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# Two test positive for COVID at Bay Path



BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – Bay Path Regional Vocational High School has confirmed two positive cases of COVID-19 within the school system.

A press release on Oct. 1 from Superintendent-Director Kyle Brenner confirmed that two unnamed individuals associated with the school received positive tests for the infection. The identities of the individuals were not revealed however the press release did indi-

cate that those with close ties or who were in close contact with the individuals were notified privately of the situation and were recommended to be tested and self-quarantine for ten days regardless of their test results.

“Though we cannot provide specific information about our school community members who tested positive, your child was not a close contact (defined as being within six feet of the person for at least 15 minutes) of the affected school members,” Brenner wrote to par-

ents in the release. “Please continue to monitor your child for symptoms and keep your child home if he/she/they shows any symptoms or is not feeling well.”

The Superintendent-Director further added that Bay Path had build-in planning for this very scenario when they discussed reopening the school. These responses include sanitation, informing families of students who were at risk of exposure or close contact, and offering support for affected families. The school is also adhering to protocols estab-

lished by the Department of Health and the local Boards of Health.

“We are asking those parents whose students are tested for COVID-19 to please report the results to the school nurse. We are working hard to understand the impact of the virus on our school community and this information is critical piece of that puzzle,” said Brenner. “The further prevent transmission of the virus to other staff and students, we have sanitized the

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Turn To **TESTS**, page **A3**

## Special Town Meeting to discuss capital purchases

BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – Nine warrant articles will be up for discussion during the town of Charlton’s special town meeting on Oct. 13, which will be held in neighboring Dudley.

Of the nine articles on the warrant, several are housekeeping measures. Article 1 will ask voters to allow the town to pay bills invoiced to the town prior to June 30, 2020 while Article 2 involves amendments to the Fiscal Year 2021 budget to correct projected shortfalls identified after the spring annual town meeting. Article 3 will also seek an amendment to the 2021 Fiscal Year budget concerning a shortfall in the Prindle Dam receipts.

Article 4 on the warrant involves miscellaneous capital items most-

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Turn To **MEETING**, page **A3**

## United Way holds baby supply drive



Photo Mary O’Coin — Courtesy

Volunteers at Park n Shop in Dudley.

SOUTHBRIDGE — The United Way of South Central Massachusetts today partnered with Fundación MAPFRE for a combined Day of Caring and Global Day of Volunteering, by holding a “Stuff a Truck Food and Baby Supply Drive.” The event collected 125 boxes of food and diapers and over \$1,000 in cash donations, with the help of 52 event

volunteers comprised of MAPFRE employees, United Way Board members, Tantasqua Regional High School National Honors Society students and community members.

“Families in need may look different – a single parent without a permanent home; a mother and father who are on a low income; or a grandparent caring for

young grandchildren, but they all need help getting the basic necessities to take care of their families,” said Mary O’Coin, Executive Director, United Way of South Central Massachusetts. “We deeply appreciate the public’s generosity and support for the families in

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Turn To **BABY DRIVE**, page **A4**

## Halloween is on in Charlton

BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – The Halloween holiday is on in Charlton, as the Board of Selectmen has approved allowing for trick-or-treating to take place on Saturday, Oct. 31.

Joining neighboring communities including Dudley, Charlton will allow trick-or-treaters to visit homes from 5 until 8 p.m. on Halloween night, but with the caveat that anyone participating in the annual holiday event conform to COVID-19 safety guidelines in

the process.

“Obviously, this year is much different than any other year,” Town Administrator Andrew Golas said during a meeting of the selectmen on Sept. 30. “The Board of Health would like to remind trick-or-treaters to follow recommended CDC guidelines and DPH guidelines by maintaining six feet physical distance from anyone not in your household, avoiding large groups or clustering at door steps, carry hand sanitizer and wash your hand thoroughly before eating anything and do not participate if you are feeling unwell or exhibit any symptom.”

Golas said safety is not just in the hands of the participants, but also the homes hosting trick-or-treaters. The town administrator implores those giving out candy to use safe practices as well.

“For those handing out treats please wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before and after participating or preparing trick-or-treat bags. Consider lining up pre-packaged treat bags for families to take outside while maintaining social distancing and wear a mask and maintain a six-foot physical distance from anyone trick or treating,” said Golas.

Originally scheduled for 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., selectmen agreed to a longer Halloween night to allow trick-or-treaters more time to visit homes without rushing through the night and potential creating larger groups. As always, anyone concerned about their health and safety or who simply do not wish to participate in trick-or-treating are invited to erect signs notifying visitors they won’t be taking part or follow the annual practice of leaving porch lights off to signal the home will not be part of trick-or-treating in 2020.




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MATTER

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Procrastinating in regard to maintaining teeth and gums can prove harmful. Regular dental checkups and cleanings can reduce discomfort and expose conditions before they become especially problematic.

Root canal is one treatment men and women fear when going to the dentist. But root canals are often less painful than the symptoms that require they be performed.

A root canal is an endodontic therapy that can treat and save teeth. The American Association of Endodontists says root canal treats inflammation or infection in the roots of a tooth. This procedure enables dentists to save a tooth rather than extract it.

WebMD explains that, during a root canal, the nerve and pulp of the tooth are removed from the inside. If the tooth’s nerve or pulp chamber is damaged, it can eventually break down and bacteria can begin to form within. The most common causes of pulp inflammation or infection are a cracked or chipped tooth, a deep cavity or filling, or another serious injury to the tooth. All of these can allow bacteria to enter the pulp. Debris and bacteria can lead to infection or an abscessed tooth. Abscesses can form at the ends of the tooth roots. Swelling, pain, bone loss, and drainage into the gums may occur if a root canal is not performed.

The AAE says that people may avoid root canal treatment because they fear it is too painful. However, with modern technology and anesthetic medications, the pain that results from root canal is on par with having a cavity filled. Damaged tissues in the tooth and the severe toothache that ensues if root canal is not performed is generally much more severe than anything that occurs during the procedure.

Patients who are worried about discomfort can speak with their dentists about pain management. In addition to anesthetic injections, some dentists specialize in medical sedation that can further calm patients’ nerves during procedures.

The American Dental Association says this is what people can expect during a root canal.

- The tooth is numbed for comfort.
- A thin sheet of latex rubber is placed over the tooth to keep it dry, and an opening is made through the crown of the tooth.
- The nerve or pulp is removed. The excavated canal is then cleaned and shaped.
- Medicine may be placed in the pulp chamber to deter bacterial growth.



• The root canal is then filled with a rubber-like material to seal it. A metal or plastic rod or post may be placed in the canal to help retain the filling material so it can properly support the tooth.

• A temporary filling is placed in the tooth. During a subsequent treatment, the temporary filling will be replaced with a permanent crown or filling.

Root canals are nothing to fear. Such procedures are routine and generally produce little to no pain.

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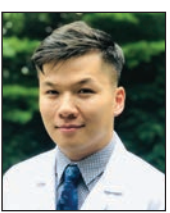
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Did you know?

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, dental caries, or tooth decay, is five times more common than asthma and seven times more common than hay fever in children. The American Academy of Pediatrics notes that children with dental caries in their baby teeth are at much greater risk for cavities in their adult teeth. Fluoride is a naturally occurring mineral that can strengthen tooth enamel and make it more resistant to the acids that can contribute to tooth decay. Parents, even those whose children do not yet have any teeth, can discuss fluoride drops or chewable fluoride tablets with their youngsters’ pediatricians. The CDC notes that more than 40 percent of children have tooth decay before reaching kindergarten, but dental caries is often preventable. Parents who are diligent about their children’s oral care and mindful of potential problems, such as stains on the teeth, can reduce their sons’ and daughters’ risk of tooth decay.





# Teddy G’s Pub & Grille joins Coats for Kids effort

STURBRIDGE —Teddy G’s Pub & Grille, at 179 Main St., Sturbridge, will be conducting a month-long winter coat drive beginning Monday, October 26 and ending Wednesday, November 25, according to owners Ted and Jenna Gidopoulos. The local effort is being conducted in partnership with the Anton’s Cleaners Coats for Kids program that each year aims to collect 50,000 warm winter coats for individuals and families in need.

“This has been such a challenging year that we wanted to do something special to help out the local community and to thank everyone for their support,” says Ted. “That’s why we’ve decided not just to collect coats, but to also offer a discount to customers who participate in the drive.” Customers will receive a 15 percent discount off the food portion of their tab on the day they bring in one or more coats for the drive, according to Gidopoulos. “

To obtain the discount,” he added, “customers should place the coat they wish to donate in a bag, and present it to the host on arrival, who will exchange it for a coupon to be presented with your payment at the end of your meal. Your server will then deduct 15 percent from the food portion of your bill (the discount does not apply to alcoholic beverages, tax or tip).”

