

Auburn News

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Masons honor service of longtime Deputy Grand Master

AUBURN — On Tuesday, Nov. 10, the District Deputy Grand Master (DDGM) of the 24th Masonic District, Right Worshipful (RW) James J. Gonyea, had his last official meeting at the Joel H. Prouty Masonic Lodge in Auburn. Due to the new Covid-19 restrictions recently enacted by our Gov. Charlie Baker and rising infection cases in Massachusetts, there is a gathering limitation of who could attend inside the lodge.

The new DDGM holds this position for two years. A new DDGM is then elected from the Grand Masonic Lodge, located in Boston. RW. Gonyea was responsible for seven lodges in his district which included Auburn, Charlton, Douglas, Oxford, Southbridge, Webster, and Uxbridge. There are hundreds of

Brethren that he gets to meet and know very well. Usually at these last official visits of his term, the Lodge holding this meeting are filled of Master Masons who want to show their respect and gratitude for his service.

Wor. Chris Kanz, from the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge located in Southbridge, wanted to give DDGM Gonyea a proper send off. His last official visit are a highlight of the 2 years of personal sacrifice and dedication given to his district. Wor. Kanz sent out an email to all the lodges in the district. Whoever could attend to meet at 8pm, in the rear parking lot of the lodge, all were invited to cheer on DDGM Gonyea as he left the building for the last time. All Covid-19 mask wearing, and social distancing guidelines was

observed while waiting in the parking lot. The meeting ended at 9pm and DDGM Gonyea exited the building. He was stunned, shocked, surprised, and amazed to see about 20 brethren waiting outside, representatives of all 7 lodges waiting in the parking lot clapping and cheering him on. The look on his face was priceless. He had a hard time speaking at first and was all choked up and very emotional.

This is what Freemasonry is all about. The comradery and friendships you build as a Master Mason will last the rest of your life. If you would like additional information about what we are all about go to askafreemason.org and read about Freemasonry. You can also find a Masonic Lodge located near you.



Courtesy

24th District Deputy Grand Master RW. James J. Gonyea, all choked up, composing himself after he was giving a little homemade wooden box with the masonic symbol on it filled with thank you cards written out from all the brethren waiting for him in the parking lot.

State takes additional steps to curb rise in COVID cases

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — State officials have taken several additional measures in response to a steep rise in COVID-19 cases over the last three weeks.

Gov. Charlie Baker announced last week that a field hospital will be set up at the DCU Center in Worcester. With new COVID-19 cases rising throughout the state, officials are prepared for an influx of hospitalizations as winter looms.

The Worcester site, which will be built by the

National Guard, is the first field hospital to open in the state since June.

“The Commonwealth continues to see an alarming rise in cases and hospitalizations for COVID-19, and we are acting now to expand hospital capacity,” Baker said. “All residents are urged to follow guidance to wear masks, stay home at night, and stop gathering. We are preparing our hospital system to add more beds and stand up our first field hospital to care for COVID-19 patients if these trends

continue.”

If needed, the Worcester field hospital is expected to be available for patients in the first week of December. Additional locations can be added if conditions dictate a need.

State and health officials are also coordinating to prepare hospital staffs across the state for a wave of patients.

“Since day one of our response to this crisis, we have worked to ensure that our hospitals and healthcare providers have the resources they need to meet the acute health needs of our residents,” said Massachusetts Health and Human Services Secretary

Marylou Sudders. “We are in a much better position to respond to what will be a difficult next few months.”

Statewide, COVID-19 hospitalizations since Labor Day have increased from 178 to 661. Several days last week saw new cases exceed 2,000.

If needed, the Worcester field hospital will provide approximately 240 additional beds to care for lower-risk COVID-19 patients, helping preserve the hospital system capacity for higher-risk patients.

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) will coordinate the logistics of the DCU Center field hos-

pital, in close collaboration with health officials.

“The Commonwealth’s forward planning is a direct result of lessons learned and our experience during the first wave of the pandemic,” said MEMA Director Samantha Phillips. “We hope that we won’t need all of these overflow beds, but if we do, they’ll be ready.”

The DCU Center was the first of five field hospitals constructed by the Commonwealth during the response to the springtime surge of COVID-19 cases. From early April until late May, when it was demobilized, the Worcester site served 161 patients.

Meanwhile, officials

throughout the county and state continue to deal with COVID-19 flare-ups at all levels of the community. The East Brookfield District Court was closed for multiple days last week after a staff member tested positive for COVID-19.

Even the State House had to be heavily sanitized last week, after two officials tested positive for the virus. Privacy laws regarding medical information prevent the officials from being identified.

For more information about ongoing state efforts to combat COVID-19, visit www.mass.gov.

Sheriff's Office launches winter coat drive

WORCESTER — As you can imagine, the need for a warm winter jacket is greater than ever. The pandemic has created challenges for many.

To help those most in need in our community, Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis is proud to announce our partnership with Dr. Moses Dixon, Executive Director of Central Massachusetts Agency on Aging, for this year’s Sheriff’s Office Annual Winter Coat Drive.

Together, the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office and Central Mass Agency on Aging are determined to continue the tradition of holding one of New England’s largest Winter Coat Drives. Unlike years past, collection boxes for pre-owned jacket donations cannot be placed in the community due to COVID. This year, we are solely relying on community grants, monetary gifts and new coat donations. Today, we are proud to report we are now up to more than 1,100 new winter jackets to help families, children and seniors in need throughout Worcester County. We are hoping with increased media exposure and circulation, we will be able to secure more coat donations which will help so many during the cold winter months.

To assist with this effort, both Sheriff Lew and Dr. Dixon are available for any media opportunities/interviews which will significantly help this cause during this incredibly challenging year.

We appreciate and value our extraordinary friends in the press, who have always helped us in this mission.

Winter coats will be distributed the first week in December to charitable organizations throughout Worcester County, including but not limited to: Abby’s House, LIFT, Hector Reyes House, St. John’s Food for the Poor, Webster-Dudley Food Share, Gardner CAC, Alyssa’s Place of Gardner, Spanish American Center of Leominster, Restoration Recovery Center of Fitchburg, Our Father’s House of Fitchburg, Women’s Recovery Program of Leominster, St. Anne’s Human Services of Shrewsbury, Rutland Food Pantry and various senior centers throughout Worcester County.

Bay Path students raise funds with “Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF”



Courtesy

It is the Mission of Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School to facilitate current, integrated, and rigorous academic and technical vocational programs that prepare students for the ever-changing world of employment and post-secondary education; to provide a school culture that meets the diverse needs of our student body for safety and mental wellness; and to foster student confidence, professionalism, and life-long learning skills that will enable them to become contributing members of our communities.

CHARLTON — Officers and members of the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy’s UNICEF Club raised \$308.40 from club dues, T-shirt sales, and “Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF.”

The club, which boasts an all-female leadership and membership for the academic year 2020-2021, is primarily organized to educate, advocate and fundraise to support UNICEF’s lifesaving work. The Bay Path PN

UNICEF Club program is a Practical Nursing student-led initiative that partners with the U.S. Fund for UNICEF. It is a movement rooted in a belief that students have a vital role to play in helping the world’s children survive. Club Advisor is Professor Cheryl Cahill, MSN, RN.

UNICEF Club Co-chair Meghan Reidy of Auburn reported that “Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF” was established by UNICEF

70 years ago in 1950 and is the longest running youth engagement campaign in America. Campaign funds go to providing children with education, safe water, sanitation, nutrition, emergency relief, and immunizations. The funds provide children in 190 countries and territories with the relief they desperately need.

Reidy said, “Small contributions can provide great resources for chil-

dren; for example, \$20 can buy 100 bars of soap, \$40 can buy a round of vaccines for a child, and \$185 can buy school supplies for 40 children!”

Reidy added “Despite our current unprecedented times, money was still able to be raised from the Bay Path Practical Nursing Students as some towns still had trick-or-treating.”



The holiday season is a busy time of year. So many activities are packed into a relatively short period of time, and it is easy to become a tad overwhelmed by it all. Once Black Friday arrives on November 27 (or Thanksgiving evening for those who can't wait until Friday), holiday shoppers have less than a month to get all of their shopping done.

