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Friday, December 4, 2020

A hidden piece of history

WHITINSVILLE RESIDENT CALLS FOR STATE HOUSE LIBERTY BELL REPLICA TO BE MOVED

BY KIMBERLY PALMUCCI
TRIBUNE CORRESPONDENT

WHITINSVILLE — Several historic items remain off-limits to the public in front of locked State House entryways that were closed after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. State officials recently announced that a bronze statue of President John F. Kennedy will soon be on the move. But Whitinsville resident George Warren says that a 1950 Liberty Bell replica also needs a new home.

“A wonderful part of our history as a state has been put in an area at the State House where no one can see it, enjoy it, or know more about its history,” Warren said. “The plan is to move the Kennedy Statue...I am hoping that our Massachusetts State

House Liberty Bell will [also] be moved from its inaccessible, obscure, and off-limit place.”

The Kennedy Statue, which depicts the former president in midstride, was dedicated in 1990 and quickly became a tourist attraction on State House grounds. Following the Sept. 11 attacks, however, the gates to the State House lawn were closed, cutting off public access to several statues. The statues have remained virtually inaccessible for almost 20 years, but in October, officials announced plans to move the Kennedy Statue closer to Beacon Street so that it can easily be seen from the public sidewalk.

Warren said he hopes the Massachusetts State House Liberty Bell replica will soon get a new home, too. The bell is



Several historic items remain off-limits to the public in front of locked State House entryways that were closed after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. But Whitinsville resident George Warren says that a 1950 Liberty Bell replica needs a new home, currently located on the portico at the top of the steps in front of the State House.

“My suggestion is to move the bell inside the State House to a spot where it can be seen and admired by visitors. Moving the bell would take getting permission from the Senate President, the State Senators, the Speaker of

Turn To HISTORY page A7

Northbridge schools push back hybrid transition

BY KIMBERLY PALMUCCI
TRIBUNE CORRESPONDENT

NORTHBRIDGE — In response to a recent surge of Covid-19 positive cases, Superintendent of Schools Amy McKinstry recently announced that the Northbridge Public Schools had postponed its Hybrid transition. The transition was scheduled to begin Monday, Nov. 30.

“I know this may not be a popular decision, and I know this may create difficult situations for families who expected their children to be going back to school,” McKinstry said earlier this month. “Please know that I did not make this decision lightly.”

Since the announcement was made, the district has continued to have pre-school, Cohort

C, and other high needs students attend school, as they have been, but McKinstry said the district was not ready to introduce any additional staff or students to the buildings at that time.

As stated on the Northbridge Public Schools website, the Hybrid Learning model will begin on Monday.

When the decision to postpone the hybrid transition was made, Northbridge had a significant surge in Covid-19 positive cases, according to a statement from McKinstry.

“This is concerning data, however, this was not the only reason for the postponement. We also have a significant number of staff members who are in quarantine or just started quarantine

or are waiting for test results because they were exposed to a positive case,” McKinstry said in her statement earlier this month. “As such, we are having difficulty safely staffing our buildings for the return of half of our student population.”

McKinstry said that by the new date of November 30, the hope is that several open positions would be filled and the number of quarantined staff was reduced, as many of the 14-day quarantines should be finished.

In the Hybrid Learning Model, only 50% of students at each building will be participating in in-person learning on a given day, according to the district’s reopening plan, and the other 50% will be participating in the same learning in the

BY KIMBERLY PALMUCCI
TRIBUNE CORRESPONDENT

DOUGLAS — A recent online auction has raised more than \$10,000 in donations for the Douglas-based Simon Fairfield Public Library’s interest-bearing building fund.

In response to the cancellation of the library’s annual book sale, the Friends of the Library planned and hosted this first-ever event. Library Director Justin Snook reported that 502 bids were placed and the Friends of the Library ended up netting \$10,197 in high bids. All proceeds earned from this auction will be deposited in the library’s interest-bearing building fund, reserved for making the library accessible to all patrons, regardless of age or ability. The library has a \$400,000 goal for this fund. “Preliminary discussions

with a joint subcommittee of Library trustees and BFCC committee members estimate—and this is a very loose, wildly preliminary estimate—that this will be somewhere around a \$500,000 project,” said Library Director Justin Snook in a previous statement. “What we want to avoid at all costs is a situation in which a significant amount of money is spent to go through planning and proposal processes with no end-game funding strategy besides a debt exclusion article on the ballot.”

The project would include an entrance that is accessible, code-compliant paved parking, an elevator to provide access to both floors, and an accessible public restroom. Snook said he strongly advocates that the library collect enough capital to see the

project through before committing further funds to planning and design.

“Once we have enough funds to reasonably guarantee the project will reach fruition, we can proceed with confidence that resources are going to a good use instead of out the window,” Snook added.

Due to COVID-19, the library’s annual book sale during Oktoberfest was canceled this year, according to Snook. And thus, the idea for an online auction was born. Snook said that ultimately, 219 items were collected for auction from 55 total donors, including antiques, vacation rentals, gift certificates, book bundles, and more.

Snook added that this will not be the last auction. Donations to the Library’s building fund can be made online at mysfpl.org/friends.

Uxbridge farm recognized for “Green Friday” efforts

BY KIMBERLY PALMUCCI
TRIBUNE CORRESPONDENT

UXBRIDGE — The

Uxbridge-based Arrowhead Acres farm was recently applauded for their work related to

“Green Friday,” which is celebrated annually on the same day as Black Friday to shift attention

from the shopping season to the environmental benefits of selecting a fresh cut local Christmas tree.

day season,” said Soter.

“Green Friday” also extends to promoting other ornamentals, swags, poinsettias, and other live green decorations, according to a press statement. The 2017 Agricultural Census reports Massachusetts having 265 Christmas Tree farms with sales of \$3.5 million statewide.

“It is important to emphasize the benefits in purchasing a fresh Christmas tree. Local trees keep open space and replacement trees are planted each year. Purchasing a fresh Christmas tree reduces the number of artificial trees entering landfills. But most of all, cutting your own trees is a great family recreational activity outdoors that has become a tradition,” said Commissioner Lebeaux.

has planted up to 35,000 trees in the past 10 years and is expecting a peak number of trees available this year. The farm has a total of 48 acres, about half of which has Christmas trees, according to a statement. A big component of the farm is with weddings, an average 100 a year, and new developments on the farm include renovation of the banquet hall and barn. The farm also has a petting zoo.

David Morin, a Coast Guard veteran, also used the opportunity to cut down a tree as a donation to the local Coast Guard base.

“It’s opening day for Christmas Trees at Arrowhead Acres Farm and what a great day it is!” the farm reported.



Left to Right: State Rep. Mike Soter, Owners Arrowhead Acres David and Vicki Morin, Dept. Agriculture Commissioner John Lebeaux, Dept. of Agriculture Deputy Commissioner Ashley Randle with Governors Proclamation in honor of Arrowhead Acres “Green Day Declaration” and the cutting of a fresh Christmas Tree being donated to the Coast Guard Base.

State Rep. Michael Soter (R-Bellingham) Department of Agriculture Resources Commissioner John Lebeaux, and Deputy Commissioner Ashley Randle recently presented Arrowhead Acres Owners David and Vicki Morin with a proclamation from Gov. Charlie Baker.

