

# Charlton Villager

Free by request to residents of Charlton, Charlton City and Charlton Depot

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Thursday, December 15-Friday, December 16, 2022

## Sturbridge officials change confusing road name

BY GUS STEEVES  
CORRESPONDENT

STURBRIDGE — The last vestige of Route 15 exists no longer.

Officially, the highway was discontinued decades ago, when I-84 opened, and most towns along its two-state route stopped recognizing Route 15 as a name soon thereafter. But not Sturbridge, which still formally called the stretch of road from Exit 1 south to the state line “Mashapaug Road/Route 15” until Dec 5.

At that point, the selectmen unanimously voted to formally extend Haynes Street to include that area.

To Town Administrator Robin Grimm, that should help solve a problem brought to her soon after she started her job last spring. A resident told her he was having trouble getting packages at his home. When she and other town officials explored the issue, they quickly found what she described as “havoc” because “GPS takes you 20 different ways to 20 different addresses.”

That’s because Mashapaug Road’s numbers – which most people think of as the eastbound stretch between the Pilot Truck Stop and the Southbridge line – actually also went south to Connecticut on the other side of I-84. House numbers rose in both directions, with everything under 136 being on the Southbridge-bound stretch.

Ironically, the small number of house deeds farther

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Courtesy

## ANNUAL SANTA PET PHOTO SHOOT A SUCCESS!

On Saturday, Dec. 3, the parking lot at the Cornerstone Bank in Charlton was busy with four legged friends, children, and adults, very anxious to have their photo taken with Santa. Friends of Charlton Animal Shelter (FOCAS) has been putting on this annual event for more than 10 years now. Cornerstone Bank in Charlton has sponsored and hosted this great event with them. The lobby was filled with the excitement of Children waiting to see Santa and dogs wagging their tails, some dressed up in holiday outfits, and parents and animal owners all smiles as each took turn for a photo with Santa. There were 34 dogs, and 12 children and a few adults that waited for the opportunity to sit and talk with Santa. For more information on what FOCAS does for the Charlton community go to [www.focascharlton.org](http://www.focascharlton.org).

## Southbridge sets single tax rate, looks at options for helping payers

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Town Council voted unanimously to support a single tax rate for Fiscal 2023, which Assessor Rachael Carney estimated will be \$15.97 per \$1,000.

That’s significantly lower than last year’s \$17.90, but her sample home’s annual bill will still go up from \$3671.29 to \$3919.04. (The average home will pay \$4232.05.) Much of that comes from the fact residential property values have inflated by 19.6 percent in a town where residences make up 81 percent of the tax base.

To some councilors the fact those numbers come from sales and don’t include profits for landlords seemed unfair.

“Why is it, if such a relatively small percentage of the town’s single-family houses sell [126], how come they have such a huge impact on property values for everybody else who has no intention

of selling?” Gus Steeves asked. “That’s not fair to those of us who aren’t going anywhere.”

Mike Marketti added concern that rents in multi-family apartments have “skyrocketed” to as much as \$1900 a month, and that “should be taken into account.” But many two- and three-family buildings are still assessed at “less than my little three-bedroom on Maria Ave.”

Carney agreed, saying, “I was shocked at how much they were getting for [three-families] ... because some are in such poor condition.”

To that and other questions, she noted assessing is based on “mass appraisal,” which includes all sales of a given year (in this case, 2021, and a minimum of five sales in each class) plus any data they can get on income from such properties. She said they get such income data from the commercial complexes, but have

had trouble getting the smaller landlords to provide it despite the fact its required by law, so they’ll start fining violators. It’s “not a perfect system,” she added, noting “we do get it wrong on some properties” because her office may not know the exact conditions of each – for example, if they’ve been damaged, renovated or had additions – if they haven’t visited those homes this year. When mistakes occur, owners

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BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — As the year winds to a close, towns across the commonwealth are looking back at 2022 admitting their successes and assessing where they can continue to improve in the new calendar year. In the town of Charlton, Town Administrator Andrew Golas is proud of the town’s progress in economic development and support of local businesses but sees plenty of room for growth in 2023.

The year 2022 has seen plenty of news from Charlton in terms of economic growth especially

with the groundbreaking for the new Amazon facility on Route 20. Golas specifically pointed to this economic growth and progress on the town’s financial policies as the biggest accomplishments of the year for the town as a whole.

“With the Amazon facility as a centerpiece of development on the Route 20 Corridor, we commissioned a redevelopment vision of what some of the underutilized parcels around the facility could become to further support development in this area. We are hoping to leverage this plan in the coming years as business opportunities continue to

grow,” said Golas. “With the increase in growth, the Town has been able to leverage this to meet its financial policy of holding 10 percent of its operational budget in reserve. This will help strengthen the town’s bonding capacity as we look to address some of the Town’s capital needs in the future. Additionally, from the last year, I am proud of the Small Business and Non-Profit Grant Program that was developed in conjunction with the Economic Development Commission and Board of Selectmen. This program invested American

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## Charlton reflects of year of growth

## Brush It Off Art Studio to celebrate 10 years with ribbon cutting

STURBRIDGE — The Chamber of Central Mass South cordially invites you to attend the 10th Anniversary of Brush It Off along with the Grand Opening of the Brush It Off Pottery Studio. All are welcome to join in on Wednesday, Dec. 21 from 4 to 6 p.m. as studio owner Denise Morgan introduces and welcomes her guests to the “Art Wing and Patio” of the Sturbridge Marketplace at the Falls.

Meet 25-year veteran Master Potter Dave Hebert of Hebee Pottery who teaches Brush It Off’s Pottery classes Monday through Fridays. Dave’s work will be on display, and he will be demonstrating his techniques on the Pottery Wheel at the event. You’ll also have the opportunity to mingle with members of the Brush It Off team who provide loads

of Paint Fun at the studio every Wednesday through Sunday.

“It has been a joyous 10 years working with local budding as well experienced artists!” said Denise. “We sincerely thank you all for your support making it through the pandemic, moving into our new wing of the Old Mill, opening our Paint Splatter Room this past May, and now expanding to offer our community the joy of making your own pottery!”

Brush It Off was just the third Paint and Sip bar in Massachusetts when it opened in 2012 and it keeps expanding. No longer just a Paint and Sip on canvas, Brush It Off now features five rooms of creative fun and offers glassware painting, resin pouring, acrylic pouring, wood pieces,

mixed media, a room for Splatter Painting, and the new Pottery Studio to create your own piece, along

with hundreds of ceramic figurines to paint or

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Courtesy

Fire it up! New pottery classes at Brush it Off are taught by Master Potter Dave Hebert.

## Congratulations, June!

June Simakauskas, Stonebridge Press’ long-time advertising sales representative will be retiring at the end of this month.

June has had a distinguished and successful 16-year career with Stonebridge Press. Publisher Frank Chilinski sings her praises when he says, “June is one of the best sales reps I have ever had the pleasure of working with. We are so happy for her, but will miss her.”

Mikaela Victor, longtime East Brookfield resident, will be taking over June’s advertising accounts. Mikaela can be reached at (774) 200-7308, or [Mikaela@Stonebridgepress.news](mailto:Mikaela@Stonebridgepress.news). Please join us in congratulating both June and Mikaela on their exciting futures!



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# Joshua Hyde Library hosting Deb's Sing n Swing program

STURBRIDGE — Join Deb Hudgins and the JHPL for a fun program on Dec. 29 from 11 to 11:45 a.m.! This interactive Music and Movement Program is perfect for children ages six and under with their caregivers to enjoy together! Deb will play guitar, sing, and incorporate stories, dancing, fingerplays, and more. Registration for this event is required and can be found on our website at sturbridgelibrary.org or by visiting our social media pages @sturbridgelibrary. Additionally, if you have any questions, please feel free to call our front desk at (508)-347-2512. This event is proudly sponsored by the Friends of the JHPL!

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inside

# Gavel raiders!



Courtesy

From left to right, Wor. R.J. Parron member of The Meadows Lodge, Master of Quinebaug Lodge Wor. Bill Bellanger, The Meadows Lodge members, Wor. Daryl Amaral, Wor. Brent Thompson and Wor. Michael Jarzabek

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE  
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER  
QUINEBAUG MASONIC LODGE

SOUTHBRIDGE — On Monday, Dec. 5, the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge had a regular monthly meeting. In attendance were a group of men not seen in our lodge before. These two groups of men from different parts of the state came to our lodge for a fraternal visit. Come to find out these men were from the 28th Masonic District which is in around the Springfield Mass area, and they were on a mission. One group of brethren were from The Meadows Lodge from East Longmeadow and the other group

of men were from Thomas Day Spring Lodge of Monson. Well, these two lodges heard about the Traveling Regalia Gavels that the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge had in possession and wanted to take them to their home lodges.

Other Masonic Lodges from throughout the state may come to a regular monthly meeting to retrieve these Traveling Regalia Gavels. These two lodges heard about Quinebaug Lodge Traveling Gavel adventures and wanted a piece of the action. To collect these gavels and return it to their lodge they must have a minimum of three brothers which must include a

Worshipful Master an officer and a fellow brother. In return the lodge that it was taken from must go to one of their monthly meetings to retrieve it. This is one way how fellow Master Masons meet new brethren. If you would like more information about Freemasonry, go to [www.massfreemasonry.org](http://www.massfreemasonry.org) and



From left to right Master of Quinebaug Lodge Wor. Bill Bellanger, members of Thomas Day Spring Lodge Wor. Dylann Mann, Brother. John Dillon and fellow craft Christopher Gonzalez and Wor. R.J. Parron

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# TRHS Show Choirs present Holiday Hoedown this weekend

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

STURBRIDGE — The Tantasqua Regional High School Show Choirs are excited to present their seventh annual holiday event this weekend.

The school's "Holiday Hoedown" productions will take place at TRHS on Saturday, Dec. 17, at 2 and 7 p.m. A third show is set for Sunday, Dec. 18, at 2 p.m.

General admission is \$15 per person. Students will pay \$12, and admission is free for kids ages five and under.

Admission includes an afternoon or evening of musical performances featuring Show Choir students in grades 7-12. Guests are invited to check out a winter wonderland at the TRHS cafeteria. Hot cocoa and

other refreshments will be made available afterward, and the event will also include pictures with Santa.

Additionally, guests will have an opportunity to enjoy cookies at the school or bring them home.

Students are looking forward to the events after working hard to prepare for them. The community is invited to join in the celebration of the season.

"This is going to be my fourth year doing the holiday show at Tantasqua, and I am beyond excited to share my holiday joy with my community and school," said TRHS junior Emma Lord. "The best part is decorating the entire cafeteria, and this year we are adding hay bells. I love how happy the audience is when we

perform, and I can tell they are getting into the holiday spirit."

Students are especially excited for this year's production, which will be free of the pandemic restrictions that made socializing difficult in recent years.

"I'm super excited to have the first normal and unmasked holiday show since the pandemic started," said junior Brooke Fitzgerald. "It's very fun for all of us, and we look forward to performing it every year. On behalf of all of Tantasqua Show Choir, we're all so excited for you to come and see our show of holiday cheer."

Tickets for the event will be available at the door.

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### WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS JOB DESCRIPTION

#### Cafeteria Worker/Server: SUBSTITUE POSTION All Schools

**RESPONSIBILITIES:**

All duties pertaining to the preparation and serving of food and cleaning of kitchen equipment and facility. Duties include interaction with students, and food service adhering to food safety practices.

This position entails all duties to the preparation of meals and food service. Substitutes are required to perform work related duties as instructed, and follow food safety and school nutrition service guidelines. This is a physically demanding position requiring frequent lifting, carrying, and walking with significant standing required per shift.