- Shop during off-peak hours. The busiest times of the day for holiday shopping will be lunch hour during a business day and right before or after



supper time. Wading through crowds can be time-consuming. Try to shop when the stores are more sparsely populated so you can get in and out faster.

• Shop local. Think about patronizing small, independent retailers. Not only will you enjoy customized, exemplary customer service, but the stores probably will not be able to fit as many customers as large chains. That means you can browse more readily and shop faster and more safely.

- **Schedule online shopping blocks.** Pepper your calendar with blocks of time devoted to online shopping. This way you can handle it without distraction and easily check people off of your list.

- Delegate some tasks. Pool your resources with friends or family members and divide up your shopping lists. Each person can be in charge of a different category of shopping. For example, if you are in charge of gaming gifts, buy all of these and then distribute them to whoever needed them. Delegating saves time and lets shoppers avoid rushing from store to store.

- Take a day off. While it may not be ideal to use vacation time for holiday shopping, sometimes it can be an effective way to check off a good portion of your list. Start in the early morning when the children are at school and visit as many stores as possible. Stow away those gifts until you have the opportunity to wrap them. Make the day off a little more special by treating yourself to a solo lunch or a midday meal with a friend.

The holiday season is one of the busiest times of the year. Finding the time to finish shopping and complete other tasks is challenging, but possible.

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Happy Thanksgiving

Cornerstone Bank holds annual food drive

ITEMS TO BE COLLECTED AT ALL LOCATIONS

REGION — Cornerstone Bank is hosting a food drive from now until Saturday, Nov. 21. All non-perishable food items will be donated to local food pantries throughout the community.

During the drive, customers and local residents are encouraged to drop off non-perishable food items at any of Cornerstone Bank's 12 branch locations.

Drop-off locations include:

- 2 Center Depot Rd., Charlton
- 1073 Main St., Holden
- 121 S. Main St., Leicester
- 93 Main St., Rutland
- 253-257 Main St., Southbridge
- 176 Main St., Spencer
- 72 W. Main St., Spencer
- 200 Charlton Rd., Sturbridge
- 968 Main St., Warren
- 86 Worcester Rd., Webster
- 230 Park Ave., Worcester
- 70 W. Boylston St., Worcester

“Our annual food drive is a great opportunity to help families in need during



the holiday season,” said Cornerstone Bank President & Treasurer Todd M. Tallman. “Any donation helps and is greatly appreciated.”

About Cornerstone Bank
Cornerstone Bank is an independent, mutual savings bank serving the residents, businesses, and communities throughout Central Massachusetts from offices in Charlton, Holden, Leicester, Rutland, Southbridge, Spencer,

Sturbridge, Warren, Webster, and Worcester along with a Loan Center in Westborough. Deposits are insured in full by a combination of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Depositors Insurance Fund. The Bank is an Equal Opportunity Employer, Equal Housing Lender, and SBA Preferred Lender. For more information, visit online at cornerstonebank.com, on Facebook, or call 800-939-9103.



ACCURACY WATCH

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

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

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

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Bay Path PN student is new Nursing Administrative Coordinator



Brianna Laforest

WORCESTER — Brianna Laforest of Webster, has been promoted to Nursing Administrative Coordinator at the UMass Memorial Medical Center.

Laforest completed her first week of training and states “the new job is going well!” She is at a new department and relishes getting things up and running.

She stated, “Last week, I rounded with the nursing supervisors at University Campus and will round with the nursing supervisors at the memorial campus this week.”

Part of her job is seeing what the needs are for staff depending on patient acuity level.

Laforest adds “Although I have worked there forever it is nice to go around and see how all the different units run and what each floor's specialty is, and how that affects their staffing numbers.”

Laforest is a member of the PN Class of 2021 at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy where she was voted one of the Class Representatives. She is praised for her ability to build strong relationships quickly, which is key in her role as class representative and in her new position as the Nursing Administrative Coordinator. She has been with UMass Memorial since 2004 initially as a Food Service Worker then Patient Care Attendant (PCA, 2006-2014), and advanced to PCA1, PCA2 further into being the medical secretary. She worked closely with physicians and nurses to ensure patients tests are processed and completed in a timely manner.

ed in a timely manner.

She stated, “I have been working in the medical field since I was 17-years old. Through working at UMass for the past 15 years I have learned how to work with people in (all) different types of mental and physical states in a safe and proficient manner. . . I have taken strides . . . trying to find a balance between my love for healthcare. . . I love to work with people and help them in any means possible.”

Laforest received an associate degree in science major in criminal justice from Quinsigamond Community College, graduating with honors in 2014. She is on track to complete her practical nursing education at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy on June 18, 2021. She holds a law enforcement certificate, is Dementia Care Certified, and BLS/HCP CPR Certified.

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Friday's Child



Zayalani
Age 11

Hi! My name is Zayalani and I am very kind.

Zayalani, who likes to be called Zaya, is an affectionate and easy-going girl of Puerto Rican descent. She can be shy with new people, but once she opens up, she can connect well with others. Zaya is said to possess a caring heart and has a strong desire to help others. Some of her favorite activities include arts and crafts, listening to music, spending time outdoors, and spending time with her foster family.

At school, Zaya is receiving extra support, both academically and emotionally. She does very well with one-on-one attention and also gets

along with her peers.

Legally freed for adoption, Zaya has the potential to thrive in a family that can provide her with nurturance and support. Her social worker believes that she will do well in a family with at least one mother and where she can be the only or youngest child in the home. Prospective families must be willing to help Zaya maintain her relationship with her sister and her biological father.

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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.

Charlton adds DPW exploration to list of goals

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – As the Charlton Board of Selectmen prepares to examine its goals for the foreseeable future, one item that will be on the table for consideration is creating a Department of Public Works to replace the current system in town.

While briefly discussing the next steps for the Board of Selectmen goals during a meeting in late October, Selectman Patricia Rydlak requested that the idea of creating DPW be added to the list with the initial intent to be researching the benefits of creating the department and weighing the pros and cons of embracing such a shift.

“It's really a big project,” Rydlak said. “There's many different options. All towns do it different ways. I've been doing some reading up and a little bit of research and whether it's right for us or not we could get all the people who can be part of that discussion to see if it's something we should think about or if it could save us some money or if it's right for our town.”

Rydlak wasn't the only selectman who supported adding a DPW exploration initiative to the goals list. Her

fellow freshman selectman Stephen Koronis also felt it was worth at least considering.

“I'd like to at least explore it and see. There are slight differences between a DPW and a water & sewer commission, but there are also a lot of commonalities,” Koronis said.

Selectman Rydlak indicated that embracing a DPW could result in dissolving the Water & Sewer Commission and creating new oversight of both the highway and water & sewer departments that would serve under the town administrator. Similar changes have been explored in surrounding communities with differing results. Some towns have embraced the change, others have denounced the concept and now it appears Charlton residents will have their chance to discuss the matter in the months and years to come.

Discussion was paused for a later meeting as Selectman Bill Borowski, who had initially requested an update on the selectmen's list of goals during the meeting, felt that a more extensive discussion was more appropriate for a different meeting rather than the informal back and forth. His fellow selectman agreed and had the DPW idea added to the goals list for future debate



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Bartholomew & Company opens Metro-West office with two new advisors

WORCESTER — Bartholomew & Company, a financial

planning and wealth management firm with offices in Worcester, Chatham, and Bedford,

Massachusetts, announces the opening of its newest branch office at 161 Worcester Rd., Suite 402, Framingham.

John Moran and Jennifer Moran, wealth advisors and vice presidents in Bartholomew & Company's Private Wealth Management division, will be the primary contacts at the new Metro-West branch with support and guidance from the Investment Management Department, advisors, and staff at Bartholomew & Company's Worcester headquarters.

