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Friday, January 8, 2021

# Sturbridge Rotary helps local families



BY SYDNEY LEANNA  
STURBRIDGE ROTARY CLUB

STURBRIDGE — Who doesn't love a good home-cooked crockpot meal around the holidays? Holidays are a time of good food and cheer... and to quote the movie "Elf," "singing loud for all to hear."



The Sturbridge Rotary Club decided to sing a bit louder for those who need a little extra help this season by donating again this year to the Burgess Family Fund. On Tuesday, December 22nd, Rotary Club President Dr. David Zonia presented a \$2,000 check to Burgess School Nurse Lisa Meunier, RN, M.Ed. as many Sturbridge Rotarians banded together to help 38 local families in need (approximately 101 children and 66 adults). Each family received a crock pot from Rotary, as well as a crock pot cookbook and

non-perishable food items for their holiday meal. Meunier and her team has been helping families through this program for over 24 years and says she loves "that everyone in this community comes together and cares for each other."

This program has been a success every single year and continues to provide food and toys for so many local families. The success of the program is possible because of strong relationships between the many community groups involved in

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## Solar facility developers take legal action against Warren

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

WARREN – Officials are bracing for legal action from a California-based company seeking to install a solar project in town.

Sunpin Solar Development, of Irvine, Calif., recently filed a lawsuit against the town following the Planning Board's unanimous denial of its application for a special permit. The company is proposing to develop a solar facility on 100 acres off 170 Brookfield Rd., just north of the Brimfield town line.

Multiple neighbors in both Warren and Brimfield have expressed their opposition to the project over the last several months. Abutters and officials are especially concerned about the flooding impacts that would

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# Dessert offered permanent position as Police Chief

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

STURBRIDGE – Police Chief Earl Dessert will continue to lead the department after selectmen made his confirmation official last month.

Dessert had served as the department's interim chief since May, when previous chief Thomas Ford retired. At a meeting on Dec. 21, officials demonstrated their confidence in Dessert by dropping the "interim" tag from his title.

"I feel honored to have been selected and appointed to the position of police chief here at the Sturbridge Police Department," Dessert said. "I want to thank all of you for the many kind words and the warm welcoming as your new chief. I am looking forward to serving the community in my new role."

In order to focus on his duties in Sturbridge, Dessert recently resigned from his position as the Wales police chief. He thanked residents and officials in that town for their support. In less than a year at the helm of the Wales PD, he helped the department take significant strides. These include obtaining \$44,400 in state grant funding



Courtesy

## Chamber gives thanks to community for shopping local

STURBRIDGE — The Chamber of Central Mass South announced the winners of the 'Shop Local for the Holidays and Win' contest on Thursday, Dec. 17. The contest, designed to incentivize holiday shoppers to keep it local this season by shopping at Chamber Member businesses, ran from November 1st to Dec. 15. More than 70 awesome local businesses participated including shops, restaurants, service providers, attractions and experiences located throughout the twelve towns served by the Chamber. Contest entrants were required to make at least one purchase from any six of these businesses, snap a shopping selfie and submit their entry for their chance at the \$500 cash grand prize and valuable items donated by members. Winners were drawn at random and notified on Dec. 16.

"It is more important than ever that we spend our dollars where they



Courtesy

**Holiday Shopping Contest Grand Prize Winner of \$500 cash, Kelly Pucci.**

will do the most good, at neighborhood businesses in our local towns," said Chamber Executive Director Alexandra McNitt. "With the 'Shop Local for the Holidays and Win' contest, we've created a fun and engaging way to keep it local this holiday season. We also need to stress that just because the contest is over doesn't mean the need to shop local has diminished. We urge the entire community to remain committed to shopping locally as much as possible through the pandemic and beyond."

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**Earl Dessert**

for signboards, computers, and decontamination units. He also obtained \$23,552 in grant funding for a live-scan fingerprint system, radar units, and speed signs.

"Being the full-time police chief for the Town of Sturbridge will not allow me to dedicate the time and effort that the community of Wales deserves from their police chief," Dessert wrote in a statement. "Although my tenure has been short and a pandemic struck soon after my appointment, the department still made great strides with building community relations, upgrading equipment, hiring experienced officers, and seeking grant funding."

Dessert informed Wales selectmen that he will remain the chief of police in that community for 90 days, or until a new chief is selected – whichever comes first.

Looking ahead, Dessert is thrilled to continue with the SPD and help steer the town through challenging times.

"I feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to lead a department that employs such a high-quality group of dispatchers and police officers," Dessert said. "The men and women of the Sturbridge Police Department are truly a dedicated group of individuals that are committed to providing the community with exceptional public safety services."

In one of his first major announcements as the SPD's new full-time chief, Dessert recently introduced residents to a newly created chaplain program.

The SPD's Police Chaplain Program establishes partnerships with local faith-based leaders. The program

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# Local men reinstalled as officers at Grand Masonic Lodge in Boston

BOSTON — On Dec. 28, two local men, a father and son team were reinstalled as officers to the Grand Masonic Lodge in Boston. Junior Grand Warden Right Worshipful Chris St. Cyr of Brookfield and Grand Pursuivant to the Junior Grand Warden Robert St. Cyr of

Courtesy

(Right:) Left to right: Junior Grand Warden RW. Chris St. Cyr and the tall one his Father Grand Pursuivant Robert St. Cyr both 2021 officers of the Grand Masonic Lodge of Boston.

## Brittany Klotz named to Goodwin University's President's List

EAST HARTFORD, Conn. — Brittany Klotz of Holland earned a place on Goodwin University's President's List for the Summer 2020 Session. The Summer 2020 President's List includes 375 students, all of whom scored a perfect 4.0 GPA.

Goodwin University in East Hartford, Connecticut, is an innovative learning community that empowers hard-working students to become sought-after employees. We tailor our programs to address the needs of employers, and we shape them to fit the lives of students. Classes are conveniently offered year-round - days, evenings, week-ends, and online. Degrees may be flexibly layered across certificate, associate, bachelor's, and master's programs in a variety of in-demand fields. Better still, we surround our students with the personal support and the professional guidance they need - not just to earn degrees, but to change lives for themselves, their families, and their communities. For more information, please visit [www.goodwin.edu](http://www.goodwin.edu).



Charlton. The Junior Grand Warden (JGW) is the third in line to the highest ranked elected officer in the Grand Masonic Lodge in Boston and all of Massachusetts. He is also one of the top 3 officers to fill in as Acting Grand Master when the Most Worshipful Richard Maggio Grand Master of Boston is out of his jurisdiction. The Grand Pursuivant to the (JGW) he makes sure he is presentable, his tuxedo looks good and is squared away and also makes his introduction into the Lodges meeting room. In ancient times the Grand Pursuivant also acted as the JGW bodyguard. The father Grand Pursuivant Robert St. Cyr is extremely humbled, proud, and incredibly happy to have been appointed to this position by the MW. Grand Master Richard Maggio of Boston.

Never in Quinebaug Masonic Lodge history has a father and son been elected to the Grand Masonic Lodge of Boston 2 years in a row. To top it off the (JGW) RW. Chris St. Cyr during his installation also received the highest award a Master Mason can receive which is the Henry Price Medal Award. This award is only given to such a distinguished brethren as may be selected only by the MW. Grand Master. The future looks very bright for these brethren. If you would like more information about Freemasonry and to find a lodge nearest you, visit our Web site at [www.massfreemasonry.org](http://www.massfreemasonry.org).

