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Friday, March 20, 2020

Landscaping expert advocates ‘planting native’



Dan Jaffe Wilder talks to an audience member after his talk Saturday at Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary.

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

WALES – Right in time for the opening of a gardening season that might be the earliest in years, Dan Jaffe Wilder brought his ideas of landscaping to a crowd of dozens Saturday at Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary. They centered on three main words: “plant native plants.”

Oh, and three others: “kill your lawn.”

“I’m always thinking ecologically,” he said. “I want my landscape to be more than just pretty.”

Specifically, Wilder notes many of the standard “rules” he and many others learned about landscaping are “stupid,” and exactly the opposite of what Nature actually does. Commercial landscapers often plant with lots of space, cut back perennials routinely, use lots of wood mulch (often falsely colored) that sits for years, and plant foreign species and/or grass that require a lot of maintenance via watering, pesticides and fertilizers. Nature, by contrast, wants to fill in that space so there’s almost no visible dirt, lets perennials be perennial, uses “mulch” that breaks down rapidly (as in last fall’s leaves and small living plants), and very often repeats itself, using native plants adapted to whatever the area’s water conditions are.

“Right plant, right place” is his mantra. Wilder said many plant types have multiple species that have evolved to grow in different conditions of water, soil, temperature, etc, and cites Viburnum as one. Almost always, Nature can provide something that will grow where the professionals claim nothing can grow. A case in point is Diaspensia, a tiny flower that grows “in some of the most inhospitable” places.

Turn To **LANDSCAPING** page **A13**

Got Church?

LOCAL CHURCH USES TECHNOLOGY TO PROVIDE “FEARLESS” WORSHIP

STURBRIDGE — At this time when fears are at an all time high, New Hope United Church of Christ, the fun church, is using technology to provide a spiritual antidote.

While many are increasingly uncomfortable with attending public gatherings, New Hope UCC provides weekly videos of the Scripture and Pastor Janet’s energetic sermons. It is a way to be comforted by the Good News of the Gospel in virtual community, which is especially needed during a time when physical proximity is of concern. Each week’s video is available on their website www.newhopeucc.org. Although physical worship has been suspended for two weeks as recommended by the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ, we expect to resume public worship as soon as the situation permits.

It was a “God-cidence” that we worked to provide this kind of online worship connection months ago. We wanted to provide a spiritual connection for and with those who might be unable or are uncomfortable with attending a regular Sunday Worship. It enables us to respond to the CDC’s recommendations for “social distancing” in a timely manner. Christians are called to “love our neighbor as ourselves” so in real terms, it means doing what is right for the greater good. Suspending our physical gatherings for a few weeks seems to be an appropriate sacrifice to stem the spread of the virus.

New Hope United Church of Christ, the fun church, is located at 345 Main St. (Bethlehem Lutheran Building). It offers Church School from 10 - 10:45 a.m., and parents are invited to drop off or chill out with coffee. Worship is at 11 a.m. New Hope United Church of Christ is a judgment-free Christian community who believes that everyone has important insights and gifts to offer. They sincerely welcome and value everyone, everyone, everyone. They happily partner with and serve our local and global neighbors is peace, hope, and love.

Wings of Song celebrate planet Earth

STURBRIDGE – In May, Wings of Song (formerly the Quinebaug Valley Singers) will present three concerts of songs, texts, and projections celebrating planet Earth—our “blue boat home,” as one song puts it—and encouraging people to become informed and take action about climate change.

This program was put together by Music Director Nym Cooke from a large number of sources, with many songs and poems proposed by chorus members. Two of the choral works to be performed are by chorus members

Donna Dufresne of Pomfret, Conn. and Terry McGinty of Warren, Mass. Cooke re-texted songs by John Lennon and Leonard Bernstein “in order to enlist their powerful music in putting across our message,” as he puts it.

The concerts will also include excerpts from the Missa Gaia by Paul Winter and others; songs by pop geniuses Neil Young and Elton John; Navaho sacred music and a piece inspired by the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe; Jean Ritchie’s “Cool of the Day” and Pete Seeger’s “To My Old Brown Earth”;

pieces by South African and African American musicians; and much more. Four audience singalongs will be integral parts of the concert.

Readings were drawn from the writings of Thich Nhat Hanh, Robert Weston, Joy Harjo, the Navaho Way Blessing Ceremony, and others.

These will be concerts unlike anything this chorus has presented before. There will be three performances: on Saturday evening, May 9, Saturday evening, May 16, and Sunday afternoon, May 17. Stay

tuned for locations. The performances are free, though donations will be collected. All audience donations collected at the May 9 performance will be given to an organization working effectively to combat global warming.

For more information on this program, you are welcome to contact Wings of Song Music Director Nym Cooke (nymcooke@gmail.com) or President KT Therrien (kt2nc@aol.com).

Local historians present overview of the Revolution

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE – You might have heard it in history class, but the American Revolution is always more interesting in person.

In this case, three people, actually: Doug Quigley, Ray Petrelli and Stan Parzych, who told the Southbridge Historical Society the story of what led up to the country’s independence last week clad in recreated uniforms and gear.

“I’ve always been fascinated by the sequence of events that happened over a long time” before 1776, Quigley said.

He portrays Capt Timothy Parker, the real-life leader of the Sturbridge militia at that time.

That sequence of events is widely known, but bears repeating. Although several European nations established

colonies in North America, by the mid-1700s they’d been largely cut to two – Britain and France. The ongoing friction between them erupted into war in 1759, called the Seven Years’ War in Europe and the French and Indian War here. By the time it was over the UK had acquired “most of eastern North America as we know it,” at least in name (there were still several viable Native tribes, although far fewer than when colonization started).

Quigley said the UK had a big war debt, so it sought to make the colonists pay some of it with various tax acts – 1764’s Sugar Act, 1765’s Stamp Act, 1767’s Declaratory and Townsend Acts, and 1773’s Coercive Act (better known here as the Intolerable Act). All but the latter were repealed when the colonists objected in various ways. The Stamp Act



Depicting Dennison Wheelock and clad as a musketman, Ray Petrelli, right, watches Doug Quigley.

prompted James Otis to coin the phrase “no taxation without representation,” while the Townsend Act promoted the

birth of the Sons of Liberty, an “ad hoc” protest group including Samuel Adams.

In the middle of that period

(1768), London shipped 2,000 more troops to Massachusetts, forcing colonists to house them in their own homes. Quigley said many of them were “down in the dumps” men – poor, unhappy conscripts who had to work part-time jobs here just to make a living.

“The locals resented that, since those were their jobs,” he noted.

That resentment turned to violence in 1770. A British soldier on picket duty in Boston was harrassed by a mob at night and called for help. Seven soldiers faced about 400 civilians, some of them “throwing sticks, stones, snowballs with rocks in the” and other objects. It’s unknown who fired the first shot, but the soldiers ended up killing five people. Although the soldiers were later acquitted of murder, the event went

Turn To **REVOLUTION** page **A6**

In challenging times, it is more important than ever to

SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES.

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Hitchcock Happenings

BRIMFIELD — Below is a listing of events and activities scheduled for next week at Hitchcock Academy.

We are carefully monitoring the COVID-19 situation. Our general policy is that when the Tantasqua Public Schools close, we also close. Thus, all sessions of our Union 61 Family Foundations 5 pre-school are cancelled until further notice. Please monitor our Facebook page and our Web site, www.hitchcockacademy.org, for scheduling updates regarding the following adult class schedule. Be assured we are taking all recommended sanitary precautions within the building to provide the healthiest environment possible.

Monday, March 23

REMINDER: You can sign up for all classes and find more information regarding classes

on our website: hitchcockacademy.org. Please remember to like us on Facebook.

W E I G H T WATCHERS: Traditional Weight Watchers meetings. Weigh-in/Registrations: 5:30PM Meeting: 6:00 PM Leader: Angela Kramer. Visit www.weightwatchers.com to become a member or to learn more about Weight Watchers.

SEN-I JUDO CLUB: 4:30 – 6 PM Develop discipline, confidence, fitness, a sense of team work and have fun. For details and registration call Sensei Israel Lopez 413 279-4330.

YOGA: 7:15-8:45 PM This 90 minute Hatha Yoga practice will relax and rejuvenate you with guided meditations. Wear comfortable clothes and bring a mat. Instructor: Sharon Palmer M.Ed. Certified 500 hour Kripalu Yoga Teacher

Tuesday, March 24

ART GROUP: 9 – 11:30 AM Bring your own art and enjoy the company of other artists as they explore and encourage each other in creative adventures.

PILATES: 5:15 – 6:15 PM A perfect class for those who wish to unwind right after work. A mat floor exercise targeting the core muscles, Pilates improves flexibility, posture, balance and strength. Instructor: Karen Larsen

PILATES: 6:15 – 7:15 PM A great way to start your evening. A mat floor exercise targeting the core muscles, Pilates improves flexibility, posture, balance and strength. Instructor: Karen Larsen

Wednesday, March 25

WATERCOLOR: 9:30 – Noon For all levels – ongoing watercolor classes with new paintings every three weeks. Instructor: Beth Parys. For more information and to register call: 413.245.3295

MOVING MUSCLE: 5:15 – 6:15 PM. Muscle conditioning exercises using light hand weights. This class will use a series of squats, lunges, and varying arm exercises for an

overall body workout. All levels are welcome. Instructor: Karen Larsen; Fee: \$50 for 8 classes.

BUDDIES: 6:30 – 7:30 PM (6 classes) A dog training basics class for canines of all ages (puppies are welcome.) It provides positive training methods, good management practices and problem-solving strategies. Vaccinations must be up to date. Fee: \$130 per dog. Instructor: Laurie Merritt, MEd, CPDT-KA, CNWI; Certified Professional Dog Trainer-Knowledge Assessed; Certified K9 NoseWork® Instructor- National Association of Canine Scent Work

YOGA FOR BEGINNERS: 6:30 – 7:45 If you’ve been waiting to try yoga, this is the class for you. Explore foundational postures, breathing practices, and easy meditation techniques as well as posture modifications if you need more/less challenge. Instructor: Sharon Palmer, M. Ed. Certified 500 hour Kripalu Yoga Instructor

Thursday, March 26

VIOLIN LESSONS: 2-5 p.m. Instructor: Linda Day

Newland, violinist in the Austin Symphony Orchestra for 22 years. Lessons available for all ages and all levels

SEN-I JUDO CLUB: 4:30 – 6 PM Develop discipline, confidence, fitness, a sense of team work and have fun. For details and registration call Sensei Israel Lopez 413 279-4330.

FENCING: 6:15-7:15 Youth and adult classes with Andy Bloch.

K9 NOSEWORK® 7 – 8:30 PM. This is a sport open to all breeds of dogs and their people. Progressive training levels offered. Offered at 3 levels. (6 classes) Fee: \$152 Instructor: Laurie Merritt, MEd, CPDT-KA, CNWI; Certified Professional Dog Trainer-Knowledge Assessed; Certified K9 NoseWork® Instructor- National Association of Canine Scent Work

Friday, March 27

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: Traditional open AA meetings in a friendly setting. Come early to chat and share in refreshments. Time: 7:30 PM

Local churches invite you to be unafraid in these anxious times

STURBRIDGE — New Hope United Church of Christ, Bethlehem Lutheran, Elm Street Congregational, UCC, 1st United Methodist Church of Southbridge, and Holy Trinity Episcopal are jointly hosting a Lenten Series Simple Soup Supper on Wednesday evenings 6:30 - 8 p.m. at the Bethlehem Lutheran building at 345 Main St., Sturbridge, and you are invited! Together, we are gaining insight and practices from Adam Hamilton’s book “Unafraid: living with courage and hope in uncertain times.”

Each Wednesday, we provide a supper of soups, bread, and beverage. Although the venue site doesn’t change, each of the parishes “hosts” one week of the five-week program (March 3 - April 1).

“It is a great opportunity for us to come together as one family of faith around this important topic,” said Rev. Kathy Light of Elm Street Congregational.

“Each one of us deals with the topics presented in the book/video in his or her own style which adds such freshness to the study. No two weeks are ever the same,” said Father Richard Signore

of Holy Trinity Episcopal.

As a special treat, Bethlehem Lutheran will offer a service of Holden Evening Prayer after the program on March 18. It is under the direction of Boyd Wood, their Music Director, and is a short contemplative style service, so fitting for Lent.

While the topics discussed are serious in nature, the whole experience is uplifting and renewing. We are so grateful to be involved in this event with our partners at the Tri-Community Ecumenical Council! The fellowship

and dinner have been incredible and the study itself excellent. It gives us the opportunity to discuss fear and faith in a friendly, informal, format. A wonderful way to show Christian unity while having fun, said Pastor Sabina Terrades of the 1st Methodist Church of Southbridge.

The Bethlehem Lutheran building is handicapped accessible, and there is plenty of free parking. It is such a wonderful opportunity for our churches and their leadership to share in Christ’s work in the world as one family.

Historical Society meeting cancelled

STURBRIDGE — In view of the recommendations against large gatherings during the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak, the Sturbridge Historical Society has regretfully decided to cancel its March meeting, originally scheduled for the 28th.

Smola backs \$18 billion transportation bill

BOSTON – Rep. Todd M. Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways & Means) recently joined with his colleagues to support a multi-year transportation bond bill that provides more than \$18.2 billion in funding authorizations for municipal infrastructure projects and improvements to the state’s transportation system.

House Bill 4506, An Act authorizing and accelerating transportation investment, was engrossed by the House of Representatives on a vote of 150-1 on March 5. In addition to increasing funding for municipal road and bridge repairs under the Chapter 90 program from \$200 million to \$300 million, the bill also provides \$70 million for the Municipal Small Bridge Program and \$50 million for the Complete Streets Program.

“The investments we are making today will help us build a stronger transportation system for all towns and cities in Massachusetts,” said Rep. Smola.



House Bill 4506 includes \$5.6 billion for interstate and non-interstate federal highway projects; \$1.75 billion for non-federally-aided roadway and bridge projects; and \$1.25 billion for the construction, reconstruction, resurfacing, repair and improvement of bridges, approaches and related infrastructure.

In addition to setting aside \$900 million for general rail improvements and \$330 million for regional transit networks, the bond bill also authorizes spending for a number of rail projects across the state, including projects related to the East-West Rail (\$175

million). In addition, the bill requires MassDOT to conduct a feasibility study relative to rail service between Pittsfield, Springfield and Boston, with a report due by March 1, 2022.

House Bill 4506 also allows for Supplemental Infrastructure Financing for Transportation (SIFTs) for projects agreed upon by MassDOT and municipalities. This would allow cities and towns to fund transportation infrastructure projects using tax increment revenues.

The transportation bond bill now heads to the Senate for further consideration. For additional information please contact Rep. Smola at Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov or (617) 722-2100.



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Roger Williams University announces Fall 2019 Dean’s List

BRISTOL, R.I. — Select students have been named to the Fall 2019 Dean’s List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I. Full-time students who complete 12 or more credits per semester and earn a GPA of 3.4 or higher are placed on the Dean’s List that semester. The following students have been recognized for this achievement.

Catherine Chasse, of Sturbridge
Danielle Ivey, of Sturbridge
Zackary O’Brien, of Sturbridge
Cassidy Pilate, of Sturbridge

About RWU

With campuses on the coast of Bristol and in the heart of Providence, R.I., Roger Williams University is a forward-thinking private university committed to strengthening society through engaged teaching and learning. At RWU, small classes, direct access to faculty and guaranteed opportunity for real-world projects ensure that its nearly 4,000 undergraduates - along with hundreds of law students, graduate students and adult learners - graduate with the ability to think critically along with the practical skills that today’s employers demand. Roger Williams is leading the way in American higher education, confronting the most pressing issues facing students and families - increasing costs, rising debt and job readiness.