“It was an honor to join David and Vicki Morin this morning as they celebrate the start of the Christmas season and Green Friday. Arrowhead Acres is one of the many great family businesses in Uxbridge and across the 8th Worcester District and it is especially important for all of us to support our local businesses this holi-

Arrowhead Acres

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How to support small businesses this holiday season

The holiday season is an important one for small businesses every year, and it figures to take on heightened importance in 2020. The outbreak of the novel coronavirus COVID-19 in late 2019 and early 2020 hit small businesses especially hard, with many being forced to close their facilities to customers in an effort to prevent the virus from spreading.

Estimates regarding the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak on small businesses varied, but many small business owners were forced to let go employees as they confronted steep declines in revenue. A ZenBusiness survey of more than 1,000 small

business founders, senior managers and decision makers found that 37 percent of small businesses that employ between 11 and 25 people were considering laying off more than one-fifth of their workforce.

As small businesses face difficult challenges, it's no surprise that many consumers want to support locally owned small businesses this holiday season. Such support not only can help small businesses, but also can help to revitalize local communities.

• Shop online. Online shopping has traditionally been dominated by big box retailers. However, many small businesses increased their e-commerce capabilities to



generate revenue. Shoppers concerned about shopping in person this holiday season should explore the delivery and curbside pickup options available at locally owned small businesses. Even businesses that

have not traditionally been allowed to deliver, such as breweries and wineries, have been able to do so during the outbreak, giving consumers unlimited online shopping options.

• Purchase gift cards. Gift cards

take the guesswork out of holiday shopping, and such cards are easily shipped or even emailed to loved ones. That's a significant benefit during the 2020 holiday season, when delivery times are expected to be lengthy. Gift cards to local businesses simplify holiday shopping, support small businesses and help shoppers avoid potential delivery delays.

• Share your experience. Word-of-mouth is vital to small businesses at any time, and can be especially valuable as these companies try to overcome the challenges posed by the COVID-19 outbreak. Holiday

shoppers can share their experiences with local businesses via social media. Share information about the lengths local small businesses have gone to in regard to safety measures, order fulfillment and their delivery and pickup efforts. Such sharing may compel neighbors and friends to follow your lead and provide vital support to local businesses in need this holiday season.

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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Blackstone Heritage Corridor acquires wheelchair bicycle for adaptive recreation programs

WHITINSVILLE — In its quest to continue providing adaptive recreation programs in the Blackstone River Valley, the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor (BRVNH) has acquired a state-of-the-art, electric-assist wheelchair bicycle. A grant received from the Network of the National Library of Medicine, New England Region (NNLM), provided the funds to purchase a Van Raam OPair bicycle from Bike-On of Warwick, RI. BRVNH is partnering with All Out Adventures of Northampton, MA, who will be caretakers of the bike, to offer adaptive cycling to people with mobility impairments and their caregivers in the Blackstone River Valley.

On Nov. 23, all four organizations met at the Blackstone River Valley Heritage Center in Worcester, MA, so that Bike-On could deliver the equipment. A special test ride was arranged with Susan Halpin, Education and Outreach Coordinator at NNLM, and her mother, Ellie Guild.

“Being involved with the “Opening Doors to the Outdoors” grant awarded to the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor has been rewarding both personally and professionally for me,” Halpin shared. “I have always thought that social connection was important to overall good health. With COVID-19, the importance of being connected has become very apparent to me because I am missing that connection to my family, friends and community. Those around us with physical and intellectual challenges experience the isolation many of us are feeling currently, all the time.”

According to Halpin, programs such as Opening Doors to the Outdoors and organizations like the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, All Out Adventures, and Bike-On, are addressing the need for inclusivity and for connection through opportunities that adaptive bicycles like the OPair provide.

“In my experience, it’s not only the participants who receive those health benefits,” Halpin added. “Those who volunteer to make these events happen come away grateful for the opportunity to be involved. Giving my Mom a test ride on this new bike certainly showed that to me! Gratitude is essential to good health.”

Since 2017, BRVNH has partnered with All Out Adventures to offer adaptive exercise programs in the Blackstone River Valley including adaptive cycling and adaptive kayaking. In 2019, adaptive kayaking events were made possible through a grant received from NNLM. Earlier this year, BRVNH received an additional grant from NNLM to offer a series of adaptive cycling programs in partnership with All Out Adventures, but due to COVID-19 restrictions, those events could not be held. Instead, funds were used to acquire an adaptive bicycle that would provide additional programming opportunity in the spring of 2021.

“This bike will open doors and break down barriers, and we are thrilled to be able to use it in our programs,” noted Karen Foster, executive director of All Out Adventures. “At All Out



Courtesy

Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor has acquired a Van Raam OPair wheelchair bicycle to bring more adaptive recreation events to the Blackstone River Valley. On Nov. 23, Bike-On delivered the bike where additional partners in the “Opening Doors the Outdoors” grant project, including All Out Adventures and Network of the National Library of Medicine, New England Region, gathered to celebrate. Pictured here are (back row, left to right): Suzanne Buchanan of Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor; Jackie Brown of All Out Adventures; Cory Plante, Alison Zack Darrell, and Vinnie Ortez of Bike-On; Devon Kurtz of Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor; (front row, left to right): Ellie Guild; and Susan Halpin of Network of the National Library of Medicine, New England Region.

Adventures we see time and again how providing access to outdoor recreation for people of all abilities has the power to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities. The OPair Wheelchair Tandem will help us to extend the opportunity to participate in cycling to people with mobility impairments and their caregivers.”

Suzanne Buchanan, Volunteers-In-Parks Coordinator for BRVNH, has been orchestrating the adaptive recreation events with All Out Adventures, utilizing the National Park Service Volunteers-In-Parks program. With nearly all events canceled this year due to COVID-19, Buchanan worked with NNLM to find the best use of the grant funds this year.

“This is an amazing opportunity during these unprecedented times,” Buchanan shared. “This adds more meaning during Thanksgiving week. We all have something to be thankful for.”

According to Buchanan, the adaptive cycling events will highlight the beautiful resources along the Blackstone River Bikeway while lifting people’s spirits as they enjoy the ride and fresh air.

“As a business serving the adaptive cycling community, we are thrilled to have such great champions of the Van Raam OPair wheelchair tandem as Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, All Out Adventures, and the Network of the National Library of Medicine,” noted Alison Zack Darrell, Business Development at Bike-On. “We’re very grateful to be part of this venture, and for the efforts on behalf of inclusive cycling, that the three organizations have made.”

To learn more about adaptive recreation events with BRVNH, contact Suzanne Buchanan at sbuchanan@blackstoneheritagecorridor.org. To learn more about BRVNH, visit BlackstoneHeritageCorridor.org.

FCC Uxbridge continues virtual services

UXBRIDGE — The First Congregational Church of Uxbridge, because of the COVID pandemic, is continuing their services via Zoom through December.

Advent services will be observed each Sunday with special readers before the lighting of the Advent Candles. Special music is being planned for some Sundays.

