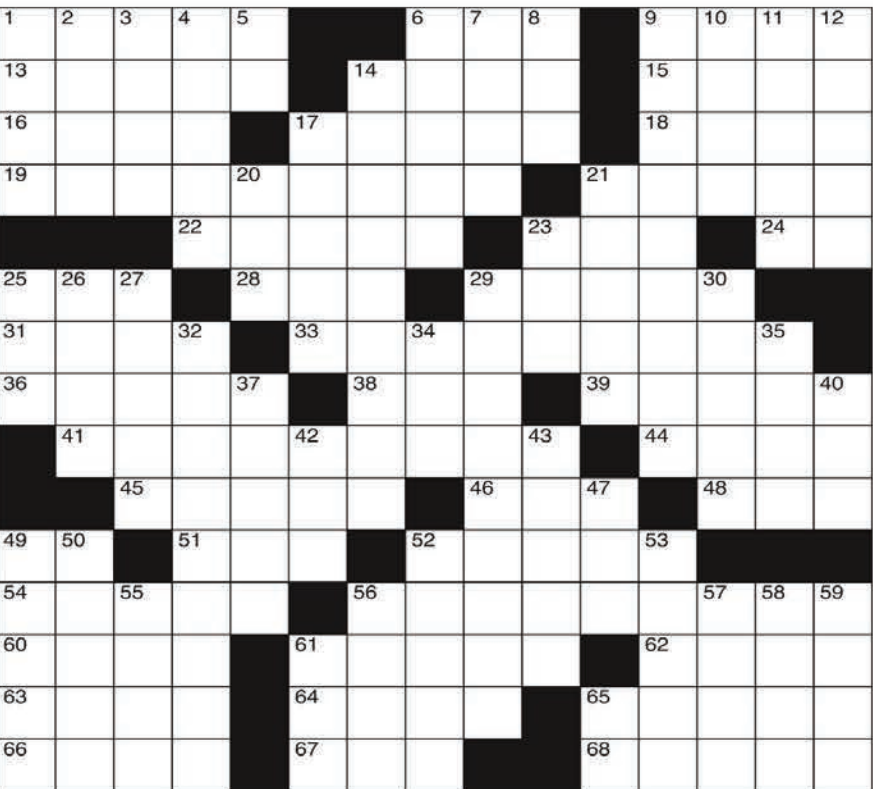
Always water plants thoroughly when the top inch of soil is starting to dry. Basil likes slightly moist soil but not soggy wet. Pour off excess water that collects in the saucer or elevate the pot on pebbles above any water that lingers in the saucer or tray.

And don't forget the snips. Let everyone add their own favorite herbal seasonings to their meal. Encourage everyone to make the cut above a set of leaves. This keeps the plant looking good and the wound will close quickly. And don't be timid; regular harvesting encourages new growth for future harvests.

When the herbal centerpiece is not dressing up the table, move the plants to a sunny window or under artificial lights. Avoid drafts of hot and cold air. Continue watering it thoroughly as needed.

Everyone will appreciate the fresh flavor and fun of flavoring their own meals right at the table during your holiday meal.

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



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Skateboarders love them
- 6. Popular sports podcast (abbr.)
- 9. Former Ohio State great Michael
- 13. Not dirty
- 14. Earth goddess (Greek myth.)
- 15. A Spanish river
- 16. Pig meat (French)
- 17. Floating astronomer
- 18. Floating ice
- 19. Broadcast
- 21. Aquatic mammals
- 22. Some are bath
- 23. Hip hop trio
- 24. NY Giants' #56
- 25. Small European viper
- 28. Neither
- 29. Multiple Tony-winner Rivera
- 31. Loud noise
- 33. Second year high schooler
- 36. "\_\_\_ in comparison"
- 38. Golf score
- 39. Raise
- 41. Pastas
- 44. Easily manageable
- 45. Fathered
- 46. Pouch
- 48. Institute legal proceedings against
- 49. News organization
- 51. Unruly group of people
- 52. Fasten or secure
- 54. Sheets of glass
- 56. Doubled
- 60. Foolish person
- 61. Rooney and Kate are two
- 62. Small, rich sponge cake
- 63. Advice or counsel
- 64. Large wading bird
- 65. Famed British physicist
- 66. Narrow ridges (Swedish)
- 67. Field force unit
- 68. Lying face downward

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Proof of purchase (abbr.)
- 2. Soap ingredient
- 3. Blackbird
- 4. Single steps
- 5. Tin
- 6. Books have lots of them
- 7. Made of fermented honey and water
- 8. You can get it in a bed
- 9. Room for communal meals
- 10. Early Syrian kingdom
- 11. Provokes dry amusement
- 12. Use with "thou"
- 14. Mollusk
- 17. Grain storage units
- 20. Not a car, not a truck
- 21. Ooze
- 23. N. Vietnamese ethnic group
- 25. Tennis pros group
- 26. Something that's not what it's purported to be
- 27. E. Indian trees
- 29. Beloved December holiday
- 30. Regions
- 32. Metric unit of length
- 34. Peter's last name
- 35. Beige
- 37. 18-year period in astronomy
- 40. Where golfers begin
- 42. Basketball stat (abbr.)
- 43. Frocks
- 47. Soda comes in it
- 49. On approval
- 50. Trims by cutting
- 52. Small finch
- 53. Language Bura-\_\_\_
- 55. Nothing
- 56. Imbecile (British)
- 57. Tropical Asian plant
- 58. Abba \_\_, Israeli politician
- 59. Small freshwater fish
- 61. Indicates position
- 65. Data processing



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# OBITUARIES

## Thomas P. Arsenault



Thomas of Whitinsville, MA and Huntsville, TX passed away suddenly on November 18, 2020. Tom was born March 17, 1952, to Russell and Helena Arsenault in Milford, MA. He is survived by his wife, Mary (Lawson) Arsenault of Huntsville, TX and his former wife Patricia Arsenault, the mother of his children, of Douglas, MA; a daughter, Wendy Lozeau and husband Patrick of Oakland, RI; a son, Jonathan Arsenault of Webster, MA; two grandchildren, Patrick and Kaitlin; a great granddaughter, Jade. three stepsons, Gavin, Robert and Nicholas Gann, and their families, all of Texas; and three siblings, Bette (Arsenault) Robbins and her husband, Joe of Douglas, MA, Ronald Arsenault and wife Mickey of Huntsville, AL; Eva Arsenault and wife Ellen Lynch of Weare, NH; and several nieces and nephews. After graduating from Uxbridge High