Victim in Hollow Road crash identified

WALES – Police have identified the driver who died earlier this month in a crash on Hollow Road.

The driver was identified as Liam Boehne, 44, of Wales.

The cause and circumstances of the crash remain under investigation by Troop C of the Massachusetts State Police, along with the State Police Collision Analysis Reconstruction Section and the Crime Scene Services Section.

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VILLAGER ALMANAC

— REAL ESTATE —

STURBRIDGE

\$390,000, 260 Holland Rd., Tichy, Elizabeth P, to Aylsworth, John, and Aylsworth, Emily L.

\$384,000, 132 Paradise Ln, Phillips, John, and Phillips, Danielle, to Mullen, Christopher, and Diaz, Laura.

\$304,900, 151 Cedar St, Bullock, Meegan, to Desplaines, Philip R, and Desplaines, Miranda E.

\$240,000, 13 Village Grn #13, Burdick, Jeffrey L, and Burdick, Patricia M, to Johnson, Kelly F, and Johnson, Emily N.

Multi Church merriment at Mardi Gras

STURBRIDGE — Beads were everywhere as New Hope United Church of Christ, Bethlehem Lutheran, Elm Street Congregational, UCC and 1st United Methodist Church of Southbridge joined together to revel in Mardi Gras on Feb. 24 at the Bethlehem Lutheran building at 345 Main St., Sturbridge .

Gone were the lackluster pancake suppers in dimly lit church basements of the 50's. Instead they rocked to New Orleans jazz music and feasted on jambalaya, red beans & rice, pancakes, cornbread, and even king cake!

"This free family event grows bigger every year as it is just so much fun!" said Klaus & Glenys Hachfeld who are regular attendees and always dress the part.

This was the first year that four churches joined in the event and they are already making plans for next year. The room was festooned in the glitz of purple, green, and gold and laughter abounded as all ages played Pass the Pretzel, a Pancake Flipping Relay, and a Trivia Contest that tested their knowledge of both Mardi Gras and Lent. There was even a "tattoo parlor" (temporary type only of course).



Courtesy Photo
Rev. Dan Purtell of Bethlehem Lutheran hamming it up with Rev. Dr. Janet Peck of New Hope United Church of Christ.

Fat Tuesday is the day when Christians traditionally use up all their fats and oils to prepare for Lent which begins on Ash Wednesday.

"This type of celebration causes Lent to be so much more meaningful and richer. Going from the revels of Fat Tuesday into the somber reflection of Ash Wednesday is powerful - especially for us, New Englanders, who are still slogging through winter," said Pastor Janet Peck, one of the organizers.

It was a true collaboration with each congregation taking part in the planning and execution.

The collaboration and commradary continued as Rev. Dan Purtell (Bethlehem Lutheran) and Rev. Dr. Janet Peck (New Hope United Church of Christ) provided Ashes-to-Go at the Sturbridge Coffee House, the next morning from 6:30 a.m. - noon.

"This is the new church," they agreed, "We are sharing the blessings of each congregation in a way that is deeply spiritual, and places a greater emphasis on what we share - faith in Christ and the desire to help others engage in a vibrant faith."



ACCURACY WATCH

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

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

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



EXTRA! EXTRA!

Community adopts proactive stance toward coronavirus

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – While the town of Charlton has been relatively untouched by the national COVID-19 or coronavirus pandemic town leaders are taking steps and making recommendations in hopes of keeping it that way as long as possible.

Following suit with other communities both regionally and nationwide, the town of Charlton is implementing new practices for the time being meant to curb the spread of novel coronavirus including embracing social distancing and closing both the town's library and senior center. These measures were implemented following a joint meeting between town and school officials from Dudley and Charlton and are meant as a proactive approach to fighting the virus before it impacts the region beyond its current scope.

Dudley Board of Health Chair Matthew Gagner said the mentality of the town right now is that it's better to prepare for something that might not be a problem than regret preparation if the problem were to persist.

"The town is taking a strong, proactive approach to trying to prevent this disease in our community," said Gagner. "At this point, we're not infested with COVID-19. It's all around us, but it's not in Charlton. It's not here yet.

From what we've been seeing in China and how South Korea has responded, and then now Italy, we feel that now is the time to think ahead and take an approach to prevent it from happening to us. If we isolate to a certain degree, then maybe we can prevent the spread of this."

Gagner said he of course supports any of the health practices being advertised by the CDC and other agencies on a national scale which include 20-second hand washing, avoiding larger groups and keeping a six-foot buffer between individuals, an act coined "social distancing" by officials.

"At this point, the state is allowing the local health boards to try and determine the best course of action. It's a lot because in the role of public health and safety you have to balance that proactive approach because if you're not proactive and the outbreak happens, then what? If you are proactive and nothing happens, then maybe it actually worked. You never know. Better to be on the side of caution," said Gagner.

Town Administrator Andrew Golas said he does not foresee any major interruptions to town services, but confirms that the town hall and employees are taking precautions and embracing changes that keep everyone's health and wellbeing in mind.

"From the town hall perspective, we

haven't done much as far as changing our operations," said Golas. "We're leaving it to the boards themselves to make the decision whether or not to cancel or postpone meetings. We've been doing a lot more cleaning and disinfecting daily. That's basically what our custodian has been dedicating his time toward. Our operations have not changed as of yet, but we are working to implement anything we can to mitigate interaction between our staff and the public without damaging public services. Practicing social distancing is a big part of that."

Any information regarding further changes to Charlton's resources, meeting schedules or public services will be communicated through social media and the town Web site.

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Community Shred It Day at Southbridge Credit Union

SOUTHBRIDGE — Southbridge Credit Union's Lending Center, Southbridge and Hobbs Brook Branch, Sturbridge are having a Community Shred It Day on April 4th from 9 a.m. until noon. Anyone can bring in their old documents to these two locations and all documents will be shredded on site and recycled. Shredding is a quick and convenient way to dispose of your information in a manner that provides added security against identity theft!

Also if you have any gently used children's books and would like to donate them, bring them with you. SCU is accepting books to give to the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless.

A b o u t Southbridge Credit Union

Incorporated in 1938, Southbridge Credit Union is a not-for-profit, member-ship-owned finan-

cial institution conducting business for the mutual benefit and general welfare of their members returning earnings back to members in the form of competitive loan and deposit rates. Headquartered in Southbridge, bylaws make membership available to persons, businesses or organization wishing to become a member of Southbridge Credit Union must live, work or operate within our sphere of operation which includes the Massachusetts counties of Worcester, Bristol, Franklin, Hampshire, Norfolk, Hampden and Middlesex. Deposits are insured, in full, by the federal National Credit Union Administration and private Massachusetts Share Insurance Corporation. SCU is an Equal Opportunity Lender.



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February 28 - April 3

4:30 - 7:00 p.m.

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Friday's Child



Liam ~ Age 3

Hi! My name is Liam and I love to explore my environment!

Liam is a happy, easy going toddler of Caucasian descent. He is described as a very busy boy who loves to play outside and explore. He also enjoys climbing, drawing and trying to open doors! Liam is enrolled in daycare where he is currently doing well. His daycare providers have said they really enjoy having Liam in the classroom. Liam enjoys playing independently but is starting to play near his peers at daycare. He is often around younger babies and is very gentle towards them, but it would be beneficial for Liam to be exposed to peers his age in order to continue building his social skills.

Liam is legally freed for adoption and can be placed in a single or two parent family, with or without other children. Interested families should be open to maintaining monthly visits with Liam's birth mother, grandmother and sister. They should also be able to work with Liam's team of providers to address his developmental delays and ongoing medical needs. Most importantly, Liam needs a family that is committed to ensuring he receives the appropriate supports to best foster his development.

Who Can Adopt?

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

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

To learn more about adoption from foster care, call the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) at 617-964-6273 or visit www.mare-inc.org. The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have "a permanent place to call HOME."



To sponsor Friday's Child call Patricia at 508-909-4135 x321 or email patricia@stonebridgepress.news

Vaccine distribution test set for March 21

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBIDGE — In light of the growing coronavirus outbreak, the Board of Health is holding a functional exercise on Saturday, March 21 to test its ability to distribute vaccine when and if one becomes available.

Health Director Andy Pelletier noted it’s coincidental that this is happening just as Covid-19, the new coronavirus illness, is circulating worldwide. The board has been working on such a plan for about six months, and held what’s termed a “tabletop exercise” earlier this year to game out what the clinic would look like on paper. In 2018, the board held a related “zombie flu” exercise as part of the Halloween Horribles Parade.

“The coronavirus puts a reality spin on the clinic,” he said. “It’s not theoretical anymore.”

That said, he also points out there is currently no vaccine for Covid-19. Several labs are in various stages of producing one, and one lab claims to have a vaccine ready for human testing, but Pelletier said we likely will not see one available for widespread use for another year or so.

The test-run will occur at the same time as the town’s annual rabies clinic for pets, being held at the DPW facility

on Guelphwood Road. In practice, he noted it will be slightly different from an actual vaccination clinic because the animals will require people to get out of their cars, while the plan calls for having paperwork and vaccine pills change hands without that. A real vaccination event would have public health and probably school nurses in protective gear doing most of the personal contact, he said.

“We’re not going to reach into a car with a dog in there,” Pelletier noted. “[That means] we’re not going to get quite a real feel for the flow, ... but are looking for the backup to see how this flows.”

Furthermore, he added, they “hope to see the flaws in our planning” so they can fix them.

“Practicing this clinic is going to put Southbridge in a very strong position,” he added, noting preparations have brought together several key departments. “The town is as prepared as the town can be. The weakness now is that I have to get more information out ... and spread the prevention word.”

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Covid-19 page, there had been 423 total cases with 19 deaths in the US as of Monday, with 28 so far reported in Massachusetts. Fifteen of them were associated with a

single biotech conference in Boston.

This week, the CDC started allowing states to test on their own, so the site notes, “CDC’s numbers are not representative of all testing being done nationwide.”

In Massachusetts, the first stage or “presumptive” testing happens at the Department of Public Health lab in Jamaica Plain, with positive results going to CDC-Atlanta for confirmation, Pelletier said.

Many reports online show cases of this illness look a lot like the flu, but more serious ones can rapidly turn into severe pneumonia and be life-threatening, particularly for senior citizens and those with additional health conditions. There has also been some speculation that exposure to more serious air pollution may be linked to more severe Covid-19 cases.

“There have been an inordinate amount of pneumonia cases since January,” Pelletier observed. “I wouldn’t be surprised if it started earlier [in the US] than we got reports on it.”

Data from other nations suggest it has a roughly 2 percent death rate overall (much higher than the seasonal flu), and around 15 percent of people get sick enough to require hospitalization. Conversely, there are also many reports of people being infected but having min-

imal or no symptoms, and most who get it recover without medical help.

“More cases of COVID-19 are likely to be identified in the coming days, including more cases in the United States,” CDC reports. “It’s also likely that sustained person-to-person spread will continue to occur, including throughout communities in the United States. It’s likely that at some point, widespread transmission of COVID-19 in the United States will occur.”

CDC notes the three primary symptoms that appear with two to 14 days of exposure are fever, cough and shortness of breath. They’re largely the same as those seen with previous coronaviruses SARS and MERS, both of which proved far more deadly percentage-wise, but flared out before infecting a significant number of people worldwide.

Without a vaccine, the best approach to dealing with this is prevention, particularly using what’s termed “social distancing.” In that light, many places have begun canceling large public events, or hosting them without audiences.

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

Local officials work to curb spread of coronavirus

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBIDGE – As the tentacles of the new coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic reach

across the region, communities are taking steps that are happening almost too fast for anyone to keep up.

Last week, several area

school systems decided to shut down. In Southbridge, that difficult decision was made over the weekend.

In Southbridge, things changed between Thursday and Saturday. On Thursday, the Board of Health was recommending keeping the schools open in large part because many students get most or all of their meals in school. But on Saturday, the board closed public and private schools in an emergency meeting; athletic events and other larger gatherings had already been canceled.

After that meeting, Receiver Jeffrey Villar posted the following to the district’s Web site: “For some time now we have been communicating our need to work closely with our local health officials to determine our best response to the Covid-19 virus. Today the Southbridge Board of Health has voted to close Southbridge Public Schools for an initial period of two weeks, to begin Monday, March 16. At or before the end of the two weeks, we will revisit this decision based on the best known medical information at that time. We will inform you promptly of any decision that is made to close schools beyond the two-week period of time.”

School Administration will meet on Monday to plan for the provision of food and possibly other services to the children of Southbridge,” he continued. “We will also determine plans in regards providing clear direction to all employees in

regards to reporting to work.”

In his brief email notice to the Town Council regarding the Saturday decision, Town Manager Ron San Angelo noted, “We have taken this action out of an abundance of caution to control the transmission of this virus.”

On Thursday, the Board of Health spent much of its shortened meeting discussing the issue, with Harrington Hospital’s Chief of Emergency Medicine Dr. James Cort Stephens on hand to answer questions. At the time, the board came to consensus on advising town residents to avoid gatherings of 20 or more people, but didn’t formally require it. Mandatorily limiting events would require cooperation with the Town Council under MGL Chap 11, sec 104.

“This is a real thing. There’s a lot of over the top concern and a lot of less than adequate concern,” said Health Director Andy Pelletier. “...We have some susceptible populations out there we might want to take reasonable steps to protect.”

One thing that should help, Dr Stephens said, is the fact that Harrington expected to “start testing on demand” this week, in large part because of the recent federal emergency declaration and related orders to distribute 4 million test kits from various sources. Even before the tests become available, he noted the hospital has had various procedures in place to screen incoming patients for virus-like symp-

toms and make sure they don’t pose a risk to transmit it to other patients or staff.

“Security steps back three steps and hands them a mask,” he said. “Then a triage nurse in full gown and mask does a viral panel” which gets sent to the state lab for testing. If the person currently shows no symptoms but reports potential exposure, they get sent home with quarantine instructions from themselves and their household. If the test comes back “presumptively positive”, it goes to the CDC in Atlanta for confirmation and the state starts tracing the person’s contacts.

“Incidental contact, when you’re greater than six feet away, is very low risk,” Stephens added, noting people with symptoms should use a mask because it will contain the droplets that can carry the virus. The virus can survive up to six hours on dry surfaces, he said.

He particularly urged police and fire department staff to have meetings on video and avoid events or meetings of more than 20 people, something Harrington has ordered of its own staff.

“You can’t stand to lose five firefighters because they all went to one poker tournament and were exposed to somebody,” he said.