John and Jen have more than 60 years combined experience helping individuals and small business owners identify and reach their financial goals. John's experience includes positions at A.G. Edwards, E.F. Hutton, and his most recent six years at The Moran



Courtesy

Jennifer and John Moran

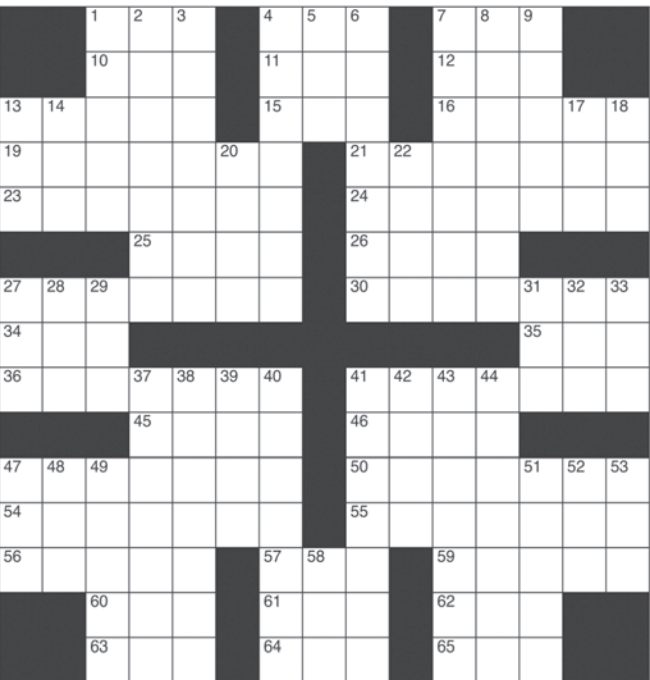
Group at Ameriprise Financial. John previously owned his own firm, Moran Financial, as an independent financial advisor. Jennifer's experience includes positions at two local financial firms before she joined Moran Financial, followed by The Moran Group at Ameriprise Financial.

Bartholomew & Company President & CEO, Thomas J. Bartholomew, AIF® said

of the new branch office and advisors, "We are pleased be able to add a convenient new Metro-West location offering a full-range of financial planning and wealth management services to all of our current and future clients."

About Bartholomew & Company Bartholomew & Company has been providing individuals and organizations with finan-

cial guidance since 1994. With headquarters at 370 Main Street, Worcester, MA, the firm prides itself on crafting strategies for each client's unique needs. For more information about Bartholomew & Company, please visit www.bartandco.com. Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network®, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser.

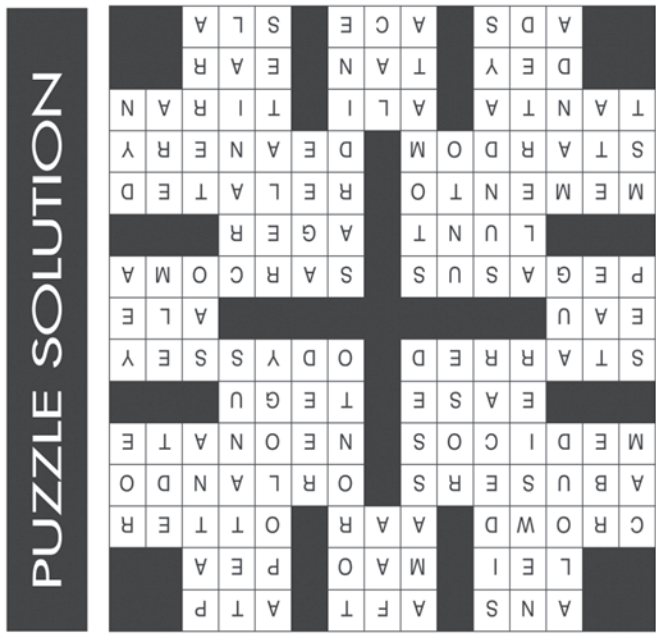


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Autonomic nervous system
- 4. At or near the stern
- 7. Adenosine triphosphate
- 10. Polynesian garland of flowers
- 11. Chinese revolutionary
- 12. Green veggie
- 13. Large group
- 15. Swiss river
- 16. Semiaquatic mammal
- 19. Wrongdoers
- 21. Home to Disney World
- 23. Spanish doctors
- 24. Newborn child
- 25. Absence of difficulty
- 26. Large, stocky lizard
- 27. Earned top billing
- 30. A long wandering and eventful journey
- 34. Water (French)
- 35. Brew
- 36. Winged horse
- 41. A usually malignant tumor
- 45. Alfred __, American actor
- 46. Austrian river
- 47. A reminder of past events
- 50. Connected with
- 54. Status
- 55. Dean residence
- 56. Egyptian city
- 57. Boxing's GOAT
- 59. Straits along the Red Sea
- 60. "The Partridge Family" actress Susan
- 61. Get some color
- 62. Facilitates hearing
- 63. Commercials
- 64. A team's best pitcher
- 65. Patti Hearst's captors

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Speak up
- 2. More informative
- 3. Where passengers sit
- 4. Gathered
- 5. Supervises flying
- 6. Home of the Blue Jays
- 7. Public statement of regret
- 8. Lockjaw
- 9. Indian city
- 13. Patriots' Newton
- 14. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- 17. Sun up in New York
- 18. Eggs in female fish
- 20. Stood up
- 22. NBA legend Willis
- 27. Calendar month (abbr.)
- 28. Exercise regimen __-bo
- 29. The 8th month (abbr.)
- 31. __ Paulo, city
- 32. Tall deciduous tree
- 33. Affirmative
- 37. Notified of danger
- 38. NFL game days
- 39. Archaic term for "to"
- 40. Plant pores
- 41. Canned fish
- 42. Phil __, former CIA
- 43. Connects with
- 44. Of the skull
- 47. Time zone (abbr.)
- 48. When you hope to get there
- 49. Hindu goddess
- 51. Land
- 52. Pitching stat
- 53. Field force unit
- 58. Lakers' crosstown rivals



Donation to help Nichols Endowment Fund

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – Nichols College in Dudley has announced a \$2 million anonymous donation that will boost the school's endowment increasing a scholarship that assists both local students and numerous academic initiatives.

The \$2 million donation was provided to the school from a global financial services leader who has chosen to remain anonymous. The gift will serve to support the primary objective of the college's Bicentennial Campaign to raise funds for capital projects, endowments, and leadership education which has to date surpassed the \$45 million goals set three years ago. A new goal has been set to raise \$20 million in additional funds to help increase the endowment and support scholarships, professorships and college programs.

Nichols College President Susan West Engelkemeyer, Ph.D. released a statement expressing gratitude for the gift thanking the anonymous donor for their generosity.

"This gift will advance our mission of transforming lives through expanded educational and experiential opportunities for our career focused students. It ensures our continued success as a college of choice for business and leadership education," President Engelkemeyer said.

Chair of the Nichols College Board of Trustees and member of the Class of 1972 John H. Davis also expressed his gratitude for the gift calling it critical support for the endowment especially in a time of uncertainty in higher education.

"Most importantly, it will increase experiential opportunities for our students to give them a competitive edge," Davis said.

The \$2 million donation, along with other funds from the endowment, will assist with launching a business consulting center in addition to supporting a scholarship for students in the Southern Worcester County region. The \$2 million will also be utilized to augment the Student-Managed Investment Fund which was founded in 2019 through alumni donations.

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This section reaches 47,000 households in 7 Massachusetts newspapers.

Old Sturbridge Village, Country Bank partner to give back to community

STURBRIDGE — Old Sturbridge Village (OSV) and Country Bank have partnered together for over a decade. In that time, Country Bank has sponsored numerous seasonal programs at the Village such as, the Education Center, Visitor Center, Bump in the Night, Sleepy Hollow, Phantoms & Fire and the beloved Christmas by Candlelight. In addition to program sponsorships, Country Bank has also sponsored Old Sturbridge Village's Annual Gala over the years as well.

Perhaps one of the greatest sponsorships that Country Bank is supporting, particularly in this year of COVID, is the Kids Free Program. This has enabled families to enjoy the activities, history, programming, traditions and opportunities that Old Sturbridge Village has to offer making it a great value for families. This year,

Country Bank extended its Kids Free Sponsorship from June through the end of November. Both organizations wanted to ensure that all families had every opportunity this year to participate in the outdoor experience the Village offers.