School he enlisted in the U.S. Army, and after his return joined the Northbridge Fire Dept. as a volunteer firefighter. Over the years he became a full-time firefighter and a Lieutenant EMT. After retiring from the NFD he moved to Huntsville, Texas where he studied to become a Paramedic and worked for the Walker County EMS and for the Huntsville Memorial Hospital before retiring again. Tom will be remembered for his love of his family, his professionalism, sense of humor, compassion, his selflessness, his love of music (especially the Beatles), and his love of life. A family memorial service will take place at the Houston National Cemetery in TX where his ashes will be placed in a columbarium (wall vault). There will also be a memorial service, on an appropriate date to be determined, for his children, siblings and relatives in Massachusetts.



## Thomas “Tim” Rice, 81



U X B R I D G E - Thomas “Tim” Rice, 81, passed away peacefully on December 3, 2020 at his home surrounded by his family. He leaves his wife of 57 years, Sandra L. (Phoenix) Rice; his loving children, Amy E. Confalone and her husband Alfred of Hampton, NH, Kristine A. Phaneuf and Robert Coakley of Uxbridge, MA, Thomas Rice, Jr. of Clovis, CA; six grandchildren, Charles Confalone, Samuel Confalone, Katie Confalone, Ashlee Phaneuf, Alexis Rice, and Jena Rice; a sister Mary Jane Rice of SC and Kathy Craig of Whitinsville; sister-in-law, Winifred “Una” Rice, of Uxbridge. He is predeceased by his three brothers; James, Edward and David. He was born in Milford, MA on June 17, 1939 and was the son of Thomas and Albina (Gauthier) Rice. Tom lived in Uxbridge most of his life. Tom graduated from Uxbridge High School in 1958 and earned his degree in Pharmacy at Northeastern University, Boston. He worked as a pharmacist at

the Veterans Hospital and Department of Correction. Tom also volunteered for the Town of Uxbridge, serving on the Board of Health, Board of Selectman, Housing Authority, Library Trustee and EMT/Fire Department. He also worked for the State of Massachusetts as a Pharmacy Inspector as well as a certified health inspector for town Boards of Health. Many people know Tom from the days he worked as a soda clerk at Lynch’s Drug Store. Tom loved spending time with his family and friends. He was a master at Irish wit. A visiting hour for Tim was held on December 10, from 9:30-10:30, at Carr Funeral Home, followed by a Mass at 11:00AM at Saint Mary’s Church, 71 Mendon St, Uxbridge. Burial followed in Saint Mary’s Cemetery. Donations in Tom’s memory may be made to St. Vincent DePaul Society, c/o St. Mary Church, 71 Mendon St., Uxbridge, MA 01569. Carr Funeral Home, 24 Hill St., Whitinsville, is assisting the family. To share a memory or condolence, please visit [www.carrfuneralhome.com](http://www.carrfuneralhome.com)

# DA’s office assists in combating opioid crisis

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

REGION – The Worcester County District Attorney’s Office will use federal grant funding to assist police departments in combating the opioid crisis. The federal Department of Justice recently awarded the Worcester County District Attorney’s Office a \$1.2 million grant to help facilitate outreach and recovery efforts. District Attorney Joseph Early, Jr., will team up with local police departments to support several grant-funded programs. Among other projects, the federal grant monies will fund recovery coaches who will respond with police personnel and offer services after an overdose. These critical measures

can help start victims down the path to treatment and recovery, police said, rather than allow them to be cycled back through the same destructive process. Police in all 60 of Worcester County’s cities and towns began using the Critical Incident Management System (CIMS) earlier this year to track overdose incidents. The goal of the system isn’t to track data for the purpose of arresting people, but rather to maximize assistance opportunities, police said. Law enforcement officials discovered at the start of the opioid crisis that it is impossible to solve the problem simply through the criminal justice system. A broader support system of counselors, clinicians, recovery groups, and family

advocates is necessary, officials said. Federal and state grant funding will continue to pave the way to recovery for many desperate residents and families. “We’re glad to have been awarded this grant so we can help support our police partners in their response to the opioid epidemic,” District Attorney Early said. “When we implemented CIMS, our goal was to respond to every overdose incident and help people get access to services. This grant will ensure that overdose victims in every community receive help getting into treatment and on the path to recovery.” While many area police departments already have overdose follow-up protocols in place, the latest grant funding

will allow recovery coaches to work on a regional basis and assist police departments that may not have the budget to employ coaches on a full-time basis. “This is the piece of the puzzle that has been missing,” said Spencer Police Chief David Darrin. “I have trained nearly sixty percent of our officers and dispatchers in crisis intervention techniques. We also have CIMS thanks to DA Early to track overdose incidents. The final piece is the outreach, and thanks to this new grant the puzzle will be complete.” The three-year federal grant, which will begin administering funds in early 2021, was awarded through the Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Site-Based Program (COSSAP). Local police officials are thrilled to have additional tools in their arsenal to help combat the opioid crisis. “When the grant is in full swing, we will have access to recovery coaches who we can link up with individuals that need assistance,” said Leicester Police Chief Ken Antanavica. The LPD currently has a sergeant responsible for monitoring all overdose incidents and entering them into the CIMS database. The sergeant also monitors and orders Narcan as needed. Chief Antanavica said his officers are looking forward to working with the recovery coaches as another layer of community assistance.