## Trinity Catholic Academy honor roll

SOUTHBRIDGE — Trinity Catholic Academy has released its honor roll for the first trimester of the 2020-2021 school year.

### Grade 4

High Honors: Layla Beu, Chloe Cahill, David Gil, Jacob Singer  
Honors: Sarah Clark, Lucas Cournoyer, Sofia Henao, Lily Nellis, Kylar Norris, Anthony Postale, Kerstin Smaltz

### Grade 5

High Honors: Alivia Gauvin  
Honors: Matthew Ehrhard, Isabella Lamica, Olivia Neuenschwander, Nolan Smeltzer, Noah Waterhouse

### Grade 6

High Honors: Michael Gasperini, Apollo Logan, Yashvi Swadia  
Honors: Melany Ngo, Iban Pelaez, Nico Yacavace

### Grade 7

Honors: Charles Congdon, Anika Ferrantino, Colin Ladd, Amari Pereira

### Grade 8

High Honors: Luisa Henao, Casey Renaud, Manaali Vaidya  
Honors: Elena Jerez, Jennalee Rousseau, Ava Simon, Havish Swadia

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# Walmart Giving grant presented to Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy

CHARLTON — Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy recently received a Walmart Giving grant from the Walmart Foundation to help support the PN Class of 2021 with diversity and inclusion projects.

The photo above shows Brianna Cloutier of Charlton, a member of the PN Class of 2021. She is the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Liaison on diversity and inclusion projects and communicated with the Walmart Branch in Whitinsville. Cloutier made a special trip to the Walmart Supercenter at 100 Valley Parkway, Whitinsville to extend the PN Class of 2021's gratitude for Walmart Giving's generosity. Cloutier met with the branch's assistant manager Michele. Cloutier was presented with an oversized check, a mock-up representation of the \$1,500 grant.

Gretheline Bolandrina MSN, Ed, RN, CRRN Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Director said "as members of the Southern Worcester County community we appreciate organizations such as Walmart, and we are excited about the continued collaboration. Being supported by Walmart with much-needed funds is an important and fundamental piece in our work to produce real-world ready, Licensed Practical Nurses.

Bolandrina added, "This diversity grant will assist Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy PN Class of 2021 in projects with a diversity focus



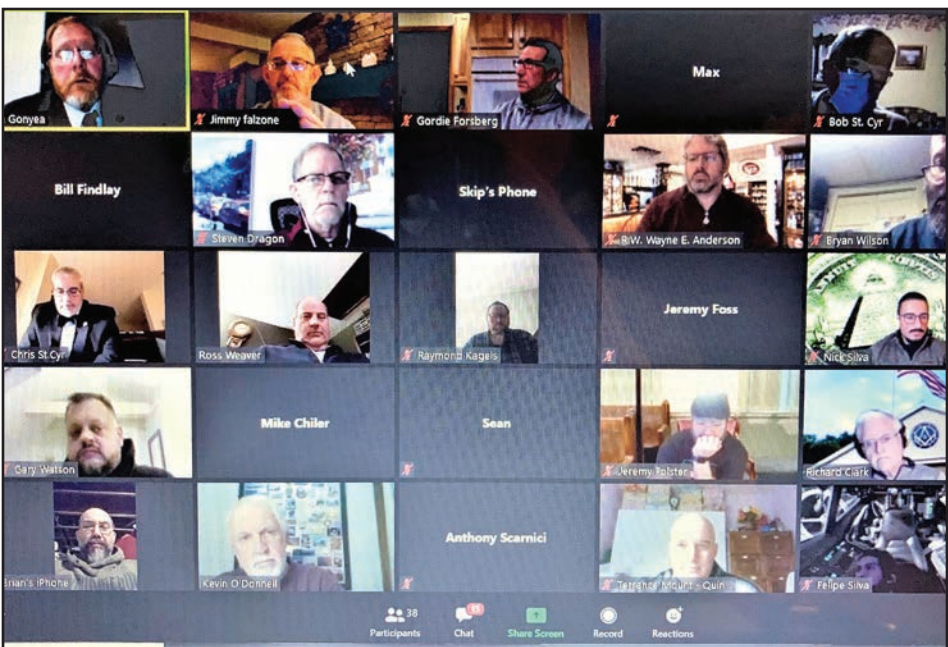
that involves current students and alumni participation. The project is focused on the promotion of diversity in nursing and the elimination of bias. Diversity refers to all manner including gender, race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, and any other unique attribute."

# 24th Masonic District Lodge of Instruction meeting held

SOUTHBIDGE — On Thursday, Dec. 17, there was a Zoom meeting of the Lodge of Instruction (LOI). This meeting was the last official meeting with our sitting District Deputy Grand Master (DDGM) Right Worshipful James J. Gonyea. All Covid-19 restrictions were observed. The meeting was attended by Master Masons and three new members of the 24th Masonic District.

The Lodge of Instructions (LOI) is designed to provide new members of the fraternity with a general overview of what Freemasonry is. It is a forum where Master Masons gather to receive information on Masonic content and general leadership. Meeting topics range from the history of Freemasonry to how to run a business meeting. New Master Masons are afforded the opportunity to expand their Masonic friendships to include brothers from outside their lodges.

The DDGM opened the zoom meeting to brethren from all seven lodges that make up this District. The meeting topic was "What Freemasonry Means to Me". He was looking for individuals to share their stories and experiences as to why they became interested in this great organization. The Master Masons of the 24th Masonic District are immensely



proud of RT. Wor. James J. Gonyea for his last 2 years as our DDGM and the leadership he has brought to our District. If you would like additional information about Freemasonry go to [www.massfreemasonry.org](http://www.massfreemasonry.org) and find a lodge near you.



## ACCURACY WATCH

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

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

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None

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\$171,000, 23 Overlook Rd, Antonio, Thomas, to Osowiecki, Elzbieta A, and Osowiecki, Justin M.

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\$355,000, 79 Breakneck Rd, Blanchard, Michael, and Blanchard, Heidi, to Joyce, Brendan M, and Joyce, Adrienne.  
\$200,000, 278 Cedar St, Fandel, Richard, and Fandel, Joanna, to Truax Holdings LLC.

### Pamala Holt joins Goodrich Insurance Agency

We are excited to welcome Pamala Holt from Dudley MA to our team of insurance professionals at Goodrich Insurance Agency in Milton MA.

Pam has over 20 years of insurance expertise and will be our Personal lines Account Manager. Pam joined our office family on November 23, 2020 and will be working remotely from Dudley and in our main office in Milton. Help us to give Pam a warm welcome! We look forward to providing our current client and new clients with professional, personal, knowledgeable valued client services you expect from Goodrich Insurance Agency!

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## Friday's Child

**Nyla**  
Age 10

Photo by Mike Ritter

**Hi! My name is Nyla and dancing and singing make me happy!**

Nyla is a very friendly girl of Hispanic descent. Her nationality is Dominican and Puerto Rican. She can be cute and sassy! Her favorite color is blue, and she likes cats and dogs. Her favorite hairstyles are half up and half down and space buns. For coping strategies, Nyla uses an oatmeal bath when upset. She states that it makes her feel good, clean, and relaxed. Nyla's favorite food is lasagna and her favorite games are Sorry, Skip-bo, and Mancala. She also likes to create fidgets. She loves to be around others and is very social. A few of Nyla's talents are dancing, swimming, drawing, and making jewelry. Nyla also likes music and enjoys singing along to it. She is very artistic.