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

- School Nutrition, Culinary and/or Food Service experience preferred
- Ability to multi-task and work under pressure, and ability to work well with others
- Understanding of National School Lunch Program requirements preferred
- Working knowledge of food preparation methods, food safety and procurement
- Physically demanding position requiring frequent lifting, carrying, and walking with significant standing required per shift; must be able to lift/carry 50 lbs and push/pull/transport food carts, food items including boxes, and food bags
- Must agree to CORI check and fingerprinting (at employee's expense) prior to start date

This position is for an as needed cafeteria substitute alternative. There are no set hours, however help is often needed and utilized from fill in subs.

If interested, please contact Kelsey Sanders by phone at (508) 943-0104 ex: 40016 or by email at [ksanders@webster-schools.org](mailto:ksanders@webster-schools.org).

## Friday's Child



J'Quan  
Age 10

Hi! My name is J'Quan and I am very caring!

J'Quan is an active young child of African American descent. J'Quan describes himself as humorous, kind, and fun to be around. He is a very affectionate child and enjoys showing his love to those he cares about. J'Quan's favorite activities are playing with his Legos, riding his bike, and playing outside. He is currently in the third grade and is receiving support in school to help him do his best.

Legally freed for adoption, J'Quan would thrive in an attentive, supportive family with one or two parents. A family for J'Quan will need to support the relationship that J'Quan has with his sister. A family should also be able to maintain contact with members of J'Quan's birth family. J'Quan would also benefit from a

visiting resource.

<https://www.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/7705>

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The process to adopt a child from foster care includes training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you. These steps will help match you with a child or sibling group that your family will fit well with.

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



### WEBSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS Park Ave Elementary: Assistant Cook

**RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES:**

All duties pertaining to the preparation and serving of food, as well as cleaning of kitchen equipment and facility. Position includes general procedures of food prep and cooking duties.

Vital components of the position include following health and food safety standards and maintains proper temperature control of food, food service, cleaning duties, and other work related duties as instructed. Employees maintain a positive, cooperative and productive working relationship with staff, students and teachers through the use of patience, courtesy and tactful communication.

This is a physically demanding position requiring frequent lifting, carrying, and walking with significant standing required on shift. Food service experience and ServSafe certification preferred

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Must enjoy interacting with students in a food service environment
- Must be willing to learn and practice food safety and school nutrition service requirements
- School Nutrition, Culinary and/or Food Service experience preferred
- Working knowledge of food preparation methods, food safety and procurement
- Ability to multi-task and work under pressure
- Physically demanding position requiring frequent lifting, carrying, and walking with significant standing required per shift; must be able to lift/carry 50 lbs and push/pull/transport food carts, food items including boxes, and food bags
- Must have availability and reliable transportation to attend work hours outlined for position
- Must agree to CORI check and fingerprinting (at employee's expense) prior to start date

If interested, please contact Kelsey Sanders by phone at (508) 943-0104 ex: 40016 or by email at [ksanders@webster-schools.org](mailto:ksanders@webster-schools.org).

# Dudley resident, longtime OSV interpreter battling Parkinson's

DUDLEY — If you've been to Sturbridge Village, then you've probably encountered Victor "Vic" Gregoire tending oxen or telling tales of the past. As an employee, he remembers fondly his time in the village.

One of Gregoire's first jobs was to tend to the oxen and make sure they were housed back in their pen.

"I shut the massive animal in his pen with a ginormous log making sure it was secure before I went on my lunch break. After I came back the ox was staring at me from across the common-far from its home," Gregoire said.

Gregoire loves sharing his stories of working at the Old Sturbridge Village. Showing his sense of humor, Gregoire had no idea of how to herd the massive animal back to its pen. He got a few other workers to help him corner it

back to the animal's proper home. Also, during Gregoire's time at Old Sturbridge Village, he met great friends like Peter Oakley who plays the mandolin as well as the flute and works in the famous tin shop to this day.

Gregoire met the love of his life Claire, at Rectory School in Pomfret, Connecticut during a play they acted in together. While they were both aspiring professional actors Gregoire was able to become a member of the Screen Actors Guild and act in a movie. One of Gregoire's great accomplishments was being employed as an extra in "Fever Pitch" starring Jimmy Fallon and Drew Barrymore.

These last years, Gregoire is courageously battling Parkinson's disease. Recently the disease progressed, putting Gregoire and his wife, Claire, out of work. Claire is a cancer survivor,

former substitute teacher, and now a full-time caregiver to her husband.

Knowing the family my whole life and their genuine kind hearts taught me there are wonderful people in this world. They go above and beyond to care for their friends and family and provide a loving home for the most difficult-to-place shelter animals by adopting dogs and cats who are disabled or have special needs.

Gregoire has meant so much to so many people. He is a loyal husband and friend, an interpreter at Old Sturbridge Village, a President of the tabletop game group Battle Group Boston, a social worker at the Boylston Department of Corrections, a substance abuse counselor at Bridgewater State Hospital, and a Michael J. Fox Foundation Ambassador for Parkinson's research.

As a member of Battle Group Boston, Gregoire found a way to spread his hobby to countless other tabletop gamers of all ages. Every weekend Gregoire used to create and write up battles from various wars to emulate history right on his gaming table at home. He created a vast collection of hand painted miniature figures. Some of the most famous battles included D-Day - World War II, Bunker Hill - Revolutionary War, Battle of Gettysburg - Civil War, and even the Siege of Saigon Vietnam War. Gregoire was in close connection to James Machin, a fellow games master at Battle Group Boston.

Let's find it in our hearts to help them as they have always helped others. With a progressed form of Parkinson's, the family has fallen into financial hardship. Consider donating to their GoFundMe page.

# Megan Meisenheimer inducted into Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

BATON ROUGE, La. — Megan Meisenheimer of Charlton was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. Meisenheimer was initiated at MCPHS University.

Meisenheimer is among approximately 25,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of

the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Urann who had a desire to create a different kind of honor society: one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines. Today, the Society has chapters on more than 325 campuses in the United States, its territories and the Philippines. Its mission is "To recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and to engage the community of scholars in service to others."

### More About Phi Kappa Phi

Since its founding, more than 1.5 million members have been initiated into Phi Kappa Phi. Some of the organization's notable members include former President Jimmy Carter, NASA astronaut Wendy Lawrence, novelist John Grisham and YouTube co-founder Chad Hurley. Each year, Phi Kappa Phi awards \$1.3 million to outstanding students and members through graduate and dissertation fellowships, undergraduate study abroad grants, funding for post-baccalaureate development, and grants for local, national and international literacy initiatives. For more information about Phi Kappa Phi, visit [www.phikappaphi.org](http://www.phikappaphi.org).

## REAL ESTATE

### BRIMFIELD

\$137,000, 31 Knollwood Rd, Sorenson, Shawn, and US Bank NA Tr; to US Bank NA Tr.  
\$110,000, Champeaux Rd #B, Reed, Kristen, and Reed, Shane T, to Pope, Jonathan A, and Jaegle-Pope, Nicole A.

### CHARLTON

\$570,900, 20 Timber Valley Dr, T Reardon Builders Inc, to Ibrahim, Kristeen, and Kaleni, Mena.  
\$410,000, 60 City Depot Rd #301, J Jill Development LLC, to Addy, Emelia J.

### HOLLAND

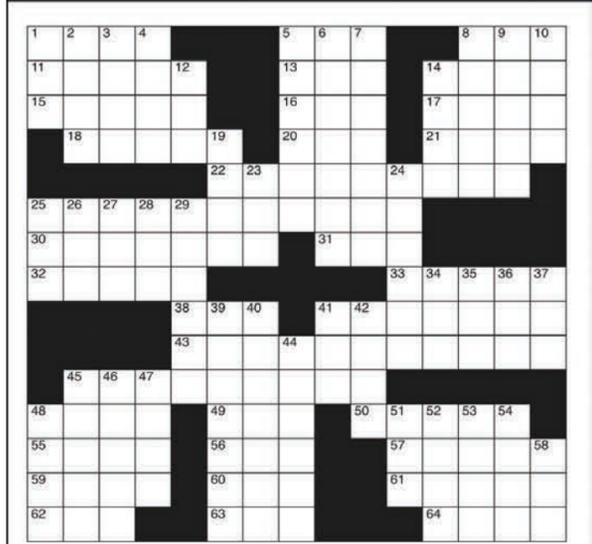
\$240,000, 99 Leno Rd, Sobieski, Richard R, to Brusio, Brittany.

### SOUTHBRIDGE

\$350,000, 27 Judith Ave, Rodriguez, Magaly, and Rodriguez, Angelo, to Hernandez, Rudy, and Iglesias, Marcia H.  
\$328,264, 215 Hamilton St, King Sr, Alan D, and Lakeview Loan Servicing, to Lakeview Loan Servicing.  
\$325,000, 22 Lebanon Hill Rd, Waple, James J, and Waple, Christine L, to Mayo, Gale.  
\$325,000, 679 South St, MC Renovations LLC, to Porchelli, Austin, and Scheer, Sabrina R.  
\$121,000, 107 Riverview Pl #D, Kelley, Rachel, to Ousayah, Annar.

### STURBRIDGE

\$678,000, 9 Woodside Cir, Distefano, Joseph A, and Distefano, Karen R, to Branniff, Matthew D, and Carty, Jillian B.  
\$342,500, 36 Cricket Dr, Fagerquist Linda Est, and Fagerquist, Lauri, to Ionkina, Irina, and Boisclair, Joshua.  
\$261,000, 72 Route 15, Angell, Daniel R, and Lakeview Loan Servicing, to Lakeview Loan Servicing.

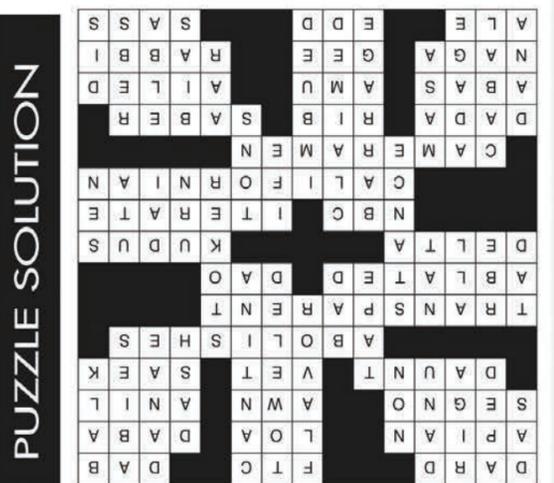


### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. A people of Eastern Afghanistan
- 5. Supervises interstate commerce
- 8. Touch lightly
- 11. Relating to bees
- 13. Mauna \_\_, Hawaiian volcano
- 14. Mosuo culture religion
- 15. Italian village
- 16. Stiff bristle
- 17. Wealthy enclave in Rio
- 18. Cause to lose courage
- 20. Examines animals
- 21. Ethnic group of Laos and Thailand
- 22. Gets rid of
- 25. Having easily perceived thoughts
- 30. Removed surgically
- 31. Principle underlying the universe
- 32. Popular airline
- 33. Antelopes
- 38. Peacock network
- 41. Utter repeatedly
- 43. One from the Golden State
- 45. Photographers
- 48. Father
- 49. Popular BBQ dish
- 50. Cavalry sword
- 55. Ancient Greek sophist
- 56. Atomic mass unit
- 57. Afflicted in mind or body
- 59. Indian mythological figure
- 60. Mild expression of surprise
- 61. Jewish spiritual leader
- 62. Brew
- 63. Doctor of Education
- 64. Impudence

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. State attorneys
- 2. Imitated
- 3. Latvian capital
- 4. Irish goddess
- 5. Taste
- 6. Dried
- 7. Spanish saloon
- 8. Mother of Perseus
- 9. Evergreen coniferous trees
- 10. Refuse to comply
- 12. Negative
- 14. Hyphen
- 19. A way to record
- 23. Not good
- 24. One who tends the furnace
- 25. Small amount
- 26. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- 27. The whole quantity
- 28. \_\_ King Cole, musician
- 29. One's opinion
- 34. Holds ashes
- 35. Stablecoin cryptocurrency
- 36. Side-blotched lizards genus
- 37. Legislator (abbr.)
- 39. Concentrated bombardment
- 40. Took for oneself
- 41. Nigerian City
- 42. Thousands of pounds
- 44. Inspired
- 45. Secret clique
- 46. Expression
- 47. Dough made from corn flour
- 48. Comedian Carvey
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Prejudice
- 53. Actor Idris
- 54. Resistance fighters
- 58. Criticize



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Friday: 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

### JACOB EDWARDS PUBLIC LIBRARY

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Thursday: 9 a.m.-8 p.m.  
Friday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (May 25 will be our last open Saturday until Labor Day) Sunday: Closed

### CHARLTON TOWN HALL (508) 248-2200

Office Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays ..... 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Tuesdays ..... 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Friday ..... Closed visit [www.townofcharlton.net](http://www.townofcharlton.net) or more information.