# Baker administration pushes awareness of COVID precautions

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

REGION – With mask fatigue and other frustrations continuing to build statewide, the Baker-Polito Administration is scrambling to find creative outreach options. Last week, Gov. Charlie Baker announced a new public awareness effort encouraging residents to contin-

ue heeding health guidance. Dubbed “Get Back Mass,” the campaign highlights the importance of wearing a mask, practicing good hygiene, keeping a safe distance, and avoiding large gatherings. “The campaign features residents from across the Commonwealth who, in their own words, draw the connection between taking precautions and getting back to the activities, people, and experiences they enjoy,” read a statement released by Baker. “The campaign underscores the importance of taking precautions so the Commonwealth can slow the spread of the virus and keep our communities safe.” The multilingual campaign will run on several platforms this winter, including television and digital ads. The Get Back Mass program will also utilize social media messages, and informational posters will be displayed in several public locations. The program will run through at least February, officials said. Depending on

COVID-19 conditions toward the end of the winter, the campaign could be expanded to March and beyond. The Get Back Mass campaign is the latest in a series of public awareness efforts the Governor has launched to help slow the spread of COVID-19. The state has seen sharp increases in new cases and hospitalizations over the last month. State leaders blame the surge mostly on large private gatherings and complacency with health measures, as well as travelers returning to the state without adhering to quarantine regulations. Looking ahead, officials are particularly concerned about a steeper spike emerging from Thanksgiving travel and gatherings. In addition to the Get Back Mass campaign, the Baker-Polito Administration made several other COVID-19 announcements last week. These include an award of \$650,000 in grant funding to community-based and faith-based organizations to help reduce the spread of

the virus. “The COVID-19 Community Grant Program supports nonprofit, community-based, and faith-based organizations in raising awareness of COVID best practices,” the Governor’s statement read. Twenty organizations statewide will receive grant awards ranging from \$10,000 to \$50,000. Awardees will engage in peer leadership activities, advanced COVID-19 health communications, educational programs, and community outreach efforts, among others. Also, the Governor announced last week the expansion of the Abbott BinaxNOW testing program to include Massachusetts long-term care facilities. This will increase COVID-19 testing availability throughout the winter for some of the state’s most vulnerable residents. For more information on statewide efforts to combat COVID-19, visit [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov).



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# LEGALS

**TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING**  
In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L Ch 40A, Section 11, and Chapter I 7), Section 47 of the Northbridge Zoning By-laws, the Northbridge Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 6:45 P.M. VIA ZOOM -Join Zoom Meeting: 1 929 205 6099 US (New York) https://zoom.us/j/94051787845?pwd=UnpDazhKUXEzOVJPekdsQVRrUUpFQT09 Meeting ID: 940 5178 7845 Passcode: 181281** to consider the application from Brad & Aubrie Choiniere, 50 Fisher Street. Millville, MA 01529 for a Special Permit (S-SP-20) pursuant to Article X, Section 173-47 Special Permit, 173-12 Table of Use Regulations. In order to operate an Auto Detailing Business at the location of 300 Commerce Dr, Unit 2 & 3, Whitinsville, MA 01588. The property is shown on Assessor's Map 28 as Parcel 73. is located in an Industrial 1 zoning district and is owned by Vincent Osterman VE Properties IX, LLC. The purpose of this hearing is to provide an opportunity for public comment. Anyone wishing to be heard regarding this matter should attend said meeting at

the time and place designated. A copy of the petition is available for review at the office of the Town Clerk and Zoning Board of Appeals Office and may be reviewed during normal business hours. Douglas Curving, Chairman Northbridge Zoning Board of Appeals December 4, 2020 December 11, 2020  
**TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING**  
In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L Ch 40A., Section 11, and Chapter 173, Section 47 of the Northbridge Zoning By-laws, the Northbridge Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 6:55 P.M. VIA ZOOM -Join Zoom Meeting: 1929 205 6099 US (New York) https://zoom.us/j/94051787845?pwd=UnpDazhKUXEzOVJPekdsQVRrUUpFQT09 Meeting ID: 940 5178 7845 Passcode: 181281** to consider the application from Imperial Real Estate Holdings, LLC 23 76 Providence Rd, Northbridge, MA 01534 for a Variance (19-V-20) pursuant to Article X, Section 173-48, 173-19 Table of Area Regulations in order to convert

an existing building to a 2 family dwelling at the location of 2376 Providence Rd, Northbridge, MA 01534. The property is shown on Assessor's Map 25 as Parcel 87, is located in a Residential -4 zoning district and is owned by Imperial Real Estate Holding, LLC. The purpose of this hearing is to provide an opportunity for public comment. Anyone wishing to be heard regarding this matter should attend said meeting at the time and place designated. A copy of the petition is available for review at the office of the Town Clerk and Zoning Board of Appeals Office and may be reviewed during normal business hours. Douglas Curving, Chairman Northbridge Zoning Board of Appeals December 4, 2020 December 11, 2020  
**TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING**  
In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L Ch 40A, Section 11, and Chapter I 73, Section 47 of the Northbridge Zoning By-laws, the Northbridge Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 6:35 P.M. VIA ZOOM -Join Zoom Meeting: 1929 205 6099 US (New York)**

**https://zoorn.us/j/94051787845?pwd=UnpDazhKUXEzOVJPekdsQVRrUUpFQT09 Meeting ID: 940 5178 7845 Passcode: 181281**  
to consider the application from Chips Excavation. LLC, 1255 Hill Street, Whitinsville, MA 01588 for a Special Permit (17 SP-20) pursuant to Article X, Section 173-47 Special Permit; 173-12 Table of Use Regulations. In order to construct three (3) attached single family homes at the location of Arthur Dr lot 2, Northbridge, MA 01534. The property, shown on Assessor's Map 24A as Parcel 163, is located in an Residential- 4 zoning district and is owned by Chip's Excavation LLC. The purpose of this hearing is to provide an opportunity for public comment. Anyone wishing to be heard regarding this matter should attend said meeting at the time and place designated. A copy of the petition is available for review at the office of the Town Clerk and Zoning Board of Appeals Office and may be reviewed during normal business hours. Douglas Curving, Chairman Northbridge Zoning Board of Appeals December 4, 2020 December 11, 2020



# Central Massachusetts see surge in COVID cases

BY KEVIN FLANDERS

STAFF WRITER

REGION – With COVID-19 conditions rapidly worsening statewide, central Mass. officials continue their scramble to convince residents to follow health protocols.