Nyla is very intelligent, motivated to learn, and especially enjoys reading and math. She is very bright and excels in and loves school. There are no concerns about Nyla's behaviors in school. She states that she'd like to be a cosmetologist when she is older. Her clinician describes her as hilarious and explains that spending time with her always includes a lots of laughter.

Legally freed for adoption, Nyla will thrive in most any family constellation with older children or no other children in the home. Families interested in starting a relationship with Nyla as a visiting resource with weekly visits will certainly be consider and encouraged. Nyla resides in Eastern MA. Her new family should be willing to help her visit with her biological siblings on a regular basis and possibly her maternal grandmother who lives in Western Massachusetts. There is an open adoption agreement in place for three visits per year with her birth mother.

**Who Can Adopt?**

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

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

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



# Local communities awarded funding through Shared Winter Streets and Spaces Program

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is announcing the award of \$3,053,464.41 in the second round of funding from the Baker-Polito Administration’s Shared Winter Streets and Spaces Program. The program, a new phase of the Shared Streets and Spaces Program which launched in June and provided a total of \$10.2 million to municipalities, provides technical and funding assistance to help Massachusetts cities and towns during the winter months conceive, design, and implement tactical changes to curbs, streets, and parking areas in support of public health, safe mobility, and renewed commerce.

The awards announced today will support 17 projects in 15 municipalities, of which 62 percent are designated Environmental Justice communities and 80 percent are considered high-risk for COVID-19 infections. The first round of funding in the Shared Winter Streets and Spaces program was announced December 10 and was awarded to projects in 11 municipalities, of which 55 percent had been designated Environmental Justice Communities and 54 percent considered high-risk for COVID-19 infections.

“City and town officials have worked hard during the pandemic to support small businesses and provide sufficient space for safe outdoor activities, including walking and biking,” said Transportation Secretary and CEO Stephanie Pollack. “The Baker-Polito Administration has made a total of \$10 million available in this new phase of Shared Streets because the challenges of getting around and of keeping businesses open are different and more complex in the winter. I am proud of the mix of projects and municipalities represented in this round of awards and look forward to receiving more applications over the next few months. This funding will help communities keep vibrant until next year when a vaccine is more widely available and when there comes a time when physical-distancing restrictions can be loosened.”

The Shared Winter Streets and Spaces program provide grants as small as \$5,000 and as large as \$500,000 for municipalities to quickly launch changes for safer walking, biking, public transit, recreation, commerce, and civic activities. These improvements can be intentionally temporary or can be pilots of potentially permanent changes. MassDOT is particularly focused on projects that respond to the public health crisis and provide safe mobility for children, for elders, to public transportation, and to open space and parks.

The list of cities and towns awarded Shared Winter Streets and Spaces grants in this funding round are:

•Amesbury received \$38,316.50 to redesign and reprogram existing public spaces, including adjacent walkable and bikeable routes, for outdoor recreation, dining, and civic events.

• The Brockton Area Transit Authority received \$150,000 to install 10 new bus shelters and make improvements to the Intermodal Centre bus platform including the purchase and installation of permanent heating elements for waiting passengers.

• The MBTA, in partnership with the Department of Conservation and Recreation, received \$170,000 to construct a new crosswalk, median, curb ramps, flashing safety beacon, signage, and pavement markings on Park Drive in the Fenway neighborhood of Boston to provide safe and accessible connections between MBTA bus service and the MBTA Green Line.

• Dracut received \$290,000 to install new six-foot-wide sidewalks, to include ADA-compliant ramps and asphalt sidewalks, for general pedestrian safety and to provide safer walking conditions to a local school.

•Framingham received \$249,052.65 to create new and better sidewalks, including ADA-compliant curbing and crosswalks, in the area of Leland, Irving, and Universal Streets.

• Holland received \$37,760 to implement new traffic calming measures, repaint existing crosswalks, and install benches, tables, and bike parking in the vicinity of Holland Elementary School and across the street from Hitchcock Field. This project will support Holland’s efforts to become a Safe Routes to School

community.

•Leominster received \$21,000 to support local restaurants and encourage outdoor dining with expanded outdoor seating space and new propane heaters.

• The MBTA, in partnership with the City of Boston, received \$468,630.80 to enhance existing bus/bike lanes in the Roslindale neighborhood with new bus shelters, two curb-extended bus stops, and all-day bus lanes on South Street, Corinth Street, and Washington Street.

• The MBTA, in partnership with the City of Boston, received \$123,200 to install a dedicated bus lane on the northbound side of Cross Street/ North Washington in the North End neighborhood, from Sudbury Street to Causeway Street. The bus stop at Thatcher Street will move to a safer, improved location, closer to crosswalks and away from vehicles. The existing dedicated bicycle lanes will be maintained.

• The MBTA, in partnership with the City of Lynn, received \$318,450 to install bidirectional, curb-running shared bus/bike lanes and two transit signal priority treatments on the MassDOT-owned portion of Western Avenue, between the Belden Bly Bridge and Ida Street.

• The MBTA, in partnership with the City of Somerville, received \$222,200 to install bus queue-jumps and transit signal priority treatments – to benefit bicyclists and pedestrian safety, in particular – on Washington Street in Somerville at the McGrath Highway underpass area and the eastbound approach to Inner Belt Road.

• Orleans received \$251,143.61 to construct 900 feet of new sidewalk and safer crossings along Old Colony Way in order to provide a safe walking route to the Orleans Farmer's Market, which has become a key destination during the Covid-19 public health crisis.

•Springfield received \$215,603.60 to create better and safer areas for outdoor dining and walking by expanding a sidewalk to form a plaza, narrowing a vehicular lane, and adding new pedestrian-oriented lighting.

• Sutton received \$299,900 to construct a new and safer pedestrian network with a new sidewalk, curbing, and crossings in the vicinity of the Hough Road Fields and connecting to the local Council on Aging.

• Tewksbury received \$15,000 to install two new bus shelters along a Lowell Regional Transit Authority bus route. The shelters will be installed at the East Street and Chandler Street intersection, which is the location of the Tewksbury Senior Center and Tewksbury State Hospital.

• Uxbridge received \$146,907.25 to replace and upgrade an unsafe crosswalk through Wesgan Square, to include new signage and a new flashing pedestrian safety beacon. This new safer crossing will serve a retirement community, recreation fields, and an elementary school.

• Webster received \$36,300 to upgrade the lighting in the downtown area to be safer and more appealing for pedestrians, install lighting in alleyway spaces to support outdoor dining, install three flashing pedestrian safety beacons, and improve landscaping to make the downtown area feel more attractive for outdoor activities.

Types of eligible projects under the Shared Winter Streets and Spaces grant program include:

• Main Streets: Investments in local downtowns and villages that repurpose streets, plazas, sidewalks, curbs, and parking areas to facilitate outdoor activities and winter programming, including but not limited to facilities for eating, shopping, play, and community events and spaces for all ages. Grant Limit: up to \$300,000

• Reimagined Streets: Creation of safe spaces for people walking and biking by implementing low-speed streets, ‘shared streets,’ new sidewalks, new protected bike lanes, new off-road trails, new bicycle parking, new crosswalks, new traffic-calming measures, and new ADA-compliant ramps. Grant Limit: Up to \$300,000

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## CLUES ACROSS

1. Partner to “oohed”

6. Relaxing places

10. Humorous monologue

14. Simple elegance

15. Bearable

17. Disobedience

19. Express delight

20. Gov’t attorneys

21. Wake up

22. A type of band

23. Remain as is

24. Turfs

26. Battle-ax

29. Volcanic crater

31. The mother of Jesus

32. One’s life history

34. “Rule, Britannia” composer

35. Doubles

37. Jacob \_\_, American journalist
38. House pet

39. S. African river

40. Broad sashes

41. Establish as a foundation

43. KGB double agent Aldrich \_\_

45. Part of a book

46. Taxi

47. Pancakes made from buckwheat flour

49. Train group (abbr.)

50. Frames per second

53. Have surgery

57. Formal withdrawal from a federation

58. Guitarist sounds

59. Greek war god

60. 2,000 lbs.