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

CLUES ACROSS

1. Currency of Guinea

5. Avert something bad

10. Sounds

12. Immediate dangers

14. Legendary Tar Heels coach

16. Californium

18. Work standards government dept. (abbr.)

19. Coastal Scottish town

20. Triangular lower back bones

22. Trouble

23. A way to smile

25. Something that is not what it seems

26. Of she

27. Temporary living quarters

28. Bag-like structure in a plant or animal

30. Indicates near

31. Spiritual leader

33. Soup dish

35. Philippine island

37. No longer fashionable

38. Peaks

40. Alabama football team

41. ___ King Cole

42. Digital audiotape

44. Open trough

45. The woman

48. Cools down

50. Turkic language

52. Body part

53. Pulse steadily

55. Embedded computer hardware company

56. Indicates shape

57. Thou (plural)

58. Odd and remarkable

63. An evening party

65. National capital of Zambia

66. Tantalizes

67. Dark brown or black

CLUES DOWN

1. Not naturally outgoing

2. Exclamation of pain

3. Polynesian garland of flowers

4. Surrounded by water

5. Church towers

6. Hot beverage

7. Body parts

8. Travel documents

9. Railway

10. Gradually wear away

11. Measuring instrument

13. Minor dust-ups

15. Strongly alkaline solution

17. Extreme scarcity of food

18. Dash

21. Philly culinary specialty

23. Popular lager ___ Adams

24. Snitch

27. Trimmed

29. Greek god of desire

32. Take to the limit

34. Cool!

35. Sound mental health

36. Native American group

39. Test for high schoolers

40. Rocky peak

43. Preferences

44. Bother

46. Call attention to (slang)

47. Snake-like fish

49. Bulgarian capital

51. Don't know when yet

54. Italian Seaport

59. Brooklyn hoopster

60. Where to bathe

61. Equal, prefix

62. Beverage container

64. Denotes openness

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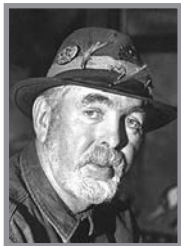
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Family fishing memories



THE GREAT
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Freshwater fishing in local ponds and on Cape ponds was enjoyed by many anglers trying to catch some of the recently stocked trout this past week. Anglers fishing local ponds needed to spend a number of hours fishing to catch some trout, but the final results had many anglers catching their limit. Freshwater bass anglers were also catching some nice largemouth bass at Webster Lake, with a few small mouth bass also being caught. Some of the larger bass were being caught on shiners.

By the time you read this column, some of the local streams and rivers should have had a stocking of trout, as rivers and streams are ideal this year because of the lack of substantial rainfall, which normally happens this time of year.

In my younger years, I enjoyed some great stream fishing in Whitinsville and Sutton! Prentice Brook and Purgatory Brook were my favored trout streams for catching some native brook trout. Our dad had us fishing every year on opening day, catching a stringer of 10 - 12 inch brook trout. Spring was a great time of year back in my younger life for fishing. Growing up in Whitinsville in the late '40's and '50's I

had some great fishing on the Meadow Pond & Arcade Pond which were essentially in my back yard. My dad kept a small row boat on Meadow Pond which was used daily by my brother and I. On weekends, my dad would get us up early to go fishing in the boat to catch some fish for my dad to make a big fish chowder.

My brother Mel and I would use a spinner and worm to fish on both sides of the boat, as my dad rowed. It was not long before we had a good stringer of fish which included Bass, perch, pickerel, bluegills and more. On one early morning, we were trolling and my brother Mel asked my dad to stop rowing. He claimed he was hooked on the bottom. Within seconds, the line started peeling from the reel. Mel had a big fish on! Rowing in reverse to get some line back from the long run of the big fish, it was finally brought to the side of the boat. It was a huge largemouth bass. We sure had a fish story to tell everyone in the village.

Back in the day, my brother Mel and I fished almost every day. We would grab our fishing rods after school and go fishing. Our grades on our quarterly report cards suffered badly, as we rarely did our homework. Our parents tried to have us finish our homework before we could go fishing, but it rarely worked. Leaving school to start working at age 16 in the Whitin Machine works was great. Now I had some money to

buy a car and meet the girls. Purchasing a 1939 Chevrolet car for \$15 from one of the Ebbelings on Sutton street back in the day, had me leaving fishing and meeting girls.

I soon found my wife Judy, and we got married at 18 years old. Everyone thought we were nuts. Our parents needed to sign for us to get married. It was not easy being married that young, but we worked through it for more than 61 years. Unfortunately, she passed away last year. Bringing up two boys Ralph and David, I soon found myself back fishing a lot more, so I purchased a 14 ft boat that was used for fishing at Wallum Lake and Webster Lake. Both boys loved fishing and it stayed with them to this day. Unfortunately, David passed a few years ago, but the memories of us fishing remain.

The terrible mess that this country is going through today will hopefully pass soon, and we can all get back to our normal lives. Spending time fishing and enjoying the outdoors with family is the best way to stay healthy.

This week's picture shows Kurt Salvis fly fishing at the Uxbridge Club Pond last week. He caught numerous trout using a Woolly Bugger fly.

The Rhode Island salt-water fishing show has been canceled due to the virus. Many more events will be canceled in the coming weeks.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!



Early spring preparation for a beautiful summer garden



Courtesy Photo

When pruning, start by removing the damaged and diseased stems of shrubs and roses and wear heavy duty gloves to keep yourself free from scratches.

As winter fades into spring, gardeners can't wait to get busy in the garden. Pruning, cutting back perennials and ornamental grasses and preparing the garden for spring planting are just a few of the tasks. Keep yourself and the pollinators overwintering in your garden safe as you start the cleanup process.

Always prune with a purpose. Start by removing any damaged and diseased stems from shrubs and roses. Watch for insects like swallowtail butterflies that overwinter in protective cocoons and the egg masses of some like the hair-streak butterflies. Prevent problems by destroying overwintering non-native pests like the gypsy moth. Search the

internet and insect books for help identifying the good and bad guys you may find in your landscape.

Additional pruning may be needed to manage the size and shape or encourage better flowering and bark color. Wait to prune spring flowering shrubs like lilacs and forsythia if you want maximum flowering. Prune these shrubs right after flowering before they set their floral buds for next spring.

Keep yourself safe by wearing safe-

ty glasses and gloves. It's too easy to focus on the task and end up with a stick in the eye. Heavy duty gloves protect and support your hands, allowing you to garden longer with less stress, scratches and bruises. Consider synthetic leather gauntlet style gloves like Foxgloves extra protection gloves (foxglove-sinc.com) that protect hands and forearms from harm yet are supple enough to allow you to work efficiently. The breathable fabric is durable, machine washable and puncture resistant.

Lightly rake any debris off the lawn and add it to the compost pile. Check for damage and lightly tamp any disturbed areas back in place. Reseed bare spots so grass, not weeds, fill in these spots.

Brush leaves off the crowns of perennials but leave the rest in place for insects that spend winter or summer in the leaf litter. Plus, the leaves help preserve moisture, suppress weeds and improve the soil as they break down.

Pull mulch away from tree trunks and shrub crowns that may have shifted over winter. Keeping mulch off the stems reduces the risk of future problems that can lead to decline and even death of the plants.

Leave perennials and grasses stand as long as possible since many are homes for beneficial insects. Bundle grasses

for easy cutting and removal. Once cut, loosely stack or stand perennial stems and grasses at the edge of the garden or natural spaces. This allows any insects still present to safely emerge when it's time to move to their summer homes. Plus, birds will appreciate the easy access to nesting material.

Enjoy the changing of the seasons and the beauty of nature hidden among the plants in your garden. Protect yourself when preparing the garden for spring so you won't lose time recovering from injuries. And keeping the pollinators and other beneficial insects safe will improve your garden's health and productivity throughout the growing seasons.

Melinda Myers has written numerous books, including *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series* and the nationally-syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program*. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by Foxgloves for her expertise to write this article. Her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

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CALENDAR

Friday, March 20

SIGHT & SOUND THEATER'S "JONAH THE MUSICAL": 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall, Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale, 8 Maple St., Sturbridge. Sponsored by Faith Formation Ministry.

Saturday, April 4

ANNUAL BRIMFIELD COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT: 2 p.m., First Congregational Church of Brimfield, 20 Main St. Bring a basket and come prepared for a community Easter Egg hunt. The Easter Bunny traditionally has made an appearance. Games and snacks included.

"ROARING '20S MOM PROM: The MOMS Club of Charlton Area will host "A Roaring '20s" Mom Prom on Saturday, April 4, from 6 to 11 p.m. at the Auburn South County Worcester Elks #2118, 754 Southbridge St. (Route 12), Auburn. This evening of dinner and dancing will benefit two organizations, the John Paire Student Support Fund, which helps kids in the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District have access to a well-rounded educational experience, and the Kennedy-Donovan Center of Southbridge, a nonprofit organization in Southbridge that supports people with developmental delays, disabilities or family challenges. Grab your spouse, friends and family members, and join the MOMS Club for the second annual Mom Prom. It's not just for moms, but all guests must be 21-plus. Early-bird tickets are \$45 per person until Feb. 14 and \$50 per person after that date. The MOMS Club, a chapter of the International MOMS Club, is a nonprofit group that provides support for stay-at-home and working mothers. Membership is open to moms in Charlton, Dudley, Webster and Southbridge. For additional information about the Mom Prom or the club, please email charltonmomsclub@gmail.com, or purchase tickets at <http://bit.ly/MOMPROM2020>. The Mom Prom name and logo are registered trademarks of founder Elizabeth Crapps and used under license.

Tuesday, April 7

TANTASQUA AND UNION 61

DISTRICT ART SHOW AND HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE FAIR: 5:30-8 p.m., Tantasqua Regional High School, 319 Brookfield Rd., Fiskdale. Join us to see what our district's children are learning as they explore the arts and sciences. Explore the halls of the high school to view the artwork of our district's children in grades K-12. Tour the art studios to purchase high school students' artwork, snacks, or drinks to support the art department. Art includes ceramics, jewelry, prints, and more! Enjoy presentations by Tantasqua students displaying their independent research projects in science and engineering as part of the science fair.

Saturday, April 18

FOXWOODS BUS TRIP FUNDRAISER: Relay for Life will host a fundraising bus trip to Foxwoods, with the bus leaving from JC Penny in Sturbridge at 3 p.m. and returning from the casino at 11 p.m. \$30 per person. You will receive \$10 in free play and a free buffet meal. To reserve your seat, contact Elizabeth Mongeon at (413) 436-9383.

Saturday, April 25

CHARLTON HELPING HAND SOCIETY ANNUAL YARD/TAG SALE: 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Dodge Chapel, 81 Hammond Hill Rd., Charlton. Our always generous donations from our members and community make this a 'something for everyone' event. Come early, stay late and enjoy the variety of bargains and fellowship!

ONGOING

THE STURBRIDGE FARMER'S MARKET is held every Sunday through Oct. 6 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the Town Common.

CHARLTON AMERICAN LEGION POST 391 meets every fourth Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Charlton Grange Hall. All veterans are welcome. We'd love to see you. We sponsor Boy Scout Troop 165, as well as three Boys Staters & assist young men interested in attending the State Police summer school. We also assist the Charlton Little League financially, as well as other things such as veteran's wakes & funerals. There's plenty we can still do

to help our community.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: Please come join us for a fun evening of exercise and basketball at the Heritage School gym in Charlton. We play pickup basketball from 7-9 PM every Monday evening from September to June based on the school schedule. There are no set teams and participation is free for women 18 years and older. Please contact Deb at 508-248-3600 for more information.

Pilgrimage to Italy, Holy Land, and Medjugorje

St. Joseph's Church in Charlton is sponsoring a Pilgrimage Sept. 29- Oct. 9, 2019 to Italy, Holy Land, and Medjugorje with Fr. Robert Grattatori. The cost is \$4,599; 11 days includes 4-5 star hotels, airfare, luxury transportation, and breakfast/dinner daily. A \$500 deposit is due at the time of registration. Please contact parishioner Dr. Karen Zaleski for trip details at karenzaleski42@gmail.com or you may call Proximo Travel directly for information and to register at 1-855-842-8001, or 508-340-9370.

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP: First and third Thursday of each month, 2:30-3:30 p.m., Vista Adult Day at The Overlook. Loved ones welcome to join Vista Program with prior screening. Contact Kathleen Walker at (508) 434-2876.

Grief Support Group: at Overlook Hospice, Charlton: Have you recently experienced the loss of a parent, child, sibling, friend or spouse? We are here to help. Join a safe, supportive and caring group to share your stories and support others who are learning to live again after the death of a loved one. Drop-in group for adults meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month, 1-2:30 p.m. Contact Susan Fuller at (508) 434-2200.

NUMISMATICS: Southbridge Coin Club meets on the third Friday of the month (except July and August). The doors open by 7 p.m. and the meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Collectors of all ages are welcome. The meetings include raffle, auction, and show and tell. Light refreshments are served. The meetings are held in the community room at the Southbridge Savings Bank at 200 Charlton Rd. (Route 20), Sturbridge.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: Traditional open AA meetings in a friendly setting. Come early to chat and share in refreshments. Friday evenings at 7:30 p.m., Hitchcock Academy, Brimfield.

K9 NOSE WORK: A sport open to all breeds of dog and their people Saturday mornings over six weeks at Hitchcock Academy in Brimfield starting Jan. 19. Progressive training levels offered. Fee: \$145 per dog, per session. Instructor: Laurie Merritt, M.Ed., CPDT-KA, CNWI,

Certified K9 NoseWork Instructor – National Association of Canine Scent Work.

SEN-I JUDO CLUB: This course runs all year long on Sundays, Mondays and Thursdays at Hitchcock Academy in Brimfield, and is well suited for all levels of practitioners, including beginners! Call Sensei Israel Lopez at (413) 279-4330 for more information.

WEIGHT WATCHERS: Traditional Weight Watchers Meetings Monday evenings at Hitchcock Academy in Brimfield. Times: WeighIn/Registration 5:30 p.m., meeting 6 p.m. Leader: Angela Kramer. Visit www.weightwatchers.com to become a member or to learn more about Weight Watchers.

YOGA: Hatha Yoga benefits are stress-relieving. Relax & rejuvenate with postures & guided meditation to restore the body. Bring a mat and wear comfortable clothing. All levels welcome. Six weekly classes held on Monday nights at Hitchcock Academy in Brimfield from 7:15-8:45 p.m., beginning Jan. 21.

FENCING: Fencing is a sport of combat that originally started as practice for dueling with swords. Since that time, it has grown into a modern sport while maintaining those virtues that made it great: honor, valor, and grace. Bring a water bottle, sneakers and comfortable clothing. Youth and adult classes with Andy Bloch at Hitchcock Academy. Fee: \$99.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS: Is food a problem for you? Have you been worried about the way you eat? Do you resolve to go on a diet tomorrow, only to fail again and again? Is your weight affecting the way you live your life? You are not alone. Overeaters Anonymous can help. No dues, no fees, no weigh-ins. Meetings are held Sundays in Worcester (St. Michael's On-The-Heights, 340 Burncoat Street) at 7 p.m., Mondays in Auburn (Bethel Lutheran Church, 90 Bryn Mawr Ave.) at 7 p.m. and Wednesdays in Putnam, Conn. (Day Kimball Hospital, 320 Pomfret Strett) at 6 p.m. Want more information? Call or text Bruce P. (508) 864-0593, email him at brucep.oa@charter.net or visit oa.org.

MASSASSOIT ART GUILD OPEN STUDIO: The Massasoit Art Guild would like to announce the addition of new Open Studio hours. Starting on Saturday, Jan. 11, we will be holding Open Studio time from 9:30 a.m. to noon each Saturday. The Current Wednesday morning Open Studio will continue to meet. Open Studio is a time to bring your current work in progress, start a new project, receive critiques if desired, pick up new skills and techniques and be with other artists for support and encouragement in an open and friendly environment. Membership is required. Please visit our Web site at massasoitartguild.com for more information!

"That was an issue throughout the war. It never really got resolved," he said.

Regarding training, the real issue was that there was no consistency. Among the units there were 10-20 manuals showing how to do things, and "that was a problem," he said. To solve it, George Washington hired Prussian Gen Friedrich von Steuben to synthesize into what became the official US Army manual. Overtime, the colonials developed a constant drill system.