Last week, multiple communities throughout the region were listed in the state's "red zone" for COVID-19 transmission. Positive cases have soared over the last two weeks, both locally and across the state.

North Brookfield (27 positive cases over the

last 14 days); Spencer (63); Leicester (63); Charlton (102); Sturbridge (40); and Southbridge (157) have all seen alarming spikes in new cases.

With winter approaching and the holiday season in full swing, officials fear those numbers will continue to rise.

"As COVID infections are on the rise throughout the region, I want to remind the public just how important following the CDC guidelines are to staying safe and reducing transmission," said Spencer Town

Administrator Thomas Gregory. "All persons over the age of five must wear a face covering whenever in public – indoors and outdoors. The Governor's stay-at-home advisory advises all residents to stay home from 10 p.m. until 5 a.m. While this is not a requirement, residents are strongly encouraged to comply."

Additionally, indoor gatherings at private residences are limited to ten people, including family household members. Outdoor gatherings are

limited to 25 people.

Officials urge residents to adhere to protocols at private residences. State leaders have blamed several outbreaks on large private gatherings without masks or social distancing.

"Face coverings are also strongly encouraged in a private residence when non-household members are present," Gregory added. "Spencer has now been categorized by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health as a high-risk community. Now that

winter is here – and with the holidays approaching – please follow the guidelines that are in place."

Leicester officials are offering similar insurances. The town has spent much of the last two months in the state's red zone, leading to the cancellation of trick-or-treating and several other events.

"The Leicester Board of Health and the Town Administration are working closely with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention, and regional health officials in response to COVID-19," read a statement released by town officials. "The Leicester Board of Health guides the town response to COVID-19, implementing the recommendations of both the MDPH and the CDC as appropriate, as well as working with the public schools."

The most current guidance and recommendations being implemented in Leicester will be listed on the town Web site: [www.leicesterma.org](http://www.leicesterma.org).





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EDITORIAL

# The struggle against Old Man Winter

The first big nor’easter of the season has come and gone, leaving us with anywhere from three to nine inches of snow (or more in some cases), depending on where you live. As with most things, we like to think about how our ancestors handled certain situations. It was during a snowy drive last winter that we became more grateful for studded snow tires and heat, after thinking about how those before us dealt with travel during snowstorms.

During the winter of 1717, a storm dumped four feet of snow, creating snowdrifts of up to 25 feet. Passing through the snow covered roads was too much for a postman who traded his horse for a pair of snowshoes. Objects similar to skis were attached to carriages as a means of winter transportation.

Streets had to be passable for wood and food deliveries. When the roads were not passable townspeople would gather together in large groups and dig out a path. The snow was placed into the back of a horse-drawn cart by gangs of men and driven to the closest river to be dumped. Salt was also used on streets, but many people complained because it ruined their shoes and clothes.

Fast forward to 1840, when the first snow plow patent came to be. It wasn’t until 1862 that the first snowplow was put into use. The plow was attached to a cart and pulled by a team of horses. Soon after, many cities began to use the horse-drawn snowplow.

Typically the use of the horse-drawn plow was only used to clear main streets, leaving side streets and sidewalks snowed in by large piles often blocking entrances to businesses. Many business owners actually brought lawsuits against the plowing companies as a result because their customers could not gain access to the storefronts.

The solution to that conundrum, was the hiring of snow shovellers to accompany the plow. The blizzard of 1888, however, was too much for the “modernized” plow, leaving many people trapped inside their homes. This emergency was the catalyst cities needed to begin coming up with a better plan for snow removal. One idea was to stay on top of the storm as it started, instead of waiting for it to end. Different men driving the plows were assigned to certain neighborhoods as well.

The invention of the automobile brought with it a crutch and a new possibility as far as snow removal went. The crutch being that an entirely new method needed to be engineered and put into use. In New York in 1913, a dump truck could be seen on city streets. Seven years later the first snow loader, came on to the scene. It had a big scoop with a conveyor belt. The snow would go into the scoop via the belt, then dumped into the back of the truck. From there, off to the river it went.

It wasn’t until 1959 when the weather was able to be predicted more accurately, allowing towns and cities to better prepare for any incoming storms.

Reading old diaries of our New England ancestors gives the perfect window as to what it was like to experience a bitter cold winter, prior to modern practices.

As literary critic Van Wyck Brooks wrote in “The Flowering of New England, 1815-1865,” “All praise to winter, then, was Henry’s feeling. Let others have their sultry luxuries. How full of creative genius was the air in which these snow-crystals were generated. He could hardly have marveled more if real stars had fallen and lodged on his coat. What a world to live in, where myriads of these little discs, so beautiful to the most prying eye, were whirled down on every traveler’s coat, on the restless squirrel’s fur and on the far-stretching fields and forests, the wooded dells and mountain-tops,—these glorious spangles, the sweepings of heaven’s floor.”

# OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Blackstone Valley and beyond

A MOMENT IN  
HISTORY  
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BEVERLY  
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Have you ever read about America’s role in World War II? How Americans fought to stop Germany from its outrageous effort to conquer Europe and Russia and eliminate the Jewish race? How an incredible Christmas movie like “It’s A Wonderful Life” gets its most powerful performance from an actor who had real life WWII combat experience? Most young Americans do not.

According to the December 2020 issue of World War II magazine, most American Millennials and Generation Z (born after 1996) do not know that 6 million Jewish people perished in Hitler’s Holocaust during World War II. The survey conducted by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany found that 15 percent of those surveyed thought it was acceptable to hold neo-Nazi views. Half of those surveyed cannot name a single concentration camp. Auschwitz anyone? The Conference blames poor education and Holocaust denials on social media.

So, welcome back to getting a good education in History which you simply cannot achieve by searching Google. Ask Google: “Who won World War II?”

Answer, the United States, right? With major supporting roles from Britain, the Free French, the Free Poles, India, Canada, Australia, the British and French dominions, Russia, China, and every country that fought Germany and Japan.