61. Helps escape

## CLUES DOWN

1. Currency exchange charge

2. River in Tuscany

3. Breakfast dish

4. Defunct European currency

5. Upper class young woman

6. Part of a purse

7. Self-contained units

8. Boxing’s GOAT

9. Legislators

10. Flightless birds

11. U. of Miami’s mascot is one

12. Floating ice

13. Low, marshy land

16. Seldom

18. Lyric poems

22. Law enforcement agency (abbr.)

23. Full extent of something

24. \_\_ Claus

25. Naturally occurring solid material

27. Acquired brain injury behavior science (abbr.)

28. Thirteen
29. Partner to cheese

30. Member of a Semitic people

31. One thousandth of an inch

33. Former CIA

35. Most lemony

36. Engage in

37. Small Eurasian deer

39. Provisions

42. All humans have them

43. Swiss river

44. Storage term (abbr.)

46. Famed Broadway lyricist Sammy

47. Dutch colonist

48. Full-grown pike fish

49. Egyptian sun god

50. Flute

51. Flew off!

52. Scottish tax

53. Young women’s association

54. Populous Brazilian city

55. Malaysian Isthmus

56. Pointed end of a pen

PUZZLE SOLUTION	A	A	H	E	D		S	P	A	S		R	I	F	F		
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# Bay Path nurse alumna pinned amid pandemic

CHARLTON — “It’s official! I’m getting pinned on Friday!”

These are words on a text message sent by Marina Daniels, LPN, the newest graduate of Quinsigamond Community College (QCC) Associate Degree Nursing Evening Program Class of 2020 to her mentor Gretheline Bolandrina, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN.

The QCC Associate Degree Nursing Program recognized the 51 Class of 2020 graduates with a Zoom virtual nurse pinning ceremony held on Friday evening, Dec. 18 at 6 p.m. The graduates received the Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) and are eligible to sit for NCLEX-RN.

“I knew six years ago when Marina was in Clinicals that she would seek academic progression in the future,” said Bolandrina. “She has done with her class what no other cohort has ever done since, persevere and graduate during a pandemic!”

Bolandrina, the Academy Director at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy was Daniels’ professor and clinical instructor in 2014. She received the statement of gratitude from Daniels: “I just wanted to say thank you for being a consistent mentor to me the past six years... And here I am on my way to take the NCLEX for my RN. Thank you for all the continued support!”

Daniels, of Webster, was proudly pinned on camera by her boyfriend, Andrew Robert of Pawtucket, R.I. Her parents and sister participated in Zoom to view the virtual ceremony. Daniels earned her ADN through the LPN to RN bridge pathway. Much like the traditional pinning, Daniels had



Courtesy

Pictured: Marina Daniels, LPN, and Andrew Robert.

the pin placed on her lapel on camera to mark the progression of her nursing career. Despite the virtual setting, Daniels recognizes the honor and significance of the ceremony and wore her professional apparel on camera. With the pandemic Daniels is poised to re-enter a health care world few can imagine.

“I’ve gotten to know Marina over the years and recognize her leadership skills and compassionate heart,” said Bolandrina. “Now, her courage and perseverance inspires and reassures me, she will continue to be a healthcare hero.”

Daniels received the Community Service Award in 2017, the first alumni recipient to do so at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy for her volunteer work as a speaker for Information Sessions and as an inspirational speaker to undergraduate classes. Daniels served as a volunteer Skills Laboratory Assistant, TEAS Proctor, and a member of the Admissions Committee. Prior to receiving her practical nursing certificate at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, Daniels completed General Health Care Studies at QCC. She is certified in Dementia Care, Mental Health First Aid, and Infusion Therapy/ Central Line Care. She is currently connected with the Quaboag Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center as a Nursing Supervisor. Daniels represents the courageous health care workers caring for patients in the COVID-19 pandemic.

“You persevered,” Bolandrina told Daniels. “I’m so proud of you.”

## FUNDING

continued from page A4

- Better Buses: Establishment of new facilities for public buses, including but not limited to dedicated bus lanes, traffic-signal priority equipment, and bus shelters. Grant Limit: Up to \$500,000
  - Shared Mobility: Support for the capital costs of equipment for new bikeshare and micromobility programs.
  - Grant Limit: Up to \$200,000
  - Making Pilots Permanent: Conversion of temporary Shared Streets and Spaces projects to permanent facilities.
  - Grant Limit: Up to \$300,000
- Applications are being accepted on

a rolling basis, and decisions will be made in four rounds. Applications need to be submitted by:

- January 5th for consideration and award by February 2nd
- January 29th for consideration and award by February 26th
- February 26th for consideration and award by March 26th

The project completion and spending deadline for all four rounds is May 31, 2021.

Applications will be given preference if they include elements for children and youth, for seniors, for accessing public transit, and for accessing public parks and other open spaces. Applications from municipalities that are identified as Environmental Justice communities will also be given preference, as will municipalities in

which the median income of all residents is lower than the statewide median income. Lastly, communities identified as at high risk for COVID-19 transmission will also be given preference.

Applicant municipalities are encouraged to engage the public in the development of Shared Streets and Spaces project ideas.

The Shared Streets and Spaces Program was established in June 2020 and were immediately popular with Massachusetts cities and towns. Through the program, the Baker-Polito Administration provided grants from \$5,000 to \$300,000 for quick-build improvements to sidewalks, curbs, streets, on-street parking spaces, and off-street parking lots in support of public health, safe

mobility, and renewed commerce during the COVID-19 period.

Over 100 days, \$10.2 million was allocated to 103 municipalities to implement 123 projects, from pop-up bike lanes to safe ‘parklets’ for outdoor dining to improved crosswalks to dedicated bus lanes, as well as a range of traffic calming measures.

\$10 million has been allocated for this phase of the program, which focuses on the particular challenges of winter.

Information about the Shared Streets and Spaces Municipal Grant Program, including information about how municipalities can access free technical assistance, can be found at [www.mass.gov/shared-winter-streets-and-spaces-grant-program](http://www.mass.gov/shared-winter-streets-and-spaces-grant-program).



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EDITORIAL

Cheers to 2021

The past year has been challenging, and the months ahead only look slightly different as far as the pandemic is concerned. The rollout of the vaccines does, however, offer some promise in getting our lives back to normal.

It's been discouraging; however, to see people behave so unkindly towards one another. Not so much on the local level — here, we are fortunate. But nationally, the temperature has been turned up for far too long. When did it become 'cool' or 'macho' to behave with such hate towards another person, simply because you disagree? Why are so many individuals filled with so much hate that they take it out on complete strangers? We remind everyone, that when it comes to national politics, listen to several news sources, and not a passing meme on social media. Too many uninformed people are acting out, when if they truly were aware of how things work, beyond just a talking point, they may see things a bit more clearly. Again, we have faith that in the months ahead, the climate will become one of which we can all be proud. It's ok and actually a good thing to question and even disagree with others if it's how you feel. It is not OK when decency, lack of respect and kindness falls by the wayside. It is possible to disagree and yet still be kind and helpful to each other. The constant chest puffing on social media and on national news is just, well, sad. You get more bees with honey.