Individual offices may vary  
**PUBLIC LIBRARY (248-0452)**  
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**POLICE DEPARTMENT (248-2250)**  
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Heritage School ..... (508) 248-4884  
Charlton Middle School..... (508) 248-1423  
Shepherd Hill Regional High School ..... (508) 943-6700  
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Weekdays: 9:00 - 4:30 and Sat. 9:00 -12:00

**WALES: 413-245-9808**  
Weekdays 8:30 - 12:30 and 2:00 - 4:30 and Sat. 9:00 - 12:00

## CHURCH LISTINGS

- Charlton Federated Church, 64 Main St., 248-5550, Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. [www.fedchurchcharlton.org](http://www.fedchurchcharlton.org)
- Charlton Baptist Church, 50 Hammond Hill Road, 248-4488, [www.charltonbaptist.org](http://www.charltonbaptist.org), Sunday worship 10 a.m.
- Charlton City United Methodist, 74 Stafford St. 248-7379, web site: [CharltonCityUMC.org](http://CharltonCityUMC.org) Sunday worship and Children's church 10am
- St. Joseph's Church, 10 H. Putnam Ext, 248-7862, [www.stjosephscharlton.com](http://www.stjosephscharlton.com), Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 p.m., Sunday Mass 8 a.m., Sunday Family Mass 10 a.m., Sunday Life/TEEN Mass 5 p.m., Weekday Mass Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30 a.m.
- Hope Christian Fellowship, 6 Haggerty Road, 248-5144
- Assemblies of God Southern New England District Headquarters, Route 20, 248-3771, [snedag.org](http://snedag.org), Office hours Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Living Word Church of Charlton, 10 Main Street - Grange building 1st Floor, Charlton, MA 01507, Pastor Craig Bellisario, (508) 233-8349 Sunday Service 10:00am. [www.livingwordcharlton.com](http://www.livingwordcharlton.com) [info@livingwordcharlton.com](mailto:info@livingwordcharlton.com)
- New Life Fellowship A/G, SNED Chapel, 307 Sturbridge Road, Rt. 20, Charlton, MA, Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
- Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale- 8 Maple St. Sturbridge, 774-304-1021 [www.sturfed.org](http://www.sturfed.org) Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
- Bethlehem Lutheran Church- 345 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566 Phone 508-347-7297 Web: [www.bethlehemsturbridge.org](http://www.bethlehemsturbridge.org) Services - Sunday 9:30 am Pastor Dan Purtell

# Trinity Catholic Academy embraces the spirit of giving



SOUTHBRIDGE — Trinity Catholic Academy has been busy during this season of GIVING. The Pre-K class recently hosted the annual Thanksgiving Prayer Service and collected food donations for the St. John Paul II Food Pantry. Also planned for December is a Toy Drive and a collection for Coats for Kids. The school community hopes to make a difference for local families in need.

Fr. Carlos Ardila, Associate Pastor of St. John Paul II Parish, reminded students and staff to be grateful for their many blessings.

Students posted leaves with what they are thankful for on a beautiful fall tree.

On Dec. 1, TCA Student Council set up their "Hearts for Hope" Christmas tree for the Festival of Giving Trees at LaSalle Reception Center. Later that evening the Trinity Choir performed at Notre Dame. Their beautiful voices helped everyone get into the Christmas Spirit.

## UMHH welcomes new primary care physician

STURBRIDGE — UMass Memorial Health – Harrington (UMHH) has welcomed Elias Belezos, MD to its Primary Care practice located at 198 Charlton Rd. in Sturbridge. To schedule an appointment, call 508-765-3145.

Dr. Belezos has been Board-certified in Internal Medicine for more than 25 years. He has extensive experience in both adult primary care as well as hospice and palliative care, and also has a particular interest in diabetes management and sports medicine.

Prior to this most recent role, Dr. Belezos served as a primary care physician at Grove Medical Associates in Auburn. He has also served as part of the

UMass Memorial Health medical care team in various positions in the past, including as a primary care provider early in his career, and later as director of the UMHH Hospitalist Program.

Dr. Belezos has also previously run his own private primary care practice in Southbridge, Massachusetts and served as medical director for various hospice organizations, as well as a medical consultant for the Boston Red Sox. He earned his medical degree from the University of Massachusetts Medical School in 1992 and completed a residency in Internal Medicine at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, MA in 1995.

UMHH Internal Medicine providers take

pride in providing comprehensive primary care to adults through their senior years, seeing their patients in the primary care office setting as well as in the hospital and even in nursing homes, coordinating care with other healthcare professionals as needed. In addition to the Sturbridge location, UMHH Internal Medicine providers are also available at primary care practices located in Southbridge, Spencer, Webster, and Brimfield. For more information, visit harringtonhospital.org.

UMass Memorial Health – Harrington provides outstanding health care to patients in more than 25 communities throughout south central Massachusetts and northeastern Connecticut. We

are dedicated to our role as the health and wellness partner of the people in our communities and we are relentless in the pursuit of healing. Our comprehensive array of health care services and locations provides our patients with unparalleled access to care. Harrington Hospital in Southbridge provides medical and surgical inpatient care, 24-hour emergency services, inpatient adult psychiatry, an intensive care unit and comprehensive outpatient services. Harrington Hospital at Webster, Harrington at Charlton, Harrington at 169 and Harrington at Sturbridge offer primary care and specialty physicians, diagnostic imaging and more. Harrington Physician Services is our primary care and

multi-specialty physician group, UrgentCare Express at Harrington in Oxford serves as a walk-in medical center for non-life-threatening illnesses and injuries, and the Cancer

Center at Harrington in Southbridge allows patients to receive advanced, local oncological and hematology care. Visit [www.ummhealth.org/harrington](http://www.ummhealth.org/harrington).

## Joshua Hyde Library announces final Winter Story Time of 2022

STURBRIDGE — Join us at the Joshua Hyde Library on Tuesday, Dec. 13, and Friday, Dec. 16 for our final Winter Story Times of 2022!

Children will listen to stories and participate in songs, rhymes, and crafts. There's no registration fee for this event! Just drop by anytime from 10:45 to 11:30 a.m. Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times. This program will continue on Tuesday, Jan. 10. More information can be found on our website at [sturbridgelibrary.org](http://sturbridgelibrary.org) or by visiting our social media pages @sturbridgelibrary. Additionally, if you have any questions, please feel free to call our front desk at (508)-347-2512.

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# Hailey Demers inducted into Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

BATON ROUGE, La. — Hailey Demers of Southbridge was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. Demers was initiated at MCPHS University.

Demers is among approximately 25,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees

may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Urann who had a desire to create a different kind of honor society; one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines. Today, the Society has chapters on more than 325 campuses in the United States, its territories and the Philippines. Its mission is "To recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and to engage the community of scholars in service to others."

More About Phi Kappa Phi

Since its founding, more than 1.5 million members have been initiated into Phi Kappa Phi. Some of the organization's notable members include former President Jimmy Carter; NASA astronaut Wendy Lawrence, novelist John Grisham and YouTube co-founder Chad Hurley. Each year, Phi Kappa Phi awards \$1.3 million to outstanding students and members through graduate and dissertation fellowships, undergraduate study abroad grants, funding for post-baccalaureate development, and grants for local, national and international literacy initiatives. For more information about Phi Kappa Phi, visit [www.phikappaphi.org](http://www.phikappaphi.org).

# Winter lectures return at Norcross Wildlife Foundation

WALES — The Norcross Wildlife Foundation is pleased to announce the return of its winter lectures after a two-year break necessitated by the pandemic. We are also pleased that our programs will now be held in our upstairs public program room, accessible at grade from the main parking lot. Programs begin at 1 p.m. Programs will be held in the Norcross Wildlife Foundation program room at 30 Peck Rd., Wales.

Registration is required and space is limited. Please call 413-245-1353 or e-mail [info@norcross-wildlife.org](mailto:info@norcross-wildlife.org)

Jan. 21, 1 p.m.  
Reptiles & Amphibians of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts supports a notable richness of reptiles and amphibians

a species for a relatively small and northern state. Nearly 50 spectacular and interesting species are found from the salt marshes of Cap Cod and Buzzards Bay to the calcareous fens of Berkshire County. In this 1-hr presentation, Mike Jones, State Herpetologist with the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife will discuss a representative selection of native species, including case studies, and a new effort to map species distributions and important habitats.

Feb. 11, 1 p.m.  
Massachusetts Forest Update  
Join the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Forest Health Specialist, Felicia Hubacz, as she discusses the state's major forest health issues in 2022.

Learn to identify current and future threats to our forest and how DCR Forest Health Program monitors and manages them.

March 4, 1 p.m.  
Birds Of Prey  
Join Tom Ricardi for a close encounter with live birds of prey. Tom is the owner of the Birds of Prey Rehabilitation Center in Conway Massachusetts and cares for injured falcons, owls, eagles, and other raptors, rescuing between 125-150 birds a year. Retired from a 38-year career with the Massachusetts Environmental Police, Tom has had an interest in birds since he was a child and is considered the most knowledgeable resource for injured raptors in Western Massachusetts.

# Sheriff's Office warns of uptick in scam calls using Sheriff's name & number

REGION — Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis is warning residents about a recent phone scam in which the caller claims that they're a Sheriff's Office employee and tells victims that they have an arrest warrant in their name or the name of a loved one. To avoid going to jail, the caller tells the individual that they need to pay a fine. Other popular phone scams involve claims of missed jury duty that also results in fines.

The Sheriff's Office has now received numerous reports of phone scams. In some cases, the scammer identifies himself as an Officer of the Worcester County Sheriff's Office and then asks for money to clear up a warrant. In some instances, the caller requests that payments be made in the form of gift certificates. The caller will then have the victim remain on the line the entire time until the victim purchases the gift

certificates and relays specific financial information from the gift certificate to the caller.

The Worcester County Sheriff's Office encourages people to be aware of calls like this and to never give personal or financial information over the phone to anyone whom you didn't call yourself.

"Our department does not contact residents and demand payment or ask for

credit card information. Today's scam artists are always testing new tactics. Residents need to beware of any unsolicited calls that ask for their personal or financial information," commented Evangelidis. "These callers can sound convincing, may be aggressive, and try to intimidate you with threats of jail time or steep fines. We encourage anyone who gets a suspicious call to hang up and contact their associated institutions directly to verify any requests."