Yes, World War II is a very complicated history with many, many important players, but the pivotal role - let’s give credit where credit is due - in both Europe and the Pacific was played by the U.S. We geared up our military might and cranked out tanks, planes, weapons, shells, parachutes, gunpowder, you name it, food, chocolate, like only the U.S.A. can, and shipped it to England, North Africa, the Pacific, and every other battle front in need. It’s like us shipping Covid protective equipment to other countries in 2020 because we have a surplus. Thank you, President Trump, and all the manufacturers who shifted production to PPE.

On Wikipedia, it states the war in Europe was concluded by an invasion of Germany by the “Western Allies” and the Soviet Union, the suicide of Hitler, and the German surrender on May 8, 1945. No mention of D-Day. Who did the heavy lifting on D-Day? The United States, Great Britain, Canada, with supporting roles by the Free French, the Free Poles, Australians, Belgians, Czechs, the Dutch, Greeks, New Zealanders, Norwegians, Rhodesians (today’s Zimbabwe) forces, and Polish naval, air, and ground

support (facts courtesy of the World War II National Museum). Let’s remember that the Soviet Union entered Germany, Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and never left. The U.S.S.R. put up the Iron (Communist) Curtain over parts of Europe in 1945. Poland did not achieve its

freedom from Communism until the Solidarity movement and union leader Lech Walesa pushed the Russians out in 1989. So, the free countries liberated the countries taken by Nazi Germany. The Soviet Union “liberated” the countries taken by Nazi Germany and installed Communism. You will not learn that on Google.

Now, here is the incredible journey of Jimmy Stewart, the actor. Before he was George Bailey in the Christmas film, “It’s a Wonderful Life,” he was a licensed pilot. In 1941, he joined the U.S. Army at age 33 (quite old in those days). As a pilot, Stewart led 11 of the 41 bombing missions of the 703rd Bomb Squadron, U.S. Army Air Corps. Stewart flew B-24s, known as “widow makers” because so many pilots and aircraft were lost while flying them. Stewart watched from his plane as plane after plane, friend after friend, went down. For years afterward, he had nightmares: German planes flying at him, spraying bullets, firing rockets, B-24s beside him, burning and spinning out of formation to the ground below. Then, in his dream, an explosion and a hole beneath his seat. He can see Germany, straight down, 4 miles away. This was no dream. This had been his reality on his last flight. For this true story, read “The Dark Place” by Dave Kindy in the December 2020 issue of World War II magazine.

As a genius friend said, it was not George Bailey’s brother Harry who was the World War II hero combat pilot. It was George Bailey himself!

For a lesson in World War II history, I dare you to watch the films “Schindler’s List,” “Saving Private Ryan,” or “Midway.” For those who prefer the light version of Hitler’s Nazis, watch “The Sound of Music.” You’ll get the idea of how it was when friends ratted out friends because of their belief in a free non-Nazi Austria. In those days, if someone said something mean, there was no “safe room” in which to hide. You had to stand your ground. You had to fight, or sew parachutes, or fly B-24s. Yes, women didn’t just sew parachutes. They also flew planes for the U.S. in WWII. That’s an amazing story for another day.

## Consider these year-end financial moves



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PARENT

We’re nearing the end of 2020 – and for many of us, it will be a relief to turn the calendar page on this challenging year. However, we’ve still got a few weeks left, which means you have time to make some year-end financial moves that may work in your favor.

Here are a few suggestions:  
Add to your IRA. For the 2020 tax year, you can put in up to \$6,000 to your traditional or Roth IRA, or \$7,000 if you’re 50 or older. If you haven’t reached this limit, consider adding some money. You actually have until April 15, 2021, to contribute to your IRA for 2020, but the sooner you put the money in, the quicker it can go to work for you. Plus, if you have to pay taxes in April, you’ll be less likely to contribute to your IRA then.

Make an extra 401(k) payment. If it’s allowed by your employer, put in a little extra to your 401(k) or similar retirement plan. And if your salary goes up next year, increase your regular contributions.

See your tax advisor. It’s possible that you could improve your tax situation by making some investment-related moves. For example, if you sold some investments whose value has increased, you could incur capital gains taxes. To offset these gains, you could sell other investments that have lost value, assuming these investments are no longer essential to your financial strategy. Your tax advisor can evaluate this type of move, along with others, to determine those that may be appropriate for your situation.

Review your investment mix. As you consider your portfolio, think about the events of these past 12 months and how you responded to them. When COVID-19 hit early in the year, and the financial markets plunged, did you find yourself worrying constantly about the losses you were taking, even though they were just on “paper” at that point? Did you even sell investments to “cut your losses” without waiting for a market recovery? If so, you might want to consult with a financial professional to determine if your investment mix is still appropriate for your goals and risk tolerance, or if you need to make some changes.

Evaluate your need for retirement plan withdrawals. If you are 72 or older, you must start taking withdrawals – technically called required minimum distributions, or RMDs – from your traditional IRA and your 401(k) or similar retirement plan. Typically, you must take these RMDs by December 31 every year. However, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Stimulus (CARES) Act suspended, or waived, all RMDs due in 2020. If you’re in this age group, but you don’t need the money, you can let your retirement accounts continue growing on a tax-deferred basis.

Think about the future. Are you saving enough for your children’s college education? Are you still on track toward the retirement lifestyle you’ve envisioned? Or have your retirement plans changed as a result of the pandemic? All of these issues can affect your investment strategies, so you’ll want to think carefully about what decisions you may need to make.

Looking back – and ahead – can help you make the moves to end 2020 on a positive note and start 2021 on the right foot.

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Darren Parent, your local Edward Jones Advisor at 5 Albert St., Auburn, MA 01501 Tel: 508-832-5385 or Darren.parent@edwardjones.com.*

## Life in balance

I’m not a very athletic guy. I’ve mentioned this before, but we used to be a skiing family. We’d head north to the slopes several times a year and occasionally out west to the Rockies. I never really enjoyed skiing, but Arlene and the kids did, so off we’d go.