"Sometimes it didn't make sense, but it got you to do things over and over again so when you were in battle, you were used to it," Quigley said. "It paid off in combat."

Regarding guns, the men generally had muskets with bayonets, although some used hunting rifles without them; both were flintlock muzzleloaders, although the rifles were more accurate and had better range. The former were designed for European-style battles – units facing off in lines. The rifles, by contrast, were better for "sniping, sharpshooting and flanking," he said.

Responding to questions, he noted those guns misfired "a lot," and their black powder is "very corrosive, dirty and it builds up."

Parzych added, "The bayonet actually inflicted more casualties on the battlefield than the musket did," because "I'd put on my bayonet and charge you before you could reload." He portrayed "generic Stan," not a specific historical figure.

One thing the various units did have in common were their drummers, who generally used 26 "rudiments" (basic rhythms) to craft their songs. Drums and fifes were "the communication at the time," designed to "be loud and played outside," with certain combinations signalling everything from getting up and eating to acts on the battlefield.

"The war began with a drum and ended with a drum," he added, noting a drummer played a rhythm both sides knew meant "parlay" to call for negotiations that ended the Battle of Yorktown in 1783.

Quigley's reenactment group hosts an annual event every June on Sturbridge Common, and the largest reenactment in the country, "Rebels and Redcoats," comes to Old Sturbridge Village every August.

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

PLACE MOTORS IS PROUD TO SPONSOR

Friday's Child



Marissa
Age 13

Hi! My name is Marissa and I love running cross country!

Marissa is an energetic girl of Caucasian descent. Marissa enjoys playing tennis and running cross country and track. She also enjoys music. Marissa loves to have her hair and nails done. Marissa is a brilliant girl with a bright academic future. She has tested and considered into one of the one of the top exam schools in the city.

Marissa is legally freed for adoption. She would thrive in a home where she is the only child or

with children close in age. She will need a family that can provide her with attention and patience. Marissa shares a close relationship with her younger sister and they hope to be able to continue to see each other at least monthly. The best family for Marissa would be a local family that is able to visit with her as a visiting resource initially.

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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 617-964-6273 or visit www.mareinc.org. The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have "a permanent place to call HOME."



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*A valid passport is REQUIRED for this trip
Prices starting at \$2,499pp double occupancy (plus tax, transfers & government fees)
For a brochure and complete itinerary, please contact Lori Douthwright at (508) 248-5971, ext. 1715.

The Boston Red Sox vs The Baltimore Orioles
3 Days/2 Nights August 21 – 23, 2020
What's Included: Roundtrip motor coach, 2 nights hotel lodging, breakfast at hotel, lower reserved seating to 2 ballgames, The United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Guinness Brewery & More
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For a brochure and complete itinerary please contact
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September 11th Museum & Memorial in NY City and West Point Academy
2 Days/1 Night May 14-15, 2020
What's Included: Roundtrip motor coach, hotel lodging, two (2) meals (1 breakfast & dinner theatre show), touring the Hudson River Valley & dinner theatre show and so much more!
\$399 pp Double Occ. - \$499 pp Single Occ.
For a brochure and complete itinerary please contact
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Penn Dutch Country with the New Hit Show Queen Esther
3 Days/2 Nights September 23-25, 2020
What's Included: Roundtrip motor coach, 2 nights lodging, 5 meals, ticket to “Queen Ester”, touring and More!
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Lori Douthwright 508-248-5971 X1715

Nova Scotia w/Tattoo Fest featuring The Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo Bay of Fundy, Halifax,
Saint John, Annapolis Valley
5 Days/4 Nights June 29-July 3, 2020
What's Included: Roundtrip motor coach, 2 nights lodging – Marriott Saint John – New Brunswick, 2 nights lodging – Westin Nova Scotian – Halifax, breakfast each morning (4), 2 scrumptious dinners, 1 lobster luncheon, guided tours each day and more!
\$1499pp Double Occ. - \$1899 pp Single Occ.
For a brochure and complete itinerary please contact
Lori Douthwright 508-248-5971 X1715

Montreal & Quebec Getaway
4 Days/3 Nights August 18-21, 2020
What's Included: Roundtrip motor coach, 2 nights lodging – Marriott in downtown Montreal, 1 night lodging – Quebec City, four meals (4), 5 meals, guided tours each day and more!
\$849pp Double Occ. - \$1159 pp Single Occ.
For a brochure and complete itinerary please contact
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CHARLTON SENIOR CENTER

TRIPS w/Charlton Senior Center 2020
Our new Trip Coordinator is Mary Lou Lepko.
A few things to know:
Sign up at the center, or call 508-248-2231, or email: charltontrips@yahoo.com
Please put your full name and phone number on sign-up sheets
Trips are open to the public
Flyers available at the center or online at www.townofcharlton.net. Click on Government, then Council on Aging/Senior Center
Mail payments to: Charlton Senior Center Trips, 37 Main St., Charlton, MA 01507 or bring into center and give to Elaine or Katherine. Please be sure to make checks payable to the company stated below.
You will be notified of pick up time & location
Bus pick up will usually be at St. Joseph's Church 10 H Putnam Rd. Ext. in Charlton
April 17— FOXWOODS \$34 includes transportation, buffet or \$10 food voucher

and \$10 casino slot play. Make checks payable to: Fox Tours (payment due 3/17)
May 19 — CAROLE KING TRIBUTE \$94 includes transportation, Luncheon, meal tax w/gratuity and Show ticket. Driver gratuity not included. Make checks payable to: Best of Times (payment due 4/17)
July 28 — GLOUCESTER HARBOR CRUISE LOBSTERBAKE \$135 includes transportation, Beauport Princess Cruise, Lobsterbake buffet, Entertainment & Dancing. Driver gratuity not included. Make checks payable to: Best of Times (payment due 6/25)
September 2 — LAKE WINNIPESAUKEE CRUISE & CASTLE IN THE CLOUDS \$129 includes transportation, Lake Cruise, Luncheon, Visit to Castle in the Clouds. Driver gratuity not included. Make checks payable to: Best of Times (payment due 7/30)
November 17 — YESTERDAY ONCE MORE w/The Carpenters, ABBA, 5th Dimension, The Mamas & The Papas all in one show! \$92 includes transportation, Luncheon, meal tax w/gratuity and Show ticket. Driver gratuity not included. Make checks payable to: Best of Times (payment due 10/15)
Dec 4-7 — A COUNTRY CHRISTMAS IN NASHVILLE, TN. Gaylord Oprey Hotel! 4 days/3 nights. Call for more info

DAUGHTERS OF ISABELLA

For reservations contact Jan Caouette at (508) 887-2215. Make checks payable to Bernadette Circle #709 and mail to Bernadette Circle #709, PO Box 201, Webster MA 01570. The Daughters of Isabella is a nonprofit and charitable Catholic women's organization

DOUGLAS SUNSHINE CLUB

Sunny Portugal next April. The Douglas Sunshine Club is planning a trip to sunny Portugal April 21-30, 2020. This trip is with Collette Travel. An informational meeting is planned for Wed. June 12th at the Douglas Senior Center, 331 Main St., Douglas, at 6:30 p.m. If you are interested in the trip, this is a great opportunity to get a description of the travel arrangements and itinerary with a representative from Collette Travel who will also answer any questions you have about the trip. For more info call 508-476-4474.

DUDLEY SENIORS

Dudley Seniors present a Pigeon Forge and the Smoky Mountains Show Trip. It will be 7 days and 6 nights from Sept. 20, 2020 through Sept. 26, 2020. The price per person/ double occupancy is \$689 and will include motorcoach transportation from Dudley, 6 nights lodging, 10 meals, admission to Titanic: the world's largest museum attraction, 2 dinner shows, 2 evening shows, one morning show, free time in downtown Gatlinburg and a guided tour of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

For more information, please call Evelyn at (508) 764-8254.

FRIENDS OF THE STURBRIDGE SENIORS

The Friends of the Sturbridge Seniors are happy to offer the following 2020 Trips to the General Public. Beginning on Thursday March 12th, join us as we travel by Deluxe Motorcoach on an approximately 60 minute ride to the Fabulous Venus DeMilo in Swansea, Ma. To see Ireland's Most Exciting Young Tenor, Emmet Cahill. Emmet is the Star of PBS Phenomenon Celtic Thunder. Hear Emmet perform many of the Irish Classics as well as some of your Favorite Broadway Hits. He will be joined by the Emerald String Quartet,

who are four young Ladies creating the Sweetest Sounds from their String Instruments. And let's add the All Male Dublin City Dancers who will shake up the Audience with their high stepping dance numbers. For 92.00 everyone will have a Plated Lunch of Corned Beef and Cabbage or Baked Haddock, Venus DeMilo's Famous Minstrone Soup, Vegetables, Breads, Dessert, Coffee and Tea, Bus Transportation and this Fabulous Show.
On Thursday, July 16, come with us for a Lobster Bake at Foster's Clambake in York, Me. For 99.00 enjoy a 1 1/4 Boiled Lobster, Clam Chowder, Steamed Mussels, Fresh Steamed Maine Clams, Corn on the Cob, Potatoes and Onions, Blueberry Cake and a Beverage. Also available is 1/2 Barbecued Chicken in place of the Lobster. Now let us add the Ultimate Jimmy Buffett Tribute Show featuring Jimmy and the Parrots. They are the most requested Jimmy Buffett Tribute Band in the Country and they were also nominated as Band of the Year by Trop Rock Entertainer. Hear them play the favorite songs of Jimmy Buffett as well as songs by The Beach Boys, Paul Simon, Harry Belafonte, Bob Marley and many others. Included is Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation, Lunch and the Show.

On Tuesday August 18 to Friday August 21st, have your Passport ready for a Spectacular 4 Day/3 Night Motor Coach Roundtrip visit to Beautiful Montreal and Quebec Canada. For 849.00 pp Double or 1159.00 pp Single Occupancy. Included are 3 Nights Hotel Lodgings, 4 Meals, touring as described in your travel Brochure, Best of Times Travel Tour Director and all gratuities except Motorcoach Driver. gratuity are included. In Montreal take in a guided visit of Norte-Dame Basilica, the Botanical Gardens, the Biodome, enjoy time at Montreal Casino plus even more. In Quebec, visit the Basilica of Saint-Anne de Beaupre, Montgomery Falls, guided Tour of the beautiful Citadelle featuring the Changing of the Guard, the Royal Regimemnt Museum plus some Free Time to enjoy Quebec on your own.

On Thursday August 20th, get ready for the 10th Anniversary Tour of The Texas Tenors. These 3 very Handsome, Classically Trained Men have performed over 1300 Concerts with Headliner Shows in Las Vegas, China, the United Kingdom and accumulated 3 EMMY AWARDS. The Texas Tenors will sing many of the Broadway Show Classics as well as many of your favorite Pop Songs. They were honored to be included among the Top 50 Acts in the World. This could be the Best Concert that you will see this year. We are traveling approximately 60 minutes to the Venus DeMilo in Swansea, Ma.. For 99.00 included is Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation, Plated Lunch of either Chicken Parmesan or Baked Scrod, Venus DeMilo's Famous Minnestrone Soup, Vegetables, Breads, Dessert, Coffee and Tea.

Join us on Wednesday, September 2nd on our day trip to Lake Winnepesaukee for a scenic cruise out of Weirs Beach taking in the remarkable scenery of the Western end of this magnificent lake. We will also visit the spectacular Castle in The Clouds a turn-of-the-century sixteen room mansion with its breathtaking mountaintop views overlooking Lake Winnepesaukee. Enjoy a delicious full course luncheon at Harts Turkey Farm in Meredith, NH. Famous and renowned for their turkey dinners you are sure to delight in this bountiful luncheon. All for just \$129.

We had 34 people travel to the Pennsylvania Dutch Country 3 Day/2Night Trip this past December and they had such a Great Time that many of them asked to go back again this September 23-25th. We will see the New Show “Queen Esther”. One of the very most riveting Bible Stories of the Old Testament that comes to life in the Magnificent Sight and Sound Theater which incorporates Live Animals, Social Effects and Jaw Opening Stage Sets. Ask anyone who has seen a Show at

the Millenium Sight and Sound Theater and they will tell you this is a Must See. in your lifetime. Now let's add a 2nd Show called “Saturday Nigh Fever” at the Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre, a Backcountry Tour of the Dutch County Farmlands, enjoy your luck at the Sands Casino and more. Prices are 499.00 pp Double and 599.00 Single Occupancy and include 2 Nights Lodging, 4 Meals, Tickets to the 2 Shows,

Touring as Described and Tour Director Gratutites. Last years Trip sold out early so don't get left behind
Have you ever thought about visiting Nashville? Come along on a 4 Day/3 Night Trip December 4th -7th. Included are Roundtrip transportation to Logan Airport, Roundtrip Airfare to Nashville, 3 Nights of Premium Lodging, 7 Meals including a Sunday Brunch, An Exclusive Dinner Show featuring the Oak Ridge Boys, Ticket and Show at the Grand Ole Opry, plus a Tour of the Grand Ole Opry, Admission to Country Music Hall of Fame, a River Cruise aboard the General Jackson Showboat, Tickets for a Holiday Show at the Opry House, Admission to ICE at Gaylord Opryland, a visit to Historic Studio B and a Guilded Tour Of Nashville. WOW!! Prices are 1949 pp Double and 2349 pp Single Occupancy which includes Tour Guides and Bus Drivers Gratuities as well.

Contact Sturbridge Recreation Department 508-347-2041, email recreation@sturbridge.gov for more information

For additional information on these Wonderful Trips, please contact Linda Fortier at 508 347 1452 or by email at bestoftimes2020@aol.com

LEICESTER SENIOR CENTER

For trip information and reservations, please call Joan Wall at (508) 892-3967.

Friday, March 20, 2020: Foxwood Casino. Free lunch buffet or \$10 food voucher and \$10 casino slot play. Cost is \$30.

MARY QUEEN OF THE ROSARY PARISH

SPENCER — Mary Queen of the Rosary Parish, 60 Maple St., Spencer, is offering the following trips. For more information, call Bernard Dube at (508) 885-3098.

*USA: Wonders of Northern California Redwoods, Oregon & Washington: August 3-15, 2020
*Spain & Portugal: Sept.9-23, 2020

*Galapagos Islands: Jan 4-13, 2021 *Galapagos with extension to Peru (Machu Picchu): Jan 4-19, 2021

*Botswana, Zimbabwe and Victoria Falls: May 5-16, 2021

*Alaska (land and cruise): early August, 2021

PAXTON SENIORS

Bob Wilby, 508-792-4662 or rwilby@charter.net

SOUTHBRIDGE SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Contact Jim Julian at the Casaubon Senior Center Monday, Wednesday, or Friday 9-10 a.m. or call (774) 922-4049 or e-mail jimtrips@yahoo.com.
Trips are open to the public! Make checks payable to the Southbridge Senior Citizens Association, payment due at sign up:

SOUTHBRIDGE SENIOR CITIZENS
Turn To **TRIPS** page **A11**

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EDITORIAL

A time for hope, not hoarding

Life as we know it is changing — at least for the near future, only temporarily; however, this uncharted territory has left many questioning what exactly is happening. The new coronavirus designated COVID-19 has now infiltrated the country, causing the closure of schools, restaurants, bars, sporting events, concerts and any gathering with more than 50 people in attendance.

The next Democratic Presidential primary is coming up, and there is now a question as to how much the outbreak will affect the outcome. Could a mandatory two-week quarantine be implemented? We will soon find out.

In the midst of all this uncertainty, panic buying has commenced. Stores shelves are becoming more and more barren, with canned goods, milk and paper products hot commodities. Some stores have even been forced to implement a quota on how much a person can purchase.