# LEGALS

## NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Kathleen Lynch to Affordable Home Funding, dated April 22, 2008 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 42928, Page 326, as modified by a certain modification agreement dated February 1, 2016, and recorded with said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 54867, Page 206, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:

Affordable Home Funding to JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., recorded on June 5, 2008, in Book No. 42928, at Page 342

JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. to Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC, recorded on April 14, 2017, in Book No. 56983, at Page 4

Community Loan Servicing, LLC f/k/a Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC to Nationstar Mortgage LLC, recorded on June 30, 2022, in Book No. 67836, at Page 124

for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 9:00 AM on December 30, 2022, on the mortgaged premises located at 1 Hartwell Street, Southbridge, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT:

THE LAND WITH THE BUILDINGS THEREON SITUATED ON THE SOUTHERLY SIDE OF HARTWELL STREET IN SOUTHBRIDGE, WORCESTER COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS, BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT THE NORTHEASTERLY CORNER THEREOF AT A DRILL HOLE IN THE SIDEWALK AT THE JUNCTION OF THE SOUTHERLY LINE OF HARTWELL STREET AND THE WESTERLY LINE OF EASTFORD ROAD, FORMERLY ELM STREET; THENCE S. 42° 20' W. BY THE WESTERLY LINE OF EASTFORD ROAD, FORMERLY ELM STREET, 14.54 FEET TO A STAKE AT LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF ONE LIBUDA; THENCE N. 87° 55' W. BY LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF SAID LIBUDA, 107.82 FEET TO AN IRON PIN AT LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF VICTOR SALVIUOLO; THENCE N. 22° 45' E. BY LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF VICTOR SALVIUOLO, 44.16 FEET TO A DRILL HOLE ON THE SOUTHERLY LINE OF HARTWELL STREET; THENCE S. 71° 15' E. BY THE WESTERLY LINE OF HARTWELL STREET, 106 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

For mortgagor's(s)' title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 13647, Page 383.

These premises will be sold and con-

veyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE, LLC  
Present holder of said mortgage  
By its Attorneys,  
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.  
150 California St.  
Newton, MA 02458  
(617)558-0500  
20794  
December 8, 2022  
December 15, 2022  
December 22, 2022

**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. W022C0575CA**  
**CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME**  
**In the matter of:**  
**Theresa Phyllis Duke**  
**A Petition to Change Name of Adult**  
has been filed by **Theresa Phyllis Duke of Charlton MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:  
**Theresa Phyllis Gosselin**

**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 01/03/2023. 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. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.**  
Date: November 19, 2022  
Stephanie K. Fattman  
Register of Probate  
December 15, 2022

**Town of Brimfield**  
**Public Hearing Notice**  
In accordance with the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Brimfield Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on Wednesday December 28, 2022 at 7:00 PM to review a Notice of Intent submitted by Michael Schaffer from Huntly Associates, PC, c/o Adam & Heather Blais. The Notice of Intent is requesting to replace an existing culvert under an existing access/driveway and upgrading the existing driveway with asphalt pavement. All disturbance associated with the project as proposed is located within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to a Bordering Vegetated Wetland.  
Project Location: Haynes Hill Road, Brimfield, MA (Assessor's Map 18-B4)  
Meeting Location: Public Participation will be In-Person at the Hitchcock Academy at 2 Brookfield Road in Brimfield, MA 01010 at 7:00 PM.  
Any person(s) interested or wishing to be heard on this request should appear at the time and place designated. A copy of the permit application and plan may be inspected at the Brimfield Town Annex in the Conservation Commission Office, Salisbury Annex Building, 2nd Floor, 23 Main Street, Brimfield, MA 01010 or contact the office at 413-245-4100 ext. 1101.  
Roger deBruyn & Joseph Venezia  
Co-Chairs  
11/29/2022  
December 15, 2022

**(SEAL)**  
**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**  
**LAND COURT**  
**DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT**  
**Docket No. 22 SM 003677**  
**ORDER OF NOTICE**  
To:  
Janai N. Louyakis; Benjamin Guimont and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):  
Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Southbridge, numbered 61 Idlewood Street, given by Janai N. Louyakis, Benjamin Guimont to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation, dated March 23, 2022, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 67316, Page 20, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' 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 January 16, 2023 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 December 2, 2022.  
Attest: Deborah J. Patterson, Recorder  
December 15, 2022

**(SEAL)**  
**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**  
**LAND COURT**  
**DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT**  
**Docket No. 22 SM 002753**  
**ORDER OF NOTICE**  
TO:  
**Joseph M. Sena**  
**Rebecca J. Racine**  
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (et seq)  
**Wilmington Trust, National Association, as Successor Trustee to Citibank, N.A., as Trustee for First Franklin Mortgage Loan Trust, Mortgage Loan Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2005-FF12** claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Sturbridge, numbered 345 New Boston Road, given by **Joseph M. Sena and Rebecca J. Racine to First Franklin A Division of Nat. City Bank of IN**, dated September 23, 2005, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 37385, Page 365, and now held by Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' 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 01/09/2023 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 11/22/2022  
Attest: Deborah J. Patterson, Recorder  
December 15, 2022



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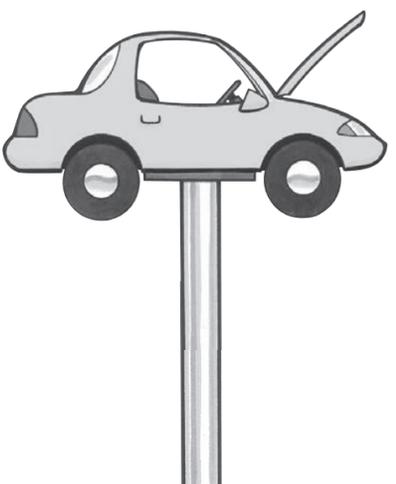
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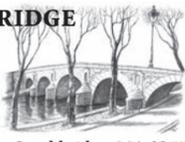


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# OPINION

## Latest auction, antiques, and collectibles news

## Time for tax-loss harvesting?

## Asking the right questions

It's holiday party season, and for most of us, that is a good thing. We get together with friends and family, enjoy some eggnog and a plethora of our favorite appetizers. However, we do know that often, we are invited by our significant others to attend a work soiree, or we are attending one ourselves. Being in a room where you only know one or a few people could seem like a daunting task for our introverted readers, but have no fear, below we have ways for you to have memorable conversations that you may end up enjoying.

Instead of discussing the weather or asking the mundane questions such as "Where are you from?" why not simply ask, "What's your story?" Other conversation starters include, "How do you know the host?" "What was the highlight of your week?" or "Are you working on anything exciting?"

If you're shy or feeling a bit awkward, you can keep the conversation going by talking about the food being served or the venue where the event is taking place. Asking a person what they have tried so far, and how they liked it is an easy conversation starter. If you research the history of a place, you can always begin with the "Did you know?" questions. We know everyone loves a good history story and bits of local trivia.

If the person you are speaking with is from the area, ask them what they do for entertainment in town, including where and what their favorite restaurants are. Looking up recent sports standings is never a bad idea, even if you don't particularly care for sports. This way when you nod and smile, you can have some confidence in knowing that you are at least somewhat in the loop. If you've bumped into a fellow skier, discussing snow conditions and ski hills is an easy topic. Look up a recent odd news story that is interesting and humorous, that way during a lull, you can say, "So I was reading about a man who appeared before a Dutch court and requested that he legally be made 20 years younger." (Yes, that actually happened. If we see you at a holiday bash we will fill you in.)

Most conversations remain on the surface, which is appropriate when you don't really know someone. However, if you feel comfortable and are enjoying the conversation don't be afraid to go a bit bolder. Generally, most people like to talk about themselves, not necessarily for selfish reasons, but who doesn't want to be known and appreciated? We all have unique personalities that are worth sharing.

Such questions that go beneath the surface may include, "What is your biggest fear?" "When you were growing up, what was your dream job?" "Have you been to any interesting places lately?" "Have you learned anything this week, that you weren't aware of last week?"

The easiest thing to do while in conversation this month is to ask how a person celebrates the holidays. Asking about traditions and the best holiday a person has ever had brings up fond memories and positive energy.

These questions tend to snowball naturally, and before you know it, a solid, meaningful conversation has been had, and you could even make a new comrade along the way.

### Letter submission policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author's name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author's name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted.

It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.

There has been a lot of auction news since my last column, beginning with the sale of a dinosaur skull. The New York Times reported that the skull was discovered on private land in a section of Northwestern South Dakota known to contain large amounts of fossils. The fossil was reported to still have 30 of the 39 original bones. There were high expectations for the skull nicknamed "Maximus." A *Deinonychus* skeleton for \$12.4 million and a *Gorgosaurus* skeleton brought \$6.1 million earlier this year. It had an auction estimate of \$15 to \$20 million but sold for only \$6.1 million.

There was also some post-dinosaur animal auction news. A Charles Darwin manuscript on natural selection recently broke a record for a Darwin document, according to Yahoo News. The document was described as Darwin's "definitive statement on natural selection and his legacy". The English scientist theorized that all living creatures developed from a common ancestor through natural selection. After his death in 1882, natural selection was widely accepted as a key part of evolution by scientists. The previous record for a Darwin document was a little over \$400,000. This manuscript sold for \$882,000.

If you want to soar like the King of Rock and Roll did, you'll soon have the opportunity to buy his jet. The Smithsonian Magazine reported that Elvis Presley's 1976 JetStar plane will soon be auctioned. The top of the line was "decked out with custom red velvet upholstery, gold-finish hardware, a microwave, a VCR player, a cassette player and other lavish amenities", according to the Smithsonian. The jet is in poor condition after sitting at the Roswell Air Center in Roswell, New Mexico and mechanics removed the engines and many other components. The auction house hasn't estimated the value but believes that there will be plenty of interest from Elvis fans wanting to own a piece of his legacy.



We also have our own baseball auction news to report. Our November sports cards and memorabilia auction brought some great results. We sold a collection of T206 (1909-1911) baseball cards in that auction. They were manufactured by the Carolina Brights Tobacco Company. A limited amount of these cards were produced for Carolina Brights and the cards are quite scarce. A Tris Speaker card graded at a 3.5 out of 10 sold for over \$30,000 and a 1.5 Fair condition Ty Cobb card sold for over \$50,000. We were pleased to see so many bidders step up to the plate for this great collection.

It was nice meeting the readers of this column who came to the Rotman auction of local memorabilia. We will also have a large auction of art, historical memorabilia and other antiques and collectibles online auction beginning later this month. Please visit our website <https://centralmassauctions.com> for links to upcoming events.

Please contact us at [www.centralmassauctions.com](http://www.centralmassauctions.com) (508-612-6111) [info@centralmassauctions.com](mailto:info@centralmassauctions.com) for antiques and collectibles auction services.



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES  
 WAYNE TUISKULA

## Bettering ourselves requires sacrifice

Everybody enjoys talking about being better because talking about it is easier than doing it.

To truly become better, we must be willing to sacrifice. The person you want to become will only come into existence once you sacrifice the person you no longer wish to be.

One definition says that "sacrifice" means "the surrender or destruction of something prized or desirable for the sake of something considered as having a higher or more pressing claim."

Throughout my life, I've always struggled with my weight. I've tried almost every diet, and I'm happy to say that they all work. I've tried low-carb, low-fat, low-sugar, fasting, juicing, vegan, vegetarian, fruitarian, all-beef diet, intermittent fasting, and calorie counting. I lost weight while trying all of these plans.

Although they've all worked for me, they only worked in the short term. They didn't work long-term because, eventually, I no longer wanted to abstain from certain foods that violated the tenets of the plan I was desperately trying to adhere to. In short, I stopped making the necessary sacrifices.

No matter what, my cravings for bad food eventually got the best of me.

Once I opened the floodgates, there was no stopping the torrent of bad food decisions that followed after.