“Country Bank has a long-standing commitment to Old Sturbridge Village and its historical place within our communities. As New England's largest outdoor living history museum, the Village welcomes thousands of visitors annually where they offer authentic hands-on history and seasonal programming for all ages,” stated Paul Scully, President and CEO of Country Bank. “As a community partner, we care deeply about the sustainability of the Village. As such, and in recognizing the burdens that our communities have experienced throughout this year, we

wanted to offer our support in sponsoring the fall and winter season events at the Village. It is our hope that visitors will enjoy an afternoon or evening stepping back in time and making memories with their friends and families during what has been the most stressful time in our history. Supporting and enriching our communities is not only a part of our mission, it's simply who we are.”

“We are extremely grateful for the support of Paul Scully and his strong team at Country Bank,” stated Jim Donahue, President and CEO of Old Sturbridge Village. “The partnership, over the years, has enabled us to make significant contributions to the community while building dynamic programming throughout the year for our visitors. We continue to find ways of collaborating and giving back to



Courtesy

Paul Scully (left) and Jim Donahue (right).

the community which is a core priority with both our organizations.”

Old Sturbridge Village and Country Bank will

be collaborating this upcoming Thanksgiving to serve families in the community with more than 700 meals. Old Sturbridge Village will be

cooking and assembling the meals, while Country Bank will be distributing the meals out to food pantries, senior housing, churches and alike.

Seven Hills Family Services receives grant

WORCESTER — Seven Hills Family Services, which operates a Family Resource Center in Sturbridge, has received a \$49,620 grant from The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts to upgrade the AV equipment in one of its Family Support Center classrooms in order to record sessions, edit, translate, and post them on its website so that families who cannot attend the sessions can access them at their convenience. The grant will also be used to purchase technology for Family Support Navigators to enhance integrated supports to families.

The grant was one of 14 Activation Fund grants recently awarded by the Foundation totaling almost \$700,000.

“Throughout Worcester County, there are many important health, education, and human service agencies and organizations, which, through the efforts of their dedicated staffs, are providing essential services to our most vulnerable populations,” said Francis M. Saba, Chairman of the Board of the Foundation. “The critical nature of their work has been heightened by the chal-

lenges of the current pandemic. Through our Foundation's annual Activation Fund process, we are able to help support many of these agencies and organizations. In 2020, 66 letters of intent to participate in the application process for support from the Activation Fund were submitted. Of the 66 letters, many were from organizations that had never applied and others from both previous applicants and agencies that had not previously been invited to apply. The 66 letters in 2020 compare with 38 from 2019. Clearly the need for support has increased and is significant. After a thorough review of the letters and applications by our experienced and thoughtful Foundation staff, 14 projects with support of \$698,039 were funded. Five of the projects totaling \$271,000 were specifically funded in response to the pandemic. Our Foundation is pleased to continue to do our part in helping these agencies.”

The other grants awarded are:

Quinsigamond Community College (QCC) - \$70,790 to

upgrade instructional equipment in QCC's Radiologic Technology program to better prepare QCC students for their clinical rotations and entering the workforce.

Worcester Common Ground (WCG) - \$100,000 to install a rooftop greenhouse on an affordable housing project WCG is developing in Worcester which will allow residents to grow produce for themselves and their families.

NEADS World Class Service Dogs - \$50,000 for the construction of its Behavioral Check List space to test puppies to determine their eligibility to enter NEADS training programs as Service Dogs.

Living in Freedom Together (LIFT) - \$19,000 for the installation of sprinklers at its residential home for survivors of commercial sexual exploitation.

LUK, Inc. - \$50,000 to support telebehavioral health services for students in middle and high schools in Central Massachusetts.

Edward M. Kennedy Community Health Center - \$60,000 for four dental chairs as part of its plans to expand its Milford site to include dental

services, optometry and a 340B pharmacy.

Building Futures - \$49,998 for facility and technology upgrades to the Worcester Housing Authority's Youth Center in Great Brook Valley, which provides youth ages 5-14 with tutoring and homework help.

Christopher House of Worcester - \$39,082 for a program to enhance the skills of its first line managers and train peer mentors with the goal of reducing the turnover rates of both nurses and CNAs.

Jeffrey's House - \$23,772 for the installation of sprinklers in three sober living houses it operates in Fitchburg and for accessibility renovations in two of the houses.

CENTRO - \$50,000 to hire a community health worker to assess the needs of people using its food pantry and refer them to other services CENTRO offers if they are eligible.

Genesis Club - \$40,000 to create a “virtual clubhouse” to enable Genesis Club to reach out to people recovering from mental illness who cannot access its physical location, allowing people to access club-

house services remotely.

Open Sky Community Services - \$45,777 to expand telepsychiatry services in 33 of its group homes.

South Middlesex Opportunity Council - \$50,000 for the pre-development costs associated with converting the second floor of a building in Worcester into a 50-bed permanent emergency shelter facility.

The Foundation was established in 1999 with the proceeds from the sale of Central Massachusetts Health Care, Inc., a physician-initiated, not-for-profit HMO. The Foundation currently has assets of approximately \$79 million and has awarded grants totaling over \$45 million since it began its grantmaking in 2000. For further information about these grants or about the Foundation's grantmaking programs and application process, please visit The Health Foundation's website at www.hfcm.org or call (508) 438-0009.

Gobi, Berthiaume investigate COVID outbreak at Soliders' Home

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – A special oversight committee that includes two local legislators is continuing its review of the mass casualty COVID-19 outbreak at the Holyoke Soldiers' Home.

This past spring, at the start of the pandemic, 76 veterans lost their lives in the outbreak at the western Massachusetts facility. Several probes and reports have indicated that the outbreak was caused by major failures in policies and decisions at the leadership level.

For State Rep. Donald Berthiaume and Sen. Anne Gobi, both of Spencer, it has been an honor to serve on the special oversight committee tasked with getting answers for the families of victims.

“Our mission is to draft legislation to present to our colleagues that will ensure the tragedy that occurred at the Holyoke Soldiers' Home never happens again,” Gobi said. “Additionally, this legislation will aim to improve the care of our veterans at the Commonwealth's soldiers' homes.”

The oversight committee has held in-person and remote hearings over the last three weeks. The initial hearings included statements from family members of victims lost to the outbreak. Subsequent hearings featured testimony from Holyoke Soldiers' Home employees.

The former director of the facility from 2011-16, Paul Barabani, was also in atten-

dance to discuss warnings he provided years in advance about the facility's deficiencies and vulnerabilities. He resigned in early 2016 after voicing concerns over limited staffing and long overdue renovations.

At the time of the COVID-19 outbreak in the spring, the Holyoke Soldiers' Home was run by Superintendent Bennett Walsh. He resigned from his position in October and now faces criminal neglect charges for his actions before and during the outbreak. The facility's former medical director, Dr. David Clinton, is also facing charges.

A scathing June report from an independent investigator suggested that Walsh was unqualified to lead the facility.

The management team's decisions in response to the worsening outbreak were described as “utterly baffling” by investigator Mark Pearlstein in his 174-page report.

Several additional investigations revealed that infected residents at the facility were not properly isolated after testing positive. Others displaying symptoms of COVID-19 were allowed to remain in the general resident population while awaiting their test results, investigators said. Later, after even more residents contracted the virus, COVID-19 patients were still allegedly mixed with healthy residents in a scrambled response.

Shortly before the release of the independent report in June, Massachusetts Secretary

of Veterans' Services Francisco Urena resigned from his position.

For Berthiaume and Gobi, who work on opposite sides of the aisle, the special oversight committee provides a unique opportunity to join forces to get answers.

“I'm looking forward to a final resolution to this process to give closure to families that have suffered due to the mismanagement of this virus response at the Holyoke Soldiers' Home,” Berthiaume said. “It's unconscionable that this was allowed to happen to those who gave so much of themselves to our great country.”

The joint oversight committee will wrap up hearings in the coming weeks

LEGALS

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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

A story of inspiration for a sunny morning

Twenty-one-year-old Chris Nikic of Maitland, Fla. made history last Saturday when he became the first person in history with Down Syndrome to complete a full distance Ironman triathlon. Watching the video of Nikic crossing the finish line in Panama City, Fla., did not leave this writer with dry eyes. This was good news, in an otherwise chaotic news cycle.