We will celebrate on Christmas Eve with our annual Christmas Candle Light Service at 7 p.m. via Zoom. Although we cannot be together this year, we would invite you to each light a candle during the closing of the service with the singing of “Silent Night.”

It will be a different way of worshipping but a way we can all welcome the birth of the Savior.

If you do not receive an invitation to join us for any of our services, we encourage you to join Rev. Frank McKenzie and our congregation by emailing us at Uxbridgeucc@outlook.com or texting your message to 508-244-7849.



ACCURACY WATCH

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

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

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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.

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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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Deborah Derdarian joins Milford Regional Physician Group

MILFORD — Milford Regional Physician Group (MRPG) is proud to welcome back Dr. Deborah Derdarian to Mendon Internal Medicine. She will be seeing patients at 12 Uxbridge Rd., Mendon.

Dr. Derdarian is returning to MRPG after spending three years with St. Vincent Medical Group in Northborough. Prior to that, she was with Tri-County Internal Medicine in Mendon.

Ganey awards for the high quality care she provides to her patients.

Dr. Derdarian began her career as a Registered Nurse, working in a variety of clinical settings in Milford and North Smithfield R.I. and also earned her Master's Degree in Health Administration from Framingham State University.

She is currently accepting new patients and can be reached at (508) 634-6620.

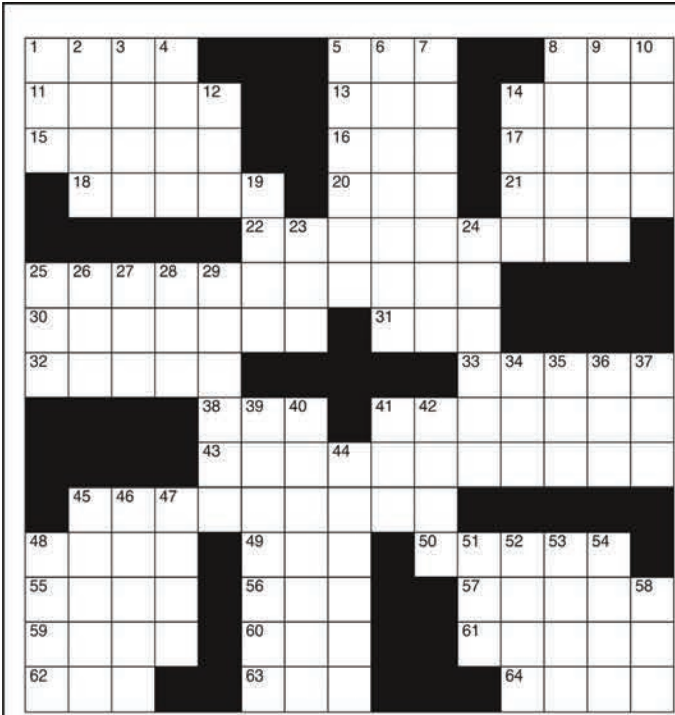
Milford Regional Physician Group, Inc. was established in 1992 and is one of the largest physician practice groups in the MetroWest and Blackstone Valley Region. MRPG, along with Milford Regional Medical Center, forms the Milford Regional Healthcare System, and consists of 40 primary care and specialty practices, including more than 100 physicians, 55 advanced practitioners and 350 staff. The group is principally comprised of primary care physicians including internal medicine, pediatrics, family medicine, and adolescent medicine. Specialties include: breast surgery; cardiology; diabetes education; ear, nose and throat surgery; endocrinology; infectious disease; hospitalists; obstetrics and gynecology; orthopedics; pulmonary; rheumatology; sleep med-



Deborah Derdarian

icine; sports medicine; urogynecology; urgent care; and urology.

For more information about MRPG's services, practices, and physicians, visit www.milfordregionalphysicians.org and follow us on Facebook @MilfordRegionalPhysicianGroup.



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. Corpuscule 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



Millville police receive grant for road safety

BY KIMBERLY PALMUCCI
TRIBUNE CORRESPONDENT

MILLVILLE — The Millville Police Department has received \$11,999 as part of the 2021 Municipal Road Safety Competitive Grant Program. These funds are used to help reduce roadway crashes, injuries, and fatalities in Massachusetts.

“This is a tremendous opportunity for the town of Millville,” said State Rep. Michael Soter. “Funding opportunities, like this one, are crucial to the operation and advancements of our local police departments.”

The grant requires five enforcement campaigns occurring from mid-December 2020 to mid-September 2021 addressing: winter impaired driving, distracted driving, click it or ticket, speeding, and summer impaired driving, the department

released. Additionally, Millville Police will purchase two radar feedback signs with universal mounting brackets, “affording the Police Department portability installation for target enforcement,” the department said.

These signs cost approximately \$3,000 each and can be installed throughout the town in areas of concern. The mobile signs will alert drivers if they’re traveling over the marked speed limit, helping to ensure public safety within the community.

The funding comes as part of a recent announcement from Gov. Charlie Baker, Lt. Gov. Polito, and EOPSS Secretary Thomas Turco of more than \$3.2 million in federal grant funding from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that will be distributed to 161 local police departments across the Commonwealth. The funding is intended “to reduce vehicle crashes, injuries, losses of life, and the resulting economic costs.” Police departments across the Commonwealth are allowed to use funding to promote road safety programs including traffic enforcement campaigns such as Drive Sober, Click it or

Ticket, Distracted Driving, and Speed. Departments may also use funding to purchase equipment and support non-enforcement traffic safety activities.

This announcement comes just days after the Millville Police Department received \$2,700 through FEMA’s Emergency Management Performance Grant for a portable generator and trailer for emergency management needs in Millville.

“Congratulations to the town of Millville for successfully pursuing these opportunities,” Soter added.

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\$421,000, 3 Nancy Ct, Norton, Patrick, and Norton, Brianna, to Irons, Joseph.
\$385,000, 9 Ethel St, Santos, Caroline A, and Dacunha, Salomao S, to Belteton, Alexandra A.
\$350,000, 99 Milk St, Hidenfelter, Stephen, and Hidenfelter, Kimberly, to Benner, Alexandra M.
\$300,000, 106 Blackstone St, Turcotte, Daniel E, and Vickers, Dianne A, to Turcotte, Daniel R.
\$240,000, 6 Ives St #C, Liddell, Brian, and Liddell, Erin L, to Christian, Larry W, and Christian, Martha E.
\$192,000, 13 Ascension St #13, Storsveen, Keena A, and Pennymac Loan Svcs LLC, to Elbach, Mustafa.
\$151,760, 549 Summer Pl, FHLM, to Winwin Properties LLC. Bolton
\$660,000, 258 Harvard Rd, Churchill, Jennifer L, and Churchill, Jody, to Zhang, Yiying, and Li, Ruilong.
\$547,900, 46 Farm Rd, Masterson, Christopher J, to Masterson, Donna M, and Marr, Francis P.
\$160,000, 71 Still River Rd, Kennedy, John W, to Cloverhill Properties LLC.

DOUGLAS

\$443,700, 23 Old Farm Rd, Lamont, Richard J, and Lamont, Carol D, to Clark, Jeffrey, and Nanni, Amanda.
\$300,000, Mumford St, Eveningside Realty Corp, to Sutton Douglas Dev LLC.
\$150,000, 10 Birch Hill Rd, Hester, Mark E, and Hester, Linda A, to Begin, Debra A, and Begin, James M.
\$89,000, 29 Laurel Glades, Gouin, Kenneth J, to Devlin, Brian F, and Devlin, Patricia.