Coats for Kids accepts warm winter coats - - kids, adults, and babies - that are gently used, good quality, and all sizes (especially XL and infant/pre-K sizes). The drive does not accept coats with rips, tears, broken zippers, or permanent stains, nor does it accept sweat-shirts, vests and spring coats.

“Please donate coats you would give a friend to wear,” advises Jenna, “and please be sure to empty out all pockets.”

All donated coats are cleaned free of charge by Anton’s Cleaners then made available to a network of over 90 distribution partners made up of local non-



Donate a warm winter coat between Oct. 26 and November 25 and Teddy G’s Pub & Grille owners, Ted & Jenna Gidopoulos will say “thank you” with a 15 percent discount.

profits, social service agencies, schools, and religious groups to ensure the coats are given to those who really need them, also free of charge.

Teddy G’s is a casual American Pub & Grille that is open for dining and take-out Sunday to Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Wednesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Currently operating in compliance with state and national safe distancing guidelines, dinner is presently being served both indoors and outdoors under a heated tent. Reservations are accepted until 3 p.m. daily at (508) 347-1900 or (508) 347-9300. Walk-ins are welcome on a first-come, first-served basis from 3 p.m. until the

restaurant reaches capacity.

Partners for this year’s Coats for Kids drive include Anton’s Cleaners, Jordan’s Furniture, Enterprise Bank, Boston 25 Cares, Kiss 108FM, Jam’n 94.5, 101.7 The Bull, WBZ 1030, 97.7 The Beat, WRKO, and 100.7 WZLX.

Charlton Villager

ACCURACY WATCH

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

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

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

## TESTS

continued from page A1

school with a focus on those areas frequented by the community member that tested positive.”

While the press release did not confirm whether it was a student or staff member who tested positive for COVID-19, if students are forced to quarantine due to positive tests they are provided with remote learning opportunities to help “provide instruction, structure, and an emotional connection to the classroom” during that time.

Any parents or community members with concerns are invited to contact Brenner directly at [KBrenner@bay-path.net](mailto:KBrenner@bay-path.net).

## MEETING

continued from page A1

ly involving the town’s Capital Improvement Plan. This article is being split into nine separate motions concerning conservation, town cemeteries, the town library, an update to the master plan, technology upgrades, the purchase of a replacement cruiser and ambulance for the police and fire departments respectively, a town wide radio replacement project, the replacement of a John Deere loader, and new pickup trucks for the water and sewer departments with money being requested from a variety of sources depending on the item. A full breakdown of Article 4 has been made available along with details on other articles on the warrant on the Town of Charlton Web site.

Article 5 on the warrant will seek to transfer funds from the town’s stabilization account. Articles 6 and 7 will

involve a pair of proposed zoning map amendments while Article 8 will seek to amend the regulations for building heights in the town’s Industrial General Business Enterprise Park zoning districts. The amendment would increase the allowed height of such buildings from the current 36-foot limit to 50 feet. Finally, Article 9 will seek a further zoning amendment to parking zoning regulations for manufacturing and warehousing uses.

The special town meeting will take place at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 13 at Shepherd Hill Regional High School in Dudley which serves as the main public high school for both towns.

REAL ESTATE  
TRANSACTIONS

CHARLTON

\$475,000, 150 Old Worcester Rd, Novak, Joel E, and Leboeuf, Susan J, to Wilson, Michael J, and Wilson, Heather.

\$431,000, 67 Daniels Rd, Janis Weinmann T, and Weinmann, Richard, to Glasier, Laura L, and Parkes, Zachary J.

\$420,000, 25 Casey Rd, Bombard, Todd D, and Bombard, Charlotte M, to Guzman, Kristian.

\$301,000, 54 J Davis Rd, Ferree, Marie R, to McGregor, William H, and McGregor, Sandra.

\$295,000, 235 N Sturbridge Rd, US Bank NA Tr, to Dilegge, Mark J, and Dilegge, Alena.

\$100,000, Jennings Rd #18, Gair LLC, to Martocci, Nicole, and Martocci, Jason.

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Friday’s Child

Aleenah  
Age 13

Hi! My name is Aleenah and I have a great sense of humor!

Aleenah is a fun, outgoing girl with an enormous amount of charisma and great sense of humor. Some of Aleenah’s favorite activities include bowling, roller skating, going to the movies, drawing, and singing along to the songs on the radio. Aleenah does especially well with younger children; she is always willing to help out in other classrooms, read to younger kids, and/or mentor them. Aleenah feels important and takes great pride in building these relationships.

Legally free for adoption, Aleenah is in need of a family that can provide a structured, loving home. She would do best with a single mother or a two-parent family with or without other children. Interested families should be comfortable maintaining contact with Aleenah’s siblings and her birth mother, who she visits with twice per year.

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

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

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# Tracking teaches new way to look at nature

BY GUS STEEVES  
CORRESPONDENT

REGION – For many, winter is a time of skiing. But it’s also a great time to learn a far older skill – tracking.

To “cybertracker” George Leoniak, who recently presented what he termed some “cool mysteries of tracking” online for Mass Society of Conservation Professionals, anyone can do it with some dedication. Going around the “room,” he started by asking how much experience partici-

pants had, and most had very little.

“Kindergarten or fourth-grade expertise? That’s great,” he said. “I love going into the field with kindergarteners and fourth-graders. ... They get into the stories and want to give back.”

There are three key aspects to tracking – learning the terms, understanding how to measure, and watching the dynamics of motion that make the tracks we see. It’s more than just footprints, though;

good trackers learn a lot from scat, nests, feeding signs, scratches on trees, and a whole host of other marks of life.

Interpreting them well often depends on “starting at the right spot and the right time.” Frequently, the same species’ track can seem to be that of a different species depending on a host of factors, including the fact “different animals [have] different personalities out there,” Leoniak said. For example, raccoon tracks can mimic otter or fisher, small rodent racks can seem to be those of birds or even frogs, and it can be challenging to identify which canine or feline track you’re seeing.

That takes experience – “building up a slow process of seeing tracks over and over again,” sketching their details, taking pictures, measuring them and comparing them to field guides. “You can put all that together and you’re playing with this visual language,” he noted. “... Come up with your best analysis of what you see there even before you get to what you think it is.”

In essence, what’s critical is figuring out what the animal is doing. As always, he notes, be careful of your assumptions, because they can make it hard to see what’s actually happening. One important, but often overlooked aspect of any track series is what he defined as “negative space” – which occurs both within the track itself and between the tracks of a sequence. In the former, it can help identify what species it is – particularly distinguishing between canines, who tend to have a X-like space between their pads, and felines, who don’t. In the latter, it helps determine “the behavior the gait says to us.”

As an example, he showed a hunting carnivore stalking a mouse – it took a couple of hops, pounced and broke through the snow crust, and trotted away with its lunch. “That’s what I love about gaits – the stories they tell,” he said.

Most species have three main types of gait – trot, walk and gallop – and those express themselves differently depending on what kind of limbs the animals have – plantigrade (includes humans), digitigrade (includes canines and felines), or unguligrade (includes deer and horses). The latter is “pretty obvious,” but sev-

eral other species’ tracks can look like either of the first two depending on conditions and what they’re doing.

There are also a “lot of variations” on the three types that “gives you an indication if the animal’s going faster or slower,” but they all have the same pattern. Trots show the opposite front and hind feet on the ground at once, alternating; walks show three feet on the ground at once in a pattern of shifting weight back and forth between left and right sides. Gallops are a bit more complex, showing both fronts, both hinds, none, then all together.

Leoniak pointed people to animation videos at [www.vanaticvm.um.edu](http://www.vanaticvm.um.edu) as “a neat site to really burn this movement into your mind.” He noted he hopes to get people to “visualize the animal making this movement as you look at the track,” and also has people in the field try to duplicate it.

“If you get that into your body ... it really teaches you a lot about walk dynamics,” he added.

Once Leoniak got to the individual species’ tracks, he ran through a couple dozen of the more common New England mammals. The key is seeing the difference in foot shape, not always size, since “sometimes scale gets wonky out there.” That’s particularly true in wet conditions or snow, where melting can distort the tracks.