On another note, as we sit and reflect about how much time has been spent apart as a society, we do need to give a nod to solitude. Extroverts across the globe, just want their social lives to be in full swing again. Heck, even introverts do as well. Being social is an important part of our existence. As things move in that direction, we want to remind everyone that there is a benefit to having some much needed alone time. Something we all don't get very often.

Life in normal times can move very swiftly. We're always looking ahead at what needs to be done next, planning, over thinking and stressing about the future. Studies show that when you stop and enjoy some alone time, your brain will rest. Overstimulation can have adverse effects on our well-being. Take time to detach from the internet, television even music.

When we're alone, our parasympathetic nervous system, that relaxes us, is triggered. Alone time relaxes your muscles, lowers your blood pressure and slows your heart rate. Time alone is a great way to prevent burn out. Burnout can cause us to go about our days in an inefficient manner.

Another check mark in the 'pro' column of solitude is that we become more creative. Our minds are free from distractions. Spending time solo can reduce the chance you'll suffer from vital exhaustion which can lead to increased anger and heart trouble.

One analogy that makes sense regarding solitude, is that it gives you time to get a bird's eye view of your life — the bigger picture, instead of feeling stuck in the day to day sometimes mundane activities.

In the New Year ahead, we wish you all health and happiness. As always, take care of each other.

OPINION

VIEWS AND COMMENTARY FROM STURBRIDGE, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND AND WALES

Easy Indoor Plant Project for the Kids

With COVID restrictions keeping people close to home, and students learning remotely, it can be a challenge to find new (and fun) projects for the kiddos. So how about getting a jump start on the gardening season, by recycling foods in your refrigerator?

All it takes is a little soil, sunlight, and some common produce to grow a wonderful windowsill garden. Best of all, planting with kitchen cast-offs is great fun for all ages. The next time you need a lesson on the fly, just open up the refrigerator or kitchen cupboard and make these plantings a family project.

To personalize the project and encourage responsibility for young children, allow each child to choose their own fruit or vegetable, and allow them to “tend” to their plant on their bedroom windowsill. Chances are the gardens may not serve as anything more than a houseplant for the indoor duration, but by the time they die out or are ready to be replanted, spring will be around the corner!

\*\*

New England boiled dinners are comforting fare for winter weekends. The next time you are preparing parsnips to drop into the bubbling pot, save one or two to “plant.” Parsnip is a good first choice because it grows quickly, allowing impatient children to witness the fruits of their labor in almost no time!

How to do: First, choose a deep planter. You can recycle a child's summer sand pail, or even use an old plastic container embellished with felt tip marker designs. Scrub parsnips thoroughly under water and dry. Cut of a piece of the parsnip and place it cut side down into your container filled with a standard potting soil mix. Leave about an inch of the parsnip visible above the soil. Water lightly and place in sunlight. After leaves sprout, a spiked flower will appear. Keep soil moist, but not soggy. After a week or two feed every couple of weeks or so with a stick fertilizer (cut it in thirds and work up to half, then a full stick).

\*\*

Make a lush hanging plant from... soybeans! Believe it or not, the soybean plant boasts purple or white self-pollinating flowers that are as pretty as any mainstream houseplant.

To do: Soak soybeans overnight. Then place wet beans into a wide mouthed mason or mayonnaise jar (beans will expand as they sprout). Cover jar with cheesecloth and secure with an elastic band. The next day, drain off any water and lay the jar on its side in a warm, dark location. Keep adding water a couple of times a day, shake jar to rinse the seeds, and drain. Place jar back on its side. Beans should not sit in water too long or be allowed to dry out. Germination will occur in about four days. When they sprout to about 4 inches, plant in a hanging pot with standard potting soil and place in the sun. Feed with a commercial plant food and soon you'll have a beautiful houseplant!

\*\*

If you are really ready to take on a challenge, why not try your hand



TAKE THE HINT  
KAREN TRAINOR

at growing a peanut plant? Because peanuts are great fun to watch grow, choose an old Mason jar or mayonnaise jar so the kids can view the miraculous growing process.

To do: Start with unprocessed peanuts in a shell (no salt). Shell three or four peanuts and place them on their side in a four-inch container filled with potting soil. Cover the peanuts with a thin layer of soil and keep them in a warm location. Water lightly. The peanut will germinate in about a week, forming a sprout. Soon after leaves will form. Keep moist and transplant when plant is about 8 inches tall. If you are patient, yellow flowers will develop above the soil. When peanuts begin to set, the plant will die back. You can either dig up the peanuts and eat them, or leave them in the soil where they will sprout again.

\*\*

Here are some other plants you can grow with pantry groceries:

- \* Radish plants are easy to grow and the salad fixings are quickly harvested, even in a windowsill garden. Kids love the almost-instant results they see before too long! Choose a firm radish and wash under running water, pat dry. Place root side down into standard potting mixture. Like parsnip, you should leave an inch of the radish above the soil. Place in good light and water when needed. Don't overwater or the plant will rot. Radish leaves will grow in about 6" of soil, so you can really use your imagination when selecting a suitable growing container.
- \* Garlic is quick and easy to grow. And the garlic plant does not give off an odor, so plant away! Save a clove from a garlic bulb and remove all the skin. Plant pointed end up in a container with soil to which you've added a layer of pebbles for drainage. Feed with fish emulsion every couple of weeks. Keep the soil moist and in a sunny area, and in about four weeks your plant will be nearly a foot tall!

\*\*

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.

Time for New Year's financial resolutions



FINANCIAL FOCUS  
JEFF BURDICK

Many of us probably felt that 2020 lasted a very long time. But now that 2021 is upon us, we can make a fresh start – and one way to do that is to make some New Year's resolutions. Of course, you can make these resolutions for all parts of your life – physical, emotional, intellectual – but have you ever considered some financial resolutions?

Here are a few such resolutions to consider:

- Don't overreact to events. When the coronavirus pandemic hit in mid-February, the financial markets took a big hit. Many people, convinced that we were in for a prolonged slump, decided to take a “time out” and headed to the investment sidelines. But it didn't take long for the markets to rally, rewarding those patient investors who stayed the course. Nothing is a certainty in the investment world, but the events of 2020 followed a familiar historical pattern: major crisis followed by market drop followed by strong recovery. The lesson for investors? Don't overreact to today's news – because tomorrow may look quite different.
- Be prepared. At the beginning of 2020, nobody was anticipating a worldwide pandemic and its terrible consequences, both to individuals' health and to their economic well-being. None of us can foretell the future, either, but we can be prepared, and one way to do so is by building an emergency fund. Ideally, such a fund should be kept in liquid, low-risk vehicles and contain at least six months' worth of living expenses.
- Focus on moves you can control. In response to pandemic-related economic pressures, some employers cut their matching contributions to 401(k) plans in 2020. Will some future event cause another such reduction? No one knows – and even if it happens, there's probably nothing you can do about it. Instead of worrying about things you can't control, focus on those you can. When it comes to your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan, put in as much as you can afford this year, and if your salary goes up, increase your contribution.
- Recognize your ability to build savings. During the pandemic, the personal savings rate shot up, hitting a record of 33 percent in April, according to the U.S. Bureau of Economy Analysis. It fell over the next several months, but still remained about twice as high as the rate of the past few years. Of course, much of this surge in Americans' proclivity to save money was due to our lack of options for spending it, as the coronavirus caused either complete or partial shutdowns in physical retail establishments, as well as dining and entertainment venues. But if you did manage to boost your own personal savings when your spending was constrained, is it possible to remain a good saver when restrictions are lifted? Probably. And the greater your savings, the greater your financial freedoms – including the freedom to invest and freedom from excessive debt. When we reach a post-pandemic world, see if you can continue saving more than you did in previous years – and use your savings wisely.

