



Empowering Women in Business Conference celebrates 10 years

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – Nichols College will continue a yearly tradition honoring a decade of empowering women despite the limits imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Dudley-based college announced in a press release that the school will host its 10th annual Empowering Women in Business (EWIB) Conference which was postponed from its original April date and will instead take place on Dec. 10. Each year, the conference helps give a voice and inspiration to female entrepreneurs, business owners, executives, and students providing resources and activities to empower them to succeed. The conference includes keynote speakers each year comprised of women who have found success in a variety of business backgrounds. The conference will be virtual for 2020, and will include the originally planned keynote speaker Valerie Weisler, the founding CEO of the Validation Project, a global youth empowerment organization that works with over 6,000 teenagers in 105 countries to turn passion into positive action through mentoring and social justice assignments. Her self-designed

kindness curriculum is taught in nearly 1,000 schools. Across the world. “Valerie has channeled her experience of being bullied into an international organization that helps thousands turn their struggles into their superpowers,” said Rachel Ferreira, director of the Institute for Women’s Leadership which was established by Nichols College President Susan West Engelkemeyer in 2013. “What she has accomplished is beyond impressive, and her message will be a source of inspiration for this year’s EWIB participants.” The 2020 Empowering Women in Business Conference will take place over Zoom from 12:30 until 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 10. Participants much register for the event at the cost of \$20 per person, \$10 for Nichols faculty, staff and alumni, or \$5 for Nichols students. Those interested in attending the virtual conference can visit www.empowering-women.biz/.

Courtesy Photo

Valerie Weisler, the founding CEO of the Validation Project, will serve as the keynote speaker in the 10th annual Empowering Women in Business Conference which will be help virtually on Dec. 10.



Public safety concept to be downgraded

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – Following another failed attempt to earn voter support for a debt exclusion to fund a new public safety building, it has been decided to downgrade the project to a smaller scale, focusing only on the fire department aspect and eliminating the inclusion of a police department. The Charlton Board of Selectmen met in a virtual meeting on Nov. 24 where they received a request from the Public Safety Building Committee to change the committee to one that would focus only on a fire department project. The change would reflect the committee’s original charge from when the group was formed back in 2017 before a larger public safety complex concept was brought to the table. “We had a big discussion as far as the direction that we would like to see moving forward since the vote did fail at the ballot vote by about 340 votes. After a very lengthy discussion with all the members of the committee there was a vote taken to recommend to the Board of Selectmen for us to be considered a fire station only committee and to move forward with the design of a fire station only to go on that same site that he town has already purchased,” committee member Captain Rob Barton said. A debt exclusion to fund the public safety building proposal has failed twice when put before voters, once in 2019 and again during the election in 2020 where the committee and selectmen hoped to get a larger sample size of the town’s voters to have their say on the project. The initiative was designed to house both a fire and police department and serve as a replacement of both their aging structures, especially the fire departments severely aged facilities. Despite voters

approving funding for the project during a meeting in May of 2019, the debt exclusion required to utilize town monies for the facility failed both times it was sent to the polls leaving the committee no choice but to reassess. The needs of the fire department have long been a selling point and one of the more supported elements of the project although Captain Barton said even that has its share of detractors due to the potential cost. “The public’s input as far as what they would support for a dollar amount is paramount. It’s completely necessary. Unfortunately, there are some people who are just completely unrealistic in what they think a fire station only in the year 2021 should cost,” Captain Barton said. “It didn’t matter how many times we explained to them that fifteen years ago there was a cost estimate of \$12 million and that failed. Think about what happened in the last fifteen years. Houses themselves are significantly more expensive. Unfortunately if we really went out and asked the public I think the majority of people that would respond would say they’ll support a \$10 million fire station and unfortunately if that’s the direction the Board of Selectmen gives us it’s just not possible.” Selectmen engaged in a back and forth discussion on how to direct the committee to move forward with some debating whether producing a new conceptual design and cost for the May town meeting would be too soon and others believing waiting until next October would be too long. Selectman Bill Borowski said he didn’t want to force the committee to have a new plan in place in May if they didn’t have all the information needed to earn voter support. “I don’t want to run into a problem of going into the expectation of May and not having thing lined up, not having the numbers that we need and not having everything that we had this last go-around. I’m not committing to May at this point. If we’re at that point then that’s

great, but to put this on a May ballot having real solid information, I’m just not comfortable with it. It’s only November, so between now and when we get to that point lots can change. I just want to make sure that we don’t rush into anything because I want this to pass, and to have it pass, I think everything has to be completely buttoned up. Worst case scenario we do it in October,” Borowski said. Selectman Karen Spiewak felt that further postponing the project would only increase the risk town employees as the fire fighters are currently working in out of date and increasingly unsafe environments in their current aging structures. “Here’s the reality — we need to put band aids on things almost immediately for the safety of our employees. We were very up front with the public about this. Everything we did in promoting this and answering questions we let them know. We helped them to understand the consequences. It’s unfortunate that it didn’t work, but now it’s up to us to see what we can do to move it forward without rushing it. If you’re kicking this project way down the road we need to step up. Even if it means making cuts, we need to do what we need to do to make the work environment safe for our employees,” Spiewak said. As for the committee itself, Captain Barton said they are more than willing to work with the public to bring forward a new proposal keeping in mind expectations for both building standards and cost. However, he feels the public needs to be realistic about its expectations and enter the discussion with an open mind. “We were given a direction that we had to go in and we went in that direction. Unfortunately, there were some people that weren’t happy with that, but that’s just the way it was. We’re very encouraging for people to come forward and to give us some ideas,” Captain Barton said. “I monitor the social media platforms and there’s a lot of ideas that people have.

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MIAA, MWIL greenlight winter sports

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON – The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association and Midland-Wachusett Interscholastic League, which include schools in the Dudley Charlton Regional School District, have released updates on their upcoming winter sports seasons for the 2020-2021 academic year. The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA), Board of Directors released a statement in November with an update from the associ-

ation’s COVID-19 Task Force including modifications to winter sports which includes a Dec. 14 start date for the winter season. MIAA President Jeff Granatino said in a statement, “It is great to see that so many of our student-athletes will be able to take part in the sports they love this winter. Many coaches, athletic directors, principals and superintendents worked hard over the past few weeks to ensure that we would be able to offer interscholastic athletes for our students, and I want to thank them for their efforts.”

Granatino added, “The pandemic has reshaped the way education is delivered across the country and the same can be said about its impact on athletics. Nonetheless, I am confident our student-athletes and coaches will adjust to the new expectations this winter and have an experience as fulfilling and as exciting as what we saw during the fall season.” Among the sports slated to return to action in 2021 are indoor track and field, wrestling, ice hockey and high school basketball. Winter cheerleading was also listed as

Turn To **SPORTS** page **A12**

Old Sturbridge Village, Country Bank serve Thanksgiving to families in need



Courtesy

Old Sturbridge Village (OSV) and Country Bank came together again, to offer 750 free meals to families in need this Thanksgiving.

STURBRIDGE — Old Sturbridge Village (OSV) and Country Bank came together again, to offer 750 free meals to families in need this Thanksgiving. The culinary team at the Village prepared, cooked and assembled the meals. Country Bank not only financially supported the project but delivered and distributed the meals as well. The meals were delivered to St. John’s Food for the Poor, YWCA, Abby’s House, Veterans Inc. and Elm Street Congregational Church. In addition, the students of Old Sturbridge Academy created handmade greeting cards to go with the meals which are sure to bring a warm smile to anyone’s face.

“We wanted to do everything we could to help support families in the community this Thanksgiving,” said James Donahue, President of Old Sturbridge Village. “Country Bank and Old Sturbridge Village share a collective belief that we can make a difference when we work together, and we are doing just that.” Paul Scully, President and CEO of Country Bank, said, “As a community partner, we care deeply about our communities, and we want to offer our support where it is needed most this holiday season. As we reflect on the past year with gratitude for the

Bank’s strength and ability to support so many in need, we are also humbled to witness so many great acts of kindness and support throughout our communities from the people and businesses who make this region the remarkable place it is to live and work.” Scully added, “The pandemic has taken its toll on the people and places in our communities. We know that many have suffered losses over the last several months. Some have lost their jobs, their business, and others have lost loved ones. There is not a more significant time in our history for community partners to step up and provide support to those in need.”