I think much about life can be learned staring down a hill from eight-thousand feet while standing on two skis. The first thing that comes to mind is that it was unnatural. I don’t think we were meant to slide down a hill with two planks strapped to our feet.

The next and most prominent thought was that it was dangerous. On Vail Mountain one afternoon, I counted eleven skiers being towed down on sleds by the ski patrol. Later in the same day, I watched a teenager fall off a ski lift.

Why would I submit my family to such risk? I guess the answer is that they loved it ... and you can’t live life in a protective bubble. Other than damage to my self-esteem and confidence, we never suffered a major ski injury.

I did learn a valuable life lesson while on skis. As I said, I never felt comfortable. I could be skiing perfectly down the slopes, then get a sudden sense of fear, believing I was going to fall and inflict serious injury. When that happened, and it always did, I’d purposely fall. I realized I was doing it. My oldest son asked, why are you falling so much? I shrugged it off, but his question stuck in my head and I pondered it the rest of the day. Then in the dark of night, I realized what I was doing.

As I said, I could be coming perfectly down the hill, get a sudden stroke of fear and purposely fall. I believe my lack of comfortability and confidence told me I was going to fall and harm myself, so instead, I decided to plan my fall because it was something I could control. I was sabotaging my own success on skis. Rather than planning to succeed, I did the opposite.

I’m preparing to speak to my local chamber of commerce this month. In my thoughts about why businesses and individuals succeed and fail, I think about my purposeful failure on the slopes. I didn’t envision making it to the bottom of the hill without falling. Unconsciously, I planned, executed, and succeeded at my



POSITIVELY  
SPEAKING

GARY W.  
MOORE

own failure.

I wonder how many people, organizations and businesses do the same thing. How many marriages begin and end the same way? Or how many students flunk out of college because they can’t picture themselves graduating? I think the true numbers would shock us all. I believe most failure is subconsciously planned and executed.

The question then is, why don’t we picture ourselves making it to the bottom of the slope unharmed and still upright on our skis?

I think the answer is obvious, and it’s because we haven’t planned to do so. We push off the top of the mountain with a hope and prayer of making it. We don’t have a plan to make it to the bottom while still upright because our fear causes us to protect ourselves against the inevitable failure. No success plan, no positive image of succeeding ... is maybe why so many skiers end up on sleds and why so many businesses, marriages and life plans fail.

If I had spent more time planning to stay upright rather than planning to hit the ground, I bet I may have found the success and enjoyment that others do on the slopes. I may have learned to enjoy skiing!

Is this a story about a winter sport? Certainly, skiing is the example, but it’s more about our balance in life. Does your lack of an optimistic belief in your success sabotage your plans in any or every activity?

Before we begin any endeavor, do you plan your success, envision your accomplishment, and believe you’ll make it to your goal on your feet?

In short, get your ducks in a row, have a positive plan, have fun, live more, and worry less.

Believe in and imagine your success before it happens. Create a plan with a successful ending. Execute your plan and make it to the bottom of the slope on your feet.

Believe you can and will.

*Gary W. Moore is a freelance columnist, speaker, and author of three books including the award-winning, critically acclaimed, “Playing with the Enemy.” Follow Gary on Twitter @GaryWMoore721 and at www.garywmoore.com.*



# On the hunt

Deer hunting in Massachusetts has been great for some, and others not so good. It depends on who you ask. With all check stations closed and deer being registered online this year because of Covid, it will be a while before we can get some of the harvest figures. It seems the younger generation is doing extremely well harvesting some real impressive bucks locally.

A Milford group of hunters harvested a good number of big bucks last week, while others struggled to bring home a couple of small does. Some hunters were blaming the high harvest of deer to archers prior to the shotgun season. Archers did harvest the highest number of deer in the last few years, as stated in a previous column.

The shotgun deer season will end this Saturday, followed by Black powder season, which opens this coming Monday, Dec. 14 and runs through the end of the month. The ice crusted woods made it a bit noisy for hunters trying to sneak up on deer during the start of the second week of deer hunting, but warmer temperatures for the last three days should help shotgunners finish up their season on a high note. Hunters that worked the woods with a couple of buddies, did the best, as deer were pushed to waiting gunners on well-traveled runs.

Primitive arms season is a favorite method to hunt deer for many hunters.



THE GREAT OUTDOORS  
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The accuracy of the rifled barrels is amazing, and are capable of hitting their target at 100 yards or more in the right hands. Loading the gun is also extremely easy with the new Power Belt Bullets, and the 50 grain pellets, that are simply dropped down the barrel, prior to ram rodding the bullet down the barrel. Some hunters can reload as fast as 15 seconds.

A lot better than the old ball and patch, which for years allowed for a smoothbore gun only in Massachusetts! Changing hunting laws in Mass. is like pulling teeth with legislators! The Sunday hunting bill and the Crossbow bill needs to be passed. Now that elections are just about over, sportsmen will again try to convince Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife that these bills need to be addressed and passed this year.

Trout fishing anglers are still fishing numerous bodies of water from their boats, but they are hopeful that some cold weather is on the horizon. It has been a few years now that many lakes and ponds in the area, have provided very little ice fishing, because of unsafe ice. With the darn pandemic giving anglers a touch of cabin fever, a little bit of ice fishing could be just what the doctor ordered. Watching TV every day makes it hard to concentrate on everyday life that we are accustomed to. When the vaccine is available, I will be in line.

This coming spring may not see



Courtesy

This week's picture shows this writer's two dogs, Molly & Twig.

sportsmen's shows open if we do not get the pandemic under control. That would be a shame! Thousands of sportsmen attend the shows annually, pumping thousands of dollars into the economy, not to mention seeing old friends and telling lies about their fishing and hunting experiences in 2020.

Shopping for Christmas gifts this year is being done mostly online, which is a good idea. Purchasing a hunting or

fishing license is now available online, and is one of the best things you can give any sportsmen. Gift certificates are also a great gift, when purchased at a sportsmen or sportswoman's favorite store.