These aren't the only financial resolutions you can make – but following them may help you develop habits that could benefit you in 2021 and beyond.

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Jeff Burdick, your local Edward Jones Advisor in Sturbridge at 508-347-1420 or jeff.burdick@edwardjones.com.*

How will you make this new year different from the last?

If you are to only read one of my columns this year and take it to heart... make it this one.

A new year is upon us and I couldn't be happier. I don't think that in my lifetime I've been more relieved to see a year end and a new year begin.

With that said, there is nothing magical about turning the page on a calendar. If magic is to happen, it happens in our heads and hearts by creating an optimistic view of what is to come and taking positive actions that make our optimism real.

I'm optimistic that 2021 will be a better year. This isn't wishful thinking. We have two new vaccines that are now approved and



POSITIVELY SPEAKING  
GARY W. MOORE

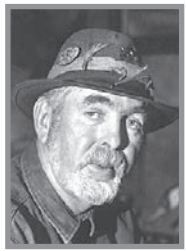
being administered. I'm hearing that a third and maybe a fourth could be approved early this year. The news is promising, and 2021 will be a positive year of turnaround and renewal.

So, we're upon a new year. Now what?

My dad used to always say, “If you always do what you always did, you'll always get what you always got.” That's true for everything we do, including how we approach this new year. Our happiness and success can be determined by an optimistic approach to 2021. In other words, you have the power to be the change you wish for your life. And



# Time to get back on the ice



THE GREAT  
OUTDOORS  
.....  
RALPH  
TRUE

The cold weather is her to stay. Hopefully! Checking your ice fishing gear should be done by now. Checking your line and hooks are very important. Ice fishing tilts or tip ups, as the new generation calls them, are becoming very expensive. This writer prefers the older ice tilts that work very well, and are easy to repair. Because of the rain that was predicted this past Friday, ice conditions have deteriorated, and very few ponds are safe for ice fishing locally. Anglers wanting

to do some ice fishing, may need to travel North and West of the valley area, or even consider Maine and New Hampshire. Ice conditions were a lot better last week, as the temperatures dropped to -10 degrees in those states. First ice is extremely dangerous and should be navigated with extreme caution. Checking the ice with a hand chisel and striking it into the ice as you navigate across a frozen pond, is extremely important. Remind youngsters about

the dangers of unsafe, ice and tell them to stay off of the ice without parental supervision.

This writer has been fishing on ice for most of my life, and has found jig fishing as being the most fun and most productive. A simple jig stick equipped with a small reel loaded with 10-pound test braided line and four feet of six-pound test monofilament as leader, equipped with a Swedish pimple jig, and baited with a perch eye, is deadly for bottom feeding fish. Back during my younger years, I used a hand chisel to cut my holes for jigging, sometimes cutting as many as 100 or more a day when the ice was six inches or less thick. The



This week's picture shows Dan Southwick with a 9.15-pound large-mouth bass.

method was called spudding! The hole was only a couple of inches around, enough to accom-

modate the lure, or a small perch. We had no reel on the jig stick, which was called dead

sticking.

When a large fish was hooked, we often had to call a buddy to chop

the hole larger, while the fish was held just under the ice. A small hand gaff was used to hold the fish, until the hole was large enough to pull the big fish through. Most often I fished for yellow perch and calico bass, but we often encountered a largemouth bass. While fishing for perch, catching as many as 10 or more from one hole was not uncommon, and catching 100 or more in a day, was also not uncommon. The best eating size was 8-to-10-inch fish, although numerous perch well exceeded the 12-inch size. Pan fried in a mixture of ground cornmeal & flower in a pan of oil and a quarter pound of butter can provide some great eating.

When ice fishing

on the Cape in the town of Carver, we found a pond that was loaded with pickerel, back a number of years ago. While fishing with the late Dick Blanchard of Uxbridge we caught a couple of limits of the extremely boney fish. Dick convinced this writer to retain a few, as he was going to find a receipt for pickling the fish. A few weeks later he dropped of a jar of pickled pickerel for me to try. It was great. Every year after, Dick always made a few jars of the tasty fish which consisted of pickling salt, raw onion rings, pickling spices in a combination of two thirds white vinegar, and a

Turn To **RALPH**,  
page **A11**

## Winter care for houseplants



GARDEN  
MOMENTS  
.....  
MELINDA  
MYERS

Holidays are filled with new plants and decorations that often find our houseplants relegated to any out of the way available space. Be sure to keep your houseplants looking their best with proper winter care.

Make sure houseplants receive sufficient light now and throughout the winter. The shorter, often gray days of winter mean less light reaches our plants. Start by moving plants to the sunniest available window. A south-facing window is usually best, but if it is obstructed by trees, awnings or shears it may be no better than an unobstructed window facing another direction.

If brightly lit locations are limited in your home, try rotating plants between high and low light areas. Switching plants every few weeks usually keeps them growing healthy. Give the pots a turn every few weeks to ensure each side of the plant has time facing the light. This encourages even growth and discourages stems stretching toward the light.

Consider supplementing natural light with artificial light when light is limited. Newer styles that clip onto pots, are mounted on the wall, or tucked into furniture grade stands make them attractive and easier to use. And now LED plant lights are more affordable, longer lasting and use less energy.

Humidity is the other winter stress. Many of our houseplants are tropical and require higher humidity than our homes provide. As we turn up the heat, the humidity declines.

Boost the humidity around your plants by displaying them together. As one plant loses moisture, the others will benefit. Add a gravel tray for additional humidity. Fill a tray or saucer with pebbles and water. Then set the plant on the pebbles elevated above the water. As the water evaporates, it increases humidity around the plant.

Adjust your watering schedule to fit the conditions in your home. Always water thoroughly but only as needed. Use your finger to check the soil moisture below the soil surface. Water moisture-loving plants, like Moon Valley

Pilea, when the top few inches are barely moist. Allow the top few inches of soil to dry for cacti and succulents. And always pour off excess water that collects in the saucer. Or use gravel trays to capture the excess water, eliminating this task.

Most houseplants do fine in the same temperatures we prefer. They do not tolerate drafts of hot air from heat vents or cold air from windows and doors. Move plants as needed to avoid drafty locations.

Never trap houseplants between the curtain or blinds and the window. The temperature can be significantly colder, resulting in injury and even death of some plants. Place plants on a table near the window or windowsill extension, leaving room to close the window coverings at night.

Wait until spring to fertilize. Plants do not need as many



Melinda Myers

**Moon Valley Pilea is a moisture-loving plant that prefers high humidity but will tolerate average home humidity.**

& Blooms magazine and her Web site is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).

## Antiques, collectibles, and auctions in 2021



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

2020 was a difficult year for everyone, and antique collectors and dealers were no exception. I am a member of several auctioneer and estate liquidator groups and have the chance to hear from other business owners across the country. Some members have lost family to COVID,

most have struggled financially, and all have had to adapt to working in this new environment. Locally, it has also been a challenge for auctioneers, antique dealers and estate sale companies with regulations constantly in flux throughout the year. With the recent approval of vaccines, there is optimism that 2021 will be a much better year for those buying and selling antiques and collectibles.