A woman with blonde hair tied back, wearing glasses and a red and white checkered apron over a dark red shirt, holds a blue sign that says "Come In We're Open" in white cursive and sans-serif fonts. She is standing in a restaurant with warm lighting and other patrons in the background.

Small businesses are the backbone of many communities, and the holiday season provides a great opportunity to support such firms as they look to recover from a difficult year.





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Quinebaug Lodge participates in mentor program for young adults with autism



Courtesy

Gage McRoy and his older sister Kayla McRoy who is spear heading this awesome Mentorship Program for Adults with Autism to promote community inclusion. Kayla wants her brother to have the fulfilling opportunity and experiences and this success requires support from his community.

SOUTHBIDGE — On Friday, Nov. 20, the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge held its first “Mentor Program for Young Adults with Autism” movie night. Covid-19 rules were followed, and masks were required, and social distancing guidelines enforced.

Back in February, an informational presentation was held at the Quinebaug

Masonic Lodge and the quest speaker was Kayla McRoy, Assistant Director at Nonotuck Resource Associates. McRoy is the organizer of the Community Integration and Inclusion Initiative for young adults with autism. Kayla provided a power point presentation of what this program will entail along with goals and objectives of this initiative and what it means to be a mentor and how the mason organization can help sustain this initiative.

McRoy completed a L.E.N.D. fellowship at UMass Shriver Center in partnership with Suffolk University. L.E.N.D stands for Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and other Disabilities. She is also completing her master's degree in Public Administration at Suffolk University this December. Her inspiration for this initiative is her younger brother Gage, who has autism. Her fiancé, Brethren Benjamin Marinelli, is a Master Mason and member of Quinebaug Masonic Lodge. What a better place to ask and get volunteers for this community mentor project. After this presentation meeting, several Master Masons volunteered to be mentors for this program. Kayla's goal and hope is to get other Masonic Lodges in the State involved in this mentorship program.

Kayla applied for and received a grant through Suffolk University. With the grant money she was able to donate a projector and screen to be able to start

her Mentor's Partnership Program with a special movie night at the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge. This Mentor program will help to increase community access for young adults with autism and to grow meaningful relationships in the community. Her idea was to start with a movie night and to get the Masons involved with community integration, inclusion, and socialization for adults with special needs. The events are a lot of fun and a great opportunity to communicate with Freemasons.

Kayla's goal and hopes are to expand and engage in community activities for young adults with autism and to promote their social independence within their community. The mentor program will allow the Masons to pair with a young adult and to participate in a community event. This relationship with their mentor will be the start to help establish other new relationships. If you would like more information about this program please contact Kayla directly, she can be reached at mcroy@nonotuck.com. If you would like to learn more about Autism please visit <http://www.autismspeaks.org/> or Shared Living and Adult Family Care please visit www.nonotuck.com (Nonotuck Resources Associates).



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Commonwealth Consulting Group introduces CCGConnect

WORCESTER — Commonwealth Consulting Group (CCG) is branching out. The Worcester-based merchant services company has rolled out a new turnkey solution for software developers called CCGConnect that allows business applications, such as point-of-sale (POS) systems or electronic cash registers ECRs) to integrate in-store (card present) payments.

According to CCG principal, Keith Reardon, “most software companies have to spend a lot of time and resources to implement EMV chip-card transactions into their system. This type of semi-integration and PCI certification can sometimes take months, but with CCGConnect, a software company can copy and paste our coding into their system, pair a terminal, and run a test transaction in under three minutes.”

CCGConnect is delivered in the form of a software development kit (SDK) that bundles everything developers need for the software application to integrate with both current and next-generation payment terminals while remaining outside of PCI-DSS scope. The system also offers cross-border coverage; a single integration can serve merchants in both the United States and Canada.

“By integrating CCGConnect into an application,” says Reardon, “developers can eliminate the lengthy certification processes and get to market faster.”

The system offers out-of-the-box connectivity with pre-certified payment terminals and no coding is required when new terminals are added.

Once copied into an application, CCGConnect automates the discovery of semi-integrated payment terminals on a merchant's local network and establishes any required pairing. Once a pairing is established, the SDK is responsible for orchestrating the flow of payment operations between the application and payment terminals. All merchant and cardholder-facing screens are provided.

Additional information about CCGConnect may be found online at ccgpays.com/developers, or by emailing Commonwealth Consulting Group at inquiry@ccgpays.com, or by calling (800) 866-3944.

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Chance and Keith
Age 11 and 12

Hi! Our names are Chance and Keith and we are ready to find our forever family!

Chance and Keith are vivacious boys of African American descent. Chance is a kind-hearted and soft-spoken child. He is described as gentle yet playful by those who know him best. Chance loves physical play such as basketball, soccer, bike riding, and swimming. He loves Pokémon and Legos, too! Chance reports that he likes school, and his favorite subject is math.

Keith is a quiet, reserved young boy who is known to be a good

friend. He is very athletic and enjoys sports and participating in activities outside. He also likes to read. Keith is a great advocate for himself and for his siblings. He has great relationships with his caretakers and he is able to make friends easily.

Legally freed for adoption, Chance and Keith would like to grow up together in a permanent, loving family. The children have requested that their future family consists of a mother, father, and some pets. A family must be open to maintaining birth family contact through an Open Adoption Agreement. Both boys would benefit from continued visits with their older siblings.

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. The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have a permanent place to call home.



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Celebrate safely this holiday season

LOCAL SERVPRO FIRE RESTORATION SPECIALIST SAYS USE COMMON SENSE AND CAUTION TO HELP CONTROL RISK OF HOLIDAY SEASON HOME FIRES

WHITINSVILLE — In a year when large holiday gatherings may not be possible, fire damage restoration specialist Don

McKendall of SERVPRO of Southern Worcester County says a focus on family decorating traditions and more intimate

celebrations may take on extra significance.

“It’s as important to keep safety top of mind with a small family gathering as it is with a large holiday party,” says McKendall. “We all enjoy bringing the glow of the holiday season to our homes with Christmas trees or menorahs and candlelight, but these statistics from the U.S. Fire Administration show how easy it is for home decorating to turn into a home disaster.”

The top three days for home candle fires are Christmas Day, New Year’s Day and New Year’s Eve.

More than half of the home decoration fires in December are started by candles.

A heat source too close to the Christmas tree causes one in every four winter fires.

On average, one

of every 52 reported home Christmas tree fires resulted in death.

In addition to exercising caution with candles and heat sources, it is important to follow manufacturers’ guidelines for holiday lighting, says McKendall.

“According to the National Fire Protection Association, electrical distribution or lighting equipment was involved in 44 percent of home Christmas tree fires.2 Though Christmas tree fires may not be common, they can be devastating to more than the house itself. They can destroy irreplaceable photos, mementos, and family heirlooms and even cost lives,” says McKendall. “To help keep your holidays bright and your home and family safe, use common sense with candles and tree placement, and follow these important home decorating guidelines3.”

Only use decorations that are flame-retardant or not flammable.

Check holiday lights each year for frayed wires or excessive wear.

Don’t link more than three strands of holiday lights.

“In a year when so many of the things we take for granted have changed, we know people will still come together – in person or virtually – to celebrate family and holiday traditions,” says McKendall. “Stay safe” has become a common expression in the context of public health, but this holiday season, we urge all Whitinsville-area home and business owners to think about ‘staying safe’ in their homes as they prepare for and enjoy the holiday season.”

SERVPRO is an industry leader and provider of fire and water cleanup and restoration services. For more fire prevention and fire safety tips and information about fire and water damage restoration services, please visit www.servpro.com. For more information on SERVPRO of Southern Worcester County, please contact Don McKendall at (508) 234-3399 or Don@servpromckendall.com.