Her spent a lot of time analyzing canine vs feline tracks and distinguishing within those two groups. For example, he noted grey and red fox both have semi-retractable claws that you might not see, but “hairy” centers that sort of fuzz out the track, while coyote tracks are “arrowhead” like with claws. Among felines, the key feature is their asymmetrical toe shape and the fact their weight is more toward the heel. (To make things a bit

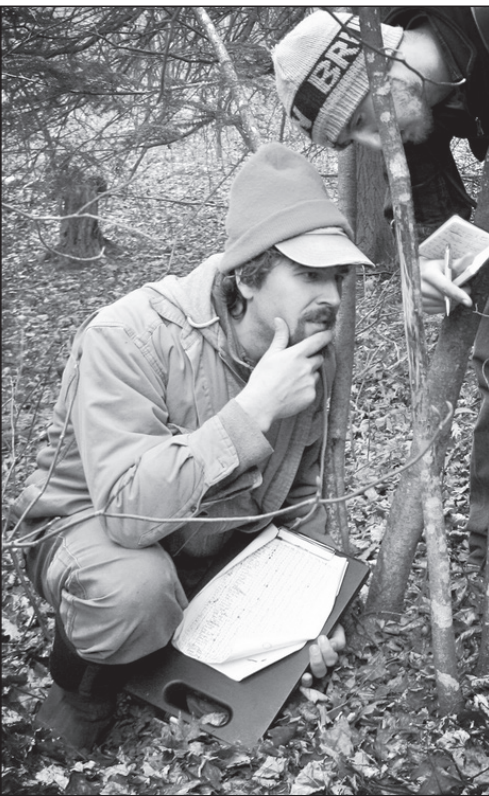


Photo Courtesy

George Leoniak, in upper right corner, discusses the differences among skunk, opossum and raccoon tracks.

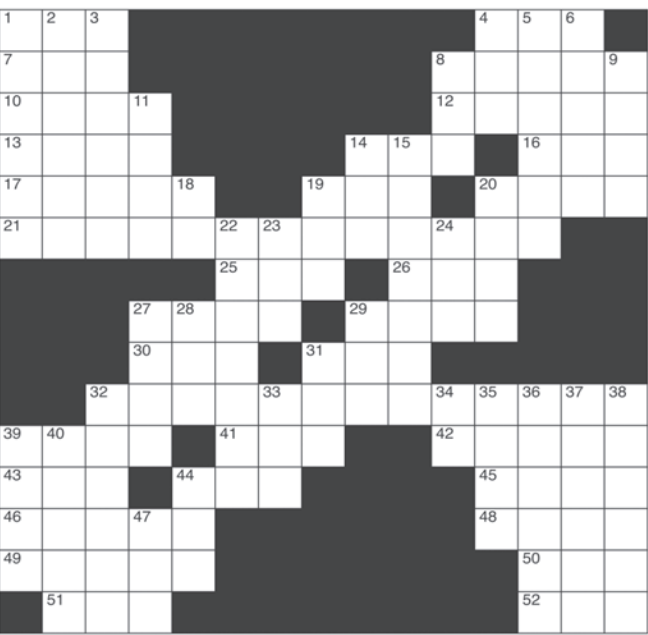
more challenging, Leoniak noted grey fox tracks are easily confused with small feline tracks, while black bear can be confused with cougar.)

Some tracks look almost like small human hands. Raccoon feet have “fingery toes like our fingers,” while opossums have an obvious opposing thumb and unique tracks that “look like a lot of toes going in every direction” because two feet land together. Among smaller rodents, a common pattern is five toes in front, and four behind.

“Tracking is a lot of things,” he said. If you’re out with a skilled person, “you’ll get the chance to look at things in a new way.” He noted that’s even true when you’ve got experience; another tracker pointed out the subtle signs of a hare browsing on greenery that he’d never previously noticed.

A Marlboro, VT, resident, Leoniak has run The Mindful Tracker ([www.mindfultracker.com](http://www.mindfultracker.com)) for more than 20 years, training trackers all over the world.

Gus Steeves can be reached at [gus.steeves2@gmail.com](mailto:gus.steeves2@gmail.com).



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. They look out for kids
- 4. Play
- 7. Water (French)
- 8. Prayer leader
- 10. Small constellation
- 12. \_\_\_ Carta: influential royal charter
- 13. Pressure unit
- 14. Extrasensory perception
- 16. A symbol of “Aloha”
- 17. Portion of the small intestine
- 19. Psychedelic amphetamine
- 20. Very long period of time
- 21. British overseas territory
- 25. Cereal grain
- 26. Car mechanics group
- 27. Wish harm upon
- 29. At a specific prior time
- 30. Peyton’s younger brother
- 31. UK firefighters’ union
- 32. Carroll O’Connor’s screen partner
- 39. Popular show honoring musicians
- 41. Basics
- 42. Honk
- 43. Trent Reznor’s band
- 44. Patti Hearst’s captors
- 45. Long-legged wading bird
- 46. Specialized biological grouping
- 48. A coin goes in it
- 49. Of the wind
- 50. One-time measure of length
- 51. A very large body of water
- 52. River in NE Scotland

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Boston hoopster
- 2. A type of bribe
- 3. SE England county
- 4. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- 5. “Hotel California” rockers
- 6. Italian province
- 8. Mischievous child
- 9. Popular street name
- 11. Boxing promoter Bob
- 14. Snakelike fish
- 15. Break into pieces
- 18. The Bay State
- 19. Time zone
- 20. Port city in Yemen
- 22. In name only
- 23. 007’s creator
- 24. No (Scottish)
- 27. Baseball’s Gordon and rock’s Snider are two
- 28. Pie \_\_\_ mode
- 29. Don’t know when yet
- 31. Supervises interstate commerce
- 32. Make a ringing metallic sound
- 33. Helps little firms
- 34. Pound
- 35. Lilly and Manning are two
- 36. Put on the back burner
- 37. Baltimore ballplayer
- 38. Cuddle
- 39. Poker stake
- 40. Drinks to celebrate a birth (Spanish)
- 44. Pouch
- 47. Not around



### BABY DRIVE

continued from page A1

our community.”

With the help of local dealerships, McGee Buick GMC, McGee Toyota and Place Motor Ford, new pickup trucks and vans were in the parking lots of Big Bunny Market in Southbridge, Park N Shop in Dudley and MAPFRE Insurance on Gore Road in Webster, to collect nonperishable food and baby supplies, such as diapers, jarred food and cereals. The proceeds were distributed to local food banks, Webster-Dudley Food Share, Webster St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank, Charlton Chip-In and Southbridge Food Share, as well as service organizations, such as Our Bright Future food closets in Webster and Southbridge.

About United Way of South Central Massachusetts

The United Way of South Central MA is a volunteer-driven organization that

supports local agencies that provide health, education and financial stability services that profoundly affect the lives of those who live and work in the communities we serve. For more information, call (508) 765-5491 or visit [www.uwscm.org](http://www.uwscm.org). Follow on Facebook @United Way of South Central MA

About Fundación MAPFRE

Fundación MAPFRE is a nonprofit organization created by MAPFRE in 1975 to promote the well-being of society and citizens across the company’s footprint. Active in 30 countries, Fundación MAPFRE focuses on five areas: Road Safety and Accident Prevention, including fires, mishaps at home and drownings; Insurance and Social Protection; Culture; Social Action; and Health Promotion. Please visit <https://www.fundacionmapfre.org/fundacion/en> for more information about Fundación MAPFRE.

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- **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 8:30 a.m. and 11 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.
- **Lamblight Christian Church**, 37 Main Street - Grange building 1st Floor, Charlton, Ma 01507, Rev. Stephen Wade, (774) 452-2393 - Pastor’s Cell. Sunday Service 10:30am. [www.visitlamblight.com](http://www.visitlamblight.com)
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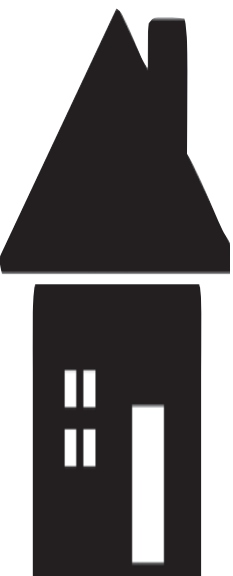
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EDITOR

# OPINION

VIEWS AND COMMENTARY FROM CHARLTON, CHARLTON CITY, CHARLTON DEPOT AND BEYOND

## Tips to Carve a Full Fall Display

## The need to unplug

Oftentimes, our ideas for editorials arise when something close to us personally surfaces that hits home, or when we hear a significant amount of chatter about a specific topic. This week, the chatter has been about national news overload.

We love the news — after all, it's what we do. Sharing information with our readers on the local level is both an honor and a necessity. This week, however, we have heard many people say they just can't listen to the national news anymore. They feel bombarded, often times leaving them feeling depressed and overwhelmed. News junkies watch the news every morning and night, check their Twitter feeds, listen to talk radio on their commutes and are constantly in the know. It's important and responsible to be aware of what's happening around you, however finding a balance is key, even for those of us in the businesses.

It seems as though the national news cycle has been nothing but chaos over the past several years, especially with regard to the current presidential election. Relentless statistics about the COVID-19 pandemic and negative commentary trying to pass itself off as analysis of the candidates and their platforms seems to ping our phones almost on the minute. This can be exhausting.