As most people know, a full Ironman consists of a 2.4 mile swim, a 112 mile bike ride and a 26.2 mile run. The race, has a time cap of 17 hours. Nikic completed the race in 16:46:09.

Nikic had a few setbacks throughout the race, including two falls from his bike.

Special Olympics Florida President and CEO Sherry Wheelock released a statement. In it she said, “He’s become a hero to athletes, fans, and people across Florida and around the world. He’s an inspiration to all of us.”

Nikic is no stranger to triathlons and has been training since he was a teenager. Looking ahead he will strive to qualify for the 2022 Special Olympics USA Games.

In an Instagram post, Nikic wrote “Goal set and achieved. Time to set a new and bigger goal for 2021. Whatever it is, the strategy is the same. One percent better every day. Yes, I did the work, but I had angels helping me. God surrounded me with angels. Best part of all. New family and friends. All about awareness and inclusion. Awareness for Down Syndrome and Special Olympics. Inclusion for all of us with all of you.”

His proud father, Nik Nikic, released his own statement: “To Chris, this race was more than just a finish line and celebration of victory. Ironman has served as his platform to become one step closer to his goal of living a life of inclusion, normalcy, and leadership. It’s about being an example to other kids and families that face similar barriers, proving no dream or goal is too high,” he said.

Nikic completed the 2.4 mile swim (along with his coach Dan Grieb) in just under two hours. Just prior to getting on his bike to attack the 112 miles, he was bitten by fire ants. He forged ahead and finished the bike portion in 8:12:37. He then went on to finish the 26.2 mile run in 6:18:48.

Nikic’s father says that the mantra is to improve one percent each day. His coach, Grieb said in a statement, “I’m no longer surprised by what Chris can accomplish because I recognize who Chris is; a human being that has goals and dreams just like everyone else. He wants to make the path easier for those just like him and can follow his lead.”

He is now a Guinness World Record holder.

This is a story of inspiration, hope and positivity, and now, more than ever, the world needs more of it.

Common Sense Tips to Save Fuel Costs

The bad news is, heating your house will likely cost you a bit more this winter. The good news is, a few common sense tips can cut your losses down to size. According to a Nov 10, 2020 report from the EIA, oil, gas and electricity prices are set to bump up in 2021. With the uncertainty of COVID restrictions looming, even the slightest increase can upset a household budget. Instead of digging deeper into your pockets this winter, you can offset the expected modest increase by making some common sense changes around the house. And lest you think a little energy loss here and there won’t add up, ponder this: Heat loss from a one quarter inch gap in a door threshold is as great as that from a four inch hole in the wall! The following practical ideas (some of which were previously featured in this column) reveal how a little compromise and effort can add up to impressive energy savings.

- Families typically use more hot water in winter months and heating up the water can account for nearly 15 percent of total household energy costs. Lowering the temperature on the hot water heater to 120 degrees can add up to substantial savings throughout the winter. Here’s a simple test to check if you’re heating water hotter than necessary: Place the back of your hand under a stream of running hot water. If you cannot comfortably keep your hand under the water, your water temperature is too high and you’re wasting money.
- Think lowering the thermostat temperature slightly won’t make a dent in your fuel savings? Think again. Did you know turning down the thermostat just one degree can save three percent on your fuel bill? Better yet, lowering it five degrees for four hours a day can add up to a ten percent savings! Lower your thermostat at night and use an extra wool blanket or quilt. And if the house is empty for more than four hours per day turn the thermostat down five or more degrees when you leave for work and crank it back up when you return.
- Another easy money saving tip is to opt for showers instead of baths during winter months. While a long, hot bath is tempting, remember, it will almost triple your cost over a shower as more water is used and must be heated. To save even more on hot water costs, replace shower heads with low flow models. New ones are so improved, you’ll hardly notice the reduction in water flow.
- If you have an older hot water heater, check with your utility company to find out if it would benefit from an insulation jacket.



TAKE THE HINT
KAREN TRAINOR

- This cost effective tip can add up to over \$100 a year in energy cost savings. Here’s another quick tip: If you are going on vacation, be sure to turn the hot water thermostat down a bit. You’ll save money even while you’re gone!
- Doing laundry takes its toll on water usage and hot and warm water cycles use more fuel than you might think. Save money by buying a cold water detergent and doing all your laundry in cold water. Typical savings realized by a family of five is up to \$250 annually.
- During the winter months, use your stove and bathroom fans sparingly, as they remove precious warm air from the room. Obviously, you’ll want to use a vent to dispel moisture in the bathroom, but there’s usually no need to switch on the vent fan every time you put on the bathroom light. Ditto for a kitchen fan vent. Use it periodically while cooking; do not leave it on constantly unless smoke is an issue.
- If you have an electric heating element in a small bathroom, consider disconnecting it. Supply plenty of thick towels to dry off fast, place a fuzzy scatter rug on a tile floor and your family may never miss the heat!
- Use good old fashioned solar power to cut down on heating costs. On sunny winter days, open curtains or blinds on the south side of the house. Just be sure to close the curtains or drapes at night to block out drafts.
- Check your furnace filter frequently. A clogged filter greatly decreases the furnace’s efficiency and makes it work harder. Some energy efficient advisors suggest automatically replacing filters each month. They claim the savings realized in efficiency more than make up for the cost of the new filters.
- Dust is a powerful insulator and dusty baseboard vents and radiators use more energy than necessary to heat up a room, so keep surfaces clean. If you have a coil thermostat, be sure to clean it each season to ensure accurate readings. Just take off the cover and wipe or blow away dust.
- Do a vent check. If you have baseboards, make sure they are fully open and operable. Move any furniture or drapes that could be blocking warm air flow. Vents or baseboards that are even partially blocked result in an unnecessary hike in heating costs.

- Automatic timers are very affordable and they make adjusting thermostats a no brainer. Typically they will keep the temperature steady during the day and automatically reduce it at night, resulting in substantial savings.
- Take full advantage of heat created from cooking. Warm up the house while you cook by planning slow cooking stove top dishes such as stews and simmering soups. When you are done using the oven for cooking and shut it off, keep the door open to release the remaining hot air into the kitchen. When you heat water, use a tea kettle or pot instead of the microwave oven, etc.

- Generations before us took frugal advantage of the fact moist air retains heat. Stoves of yesteryear often had a pan of water to add moisture to the air. Today, a humidifier is often the choice to boost the effect of heating, which translates into lower fuel costs.
- If you run a dishwasher you can add moist heat to the kitchen simply by shutting off the washer before the heated dry cycle and opening the door. As a bonus you’ll save energy and money by air drying the dishes.
- Are you doing absolutely everything you can to save energy? For an instant energy assessment, visit www.energystar.gov The government sponsored site has lots of valuable advice and recommendations to help you cut down on heating costs.

- 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 Stonebridge 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.

Ideas for thanking your family



FINANCIAL FOCUS
DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

It’s almost Thanksgiving. And although 2020 may have been a difficult year for you, as it has been for many people, you can probably still find things for which you can be thankful – such as your family. How can you show your appreciation for your loved ones?

Here are a few suggestions:

Invest in your children’s future. If you have young children – or even grandchildren – one of the greatest gifts you can give them is the gift of education. You may want to consider contributing to a higher education funding vehicle.

Be generous. Do you have older children, just starting out in life? If so, they could well use a financial gift to help pay off student loans, buy a car or even make a down payment on a home. You can give up to \$15,000 per year, per recipient, without incurring gift taxes. Of course, you don’t have to give cash – you might want to consider presenting your children with shares of stock in companies they like.

Review your insurance coverage. If you weren’t around, it would leave some gaping holes – financial and otherwise – in the lives of your family members. That’s why it’s essential you maintain adequate life insurance. Your employer might offer a group plan, but it may not be sufficient to meet your needs. There’s no magic formula for determining the right amount of coverage, so you’ll have to consider a variety of factors: your age, spouse’s income, number of children and so on. Also, you may want to consider disability insurance – if you were unable to work for a while, it could cause a real problem for your family’s finances.