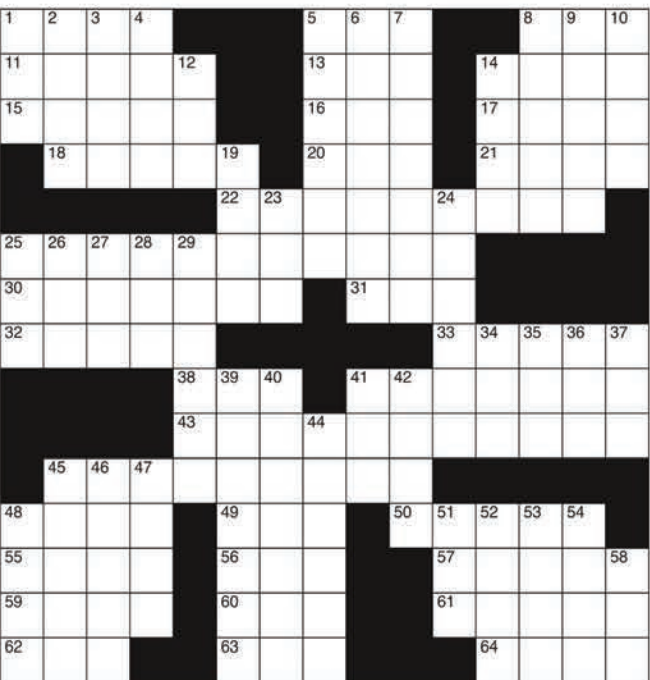
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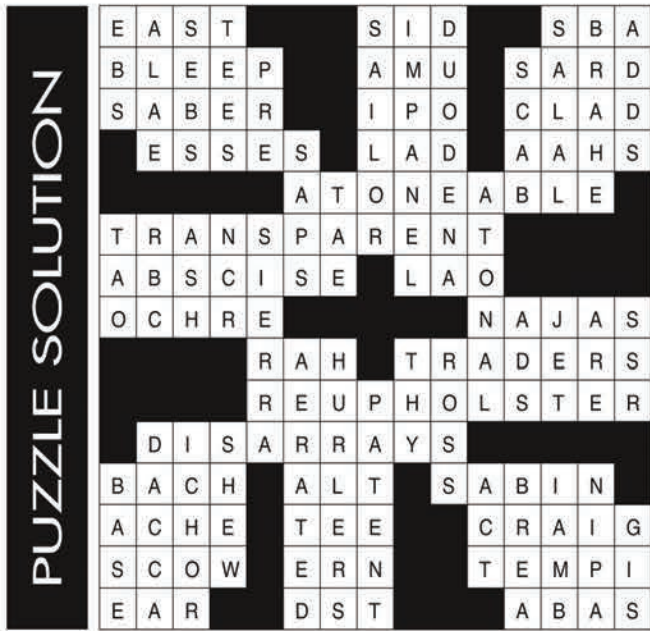


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Opposite of west
- 5. __ Caesar, comedian
- 8. Helps little firms
- 11. A way to censor
- 13. Expresses atomic and molecular weights
- 14. Chalcedony
- 15. Type of sword
- 16. A corporation’s first offer to sell stock to the public
- 17. Attired
- 18. A sequence of winding turns
- 20. Pal
- 21. Expresses pleasure
- 22. Amendable
- 25. Clear
- 30. A way to cut off
- 31. Indigenous Thai person
- 32. Pale brownish yellow color
- 33. Aquatic plants genus
- 38. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- 41. Merchants
- 43. Fix a chair
- 45. Throws into disorganization
- 48. Famed German composer
- 49. Keyboard key
- 50. Oral polio vaccine developer
- 55. Partner to pain
- 56. Where golfers start
- 57. Jenny __: weight loss program
- 59. Sailing dinghy
- 60. Suffix that forms adjectives
- 61. Speeds at which music is played
- 62. Body part
- 63. Fall back
- 64. Ancient Greek sophist

CLUES DOWN

- 1. One point south of due east
- 2. Wings
- 3. One point south of southeast
- 4. The shirts on our backs
- 5. One who works on the seas
- 6. Select jury
- 7. Small intestines parts
- 8. Plant of the heath family
- 9. Extrasolar planet
- 10. Creates more of
- 12. Before
- 14. Forms over a cut
- 19. Runs down
- 23. Exercise regimen __-bo
- 24. Unkeyed
- 25. Principle underlying the universe
- 26. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
- 27. Residue
- 28. Company that rings receipts
- 29. Rugged mountain range
- 34. Commercials
- 35. NY footballer
- 36. They __
- 37. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 39. Poked holes in the ground
- 40. Pitchers
- 41. Your
- 42. Diana __, singer
- 44. Important document for inventors
- 45. Bangladesh capital
- 46. Fluid that flows in the veins of Greek gods
- 47. Famed daguerreotype photographer
- 48. Where military personnel work
- 51. Play a role
- 52. La __ Tar Pits, Hollywood
- 53. Unstressed-stressed
- 54. Type of palm tree
- 58. Judo garments



State Police Toys for Tots drive underway

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – For the 36th straight year, the Massachusetts State Police will team up with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve to assist children in need.

State troopers across the Commonwealth are in the midst of their annual Toys for Tots holiday drive. They have relied heavily on community donations over the years, and the many challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic make donations especially important

in 2020.

Donors may drop off new, unwrapped, non-violent toys for boys or girls, ages infant to 14, at any State Police barracks across Massachusetts. The deadline for donations to be received is Friday, Dec. 11.

If you are unable to purchase a toy this year, there are plenty of other ways you can help the cause.

“As always, donors also have the option of making a monetary donation by credit card or through the mail directly to the Toys for Tots program,” read a statement released by the Mass. State Police.

New this year, donors will also have the option through the Toys for Tots website of shopping for a toy online and donating it through the organization’s new virtual toy box.

For more information about how to make a monetary donation or donate a toy through the virtual toy box, please visit the Toys for Tots Web site: www.ToysForTots.org. For residents wishing

to donate toys locally, you can find the locations of all State Police barracks at www.mass.gov. These include the Brookfield barracks on Route 9, whose officers have taken part in multiple holiday community programs in recent years.

Officials thank all donors for helping to brighten the season of giving for children and families. Without the Toys for Tots program, many youngsters wouldn’t be able to open a Christmas gift this year.

“We thank you for your support of this wonderful program,” the State Police statement read. “For many families, economic realities make the holidays difficult. Families in need must ensure their children have enough to eat, warm clothes to wear, and a roof overhead. Holiday gifts for young ones might not fit into the budget, perhaps even more so this year, when many people’s earnings have been impacted by the coronavirus. That is why we are proud to support the USMC reserves once again in the mission to ensure that all children, regardless of their family’s situation, have gifts this Christmas and holiday season.”

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\$420,000, 24 Briarcliff Dr, Bigelow, Thomas W, and Bigelow, Nicole M, to Lemire, Kathleen M, and Lemire, Ellsworth H.

\$367,500, 121 Oxford St N, Ward, James F, to Cedano, Gissel.

\$350,000, 84 Rochdale St, Raymond, Steven M, and Hebert, Donna M, to Figueroa, Brenda.

\$315,000, 16 White Ter, Fleming, Jacqueline M, and Missaggia, Maureen, to Silva, Maxley V.

\$300,000, 38 Appleton Rd, Mercier LT, and Mercier, Laval, to Mercier, Alan J.

\$300,000, 63 Hampton St, Leblanc, Jeffrey D, to Albassam, Asaad Q, and Al-Shammari, Zahraa M.

\$280,000, 30 Elbridge Rd, Johnson Lorain F Est, and Johnson, Carl H, to Malik, Mustafa, and Ajaz, Sadaf.

\$253,500, 702 Heritage Ln #702, M A Murphy RT, and Murphy, Mary A, to Banks, Pamela M.

\$250,000, 3 Victoria Dr #2, Perron, William F, and Perron, Nancy A, to Muska, Agron.

\$235,000, 13 Clarendon Rd, V& J LLC, to Lam, Judy T.

\$205,000, 32-C Boyce St #9, Alarie, Meghan A, to Annunziata, Johanna M.

Come support local food drive!

STURBRIDGE — Calling all shoppers! As the holiday season is fast approaching, hunger levels have continued to rise in Massachusetts. According to Feeding America, one in four children are currently facing food insecurity. A way you can help is by donating to a food drive!

Tantasqua High School’s Project 351 club will be holding a food drive on Saturday, Dec. 12 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 13 from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. This food drive will be held at Shaw’s Sturbridge, in the parking lot! What do you need to donate? The club will provide wish lists to help guide you while you shop. If you’re unable to shop, there’s another way you can help out! Monetary donations will also be gladly accepted. All donations will be going to the Wales Community and Brookfield Ecumenical food pantries, which collectively serve the towns of Brimfield, Holland, Wales, and the Brookfields.

Make an impact this holiday season, and come donate food with the Project 351 club!