UXBRIDGE

\$500,000, 155 Aldrich St, Forte, Vincent A, and Forte, Brandi L, to Murras, Mike, and Dagnese, Courtney E.
\$395,100, 340 Aldrich St, P & G Homes LLC, to Langelier, Stephen M, and Langelier, Laura.
\$385,000, 12 Church St, DRD Realty Co LLC, to Leacy, Harry M, and Leacy, Lucinda J.
\$372,911, 48 Granite St, Calarese, Marc R, to Hutt, Neil.
\$335,000, 1 Peter St #1A, Sullo, Sabino L, and Sullo, Paula A, to Fonseca, Jennifer A, and Cosme, Doel.
\$275,000, 175 W Hartford Ave, Dorr, Denis J, and Dorr, Frances L, to Kelly, Katelynn, and Kelly, Zachary.
\$262,500, 11 Elizabeth St, Prairie, Elizabeth J, and Roche, Patrick, to Fayyad, Tariq H.
\$230,000, 369 Millville Rd, Hudon, Rose, to Garcia, Sergio L.

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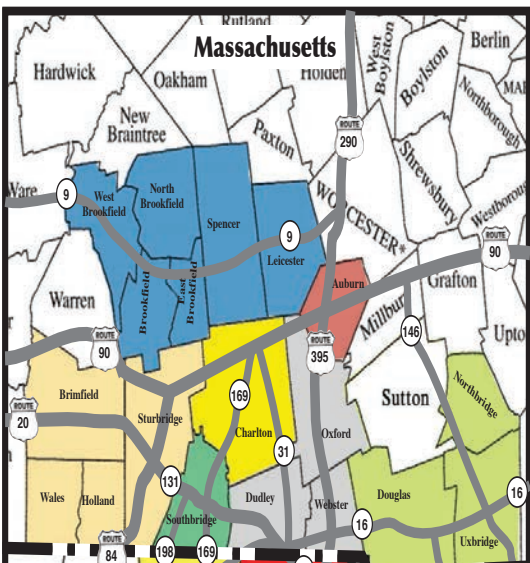
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HISTORY

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the House of Representatives, and the State Representatives,” Warren said.

Warren retired from his career as a mechanical pattern maker in 2004; he told his wife then that he was going to look into the Liberty Bell to see where it was cast and if there were patterns. In his search for information, he discovered that in 1950, a total of 54 Liberty Bell replicas were cast in France at the Paccard Foundry. Each bell was assigned a serial number, and after much research, Warren discovered that one of the bells was located at the Massachusetts State House.

“These replica bells were to promote a U.S. Savings Bond Drive. One bell was shipped to the Boston State House,” Warren added.

The bell was moved to the front porch of the State House in the late 1950s and could be seen by everyone who climbed the stairs or exited through the center doors for well over 40 years, he said. After Sept. 11, the front stairs and front doors were closed and it was no longer open to the public.

“These bells were designed not only for a savings bond drive, but so that the public in each state would have access to a part of our history that can be seen, felt, and enjoyed, I think. Some visitors may never be able to go to Philadelphia, where the original Liberty Bell is, but visitors should be able to go to the Massachusetts State House,” he explained.

Warren said he has been working to relocate the Liberty Bell replica for five years and currently, House Bill 1776: “An Act establishing a liberty bell feasibility study” has been referred to the House Ways and Means Committee, where it remains.

House Bill 1776 was presented by Representative David Muradian of Grafton and Senator Michael Moore to establish a liberty bell replica relocation feasibility fund study. The bill states that the bureau of the state house, in consultation with the Massachusetts art commission, Massachusetts historical commission, and Warren, will study the feasibility of relocating the replica to a more accessible location to the general public in the interior of the state house. A final report of the findings and recommendations will be submitted with the clerks of the house and senate no later than Dec. 31.

The bill also establishes a separate fund—the Massachusetts Liberty Bell Replica Fund—for appropriations, bond proceeds, or other monies authorized by the general court.

“This bell is your bell, too,” Warren said. “It belongs to the Commonwealth and the people of Massachusetts. It’s your bell, too.”

HYBRID

continued from page A1

virtual online environment. Families are encouraged to submit questions or concerns on the district’s website, www.nps.org.

Also in response to the sudden surge of active cases earlier this month,

Northbridge town municipal offices, including the Town Hall, the Town Hall Annex, Senior Center, Library, DPW Office, and all other buildings with the exception of the Police and Fire Stations for emergency services, were closed to the public.

“We understand the closure of the Town Hall will impact those seeking services from all departments operating

at Town Hall and other Town Offices,” the town released in a statement. “The staff will be providing services mainly in remote fashion during normal office hours and will return phone call messages and communicate via email with the public.”

More information can be found online at www.northbridgemass.org.

NORTHBRIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

NORTHBRIDGE — Northbridge Middle School has released its honor roll for the first term of the 2020-2021 school year.

Grade 5
High Honors: Taylor Alden, Chloe Barnatt, Kayla Bolduc, Emily Flauto, Jacob Gerardi, Landon Gerardi, Anika Gromelski, Jessica Haberski, Arabella Kosciak, Ryan Leeds, Molly Leonard, Vincent Lomonaco, Shane Paulhus, Olivia Pollock, Isabella Reeves Hall, Avery Riche, Marissa Roadman, Madison Smith, Kaitlyn Szerlag, Amanda Waterston

Honors: Ereeny Absamis, Quin Austin, Bella Baltramaitis, Heba Bensellam, Arielle Blanchard, Samantha Bresnahan, Jessica Calles, Taryn Conway, Coen Dabelstein, Shane DeOrsey, Tyler Desousa, Melody Drapeau, Bryana Fernandes, Mason Francis, Alexis Gelinas, Cailey Graceffa, Kara Helinski, Cassandra Higgins, Sophia Iacovelli, Aiden James Jenkins, Lyla Kaske, Joshua Kuras, Layana Lee, Kathleen L’Hommedieu, Colton Lofty, Ashley Ann Lucena, Karibella Muatuszak, Cody Miller, Maia Mitchell, Sadie Nephew, Ryan Parker, Jayce Philips, Jayten Poulin, Abrielle Richards, Zainab Sami, Samuel Samuel, Olivia Sansone, Avery Schneider, Gabriel Schneider, Shea Schuster, Audrey Siemaszko, Isabelle Stanley, Ava Strazzulla, Trevor Talieri, Brooklyn Thibeault, Jade Thomas, Keelyn Touhey, James Tritone, Liam Voellings, Caroline Whalen