Panic shopping is a natural response in the face of a crisis, but all of us need to step back and realize that as a result, price gauging can put much needed supplies out of reach for those on fixed incomes, and in this instance has created a situation in which medical supplies that are necessary for the protection of health care workers on the front lines of the crisis, such as face masks, are so scarce that hospitals have instructed doctors and nurses to ration them.

We understand the fear that underlies the ‘grab everything you can while you can’ mentality in situations like this outbreak, but overburdening the chain of the very supplies we need to get through this is not helping anyone. This is a time for calmness, not crazed behavior.

Just one example we recently encountered of the fallout from all this unnecessary hoarding particularly touched our hearts. While out shopping ourselves, we met an elderly woman who made a trip to her local grocery store needing a loaf of bread. She had no idea what was going on, and seemed visibly stressed to find the bread aisle so completely picked over.

Instances that have induced fear and panic are nothing new in our national experience. In 1962, the Cuban missile crisis caused Americans to stock their basements with bottled water and dry goods in the case of an atomic bomb. The Y2K scare at the turn of the millennium and the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 generated a similar atmosphere of fear that we had arrived at the End of Days, but cooler heads eventually prevailed, and in each instance, our society soldiered on, as it doubtless will once this outbreak winds down.

Remember that we are all in this together. It may feel lonely to think about staying home and not interacting with the world around us for a long stint, but as has been the case demonstrated throughout history, we will all take care of each other. Family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, health-care providers, town officials and law enforcement personnel are always there to help in times of need. Those supports will provide comfort just like they do any other day.

“I am a firm believer in the people,” Abraham Lincoln once wrote. “If given the truth, they can be depended upon to meet any national crisis. The great point is to bring them the real facts.”

I spent a fun week with my daughter and her family, and was oblivious to what was happening in the news. I caught bits and pieces on the ‘Net, but was enjoyably disconnected. I was surprised at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) how many people I saw walking around wearing face masks. I was aware of the coronavirus, but really missed out on the last eight days of developments.

We landed in Chicago, grabbed our luggage and headed for home when my sister called from North Carolina and asked, “Do you have enough toilet paper?”

I don’t think anyone had ever asked such a random question of me before. “Enough for what?” I asked.

“To be quarantined for three to four weeks!”

I immediately began scrolling through the newsfeed on my phone, frantically trying to figure out what was causing the TP emergency. I laughed aloud as I thought, “Bernie Sanders with his push for socialism hasn’t been elected yet and the stores are already out of TP?” I ran across a posting that said, “Almost all the major grocery chains are out of bread, milk and toilet paper.” I saw another that said, “Someone is on eBay selling cases of TP for \$2000 each and has more buyers than inventory.”

Arlene and I decided we better rush to the store before we got home and see if we could get some TP. We parked, ran into our local grocery store and headed to what we were convinced would be empty shelves. Imagine our shock when the shelves were full of every brand of toilet paper. We checked milk and bread to only find the same.

What’s going on? I’d call this something between an overreaction to mass hysteria. As for me, I found it to be funny. Don’t get me wrong, there is nothing funny about a communicable illness that is spreading around the world. We all must be vigilant and take the advice from healthcare professionals. Wash your hands often. Don’t touch your body above your shoulders. Use hand sanitizer and carry a few sanitizing wipes wherever you go. On our flight home we used wipes to sanitize our seats and trays on our airplane

POSITIVELY SPEAKING

BY GARY W. MOORE

seats. It also never hurts to have a supply of essentials on hand at home, but to rush out and buy a year’s supply of canned goods and to lock yourselves behind the doors of your homes at this point, may be giving into mass hysteria.

Be vigilant. Listen to government officials but avoid unsubstantiated rumors on the internet or you may end up spending two grand for a few rolls of toilet paper. When you see that Abraham Lincoln is assuring you that if it’s found on the internet it must be true ... think about it first!

Relax. Be prudent about the sources of information you use to make your decisions. Then act wisely.

Thank you!
Thank you all for your prayers, emails and cards. I am grateful. I shared with you that I had been diagnosed with a rare affliction called Neuroendocrine Tumors. I travelled to one of the world’s leading clinics for this disease at the University of Iowa Hospital. While there I received the surprising news that I had been misdiagnosed and did not have Neuroendocrine Tumors. Instead, I learned I have Stage IV Stomach Cancer. It’s not the news I expected nor wanted to hear but I am positively fighting this cancer with everything I have. I am optimistic of my outcome.

Don’t misunderstand. I do not believe by being positive and optimistic alone can magically heal you. There are some medical realities that attitude will not overcome. But I know my chances of beating this illness are greatly enhanced by being positive.

There is a great blog I would encourage you to read. It’s entitled, “At a Cellular Level, Every Single Human Depends on Positivity to Survive.” It is authored by Jenn Maronek and can be found at www.blog.sivanaspirit.com I think you will find a few moments reading this useful and encouraging.

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 @GaryW Moore721 and at www.garywmoore.com.

Take Action against the Flu Virus

You can’t look at the TV, radio or cell phone today without being bombarded with COVID-19 news, photos of bare store shelves, and extreme germ fretting! Add to that the highly contagious stomach flu virus going around right now and it’s no wonder many are in near panic mode right now!

But keeping yourself healthy comes down to common sense as has been repeated many times. Using caution and being diligent to avoid cold and flu germs is the golden rule. While this column addressed this subject earlier this year, read on for another round of tips to help you up your odds of staying healthy this season.

It’s no secret the most common way to pick up and spread bacteria and other germs is by touching contaminated surfaces. Clean first, then disinfect.

For cleaning surfaces, use products that specify “disinfectant” on the label. For a homemade disinfectant, the CDC recommends mixing a quarter-cup of household chlorine bleach with one gallon of cool water. Be sure to rinse countertops and other surfaces after sanitizing.

While disinfecting wipes and sprays have been flying off the grocery store shelves, there’s no need to worry if you can’t get your hands on commercial products. Common products can do the job at a fraction of the cost:

Isopropyl (Rubbing) Alcohol: Undiluted alcohol (at least 70%) is effective against the COVID-19 virus. Alcohol has long been a frugal disinfectant used to kill common cold and flu germs. Simply wipe down surfaces with alcohol and it will immediately dry.

Hydrogen Peroxide (3%): Alcohol

TAKE THE HINT

KAREN TRAINOR



has become scarce in some areas as people buy it up to make their own hand sanitizer, but again, don’t fret yet as Hydrogen Peroxide can do the job. For ease in applying, pour undiluted H2O into a spray bottle and spritz it on household surfaces. Allow it

to sit on the surface for several minutes. Note: Alcohol can discolor some plastics; H2O can discolor clothing and other soft surfaces.

Your cell phone is a magnet for germs. In fact, I just read your phone may have up to ten times more bacteria than a toilet seat! Here’s how to sanitize it properly:

Power off the phone. Using a disinfectant wipe (or alcohol damped cloth), gently wipe down the (non porous) surfaces of the phone, starting with the sides, then the back and front. Be careful not to allow any moisture to get into any opening. And most importantly, wash your hands immediately after washing the phone!

The World Health Center offers these basic protective measures against the COVID-19:

Stay aware of the latest information on the COVID-19 outbreak, available on the WHO website and through your national and local public health authority. Most people who become infected experience mild illness and recover, but it can be more severe for others. Take care of your health and protect others by doing the following:

Wash your hands frequently: Regularly and thoroughly clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water.

Why? Washing your hands with soap and water or using alcohol-based hand

Turn To **TRAINOR** page **A12**

How much will market volatility really affect you?

There’s no way to sugarcoat it: If you’re an investor, you haven’t liked what you’ve seen in the financial markets recently. The effects of the



FINANCIAL FOCUS

JEFF BURDICK

coronavirus triggered a market “correction” – a decline of 10 percent or more – and more volatility is almost

certainly on the way. But instead of fretting over your investment statements, you could consider some more positive approaches to this situation.

For one thing, ask yourself this: When do you really need the money from your investment accounts, such as your IRA and your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored plan? These are retirement accounts, so, depending on your age, you may not need to tap into them for 20, 30 or even 40 years. If so, your losses may be “paper” ones only for now and aren’t subjecting you to imminent financial jeopardy. This isn’t to minimize the effect this downturn will have on you, of course – it always takes time to recover lost ground, and there are no guarantees with investing. However, although past performance does not guarantee future results, it is useful to note that, over its long history, the U.S. stock market has typically trended in one direction – up – despite serious and sometimes lengthy declines such as we saw in the Great Depression and, to a lesser extent, the bursting of the “dot.com” bubble of the early 2000s and the financial crisis of 2008-09.

Nonetheless, you may have shorter-term goals – a wedding, down payment on a home, overseas trip, etc. – for which you need to save. For these goals, though, you wouldn’t want to touch your IRA or 401(k), anyway, as you’d likely face taxes and penalties. Instead, you’ll want your money invested in liquid, low-risk accounts that will be minimally affected, if at all, by declines in the financial markets. These vehicles might include Certificates of Deposit (CDs), money market accounts and even good old-fashioned U.S. Savings Bonds, all of which offer the protection of principal and can pay higher rates than traditional bank savings accounts.

But you might also have longer-term goals that can be addressed through investments that may be somewhat or largely free of the effects of market volatility. For example, to supplement your retirement income, you might consider a fixed annuity, which can provide you with a guaranteed interest rate and, depending on how it’s structured, an income stream you can’t outlive.

Apart from the issue of when you might need money from your investment accounts, you might want to ask yourself another question: Just how much of my net worth is tied up in my portfolio? If you’re like many people, you have other assets apart from your investments. If you’re a homeowner, consider your house: Has it dropped in value at all during the recent market decline? Probably not. Do you still have just as much equity in it as you did a month ago? You might have even more. In other words, the value of your investments may have dropped a certain percentage, but the decline in your overall net worth may well be significantly smaller.

So, here’s the bottom line: Large drops in the financial markets aren’t much fun for investors – but that doesn’t mean the bottom has dropped out on your financial future. Keeping things in perspective is a good move in all of life’s endeavors – including investing.

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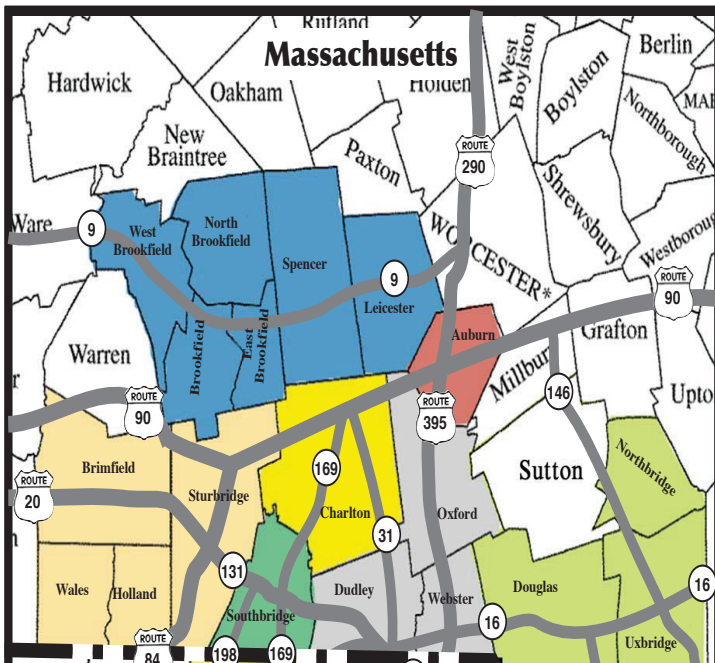
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This section reaches 47,000 households in 7 Massachusetts newspapers.

SPORTS

New England Youth Tackle Football comes to Quaboag area

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

WEST BROOKFIELD — The effects of the pandemic created by the outbreak of the coronavirus notwithstanding, spring football is headed to town.

New England Youth Tackle Football (NEYTF), a seven-team spring league that began playing games in 2018 in Lynn, has added an eighth team, the Quaboag Panthers, who will practice and play games at Callahan/Landers Field on Lakeview Avenue.

The program began practicing on Monday, March 9, but workouts were suspended after the second practice (Wednesday, March 11) due to health concerns related to the coronavirus. Practices are tentatively scheduled to resume on Monday, March 23 and a league-wide jamboree is scheduled for the end of March.

The NEYTF is open to boys and girls ages 6-14. There are four divisions of competition: six-, seven- and eight-year-olds play in the 8U division; nine- and 10-year-olds play in the 10U division; 11- and 12-year-olds play in the 12U division; and 13- and 14-year-olds play in the 14U division.

The general manager of the Quaboag Panthers, who will field teams in all four divisions, is Maurice Payne. Payne is a fixture in Quaboag Youth



Image courtesy NEYTFootball.org

New England Youth Tackle Football is coming to West Brookfield this season.

Football circles, having been affiliated with the program since 1996. Payne is also coach of the 14U team.

“I started the Quaboag Youth Football program back in 1996,” said Payne, who grew up in Richmond, Va. “I used to coach in Belchertown when

the program myself,” Payne continued. “An in-line skate company in West Brookfield donated in-line skates to the program and we sold them to raise money to start the team. I ended up raising \$80,000 in three months. Then I got skates donated to the Belchertown team I was a part of for six years and they raised \$65,000 for their team selling the in-line skates. I got Quabbin Youth football started the same way, too.”

Payne said he found out about the NEYTF while surfing the internet one night.

“In December I was online and I came across the New England Youth Tackle Football league’s website [www.neyt-football.org]. So, I reached out to the founder of the league, Joel Machado, and he invited me up to Lynn to talk about the league. We talked and he ended up inviting me to join the league.”

Payne said he has a 30-mile radius around West Brookfield to draw players from. And, even though this is just the first year Quaboag has participated in the program, Payne said the response to the new league has been great.

“Interest in the program just blew up,” Payne said. “We have close to 100 kids in the program. They’re coming from everywhere; Brookfield, North

Brookfield, Warren, Spencer, Southbridge, Leicester, Sturbridge, Charlton, Barre, Springfield, Chicopee, Holyoke, Belchertown, Palmer, Monson and Worcester.”

Quaboag Youth Football volunteer Maureen Roberts said included in the kids who have signed up are five girls who want to play the sport of tackle football.

There are seven teams currently in the NEYTF including three in Lynn — the Sin City Steelers, the Silverbacks and the Outlaws — as well as the Boston Titans, the Merrimack Valley Blue Devils, the Ocean State (R.I.) Ducks, and the Manchester (N.H.) Bird Gang.

Payne said there are still openings for kids interested in playing on the 8U and 12U teams. Roberts said the interest was so great for the 10U and 14U teams, that the league has created a waiting list for those divisions.

The cost to join the league is \$180, which includes a \$150 registration fee and \$30 for a game jersey that the kids get to keep.

“Parents interested in joining the NEYTF need to sign their son or daughter up through sportsid.org,” Roberts said, “and there is a \$10 fee for that. Signing up includes downloading the player’s birth certificate, a recent photo of the player and a report card.”



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OBITUARIES

Francis G. “Frank” Jolin, 81



STURBRIDGE - Francis G. “Frank” Jolin, 81, of New Boston Rd., passed away on Sunday, March 8th, in his home after a long illness.