As the New Year begins, some auction houses running live auctions are extending preview hours and offering previews on multiple days to ensure there

won't be a large number of bidders gathering together at once. Some auctioneers are allowing only a small number of bidders to attend the auction in person. Other bidders are required to leave absentee bids or bid by phone.

When the warm weather returns this spring, I expect we will see auctioneers return to outdoors sales, like some did during the summer and fall of 2020. Many other auction houses (like ours) have switched to all online auctions. When the situation improves, auctioneers will have to determine whether they want to switch back to

live auctions this coming year or to continue running auctions online.

Some estate sale companies continue to run live estate sales by limiting the number of people who can enter the estate, requiring masks, social distancing and offering hand sanitizer. Many other estate sale companies have switched to online auctions instead of traditional estate (tag) sales. Others are offering items from estates online with fixed prices. You can purchase items outright and then make arrangements to pick up your items(s). Some estate sale companies may also reevalu-

ate how they've done business in the past and determine how to move forward in 2021.

How things will change in 2021 is partially dependent on the distribution of the COVID vaccine. The Massachusetts timeline for COVID vaccinations shows that Phase One is taking place now through February, Phase Two from February to April, and Phase Three from April to June. Connecticut plans to offer vaccinations for members of the general public early in the summer.

This timeline gives us hope that we may be able to walk the fields

of Brimfield in September, possibly even by July. In what may be another promising sign for us, the Malvern Flea Market recently opened in England. It is scheduled to run on weekends throughout 2021. The distribution of the new vaccine and the good news from our friends across the pond should provide optimism to antique fans throughout New England. Thank you for reading my column in 2020. Happy New Year to all as we look forward to a better 2021!

The first session of a huge toy collection, all

Turn To **ANTIQUES**,  
page **A14**

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## MOORE

continued from page A8

why not?

The difference with last year was that there was so much out of our control. A pandemic of the size and scope of Covid-19 changes everything. Losses of life, jobs and personal freedoms are beyond our ability to control, so 2021 can lead to a new and better season.

I believe that almost every successful person will begin this year with the idea that “This year will be a better year than last, and I have the power to make it so.”

I already know that a large group of Americans have decided to have a bad year. Pessimism with some abound as they find it difficult to see the brightness ahead. That is a choice they make based on opinion and not fact, and it will drive and guide the results of their new year.

For me, and hopefully you, the voice of truth tells us a different story and that truth is that 2021 will be a year of tremendous positive turnaround. Again, the vaccines alone are a game changer. As the vaccines continue to be administered, I believe our economy will begin opening and our personal freedoms restored. Could the news be more positive?

So, we have a choice to make. We can wallow in the past pain of 2020 or rejoice and celebrate the brighter days ahead in 2021. Optimism is a choice for happiness and success, while pessimism is a choice for misery and failure. Which will you choose?

I already hear a response of “Yeah, but ...”

But what? The choice could not be clearer and there really are only two choices. Some may say “wait and see” which is also a choice, but I believe that is a choice for

pessimism. The wait and see crowd always get what’s left over as the optimists act quickly and seize the day. What if we instead said, “yeah, and...”

In other words, we can grieve and lament 2020, and we can be hopeful and optimistic for 2021.

“Yeah, and.”

Optimism takes no more energy than pessimism and studies show that optimists are both happier and achieve more in life. How can someone purposely choose pessimism?

I’ve said it over and over ... and will say it again. Your belief system creates a mind/heart conspiracy to make what you believe will happen, come true.

Napoleon Hill said, “What the mind of man can conceive and believe, it can achieve.” I don’t believe truer words have ever been spoken, yet so many purposely avoid optimism. Please... don’t let this be you. Choose a better year for you and your fam-

ily.

I’m out of space for now but will continue next week. Please consider the power of your belief system in creating a better year. Optimism is a choice to be happier, healthier, and more successful. Why would you choose otherwise?

Until next week, consider this ancient wisdom from Marcus Aurelius. “You have power over your mind, not events. Realize this and you will find strength.”

You hold the key to your own magic. It’s a new year. I’m choosing to optimistically make 2021 my best year, ever. You can too.

Will you join me?

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.



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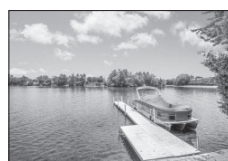


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**RALPH**

continued from page A9

third water. The pickling process softened the bones of the pickerel, making for a great appetizer on our future fishing expeditions.

Deer hunters were happy to see the snow of two weeks ago, resulting in some great tracking conditions. Numerous deer were harvested in the last two weeks of the Black Powder season, some of the bucks carrying only one antler. Every year the bucks shed their antlers and grow new ones for the following year.

Duck & goose hunting opened on Dec. 14, and provided some great shooting opportunity's after the recent snow and cold weather. The freeze and snow drove the birds into major rivers and unfrozen ponds. A lot more mallards and a few wood ducks that lagged behind from

their annual migration, provided some great shooting. The final season ends on January 4, 2021 in the Central District. Sea duck hunting in Massachusetts ends on Jan. 25.

Now that I have compiled more information on the dissolved Sea Scouts organization, the following information from my memory, and from Elvin Winchell of Grafton is as follows: Back in the '50s up until the '70s or so, the Sea Scouts had a clubhouse on the shores of Meadow Pond in Whitinsville. Tom Frieswick, Mr. Cahill were scoutmaster for many years getting the young generation ready for the draft. The scouts also had a large Dory, 20 feet plus, and the scouts were often observed rowing the Dory across the Meadow Pond a few times a week. Pete Oppewall, Jack Cunningham, the Baldwin brothers, Jim Bouley are only a few of the original Sea Scouts. Elvin Winchell was a bit younger than the

scouts, but still hung around with the group, later joining the Sea Scouts.

After their rowing work out, they cruised into the boat wharf at Joe Tops bar and Grill. All of the rowers held there oars up in a vertical position, as the helmsman navigated the boat alongside the wharf. There was also a candy shop on the side of the bar, that sold them soda and potato chips before they headed back out. Harding's Boat House and Bait Shop was also a stopping off spot to get fresh bait for fishing.

The clubhouse burned down around the '80's, but the Sea scout's organization continued to meet weekly. They also spent many days fishing, which was one of the top activities back in the day. You could say that the Meadow Pond was a popular playground for many residents of the Village in Whitinsville years ago. My generation sure lived in the best years, although our parents had little

money, and worked hard to raise us.

It was a time that people went to their local Fish & Game Club to play cards and bingo, and enjoy a dinner of Racoon and Ham, beans, & potato. Tickets were a mere \$2 each, which was a lot of money back then. Raffle's and other entertainment were enjoyed on weekends, and then they got ready to return to work on Monday, with most residents in the valley working at the former Whitin Machine Works.

The incredible Dan Southwick landed another whopper a couple of weeks ago, as this week's picture shows. The large-mouth bass weighed in at 9.15 lbs. and was caught in a neighboring state. Nice fish!

Happy New Year! Hoping everyone had a very Merry Christmas and good health!