Be sure to social distance and wear a mask.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

## Readers Share Timely Tips!

As we countdown to the festive holidays, readers took time from the hustle and bustle of the season to share their favorite tips and tricks. From creative COVID related strategies to sparking sentimental memories, the following hints from area readers are sure to please!

Bringing extended family to the holiday table without literally having them at the table this year can be a reality, thanks to this reader's present project:

It looks like the Covid virus is going to be here for the holidays. Many families will have to skip the traditional get together where everyone looks forward to homemade food. I am trying something different this year. Because we won't be able to share a favorite recipe at the table, I am creating a family cook book. I have emailed family and extended family members requesting that they send me one or more of their favorite recipes. I will then put together a family favorite cook book. They will then receive a copy at Christmas. Stay safe, and Happy Holidays. Chris Griffin  
Whitinsville, MA

Feeding baby his first finger foods can be a challenge - here's an easy way to up the odds your little one can easily "pick up" the healthy foods:

My 10 month old grandson is loving finger foods, and banana is a favorite. Picking up chunks of banana can be slippery business, though. My daughter found that sprinkling the banana pieces with powdered

peanut butter makes the task simple, and my grandson LOVES the combination!!! Also gets more protein into the little guy at the same time.

Janine Cortesa  
Uxbridge MA

This clever reader discovered a way to stretch the budget by increasing the lifespan of disposable face masks:

Disposable facial masks are expensive. Cloth are great but here are some tips for safely extending the life of the disposable types. I experimented, and mine did hold up to at least one wash in the washer and being dried in the dryer. I figured it was worth a try, and the worst thing would be that there would be lint all over that load of clothes and I would need to re-do the laundry. However, mostly I soak both the disposables and cloth masks in a stainless steel bowl with boiling or very hot water to which some drops of essential oils such as tea tree or lavender as well as a capful of rubbing alcohol has been added. Those particular oils hold some anti-bacterial properties. After an hours soak thoroughly rinse, wring out and hang indoors or outside preferably in a sunny spot to air dry. Hope this helps stretch the budget!

Annie Wuelfing  
East Brookfield MA

This reader has long promoted the virtues of gifting nostalgic presents! Here are two ideas she shares:

I started coin collections for my niece and nephew, which I continue to add to at holiday



TAKE THE HINT  
.....  
KAREN TRAINOR

time. I began by giving them Lincoln Pennies at age 1 with books, and each year at Christmas I give them another few coins of years of birth-dates of both sets of grandparents, aunts, uncles and more as keepsakes. Hopeful they will collect coins like their grandpa or at least they have a second book with the genealogy recorded and real coins from their biological grandfather, aunt and uncle.

I am trying to get cousins together again after Covid, and last year I paid to get old 8mm family movies on disc and had four reunions across the U.S. with cousins, copies for all.

My point is, to share stories now, take phone photos of old 35mm, 110, 126 and historic photos and share with family on Facebook etc. so they can keep them for their genealogy folders and suggest to them to do so. "Seize the moment," in the words of Robin Williams!

Who knew? This reader's slow cooker method eliminates the hassle of peeling and cutting hard-as-a-rock butternut squash!

Here is my tip. Put the whole butternut squash right in the crockpot, add just a little water and cook it until soft. It comes out so good, I can even eat the skin. I wish my father knew this on



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# Legislators offer help in securing unemployment benefits

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

REGION – As residents continue to grapple with an overwhelmed unemployment assistance system, local legislators are working hard to help with navigation.

Area state representatives and senators have seen a recent increase in calls and emails from residents who haven't received an unemployment check in months. Others have gotten notices from the Mass. Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) demanding repayment of monies previously approved during the pandemic.

Even in normal times, local officials receive a steady flow of calls related to unemployment issues. But since September, an influx of desperate res-

idents have called with complaints that their benefits were either suspended or retracted as part of a DUA crackdown on fraudulent claims.

"They have had a big issue with fraud," said State Rep. Peter Durant, of Spencer. "Several people have had their identities stolen, and the DUA had to take precautions to investigate. Of course, that hurts a lot of the people with legitimate claims."

Comprehensive DUA investigations of fraud have led to a significant backlog of unemployment claims that need to be processed. Additionally, many residents' claims have had missing information or errors, which caused DUA adjudicators to flag them as potentially fraudulent. These residents will need to resubmit their claims with the

proper documentation in order to receive benefits.

Moreover, confusion has surrounded the difference between "pandemic unemployment assistance" and general unemployment benefits. Thousands of residents have erroneously filed under the wrong category, officials said. To be eligible for pandemic unemployment assistance, residents must demonstrate that they lost their jobs as a direct result of the COVID-19 crisis.

Meanwhile, scammers continue to flood the system in search of ways to take advantage of the confusion.

"There have been a considerable number of fraudulent applications to unemployment, which has resulted in a delay due to increased scrutiny of all applicants,"

said Sen. Anne Gobi, of Spencer. "I receive a number of requests daily from people who are having trouble opening a claim or getting their funds from an already open and approved case."

Many of the fraudulent claims are the result of autonomous software programs. During the weekend of Nov. 14-15, approximately 31,000 unemployment claims were filed statewide, officials said. DUA staffers will need to pore over every claim to ensure its legitimacy, as well as the thousands of claims that were submitted in the ensuing weeks.

Over the last several months, local officials have helped serve as intermediaries between desperate residents and overwhelmed DUA officials. With Christmas and the winter season

fast approaching, many residents can't wait much longer for their claims to be processed. Some families are already struggling to figure out how they'll provide food and heat their homes this winter.

Area leaders continue to work long hours to help secure relief as quickly as possible.

"We have some good contacts at the DUA, and we have helped advocate and get things moved along for people," Durant said. "The entire process can be very confusing for people. It's especially difficult when a person's business closed and there is no one to verify that an employee worked there."

Officials and residents alike are eager for the distribution of vaccines over the next several months. This will allow residents to feel safe about restart-

ing their businesses, interviewing for new jobs, or moving on to the next chapters in their careers.

"Once these vaccines get rolled out, we will start getting more people back to work," Durant said.