LEGALS

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 1 Newland Street, Auburn, Massachusetts

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Kimberly M. Bridge a/k/a Kimberly Bridge to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Salem Five Mortgage Company, LLC, said mortgage dated September 24, 2012, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 49701 at Page 128 and now held by M&T Bank by virtue of an assignment from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Salem Five Mortgage Company, LLC to M & T Bank recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds on July 14, 2014 in book 52546, page 376 for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the

purpose of foreclosing the same, will be sold at Public Auction on December 14, 2020 at 11:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit: THE LAND IN AUBURN, WORCESTER COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS WITH THE BUILDINGS THEREON, BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT AN IRON PIPE WHICH IS LOCATED N. 43 DEGREES 25’ 30” E. A DISTANCE OF ONE HUNDRED (100) FEET FROM A STONE BOUND ON THE NORTHERLY SIDE OF AURILLA STREET; THENCE, N. 43 DEGREES 25’ 30” E. FOR A DISTANCE OF 99.5 FEET TO A SPIKE IN THE ROOT OF AN 18 INCH MAPLE TREE; THENCE, N. 44 DEGREES W. FOR A DISTANCE OF ONE HUNDRED SIXTEEN (116) FEET TO AN IRON PIPE;

THENCE, S. 42 DEGREES 25’ 30” W. FOR A DISTANCE OF 49.5 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE; THENCE, S. 47 DEGREES 53’ W. FOR A DISTANCE OF 50 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE; THENCE, S. 44 DEGREES E. FOR A DISTANCE OF 120 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. CONTAINING 11,600 SQUARE FEET OF LAND, MORE OR LESS.

The description of the property that appears in the mortgage to be foreclosed shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication. For Mortgagors’ Title see deed dated July 29, 2009 and recorded in Book 44829 at Page 384 with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments,

if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described. FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check within sixty (60) days after the date of sale. Other terms to be announced at the sale.

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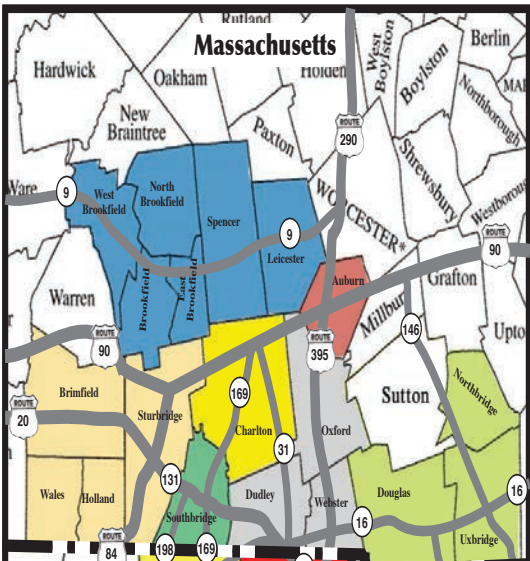
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OBITUARIES

Frank A. “Frankie” Thomas, 80



E A S T B R O O K F I E L D / A U B U R N – Frank A. “Frankie” Thomas, 80, of East Brookfield and formerly of Auburn, passed away peacefully on Friday, November 20, 2020 at his home, surrounded by his loving family.

Born in Worcester, raised and educated in Auburn, Frankie was one of ten children born to the late Frank E. and Irma L. (Batchelor) Thomas. He attended Auburn High School, prior to beginning a career in trucking. Frank first worked for Hood Co. out of Worcester, for almost two decades, then went on to work for Quaboag Transfer

Co. in Palmer. He retired in 2002 from FLEXcon Co. in Spencer, where he dedicated 15 years as a sheeter operator.

Being the youngest of a large family, Frank was an awesome storyteller, mostly “jokes.” He loved spending time with friends, family, and his dog Bella, who was his faithful companion throughout his illness, and working on his yard and garden. Frank took great pleasure in showing and helping the kids to fish and hunt – he was an avid hunter and fisherman, who loved fishing the Cape Cod Canal for stripers and hunting in Vermont. Frank was also a longtime member of the Brookfield Rod & Gun Club. He enjoyed skiing, camping, boating, and spending time in Florida.

Frankie leaves his loving wife of 42

years, Brenda J. (Pike) Thomas; his children: Lee A. Martenelli and her husband David, of Leicester, Lynn A. Wood, of Leicester, and Russell Eastman and his wife Shalini, of Charlton; his grandchildren: Stephanie, Kim, Christina, Kyle, Leah, Jason, Jessica, and Charlie; his many great-grandchildren; his siblings: Carlton Thomas and his wife Shirley, of Oxford, Edith Garneau, of Auburn, and Helen Soponski and her husband Donald, of Auburn; his brother-in-law, Martin LaPrad, of Warren; as well as many nieces and nephews. Along with his parents, Frank was predeceased by his daughter, Lorrie J. Bachand, in 2017; his siblings: Everett, Robert, Alice, Olive, Gilbert; and, most recently, Janet LaPrad, who passed in August of 2020.

His family would like to say a special ‘thank you’ to his hospice nurse, Tarah, and home health aide, Sue. He will be dearly missed by those who knew and loved him.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Second Chance Animal Shelter, 111 Young Road, P.O. Box 136, East Brookfield, MA 01545 (secondchanceanimals.org/donate).

A graveside service will be held privately for Frank’s immediate family, at Hillside Cemetery, Auburn. The BRITTON-WALLACE FUNERAL HOME, 91 Central Street, Auburn, is honored to be assisting with arrangements. To leave a note of condolence for his family, please visit www.brittonfuneralhomes.com Bottom of Form

Man’s best friend

Dogs are man’s best friend. My life without my two dogs, Twig & Molly, would not be as enjoyable if I did not have them around. A daily walk with them at a local Rod & Gun club helps keep them in shape. The walks are good for this writer also, although I still am slightly overweight because of my eating habits. The dogs wake me up as soon as the light breaks. Molly is first! She quickly jumps in my bed and walk’s up my stomach until her face is right over mine. One long lick on my face and I am out of bed. Twig is next although she does not jump in my bed like Molly.

Taking the dogs out to the back yard, often requires a good grip on their leashes because of the high population of rabbits in the back yard. Molly occasionally digs out a spot under the fence to go hunting alone in the woods. A quick blast on the whistle brings her back to the gate in short time. It is nice to see the rabbit population making a comeback in the valley area, but Molly needs to be made aware of the dangers lurking in the woods. The two dogs are inseparable, and remain protective of each other. Coyotes, Fishercat & Bobcat pose a real threat to domestic dogs and cats, and their populations are increasing every year.



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the right move this year, as long as you can afford one, as it can become very costly if they need to be brought to a veterinarian. It is a 10-to-15-year commitment to insure a happy & healthy life to the new puppy. Be sure to select the proper breed for you and your family, and never ever purchase a puppy from a pet store. You need to insist on seeing both parents of the pup and also get references. Every pup is cute when they are young and looking at a litter of pups is sometimes overwhelming. Take your time and do your homework. Temperament of the adult dogs is extremely important. What you see is what you will get!

Choosing a dog from an animal shelter is a big risk. Not knowing where the dog came from, how it was treated, etc. needs to be carefully thought over before making a decision. There have been many great dogs purchased at dog shelters, but it is a big gamble. They all need a second chance and adoption of a family pet or hunting dog is the way to go for some families. Good Luck!

Deer hunting opened for shotgun this past Monday under less-than-ideal conditions, with a rainstorm brewing late afternoon and Tuesday. Archers had a great season deer hunting this year and the harvest could well surpass last year’s record-breaking season. Many big bucks sporting large antlers have been reported by a local processing shop, and other reports from sporting goods stores with deer in the 200-pound-plus range is not uncommon. It will be interesting to hear the final results of the archery deer harvest in the coming weeks from MFW.

Fortunately, deer hunters in the valley do not need to travel to Petersham to do some deer hunting. In my younger years, we needed to travel a bit to get a shot at a deer. There was a line of cars



Courtesy

A local angler, Fernando Puglesa, landed a 36-inch Northern Pike in a local river in Whitinsville this past weekend.

a couple of miles long on opening day, carrying hunters to the areas around Petersham and surrounding towns. It was a lot of fun back then even though we never brought home the venison like we do today. We are so fortunate to have such a healthy deer herd in our back yard.

A local angler, Fernando Puglesa, landed a 36-inch Northern Pike in a local river in Whitinsville this past weekend. The fish was released back into the river to fight another, day but not before the angler took a couple of pictures. The fish did not have much girth, as this week’s picture shows.