When I was doing the low-fat plan, I eventually rolled through a KFC, got a bucket, and never looked back. When I was on the low-carb method, I soon discovered I had a new addiction to raw cookie dough that wouldn't go away. When I was counting calories, one day, I just wanted to eat as much as possible and not know if I went past my calorie count; then, I just kept doing it.

I'm not here to endorse one weight loss plan over another, and I'm not here to give health advice. I am here to point out the commonality behind all of these plans.

The one thing that all of these plans have in common is they all require varying degrees of sacrifice. For most of us, if we're going to lose weight, we have to make sacrifices.

If you are on a low-carb diet, you'll have to sacrifice the bread, the sugars, and all the delicious starchy-fried things.

If you're on a low-fat diet, you'll have to sacrifice fast food and embrace a life of celery and cauliflower. Mmmmm!

If you're going to lose weight by being vegan, you'll have to sacrifice all animal-made products and learn to enjoy some avocado toast instead.

If you want results, you have to sacrifice. How are you going to lose weight without feeling hungry some of the time?

I've heard of diet plans where being hungry isn't a part of the deal, but most of us who've gone

on diets would agree there is no such thing as losing weight without feeling hungry at least some of the time.

Even when the plan allows me to gorge on bacon and ribeyes all day, I eventually feel like there's a hole in my stomach that not even bacon can fill. Does change always require sacrifice? What about accomplishing your dreams? Can you achieve them without sacrifice? What will you have to sacrifice if you want to build a business but also work a full-time job? Want a promotion at work? Would you like a better relationship with your family? What will you have to sacrifice? Are you thinking of starting a family? What will you have to sacrifice? What will you sacrifice to get rid of your debt, addiction, and negative thought patterns? Many have sacrificed their own lives to change the world. Although the modern world has produced products that can make sacrificing easier, there is still no magic pill you can take that gives you a perfect life without sacrificing anything.

How great a sacrifice must you make? I'll leave you with a quote by a pioneer in the self-help movement James Allen, "He who would accomplish little must sacrifice little; he who would achieve much must sacrifice much; he who would attain highly must sacrifice greatly."

FINANCIAL FOCUS



TREVOR NIELSEN

For a variety of reasons, such as higher interest rates, rising inflation and supply chain issues, the financial markets were volatile in 2022 — and this volatility probably showed up in your investment statements. Yet, while you may have been less than happy about your investment returns this year, the volatility and depressed prices may offer you some opportunities at tax time.

Specifically, you may be able to take advantage of tax-loss harvesting. Using this strategy, you sell securities at a loss to offset capital gains, which you may have if you've held some investments for years and they've greatly appreciated in value. And if your total losses exceed your gains, you could offset up to \$3,000 of ordinary income per year and carry over the rest to future tax years.

Tax-loss harvesting isn't just a tax issue — it also can be part of your investment strategy. What investments should you sell to take the capital gains? Which ones should be sold to take the losses?

To answer these questions, consider a few different factors:

Diversification — Portfolio rebalancing is important for investors. If you have too many investments that have essentially the same characteristics, your portfolio might be under-diversified — and diversification is necessary to help you achieve your long-term goals. If your assets are concentrated in a single asset class or a single stock, your portfolio could take a big hit during times of market volatility, but a diversified investment mix can reduce this impact. Consequently, when looking at ways to take advantage of tax-loss harvesting, you could consider selling an investment that's similar to several others you may own. (Keep in mind, though, that diversification can't prevent all losses or guarantee profits.)

Performance — Investment performance can be looked at in a couple of different ways. If you've held an investment for many years and it has gone up greatly in value, you might be motivated to sell it and take the profits. Conversely, if you have an investment that's consistently under-performed and has lost value, you might feel you're better off selling it and applying the losses against capital gains.

Holding period — When you sell investments that you've held for a year or less, your gains are taxed at your ordinary income tax rate; for investments held longer than a year, you'll pay the long-term capital gains rate, which is based on your income and ranges from 0 to 23.8 percent, which includes a 3.8 percent net investment income tax for high earners. Short-term losses offset short-term gains first, while long-term losses offset long-term gains. Once losses in one category exceed the gains of the same type, you can use them to offset gains for the other category.

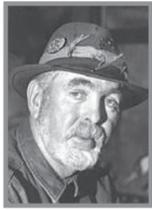
Here's one more point to keep in mind: If you want to sell an investment for tax purposes, but you might like to reacquire it, you'll have to meet the "wash sale" rule, which prohibits you from writing off an investment loss if you or your spouse buys the same investment, or a substantially identical one, in the 30 days before or after the sale.

To take advantage of tax-loss harvesting, you'll need to act before the end of the year. And consult with your tax advisor. This strategy can be effective — but you'll need to be sure it's right for you.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Trevor Nielsen, your local Edward Jones Advisor in Sturbridge at 508-347-1420 or [trevor.nielsen@edwardjones.com](mailto:trevor.nielsen@edwardjones.com).

# Fresh snow makes tracking easier

Now that the shotgun deer season has ended in Mass., sportsmen have set their sights on excellence. The snow that fell on Sunday made hunting conditions excellent for tracking. The new rifled single shot guns are extremely accurate, and many hunters prefer using the .50 caliber guns over their shotguns. There are still a lot of deer out there for hunters to harvest before the season ends on Dec. 31! Last week saw many deer hunters harvest some more impressive bucks, sporting some very impressive antlers and weighing in at close to 200 pounds. A Douglas man harvested a huge buck that sported a set of antlers that had 17 points during the shotgun deer season. It is one of the most impressive deer harvested this year. Kurt Salvos of Douglas also harvested a couple of deer that sported impressive antlers. Because of most deer being checked in online, the results of the final harvest of deer in Mass. will not be available until the middle or late February of 2023.



THE GREAT OUTDOORS  
\*\*\*\*\*  
RALPH TRUE

state to control their populations. Unfortunately, there is no real way to bring their populations down, even by killing them. A northern state tried to eliminate them

by killing them, only to have their populations increase to their original level in a matter of a few years. They are here to stay, and residents will need to learn to live with them. Residents will need to keep a close eye on their family and pets, to ensure their safety.

This is the time of year that many families consider buying a new family pet. It may seem like a good time of year to buy a dog or cat, but it is most often the wrong time to do so. Christmas is too hectic of a time as it is to bring a new pet into most homes. There are exceptions, but for most, waiting until spring is the best option, and adopting a pet could be the right way to go. During the pandemic of last year, many pets were purchased, as many adults were work-

ing from home and had time to care for them. As they started to return to their workplace, the pets were put up for adoption or brought to a shelter. The new pet owners had little time to care for their family and a dog, and they quickly found out the expense of owning one was more than they expected. Vet bills can pile up fast, costing hundreds if not thousands of dollars to treat them if they become sick or injured. Vet bills are through the roof!

Many of the dogs that were purchased were often purebred pups costing the owners \$2,000 or \$3,000. You need to consider the responsibility of owning a dog for as long as 12 to 14 years. It could cost you as much as raising another child during their lifetime. If you have the time and resources to own a dog, you will never regret it. They are loyal and entertaining to have, and can cheer you up when you come home from a hard day at work or the office.

I have had dogs for most of my adult years, and they all have been great to have. All of my dogs were hunting dogs that consisted of Beagles, Labrador Retrievers, and English pointers. They have provided for my wife and I many mem-



Courtesy

This week's picture shows 10 year old Hunter Weed with his impressive eight point buck he harvested recently while hunting with his dad. It is not his first deer! Nice job.

orable moments over the years, and we never regretted having them in our family. Today, many pups are selling for as much as \$3,000 to \$4,000, and if you want one, you need to wait three to four years to buy one. Many breeders have a waiting list of people interested in purchasing them. Today, I live alone, and my two dogs help me enjoy every day to its fullest. Dogs never seem to have a bad day, and are always there to cheer you up. If you have the resources

to own a dog, it is the best thing to do. You will never regret it. When their final days are near, and you lose one of them, it is like losing a family member. Even grown men cry after the loss of a family pet or hunting companion, but the memories will last a lifetime.

Ice fishing cannot be far away! It only takes a few days of temperatures near zero to freeze up some of the smaller local ponds. Be sure to have a talk with your family members about the

dangers of thin ice. Every year, some youngster falls through thin ice, that often has a bad outcome. I can already smell the venison cooking on outdoor stoves and fires, as anglers wait for the flag to pop on one of their ice tilts. Jig fishing through the ice is my favorite form of ice fishing! Can't wait!

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

## Readers Share Tips and Tricks

It's time to take a peek into the Take the Hint! mailbox. Thanks to all the readers who have taken time from the hustle and bustle of holiday preparations to send in their



TAKE THE HINT  
\*\*\*\*\*  
KAREN TRAINOR

great tips for dealing with the little nuisances in life. And remember readers, your tip puts you in the running for a three course dinner for two at the Publick House! From prepping a favorite winter vegetable to building a better mousetrap, readers share their favorite hints in this week's column. Read on and keep the tips coming!

\*\*  
Painting can be messy, but it doesn't have to be with this do-it-yourselfer's quick and easy way to prevent drips and spills:

I used this trick this past week. Stretch a wide rubber band over an open paint can you are using while painting (vertical) so the band lies across where you dip the brush. Anchor it securely stretched also across the bottom of the

can. Now you can just, dip, rub off brush and paint. No more painted on stuck lids or putting bent holes in the rim of your cans of paint!

Viola Bramel  
Northbridge, MA  
\*\*

Butternut squash is a holiday favorite, but cutting and cleaning the hard vegetable can be a workout! Try this reader's simple trick to cut the job down to size:

I have an easy tip for prepping butternut squash. The squash is delicious, but it can be such a difficult thing to prepare. Here's a trick you can use to make that process easier: Just place the squash in the microwave for 2-3 minutes. Afterwards you'll see that the squash becomes much easier to seed, peel and cube.

Donna Lewandowski  
Charlton, MA  
\*\*

If country mice have taken

up residence in your home this season, you'll be thankful for this reader's common sense adaption to the age-old mousetrap:

A helpful add-on to a mouse trap is a length of string tied to the front of the sprunged loop. It makes it easier to retrieve and release the critter and not touch it. I now will never use the trap without it.

Paul Davignon  
Uxbridge, MA  
\*\*

Read on for a trio of tips from a reader:

Here are a few tips:

1. Oops! You bought the wrong mouthwash and you hate the flavor if it? Don't throw it out, use it for an anti-septic cleanser!
2. Did you know that insects hate coffee? I use the leftover coffee pods from my coffee maker and put the pod in a plastic or paper cup so that they don't spill. I place the cup anywhere I don't want the insects to be.
3. My daughter told me this one: "To prevent parents from accidentally leaving children in the back seat of the car unattended, parents can place

one of their shoes in the back with the baby. You will have to get the show when you get to your destination." You can also use your cell phone for this purpose.

Sharon Conlon  
Whitinsville, MA  
\*\*

Yard work is a chore, and even more so if you don't have a wheelbarrow or garden wagon. Try this reader's tip to improvise:

Here's a tip for when you are working outside in your yard, but don't have a wagon on hand,

You can take a kid's round or long snow sled with rope, and fill it with your supplies, mulch, etc. Now you can pull it around the yard with ease.

JoAnn Wypych  
Gilbertville, MA  
\*\*

Prize Winner  
C o n g r a t u l a t i o n s to Mari JoAnn Wypych of Gilbertville, who submitted the sled repurposing tip above. Her name was drawn for a three course Dinner for Two at the Publick House.

\*\*

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 renown 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](mailto:KDRR@aol.com). Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn.

## Keep holiday greens looking their best

Wreaths, door swags, garlands, and containers filled with evergreens have long been part of winter celebrations and displays. Keep them fresh and looking their best throughout the holidays with minimal effort.