As a way to catch your breath, pick one day of the week as a 'no news' day, sort of like a news siesta. Get outside, unplug, read a book, listen to some vinyl or watch Cobra Kai (we do recommend for a splash of nostalgia). Attempt to shut off the little magic box we all stare at way too much on the daily. Could landlines actually still serve a purpose?

If you feel like you can't make a difference, realize that you can. First, it goes without saying, get out and vote. Second, do something every day to make the world a better place, even if that means your own little world. Such actions result in the domino effect.

Take some time to count the blessings in your life. Positivity still surrounds us in bulk if you look for it. Family, friends, dogs, crisp fall leaves, apple crisp, bacon, a friendly wave from a neighbor, morning coffee, a cold drink, a beautiful hike or walk, a good novel and a nice music blasting session are just a few things we can lean on to always lift us back up.



### GOOD NEWS

No traditional New England harvest display would be complete without a parade of fat pumpkins and a sprinkling of assorted gourds. The simple pumpkin, rich in both nutrition and heritage, has long served as an object of intrigue and even today, generations of Native Americans hail the pumpkin's healing seeds as a medicinal sedative. Add in the mystique of the annual Halloween Jack-O-Lantern, and its no wonder both pumpkins and gourds remain an autumn wonder, touted for both their culinary and decorative virtues. Here are some tips to "carve out" a fun fall display!

\*\*\*

For carving, choose pumpkins with a sturdy stem, as this is the sign of a healthy pumpkin. Never lift a pumpkin by its stem, not only do you risk it breaking off, a stemless pumpkin ages faster.

\*\*\*

If you are tracing a design to carve from a pumpkin or gourd, use a chopstick or nut spear to press into the gourd for a foolproof guideline.

\*\*\*

To cut out a top lid that won't fall inside the pumpkin, carve a hexagon shape to keep its sitting pretty throughout the night.

\*\*\*

Better yet, cut off the bottom of the pumpkin instead of the top. Place the carved pumpkin over a candle safely set on a plate, or for optimum safety, simply use a flashlight.

\*\*\*

If you plan to place a pillar candle inside your Jack-Lantern, first cut a hole in the bottom of the pumpkin the same size as your candle to stabilize it.

\*\*\*

For a festive twist on traditional Jack-O-Lantern lights or candles, stuff a string of small white Christmas lights inside the carved pumpkin. Make a hole out the back to feed plug through.

\*\*\*

Carving a gourd? Here's a hint to halt the hassle. Simply place a towel inside a large bowl to hold the gourd steady. Place the gourd in the padded bowl to keep it from moving while you trace or cut.

\*\*\*

Did you know? The Japanese considered the gourd a lucky token and believed a set of six gourds had the power to improve health and spiritual power. Plus they believed the set of gourds could produce six fortunes!

\*\*\*

Want your Jack-O-Lantern or gourd sculpture to last longer? A spray of Lysol or other disinfectant will prolong life of pumpkins and gourds.

\*\*\*

For long term storage, put a thin amount of petroleum jelly on the exposed, sawed edges. This prevents water from getting out. If water gets out, your pumpkin will shrivel.

\*\*\*

Stretch the longevity of a Jack-O-Lantern by giving it a bath. Let the



TAKE THE HINT  
KAREN TRAINOR

pumpkin float for a few hours, or even overnight, allowing the insides fill with water. Put a little bleach in the water if you wish to prevent mold. The pumpkin absorbs the water and become very firm. Anytime your pumpkin shrivels, soak it in a bath of cold water for one to eight hours to rejuvenate it.

\*\*\*

Another way to extend a lighted Jack-O-Lantern's life is to poke a vent hole or two in the top of the pumpkin to vent the heat and slow the rotting process.

\*\*\*

Jack-O-Lantern Lore Legend has it the Jack-O-Lantern evolved from an Irish tale involving a drunkard named Jack. According to the longtime yarn, Jack was a trickster who playfully deceived family members. His fate was sealed the day he attempted to trick the devil into climbing an apple tree. Once Jack convinced the devil to climb the tree, he placed crosses around the tree trunk, trapping the devil. With the devil cornered, Jack refused let him down until he promised not to take Jack's soul when he died. The story goes that many years later when Jack died, he couldn't get into heaven, yet he was turned out of hell too, because of the devil's long ago promise. Jack found himself with nowhere to go. He asked the devil how to leave the gates of hell as there was no light to guide him. According to the tale, the devil threw him an ember from the flames of hell to help him light his way. Jack put the burning ember inside a hollowed out pumpkin. From that day on, it is said that Jack wandered the earth without a resting place, lighting his way with his lantern, thus the legend of the "Jack-O-Lantern," was born.

\*\*\*

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 E-mail KDRR@aol.com. Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn.*

## Can you influence your financial aid award?



FINANCIAL FOCUS  
JEFF BURDICK

Right now, the pandemic is causing chaos and uncertainty for colleges and students. But it won't always be that way. And if you have children who will be heading off to school in the next few years, you're probably thinking about more typical concerns – such as expenses. How will you pay for the high costs of higher education?

Most colleges do offer financial aid packages that can greatly help with these expenses. But it pays to know, well in advance, how financial aid works. And the key platform for determining much of your child's financial aid is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). In fact, if you have children starting college next year, now is the time to get going on the FAFSA, which became available Oct. 1 for the 2021-22 award year.

Filling out your FAFSA will provide you with what's known as your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The EFC calculation takes into account four separate areas: parent income, parent assets (excluding retirement funds, such as 401(k) plans and IRAs, home equity and small family businesses), student income and student assets. The EFC does not calculate the exact amount you must pay for college – rather, it's an estimate, and the amount you pay can be below or above this number.

Nonetheless, the EFC is important in determining your financial aid package, and your actions can influence the results. Here are a few suggestions for future years:

Save money in your name – not your child's. FAFSA will just consider up to 5.64 percent of a parent's assets, compared to 20 percent of a student's assets.

Be aware of how retirement plan contributions can affect aid. Many of your current assets, such as your retirement accounts, may be excluded from the EFC calculation. However, any voluntary contributions you make to your 401(k) or traditional IRA during the "base" year (the prior tax year) generally must be reported on the FAFSA and are counted as untaxed income; consequently, these contributions may have a similar effect on aid eligibility as taxable income. Mandatory contributions, such as those made by teachers to a state retirement system, are generally not reported on the FAFSA.

Avoid withdrawals from your 401(k) or traditional IRA. The money you take out from these accounts in the years you fill out the FAFSA, and the prior tax year, may count as taxable income in the financial aid calculations. If you really need the money, you may want to consult with your financial professional for alternatives.

Consider having children put earnings into a Roth IRA. Money from after-school or summer jobs your children put in a Roth IRA may not be included in EFC – plus, your kids will get a head start on a tax-advantaged retirement account. Keep in mind, though, that Roth IRA withdrawals could be considered as taxable income on the FAFSA if the account owner is younger than 59 ½, which will be the case for your children, or the account is less than five years old.

Not all these suggestions will be appropriate for everyone, but they're worth thinking about. You might also want to consult with a college's financial aid officer before you complete the FAFSA, as aid calculations can be complex. An investment of your time and effort early in the process may pay off when the aid packages are finally delivered.

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

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## Unexpected twists and turns

Life is rarely as we plan it. What we expect often turns out differently and we are reluctantly forced to adjust accordingly. Riding the waves of life is what we make of it. It can be waves of frustration or we can allow those same waves to take us on a fascinating journey.

I didn't plan on spending the last few days in the hospital, yet here I am. So, I'm writing this column on my phone rather than my laptop. I'm doing so, the old-fashioned way, without the use of my usual editing program. I'm horrified how this may be received by your newspaper but hopefully we can take it all in stride.

If you are a regular reader of my column, you know I'm fighting Stage 4 Stomach Cancer. It's not what I expected. This isn't what I planned. Lying in this hospital bed using one finger to type my column on a phone certainly isn't what I anticipated happening ... but it did.

So, what do you do when life unexpectedly changes your plans? You can react to the problem or you can respond. You can react with anger, sadness, frustration, or depression, or you can respond with courage to overcome the adversity. You can use your intuition to guide you. You can harness thoughtful and logical creativity and act to overcome the unexpected



POSITIVELY SPEAKING  
GARY W. MOORE

obstacle.

I've written about this before. There is a difference between reacting and responding. Reacting is usually a knee-jerk reaction that usually compounds the problem and makes it worse. Always try not to react.

Responding is different. When we respond, it's usually with calmness and courage to face the situation. Face the issue and always respond.

It also makes a difference in how we label things. We can call them problems or situations. Problems are nasty, headache causing circumstances that usually cause a reaction. A situation insinuates a circumstance that you can resolve. Label all your obstacle and unexpired circumstance as situations and not problems.