Grade 6
High Honors: Emily Billmyer, Emily Blanding, Kayla Briggs, Liliana Carpenter, Samuel Corman, Vahan DerKosroffian, Trevor Dupont-Sullivan, Quinn Gomez, Luke Guerra, Annika Hall, Kellen Keane, Chloe Koopman, Bryce Lundquist, Olivia Median, Ashley Papa, Lily Proto, Elsa Richards, Zahra Rith, Bryce Rogozenski, Lillian Sabourin, Olivia Stanick, Parker Stanick, Cassandra Sullivan, Elizabeth Tubbs, Kaylee Vakoc, Kayla Whitney
Honors: Isabelle Bartusek, Owen Bonn, Lincoln Boucher, Gabriel Bundy, Frank Cameron, Brooke Cammarano, Jacqueline Cammarano, Paul Cammarano, Ronin Colvin, Andy Cook, Victoria Cormier, Kathleen Crosby, Mo Rodney Daigle, Victoria Dailey, Lillian Deschene, John Donahue, Lillian Donahue, Quinn Driscoll, Sofia Ducharme, Killian

Farrer, Timothy Ferri, Cayleigh Foley, Meghan Frieswick, Leah Gallerani, Liam Gasbarro, Lilianna Gasco, Lucca Gerolomo, Tanner Haden, Dawson Kramer, Nathan Kuras, Kaeson Larson, Abigail Leveille, Nicholas Lippolis, Natalie Malley, Ava Mandelenakis, Hannah Minutolo, Erick Ordenez Zecena, Jadiel Ortiz, Nicolette Paradis, Aidan Payen, Jordan Priore, Mia Prosser, Avalee Richard, Zoey Rith, Georgia Robinson, Bryce Ryan, Isabella Saad, Jaelyn Saad, Annabel Smutok, Piper Strait, Michael Tubbs, William Williamson, Ellery Wooster, Keenan Wright, Alexander Zanchi

Grade 7
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Northbridge student Acadia Tucker starts college early

GREAT BARRINGTON — It’s not every day that students start college early, but this Northbridge resident is no ordinary student. This year, Acadia Tucker joined the fall 2020 class at Bard College at Simon’s Rock in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, the nation’s first early college. Simon’s Rock successfully created a safe, socially distanced learning environment this semester, with primarily in-person classes as well as hybrid and remote offerings.

Tucker’s academic and personal achievements stood out, securing Acadia a spot at Simon’s Rock this fall. The college is home to about 400 students who engage in a rigorous liberal arts and sciences curriculum and graduate from college one or two years ahead of their peers.

About Bard College at Simon’s Rock
Bard College at Simon’s Rock, founded in 1966 and nestled in the bucolic Berkshires, is the only college in the country specifically designed for highly motivated students ready to enter college early, usually after the 10th or 11th grade. Simon’s Rock offers a challenging program in the liberal arts and sciences, taught in small seminars by supportive, highly-trained faculty. The Princeton Review’s Best 382 Colleges rates academics at Simon’s Rock higher than Harvard and Princeton. For more information, visit simons-rock.edu.



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~ AND ~

SIDES *(choice of one)*

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We wish you a happy and safe holiday season!

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FRANK G.
CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT &
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BRENDAN
BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

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."

LETTERS

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

We think you're important enough to tell all our readers to turn to the Opinion pages and read your Letters to the Editor.

But first, you have to write us!

Mail your letters to the Blackstone Valley Tribune, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550.

Or e-mail your letters to the editor at news@stonebridgepress.news.

You'll need to provide your name and place of residence, along with a phone number, so we can verify the letter is yours.

We don't have a set limit, but if you keep it around 600 words or so, you're going to have a better chance at seeing all your words in print.

If you want to write a bit longer about a particular issue, maybe a guest Your Turn column is your cup of tea. If you do that, try to keep it between 700-800 words.

Remember, libelous remarks and/or personal attacks are a no-no and could lead to your letter not being published.

So, what are you waiting for? Start writing!

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Blackstone Valley and beyond

A Moment in History

Have you ever heard about the vicious Presidential election of 1800 during which Thomas Jefferson and John Adams campaigned for the nation's top office?

Just a few years earlier, in 1789, General George Washington had been elected our first President, unanimously, followed by a second term. John Adams was then elected our second President in 1796.

Then, in 1800, the campaign for the nation's third President occurred. It was a doozy. The campaign and election became positively rancid. In the magazine, Monticello, winter 2020 issue, the historian John Ragosta describes the knock-down-drag-out fight between two giants of the American Revolution:

Jefferson's opponents called him "an infidel in principle, a coward in the hour of danger...and a dupe to the wild, anti-Christian and demoralizing theories of the age." They said he would burn people's Bibles. Political cartoons portrayed Jefferson as dangerously pro-French, un-Christian, and un-American.

Now, Adams was no saint. His opponents said he was fat (he was), incompetent (he was brilliant), and a monarchist. He was arrogant, but did not want to be king. Besides, Abigail Adams did not suffer fools gladly and kept John's ego down to a low boil.

During the Adams' Presidency, the French did not like us signing a peace treaty with Britain. So, our former friends seized 300 U.S. ships trading with Britain. When the French foreign minister demanded a bribe before he would meet with the U.S. delegation, Adams and the Federalists passed a law allowing President Adams to expel any foreigner he considered "dangerous" and prohibited criticism of Congress and the President. Opposition newspaper editors were arrested.

Jefferson called this a "reign of witches." This from the man who had revealed in the blood-letting of the French Revolution and had attended dinner parties where amusing little guillotines sat on dining tables as entertainment. Heads were paraded through Paris on spikes. So amusing.

While Ragosta does not discuss the following, I must. Thomas Jefferson was a slave holder. John Adams was not. And Jefferson was worse than a slave holder. This will be radical. Prepare yourself. Might I propose that Monticello - the home of Thomas Jefferson, the drafter of the Declaration of Independence, our third President, the champion of freedom - should be torn down, the fields planted with salt, and his memory erased? Why? Because he was not only a slave holder, he

A MOMENT IN HISTORY

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was also the sexual harasser-in-chief of the Founding Fathers. He disgracefully used a slave woman, Sally Hemings (his dead wife's half-sister!) as his concubine and had four (possibly six) children with her, thus providing his daughter Martha with enslaved half-siblings

just like her mother. More about this, later.

Jefferson won the election over Adams, with the extra electoral votes representing the South's enslaved population. How appropriate. The Electoral College was then required to award the Vice Presidency to the person who came in second, but Jefferson and Aaron Burr somehow tied. This threw the election to the House of Representatives for a decision. Quelle horreur! (How awful, in French).

They voted and they voted. It took 36 votes, with the Federalists finally siding with Jefferson only because they hated Aaron Burr more than they hated Jefferson.

Today, it puzzles me why Jefferson is exalted by liberals. Yes, he was brilliant and drafted the Declaration of Independence when he was just 33 years old. Yet, he was a slave owner who took sexual advantage of an enslaved woman on his plantation. We need not mention how his husbandly desires drove his wife to an early grave, and how his daughter Martha Jefferson Randolph worked herself nearly to death, day and night, managing his kitchens and household so he could lavishly entertain any who stopped by to visit. When Jefferson died, he was so deep in debt that all of his belongings, including Monticello, were sold at auction. His daughter, Martha, had to leave her home and went to live with her son.

Jefferson remains a darling of liberal folk. Being pro-French, un-Christian, and un-American may be the reason. Now, I am not seriously suggesting that Monticello be torn down and his statues thrown into the sea like the Columbus statues. I am merely pointing out that - if they are tearing down statues - shouldn't Jefferson be first on the list? I don't see him on the list of statues to be torn down.