He leaves his son, Gerald Jolin of Sturbridge; his twin daughters, Dawn Jolin of Wales and Dorothy Sabolevski of Newfane, VT; two step daughters, Constance Lamoureux and Deborah Lamoureux; his four brothers, Paul Jolin of Charlton, Emile Jolin of Dudley, Marcel Jolin of Sturbridge and John Jolin of Sturbridge; his two sisters, Elaine Cardenas of Southbridge and Diane Gagnon of Brookfield; his two grandchildren, who he absolutely adored, Jesse Howard and his girlfriend Katie of Newfane, VT and Brittney Sabolevski of Newfane, VT; several step grandchildren and nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his former wife Sylvia (Croke) Jolin in 1998. He was also predeceased by his three brothers, Eugene Jolin, Joseph Jolin and Philip Jolin and his sister, Betty Gaumond. Frank was born in Southbridge the son of Paul C. and Elizabeth B. (Favreau) Jolin. He served in the US Navy from 1955-1959, serving in the gunnery department of the USS Greenwich Bay.

Frank worked on and drove heavy

equipment for numerous companies through the years. He at one time owned and operated Frank Jolin Trucking. He was a jack of all trades and there was nothing he couldn't do. Frank loved working on and restoring his Farmall Tractors.

To his children and grandchildren he was the most adoring, hardworking father and grandfather anyone could have.

His family would like to thank the Overlook Hospice, the first responders from Sturbridge and Charlton, the office of Dr. Jeffrey Jones especially his Nurse Practitioner Kathy, and his nephew Tom Bonin, for all of the care and help during his illness.

His funeral was held on Monday, March 16th, at 11:00am in the Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge. Burial will follow in St. George Cemetery, Southbridge. Calling hours in the funeral home were held on Sunday, March 15th, from 4:00 to 6:00pm.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Overlook Hospice, 88 Masonic Home Rd., Charlton, MA 01507.

www.morrillfuneralhome.com



Shirley J. Paulhus, 88



CHARLTON - Shirley J. (Julian) Paulhus, 88, of Masonic Home Road, passed away on Monday, March 9th, in the Overlook Masonic Health Center, Charlton, after an illness.

She leaves her beloved husband of 43 years, Robert H. Paulhus; her son, Bernard E. Tetreault and his wife Sandy of Sturbridge; a step son, Donald R. Paulhus and his wife Cindy of Brimfield; her daughter, Becky-Lynn Soules and her husband Michael of Dalton; her sister, Lucille Caron of CT; seven grandchildren, Scott, Sherry, Joel, Michell, Kristen, Rachel, and Liam; eight great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. Shirley was predeceased by two brothers, Lenwood Julian and Ralph Julian; four sisters, Pauline Courtemanche,

Virginia Fortier, Dolores Anger and Georgette Benoit. She was born in Sturbridge the daughter of Leodore and Edith (Clark) Julian.

Shirley worked for 28 years as a lens inspector for the American Optical Company in Southbridge before retiring in 1992. She was a member of the Quarter Century Club at the American Optical Company. Shirley enjoyed trips to Florida, Hampton Beach and Cape Cod. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother and truly loved her family.

Her funeral Mass was held Thursday, March 12th, at 10:00 am in St. Anne's Church, 16 Church St., Sturbridge. Calling hours were held on Wednesday, March 11th, in the Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Burial in Oak Ridge Cemetery will be held at a later date.

www.morrillfuneralhome.com

abeth A. “Betty” Knowles, 75



SOUTHBRIDGE - Elizabeth A. “Betty” Knowles, 75, of Westwood Pkwy, passed away on Thursday, March 12th, in her home after a long illness.

She leaves her husband of 56 years, James M. Knowles, Jr.; her three daughters, Denise A. Southall and her fiancé Henry Kramer of Sturbridge, Lisa M. Ide and her husband Brian of Charlton and Laurie A. Alicea and her husband Edward of Southbridge; her five grandchildren, Deric Gendron, Justin Gendron, Joshua James Johnson, Brendon Alicea and Lauryn Alicea; and five great grandchildren. She was predeceased by her brother, Gordon A. Hackett. Betty was born in Southbridge the daughter of Howard

and Mary E. (Curboy) Hackett.

Betty worked as a bookkeeper for Bousquet Auto Parts in Southbridge, Southbridge Radiator and Southbridge Sheet Metal before retiring several years ago. Betty loved Vermont and its mountains, the sunrise and sunsets in Maine and being by the lake. She loved to cook and enjoyed working around her home. Betty had a huge heart and was always there to help anyone in need.

Her funeral was held on Tuesday, March 17th, from the Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, with a Mass at 10:00am in St. Mary's Church of the St. John Paul II Parish, 263 Hamilton St., Southbridge. Burial was in Oak Ridge Cemetery, Southbridge. Calling hours in the funeral home were held on Monday, March 16th, from 5:00 to 7:00pm.

www.morrillfuneralhome.com

Lazaraq L. Petro, 86



SOUTHBRIDGE - Lazaraq L. Petro, 86, of High St., passed away peacefully at home on Sunday, March 15th, surrounded by his loved ones after a brief illness.

His beloved wife of 60 years, H. Patricia “Patty” Petro died in 2018. He leaves a daughter, Christine Cloutier of Sturbridge; his three sons, Ronald Petro and his wife Stacy of Woodstock, CT, Joseph Petro of Southbridge and Gregory Petro of Charlton; his sister, Sandra Petro of Southbridge; his five grandchildren, Vanessa Cloutier, Jennifer Mitchem, Tyler Petro, Alexa Walsh and Nikita Johnson; 9 great grandchildren, Avery Mitchem, Angelina Petro, Madeleine Gaumond, Jocelyn Gaumond, Jaden Mitchem, Emerson Walsh, Mia Johnson, Kaylee Walsh, Paisley Johnson and another great grandchild due soon. He also

leaves many cousins, nieces and nephews. Laz was predeceased by his brother, Andrew J. Petro.

Laz was born in Southbridge the son of Joseph Sifi and Marika (Elia) Petro. He graduated from Cole Trade High School in Southbridge. He served honorably in the US Airforce during the Korean War. Laz then started a family and worked at the American Optical Company and Schott Fiber Optics from where he retired from.

The family would like to thank the caring professionals from the Overlook Home Care Hospice for the compassion and support they gave us during our time of need.

Funeral Services for Laz were held on Wednesday, March 18th, at 10:00 am in the Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St. Southbridge. Burial followed in Oak Ridge Cemetery, Southbridge. Calling hours in the funeral home were held on Tuesday, March 17th from 5:00 – 7:00 pm.

www.morrillfuneralhome.com

TRIPS

continued from page A7

TRIP SCHEDULE FOR 2020

March 24, 2020 – Tuesday – Mohegan Sun \$30 - 10 - AM bus.

You will have a deluxe motor coach ride to the casino. You will have 5 hours at the casino to gamble and shop. The bus will leave Mohegan Sun at 4 PM.

You will receive \$10 for gaming and a buffet meal voucher. Filling up fast

May 19, 2020 – Tuesday – Foxwoods \$30 - 8 - AM bus.

This one is for the bingo players and all others that want to go. You will have a deluxe motor coach ride to the casino. You will have 5 hours at the casino to gamble and shop. The bus will leave Foxwoods at 2 PM.

You will receive \$10 for gaming and a buffet meal voucher.

September 15, 2020 – Tuesday – Mohegan Sun \$30 - 10 - AM bus.

You will have a deluxe motor coach ride to the casino. You will have 5 hours at the casino to gamble and shop. The bus will leave Mohegan Sun at 4 PM.

You will receive \$10 for gaming and a buffet meal voucher.

October 13th - 20th 2020 – ALL INCLUSIVE ARUBA Happily Full - I am taking names for standby on this trip. This is an all-inclusive trip – all flights, transfers, meals plus snacks, nightly entertainment, and

alcohol included.

November 12, 2020 – Thursday – Foxwoods \$30 - 10 - AM bus.

You will have a deluxe motor coach ride to the casino. You will have 5 hours at the casino to gamble and shop. The bus will leave Foxwoods at 4 PM.

You will receive \$10 for gaming and a buffet meal voucher.

PAYMENTS DUE AT SIGN UP

Trips are open to the public! Make checks payable to the Southbridge Senior Citizens Association.

Contact Jim Julian at the Casaubon senior center Monday, Wednesday or Friday mornings from 9:00 to 10:00 AM or call 774 922 4049, or e-mail me.jimtrips@yahoo.com

STURBRIDGE RECREATION

NYC Spring Bus Trip Saturday, April 25 Shopping & Sight Seeing Cost: \$50 Per Person, *Driver Gratuity Included

Depart: 7:00 AM from Burgess Elementary School parking lot on your Lizak charter. A rest stop to be made along the way.

Arrive: Approx 10:30 AM for a day to do as you please in the wonderful Big Apple! Ice skating, shows, shopping, light displays, and more! Drop off will be as close to Rockefeller Center as possible.

Depart NYC: At 6:30 PM return to your Lizak Charter

and enjoy a peaceful ride home. Arrive to Sturbridge by 10:00 PM.

UNION SAINT-JEAN-BAPTISTE CHAPTER 12

Union Saint-Jean-Baptiste, Chapter #12, Southbridge, is sponsoring a variety of excursions for all to enjoy in 2019. We are a non-profit family oriented Franco-American fraternal society since 1900. As always, you do not have to be a member to participate in any of the scheduled events. All are welcome. Gift certificates purchased in any amount can be used by the recipient to any event at face value. For information or reservations contact Ted at (508) 764-7909.

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All trips leave from the Whitinsville Walmart and the Stop & Shop at 32 Lyman St, Westboro. Make sure to include entree choice, phone # (esp. cell) and an emergency # when sending payment. “Like” us on Facebook The Silver Club and The Uxbridge Senior Center. Please call Sue at (508) 476-5820 for more information.

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For more information, please call June at 508-909-4062 or email jsima@stonebridgepress.news and she'll be happy to help!

TRAINOR

continued from page A8

rub kills viruses that may be on your hands.

Maintain social distancing: Maintain at least 1 meter (3 feet) distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing.

Why? When someone coughs or sneezes they spray small liquid droplets from their nose or mouth which may contain virus. If you are too close, you can breathe in the droplets, including the COVID-19 virus if the person coughing has the disease.

Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth
Why? Hands touch many surfaces and can pick up viruses. Once contaminated, hands can transfer the virus to your eyes, nose or mouth. From there, the virus can enter your body and can make you sick.

Practice respiratory hygiene: Make sure you, and the people around you, follow good respiratory hygiene. This means covering your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze. Then dispose of the used tissue immediately.

Why? Droplets spread virus. By following good respiratory hygiene you protect the people around you from viruses such as cold, flu and COVID-19.

If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical care early: Stay

home if you feel unwell. If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention and call in advance. Follow the directions of your local health authority.

Here are a few tips to battle the common cold and flu this season:

The health virtues of garlic have been touted for generations. The book, “The Healing Power of Garlic,” suggests garlic nose drops can kill the viruses that cause cold or flu. The book’s instructions on concocting the drops: Crush some garlic to obtain juice, and add ten parts water and mix well. Apply as you would regular nose drops.

According to a home remedy, if you place a clove of garlic on each side of the mouth between the teeth and cheek, a cold will disappear within a day. It’s worth a try!

Some Native American tribes treated a low grade fever with sage, as in this old time recipe. As a bonus, the dried peppermint supplies the tea with a soothing, cooling effect. To do: Pour one cup boiling water over two teaspoons dried, edible sage and one teaspoon dried peppermint. Steep. Strain, and sweeten with honey if desired. Slowly sip up to three cups a day.

One of peppermint’s claims to fame is that it can alleviate the chills and aid with symptoms of fever and the flu. Try drinking a cup or two of strong peppermint tea made from fresh leaves to relieve cold and flu complaints. To do:

Pour one cup boiling water over four to six peppermint leaves. Allow to steep for 15 minutes, strain and serve.

Flu season typically lasts from October to March. Here’s something to keep in mind for the future: According to several Japanese studies, gargling with black tea twice a day from October to March, significantly improved participants abilities to fend off the flu bug.

Cold and Flu Facts
*The word “influenza” comes from the Italian influenza because people used to believe that the influence of the planets, stars, and moon caused the flu.

*On average children get about six to ten colds per year.

* Viruses are between 20 and 100 times smaller than bacteria and can be seen only through a microscope

*During the flu season, 59% of surfaces in home can be contaminated with the flu virus.

*Children are two to three times more likely than adults to get sick with the common flu, and children frequently spread the virus to others.

*Flying when you have cold and flu congestion can temporarily damage your eardrums due to pressure changes. If you must fly, use a nasal spray prior to takeoff and landing. Also chew gum, and use a decongestant for symptoms.

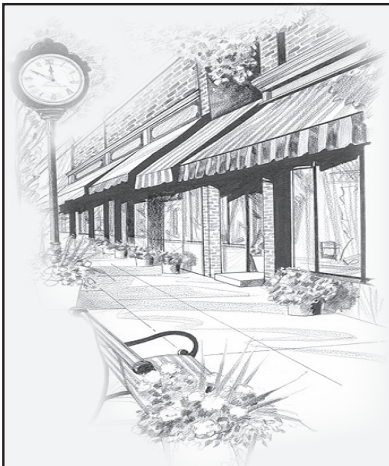
*There are over 200 viruses that cause the common cold

*Colds are not caused by temperature or temperature changes. Despite what mother said, you can’t catch a cold by going out barefoot or without a hat.

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.



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LANDSCAPING

continued from page A1

pitabile climates on Earth,” including atop Mt Washington and the Arctic.

“A plant that’s going to perform well always supports more ecological function than one that’s struggling,” he said. “... We have some fantastic plants that grow in poor soils.”

Among other things, Wilder encourages people in most places to eliminate their traditional short grass lawns in favor of a very native groundcover that also provides food – wild strawberry. Whatever you use, he urges growers to think in layers, planting groundcover, herbaceous plants, shrubs, subcanopy (short trees) and canopy (taller trees). Doing so creates the broadest range of ecological niches for plants, insects, birds and animals.

In a related vein, when removing invasive plants such as Oriental bittersweet, multiflora rose or Japanese barberry, Wilder recommends filling the vacant soil with something native that fills a similar ecological niche. If not, Nature will do so, probably with another invasive. As an example, plant grape vines where bittersweet was, or sumac where buckthorn was.

“We normally think of invasives as having the competitive advantage, but we can flip that around” by “plant[ing]

your landscape as full as you can,” he observed. “...There’s nothing wrong with plants touching one another.”

He recommended taking what the label says for planting distance and cutting it in half or a third. Doing so will “allow these plants to fill in and cover the whole area.”

One fairly simple way to “save thousands of dollars in poorly-selected plants” is to invest in soil testing, then select plants based on the soil qualities. Several places do it, with UMass Extension Service being the least costly (\$20), and others ranging up to \$100 or so, with some differences in what they provide.

Regarding repetition, Wilder said he sees the “one of everything syndrome” more often than unused space, and urged people to give some plants to friends and replace them with several of one species that can tie everything together. In Nature, that’s often seen in meadows that are dominated by one or a few plant types; he showed a scene with two major species that supported 300 species of bees, 200 species of butterflies and many birds and animals.

One of them was goldenrod, which has 50 species from “hard-to-grow” to “extremely vigorous” and suited to a wide range of habitats. That has a bad rap – it’s often accused of causing hay-fever, but does not. Its “heavy, sticky

pollen” requires insects to pollinate it; the real culprit is ragweed.

“Goldenrods support more wildlife than any other herbaceous species,” he said, later noting number two in that category is wild strawberry. That plant, he notes “can handle abuse. ... My chickens can’t kill it.”