Preserve your financial independence. When your children are young, you take care of them. But you certainly don’t want them to have to do the same for you – so it’s essential you maintain your financial independence throughout your life. You can do this in at least a couple of ways. First, consider investing regularly in your 401(k), IRA and other retirement accounts. The greater your resources during your retirement years, the less you may ever need to count on your family. And second, you may want to protect yourself from the devastating costs of long-term care, such as an extended nursing home stay. A financial professional can suggest a strategy to help you cope with these expenses.

Create an estate plan. To leave a legacy to your family, you don’t have to be wealthy – but you do need a comprehensive estate plan. You’ll have to think through a lot of questions, such as: Have I named beneficiaries for all my assets? How much do I want to leave to each person? Do I need to go beyond a simple will to establish an arrangement such as a living trust? For help in answering all these issues, you’ll want to work with an attorney.

By making these moves, you can show your loved ones, in a tangible way, how much you value them – and that can help you keep the spirit of Thanksgiving alive all year long.

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

Select the right tool for the pruning task

Deadheading, trimming, and pruning are part of growing and maintaining a beautiful and productive garden and landscape. Make sure you are outfitted with the right tool for the job. Matching the tool to the pruning task will help ensure a proper cut, reduce hand fatigue, and allow you to work longer.

Since most pruning cuts in the garden and landscape are between a quarter and three quarters of an inch, a bypass hand pruner is a must. These pruners have two sharp blades like scissors, making a clean cut that closes quickly.



GARDEN MOMENTS
MELINDA MYERS

- ly. This helps reduce the risk of insects and disease moving in and harming your plants.
- Avoid hand-held pruners that are too heavy or open too wide for your hand size. Those with a spring action return help reduce hand fatigue as long as the opening matches the size of your hand. Make sure the pruner does not open wider than your hand can easily grip. Select a tool that fits in your hand, is comfortable, has an ergonomic grip and is easy to control.
- Matching your pruner to your hand size is as important as matching it to

- the cutting job. Opting for an oversized pruner to make larger cuts can lead to hand fatigue, frustration, and improper cuts. Measure the width across the palm of your hand at the base of your fingers. Next, measure the height from the middle of the base of your hand to the tip of your middle finger.
- A pruner rated for half inch cuts is a good match for those with small hands less than 3 1/2” wide and 6 1/4” high. If your hands measure three and a half to four inches wide six and a half to eight inches high, you may want to purchase a three-quarter-inch pruner. Those with larger hands should do fine with a one-inch hand-held pruner.



Courtesy — Corona Tools

The FlexDial bypass pruner allows you to adjust the grip to fit the size of your hand, reducing fatigue when making repetitive cuts.

A well trained dog makes for easier hunting



A change in the warm weather to a bit more normal for this time of year has made all outdoor activities more comfortable, especially for hunters. Bird hunters have been doing very well in the valley. Watching a well trained dog point or flush a bird in a field is something only a hunter can appreciate. For the hunter that owns a good bird dog, he or she can get the most satisfaction from a hunt. A lot of hours training the dog has made the four legged family member enjoying the hunt as well.

This past week, this writer hunted the Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club and brought along a young hunter hoping he could get a shot at a bird. Young Aiden loves dogs and was overjoyed when I asked him to handle my nine year old Lab "Twig" on the leash, as we walked along a road leading to some decent pheasant cover. Aiden

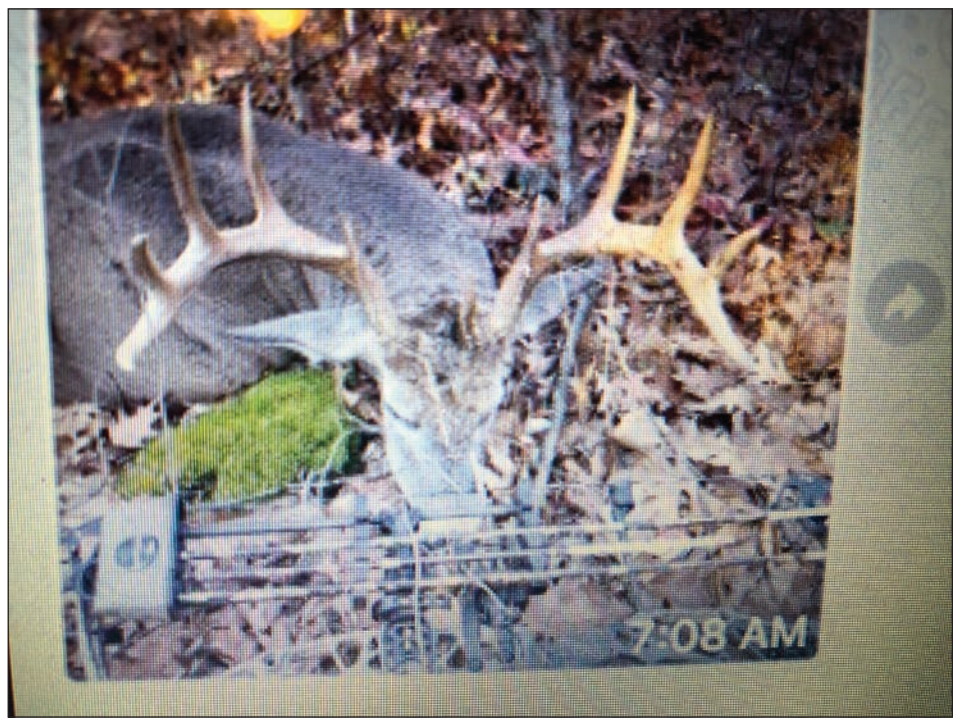
is the grandson of Steve Rondeau who walked along with us as we followed Twig through the heavy cover. He was allowed to carry a 410 single shot shotgun and was kept in front of us as we navigated the underbrush. It was not long before "Twig" flushed a Cock Pheasant from the cover, and we told Aiden to shoot. As the young hunter put the sites of the 410 gun on the flushed bird, the shotgun discharged and the pheasant folded to the ground. «Twig» was on the bird in seconds and did a great retrieve bringing the bird back to me. That was the highlight of the day for us. We headed back to the club to order breakfast and sat under the Pavilion at the club, to discuss the hunt and enjoy our food. This week's second picture shows Aiden with his pheasant and this writers Lab, Twig! The club host youth hunts annually prior to the hunting



THE GREAT
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The hunt brought back many memories of my childhood, with a Daisy Red Rider BB gun my parents put under the Christmas tree for me when I was around 10 years old. It was the best Christmas present I received that year. I was allowed to take the gun outdoors on my own, after my dad told me about the dangers of the gun, and to never ever point the gun at anyone. "It is not a toy," my dad stated numerous times. Fortunately, I never got into trouble with the gun. My dad was more of a fisherman than a hunter, so we got to enjoy fishing on



the Meadow Pond and numerous brooks, catching brook trout. Every year, he took time for us to go fishing for trout on opening day, at Prentice Brook and Johnsons Brook in Whitinsville.

When I became 15 years old, my Uncle the late Paul Hale purchased a H & R 12 gauge shotgun from Harrington & Richardson. Paul was employed at the H & R factory and was able to purchase the gun for very little money. The gun was a bolt action shotgun, with a clip to hold additional shotgun shells. It had a Polly choke that could change the discharged load from open to full. I had a lot of fun shooting ducks back then. As I got older, I purchased a new Browning 20 gauge automatic, from a gun shop in Douglas. I later purchased an Ithaca light weight 12 gauge shotgun, with two barrels. One for deer hunting and one for bird hunting. The

12 gauge Ithaca I now own was purchased at Sparky's gun shop in Webster which is now closed after his passing. It is a great gun and is used by my Granddaughter Andrea, for trap shooting on occasions.

As I was growing up, I can fondly remember all the good times I had hunting with our two sons David and Ralph, Jr.! It was a time that leaving a gun in my car or truck was permitted, without a trigger lock on. Pickup trucks often had a gun rack in the rear window with two guns left in the unlocked truck as hunters stopped to have breakfast or some other chores. It was a time when youngsters respected someone else's property and were taught right from wrong. There are still a lot of great kids out there today.