Could you be brave and read real American History? Try reading "The Women Jefferson Loved" by Virginia Scharrf (2010).

Correction: in my last commentary, I mistakenly stated that General Henry Knox dragged cannon captured at Saratoga, N.Y., to Boston. The cannon were captured at Fort Ticonderoga, New York, prior to the Battle of Saratoga. My error, my apologies, and my thanks to an avid reader/genius historian who pointed out my error.

Year-end tax-smart moves to consider



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As 2020 draws to a close, you might wonder how you can improve your tax situation - especially in terms of your investments. Here are a few year-end ideas to consider:

Be a tax-loss harvester. In taxable investment accounts, you could sell investments that have lost value and use the losses to offset income from any capital gains you might have from selling investments that have appreciated. If you have an overall net capital loss for the year, you can deduct up to \$3,000 of that loss against other kinds of income, including your salary and interest income. Unused net capital losses can carry over to future years. This strategy works best if you're in a higher tax bracket now than you expect to be in the future.

Take into account any costs associated with selling investments and be aware of the IRS' "wash sale" rules, which prohibit you from claiming the losses if you purchase a "substantially identical" security 30 days before or after the sale of a position sold at a loss. You may want to work with a financial professional to find a replacement investment to keep you invested in the market. See your tax advisor before embarking on this type of tax-loss "harvesting."

Avoid mutual funds about to pay out taxable distributions. In December, many mutual funds pay out dividends and capital gains that have accrued over the year. If you're planning to buy shares of a mutual fund in a taxable investment account, avoid purchasing funds on the verge of paying large taxable distributions. Instead, consider a more tax-efficient exchange-traded fund (ETF) or mutual funds that aren't expecting large payouts. Conversely, if you were planning to sell a fund anyway, you could possibly reduce taxes by selling before the dividends are distributed.

Boost your tax-favorable contributions. If you haven't maxed out your contributions to your employer's retirement plan, health savings account (HSA), and/or IRA, make additional contributions for 2020 if you can. If your employer suspended 401(k) matches this year and you can afford it, consider increasing your contribution to make up for the lost amounts. Traditional pre-tax contributions are deductible and reduce your taxable income in 2020, while Roth contributions will generally reduce your taxable income in future years, when you take withdrawals from Roth accounts.

Consider strategies in a year without RMDs. If you're older than 72 (or 70 and a half if you were born before July 1, 1949), you typically need to take annual taxable withdrawals - technically called required minimum distributions, or RMDs - from your traditional IRA or 401(k). However, you got some relief this year, as RMDs are not required because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Nonetheless, you may want to consult with your financial advisor and tax professional to determine if a distribution from a traditional/pre-tax account still makes sense. If you're in a lower tax bracket this year than you expect to be in future years, you may benefit from taking advantage of lower rates. Alternatively, if you don't need the distribution to cover expenses, you might explore if a Roth conversion makes sense.

Your key motivator, in all investment-related decisions, should be whether your choices will help you achieve your long-term goals. Within this framework, taxes do matter - so, do what you can to control them.

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

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!

**

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



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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 use 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 tbsp. 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. The mixture will be a

ingrithesnowbecomeswhitecolor

Turn To **HINT** page **A13**

Feeling groovy

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.

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 lately. 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.

- 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



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MOORE

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.

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 @ GaryWMoore721 and at www.garywmoore.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.

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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



ANTIQUES,
COLLECTIBLES
& ESTATES
• • • • •
WAYNE TUISKULA

sleigh behind six reindeer, all on a 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.*

LEGALS

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO20P3232EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
Dorothy Eileen Dickson
Date of Death: 06/17/2020**
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Holly A Ridge of Bridgewater MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that **Holly A Ridge of Bridgewater MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised** administration.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/22/2020.** This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC). A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Kearny, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 18, 2020
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
December 4, 2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO20C0373CA
CITATION ON PETITION TO
CHANGE NAME
In the matter of:
Leah Steeves**
A **Petition to Change Name of Adult** has been filed by **Leah Steeves of Whitinsville MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: **Leah Van Sickle**
IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/22/2020. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Kearny, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 18, 2020
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate
December 4, 2020

**TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
PUBLIC HEARING**
In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L Cb 40A, Section 11, and Chapter I 73, Section 47 of the Northbridge Zoning By-laws, the Northbridge Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 6:35 P.M. VIA ZOOM -Join Zoom Meeting: 1929 205 6099 US (New York) <https://zoom.us/j/94051787845?pwd=UnpDazhKUXEzOVJPekdsQVRrUUpFQT09> Meeting ID: 940 5178 7845**
Passcode: 181281
to consider the application from Chips Excavation. LLC, 1255 Hill Street, Whitinsville, MA 01588 for a Special Permit (17 SP-20) pursuant to Article X, Section 173-47 Special Permit; 173-12 Table of Use Regulations. In order to construct three (3) attached single family homes at the location of Arthur Dr lot 2, Northbridge, MA 01534. The property, shown on Assessor's Map 24A as Parcel 163, is located in an Residential- 4 zoning district and is owned by Chip's Excavation LLC. The purpose of this hearing is to provide an opportunity for public comment. Anyone wishing to be heard regarding this matter should attend said meeting at the time and place designated. A copy of the petition is available for review at the office of the Town Clerk and Zoning Board of Appeals Office and may be reviewed during normal business hours.
Douglas Curving, Chairman
Northbridge Zoning Board of Appeals
December 4, 2020
December 11, 2020

**TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
PUBLIC HEARING**
In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L Ch 40A., Section 11, and Chapter 173, Section 47 of the Northbridge Zoning By-laws, the Northbridge Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 6:55 P.M. VIA ZOOM -Join Zoom Meeting: 1929 205 6099 US (New York) <https://zoom.us/j/94051787845?pwd=UnpDazhKUXEzOVJPekdsQVRrUUpFQT09> Meeting ID: 940 5178 7845**
Passcode: 181281
to consider the application from Imperial Real Estate Holdings, LLCj 23 76 Providence Rd, Northbridge, MA 01534 for a Variance (19-V-20) pursuant to Article X, Section 173-48, 173-19 Table of Area Regulations in order to convert an existing building to a 2 family dwelling at the location of 2376 Providence Rd, Northbridge, MA 01534. The property is shown on Assessor's Map 25 as Parcel 87, is located in a Residential -4 zoning district and is owned by Imperial Real Estate Holding, LLC. The purpose of this hearing is to provide an opportunity for public comment. Anyone wishing to be heard regarding this matter should attend said meeting at the time and place designated. A copy of the petition is available for review at the office of the Town Clerk and Zoning Board of Appeals Office and may be reviewed during normal business hours.
Douglas Curving, Chairman
Northbridge Zoning Board of Appeals
December 4, 2020
December 11, 2020

**TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
PUBLIC HEARING**
In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L Ch 40A, Section 11, and Chapter I 73, Section 47 of the Northbridge Zoning By-laws, the Northbridge Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 6:45 P.M. VIA ZOOM -Join**