GARDEN MOMENTS  
\*\*\*\*\*  
MELINDA MYERS

Fresh greenery with pliable branches and firmly attached needles will last the longest. Check for good color and an aroma you prefer. Consider buying extra greenery and storing it in the garage or another cool location. Use these to replace any indoor greenery that is starting to brown.

Recut the bottom of the stems with a sharp bypass pruner. Totally submerge the greenery in a tub of room-temperature water overnight to help rehydrate the needles. Gently crush the cut end to allow it to better absorb moisture.

Remove the cuttings from the water and once dry, seal in the moisture by spraying the greens with an anti-transpirant, often called anti-desiccant.

These products seal in moisture, reducing drying due to warm, dry air indoors and drying winds and sunlight outside.

Follow label directions for application tips and dilution rates based on what you are treating. Avoid using these on juniper berries, cedar and blue spruce. The waxy coating that makes these look blue can be damaged by these products. Apply anti-desiccant products outdoors during the day, as light is needed to activate some of these chemicals. Allow the treated greens to dry for three to four hours before moving them inside.

Display indoor greenery in cool locations out of direct sunlight. This reduces moisture loss and extends the life of your garland, wreaths, and arrangements.

Keep greenery away from heat sources that speed drying, decorative lights

that generate heat, and flames from candles. Check the greens every few days and replace dry, brittle, and brown cuttings with fresh greens.

Outdoor greenery lasts much longer when temperatures are cooler than indoors. Further extend their longevity by placing them in more sheltered locations, out of direct sunlight and wind where they suffer less drying. Avoid hanging wreaths and swags in front of windows in direct sunlight where the reflected light can burn the foliage. Use an anti-transpirant on outdoor greenery to help reduce moisture loss and extend your enjoyment.

Keep outdoor planters of greens looking their best throughout the winter. Keep the soil moist until it freezes when displaying spruce tips, cut holiday trees, and evergreen stems in outdoor containers. If and when the ground freezes, you can stop watering.

A bit of effort goes a long way in extending the beauty of holiday greenery.



Melinda Myers

When outdoor temperatures are cooler, green arrangements, like this winter container garden, last much longer than indoor displays.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the recently released *Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition* and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program*. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and her Web site is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).

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# New physician joins UMass Memorial Health-Harrington

SOUTHBRIDGE — UMass Memorial Health – Harrington (UMHH) has welcomed Xingzi “Shirley” Shangguan, MD to its Family Medicine practice located at 100 South St., Suite 208 in Southbridge. To schedule an appointment, call 508-765-7899.

Dr. Shangguan is board-certified in Family Medicine. She also holds a Certificate of Added Qualification in Sports Medicine and is co-author of a number of sports medicine papers published in a variety of medical journals. In addition, she has presented

on various topics related to sports medicine to medical residents as well as at various medical conferences, and has provided sports medicine physician coverage for high school and collegiate-level athletic teams and events.

Besides her primary care and sports medicine clinical experience, Dr. Shangguan has participated in medical research studies at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Hudson Valley Heart Center and Vassar College.

Prior to this most recent

role, Dr. Shangguan provided care in Family Medicine and Urgent Care at the University of Miami Family Medicine Clinic. She earned her medical degree from St. George’s University in Grenada and went on to complete a residency in Family Medicine at New York University in Brooklyn, New York as well as a fellowship in Sports Medicine at Eisenhower Medical Center in Rancho Mirage, California.

UMHH Family Medicine providers care for all ages, from birth through adulthood. They

provide comprehensive primary care with a scope of services that ranges from well visits to acute care, in both the inpatient and outpatient environment. For more information, visit [harringtonhospital.org](http://harringtonhospital.org).

UMass Memorial Health – Harrington provides outstanding health care to patients in more than 25 communities throughout south central Massachusetts and northeastern Connecticut. We are dedicated to our role as the health and wellness partner of the peo-

ple in our communities and we are relentless in the pursuit of healing. Our comprehensive array of health care services and locations provides our patients with unparalleled access to care. Harrington Hospital in Southbridge provides medical and surgical inpatient care, 24-hour emergency services, inpatient adult psychiatry, an intensive care unit and comprehensive outpatient services. Harrington Hospital at Webster, Harrington at Charlton, Harrington at 169 and Harrington at Sturbridge offer primary

care and specialty physicians, diagnostic imaging and more. Harrington Physician Services is our primary care and multi-specialty physician group, UrgentCare Express at Harrington in Oxford serves as a walk-in medical center for non-life-threatening illnesses and injuries, and the Cancer Center at Harrington in Southbridge allows patients to receive advanced, local oncological and hematology care. Visit [www.ummhealth.org/harrington](http://www.ummhealth.org/harrington).

## Bay Path Nursing students supporting literacy across the globe

RANDOLPH — Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy students recently volunteered with Bagong Kulturang Pinoy (BKP) to pack books for delivery to mini-libraries and elementary schools in villages in the Philippines. The sorting, processing, and packing of donated books was held at Tower Hill, Randolph.

BKP is an acronym for Bagong Kulturang Pinoy, a Tagalog phrase that translates as “new Filipino culture.” BKP is a nonprofit organization, driven by the efforts of volunteers, whose mission is to develop a reading culture and promote literacy among children in poverty-stricken areas of the Philippines. Many children in the Philippines lack access to books on

their reading level, or a variety of choices that interest them. BKP’s goal is to help these children acquire strong reading skills and proficiency in the English language, with the belief that these will lead them to a better education that in turn will open the doors to better opportunities. “Research from Unite for Literacy found that if a child grows up in a home with more than 100 books, they have a 90 PERCENT probability of graduating ninth grade, compared to 30 PERCENT in bookless homes.”

In an email to Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN Academy Director, Liz Freeman, Volunteer Coordinator of BKP ([www.bkpinc.org](http://www.bkpinc.org)) thanked the Bay Path Practical Nursing student volunteers who

sorted, processed, packed and moved heavy boxes of books. The student volunteers were Etta Lahai, Faith Wanjohi, Patrick Kariuki, Nancy Kamicha, Katherine Stano, Maureen Bittner, and Laurie Barkoskie. They hope that their volunteering continues to inspire the next generation of lifelong readers by reducing barriers to learning. Linda Ott of BKP recognized the assistance and support of Randolph Public School Superintendent Thea Scovell and Director Alpha Sanford.

Regularly scheduled book packings are held at 153 Andover Street in Danvers. To volunteer contact Liz Freeman, [Lindentree85@comcast.net](mailto:Lindentree85@comcast.net) or call 781-521-3564.



## NEED Project hosts workshop for educators



Courtesy Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School teacher, Kristine Wade of Sturbridge, Emily Giampa of Auburn, and Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Director Gretheline Bolandrina of Douglas.

Photo

on energy education

WORCESTER — About 25 local middle and high school teachers came together recently at the College of the Holy Cross Hogan Center for the 2022 Massachusetts Energy Education Workshop, an event for area educators held by the National Energy Education Development Project (NEED.org). “NEED trains and assists teachers in harnessing the energy of the classroom—the energy of the students.”

Working with education and energy advisors, NEED designs and delivers professional development opportunities for educators that not only

teach but also energize their classrooms.

In 1980, the NEED Project began as a one-day celebration of energy education when National Energy Education Day was recognized by a joint Congressional Resolution. In the same year then-President, Jimmy Carter issued a Presidential Proclamation stressing the need for comprehensive energy education in schools, a reduction in fossil fuel dependence, and to increase in the use of renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency.

Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School teachers, Kristine Wade of Sturbridge, Emily Giampa of Auburn, and Bay Path Practical

Nursing Academy Director Gretheline Bolandrina of Douglas attended the six-hour workshop.

“It is great being in person for this year’s NEED workshop and a great idea to expand the outreach to the nursing community. Bay Path had a wonderful representation and very engaging participants. Thank you to the NEED Educators for a successful workshop,” Bolandrina said.

The workshop is designed to educate the teachers so they can in turn provide education to their students. NEED curriculum kits were sponsored for each teacher who attended the workshop. Energy info books at three grade levels were available.

## Make your way through Candyland at Joshua Hyde Library

STURBRIDGE — Make your way through our life-sized Candyland board at the Joshua Hyde Library on Dec. 28! Follow the path through classic Candyland areas, such as Peppermint Forest, Gumdrop Pass, and Lollipop Woods. Try to make it to King Kandy’s Castle to win prizes! Register as groups of two to four for an hour-long time slot. Don’t miss this fantastic event and enjoy some fabulous, life-size Candyland fun!

For more information, please visit our website at [sturbridgelibrary.org](http://sturbridgelibrary.org) or visit our social media pages @sturbridgelibrary. Additionally, if you have any questions please feel free to call our front desk at (508)-347-2512. This event is proudly sponsored by the Friends of the JHPL!

## Village Toastmasters to host open house

STURBRIDGE — On Thursday, March 16, Village Toastmasters will host an Open House from 6:30-8:15 p.m. at Chamber of Commerce South, 46 Hall Rd. in Sturbridge. We encourage guests to visit and learn how to improve their public speaking skills. Please join us at 6:30 p.m. for refreshments and meet and greet followed by a Toastmasters meeting which will end at 8:15 p.m. You may also visit us at <http://www.villagetoastmasters.org>.

### Family Dining & Gift Guide

Too Busy to Cook for the Holidays? Ask your favorite local restaurant if they offer dine-in or take-out for Thanksgiving and/or Christmas!  
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# Food for the Poor program at St. John's becomes classroom for QCC Occupational Therapy students

WORCESTER — At Quinsigamond Community College, educating students transcends the traditional classroom setting for second-year students in the college's Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) program.

On Wednesday, Dec. 7, OTA students took part in hands-on learning with members of Worcester's unhoused community at St. John's Food for the Poor Program, located at the St. Francis Xavier Center in downtown Worcester. The group of 11 traditional age and

non-traditional age students come from all over the region.

"As occupational therapy assistant students at QCC, we're trying to improve our understanding of the unhoused community in Worcester," explained Rebecca Gervais, a mother of five from rural Connecticut. "It was really amazing to see that even when individuals are struggling and have very little, they are still really a community and do so much to support each other."

The occupational therapy assistant

students hosted various activities that fostered social participation and health management. The students set up stations at the Xavier Center that offered participants small first-aid kits, access to information on housing, food and health resources, as well as picking up a winter care kit.

The students did their homework, visiting the Xavier Center earlier in the semester to learn about the interests, needs and goals of the individuals who rely on the daily hot breakfast served at

the center.

"As future practitioners in the field of occupational therapy, we're learning to uphold the standards of our profession," said Nick DePasquale, a father who currently works as a receptionist at Tufts Animal Hospital. "While working with the unhoused community through our community outreach program, we are honing our skills to sustain meaningful occupations, or activities, that members of our community engage in daily."

This outreach event was part of the fieldwork that all occupational therapy assistant students must complete as part of their degree.

"In occupational therapy, we believe that simple classroom learning is not enough to prepare students, so we pair our course work with field experiences where we engage with the community to learn the occupational needs of different populations," said Erin Connor, professor of QCC's OTA Program.

Students in QCC's OTA program at QCC attend classes at the college's downtown campus on Federal Street in Worcester.

"We realized that we share this community with an increasing number of people who are unhoused — really we're the ones coming into their neighborhood each day for school. As OTA students, we're supposed to think about potential clients as whole people who engage in activities that bring meaning to their lives," said Jonathan Dudley, a non-traditional preschool teacher in Gardner. "We realized we've got a lot to learn from our neighbors."

St. John's Food for the Poor program at the St. Francis Xavier Center serves over 500 meals a day, five days a week, all year long.

"We cannot thank you (QCC OTA students) enough for all your care for our friends and your efforts to help them (the food program participants)," said Father John Madden.