So, I'm choosing tonight to respond to the situation of being in the hospital rather than reacting to a problem that's out of my control. I can make this a problem or situation. I choose it to be the latter. either one true. This newspaper may fire me over this problem if I can't resolve it. I instead choose to overcome this situation with courage, careful thought and logic and not disappoint the newspaper that relays on me.

Think about interchanging these words ... react vs respond and problem vs situation. We can look at the

same event and react to a problem or respond to a situation. How we label it determines what we think I, and what we think determines how we view the obstacle. And again, how we view it determines if we react or respond.

I'll admit. The fact I'm being contained in a hospital without my computer caused me to momentarily react and become frustrated, but I took a breath and said out loud, this is a situation to be solved and not a problem. Once I thought about my options, my phone was it, and I resolved my situation and began typing.

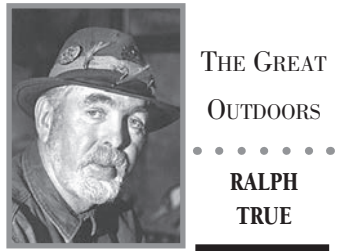
As I began this column saying, life is never perfect. There will always be unexpected events that change destroy our carefully laid plans. The only choice you have in those moments is to label it as a situation rather than a problem and respond rather than react.

I always choose to respond. Will you join me?

P.S.: I'm going to be fine. I had a bowel obstruction which is resolving itself. I hope to be released today.

Gary W. Moore is a freelance columnist, speaker, and author of three books including the award-winning, critically acclaimed, "Playing with the Enemy." Follow Gary on Twitter @GaryWMoore721 and at www.garyw-moore.com.





THE GREAT  
OUTDOORS  
• • • • •  
RALPH  
TRUE

This past Friday, Matt Fontain and this writer decided to make a trip to Galilee, R.I. to do some fishing for seabass and tautog. After stopping at Quaker Lane Bait and Tackle shop to pick up some green crabs for bait, we headed for the boat ramp at Galilee. Upon arriving just after daybreak, we found ourselves in line at the ramp. “Fishing must be good, Matt” were the first words out of my mouth. After finally launching the boat, we managed to catch a few mummies for bait, but they were extremely scarce.

Matt went to park the car and trailer, which gave me some time to talk to a few anglers that had recently returned from Block Island. They had been fishing most of the night, and all managed to retain a keeper striped. I mentioned about all of the trailers in the parking lot and wondered if they were mostly fishing for stripers. “Heck, no,” one guy replied, “they are out chasing Bonito or False Albacore.” Matt was returning from parking the car and trailer, so it was time to go fishing.

We headed out through the East Breaker Wall, and planned to fish in front of the light house at Point Judith. We spotted a group of boats fishing in front of Scarborough Beach area, so I mentioned that they more than likely were catching tautog, as it is always a hot spot in the fall. As we arrived in the area, we soon realized that they were all chasing Bonito. After observing numerous bonito busting the water around us, I decided to give it



Photos Courtesy  
Matt Fontain with a few of the seabass and tautog we caught last week.

a try . After a few minutes of fishing Matt suggested that we go back to the area around the Lighthouse. “I just don’t feel it,” he stated , meaning that he felt we were in the wrong spot. “Let’s go,” I stated. Arriving at a spot a mile off of the light-house I lowered my rig bated with green crab. “Wow, I got a fish on!” The rig had barely hit the bottom and I was hooked up to a good fish.

As the fish was reeled up to the surface, we realized I had a large seabass. It was lock and load action for the rest of the morning, catching seabass and tautog using crabs as bait. We left a bit early because of a squall with heavy winds coming into the area, but it calmed down as fast as it came in. We were already half way

back to the launch area, so we called it a day. We are heading back this week for some more action. Tautog fishing is heating up fast, so give it a try.

Two local youngsters harvested a deer this past Saturday in the valley area. It was an opportunity for them to hunt deer during the special one-day youth hunt that is an annual event. Because of the deadline of this column, I was not able to acquire the names of the two young hunters. Hopefully, there will be more information on the two successful hunters.

This past Saturday, the Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club had their first Pheasant hunt under there Preserve hunting license. It sure was nice to get the dogs out hunting for the first time. Numerous breeds



A few of the club members ready to hunt pheasant this past weekend.

of bird dogs did there thing of pointing and flushing birds. Labrador Retrievers, Pointers, Springers, Brittney’s, and a Griffon were some of the dogs hunting this past week-end. The smell of spent gun powder in the crisp morning air after downing our first pheasant of the year was a sure sign that fall was here. Dog owners that took the time to train their dogs during the off season were rewarded with some great dog work in the field. There is nothing more enjoyable than hunting over a well-trained dog. This week’s picture shows a few hunters ready to enjoy a day in the field hunting pheasant, at the Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club.

Duck & Goose hunting opens on the 13th of October this year, in the Central District. Because of the low water in most ponds and rivers hunting ducks may

be a lot different than previous years. Locating areas of water along small streams, needs to be done prior to opening day. A good retrieving dog will save you a lot of otherwise lost birds. The wood duck population is high this year, as the birds had a good nesting season, as did the resident goose population.

Trout stocking by the Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife has started and most ponds and lakes that normally receive a fall stocking should be completed by the end of this week. The recent cool nights helped cool the water, but we still need a few inches of rain. Hopefully, we will get a good soaking soon.

Stay safe and wear a mask when out in the public!

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!



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

The pandemic has affected all of us in some way, and non-profits are no exception. The Worcester Historical Museum recently reopened with social distancing guidelines in place. The Worcester Art Museum is scheduled to reopen this week. Cancelled events due to COVID-19 decreased revenue at these larger non-profits. Smaller non-profits typically have fewer grants and have likely suffered larger setbacks due to COVID-19. With the inability conduct in-person meetings, members of smaller non-profits have not been able to share the camaraderie with those who hold similar interests.

One local non-profit group is learning how to adapt during these unprecedented times. The Townsend Historical Society recently approached me about appraising items virtually. I had appraised items at a live appraisal event for them in Townsend in 2017. I enjoy the interaction with the public at these events and look forward to having that interaction soon, even if it’s through a screen.

The event will take place via Zoom during the Townsend

Historical Society’s “Virtually Vintage: A Live, Online Antique Appraisal Event” on Oct. 10 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. You can buy tickets to get your items appraised on their website: townsendhistoricalsociety.org. Appraisals are \$10 each or 3 items for \$25. After you purchase your ticket(s), you can either send photos of your items and any history that you have or bring them in person to Townsend on the day of the event. Ticket holders will be able to watch the entire event or just sign in when it is time to have their items appraised.

I have been working closely with Taber Morrell, the Site Administrator for the Townsend Historical Society, to prepare for the event. In an email interview, he said that the Site Administrator is responsible for the “Reed Homestead where [they] do most of [their] tours and programs, and where [their] records and artifact collections are stored.” Morrell also said: “the position extends to other historic buildings we care for as well, a 19th century grist mill, cooperage, church, and some monuments throughout town.”

Mr. Morrell provided me with some additional infor-

mation on the organization and event. The group has close to 300 members who are “really active with the Historical Society and its programs.” He informed me that the “appraisal held in 2017 along with our Arts and Crafts Fair are absolutely the most talked about events.” Unfortunately, the fair had to be canceled this year, but the organization has been working hard to make many other events accessible virtually. Mr. Morrell said that the Townsend Historical Society has run a “virtual open house, an online presentation about the history of tourism in New England, and [they are] even working on a web-based cemetery tour for October.” He informed me that “members have been craving another edition of the antique appraisal [held with me] in 2017” and they hoped to “create a virtual version we could make a lot of people really happy.” I look forward to utilizing modern technology to help online attendees learn more about their historical artifacts. I hope to see some regular readers of this column through my screen.

In addition to the virtual appraisal with the Townsend Historical Society, we also have other exciting events coming

up this month. We will be holding an estate sale in Stoneham, Mass. on Oct. 17, following COVID-19 safety guidelines. Bidding will end on October 28th for our online coin auction. We are still accepting quality consignments for our multi-estate online antiques and collectibles auction ending

on Nov. 11.

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



Town of Sturbridge  
Administrative Assistant  
to the Health Department

The Town of Sturbridge Board of Health has an immediate opening for a 25 hour a week Administrative Assistant in the Health Department/Board of Health. This position provides administrative support to the Health Department in a fast-paced and constantly changing environment. The ideal candidate is a flexible self-starter with exceptional organization and customer service skills. The Administrative Assistant is required to attend night meetings, take and prepare minutes, interact with the public and work with other Town departments. Must have the ability to take initiative when necessary and constantly multi-task. Experience performing clerical duties and ability to use Microsoft Word and Excel required.