Archers are harvesting some impressive deer locally and in neighboring states, as this week's first picture

shows. Numerous 10 and 12 point bucks weighing in at over 200 lbs. dressed are being reported. It is hard to believe that Mass. is producing such impressive deer. It is normally a deer that comes from Maine or Canada, but they are being harvested here in new England. Shotgun season in Massachusetts starts Nov. 30. Are you ready?

We are in for a rough ride this winter because of the pandemic, and it will require all family members to use common sense, and to wear masks and practice social distancing. This is serious stuff!

Just a reminder that Wallum lake is open to fishing until the last day of February, as it is governed by Rhode Island regulations. Hopefully, there will be some ice this winter to do some ice fishing for some of the recently stocked trout.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending.

Midcentury glassware

Regular readers of this column know that "brown furniture," glassware and china prices have dropped over the years. There are a few notable exceptions though, including many midcentury (1940s to 1960s or 1970s) glassware pieces.

Some kitchenware from the midcentury is collectible. Green "Jadeite" Fire King prices may have peaked when Martha Stewart displayed pieces in a cabinet behind her on her cooking show, but it still sells fairly well today. Five Fire King mixing bowls recently sold for \$70 at auction. A large 87-piece group of mixed dinnerware brought \$550. Pyrex kitchenware is also in demand. A pink one and a half quart divided covered casserole cooking dish recently sold for \$54. A set of nesting Pyrex mixing bowls in yellow, green, red and blue went for \$120 this month.

Midcentury modern art glass is also quite popular with collectors. When thinking of glass from this era, most people think of Murano (Venetian glass). It was popular in the 1960s but has a much longer history, dating all the way back to the 1200s. Venetian glass was in high production during the 15th and 16th centuries. Glassmaking in Murano declined

in the 17th century, but it came back in the 19th century. During the 1920s, Murano produced art nouveau design glass. World War II saw production drop, but it came back strong again after the war.

Prices have increased for midcentury Murano glass. Glassware that may have sold at estate sales for anywhere from two bucks to \$10 in the 1990s may now bring 10 times those prices. For example, a Murano cockatoo recently sold for \$50 and two Murano "Aquarium bowls" by Alfredo Barbini, with fish designs on the bottom, sold for \$200 and \$250 this month.

Nordic countries also produced some quality art glass during this time. Gerda and Asta Stromberg made tall cylindrical "Sputnik" vases, along with other patterns for Strombergshyttan of Sweden. The well-known Swedish glassmaker Orrefors purchased Strombergshyttan in 1976. Riihimäki glass of Finland made colorful vases and other art glass objects during the 1960s. Many had a clear base with curves, creating the effect of multiple levels.

America also produced some quality midcentury art glass. Higgins glass designed what was called a "glass sandwich." According to higginsglass.com: "on one piece of enamel-coated glass, a design is created, either drawn with col-

ored enamels, or pieced with glass segments." Another piece of enameled glass is placed on top of that. Blenko Glass created amberina glass (red and yellow colors merging) among many other patterns during the 1960s. Other companies like Heisey offered some modern design glassware as well.

Some midcentury glassware can fetch high prices at auction. A large 1940s-1950s Asta Stromberg Diamant (Diamond pattern) glass vase by Strombergshyttan sold for \$735 in a 2013 online auction. A "peacock" Blenko floor bottle brought \$2,100 at auction in 2016. A set of four Riihimäki glasses made by the artist Nanny Stil for the Riihimäen Lasi Oy company went for £4,000 (\$5,278 U.S.) in 2011. A 1960 Michael and Frances Higgins Rondelay screen with five rows each with five round pieces of glass and brass sold for \$13,000 in 2014. A 1960 Murano "Dorico Corniola" vase by Ercole Barovier, described in one auction catalog as "colourless glass with inclusions in carnelian, white, violet and colourless," was auctioned for \$29,000 in 2013. Art glass has still been selling well more recently. A pair of Murano glass chandeliers sold for \$2,750 in late October. Despite the pandemic, there is still bottled up demand for high quality art glass.

We will be offering a large collection of antique and newer toys from one estate in several online auctions over the



next few months, beginning with some die-cast cars. We also will be offering paintings by Fay Moore from her estate. Moore is well known for sporting scenes and horse racing paintings. I'll provide additional updates in future columns.

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

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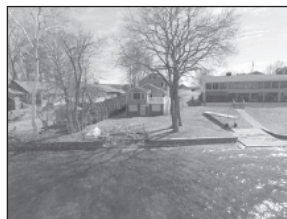
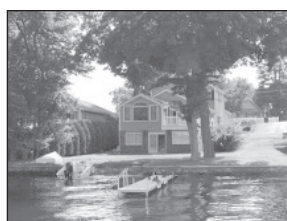


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Quisential Woodstock Farmhouse w/Spectacular views of Pond. Detached Studio Building! 2.5 Acres. Prof. Landscaped. 5 Bedrooms. Fireplace! Dining, library/Music room. Master Bedroom, 2 Full Baths! Renovated Kitchen. Upstairs, 4 Bedrooms w/Full Bath.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

WEBSTER - 21 3RD STREET UNIT: B



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

WEBSTER - 195-199 THOMPSON RD



3 ACRE COMMERCIAL SITE! APPROX. 550 FT ROAD FRONT-AGE ON STATE HIGHWAY RTE 193 AKA THOMPSON ROAD. STRATEGICALLY NESTLED BETWEEN TWO (2) I-395 (NORTH & SOUTH) ON-RAMPS & TWO (2) I-395 (NORTH & SOUTH) OFF-RAMPS! PROPERTY DIRECTLY ABUTS I-395! 48'X80' CONCRETE BLOCK BUILDING, 7,680 SF TOTAL! FULL LOWER LEVEL USE & DRIVE IN GARAGE DOOR! HIGH TRAFFIC - HIGH EXPOSURE! WHAT DO YOU HAVE PLANNED?! **\$600,000.**

WEBSTER - 103 UPPER GORE RD



Estate Sale! LOCATION, LOCATION! Scenic Upper Gore Rd! Amazing View of Beautiful Webster Lake! Main level has 3 Bedrooms, Kitchen, Dining Rm, Common Bathrm, Master Bedroom & Master Bath - Fireplace Living Room! Finished Lower Level, 1/2 Bath, Laundry, Large room w/Pellet Stove & Direct Garage Access! Tiered deck, w/Screened porch, leads directly to your "Salt water" Inground Pool! **\$319,900.**

LAND WEBSTER/OXFORD/DUDLEY/DOUGLAS

Oxford - 4 Leisester St - Approx. 8.47 ACRES! River Frontage Possible to be Subdivided! **\$99,900**
Webster - Upper Gore w/View of the Lake! 1+ Acre! Artesian Well, Septic Design & Conservation - DONE. **NEW PRICE \$115,000.**
Webster - Cooper Road 2 Buildable Lots! Water & Sewer Access. Zoned Lake Res! **Each \$24,500.**
Douglas-Mount Daniels 2.5 Acres abuts Douglas State Forest! **ON DEPOSIT! \$132,900**
Dudley - Marshall Terrace 12,000+- Sq Ft Lot! Potential for a 2 Family! **SORRY SOLD! \$70,000.**
Dudley - Packard Dr. 2 Lots! Very Private! off Ridge Dr. Will not last! **SORRY SOLD! \$50,000**

OXFORD - 4 SPICEBUSH LANE



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

SOUTHBRIDGE - 14 SERVANT WAY



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

OXFORD - 115 CHARLTON ROAD



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

WEBSTER - 20 KINGSBURY



Sorry, Sold!
NEW TO THE MARKET! Custom Sprawling Split 2800+ SF! Central Air! Kitchen, Dining Room, Cathedral Ceiling Living Room, 3 Bedrooms! Granite Counters & New Flooring! New Boiler - Hot Water Tank - Oil Tank! FULL finished Lower Level w/ Full Bath & Laundry! THERE'S MORE! 2 Car Garage, renovated to include Hydro Heat, AC & 1/2 Bath! Great for Fitness Studio, Game Room or Home School! Over 1.4 Acres! **\$360,000.**