Duck hunters locally have reported on the lack of mallards this year. There are plenty of wood ducks, but the absence of mallards was a bit disappointing to

many local waterfowl hunters. Goose and duck hunting closed Nov. 28, and will reopen Dec. 14. The next season will hopefully get better, as lakes and ponds freeze up. It is a dangerous time for duck hunting for both man & dog, especially on the coast. Wind & freezing temperatures make for great waterfowl hunting, but extreme caution needs to be practiced at all times. More on this next week!

What was the organization on the Meadow Pond called The Sea Scouts back in the ‘50s? Stay tuned in next week.

Stay safe, wear a mask and practice social distancing!

Take a Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending.

QCC’s Rad Tech program receives activation fund grant

W O R C E S T E R — Thanks to The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts, Quincy Community College’s Radiologic Technology (RT) program will soon have upgraded instructional imaging equipment. The College was recently awarded a 2020 Activation Fund Grant in the amount of \$70,790. The Grant was the sec-

ond largest awarded to 14 organizations. The funds will be used to purchase cutting-edge digital radiography equipment that will help prepare students for their clinical rotations. The vast majority of hospitals now use digital radiography equipment in place of the more traditional imaging.

“I am so thankful for the support we received from

The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts. The Foundation’s generosity in helping our students learn on state-of-the-art digital imaging equipment will give them a huge advantage to seamlessly enter the workforce,” said QCC’s Dean of School of Healthcare, Pat Schmohl.

QCC’s RT program admits up to 20 students per year, depending on

the number of available clinical placements. The program has clinical affiliations with Health Alliance Leominster Campus, Heywood Hospital, Marlborough Hospital, St. Vincent’s Hospital, UMass Memorial Medical Center Memorial Campus, and UMass Memorial Medical Center University Campus. Graduates of the RT program must take

and pass the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists credentialing exam in order to be employed as a radiologic technologist.

“The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts is pleased to be able to support QCC in this important initiative to provide Rad Tech students with training using digital radiology equipment, which helps

maintain a highly-skilled and up-to-date workforce for the hospitals in the Central Massachusetts region,” stated Jan Yost, President and CEO of The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts.

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

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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

The keys to a happy holiday season

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

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

Despite our current situation, holiday spirits remain high. Taking a drive around town, decorations are popping up every day. The night sky serves as the perfect backdrop for flashing holiday lights. Many people have started to decorate historically early, as a way to bring some sense of normalcy and positivity to others.

It may be difficult this season; however, try to do something creative to make someone's holiday one they can remember, something they don't expect. When you take the time to essentially play Santa Claus, the joy you get back is tenfold.

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

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

No, things won't look as they normally do this season. With that said, people throughout history have turned lemons into lemonade. This season it's especially important to support local small businesses, many who now offer items online. Throughout this season, let's all focus on lifting each other up as this pandemic eventually will take its place in history.

In the words of Hamilton Wright Mabie, "Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love."

The opening lyrics to Simon and Garfunkel's hit song, Feeling Groovy, are "Slow down, you move too fast." Lately, I've found this to be sound advice.



POSITIVELY
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MOORE

Arlene and I built three homes and an office building in our life together. We enjoyed each experience and wouldn't trade the time we spent together in creating these homes and spaces.

Today, I'm sitting in my daughter and son-in-law's kitchen. It's beautiful ... a work of art. The cabinets are white. The light fixtures are large clear globes. The floors are white marble.

As I sit here watching my daughter clean the globes, I said, "Are you sure you want these? They'll be a nightmare to keep clean."

"You say that about everything late-

Economical Holiday Tips

Now that Thanksgiving is over, holiday decorating can begin in earnest! But if you think decking the halls means digging deep into your pockets, think again. Through the years this column has shared many economical ways to add a holiday touch to your surroundings during the yuletide season. With many budgets still tight, this year is an ideal time to review (and hopefully adopt) some of these quick and easy holiday ideas. Read on as this week's column spotlights some festive favorites!



TAKE
THE
HINT

KAREN
TRAINOR

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

Wreath and Bough Treatment: Here is a solution that can help retard a fire on your decorative wreath and boughs. It does not fireproof the fresh greens, so continue to use standard fire precautions. To make: Mix together five tablespoons Borax and four tablespoons Epsom salts in two quarts of water. Fill a spray bottle and spritz the tree or wreath completely, then allow to dry.

Jack Frost Window Paint: Remember when Jack Frost used to leave his artistic designs on the windows overnight? Few childhood delights compared to waking up to a snowy morning to a magical window frost! Thanks to double paned windows, Jack's appearances are few and far between today. But with a little imagination, you can whip up some faux frost that'll create a crystal ice painting on even the most insulated windows!

Ingredients: A few tablespoons of Epsom salts; one can flat beer; cotton balls. Instructions: Use a cotton ball to dab the mixture onto clean windows. Treat only the corners for a realistic look. As the mixture dries, it crystallizes.

Christmas Tree Flocking: Years ago, families used to gather on Christmas Eve to paint snow flocking on the branches of the holiday tree. Why not bring back the charming tradition of flocking the tree this year? With this recipe it's easy and more fun than ever.

Ingredients: two thirds cup liquid starch; two cups soap flakes; two to four tsp. water; blue food coloring. Instructions: Mix together the liquid starch and soap flakes in a bowl. Add the water and beat with a rotary egg beater until the mixture becomes thick and stiff. Add the food coloring a drop at a time while beating, until the snow becomes an icy-white color. Mix together the liquid starch and soap flakes in a bowl. Add the water and beat

with a rotary egg beater until the mixture becomes thick and stiff. Add the food coloring a drop at a time while beating, until the snow becomes an icy-white color.

Recycle Tree Trims
No matter how carefully you choose your fresh tree, branches often have to be trimmed. The fragrant needles from pruned branches can be recycled into festive favors:

Scented Sachets: Balsam pine needles are the stuff pricy pine pillows are made of. String-tied muslin bags of pine needles are top sellers at gift shops. To whip up a festive balsam "pouch," cut two rectangles of fabric from wool or flannel (old flannel shirt material is ideal). Depending upon how many needles you have, you can stuff small sachet pillows nice and tight with ground up needles, adding a drop of balsam essential oil for good measure. For finely ground needles, you will need a net or double flannel lining to prevent the grindings from escaping. To finish it off, use an elastic band to tie off the top. Wrap a festive ribbon around it and glue on a tiny pinecone or two.

Pine Pillows: If you don't have an abundance of fallen needles, you can still capture the scent of balsam. Fill a cheesecloth or net pouch with the tips of Christmas tree branches. Add some polyfill stuffing, and sprinkle in a few drops of pine or balsam essential oil. Secure open end shut. Stuff the cheesecloth filled pouch into a travel size zippered pillowcase. Add polyfill as well as a few more drops of essential oil. Be sure to use enough stuffing so pillow is stuffed solid, yet still soft. Note: Balsam pillows and sachets have long been given as a gesture of friendship so they make the ideal hostess gift.

Pine Potpourri: Wish you could retain that delightful pine scent of your Christmas tree? This homemade Pine Potpourri offers a fresh, evergreen scent any time of year! Mix together: ½ cup bayberry leaves; ½ cup snipped balsam needles; ½ cup miniature pine cones; ½ cup rose hips; 2 tsp orrisroot; 2 drops pine-scented fixative or oil. Mix the bayberry, balsam, pine cones and rose hips in a large bowl. Add the orrisroot and fixative and stir gently. Store in a jar with a tight fitting lid. Note: To rejuvenate and extend your pine potpourri, try this economical trick: Put some ground corn cob material (sold as cellulose or litter material at the pet store) in a jar. Add several drops of essential oil, place lid on jar and shake. Shake the jar every day for about a week or so. Add it to your potpourri, to give it body and hold the scent.

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 renowned restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I'm in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I'm counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

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

1. I want to spend more time talking with and listening to God.
2. I want to be with my family and close friends.
3. I want to focus on writing this column and my new books, and,
4. I want to chase Arlene around the house.

Anything else isn't important and takes my time and attention away from what is.

I don't want to clean the house, mow the grass, or shovel the snow. I've spent the last forty plus years maintaining homes and spent the last twenty-six years working in and for an even larger home and forty acres ... and for what? All it did was burn my time, energy, and resources, while keeping me from doing things that are more important and fulfilling. I now have clarity. I see what is important in my life and that's where my focus should be.

ly. You walk through our new home pointing out how much work or money it's going to be to maintain," she responded.