Prior municipal experience preferred, but not required.

To apply, please submit the Sturbridge employment application, resume and cover letter to Kenneth Lacey, Jr at klacey@sturbridge.gov, or Health Department 301 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566. Salary range is \$19.11 - \$19.88 per hour dependent on qualifications. Priority consideration given to applications received by October 15, 2020.



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# Grow garlic this fall for flavorful meals and health benefits



GARDEN  
MOMENTS  
.....  
MELINDA  
MYERS

Add a bit of flavor and health benefits to your main course with some home-grown garlic. This vegetable has been used for thousands of years as both food and medicine. Today it is credited with fighting heart disease, lowering blood pressure and cholesterol, and boosting the immune system while fighting cancer. Grow garlic in a well-drained soil and full sun. Plant cloves in fall about six weeks before the ground freezes in cold climates and early winter in warmer regions. Garlic needs 6 to 8 weeks of cool temperatures below 40 degrees for the shoot and bulb to develop. The leaves will form during cool, short days then slows as bulb growth begins when the days are warmer and longer.

Plant individual cloves with the pointed side up and the base of the clove 2 to 3 inches below the soil surface. Space cloves 6 inches apart in rows 12 to 14 inches apart or more depending on the variety.

Mulch the soil with weed-free straw after the ground freezes in regions with cold winters. This provides added insulation and helps prevent frost heaving

that occurs when temperatures fluctuate, causing soil to alternately freeze, thaw and shift throughout the winter.

Water thoroughly and often enough to keep the soil evenly moist during active growth. Inconsistent moisture during the growing season results in misshapen bulbs. Mulch the soil with shredded leaves, evergreen needles, or other organic matter to conserve moisture, suppress weeds, and improve the soil as it decomposes.

Double your garlic harvest by using the curly Q stems, called scapes, in cooking and flower arrangements. Watch for these curled stems about a month after the spring leaves appear.

Remove the scape soon after the swollen part appears at the tip of the stem. Cut or break the scape off just below the swollen area. All parts are edible and can be used fresh or cooked just like garlic. You will not only enjoy the mild flavor but removing the scapes helps increase the size of the garlic bulbs.

Harvest garlic when about one third, but less than one half of the leaves turn brown. Start by digging one plant and checking the garlic for maturity. Cloves should be plump and fill the skin. Immature garlic does not store well while over-mature bulbs are subject to disease.

Cure garlic for 3 to 4 weeks in a warm, well-ventilated location. Once dried, remove the tops and store in a cool, moderately humid location with good air circulation and out of direct sunlight. Properly harvested and cured



Photo Melinda Myers

Plant garlic cloves in fall about six weeks before the ground freezes in cold climates and early winter in warmer regions.

garlic will last for up to 8 months.

So, plant some garlic this fall and add flavor and health benefits to your meals.

Gardening expert Melinda Myers has 30 years of horticulture experience and written over 20 gardening books, including *Small Space Gardening*. Myers is the host of *The Great Courses* "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* TV & radio segments. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Myers' website is [www.melindamyers.com](http://www.melindamyers.com).

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## DINE OUT & SEE A SHOW!



OBITUARIES

Etta Ginga, 61

CHARLTON – Etta (Savage) Ginga, 61, of Nugget Drive, died Monday, September 28, 2020, at UMass Memorial Medical Center – University Campus in Worcester, surrounded by her family after a year-long battle with lung cancer. She is survived by her husband of 16 years, Dick Ginga of Charlton; two children, Mandy D. Christenson and her husband Chris of Oxford, and Dennis M. Griffin of Westfield; her stepson, Jacob P. Ginga of New Bedford; nine siblings, Lenny Savage, Pamela Savage, Toni Richards, Billy Savage, Steven Savage, Elyta Clark, Kenny Savage, Tina Valley, and Tammy Nail; her step-mother, Clemma Savage; four grandchildren, Micaela, Seth, Brielle, and Lucas Christenson, all of Oxford; her former husband, Matthew Griffin; and many nephews, nieces, cousins, and friends. She was born in Omaha, Nebraska, daughter of the late Kent Savage and Shirley (Craig) Tutlis, and lived most of her life



in Oxford before moving to Charlton 15 years ago. She attended Bay Path and the Salter School. Etta worked at the Fallon Clinic for 20 years. Later, she worked in the Elementary School in Charlton in the cafeteria for five years, which she truly enjoyed every day. She loved camping, gardening, working with the children at Aspire Dance Center in Oxford, and spending time with her family and friends. Her positive attitude, sunny disposition, beautiful smile, and dazzling eyes were a comfort and joy to all who knew her. She will be remembered as a loving wife, mother, and the best Nana ever. She was greatly loved by everyone who met her and the world is a lesser place without her in it. Calling hours were Thursday, October 1, 2020, from 4-7 p.m. at Paradis-Givner Funeral Home, 357 Main St., Oxford. A funeral service followed by burial at North Cemetery in Oxford will be held privately due to gathering restrictions. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to your local food bank. paradisfuneralhome.com

Barbara Helen (Paradis) McGrath 84

Moscow, Maine/ Charlton, MA- Barbara Helen (Paradis) McGrath 84, passed away peacefully in her home. Her husband of 48 years, Thomas F. McGrath, Sr. died July 24, 2004, she was also predeceased by a son William J. 'Billy' McGrath January 29, 2017. She leaves behind 2 sons; Thomas F. McGrath, Jr. of Charlton and Robert G. McGrath of Charlton, 3 daughters; Darlene Froment of Webster, Joan White of Spencer and Dorothy Washburn of Maine, 8 grandchildren, 28 great grandchildren and a sister, Anne Mulcahy of Oregon. Barbara was born August 14, 1936 in

Worcester a daughter of the late George and Ella (Perreault) Paradis. She worked in the textile manufacturing industry for many years. Calling hours will be private for family and close friends with burial next to her husband in Worcester County Memorial Park, Paxton on Friday, October 2, 2020. The ROBERT J. MILLER-CHARLTON FUNERAL HOME, 175 Old Worcester Rd. in Charlton is assisting the family with arrangements. To leave an on-line message of condolence, please visit: RJMillerfunerals.net

Rhoda May (Fales) (Cooper) Josephson

Rhoda Josephson went to be with her Lord September 26, 2020 – just two months shy of 104. She was born in Worcester, MA November 30, 1916, the only daughter of John P. Fales and Mary E. (Whitman) Fales. While living in St. Augustine, Florida for 25 years she belonged to the Moultrie Baptist Church and the local Audubon Club. After moving to Brookfield in 2001 she maintained her own home until after her 100th birthday attending both the Brookfield Congregational and Quaboag Valley Baptist Churches. Her final months were at Quaboag Rehabilitation and Nursing Home in West Brookfield. At age 10, Rhoda moved to Charlton with her parents and her two younger brothers. She rode the trolley to school, graduated Charlton High School and was a telephone operator with a 6-line switchboard. When attending church at the Dodge Chapel in Charlton, she shared a hymn book with Alfred Cooper, Jr. from Rochdale; eventually they married. She and “Al” had one daughter and five sons. She waitressed part-time at the Little Valley Farm, then a restaurant on Northside Road in Charlton. Rhoda was a member of the Federated Church and the Helping Hands Society of Charlton. She grew a garden, canned



the produce and made her own butter and jellies, raised German Shepherds, rode her horse, mended the boys' jeans, made rugs for the family home, played her organ and even did some oil painting! Survivors are her daughter Jean Clarkson of St. Augustine, Florida; and four of her five sons Thomas (Donna Neylon) of Charlton; John (Carol) of Brimfield; Alfred III (Suzan) of Millinocket, ME; Stephen (Dimity) of Brookfield, MA and daughter-in-law Cindy of Charlton, at least 20 grandchildren, 32 great grandchildren, 10 great-great grandchildren, several nieces, a nephew, her stepson Don Josephson and his extended family. Rhoda's first husband, Al, died in 1972. Her second husband, Einar Josephson (North Brookfield, MA), died in 1995. Her youngest son, Peter, son-in-law Ralph Clarkson, two brothers Philip and Sidney Fales, their wives (Cynthia & Dorothy), two granddaughters (Debra Clarkson Maguire and Virginia Cooper), a niece (Caroline), a daughter-in-law (Janice) and dear cousin Marjorie all pre-deceased her. Arrangements by Pillsbury Funeral Home, North Brookfield. In lieu of flowers, family suggests donations be made to Spirit Lifter's Fund, in care of Brookfield Congregational Church, 2 Central Street, Brookfield, MA 01506, or Brookfield Emergency Squad, 4 Central Street, Brookfield, MA 01506 or the charity of your choice.

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For more information, contact us at the Church Office (774)304-1021 or [www.sturfed.org](http://www.sturfed.org).