WEBSTER - 52 CUDWORTH ROAD



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

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

WEBSTER LAKE - 100 LAKESIDE AVE



Sorry, Sold!
WEBSTER LAKE! PANORAMIC VIEWS! BEAUTIFUL SUNSETS! Extraordinary Waterfront Contemporary! Architect designed with Lake Living in mind. Custom Built with Attention to High Quality & Detail. Outstanding open concept, water view from almost every room. Nicely situated on a .25 acre level peninsula, 180' +/- prime lake frontage! Enhanced by a all natural shoreline! All you need to live is located on the 1st floor. Grand 2 story foyer, cozy fireplace living room, gourmet kitchen, lake facing dining, formal dining room, media room & spacious 1st floor guest BR Suite w/ private bath. Incredible 2nd floor fireplace lake-facing corner master suite w/luxurious private bath, 3 more 2nd floor BRs & full bath! Something Special! Remember, Timing Is Everything **\$1,075,000.**

LAKE SHIRLEY - 647 RESERVOIR RD



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

GARDENING

continued from page A1

But size is just one factor to consider. Hand strength also influences the diameter of the stems you will be able to cut. Just because a tool is rated for three quarters of an inch doesn't mean everyone will be able to apply the needed pressure to make such a large cut. Invest in tools with compound levers or ratchets when you need a mechanical advantage to make cutting easier.

When the job is too big for you or the tool, select one better suited to the task. Employ a bypass lopper like Corona Tool's ComfortGel SL 3164D with tactile handles. Loppers have long handles that give you greater leverage and extend your reach. This extra reach makes it easier to prune all parts of small trees, shrubs, and roses.

Invest in a foldable pruning RazorTOOTH Saw (coronatoolsusa.com) with a pull stroke cutting action

and ergonomic handle. You'll be able to make cuts fast and easy and minimize hand fatigue. Foldable saws allow you to tuck the blade into the handle for safekeeping and reduce storage space.

Saws are useful tools for cutting larger branches on trees and shrubs that you can safely prune. Although I am a certified arborist, I only prune small trees and shrubs. I save big tree work for my colleagues that climb, have the equipment and training to do the job safely.

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 Corona Tools for her expertise to write this article. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

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Median Price	\$284,000	\$360,000	▲	Median Price	\$286,700	\$322,000	▲
Market Volume	\$3,975,800	\$4,601,900	▲	Market Volume	\$4,351,152	\$4,303,802	▼
# of Homes Sold	13	13	➡	# of Homes Sold	16	13	▼
Avg Days On Market	71	25	▼	Avg Days On Market	41	17	▼

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• ± 14,375 S/F of Land • ± 5,913 S/F of Gross Building Area • ± 58' Frontage Along Brookfield Road •
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• Basement Kitchen Area • 3rd Floor Office • Paved Parking for ± 10 Vehicles •
• (B) Restrooms (2) on Main Level (1) on 2nd Floor • Wood, Carpeted & Tile Floors • Public Water & Sewer •
• Assessor's Tax ID: Map 173, Lot 2327-2 • Zoned: Commercial/Tourist Zoning District •

602 MAIN STREET:
• Vacant Paved Parking • ± 13,504 S/F of Land • Paved Parking for ± 15 Vehicles •
• ± 100' Frontage Along Main Street • ± 133' Frontage Along School Street • Public Water & Sewer Available •
• Assessor's Tax ID: Map 415, Lot 2328-602 • Zoned: Commercial/Tourist Zoning District •

SALE PER ORDER OF MORTGAGEE
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22 Whiting Rd- \$389,900



REDUCED

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

Holiday magic, memories & traditions celebrated at Christmas by Candlelight

OLD STURBRIDGE VILLAGE RELEASES EVENT DATES IN DECEMBER, TICKETS ON SALE NOW

STURBRIDGE — Christmas by Candlelight will return to Old Sturbridge Village (OSV) this December, as a time-honored tradition of the season celebrating New England Christmases of the 19th century and today. On select dates in December, from 3 to 8 p.m., the Village will open special for guests to take in the holiday cheer. Tickets are on sale now for members and will go on sale to the general public on Nov. 17.

This annual event has been re-imagined in 2020 with safety in mind, taking many favorite activities outdoors. Guests can see demonstrations of classic Christmas projects like knitting stockings, wreath-making, natural ornament-making and more, and watch as costumed interpreters create a traditional Christmas meal or work on special projects such as making ice skates or a sled from scratch. A horse-drawn carryall (a large wagon) will run throughout the Village offering rides and several bonfires will be lit throughout the night to warm up beside.

A returning favorite of the event, visitors are invited to stroll the Christmas Tree Trail — new in 2019 — featuring dozens of sparkling, decorated trees. Tucked away

from the hustle and bustle of the Common, the trail welcomes wanderers in to enjoy the sights, ending at the special Christmas Wish Bridge.

Several dates during December offer additional activities for guests — including Members' Shopping Nights on Dec. 4-6 and the firing of OSV's 24-foot kiln for the second time this year, on Dec. 18-20. The 15,000-brick kiln found outside of OSV's Pottery Shop can fit approximately 1,000 pieces of pottery stacked 10-feet high within its walls. It is a fan favorite among many visitors who come to the Village.

Also, a feature of the holiday event, the annual Gingerbread House Contest is going virtual! Participants from near and far can register to compete in one of four categories (adult non-professional, adult professional, youth and family) by Nov. 30. Photos of the Gingerbread House entries will be judged in each category, awarding a winner and runner-up, with "Best in Show House" voted on by the general public. Winners will receive a gift certificate to Old Sturbridge Village.

Christmas by Candlelight is an evening of traditions, memories, and holiday cheer at Old Sturbridge Village, with families and visi-

tors returning year after year to enjoy the experience. Tickets for the event are on sale now to members at the discounted rate of \$20 for adults and \$10 for youth (ages 4-17). Tickets go on sale to the general public on Nov. 17 at \$22 for adults and \$11 for youth (ages 4-17). Admission is free for children ages three and under.

Tickets must be purchased in advance for the date and time of attendance. Visit <https://www.osv.org/event/christmas-by-candlelight-2020/> for available dates and time blocks, along with current Massachusetts and visitor guidelines around COVID-19.

ABOUT OLD STURBRIDGE VILLAGE

Old Sturbridge Village, first opened to the public in 1946, is one of the country's oldest and largest living history museums, celebrating life in early New England from 1790-1840. It is the largest living history museum in the Northeast. Each year, more than 250,000 visitors interact with costumed historians, experience up-close demonstrations of early American trades, and meet heritage breed farm animals. Situated on 200 scenic acres, the Village is a collection



John Collins Photography

of more than 40 historic buildings — including homes, meetinghouses, trade shops, working farms, restaurants, shops and three water-powered mills.

Located just off the Massachusetts Turnpike and Routes I-84 and 20 in Sturbridge, Mass., Old Sturbridge Village is open year-round, but days and hours vary sea-

sonally. Daily admission is: \$28 for adults, \$26 for seniors, \$14 for College Students, \$14 for children ages 4-17, with children 3 and under admitted free. Up to three kids age 17 and under will be admitted FREE into the village this fall through Nov. 28, when accompanied by a paying adult. Admission includes free parking. Village Members and

Season Pass holders receive free standard daytime admission. For details, visit <https://www.osv.org/plan-your-visit/>.

Old Sturbridge Village is the managing partner of Coggeshall Farm Museum in Bristol, R.I. Members at OSV receive reciprocal membership at Coggeshall Farm Museum.

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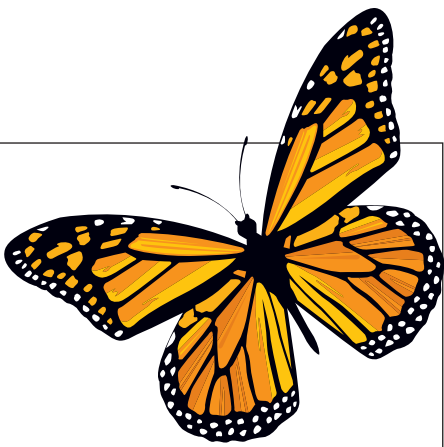
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