I was embarrassed and surprised by my comments, but she's right. I didn't realize how much time and experience has changed me. I don't think I'm being negative, but practical.

In the past, maintenance, whether in time or expense never crossed my mind. We liked what we liked and created our visions of home and workspace together. My daughters' new kitchen is gorgeous, but all I've been seeing is how much work it will be to keep it clean. When did I change ... and why?

Evolving priorities.

I've decided I only want to spend my time left on earth in four areas.

Managing your retirement plan under a new employer



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Your employer-sponsored retirement plan is a valuable asset. But sometimes things happen that can affect the status of your plan. So, for example, if you work for a hospital that changes ownership, and you have been participating in a 403(b), 457(b) or 401(k) retirement plan, what should you do with it now?

Basically, you have four options:

Cash out your plan. You can simply cash out your plan and take the money, but you'll have to pay taxes on it, and possibly penalties as well. So, unless you really need the funds and you have no other alternative, you may want to avoid liquidating your account.

Roll your account into your new employer's plan. If it's allowed, you can roll over your old 403(b), 457(b) or 401(k) plan into your new employer's plan. Before making this move, you'll want to look at the new plan's investment options (which should be numerous) and fees (which should be low). If you move the money directly to the new plan, you won't be taxed at the time of the transfer, and your funds can continue to grow tax-deferred.

Leave your plan with your old employer. If your account balance is above a certain level, you may be able to leave your plan with your old employer's plan administrator. You won't be able to contribute any more money to the plan, but if you like the investment options you've chosen, keeping the money in your old plan might be a viable choice.

Move your account into a traditional IRA. One possible advantage to moving your 403(b), 457(b) or 401(k) into a traditional IRA is you'll open up a world of new investment options, because you can fund your IRA with virtually any type of vehicle, including stocks, bonds, mutual funds, certificates of deposit (CDs) and exchange-traded funds. And if you already have a traditional IRA, you can combine the new funds with the old ones, making it easier to track your holdings. As is the case with leaving your money in your old employer's plan or transferring it to a new plan, you'll continue to benefit from tax-deferred growth. Keep in mind, though, that IRAs have costs, too, possibly including transaction costs to buy or sell new investments. (One more thing to keep in mind: When you want to move a retirement plan to an IRA, you may want to make a direct rollover, so the old plan's administrator moves the money directly into the IRA, allowing you to avoid immediate taxes. If you were to make an indirect rollover, you'd get the money yourself, but your old employer would have to deduct 20% for federal taxes, and you'd have to deposit the entire balance, including the withholding, into your IRA within 60 days.)

Which of these choices is best for you? There's no one "right" answer for everyone. You'll want to consider all the options and possibly consult with your tax advisor and financial professional. But do all you can to protect your retirement plan – you've worked hard to build it, and you'll need to rely on it to help you pay for your years as a retiree.

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

Grow frilly, bold and unique amaryllis indoors this winter



Courtesy

Sweet Nymph double amaryllis has layers of creamy white petals decorated with coral pink stripes.

When squirrels are busy storing nuts for winter, it's time for gardeners to start gathering amaryllis bulbs to sustain them through the dreary months ahead. Ordering now will ensure you have lots of choices, so you can select an assortment of different flowers styles, colors, and bloom times.

The flowers of double amaryllis are packed full of petals and sure to brighten any day. Double King lives up to its name with three or more layers of brilliant red, velvety petals. Each bulb produces multiple flower stems, so you'll enjoy weeks of blossoms.

Sweet Nymph is another double and its softer coloring is equally beautiful. The flowers feature layers of creamy white petals with coral pink stripes and are sure to add a bit of romantic charm to your winter.

Add some energy to your indoor décor with amaryllis Dancing Queen (longfield-gardens.com). The bold eight-inch blooms are comprised of layers of ruffled snow-white petals with delicate scarlet-red stripes.

The flowers of Exotic Star have an unusual shape and color that have earned it lots of fans. The asymmetrical petals are parchment-white with narrow, garnet-red stripes and apple green highlights.

Bring in some fresh spring green color with amaryllis Evergreen. Pale chartreuse petals give it a fresh, modern look. Each bulb produces two stems with four to six flowers each. Enjoy them as a living bouquet or cut a few stems to display

in a vase.

Grow Ice Queen when looking to add elegance to your winter décor. Its enormous, frosty white flowers have lime green accents and combine nicely with evergreen boughs and holiday decorations. Plant the bulbs by early November to get flowers for the holidays.

Charisma is another variety that blooms in early winter. The two-tone petals have a unique ombre effect. Enjoy the changing colors this variety exhibits as it transforms from bud to fully open flower.

Amaryllis are long lasting cut flowers and the variety Picotee is no exception. Each of its pure white petals are outlined with a very thin red line. A lime-green center adds freshness. Beautiful displayed in a pot or in a vase.

Rosy Star is another eye-catching amaryllis with snowy white blossoms that are decorated with brush stroke highlights in three shades of pink. The apple green throat adds to this variety's elegance and appeal.

As more people discover the joy of growing amaryllis, flower breeders are busy introducing new cultivars. Gervase is a good example of these exciting new options. Each blossom is a little different, with ruby-red petals adorned with variable stripes and veining. You will have plenty of blooms to enjoy as large bulbs can produce twelve or more spectacular blossoms.

Maximize your enjoyment by growing your amaryllis where you can watch the daily transformation, from the first bud breaking through the soil until the flowers begin to unfurl.

Growing amaryllis indoors will keep you gardening all year round, no matter where you live. You'll enjoy the mood-boosting benefits and stress relief, and the colorful blossoms are sure to brighten your winter days.

Melinda Myers has written numerous 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 was commissioned by Longfield Gardens for her expertise to write this article. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

POSITIVELY continued from page A1

Time changes our priorities. I can remember my foolishness in believing my choices of automobile and size of home was representative of how important I was or how happy I could be. I couldn't have been more wrong. If I could go back and live my life again with my priorities of today, I believe I'd been a better employer, husband, and parent. I believe I'd live life with less stress. Maybe I wouldn't have cancer.

And I've slowed down. Not because of age or health, but because I see life differently. Energy is in shorter supply today and it forces me to think of the most useful way to spend it. And when I'm in a hurry, so much of life passes as a blur. I don't want to miss the important things as they pass. And besides, speeding is getting to the end as fast as you can. The end is not

someplace I'm in a hurry to be.

When we are young, we believe we are immortal. The things we have ... time, money, loved ones, a good job, good health ... we assume we'll have forever. Yet in a blink of an eye, one or all of what we have can be gone. As time passes, we learn how fragile life is. It changes our perspective and fine tunes our focus. Time and experience teach us that the possessions in life that we eagerly collect on our search for meaning, are meaningless.

Legacy.

What will we leave behind? For Arlene and me, it's great children and grandchildren with their priorities in order. Are they all there yet? Of course not. They have not lived enough life yet, but I'm confident the building blocks are there to help them.

For me, I'll leave behind my written words. Some

will disappear as wasted gibberish, while others may hang around as useful life lessons. I hope something I've shared will help others live an optimistic and happier life.

And this may surprise you, but I find that I am grateful for cancer. There is nothing like facing the end to sharpen your senses and realize what is important and what is not.

For me, Faith, family (and dear friends), and legacy are what's important. Anything else is a distraction.

Are your priorities in line?

What's important to you?

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 @ GaryW Moore721 and at www.garywmoore.com.

Friends of the Monson Free Library launch virtual Holiday Bazaar

MONSON — A Virtual Holiday Bazaar will be held by the Friends of the Monson Free Library for the month of December.

The bazaar will feature four resident artists who will offer their work for sale with 10% of the sale price donated to the Friends of the Monson Free Library. Maureen Solomon, potter and painter, will offer jewelry and oil paintings. Each necklace is unique, made of clay with Swarovski crystals or glass beads to add glitter. Oil paintings and wall hangings encompass a variety of

themes.

Tod Beall will have stained glass panels and sun catchers for sale. He will also be available as a custom designer, restorer, and repairer of stained glass. His creations are original and use stunning and unusual pieces of glass and metal. Peter Mayberry offers sculptures made of copper, brass, steel, and stainless steel. His work is sketched with soapstone, ground in by hand, heated with a welding torch for color, and sprayed with lacquer. In addition, he will be selling original

pieces of jewelry and wall hangings. Penny Lewis, fiber artist, will offer original quilted designs and exquisite appliqué created in a variety of fabrics carefully chosen to accentuate the subject matter of her fiber art creations. She will have table toppers, runners, and quilts of many sizes for sale. For more information about purchasing from these local artists, go to <https://monsonlibrary.com/friends-of-the-library> or contact friends.monson-freeibrary@gmail.com with any questions.