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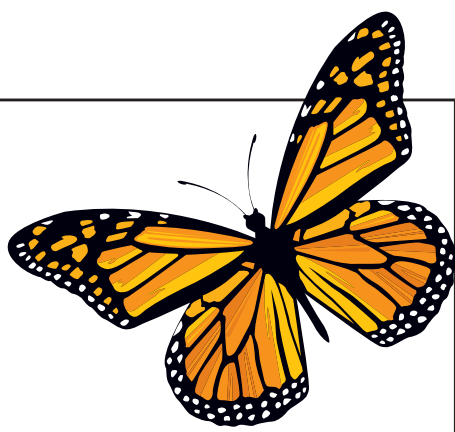
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# Expo Management postpones all shows until 2022

WORCESTER — Expo Management Group, producers of the Worcester RV & Camping Show, Worcester Home Show and the Worcester Boat Show announced the postponement of all events until 2022 due to uncertainties about COVID-19 protocols.

Currently, the state of MA is in "Phase 3" which does not allow large public events to be held. Phase 4 (which would allow public events and bars to open) is on indefinite hold until there is a viable and widely distributed vaccine

in effect. The CDC predicts that this won't happen until at least the end of the 3rd quarter of 2021.

According to Jeffrey Davis, Managing Partner of Expo Management Group, "In the almost 75 years that we've been producing shows, we've always strived to produce the best events to justify the money our exhibitors spend with us. Consumer shows rely on face-to-face marketing where people can see, touch, and experience the product or service an exhibitor is promoting. Given the

current situation, it is impossible to do this. We had to lay off our entire staff since March and have not been able to put together a plan that makes sense. It takes nearly a year to put together our shows, but with social distancing and additional safety protocols, we simply cannot in good conscience ask our valued exhibitors to pay for space without knowing whether or not the show will actually happen. We just hope that everyone stays safe as we try to adapt to a new normal."



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NEW LISTING



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ON DEPOSIT



SOLD



**WEBSTER** – 20 Kunkel Ave! SUNNY SHORES! First Time Offered! 8 Rooms, 4 Bedrooms, 2.5 Bath Colonial! Featuring an Appliance Eat-in Cabinet Packed Kitchen! Formal Dining Room! 1st Floor Family Room w/Hardwood Floor! 1st Floor Half Bath w/Laundry! Gleaming Hardwood Staircase to the 2nd Floor w/4 Bedrooms! Master w/ Master Bath & Walk-in Closet! Many Recent Updates including Roof, Central Air, Hot Water Heater, Dishwasher & Refrigerator! Back Deck Overlooks Large Fenced Yard! 7 Zone Irrigation System! Farmer's Porch! Shed! 2 Car Garage w/Openers! This Home has Everything You Need and Then Some! Expandable Basement! Desirable Neighborhood w/Webster Lake Beach & Boat Ramp Access Nearby! Convenient to Route 395! **\$369,900.00**



SOLD

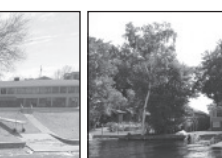
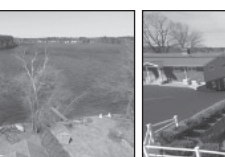


ON DEPOSIT



**WEBSTER LAKE** – 112 Gore Rd! NORTH POND! Sucker Brook Cove! 8 Rm, 3 Bdrm, 1.5 Bath Ranch is Ready for You! Southwestern Exposure! Gorgeous Sunsets! Unique Waterfront! An Open Floor Plan! Lake Views from Nearly All Rooms! 2x6 Construction! Energy Efficient Blinds in Every Room! 4 Oil Tanks - Fill Up Once a Year! C/Air! Gas Fireplace! Whole House Fan! Meticulously Cared For! Large workshop! 3 Car Garage! Carport! 2 Sheds w/Electric! Back Yard is Perfect for Family Gatherings! Plenty of Off Street Parking! Summer is Here! **\$539,900.00**

**HOLDEN** – 315 Holden St! 6 Rm Ranch! Meticulously Maintained! 2 Spacious Bdrms, Full Tiled Bath & 1 Car Garage! Move In Ready! Granite Oak Cabinet Kit w/Tiled Back Splash & JennAir Stove! Frplc Liv Rm! Fam Rm! Gleaming Hrdwds! Perfect Yard w/Major Landscaping this Year! New Roof 2019! **\$344,900.00**



ON DEPOSIT



**WEBSTER LAKE** – 62 Bates Point Rd! Middle Pond! Absolute Prime 51' Level Waterfront Lot w/Western Expo! Beautiful Sunsets! Fantastic Panoramic Lake Views! 11 Rms, 6 Bdrms, 4 Bathrooms, 3,269' AC'd Colonial! Custom SS Appliance Granite Kit! Formal Din Rm w/ Cherry Hrdwds! Lake Facing Liv Rm w/Cathedrals, Cherry Hrdwds! Slider to Waterfront Deck! Spacious 1st Flr Master Bdrm w/Full Bath, Cherry Hrdwds & Walk-in Closet! Frplcd Lower Level Fam Rm! 1st & 2nd Flr Laundries! 2 Car Garage! **\$949,900.00**



**WEBSTER LAKE** - 11 Bay View Rd! One of the Lake's Premier Properties! 9,822' of Nice! .68 Acres of Park Like Grounds! 297' Waterfront! \$4 Million Spent, Nothing Spared! 17 Rms! 5 Water View Bdrms, 5.5 Bathrooms! Brazilian Cherry Hrdwd Flrs, Grand & Spiral Stairways! Elevator, Ground Flr to Master Suite! In-door Resistance Swimming Pool, Hot Tub & Bthrm w/Steam Shower off Exercise Rm! Billiard Rm! Media Rm! Center Isl Granite Kit w/Viking Gas Range, Sub-Zero Frig, Pantry & Breakfast Bar! Open Flr Plan! Din Area, Fam Rm w/Entertainment Center w/Wet Bar! Formal Din Rm, Frplc Liv Rm & Atrium! Library w/Deck! Waterfront Master Suite w/Office, Bdrm w/Triple Glass Dr to Private Deck w/Lake Views, 3 Walk-in Closets, Bathrm w/Multi-Head Shower, Whirlpool, Dble Vanity, Separate Commode/Bidet/Sink Area! 16 2's of Updated Geothermal Heat/A/C! Recessed Lights & Fire Sprinklers Through Out! 3 Car Garage! Generator! Slate Roof! Reward Yourself! **\$2,499,900.00**



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### Featured New Listing!



ON DEPOSIT

#### WEBSTER - 52 CUDWORTH ROAD

1.99 ACRE INDUSTRIAL ZONED LOT! GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE & WORK FROM HOME! Amazing 1790 Antique Colonial! Undergone major updates & renovations, maintaining Antique Charm! Great Room graced by an Open Hearth Stone Fireplace! Soaring Cathedral Ceilings! Replacement windows throughout, Buderus boiler & hot water storage in 2015, 13x21 rear deck! SOO MUCH MORE!  
**\$499,900.**

#### LAND WEBSTER/OXFORD/DUDLEY/DOUGLAS

Oxford - 4 Leicester St - Approx. 8.47 ACRES! River Frontage Possible to be Subdivided!  
**\$89,900**

Webster - Upper Gore w/View of the Lake! 1+ Acre! Artisan Well, Septic Design & Conservation - DONE.  
**NEW PRICE \$115,000.**

Webster - Cooper Road 2 Buildable Lots! Water & Sewer Access. Zoned Lake Res!  
**\$49,000.**

Douglas-Mount Daniels 2.5 Acres abuts Douglas State Forest!  
**ON DEPOSIT! \$132,900**

Dudley - Marshall Terrace 12,000+/- Sq Ft Lot! Potential for a 2 Family!  
**SORRY SOLD! \$70,000.**

Dudley - Packard Dr. 2 Lots! Very Private! off Ridge Dr. Will not last!  
**SORRY SOLD! \$50,000.**

#### THOMPSON - 452 FAYAN ROAD



SORRY, SOLD!

Impressive Gambrel Colonial! 2,343 SF, 3 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, Main Level Master BR Suite! Private Master sized bath w/whirlpool tub & shower. A Serene Year-Round Gateway Destination or Full Time Country Home on 2.4+/- PRIVATE Acres! cathedral wood ceilings, & wide-board pine floors & a truly unique 2-story floor plan! Granite counter-tops, stainless appliances, gas cook-top & ceramic tile floors! 2 bed rooms & a full bath, cross the walkway to the right to a gigantic loft/great room with interior balcony! Over-sized 3 car detached garage w/high ceilings, and a huge unfinished 2nd story room! TRULY A RARE RARE PLACE NEARBY!  
**\$398,500.**

#### DANIELSON CT- 52 TAFT STREET



SORRY, SOLD!