## Country Bank supports senior centers with \$42,000 in donations

REGION — Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving Central and Western Massachusetts, recently announced donations to 21 local senior centers throughout the region.

Supporting communities has been part of Country Bank's mission since 1850, the bank is committed to the people, businesses and non-profits it serves. A total of \$42,000 in donations were made to local senior centers. These donations are made without restriction for those necessary items that may not be met within annual budgets.

"Everyone at the West Brookfield Senior Center appreciates the partnership that's been established with Country Bank. We will be using the \$2,000 to support our senior center programs and activities, and will use some of the funds for

our annual Christmas Party," stated Betty Frew, Assistant Director.

"We know what a difference this makes for the senior centers, and we are honored to be able to support the great work that they do to help our seniors," said Jodie Gerulaitis, Vice President of Community Relations at Country Bank.

In addition to its annual monetary support, Country Bank also sends teams of its "Difference Makers" to volunteer at local senior centers on a monthly basis.

The bank's volunteer team which they dub "Difference Makers" keeps busy throughout the year, but during the holiday season, there is always an extra-special feeling for them when they give back to their home town and its seniors, stated Gerulaitis.



### Creative Coloring

Celebrate birds of all types. Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.



### THIS DAY IN...



- 1642: ABEL TASMAN IS THE FIRST RECORDED EUROPEAN TO SIGHT NEW ZEALAND.
- 1769: DARTMOUTH COLLEGE IS FOUNDED BY REVEREND ELEAZAR WHELLOCK ON LAND DONATED BY ROYAL GOVERNOR JOHN WENTWORTH.
- 1962: NASA LAUNCHES RELAY 1, THE FIRST ACTIVE REPEATER COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE IN ORBIT.

### ANIMAL FACT!

THIS TYPE OF ANIMAL IS THE MOST COMMON AROUND THE WORLD.

ANSWER: BIRD

### New Word

**MIMIC**  
to copy or imitate closely

## Cornerstone Bank donates \$5,000 to Venture Forum in Worcester

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with 10 locations throughout Central Massachusetts, has donated \$5,000 to Venture Forum, a start-up community committed to helping entrepreneurs launch and scale their businesses in Central Mass.

"Many of our customers are local entrepreneurs and we are proud to help them grow and sustain their businesses," said Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman. "We hope that our support of Venture Forum enables more people to succeed in our local business community."

Venture Forum, formerly WPI Venture Forum, helps local entrepreneurs start and scale their businesses by connecting them to resources and mentors and providing educational opportunities in the form of events and webinars.

"We are grateful for Cornerstone's support," said Zachary Dutton, executive director, Venture Forum. "The ultimate use of the donation will be to help strengthen the local entrepreneurial ecosystem with a goal of keeping companies in the region."

About Cornerstone Bank  
Cornerstone Bank was formed in 2017, born of a long history of supporting the community, and providing a strong foundation to help people and businesses thrive. Serving Worcester County, Massachusetts, Cornerstone Bank's local presence and community-based banking model enables a unique ability to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone provides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations with branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts. Cornerstone works to connect customers with opportunities, through a broad range of deposit and loan products, and services. Built on Trust is not just a tagline, but also one of our guiding corporate values. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone stands on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. To learn about Cornerstone Bank's personal and business banking offerings, please visit [cornerstonebank.com](http://cornerstonebank.com) or call 800-939-9103.

### How they SAY that in...

**ENGLISH:** Beak  
**SPANISH:** Pico  
**ITALIAN:** Becco  
**FRENCH:** Bec  
**GERMAN:** Schnabel

### Did you know?

AROUND 75% OF THE WORLD'S WILD BIRDS WILL ONLY LIVE FOR AROUND A YEAR. THE LARGER THE BIRD, THE LONGER IT TENDS TO LIVE.

### GET THE PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: BLUE JAY AT FEEDER

### CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to driver safety. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 2 = E)

**A. 13 3 21 21 25 21**  
Clue: Reflective device

**B. 11 2 23 5 24 2 19 5**  
Clue: Safety device

**C. 17 2 18 2 9 11 3 6 2**  
Clue: Style of driving

**D. 20 23 7 5 3 25 9**  
Clue: With care

Answers: A. mirror B. seat belt C. defensive D. caution

### SUDOKU

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

1			3	2		4			
5			6					8	
						3			
						6	7	1	
7			1					3	
						9			5
6					5	7			
							9		
	9			2			5	4	

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:  
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

3	9	1	7	2	2	2	7	1	3	4
4	5	7	8	1	3	2	8	2	9	6
6	8	2	4	9	5	7	1	3		
8	1	6	3	7	9	4	4	2	5	
7	2	5	1	6	7	9	4	3	8	
9	4	3	2	5	8	6	7	1		
2	7	4	5	8	1	3	1	8	2	
5	3	9	6	4	7	1	8	2		
1	6	8	9	3	2	5	4	7		

ANSWER:



# DA partners with local police for gun buyback



Courtesy

**Worcester County District Attorney Joseph Early, Jr., recently teamed up with local police departments for a community safety event.**

REGION — The Worcester County District Attorney's Office once again teamed up with local police departments this year to help make the community safer.

District Attorney Joseph Early, Jr., and his team supported area police officials last week as they took part in the annual Guns 2 Gardens buyback program.

Each year, the program allows residents to earn grocery gift cards in exchange for operable guns.

"We're honored to sup-

port the Guns 2 Gardens buyback again this year, and to be able to increase our financial support to double the value of the gift cards provided to those who turn in their unwanted guns," read a statement released by the District Attorney's office.

Participating police departments in this year's program included Spencer, Auburn, Worcester, Dudley, Northborough, and Fitchburg, among others.

"Thank you to our local police departments for participating. As always, thank you to UMass Memorial Medical Center's Dr. Michael Hirsh for organizing this important prevention program," read the statement issued by the DA's office.

For law enforcement and health officials, it's critical to provide additional ways to keep guns out of the hands of individuals who aren't supposed to have them. For residents who are no longer interested in owning a weapon—or are unable to safely secure and manage their firearms—the buyback program is a safe opportunity to exchange it.

"An unsecured weapon in the home is a public health danger that leads to more frequent homicides, burglaries, lethal domestic violence, accidental shootings, and suicides," Dr. Hirsh said.

Buyback programs took place throughout the day at local police departments on Dec. 10.

# OBITUARIES

## Patricia A. Kusek, 78



Brimfield- Patricia A. Kusek, 78, of West Old Sturbridge Rd., passed away on Dec. 7th, in her home with her family by her side after a long illness.

Her longtime companion, Robert J. Dion, passed away in 2005. She leaves her daughter, Pamela J. Tavares and her husband Russell of Oxford; her two stepsons, Robert J. Dion, Jr. and his wife Rosemary of West Brookfield and Randy A. Dion and his wife Paula of Brimfield; her six grandchildren, Nick Tavares, Erik Tavares, Samantha Jo Dion, Stephanie Dion, Dwight Dion and Brett Dion; and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her two brothers, John Kusek and Edward Kusek. Patricia was born in Southbridge the daughter of

John J. Kusek and Gertrude E. (Blair) Kusek Julien.

Patricia was employed at the American Optical Co. in Southbridge for 33 years, retiring many years ago. She was an avid outdoors enthusiast, enjoying fishing, hunting, and watching birds. She also enjoyed going to flea markets. Most of all she loved her dog, Shylo.

A graveside service for Patricia will be held on Friday, Dec. 16th, at 12:00pm in the Brimfield Cemetery, Brimfield. There are no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the American Lung Association, 1301 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20004.

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

www.morrillfuneralhome.com

## Gregor Becker



Gregor Becker, born on June 05, 1951 in Baltimore, MD; passed away on December 07, 2022 in West Brookfield, MA. Gregor was a gymnast and competed in wrestling and lacrosse during high school. He attended Frostburg State College in MD. Upon completion of his Bachelor's degree, Gregor taught gymnastics in NJ. He set out on a solo journey backpacking throughout Germany for 18 months. Upon his return, Gregor taught gymnastics in Westminster, MD.

Gregor was a proponent for a green environment and sustainability. He purchased several acres of land on in Westminster, MD and built a log cabin where he went to be surrounded by peacefulness and pristine beauty.

In 1987 he met and started dating Cynthia Adams while she was pursuing a Master's Degree at Towson University. Gregor had already committed to attend college in Knoxville, TN to pursue his own Master's in library sciences. He purchased a house outside of Knoxville and moved to TN. Gregor returned to MD, and Cindy and he were married on 1/7/1989.

Gregor was a spiritual person and enjoyed traveling. One of his many accomplishments was hiking the Grand Canyon. He and his wife traveled to experience alternative ways of

living and cultures. The experience that Gregor continued to hold in his heart was meeting John of God while visiting Brazil. In 1994, Gregor was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. Despite limitations in his later years, he would continue to work, travel, learn and advocate for the environment and sustainability.

Gregor was a librarian at the Carroll County Public Library and a former Chairman of the Sierra Club Catoclin Chapter. In April, 1998 he received an award for his commitment to protecting the environment and his participation in a land use committee developing a county master plan from the Carroll County Environmental Affairs Advisory Board.

Gregor will be remembered for his courage, commitments, beliefs and incredible inner strength.

He leaves behind his loving sisters, Lori Steffen, Penny O'Neill and his brother Clint Becker as well as his loving in laws, Sue and Jim Merriam, Larry and Deb Adams, Gregg and Diane Adams, Ron and Donna Adams, Laura and Steve Merriam, Lynda and Mark Stedman and several nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his wife and soul mate Cynthia Adams who passed away on 12/25/2020.

In recognition of Gregor's passion for the environment, donations to the Sierra Club would be appreciated. <https://www.sierraclub.org>

# Crafternoons coming to Joshua Hyde Library

STURBRIDGE — Join the Joshua Hyde Library this month for our Holiday Crafternoons! Children 12 and under can come to participate in three separate holiday crafting events.

On Thursday, Dec. 15, from 3 to 5 p.m., join our Christmas craft day to make reindeer ornaments. Saturday, Dec. 17, we will be making paper-plate menorahs from 2 to 4 p.m. to celebrate Hanukkah. Finally, on Tuesday, Dec. 27, we will be making Kwanza placemats from 2 to 4 p.m. There is no registration required for this event so please join us for all our holiday fun! For more information please visit our website at [sturbridgeli.org](http://sturbridgeli.org) or visit our social media pages @sturbridgeli. Additionally, if you have any questions please feel free to call our front desk at (508)-347-2512.

This event is proudly sponsored by the Friends of the JHPL!

## CHARLTON

continued from page A1

Recovery Plan Act funds directly into our local businesses that were most affected by the pandemic to strengthen their businesses and programs for the coming years, making Charlton a more resilient community."

Golas said one of the biggest areas of focus for Charlton to continue to grow in 2023 is enhancing online services that grew in relevance during the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes enhancements in online services and other resources through the town's Web site.

"As we enter 2023, we will continue to look to improve our overall service delivery to residents. In the past few years, we have addressed this by implementing online permitting, providing a comprehensive budget overview and providing hybrid options for attendance at board meetings. This year's plan includes a planned redesign of our website and digital capabilities to make conducting business with Town Hall and access to our services easier," said Golas, who added that finding balance in the town's growth will be another challenge in the new year. "Going into next year, I believe that one of our biggest challenges will be working with the land use divisions to balance the current pace of growth with maintaining the town's rural character while ensuring the town maintains the capacity to provide exceptional services to our residents."

With the new year will also come budget and town meeting talks and Golas said some of their priorities will include addressing plans for the town's municipal facilities. The need remains for a new fire department and talks of a new community center and senior center have dominated 2022 and will likely continue into 2023. In terms of the spending plan, Golas said the town looks to ensure public safety resources continue to grow and town officials plan to evaluate the internal operations structure to ensure the "best possible service delivery" to the residents of the town.