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Baked Lobster Stuffed Haddock Casserole (add \$20.00)

~ AND ~

SIDES

(choice of one)

Fresh Mashed Potatoes

Rice Pilaf

Oven Roasted Potatoes

~ AND ~

SIDES

(choice of one)

Fresh Butternut Squash

Baked Broccoli & Cauliflower Au Gratin,

Roasted Candied Carrots,

Seasoned Green Beans

Buttered Corn

~ AND ~

DESERTS

(choice of one)

Pumpkin Cream Pie

Mixed Fruit Pie

Chocolate Cream Pie

Pumpkin Pie

Pecan Pie

Apple Pie

** All dinners include:*

12 Dinner Rolls & Butter and Pint of Gravy

EXTRAS

Sliced Roast Turkey Breast with stuffing and gravy 39.95 ~

Baked Ham with pineapple sauce 39.95 ~

Roast Stuffed Pork with gravy 39.95

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Roasted~Rice Pilaf 21.95 each

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All Meals are put up cold ready for your oven

All Dinners can be picked up on Thursday, December 24 from 10:00 am. to 4:00 pm.

ALL ORDERS MUST BE PRE-PAID BEFORE PICK-UP

Please Place all orders no later than Monday. December 21, 12:00 noon

Thank You

We wish you a happy and safe holiday season!

Call or stop by for more details.

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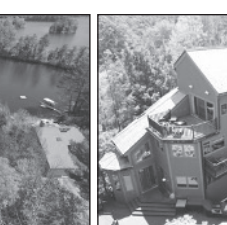
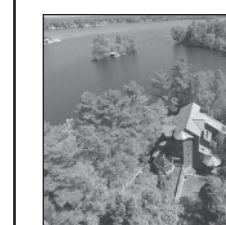
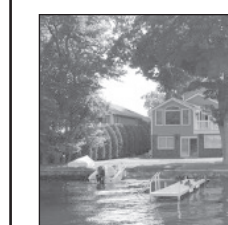


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Featured New Listings!

WEBSTER - 11 PERRYVILLE ROAD

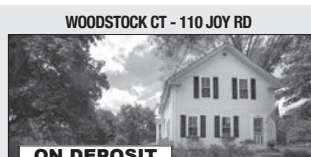


Beautiful Split entry home, situated on 1 acre, nicely landscaped lot! Vaulted ceiling! 6 rooms, 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, Fireplace! Central Air - 2 Zones! Covered deck. All town services! 2 car garage under. Shed! **\$289,900.**

DUDLEY - 22 ROBERTS ROAD



Lovely 3 bedroom Ranch! Single door 2 car garage with storage! Eat-in kitchen. Fieldstone Fireplace! Living Room! 3 bedrooms, hardwood floors, Remodeled bathroom! Lower Level fieldstone walls/fireplace! In-ground pool! - 3.58 ACRES includes extra lot. **\$312,000.**



Quintessential Woodstock Farmhouse w/Spectacular views of Pond. Detached Studio Building! 2.5 Acres. Prof. Landscaped. 5 Bedrooms. Fireplaced Dining, library/Music room. Master Bedroom, 2 Full Baths! Renovated Kitchen. Upstairs, 4 Bedrooms w/Full Bath. **New Price \$399,900.**



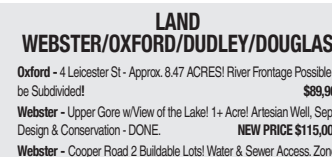
Condominium - Living leisurely! 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath (including master suite) home. Freshly painted! Recessed lighting, gas fireplace, and sliding doors, to beautiful balcony. Walkout basement! built-in outdoor grilling spot. Easy access to 1395. **\$224,900**



Farmhouse style home! Sun-drenched interior! Spacious floor plan! living room, eat-in kitchen, 6 rooms total, 4 bedrooms, 2 baths! Heated by gas / hot water baseboard! Outdoor kitchen, pool! Jacuzzi tub/shower. Located just minutes from Rt 95 & 495! assisted sale **\$408,500.**



NEW TO THE MARKET! Custom Sprawling Split 2800+ SF! Central Air! Kitchen, Dining Room, Cathedral Ceiling Living Room, 3 Bedrooms! Granite Counters & New Flooring! New Boiler - Hot Water Tank - Oil Tank! FULL finished Lower Level w/ Full Bath & Laundry! THERE'S MORE! 2 Car Garage, renovated to include Hydro Heat, AC & 1/2 Bath! Great for Fitness Studio, Game Room or Home School! Over 1.4 Acres! **\$319,900.**



1.99 ACRE INDUSTRIAL ZONED LOT! GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE & WORK FROM HOME! Amazing 1790 Antique Colonial! Undergone major updates & renovations, maintaining Antique Charm! Great Room graced by an Open Hearth Stone Fireplace! Soaring Cathedral Ceilings! **\$499,900.**



One level living with added 35 x 18 finished walk-out lower level. Cathedral ceilings, skylight dining, hard-wood flooring and central air. Stainless appliances w/large double oven. Over-sized 30 x 14 deck, quiet cul-de-sac! **New Price \$314,900.**



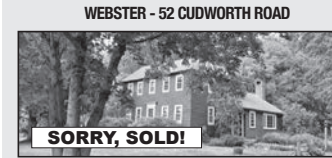
Young ranch with heated 2 car garage, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Efficient Propane heat, central air! Open floor plan! gas fireplace! Master Suite w/bathroom, Master California Closet! assisted sale **\$279,900.**



Beautiful home set back off road providing privacy and oversized yard. Kitchen w/granite counters & abundance of cabinets. Cathedral ceilings kitchen, dining and living room. Open floor plan! large deck with large backyard through sliders in dining room. Hardwood floors! Tile baths. Master bedroom/master bath! Finished walkout lower level w/bar! 2 car garage. Extras above ground pool! **\$369,900.**



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On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

Webster Lake - 100 Lakeside Ave



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Lake Shirley - 647 Reservoir Rd



Lakefront! Lake Shirley! Modern Flare on a Lakefront Colonial! 1st level Formal large entry foyer, living room, gas fireplace, chef kitchen, Impala black granite, center island, 3 season porch, overlooking the lake. 1st FL bedroom suite w/ shower and jacuzzi tub. 2nd floor Master Suite! Lower level Summer kitchen, full bath, game room. Crown moulding & hardwood floors throughout, wired sound system, radiant floors. oversize 2 car garage. Additional Guest House! assisted sale **\$1,040,000.**

Holiday antique and auction news

Many holiday related stories have been featured in recent antique and auction news reports. Several Christmas related antiques recently brought strong prices at auction, according to the Antiques and Arts Weekly. A “red-robed Santa sitting in the gondola under a wicker dirigible with propellers on the side and holding his bag of toys” sold for \$7,800 at auction in November. “Santa in red robe riding a white fur nodding reindeer with orange decorative harness” went for \$13,200. “Santa riding a clockwork nodding donkey” with “a feather tree in one hand and the donkey outfitted in a vibrant harness” reached \$15,600. “Santa on nodding polar bear, 29 inches high with composition feet, hands and head with a mohair beard, the bear covered in rabbit fur” brought \$36,600. Antiques and the Arts reported that the Santa and polar bear seller is a member of the Golden Glow of Christmas Past Collectors group (goldenglow.org).

A “German composition Santa on sleigh behind six reindeer, all on a



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

wheeled platform measuring 35 inches long” sold for well above the \$1,500 estimate, according to the same Antiques and the Arts Weekly article. The auctioneer believed that two factors which contributed to strong bidding on this piece were that there were six reindeer, instead of the typical four, and that the reindeer were in different positions, instead of staring straight ahead as is typical. The antique Santa and reindeer toy sold for \$72,000 to a buyer in the United States.

A 46-year-old Army vet and his wife made an important discovery in a drawer of their newly purchased home in South Carolina, according to Fox Business. Fox Business writes that “the two cases (they found) contained 64 coins in total, including 46 gold \$5 liberty coins and 18 Morgan silver dollars. The Liberty \$5 coins were minted between 1849 and 1907, while the Morgan silver dollar was coined between 1878 and 1904.” The estimated value of the coins is \$25,000. Exemplifying the holiday spirit, the couple immediately returned them to the elderly couple who had sold them

the house.