Spacious Ranch, 1520+/- Sq Ft 8 room 3 Bedroom, 2 Full Baths. Hardwood Floors throughout. Fireplace family room. FHW/OIL Heat. - New Furnace, Windows, Also, recent Asphalt Driveway! Over sized Garage! 1/2 Acre Lot. Dead end road. Close to I-395!  
**\$255,500.**

#### WEBSTER - 195-199 THOMPSON RD



3 ACRE COMMERCIAL SITE! APPROX. 550 FT ROAD FRONTAGE ON STATE HIGHWAY RTE 193 A/K/A THOMPSON ROAD. STRATEGICALLY NESTLED BETWEEN TWO (2) I-395 (NORTH & SOUTH) ON-RAMPS & TWO (2) I-395 (NORTH & SOUTH) OFF-RAMPS! PROPERTY DIRECTLY ABUTS I-395! 48'x80' CONCRETE BLOCK BUILDING, 7,680 SF TOTAL! FULL LOWER LEVEL USE & DRIVE IN GARAGE DOOR! HIGH TRAFFIC - HIGH EXPOSURE! WHAT DO YOU HAVE PLANNED?  
**\$600,000.**

#### WOODSTOCK CT - 110 JOY RD



Quintessential Woodstock Farmhouse w/Spectacular views of Pond. Detached Studio Building! 2.5 Acres. Prof. Landscaped. 5 Bedrooms. Fireplace Dining. Library/Music room. Master Bedroom, 2 Full Baths! Renovated Kitchen. Upstairs, 4 Bedrooms w/Full Bath.  
**\$425,000.**

#### OXFORD - 4 SPICEBUSH LANE



ON DEPOSIT

One level living with added 35 x 18 finished walk-out lower level. Cathedral ceilings, skylight dining, hard-wood flooring and central air. Stainless appliances w/large double oven. Over-sized 30 x 14 deck, quiet cul-de-sac!  
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#### WESTFORD - 41 WHISPERING PINES



SORRY, SOLD!

Summer Village with Private Beach, 2 Heated Pools, Fitness Center, Putting Green Tennis Basketball, Bocce, Rest/Lounge, Pavilion, all on site. 4 rooms, 2 bedrooms, 1-1/2 baths. Loft, and so much more. Great Value!  
**assisted sale \$225,000.**

#### SUTTON - 470 BOSTON ROAD



SORRY, SOLD!

Updated Home that is on a 1 Acre, Professionally Landscaped Grounds. 5 rooms, 2 bedrooms. 3 bedroom septic will be installed. Baseboard oil heat. Recent exterior paint and newer Windows, Wood Flooring, Fireplace. Sunroom. 2 car garage!  
**assisted sale \$379,900.**

#### WEBSTER - 56 CUSHING ROAD



SORRY, SOLD!

FIRST TIME OFFERED! Meticulously Cared for & Loved - 4 Bedroom / 2 Bath, 1963 Cape! Natural GAS Heat Town Services! Boiler - Just like New! Corner Lot. Garage! 2nd Flr - 2 Lg Bdrms! Bathroom, Hardwood Floors. This House is Ready for a New Family, is it YOU?? Call today, Don't Delay!  
**\$272,900.**

#### WEBSTER - 548 SCHOOL ST



SORRY, SOLD!

Aesthetically pleasing 4-5 BR CAPE! 1,800 SF Cape! 8 rooms. 4 lg rooms & bath on 1st flr, eat-in kitchen, living room, family room, office/possible 1st flr in-law bedroom. 2nd flr - 4 lg bedrooms & bath. 2 car garage.  
**\$199,900.**

*On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg*

#### WEBSTER LAKE - 100 LAKESIDE AVE



SORRY, SOLD!

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

#### LAKE SHIRLEY - 647 RESERVOIR RD



SORRY, SOLD!

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



# Phantoms & Fire brings spooky fun to Old Sturbridge Village

STURBRIDGE — Phantoms & Fire brings a new twist to the Halloween season at Old Sturbridge Village (OSV), with a series of haunting outdoor performances and seasonal activities for all ages. Replacing the theatrical “Sleepy Hollow Experience,” which has played at the Village since 2016, Phantoms & Fire offers guests a safe take on the Halloween season, following the restrictions set forth by COVID-19.

A cornerstone of the new event is “Nevermore,” a series of six outdoor performances written and directed by P.J. Griffith, specifically for Old Sturbridge Village and partner Coggeshall Farm Museum. “Nevermore” welcomes a professional cast to the Village to bring to life the short stories and poems of author Edgar Allan Poe, told from the perspective of characters who have just witnessed these terrors occur. The stories will play out simultaneously in six different locations around the Village and tell familiar tales of horror, revenge, obsession

and deception. Performances will be repeated throughout the night in pulsating rhythm - just like Poe’s tell-tale, beating heart - ensuring that visitors can see and experience them all.

Younger guests will delight in a new 2020 version of Trick-or-Treat at the Village, called “Clues & Candy.” Making their way throughout the commons, families can collect clues and stamps that can be turned in for a big bag of goodies at the end of their visit! Participation in “Clues & Candy” is open to all ages. Costumes are encouraged at the event, but COVID-safe facemasks must still be worn in following state and local guidelines

Guests can enjoy live music during Phantoms & Fire with the “Mysterious Melodies of Lawrence Trailer,” a haunting take on the acoustical stylings of local Singer/Songwriter Lawrence Trailer. Food and beverages will be available for purchase during the event at the ghoulishly transformed “Prospero’s Tavern.” Also

a feature of the evening, The Headless Horseman will ride again, making appearances throughout the Village.

Tickets for Phantoms & Fire are on sale now for \$16 per adult and \$12 for youth ages 4-17. Children under 4 are free to the Village during this event. Phantoms & Fire will take place Wednesdays through Saturdays, Oct. 21-31, with three times for arrival at 5, 6, and 6:30 p.m. Once in the Village, guests are welcome to stay until the event concludes each night at 8:00p.m. Pre-registration is required, with tickets available at: <https://www.osv.org/event/phantoms-and-fire/>. Phantoms & Fire is presented by Country Bank.

Phantoms & Fire is also coming to Coggeshall Farm Museum located in Bristol, R.I. on Sunday, Oct. 25 and Sunday, Nov. 1. More details on the Coggeshall event can be found at: <https://www.coggeshallfarm.org/event/phantoms-and-fire/>.



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## Local students enroll at Nichols College

DUDLEY — The newest class is welcomed to Nichols College. Julia Blauvelt of Charlton Ben LaPointe of Charlton Hannah Louis of Charlton Alaina Plourde of Charlton Michael Zanca of Charlton About Nichols College Nichols College is a college of choice for business and leadership education as a result of its distinctive career-focused and leadership-based approaches to learning, both in and out of the classroom, and through impactful research and professional education. Students thrive in a learning and living environment that is supported by an experiential business curriculum and a strong liberal arts foundation aimed at transforming them into tomorrow's leaders. Nichols also offers master's degrees in business, leadership, accounting, and counterterrorism, as well as a range of certificate programs, to promote career advancement for today's professionals.

## QCC's early college program gets a boost

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College has been awarded a Commonwealth Dual Enrollment Partnership (CDEP) Grant of \$32,400. The grant provides funding for high school students to take college-level courses that fulfill high school requirements, as well as earn college credit towards their degree. The CDEP helps to ease the transition from high school to college, enabling high school students to get a head start on their college careers. The program offers academic experiences to qualified students who otherwise may not have access to an early college experience. The CDEP's goal is to increase the population of high school graduates who are college ready. QCC has a strong Early College Program and is a pathway to high-

er education for those historically underserved. Since 2018, the College has worked with Worcester Public Schools, creating college equity access to more students. Currently, the College has partnered with seven Worcester Public High Schools and 22 Central Massachusetts High Schools. Classes range from general education to business and healthcare. "The CDEP Grant funding will be used to offer college credit courses to underserved students in the Worcester County Early College Programs," said Christina Hebert, director of Educational Partnerships K-12 & Early College Initiatives at QCC. "We are excited that this CDEP Grant will enable us to offer credit courses to students in schools that to date have not had access to this type of program."

Governor Charlie Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito praised QCC's program in a letter to President Dr. Luis Pedraja. "We want to thank you for your commitment to increasing college participation through dual enrollment activities, particularly for low-income, underrepresented, and first-generation college students. Through this funding and your continued support, we hope to expand access to great educational opportunities for every student in the Commonwealth." Visit [www.qcc.edu/early-college](http://www.qcc.edu/early-college) to learn more. For more information about QCC, contact Josh Martin, Director of Institutional Communications at 508-854-7513 or [jmartin@qcc.mass.edu](mailto:jmartin@qcc.mass.edu).

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