To some people, many native plants are weeds, but his view is that weeds are “just plants out of place.” In many cases, they’re actually beneficial and beautiful; as an example, he points to black-eyed susans (*Rudbeckia* spp.), a short-lived perennial flower that produces lots of seeds and shows a lot of variety. Another is common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), which grows almost anywhere and has several less common, more specialized cousins. It’s most famous for being essential for the life cycle of monarch butterflies, but has also been used to provide insulating fibers for clothing (full-sized pods) and even food (very young pods).

Other suggestions Wilder made included using natural materials for accents, keep downed wood on site, “prune with the plant’s natural form in mind” while leaving younger stems and cutting older ones periodically, “avoid sharp edges and straight lines,” and don’t do fall cleanup, since the downed leaves and standing dead stems provide soil nutrients, protect various

insects, and feed birds and animals, among other things.

When Q&A time came, one of the first was on ticks. Wilder said they’re mostly found in “edge habitat” (where one habitat transitions to another) and are “thought to do extremely well in a changing climate.” Eliminating barberry can help control them, since research has linked barberry with both increased tick numbers and increased percentage infected with the Lyme bacteria, although it’s not clear why. Killing barberry is difficult; small patches can be dug up and burned with the roots smothered. He suggested using ram-board (big rolls of cardboard on which people layer soil, mulch and more ram-board to create a new planting area. The ram-board eventually decays into the soil.)

Regarding switching from lawn to native gardening, Wilder simply recommends starting small. Pick a section and use seeds since they’re far less costly than whole plants; he mentioned the Wild Seed Project website as listing many species that grow easily from seed.. Best choice for plants are those you can later split and transplant

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



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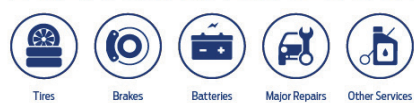


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Featured New Listing!

WEBSTER - 28 BLACK POINT RD



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New Price **\$329,900**

WEBSTER - 8 MAPLE ST



ON DEPOSIT

2 Family - 1st Floor: 6 Rooms, 3 bedrooms, 1 Full Bath, open Kitchen, Fully Applianced, New Carpeting, Hardwood Floors. 2nd Floor - Open Kitchen with Gorgeous Kitchen Cabinets - 6 Rooms, 3 Bed, 1 Full Bath Hardwood Floors, New carpeting. Each Apartment has 1,200+ sq ft plus. Oil Heat. Off street parking. Town Water & Sewer, 3rd Story Unfinished. **\$237,500**

CHARLTON - 51 GALE RD



SORRY, SOLD!

Nice Country cape - with hugh attached 2 car garage! 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 Fireplaces, 3 seson sunroom with atched deck Living room w/fireplace! 1st fir omce. Recent water filtration system, furnace, heater, and oil unk. Passed Title V, well okay.
assisted sale **\$299,000.**



DOUGLAS - 14 MOUNT DANIELS WAY

NEW to Market! 4 beds, 2-1/2 baths, sun-room, lg deck, central air, located on small cul-de-sac of 6 homes! Over 2 acres of privacy!
\$409,000.

OPEN HOUSE, SAT. • 12-2

OXFORD - 47 HARWOOD ST



SORRY, SOLD!

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WOODSTOCK, CT - 64 LYON HILL RD



SORRY, SOLD!

Estate like long paved driveway! 3158 Sq Ft Colonial! Geothermal built. Open floor plan, ash flooring throughout! Granite and s/s applianced kitchen! Large master bedroom, coffered ceiling, master bath, w/Jetted tub! Walk in closets. Two car garage. Radiused catwalk on upper level! Walk up attic. Walk out lower level! The third garage is accessed from the lower level. 2016 Generator hook-up. One beautiful property!
assisted sale **\$499,900.**

WEBSTER/OXFORD/DUDLEY/DOUGLAS

Dudley - Marshall Terrace 12,000 +/- Sq. Ft. Possible potential for a 2 family to be built! Town Water, Sewer, City Gas! Nice level lot. **\$70,000**
Douglas-Mount Daniels Lot #2-2.5 Acres of flat land that abouts Douglas State Forest **\$132,900**
Webster - 3 Lots Cooper Rd. Attention Developers! 3 abutting house lots, potential to divide into 5-6 Buildable lots! water/sewer access **\$129,400**
Webster - 85 Upper Gore! View of the Lake. 1+ acre,artesian well, Septic Design,Etc. **\$130,000.**
Oxford - 4 Leicester St. approx. 8.47 acres! River frontage! Highly possible to be subdivided. **\$99,900**

THOMPSON, CT - 6 LILLIAN AVE, LOT #1



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There is **No Place Like Home!** - beautiful newly constructed home! Split level style home has an attractive modern flare! Open floor plan, cathedral ceilings, hardwood floors, tile floored baths, & master full bath w/extra wide shower & walk in closet, plus 2 more spacious BRS & a full hallway bath. 24' lower level family room, half bath w/laundry hookups! Two car garage! Central AC. **\$299,900.**

WEBSTER LAND - COOPER RD



ATTENTION DEVELOPERS

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On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagogggchaubunagungamaugg



SORRY, SOLD!

WEBSTER LAKE - 118 POINT BREEZE RD

Excellent Opportunity to Finally Own Your Own Webster Lake Waterfront Property! Prime Location, 5,697+/- SF Lot, 50' Rd & Water Frontage at a Great Price! Contemporary Ranch offers 996+/- SF of living area w/2 BRS & 2 full baths. Plus, convenient, indoor access to Walkout Lower Level w/tremendous potential for additional living area. Main level features Open Floor Plan w/sliders to full front deck! Spectacular Westerly views across Middle Pond! Additional land & shore frontage available.
NEW PRICE \$299,900



SORRY, SOLD!

WEBSTER LAKE - 32 JACKSON RD

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Open House SUNDAY • NOON-2




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Open House Directory

(C) Condo (B) Business (P) Land	(X) Condo (U) Duplex (L) Mobile Home	(M) Multi-Family (S) Single Family (A) Apartment	(T) Townhouse (D) Adult Community (W) Waterfront
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ADDRESS	STYLE	TIME	PRICE	REALTOR/SELLER/PHONE
SATURDAY, MARCH 21				
DOUGLAS 14 Mount Daniels Way	S	Noon-2	\$409,00	Hope Real Estate Group June Cazeault 860-377-2044
DUDLEY 55+ Community	L/D	10-11:30		Re/Max Advantage Jo-Ann Szymczak 774-230-5044
SATURDAY, MARCH 22				
DUDLEY 12 Mill Rd	S	Noon-2	\$304,900	Re/Max Advantage Jo-Ann Szymczak 774-230-5044
WEBSTER 28 Black Point Rd	W	11-2	\$699,900	Hope Real Estate Group Sharon Pelletier 508-943-4333

To have your open house listed in this directory.
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Make the move!

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Improve soil quality for a better lawn



A lush, green lawn can vastly improve a home's curb appeal. Thick, healthy grass indicates that homeowners care enough about their properties to invest the time, effort and money to make them beautiful.

According to the landscaping tool company Troy-Bilt, soil fertility is the foundation of healthy lawns. In fact, the quality of the soil is essential whether one is growing acres of grass, potted plants or vegetable garden beds. No matter which type of soil a homeowner is working with, there are various ways to make it better.

Remove thatch
Thatch is a tightly knotted layer of leaves, grass roots, stems, and other debris that accumulates between the grass blades and the soil. Too much thatch can hinder the movement of water, air and nutrients into the soil. According to organic fertilizer company Organo-Lawn, thatch often occurs if the production of dead organic material in the lawn exceeds the ability of the microorganisms in the soil to break down that organic matter. A half-inch of thatch is normal. If thatch gets too thick, it will need to be removed. The home improvement resource DIY Network says dethatching can take place in the summer, fall and winter using a thatching rake.

Aerate
A lawn aerator will create holes in the soil. This can improve drainage

and encourage worms and helpful microorganisms that require oxygen to thrive in the soil. The Briggs & Stratton Company says the best time to aerate a lawn is during the growing season when the grass can heal and fill in any holes, such as spring and fall. Aeration can help develop deeper grass roots for a healthier lawn.

Test and amend soil
A great lawn has loamy soil, which has a key ratio of clay, silt and sand. Silt is a granular material of a size between sand and clay that originates from quartz and feldspar. It is the most fertile of the three types of soil components. Sand does not retain water, but it helps to create spaces in the soil that permit air to circulate. Clay particles are small and bind together tightly, but clay is naturally nutrient-rich. The home improvement site BobVila.com says loamy soil should have equal parts sand and silt and half as much clay.

If the lawn is not yet established, loamy soil can be created and then the grass seeds planted. For established soil, after removing thatch and aerating, top-dressing the lawn can help. This involves adding a thin layer of soil over the lawn. It can improve the soil without killing the existing turf. Ideally, it should be done in early fall or spring, as this gives the grass time to grow through three to four more mowings before severe heat or cold sets in.

Healthy soil is vital to a lush lawn. It takes a little work, but improving soil can create vibrant, healthy, green grass.

House powerwashing tips

Powerwashing, also known as pressure-washing, utilizes a high-velocity water spray to remove dirt and residue from the exterior surfaces of a home. It is frequently used on vinyl siding, concrete and sometimes wood decks to treat mildew and other growth that accumulates over time.

Powerwashing can be a great way to remove grime without having to scrub by hand. But it requires a delicate touch to get it right. Sometimes it is best to leave the job to professionals. But homeowners willing to give it a go can try powerwashing themselves, as various stores rent power washers.

The home improvement website ImproveNet says that, until very recently, pressure washers were almost exclusively commercial machines sold to professionals or rented to do-it-yourselfers. Lately manufacturers have targeted homeowners looking to buy with lightweight options. For those who see powerwashing as a routine venture, purchasing a unit may be worth the investment.

It is important to exercise caution when operating a powerwashing machine. The high-velocity spray can tear through skin. It is key to get a feel for the washer, and try less pressure first to get a handle on the magnitude of the tool.

Don safety gear prior to using a pressure washer. Gloves, eye protection and ear protection can be handy. Most units will connect to a standard garden hose. Choose old clothing and expect to get wet. Never point a powerwasher hose at anyone and do not attempt to rinse feet or hands in the spray.

The renovation



Powerwashing the exterior of the home can be an effective way to clean it in the spring and fall.

resource The Family Handyman suggests starting with a wide-degree nozzle to test out the spray on the surface that needs to be cleaned. A 15- or 25-degree nozzle is usually the wand for general cleaning and paint stripping without damaging the surface of the home. Experiment with an optimal distance of the washer wand to get the desired cleaning effects without causing any damage. Work using a horizontal and slightly downward angle to avoid driving water up under the siding of a home.

Avoid spraying any electric wires or components on the home. Also, try not to spray upward, and angle the spray away

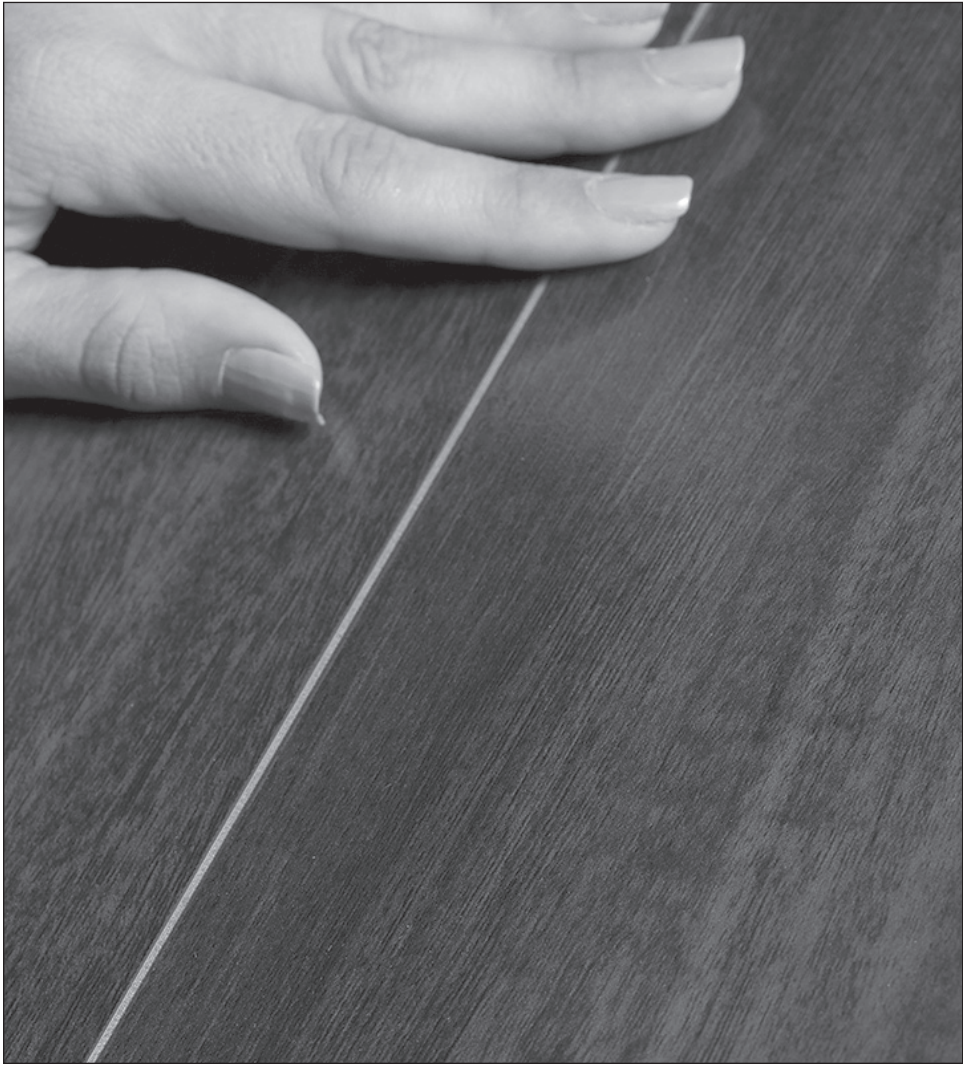
from doors, windows and vents.

Some washers have reservoirs that will hold a detergent solution. Choose the right detergent for the job. Keep in mind that cleansers containing bleach can damage surrounding plants, so they may need to be covered while the washing takes place.

Avoid the use of ladders when operating a powerwasher. The push-back from the wand can cause falls. Instead, opt for an extension wand to address the upper reaches of a home.

Powerwashing a home is an effective way to remove stubborn grime and refresh the look of a home's exterior.

How to protect wood floors from inclement weather



Wood floors are a worthwhile investment that can improve the beauty and function of just about any room in a home. Even though wood floors are durable, and new protective treatments help seal out many of the things that may have damaged floors in the past, homeowners still need to prioritize protecting their hardwood floors.

Certain seasons of the year can be more harsh on wood floors than others. For example, seasons characterized by

moisture and precipitation, particularly the early spring, winter and fall, can be hard on wood floors. The experts at ServiceMaster Clean say that cold, snowy days can damage wood floors, and Lumber Liquidators agrees that winter weather can be harsh on flooring.

Homeowners need not give up on hardwood if they live in an area that sees all four seasons. They just need to take a few steps to keep floors looking

beautiful.

- Clean up the salt. Salt that keeps sidewalks and streets clear of snow and ice inadvertently gets tracked inside a home. Hard chunks of salt can scratch wood floors, and, if left to sit, that salt can eventually cause white marks and other stains. Routinely vacuuming and sweeping up salt is necessary to protect wood floors.

- Invest in shoe storage. Wet or snowy boots can create puddles around the house. Have a special mat or tray by the front door where wet shoes can be kept. A nice bench in the entryway makes it easy for residents and guests to remove their shoes until it's time to go back outside.