"We will continue to monitor the effects that inflation will have on the overall budget and ensure we maintain the positive financial strength we have developed over the past few years," said Golas.

After a productive 2022, Charlton looks as if it is poised to hit the ground running to carry that momentum into a new year they hope will usher in more growth and enhancements on many levels throughout the community.

## BRUSH

continued from page A1

glaze.

At the anniversary celebration, beer and wine will be available from the Brush It Off bar along with complimentary finger snacks from a local bakery and catering company for all guests to enjoy. And just in time for Christmas, Brush It Off will have door prizes, gift certificates to the studio and other cool giveaways!

The Chamber of Central Mass South will present the Ribbon Cutting ceremony at 4:00pm sharp. The ceremony will include presentations by local dignitaries and the snipping of the official red ribbon followed by the Grand Opening

and 10th Anniversary Celebration. Everyone is welcome and we hope you join in as the Chamber and our guests provide a warm welcome, congratulations, and best wishes for the future to Denise Morgan and the entire Brush It Off team. All are welcome to attend. There is no cost and no need to RSVP. Brush It Off Art & Pottery Studio is located in the Sturbridge Marketplace at the Falls, 559 Main Street, Suite 103-104, Sturbridge (Fiskdale). Visit Brush It Off online at [www.brush-it-off.com](http://www.brush-it-off.com) or reach the studio by phone at 774-241-3444.

If it is time for you to grow your business and join a dedicated business community, visit the Chamber of Central Mass South online at [cmschamber.org](http://cmschamber.org).



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**NAME**  
continued from page A1

south already called it Haynes, despite the fact the town had told the developer that was wrong four times, according to Assessor Ann Murphy.

"Apologies for having to change again," she told the small group of residents who attended the forum. "We're trying to make it better for everybody."

Grimm agreed, adding, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it. But in this case, it's broken. ... Having the voice of the neighbors is really critical in this. ... This is about you guys and is a very, very local issue."

As of last weekend, it still was. Google Maps labeled the street as Haynes, but click on the first house there and the label reads "550 [Route] 15." The second one, however, reads "566 Mashapaug Road." The last two show "Leadmine Road" addresses, one of them before you get to Leadmine. If you have the Web site search for 550 Haynes, it lands on the first house; but if you search for 550 Mashapaug, it lands in the middle of the street near the exit ramp. (To make it more confusing, the town's GIS page calls it 550 Mashapaug/Route 15.)

One resident urged the town to also look into reducing the speed along that stretch. It's currently 55 MPH, but he noted he's seen trucks on the surface road "driving faster than the trucks behind them on the highway." He said he contacted the state Department of Transportation who agreed it should be lower, noting "the transients driving through ... don't care about [the neighborhood]"

With several vacant lots along that stretch, he said he's particularly concerned there could be more homes built there and "I picture a little ball bouncing on the road."

Although the town has had signs up saying which numbers are where, GPS and internet wayfinding systems ignore those. Grimm said Sturbridge will put up new signs in various locations highlighting the change, and will contact the state's GIS system administrators. Regarding speed and other issues, she added they need to identify who has legal authority on speed, can dig up old speed data and update it.

"We will come up with some traffic mitigation of some sort," she said.

Gus Steeves can be reached at gus.steeves2@gmail.com.

**RATE**  
continued from page A1

can apply for abatements.

(Under the law, they're supposed to visit a set number of properties annually.)

Carney also noted it's "tricky and challenging" to identify which multifamilies are owner-occupied and which are investment properties, with many of both in town. To Steeves, if Southbridge had a residential exemption, people could get abatements after the fact, and "we'd see fewer of those than the multi-ownership [landlords]."

Regarding residential exemption, Carney said it's most common in towns with lots of apartments and seasonal homes. In Southbridge, she predicted it would cause owners of homes worth less than \$220,000 to save money, but cause a "significant increase" in taxes for those above \$300,000 because there are so many less-costly homes.

When the council finally voted on the various aspects of the new tax classification, only Marketti and Steeves supported the residential exemption, and only Marketti backed a small-business exemption. Marketti was also the only one to vote against a single tax rate.

The small-business exemption would enable certain kinds of small businesses (under 10 employees and a certain income level) to claim a break, with the taxes shifted to larger businesses. Carney said the way the law is written, that's a lot more diffi-

cult than it sounds, because only the property owners actually get the break. Nothing requires them to pass it on to the qualifying business, and in many cases, the business isn't the owner.

Regarding a split tax rate, she said she can't guarantee a single rate would attract businesses to town, but a split rate would discourage them from coming. Currently, almost all nearby communities have single rates, with Worcester, Auburn and Springfield the nearest split rates. Sturbridge and Webster had them until fairly recently, but eliminated them over several years of slow reductions.

To Scott Lazo, "the only good option for the town of Southbridge is a single tax rate," he acknowledged the currently high prices, but noted they will "swing the other way" in a couple years. (Carney said they have already begun to.)

The discussion turned for a while to ways the town could reduce the impact on taxpayers, with Steeves wondering if the town could do something to encourage volunteerism that way. Carney said most of the existing options are "income-qualifying or age-qualifying" - for example, the senior tax work-off program or certain veterans' benefits. But she said the state's Home Rule law might be unable to devise Southbridge-specific breaks.

He also asked about using money from the town's Stabilization Fund, which now holds over \$5 million, to help

people "make ends meet." Town Manager Michael McCall said it would take around \$1.5 million to reduce average taxes by about \$250 per year (using this year's rate).

"The problem would be next year," when Southbridge would have to replace that money in the tax levy, McCall added. "It's a one-time, one year reduction, and you're back to square one the following year. ... It's kind of a slippery slope."

Instead, McCall said, if the council wants to do that, it should look at budget reductions to limit expenses. (The council's budget process starts around February.) He noted two council policies from 2013 call for setting stabilization and other reserves at 5 percent of the budget with a future target of 15 percent for emergencies and bond rating stability. It's now about 12 percent.

Carney said that night's votes did not actually set the tax rate, which "still requires approval from the Department of Revenue and is subject to change." (If that happens, it usually only changes a couple of cents.) The figure comes from this year's budget levy of \$24.8 million, which is \$1.24 million below the Proposition 2½ maximum for this year. The town's total estimated value is a little over \$1.5 billion.

If the rate is approved as it now stands, an average commercial property bill will be \$9588, and that for an industrial property will be \$11,179.

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# SPORTS

## Shepherd Hill holds off late rally from Titans for Opening Night victory



Nick Ethier photos

Shepherd Hill's Shaylan Cashman peers over Algonquin's Ashlee Dameri, looking to pass into the interior.



Aryanna Sheehan of Shepherd Hill gets past Algonquin defender Sadie Candela and looks up at the basket before shooting.



Shepherd Hill's Emery Mullen puts on the brakes and pulls up to create separation from Algonquin's Lilly Morse.



From left, Shepherd Hill defenders Heidi Jarosz and Emery Mullen apply pressure on Algonquin's Brooke Adams.

BY NICK ETHIER  
SPORTS EDITOR

DUDLEY — Opening Night of the high school basketball season can bring with it plenty of excitement, but some turnover-prone play as well. Both were the case when the Shepherd Hill Regional girls' team played host to Algonquin Regional on Friday, Dec. 9, but the Rams shook off the dust, limited their turnovers down the stretch and took care of the Titans, 48-38.

"First game jitters, I think," said Shepherd Hill head coach Maura Hackenson. "I thought Algonquin played good defense against us. We didn't take care of the ball. It'll come."

Although the Rams committed a lot of turnovers, their defense created even more turnovers, which was a big reason for the victory.

"We came out in our press pretty aggressive. I thought we did a good job defensively," said Hackenson. "We held our own."

Shepherd Hill only trailed at 2-0 and then rattled off nine straight points. They eventually led after the initial eight minutes, 14-7, and then won the second quarter by a 12-5 margin to lead, 26-12, at the break.

After The Hill scored the first five points of the third quarter to extend the advantage to 31-12, Algonquin then played its best stretch of basketball. The Titans went on a 9-0 run and ultimately cut the deficit down to eight points, 35-27. But an immense moment went down in the final seconds of the quarter when the Rams' Heidi Jarosz came away with a steal and a breakaway layup at the buzzer to up the advantage to 10 points at 37-27.

"They played mentally tough tonight, they didn't fold," said Hackenson. "They could have folded. They stayed in the game. We're very happy for them. We'll take care of the little things."

Jarosz had double-double totals of 11 points and 12 rebounds.

"Heidi is so aggressive down low. She's determined to get rebounds, she plays hard every possession and her stat line is very impressive," explained Hackenson.

Aryanna Sheehan added an acrobatic reverse layup to open fourth quarter scoring — a quarter that finished tied up, 11-11 — as the Titans could never draw closer than an eight-point deficit. Sheehan scored a game-high 16 points.

"Aryanna played well tonight. She was aggressive going to the hoop," said Hackenson.

Other scorers for Shepherd Hill were Emery Mullen (8 points), Emma Drake (7), Shaylan Cashman (4) and Sarah Miller (2).

"That's what we're looking for," Hackenson said of the balanced scoring. "We'd prefer if a lot of different people were shooting and scoring."

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# SPORTS

## High school hockey season opens at Dana Willard Memorial Christmas Tournament



Nick Ethier photos

Auburn goalie Ethan Laplante focuses on the incoming puck to make a save against Nashoba.



Cooper C'Miel of Auburn clears the puck out of his team's defensive zone.



Auburn's Zachary Deluca uses the boards to carom the puck down the ice.



Sandwiched between a pair of Nashoba players, Nathan Dono of Auburn fights for possession of the puck.

AUBURN — The Auburn High varsity ice hockey team normally opens its season at Horgan Arena hosting the Dana Willard Memorial Christmas Tournament, and this year was no different. The Rockets' co-op team, which also features student-athletes from Tantasqua Regional (six players), Millbury High (two players) and Shepherd Hill Regional (one player),

played Nashoba Regional on Thursday, Dec. 8.

Auburn, which has 14 players from the host school to complete the 23-player roster, lost to the Wolves in a tight contest, 1-0. Nashoba's Colin Ruschioni scored the game's lone goal with 2:34 remaining in the first period, taking a feed from Dillan Lowe while on the power play.

The Rockets attempted 15 shots on goal, with seven coming in the final period as they applied pressure on the Wolves' net, looking for the equalizer. But Nashoba goalie Charlie Mattocks was up to the task, posting the shutout.

Auburn goalie Ethan Laplante was nearly as good, turning aside 13 Wolves' shots.

The Rockets then played and defeated the Worcester co-op, 7-0, in the consolation round on Saturday, Dec. 10. Nashoba won the Dana Willard Tournament on Saturday by beating East Longmeadow High, 4-1. East Longmeadow reached the final by defeating Worcester in the opening round, 8-2.

### HIGH SCHOOL NOTEBOOK — TANTASQUA SWIMMING TAKES HOME VICTORIES

Friday, Dec. 9

Tantasqua Girls 93, Advanced Math and Science Academy 76 — Swimming at Clark University, the Warriors won thanks to first-place finishes by Zoey Zhu (200 freestyle, 100 fly), Kira Dambly (200 individual medley, 100 back), Molly Bilodeau (500 free) and Tori Strendrup (100 breaststroke). The 200 medley and 200 freestyle relays were also winners.

Tantasqua Boys 86, Advanced Math and Science Academy 83 — Ethan Korenda (50 freestyle, 100 freestyle), Sam Merchant (200 individual medley, 500 freestyle) and Ethan Zhu (100 backstroke) won their events for the Warriors at Clark University. The 200 medley and 400 freestyle relays also won, as both Tantasqua teams are now 1-0 to open the season.

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