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	December 2019	December 2020	Trend
Median Price	\$280,000	\$344,000	▲
Market Volume	\$5,326,050	\$9,592,900	▲
# of Homes Sold	17	24	▲
Avg Days on Market	41	32	▼


### AUBURN

	December 2019	December 2020	Trend
Median Price	\$282,000	\$323,000	▲
Market Volume	\$2,302,400	\$3,167,400	▲
# of Homes Sold	8	10	▲
Avg Days on Market	32	30	▼

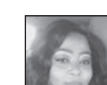
### DUDLEY

	December 2019	December 2020	Trend
Median Price	\$282,000	\$323,000	▲
Market Volume	\$2,302,400	\$3,167,400	▲
# of Homes Sold	8	10	▲
Avg Days on Market	32	30	▼


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# OBITUARY

## John F. Trombley



HYANNIS/ NORTH BROOKFIELD- John F. Trombley, 57, formerly of North Brookfield, passed away on Saturday, Jan. 2nd, in the Cape Cod Hospital, Hyannis, after a brief illness.

He leaves his son, Eric D. Curboy and his wife Kate of Wales; his father, George F. Trombley of Southbridge; his sister, Lynda Garieri and her husband Scott of Sturbridge; his five grandchildren, Layla Curboy, Ella Curboy, Dylan Curboy, Gavin Curboy and Nick Curboy; and a niece and a nephew. He

also leaves his beloved dog, Monty. He was born in Southbridge the son of the late Janet R. (Faxon) Trombley Ryzek.

John had a passion for cooking and worked at several restaurants throughout his career, including the Spoken Menu in Sturbridge, the Sheraton-Host Hotel in Sturbridge, the Whistling Swan in Sturbridge and the Salem Cross Inn in West Brookfield. He went on to work as a manager at Quaboag Rubber in North Brookfield for several years. John later decided to follow his passion again and opened his own restaurant, the North Brookfield Country Kitchen. He was a part-time Firefighter in the North Brookfield Fire Department.

Along with his passion for cooking he enjoyed growing vegetables, fruit and flowers. He also enjoyed canning jams and enjoyed antiques.

A graveside service for John will be held on Thursday, Jan. 7th, at 12:00pm in North Cemetery, Maple St., Sturbridge. There are not calling hours.

The Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, is directing arrangements.

[www.morrillfuneralhome.com](http://www.morrillfuneralhome.com)

### DESSERT

continued from page A1

will provide first responders with additional tools for assisting community members in times of need. With COVID-19 straining all facets of the community, first responders are grateful to have extra support in their assistance efforts.

“The goal is to have police/fire and clergy working together during times of crisis,” Dessert wrote. “The faith-based leaders will perform tasks of a more emo-

tional, social, or spiritual nature while the police officers and firefighters attend to the emergency at hand.”

The partnership includes Pastor Dan Purtell, of Bethlehem Lutheran Church; Pastor Matt Zimmerman, of Lifesong Church; and Pastor Esteban Carrasco, of the House of Destiny Church.

In no event will a police chaplain promote, encourage, or advance a single religion or religious belief, unless requested to do so. The chaplains are volunteers and will only be used when requested.

### CHAMBER

continued from page A1

Our local economy depends on it.”

Congratulations to the winners of the Shop Local for the Holidays! The \$500 Cash Grand Prize, donated by the contest sponsor Cornerstone Bank, went to Kelly Pucci. The following entrants won additional prizes donated by Chamber Member businesses. A Dexter-Russell Gift Basket donated by Dexter-Russell was won by Anne Mulrain. A \$100 Table 3 Restaurant Gift Card donated by Webster First Federal Credit Union went to Judy Roscioli. A gift basket donated by the Harrington Auxiliary Gift Shop was won by Chris Mayer. A bottle of wine and a \$70 Gift Certificate to Brush It Off donated by Brush It Off Paint & Sip Bar was won by Jennifer Pelletier. Edwina Lango won the \$25 Gift Card to Kid Power Gymnastics donated by Kid Power

Gymnastics. A Certificate for 5 percent off any job over \$500 donated by Michael L. Wales Painting Company went to Tammy Edmonds. Judy Flannery won a \$50 Gift Card to Klem's donated by Klem's and Louise Bonnette won a Wrapping Sterling Silver Bracelet donated by Lake Road Living.

The Chamber is grateful to their ‘Shop Local for The Holidays’ contest sponsor, Cornerstone Bank, for their generous support of this festive endeavor. The Chamber also thanks our Members who donated fantastic prizes and helped spread the word about the contest, and the community, for shopping local this holiday season!

Come grow with us! If it is time for you to grow your business and join a dedicated and passionate business community, visit the Chamber of Central Mass South online at [cmschamber.org](http://cmschamber.org) or reach the office at 508-347-2761.

### ROTARY

continued from page A1

the Burgess Family Fund. Tuesday’s event was another great example of the Rotary Club working with other community groups to help their neighbors. The beauty of it all is that this is a true community effort. Through community, compassion, and dedication, the world was a little bit brighter on Dec. 22. This time of year is truly a time of giving. As you and your family head into the

new year, let us continue to support each other, as well as our community as a whole.

### About Rotary

The Sturbridge Rotary Club has been providing humanitarian service to the local and international community for 48 years. Club members support community service projects that address many of today’s most critical issues including hunger. The Rotary motto is “Service Above Self.”

### SOLAR

continued from page A1

be caused by the cutting of trees on a steep elevation.

“We agreed that there would be too many problems for the neighbors,” said Warren Planning Board Chairman Derick Veliz. “Water would run off and cause major flooding on people’s lands.”

Access issues, farming/land impacts, property values, and long-term environmental effects also caused Planning Board members to shoot down the proposal.

Moreover, the town adopted new bylaws two years ago that are more restrictive to solar projects. Still, Sunpin Solar officials have remained aggressive in their efforts to push the project into town. Even after the proposal was denied in Warren, company representatives are still seeking approval from Brimfield officials for an access road connecting to the site. Sunpin must now receive approval for the Brimfield project, then secure a victory against Warren in land court, in order to continue the project.

opposed the proposal since its emergence in 2018. Although Sunpin officials have made offers to Virchow to build an access road on her property, she has repeatedly refused the company’s requests.

“We do not want this up here at all. They don’t care about the people this would affect,” said Virchow, who is worried about the impacts the project would have on her sewer and well. “The right-of-way is only for neighbors to walk on the land, not for companies trying to bring trucks up here.”

Residents and officials alike have accused Sunpin leaders of dishonest practices. Multiple residents have secured legal counsel to advise them on the situation.

“They [Sunpin officials] say one thing at our meetings, and then they say something completely different in Brimfield,” Veliz said. “They were not honest with our board.”

Sunpin officials did not respond to requests for comment on the proposal and the company’s recent legal action against Warren. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, a land court hearing on the case is scheduled to take place over the phone on Jan. 12.

Warren’s denial of Sunpin Solar is the latest example of a local town applying the brakes on the rush of out-of-state companies eyeing rural central Mass. communities for solar development. With a flood of projects completed and new applications submitted throughout the region over the last five years, officials and residents are concerned about the long-term effects of multiple solar facilities.

Several Brookfield Road residents, including Krista Virchow, have

In Spencer, Special Town Meeting voters approved a solar farm moratorium last year.

At the West Brookfield Annual Town Meeting in 2018, voters overwhelmingly passed a bylaw that is restrictive to the number and type of solar installations that can operate in town. West Brookfield was also the first community in the nation to adopt a bylaw requiring solar companies to provide upfront funding for the eventual decommissioning of a solar field.

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## ANTIQUES

continued from page A9

from one estate, is taking place online now. We are currently selling the die-cast cars. Most are unopened and in their original boxes. Vintage and antique toys will be sold in later sessions. We will be offering the equestrian and other paintings from artist Fay Moore's estate in another online auction



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