- Use water-wicking mats. Homeowners will probably need a few extra mats around to tame errant drips and wipe shoes. Any entrance that might be used by people or pets should be protected. Try to avoid petroleum-based, rubber-backed mats, as they could discolor the wood floor.

- Control humidity indoors. Cold, dry air in a home can be problematic because the moisture in the wood can eventually evaporate into the air. The heat will suck that moisture from the flooring, causing it to shrink, creak and splinter and become more brittle. Think about investing in an in-line humidifier for the home's HVAC system that can keep a moderate amount of humidity in the home. Hardwood floorboards are installed to accommodate minor temperature and humidity fluctuations. This is typically a range of between 60 and 80 degrees F with a relative humidity range of 35 to 55 percent, advises ServiceMaster.

- Use the right cleaning products. Avoid excessive water to clean wood floors, and select soaps that are specially designed for wood flooring. Consult with the flooring manufacturer for a list of detergents that are safe to use.

With proper care, hardwood flooring can survive rain, snow and cold weather.

Mother's Day Honors

Publish Date:

May 8, 2020

Deadline date:

Friday, May 1 @ 5 pm

We would like to honor all Mothers and Grandmothers in the May 8th issue. The deadline for honors is Friday, May 4 at 5 pm.

Cost is just \$20 per 2.4"x 2" B&W block.

**In the Spencer New Leader,
Auburn News or Sturbridge/Charlton Villager**

SAMPLE: EXACT SIZE



Mom, Of all the moms in all the world, nothing brings me more happiness than to know you're ours.

*With love from
John, Mary, and
Jennifer*

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Local News



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Stonebridge Press

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1-bedroom unit overlooking ocean in a gated community
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Watch dolphins at play, freighters, pelicans and fishing boats.
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2-bedroom newly constructed oceanfront cottage that
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448 FURNITURE

SOLID OAK RECTANGULAR DINING TABLE
about 35 yrs old in sturdy con-
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546 CEMETERY LOTS

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2016 CHEVY CRUZE LT.
79,000 miles. 1.4 liter engine,
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2003 Toyota Tundra with extra
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Silver metallic. Recorded 100%
mechanically sound by Shel-
don's of Auburn. Bike is truly
new condition.
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2014 Victory Vision Tour
Loaded with options Only 2,000
miles, not even broken in Paid
\$20,000. Asking \$13,500. Call
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custom 1981with windshiled
and engine guard.
Has 24,500 miles.
good condition.
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VILLAGER NEWSPAPERS COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

"SHINING A LIGHT ON COMMUNITY EVENTS"

March 20, Fri., Noon-7pm

Club 2087 will hold a Lenten Fish Fry, in the Knights of Columbus Hall, 1017 Riverside Drive, North Grosvenordale. The menu: fish & chips (\$11); baked haddock (\$12); fried bay scallops or shrimp (\$13); fried clams (\$16); seafood platter (\$18). 860-923-2967, council2087@gmail.com.

March 20, Fri., 5-7pm

Please join us at the Lenten Fish Fry sponsored by Scout Troop 44 at the Trinity Church located at 7 Providence Pike, Brooklyn, CT. This fundraiser will held every Friday during Lent. The meal consists of fish, fries and coleslaw. The meal is take-out only and cost \$12. Please feel free to donate a canned good for the can drive to benefit our local food pantry. All proceeds benefit the Boy Scout troop outdoor activities and their chartered organization, Trinity church.

March 20, Fri., 10-3pm

Job Fair Hosted by Masis Staffing. Stop by the TEEG office (15 Thatcher Rd. No. Grosvenordale, CT) between 10:00-3:00 to speak with staff members from Masis staffing to see what job opportunities are available in the area. Free event with no registration required.

March 21, Sat., 7-8:30am

The Soldiers, Sailors and Marines Fund (SSMF) assistance is available this Saturday and every Saturday morning, at the Pomfret Senior Center, 207 Mashamouquet Road (Rt.44) in Pomfret. Always free and confidential; call 860-928-2309 for questions. (The SSMF is administered by the American Legion to provide temporary financial assistance to qualified veterans.

March 21, Sat., 7pm

Mass Production Reunion Concert at Killingly High School. Local singers and musicians will perform a variety of new songs as well as favorite oldies in order to raise money for the Phil Janetatos music scholarship. Tickets are: adults \$15.00, Seniors \$13.00, children \$10.00.

March 22, Sun., 9am-3:30pm

The Art of Transition Retreat/Workshop @Block134, Putnam, CT. The new Connecticut business. Are you retiring, re-wiring, changing careers, changing relationships, planning to start a business? Savor Life Coaching is hosting a Retreat/Workshop most appropriate for, but not limited to, people in pre- and post-retirement, business launch or considering career change transitions. Join the Workshop led by James A. Weiss, Registered Life Planner with the Kinder Institute. Three experts The Workshop's goal is to help attendees clarify their vision and plan, for their future. Visit savorcoaching.com/workshops-retreats for registration details and/or visit the Facebook event page at: www.facebook.com/events/500004730705748/

March 26, thurs, 5-7pm

Best casseroles family dinner. Only \$10 per person. Kids under 10-½ price! There will be a variety of casseroles all you can eat, bring take out containers. Senexet grange 628 CT Rt169, woodstock, ct 06281. Reserve tickets by email at grange40ct@gmail.com or 860-455-8844

March 27, Fri., Noon-7pm

Club 2087 will hold a Lenten Fish Fry, in the Knights of Columbus Hall, 1017 Riverside Drive, North Grosvenordale. The menu: fish & chips (\$11); baked haddock (\$12); fried bay scallops or shrimp (\$13);

fried clams (\$16); seafood platter (\$18). 860-923-2967, council2087@gmail.com.

March 27, Fri., 5-7pm

Please join us at the Lenten Fish Fry sponsored by Scout Troop 44 at the Trinity Church located at 7 Providence Pike, Brooklyn, CT. This fundraiser will held every Friday during Lent. The meal consists of fish, fries and coleslaw. The meal is take-out only and cost \$12. Please feel free to donate a canned good for the can drive to benefit our local food pantry. All proceeds benefit the Boy Scout troop outdoor activities and their chartered organization, Trinity church.

March 28, Sat., 7-8:30am

The Soldiers, Sailors and Marines Fund (SSMF) assistance is available this Saturday and every Saturday morning, at the Pomfret Senior Center, 207 Mashamouquet Road (Rt.44) in Pomfret. Always free and confidential; call 860-928-2309 for questions. (The SSMF is administered by the American Legion to provide temporary financial assistance to qualified veterans.

March 28, Sat., 5:30pm & 7pm

Dinner and bluegrass for march has been cancelled. Stay tuned for more info about April.. Bruce, 203-731-1750

April 3, Fri., Noon-7pm

Club 2087 will hold a Lenten Fish Fry, in the Knights of Columbus Hall, 1017 Riverside Drive, North Grosvenordale. The menu: fish & chips (\$11); baked haddock (\$12); fried bay scallops or shrimp (\$13);

fried clams (\$16); seafood platter (\$18). 860-923-2967, council2087@gmail.com.

April 3, Fri., 5-7pm

Please join us at the Lenten Fish Fry sponsored by Scout Troop 44 at the Trinity Church located at 7 Providence Pike, Brooklyn, CT. This fundraiser will held every Friday during Lent. The meal consists of fish, fries and coleslaw. The meal is take-out only and cost \$12. Please feel free to donate a canned good for the can drive to benefit our local food pantry. All proceeds benefit the Boy Scout troop outdoor activities and their chartered organization, Trinity church.

April 4, Sat., 7:30-10am

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny. Senexet Grange-628 Route 169-Woodstock, CT. Pancakes, eggs, sausage, bacon, homefries, coffee, tea, juice, milk. Kids activities and crafts * bring your camera for pictures with the Easter Bunny. \$10 per person – all you can eat

April 4, Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm

The St. Andrew Bobola Holy Rosary Sodality Easter Bake Sale. There will be Pierogi, Raffles, baked goods and more. See you there! 508-943-5633

April 4, Sat., 7-8:30am

The Soldiers, Sailors and Marines Fund (SSMF) assistance is available this Saturday and every Saturday morning, at the Pomfret Senior Center, 207 Mashamouquet Road (Rt.44) in Pomfret. Always free and confidential; call 860-928-2309 for questions. (The SSMF is administered by the American Legion to provide temporary financial assistance to qualified veterans.)

This page is designed to shine a light on upcoming local nonprofit, educational and community events.

Submissions are limited to 50 words or less and are FREE to qualifying organizations, schools, churches and town offices.

To submit your event contact: Paula at paula@stonebridgepress.news

Deadline for submission is Friday at Noon



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#119486A • LIMITED TRIM, NAV, V6, LEATHER, ALLOYS, MOONROOF
NEW Retail Price: ~~\$40,450~~
WHOLESALE PRICE: **\$29,377**
SAVE \$11,100 OFF OF RETAIL PRICE!

2019 JEEP CHEROKEE
#D10462L • LIMITED TRIM, 4X4, BACK-UP CAM, HEATED LEATHER
NEW Retail Price: ~~\$32,180~~
WHOLESALE PRICE: **\$25,877**
SAVE \$6,300 OFF OF RETAIL PRICE!

2019 FORD EDGE SUV
#P12806RV • TITANIUM, TURBO, LEATHER, 4X4, MOONROOF, NAV
NEW Retail Price: ~~\$42,890~~
WHOLESALE PRICE: **\$29,377**
SAVE \$13,500 OFF OF RETAIL PRICE!

2017 DODGE DURANGO
#120200A • GT TRIM, AWD, 3.6L V6, LEATHER, ALLOYS, BACK-UP CAM
NEW Retail Price: ~~\$35,895~~
WHOLESALE PRICE: **\$27,377**
SAVE \$8,500 OFF OF RETAIL PRICE!

2018 JEEP RENEGADE
#D10374V • TRAILHAWK, ALLOYS, 4X4, BACK-UP CAM, BLUETOOTH
NEW Retail Price: ~~\$27,120~~
WHOLESALE PRICE: **\$16,377**
SAVE \$10,700 OFF OF RETAIL PRICE!

2019 FORD EXPLORER
#H1178V • XLT TRIM, 4X4, NAV, HEATED SEATS, MOONROOF
NEW Retail Price: ~~\$39,870~~
WHOLESALE PRICE: **\$29,377**
SAVE \$10,500 OFF OF RETAIL PRICE!

2017 TOYOTA CAMRY SE
#TP0189V • ALLOYS, SUNROOF, BACK-UP CAM, FUEL EFFICIENT
NEW Retail Price: ~~\$30,340~~
WHOLESALE PRICE: **\$17,577**
SAVE \$12,800 OFF OF RETAIL PRICE!

2016 FORD F-150 4x4 SUPERCREW
#P12556L
NEW RETAIL PRICE: ~~\$41,985~~
WHOLESALE PRICE: **\$29,377**
SAVE \$12,600 OFF OF RETAIL PRICE!

2017 CHEVY TRAVESE LT w/1LT SUV
#40539L
NEW RETAIL PRICE: ~~\$41,305~~
WHOLESALE PRICE: **\$21,877**
SAVE \$19,400 OFF OF RETAIL PRICE!

2017 DODGE CHARGER
#D10624L • SXT TRIM, ALLOYS, AWD, KEYLESS START, 8.4" LCD
NEW Retail Price: ~~\$34,595~~
WHOLESALE PRICE: **\$26,877**
SAVE \$7,700 OFF OF RETAIL PRICE!

2017 LINCOLN MKZ
#P12491LV • RESERVE, ALLOYS, NAV, BACK-UP CAM, MOONROOF
NEW Retail Price: ~~\$42,990~~
WHOLESALE PRICE: **\$21,377**
SAVE \$21,600 OFF OF RETAIL PRICE!

2017 HYUNDAI TUCSON SPORT SUV
#H1341V
NEW RETAIL PRICE: ~~\$30,475~~
WHOLESALE PRICE: **\$17,877**
SAVE \$12,600 OFF OF RETAIL PRICE!

2018 TOYOTA RAV4 XLE
#TP0112 • AWD, 17" ALLOYS, MOONROOF, BACK-UP CAM
NEW Retail Price: ~~\$31,358~~
WHOLESALE PRICE: **\$20,577**
SAVE \$10,800 OFF OF RETAIL PRICE!

2017 TOYOTA TACOMA DOUBLE CAB
#19-396A
NEW RETAIL PRICE: ~~\$44,665~~
WHOLESALE PRICE: **\$29,877**
SAVE \$14,800 OFF OF RETAIL PRICE!

2016 RAM 1500 TRADESMAN
#D10086L • 4X4, CREW CAB, 5.7L V8 HEMI, ALLOYS, TOWING PKG
NEW Retail Price: ~~\$36,650~~
WHOLESALE PRICE: **\$22,377**
SAVE \$14,300 OFF OF RETAIL PRICE!

2019 CHEVY EQUINOX PREMIER 2LZ
#40789R
NEW RETAIL PRICE: ~~\$38,960~~
WHOLESALE PRICE: **\$25,677**
SAVE \$13,300 OFF OF RETAIL PRICE!

SPECIAL PURCHASE #40485V
Like New 2017 CHEVY SILVERADO 4x4
1500 LT TRIM CREW CAB
NEW RETAIL PRICE: ~~\$42,100~~
STARTING AT ONLY: **\$27,377**
8 Available
High Intensity Headlights, 5.3L V-8, Towing Package, Alloys!
SAVE \$14,700 OFF OF RETAIL PRICE!

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300 FORTUNE BLVD. | MILFORD, MA**



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<p>2016 Mitsubishi Outlander SE</p>  <p>SUV, CVT, 4WD, 44K miles LAW3222</p> <p>\$17,925</p>	 <p>edmunds five star dealer 2019 Lux Auto Plus</p>		<p>2015 Ford Edge Titanium</p>  <p>SUV, Auto, FWD, 54K miles LAW2198</p> <p>\$19,525</p>
<p>2017 Ford Escape SE</p>  <p>SUV, Auto, 4WD, 31K miles LAW3180</p> <p>\$19,925</p>	<p>2012 Jeep Wrangler Unlimited Sport</p>  <p>SUV, Manual, 4WD, 103K miles LAW1308A</p> <p>\$21,925</p>		
<p>2013 Jeep Wrangler Unlimited Sahara</p>  <p>SUV, Manual, 4WD, 82K miles LAW3150A</p> <p>\$22,925</p>	<p>2018 Dodge Journey Crossroad</p>  <p>SUV, Auto, AWD, 28K miles LAW3192</p> <p>\$23,925</p>	<p>2015 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo</p>  <p>Auto, 4WD, 53K miles LAW3077A</p> <p>\$24,925</p>	<p>2014 Jeep Wrangler Unlimited Sahara</p>  <p>SUV, Auto, 4WD, 78K miles LAW1993</p> <p>\$25,925</p>
<p>2016 Ford Edge Sport</p>  <p>SUV, Auto, AWD, 31K miles LAW3036</p> <p>\$26,925</p>	<p>2017 BMW X3 xDrive35i</p>  <p>SUV, Auto, AWD, 36K miles LAW3090</p> <p>\$27,925</p>	<p>2015 Jeep Wrangler Unlimited Sahara</p>  <p>SUV, Auto, 4WD, 63K miles LAW3140A</p> <p>\$27,925</p>	<p>2016 Chevrolet Tahoe LTZ</p>  <p>SUV, Auto, 4WD, 32K miles LAW3072</p> <p>\$43,925</p>



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