**Zoom Meeting:
1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
<https://zoom.us/j/94051787845?pwd=UnpDazhKUXEzOVJPekdsQVRrUUpFQT09> Meeting ID: 940 5178 7845**
Passcode: 181281
to consider the application from Brad & Aubrie Choiniere, 50 Fisher Street. Millville, MA 01529 for a Special Permit (17 SP-20) pursuant to Article X, Section 173-47 Special Permit, 173-12 Table of Use Regulations. In order to operate an Auto Detailing Business at the location of 300 Commerce Dr, Unit 2 & 3, Whitinsville, MA 01588. The property is shown on Assessor's Map 28 as Parcel 73. is located in an Industrial 1 zoning district and is owned by Vincent OstermanVE Properties IX, LLC. The purpose of this hearing is to provide an opportunity for public comment. Anyone wishing to be heard regarding this matter should attend said meeting at the time and place designated. A copy of the petition is available for review at the office of the Town Clerk and Zoning Board of Appeals Office and may be reviewed during normal business hours.
Douglas Curving, Chairman
Northbridge Zoning Board of Appeals
December 4, 2020
December 11, 2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Division
Docket No. 20P2805EA
Estate of:
Richard A. Cronin
Date Of Death: August 12, 2020
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Brendan J. King of Worcester MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.
Brendan J. King of Worcester MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
December 4, 2020

**(SEAL)
COMMONWEALTH
OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE
TRIAL COURT
20 SM 001799
ORDER OF NOTICE**
TO: Ellen G Croteau
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. App. § 3901 *et seq.*:
MILLBURY NATIONAL BANK
claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Uxbridge, 410 Douglas Street, given by ELLEN G. CROTEAU to MILLBURY NATIONAL BANK dated March 13, 2019 and recorded in the Worcester South District Registry of Deeds in Book 60160, Page 94, has filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's Servicemembers


status.
If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before 01/04/2021 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act. Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of this Court on 11/18/2020.
Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
December 4, 2020

**A.C. 82A
COMMONWEALTH
OF MASSACHUSETTS
18P3055EA
WORCESTER, SS
PROBATE COURT**
To all persons who are or may become interested and to all persons whose issue not now in being may become interested in the trust estate under this will of James M. Knott Sr. late of Northbridge in said County, deceased for the proceeds are needed for the payment of trust administration expenses.
A petition has been presented to said Court by the trustee of said estate for authority to sell, either private sale, certain estate held by them as such trustee.
If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said court at Worcester before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the twenty-second day of December 2020 the return day of this citation. Witness, LEILAH A. KEAMY Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this, nineteenth day of November 2020
Stephanie K Fattman
Register of Probate
December 4, 2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Division
Docket No. 20P3208EA
Estate of:
Suzanne Marie Cronin
Also Known As;
Suzanne M. Cronin
Date Of Death: May 23, 2020
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Brendan J. King of Worcester MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.
Brendan J. King of Worcester MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
December 4, 2020

OBITUARIES

Elizabeth (“Betty”) S. Miller, 92



Elizabeth (“Betty”) S. Miller, age 92, entered her heavenly home on November 25, 2020, at Woodlands Senior Living in Farmington, ME. Betty was born in Jamaica Plain, MA, on July 21, 1928, the only child of Frederick A. and Miriam G. (Cobb) Schoenherr. She grew up in Milton, MA, and spent summers at her parents’ vacation home in West Harwich, MA.

After graduating from Bates College in Lewiston, ME, Betty accepted a junior high teaching position in Norton, MA, where she met her future husband, Burnham (“Burnie”) P. Miller, who passed away in 2013. Both Burnie and Betty spent their lives dedicated to promoting education. Betty taught at junior high schools in Auburn, MA, and Northbridge, MA, before taking an interim leave to have children. Later she earned a certificate in special education and ended her teaching career at Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School in a position that she loved. During their retirement, Burnie and Betty left their Whitinsville, MA home of 53 years and moved to Heatherwood in Yarmouth Port, MA.

Betty was a woman who passionately


ly pursued activities including traveling, researching, writing, reading, painting, quilting, crafting, socializing, and playing her Lowry organ. She authored the book Among Hills and Vales which detailed the history of the town of Northbridge, MA. She also wrote a food column for the Blackstone Valley Tribune entitled “The Mixing Bowl” for 16 years.

Faith played an important role in Betty’s life. She was an active member in each church to which she belonged and, along with Burnie, encouraged her children to demonstrate their faith through actions.

Betty is survived by two children, Judy (and Russ) Whittaker of North Port, FL, and Don (and Debra) Miller of Wilton, ME. She leaves behind two much-loved granddaughters, Courtney E. Miller (and fiancé, E Petrakis) of Los Angeles, CA, and Chelsea A. (and Nate) Eckman of Hopkinton, MA. Betty is also survived by one cousin, Sally (Cobb) Watson, of Concord, MA, and five nieces. Betty was predeceased by a full-term stillborn son.

A memorial service will be held at a date to be determined at Ancient Cemetery in Yarmouth Port, MA. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Northbridge Senior Center of Northbridge, MA, or to the First Congregational Church of Yarmouth in Yarmouth Port, MA.

Marilyn M. Joseph, 86



LEICESTER : Marilyn M. (Brown) Joseph, 86, of Leicester, died peacefully on Wednesday, Nov. 25th. She was an amazing, compassionate and generous woman, who loved animals, nature, music and had a strong spiritual life. She will be dearly missed. Her husband of 54 years, Hanna J. Joseph died in 2017. She leaves her children Maria H. Joseph of Charlestown, John A. Joseph of Leicester, Jennifer H. Barris and her husband Michael of Paxton, her grandchildren Hannah and Nicholas Barris of Paxton. She also leaves her brother Raymond Brown, Jr. and his wife Carol and her sister Joan Robin and her husband Armand along with her beloved nieces and nephews.

Marilyn was born in Rhode Island,

the daughter of Raymond and Edna (Bradbury) Brown. She graduated Summa Cum Laude from Worcester State College with a degree in Psychology. She also worked for the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Alongside her husband, she ran the Hanna Realty Business and the Leicester Drive-In Theater and two hotels; one in York, ME and another in West Yarmouth. She was a member of Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Worcester.

Private graveside services were held in Notre Dame Cemetery, Worcester. There were no calling hours due to the pandemic. The MORIN FUNERAL HOME, 1131 Main St. Leicester is assisting the family with funeral arrangements. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Alzheimer’s Assoc. of MA, 309 Waverly Oaks Rd., Waltham, MA 02452. www.morinfuneralhomes.com

Richard G. Hvizdos, 80



DOUGLAS-Richard G. Hvizdos, 80, passed away peacefully on Saturday November 21, 2020 at Brookside Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center, Webster, MA. He was the beloved husband of Constance (Brezniak) Hvizdos. The couple would have celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in July.

In addition to his wife, Richard leaves his daughter, PaulaJean Kirby and her husband Brent of Douglas. He was the grandfather to Mackenzie Kirby also of Douglas.


Richard was a lifelong resident of Douglas, and was born on September

19,1940 to Helen (Beaulac) and Stephen Hvizdos. He was a graduate of Douglas High School. He later attended the Salter School of Accounting. After completing school he worked at Arts Jewelers in Webster, and did book keeping from his home for many years. He also worked at Metropolitan Life Insurance Company for almost 20 years selling insurance and investments.