KSTP TV reported that the Santa Claus and Rudolph figures from the 1964 “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer” TV special recently sold at auction. Prior to the auction, the New York Times reported that the figures were “constructed of wood, felted wool, leather and lead armature” and cost around \$5,000 each to make in 1964. The two figures were expected to sell for between \$150,000 and \$250,000, according to the New York Times article. KSTP reported that “the seller was Peter Lutrario, 65, of New York, who told The Associated Press before the auction that he thought he would never part with the dolls but wanted to be able to take care of his children and grandchildren with the money.” The undisclosed buyer paid \$368,000, well above the estimates. The Lutrario family stockings will certainly be stuffed this Christmas.

We are cataloging die-cast toys for an online auction that will end in early 2021. This will be the first of multiple toy auctions. Later auctions will feature rare antique toys from the 19th and 20th centuries. We will also be auctioning hundreds of paintings from the estate of Fay Moore. Moore is well known for



her horse racing and other equestrian paintings. Additional auctions are also being planned. Please sign up for email updates on our website or follow us on Facebook for more information.

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



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Octobers' Single Family Homes Real Estate Market

	October 2019	October 2020	Trend
AUBURN			
Median Price	\$283,750	\$349,000	▲
Market Volume	\$7,804,001	\$6,977,000	▼
# of Homes Sold	26	20	▼
Avg Days on Market	33	14	▼
OXFORD			
Median Price	\$286,700	\$322,000	▲
Market Volume	\$4,351,152	\$4,303,820	▼
# of Homes Sold	16	13	▼
Avg Days on Market	41	20	▼

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103 Beacon Park- \$324,900

ON DEPOSIT

Oxford: 1 acre lot, Oversized 2-car garage, Vaulted ceilings, in kitchen, dining & living room, 3 bedroom, 1.5 Baths, Hardwood floors, Finished lower level, Craft room, 2 Decks.
22 Whiting Rd- \$389,900

REDUCED

Dudley: Survey completed, needs some cosmetics, 3-4 bedrooms, garage, in-ground pool
11A Paglione Dr- \$239,900

SPORTS
continued from page A1

being moved to the spring season.

MIAA Executive Director Bill Gaine released a statement saying, “The MIAA’s mission can be defined by a dual prescription: promoting maximum participation opportunities for the maximum number of student-athletes so that life lessons can be learned. At the same time, promoting the health and safety of all participants is the Association’s imperative.”

The Midland-Wachusett Interscholastic League, which includes Shepherd Hill Regional High School, released a statement of their own confirming their approach will be in line with the MIAA. In their update the Midland-Wachusett Interscholastic League Athletic Directors confirmed they will proceed with winter sports but that no spectators will be allowed at games until further notice. “Through a modified league/geographic pod-based competitive structure, the Midland-Wachusett League, in conjunction with all Central Massachusetts playing schools, will seek to creatively reimagine what is possible within the constraints of the new health and safety protocols that have been established in response to the ongoing pandemic,”

SAFETY
continued from page A1

Some may be beneficial, and we’ve already started looking into some of those ideas. This isn’t going to be as simple as we’ll just lop off the police station and put a new plan forward. There’s definitely going to be some changes that are made to the plan taking into consideration lowering the cost as much as we can. Knowing that it’s not a public safety building now and it’s just a fire station is does give us some more options that we can look into to try to reduce some of the cost. We’re hoping to keep going forward.”

Selectmen ultimately decided to direct the committee to enter discussion with Tecton, the architectural firm hired to design the public safety complex, to put together a new concept for a fire department as well as cost estimates to provide to the town in 2021. Selectmen also recommended that the two positions on the committee previously held by members of the police department be filled with residents who wish to be a part of the process.

the league said in a statement. “Each sport must undergo sport-specific modifications, some significantly changing the look of the game, to adhere to the (guidelines).”



PEOPLE FACT:

THE AVERAGE PERSON SPENDS MORE THAN \$800 ON THESE EACH DECEMBER.

ANSWER: CHRISTMAS GIFTS

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Receipt

SPANISH: Recibo

ITALIAN: Ricevuta

FRENCH: Reçu

GERMAN: Kassenzettel

The MWIL also confirmed the Dec. 14 date for tryouts to begin with actual practices, workouts and team meetings to start in January of 2021. The MWIL as voted to sponsor competitive sea-

sons for basketball, gymnastics, and swimming. They will also be sponsoring cheerleading, indoor track, and wrestling.

Shopping Word Find

Find the hidden words in the puzzle.

BIRTHDAY	PURCHASE	SALE
CLOTHING	REGISTER	SHOPPING
GIFTS	RETAIL	STORE
HOLIDAY	RETURN	TOYS

N K M I S B P R R P S Y
M Z H T E H A R E R K A
Q I O W L U E V T U Q D
G R E R A T O S U W B H
E N L E S A H C R U P T
R G I I B O C A N X J R
R E G H P Z S T F I G I
S E T P T D F S J R T B
R Y I A H O L I D A Y V
E N O B I T L Q L L Y E
G T A T D L Z C J I B Z
H Z E Y D Q T W M E K C

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

E O N - D Y A L A E S

ANSWER: One-day sale

THIS DAY IN... HISTORY

• 1783: U.S. GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON BIDS FAREWELL TO HIS OFFICERS AT FRAUNCES TAVERN IN NEW YORK CITY.

• 1881: THE FIRST EDITION OF THE LOS ANGELES TIMES IS PUBLISHED.

• 1954: THE FIRST BURGER KING IS OPENED IN MIAMI, FLORIDA.

New Word

TRANSACTION

an instance of buying or selling something

Did You Know?

WHEN SHOPPING FOR GIFTS FOR CHILDREN, IT IS WISE TO PAY ATTENTION TO THE SUGGESTED AGES ON THE PRODUCT PACKAGING. THIS HELPS ENSURE SAFETY.

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New staff member to join Highway Department

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – The Charlton Board of Selectmen has approved adding a new staff member to the highway department in order to ensure the appropriate staffing levels to manage a potentially busy winter season.

Selectmen received a request from Highway Superintendent Gerry Foskett to add a new full-time employee to his department to help offset certain losses going into the winter season. Foskett said he understood the request to be poorly times, but felt it was his job to make sure

the town was fully prepared to handle the needs of the community for the foreseeable future.

"I feel this is my responsibility to make the board aware that in my opinion with the current staffing numbers we have at the Highway Department we cannot meet the reasonable expectations of the residents or insure that public safety will not be compromised especially during our snow and ice operations. This isn't strictly to address my needs for snow and ice, it's actually the year-round staffing is not adequate to provide the service that I can tell you that I at least perceive are the expectations of

the town," Foskett said. "I understand the financial strain this may add, but that's the situation I find myself in. I wish at budget time in the spring I had addressed this, but I was just happy to get a replacement for one of my employees who weren't available. I'm in dire need for this employee to be hired."

Foskett further explained that the lack of personnel adds a strain to the employees to manage the different routes during winter weather. Without the new full-time hire, he didn't feel confident that his department could get the job done in a timely and effective manner.

"I have nine different routes in my snow and ice operation and they average around 13 miles of roads, might be 26 or more miles, one more employee we could cut that and take a little pressure off what I'm putting on my drivers to person even a satisfactory job on the road," Foskett said. "I think my guys do a great job on the snow and ice, but what I'm putting on their backs, it's driving them to a point where things are happening that shouldn't happen."

Selectmen admitted that the request was a rare one from Foskett who they said rarely asks for much beyond the most essential needs

during budget talks. Selectman Bill Borowski even pointed out that Foskett rarely asks for something he "doesn't need" which he felt lent credence to his request. Selectman David Singer added that the highway department is as essential to the town as first responders and that supporting their needs is paramount. Even Selectman Patsy Rydlak, who has been vocally opposed to adding staff during the current economic climate, implied that she felt the request was a necessity. Selectman Stephen Koronis called it a "critical need" while Selectmen Karen Spiewak was more apprehensive than her fellow board members due to the budget situation and the lack of certain pieces of information she felt she needed to support the request.

In the end selectmen voted 4 to 1, with Spiewak being the only dissenting vote, to fund the full time hire for the remainder of the fiscal year using money previously allocated for a floating assistant position to fund the estimated \$20,000 salary. Selectmen will reassess how to maintain the added personnel during budget preparations next year.



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