For now, residents are urged to have all of their documents organized when filing claims or appealing DUA repayment orders. It is important to save all communications from employers related to COVID-19 layoffs or closures.

Local legislators are also assisting residents who have been scammed or had their identities stolen.

"Anyone who is the victim of a fraudulent claim – please let me know so we can notify unemployment," Gobi said.



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# Douglas announces police, fire promotions

DOUGLAS — The Town of Douglas is pleased to announce the promotion of two current officers of the Police and Fire Departments to the rank of Police Lieutenant and full time Assistant Chief.

The Police Chief recommended promotion of Travis Gould from the rank of Sergeant to the second-in-command role of Police Lieutenant. The Lieutenant is a full time management position in the Department, created over a decade ago by then Chief Patrick Foley to serve as a second in command to oversee many of the day-to-day activities of the Department's sworn officers and civilian dispatchers.

Lt. Gould started with the Douglas Police Department in 2004 as a full time Dispatcher and part time

Patrolman. In 2008, he was appointed full time as a Patrolman and completed the MBTA Police Academy in Boston. In 2015, he was promoted to Patrol Sergeant. In 2018, he was assigned to the Detective Sergeant position up until this date.

"Lieutenant Gould is a highly respected member of the department and has displayed exceptional leadership skills throughout his career," Douglas Police Chief Nick Miglionico said. "I am confident he will continue to be successful. Our organization and the residents of Douglas are fortunate to have him in this position."

Recent decisions by Douglas Town Meeting allowed the creation of a full time Assistant Chief position in the Fire and Ambulance Department, a role deemed necessary by Chief Kent

Vinson as the Department completes its transition to a combination department with a full time duty crew in the station 24/7 supplemented by call firefighters and EMTs.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has taught us a lot. We have been stretched thin responding to the typical mix of calls as well as the extra calls related to COVID-19," the Chief noted.

After an internal posting and competitive interviews, the Chief recommended the promotion of Kelly Manning, a full time firefighter in Westborough and a call Captain in the Douglas Fire and Ambulance Department, to the full time role of Assistant Chief. She has been a call member of the Douglas Fire Department for 14 years, serving as an officer for 10 of those years.

"Assistant Chief Manning brings a lot to the table. She is a HAZMAT tech, a paramedic, and a full time firefighter with experience on larger departments in Southbridge and Westborough. A long term Douglas resident, Kelly knows the Town very well. I believe she will have a significant impact on our capabilities going forward. We welcome her aboard as a full time member of the management team of the Department," said Chief Vinson.

The Douglas Board of Selectmen will recognize Lieutenant Gould and Assistant Chief Manning at their next meeting, at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 3. The Town Administrator has finalized these appointments, and both employees are working in their new roles as of this date.

## DOUGLAS

continued from page A1

always on our minds and in our hearts—even when we can't get together in person," Rep. McKenna added.

Douglas Adult Social Center Director/ Outreach Case Manager Patrice Rousseau said the center will again be making holiday meals in December for any senior who would like one.

"The meals will include a turkey and ham dinner and will be delivered to seniors' homes on Wednesday, December 23," Rousseau said.

To sign up, residents are asked to call the center at 508-476-2283 by Dec. 11. Please include your name, address, phone number, a Social Center statement said.

## COATS

continued from page A1

and scarfs for the kids as well."

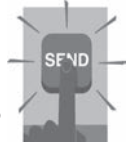
Orders were placed in October to the chapter and delivery was made to Mumford in the middle of November. Recently, members from all over Worcester county gathered at Mumford to put the orders together for the councils to pick up.

Those interested in joining the knights of Columbus may contact any member at a local council or Catholic church. More information can be found online at Kofc.org.

## SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!



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# MILLBURY SENIOR CENTER

Millbury Senior Center Picture Board & Decorate a Gingerbread Cookie to Go!!

Available outside in Garden all welcome to take pictures

From November 30th – Christmas Day!

Decorate a Gingerbread Cookie Kits Available for pick up only, \$3 for a kit of 2

Supplies Limited so call ahead 508-865-9154

Blood Pressure Clinic Every Tuesday from 9 A.M. - 10 A.M. Blood Pressure Clinics are now held inside

Come to front door and we will escort you from there!

Masks required along with social distancing!

## EXERCISE IN THE GARDEN

The center is closed at this time, but all are welcome to continue lite exercise in the garden on

Monday and Fridays 9:30 – 10:15 A.M. Weather permitting & social distancing is a must!

## Grab & Go Meals”

Lunch meals will be available to be picked up daily at the front door, 11:30 A.M.

Menu is available on Town Website, [www.townofmillbury.org](http://www.townofmillbury.org) Or our Millbury Senior Center Facebook page

A 48 hour reservation is required For more information or reservations call us at 508-865-9154

The Senior Center is closed to the Public.

While the building is not open to the public the Food Pantry at the Millbury Senior Center is available from 9am to 1pm Monday thru Friday by calling 508-865-9247 for an appointment our food pantry is fully stocked at this time tell us what you need and you can pick it up or we will deliver it.

We are still here to answer any questions you may have and we are available for your transportation to Doctors appointments or if you need to go to the drug store for your prescriptions, we will take you there. If you don't have a mask, we will give you one.

Also if you are in need of a home delivered meal give us a call and we will set you up to get one delivered to you.

Keep safe and remember to wear a mask if you go out and to wash your hands frequently.

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## Friday's Child



Kelsi Age 15

Hi! My name is Kelsi and I am a talented singer!

Kelsi is an outgoing girl of Caucasian descent with a strong personality. She loves being the center of attention and she has a great sense of humor. Some of Kelsi's favorite activities include playing outside, swimming, doing arts and crafts, and playing video games. Kelsi is also a talented singer! When she grows up, Kelsi wants to attend cosmetology school. In school, she is known to be bright and resourceful.

Kelsi is legally freed for adoption

and would benefit from a permanent family who could build a relationship with her slowly over time. Kelsi is very active and it would be best if her future resource can spend time with her engaging in activities she enjoys. The family should also be able to offer Kelsi patience, flexibility, and consistency.

## Who Can Adopt?

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

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

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

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