Richard loved spending time with his family and traveling to polka dances with his wife. Over the years they traveled all around the United States.

Because of Corona concerns, a Celebration of Life for Richard will be held at a future date.

To share a memory of condolence, please visit www.casperfuneralservices.com



U X B R I D G E – Robert S. Baker, 71, passed away on Wednesday November 25, 2020 peacefully at his home surrounded by his family. He leaves behind his loving wife of 50 years Susan B. (Carrier) Baker.

A lifelong resident of Uxbridge, Bob worked as a systems manager for the Worcester District Courts. He was previously employed at Smith Mechanical in Webster for many years.

He was born in Whitinsville in 1948, the son of the late Gerald and Helen (Sherman) Baker. He graduated from Uxbridge High School in 1967 and later earned his master plumbing license.

Bob enjoyed working in the yard, spending time around the pool with his family and grandchildren and vaca-

tioning in the Berkshires and Myrtle Beach. Some of his happiest moments, later in life, were spent giving his grandchildren rides around the yard on his John Deere tractor. He also took great pride in nurturing and maintaining his family’s farm - Sherman-Baker Farm with his parents and brothers.

In addition to his wife Susan, he is survived by a son Timothy R. Baker of Northbridge; a daughter Amy-Beth Villarreal and her husband Robert of Dedham, a brother Gerald W. Baker and his wife Jane of Uxbridge; a sister-in-law Linda Baker of NC; 4 grandchildren Robbie, Gracie, Christian and Sebastian, and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by a brother Lt. Col. John C. Baker, U.S. Army.

There are no public visiting hours. Funeral services will be private in the Buma Funeral Home, Uxbridge. www.bumafuneralhome.com

Send all obituary notices to Stonebridge Press, PO Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550, or by e-mail to obits@stonebridgepress.news. Deadline is Monday noon for Friday publication.

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.

Every year, families plan on purchasing a dog for Christmas, and it is often the wrong time of year to do so. It is a hectic time to bring in a puppy, and often brings more work keeping the dog safe in its new environment. Maybe this year could be different because of the pandemic. Many parents are working from home, away from the stresses of everyday life, especially for the next three months or so.

A new dog in the family could be just



THE GREAT OUTDOORS
.....
RALPH TRUE

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.

Send all obituary notices to Stonebridge Press, PO Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550, or by e-mail to obits@stonebridgepress.news





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HINT
continued from page A1

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.



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Octobers' Single Family Homes Real Estate Market


AUBURN			
	October 2019	October 2020	Trend
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			
	October 2019	October 2020	Trend
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	▼

Contact us to find more about your neighborhood market & what your home is worth!
Happy Holidays from our family to yours!




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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

State to conduct review of Douglas schools next year

DOUGLAS — During the week of Jan. 14, 2021, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Office of Public School Monitoring (PSM) will conduct a Tiered Focused Monitoring Review of Douglas Public Schools.

The Office of Public School Monitoring visits each district and charter school every three years to monitor compliance with federal and state special education and civil rights regulations. Areas of review related to special education include student assessments, determination of eligibility, the Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team process, and IEP development and implementation. Areas of review related to civil rights include bullying, student discipline, physical restraint, and equal access to school programs for all students.

In addition to the onsite visit, parent outreach is an important part of the review process. The review chairperson from the Office of Public School Monitoring will send all parents of students with disabilities an online survey that focuses on key areas of their child's special education program. Survey results will contribute to the development of a report. During the onsite review, the Office of Public School Monitoring will interview the chairperson(s) of the district's Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC). Other onsite activities may include interviews of district staff and administrators, reviews of student records, and onsite observations.

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

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

MILLBURY SENIOR CENTER

Millbury Senior Center Picture Board & Decorate a Gingerbread Cookie to Go!
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Website, www.townofmillbury.org
Or our Millbury Senior Center Facebook page
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For more information or reservations call us at 508-865-9154

The Senior Center is closed to the Public.

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

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

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

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

Cat alerts family to fire

BY KIMBERLY PALMUCCI
TRIBUNE CORRESPONDENT

UXBRIDGE — Uxbridge fire officials say it was a family cat that alerted residents to the recent fire in their Whitin Street duplex.

There were no injuries reported; three adults, four teenagers, five dogs, three cats, and one bunny were displaced by the fire. The Red Cross was called to assist those displaced, officials said.

The Uxbridge Fire Department reported receiving an early-morning call of a house fire on Whitin Street.

"First crew arrived to find heavy smoke showing from a duplex. While they stretched a line to the second floor, a Northbridge Fire Fighter who lives in the area assisted by running our pump," the department reported.

"The fire was quickly knocked down, with heavy damage to one side, and smoke damage to the other."

The fire was investigated by the Uxbridge Fire Department, Uxbridge Police Department, State Fire Marshal's office, and the District 7 FIU.

"It was determined that the most likely cause was an electrical event in a TV," fire officials said, adding that it was fortunate "one of the family cats woke one of the occupants, and was acting funny, causing him to investigate."

"He then woke the family members to escape," the fire department reported. "We would like to take this time to enforce the importance of working smoke alarms in your house."

Members of the Uxbridge Progressive Club opened their hall for the occupants to keep warm, including the pets. Fire officials said they also bought food and drink for the occupants, as well as the fire fighters.

"'Community' at its best," Uxbridge said. "Also, thanks to our neighboring Fire Departments who assisted: Northbridge, Douglas, and Mendon."

A Mendon Fire Department statement said that the department's Engine 2 had its maiden call responding to Uxbridge's request for assistance with this fire.

"Please check your smoke detectors," Mendon fire officials said.

Residents with questions regarding smoke alarms are encouraged to call Uxbridge Fire at 508-278-2787 or Mendon Fire at 508-473-5330.

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Working together for Uxbridge Seniors

UXBRIDGE — The Uxbridge Senior Center wishes to thank all the volunteers, contributors and donors who helped make the Thanksgiving Meal Distribution Project a success.

The Senior Center packaged and delivered more than 230 turkey dinners to seniors throughout the Town of Uxbridge on Monday, Nov. 23. This year, the senior center partnered with the Mendon Street Kitchen to cook the luncheon. The Town is truly blessed to have so many people who care for each other. It is with many hands that we accomplish so much. What a wonderful way for the community to come together for a great cause. We especially want to thank our major contributors/donors that helped make this project financially feasible—ERA Key Realty, Fallon Health, Hannaford's, Savers Bank, Table Talk Pies, and Unibank. The Senior Center also wants to acknowledge all of our volunteers, too many to name. (Some are pictured here) Thank you to the Uxbridge Taft School students who contribut-

ed their time and talents to make special greeting cards to our seniors. We especially want to thank members of the Uxbridge Board of Selectmen and Department Heads that came forward to help as well. Thank you for allowing the Senior Center to be a part of this endeavor. Our seniors thank you!

The Uxbridge Senior Center is located at 36 South Main St. Please contact the Center by calling 508-278-8622 for a current newsletter and to get more information on our services.

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"I am Definitely glad to be a part of the team as well. I feel like I'm home and everyone has been wonderful." — Nicole V. (LPN)

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