

Free by request to residents of Douglas, Northbridge, Uxbridge, Linwood, Whitinsville and North Uxbridge

Village Congregational Church Rejoice! Come as you are, all are welcome! GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 2ND AT 12:30PM Prayer Service with Rev. Ethan Drutchas EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE SUNDAY, APRIL 4TH 10:15AM With Organ, Cantor, and Village Bell Ringers Bell Choir performing. Village Congregational Church - UCC 5 Church St. Whitinsville, MA Social distancing in place - Masks required

SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO NEWS@STONEBRIDGEPRE:

Friday, April 2, 2021

Blackstone Heritage Corridor to host adaptive cycling events

BY KIMBERLY PALMUCCI TRIBUNE CORRESPONDENT

WHITINSVILLE — A series of free adaptive cycling events is coming to the area this spring.

The Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor recently announced that it is partnering with the Northampton-based All Out Adventures to offer the events, which will be held on the Blackstone River Bikeway/Greenway in both Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

The adaptive cycling series will kick off with four rides for veterans along the Blackstone River Bikeway in Worcester. The events are made possible by a Veterans Adaptive Sports Grant secured by All Out Adventures, according to information released by the Heritage Corridor. Veterans and disabled members of the Armed Forces, and their loved ones, are encouraged to attend.

The four events will take place between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.—by reservation only—on the following Tuesdays: April 13 and 27, May 11, and June 1; and depart from the Blackstone River Valley Heritage Center in Worcester.

Following the rides for veterans, the adaptive cycling series is slated to continue with programs for the general public, including all ages and all abilities. In recognition of the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's "Celebrate Trails Day" on Saturday, April 24, an adaptive cycling ride will be hosted on the Blackstone River Greenway in Blackstone. According to the Heritage

Corridor, cycling opportunities will include "the new wheelchair tandem bicycle that BHC acquired last year through a grant from the Network of the National Library of Medicine, New England Region."

Reservations are required for the scheduled rides between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. This event is presented in partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and Bike-On of Warwick, R.I.

"BHC is dedicating this event to the memory of Margaret Carroll, who inspired bringing adaptive recreation to the Blackstone River Bikeway/Greenway," the Heritage Corridor released in a press statement.

Due to COVID-19 social distancing guidelines, participants who need assistance with self-care or transfers are required to bring and participate with their caregiver. Unlike previous events, volunteers will not be assisting participants with the equipment, nor will they be riding on any tandem equipment. Face masks must be worn, and all equipment will be sterilized between rides, the group released.

Two events will also be hosted in Rhode Island this spring along the Blackstone River Bikeway in Lincoln. More information can be found online at BlackstoneHeritageCorridor.org. To learn more about All Out Adventures and other recreational programs it offers to people with disabilities and their family and friends, visit AllOutAdventures.org.



Upton police accreditation process begins

BY KIMBERLY PALMUCCI TRIBUNE CORRESPONDENT

UPTON — The Upton Police Department has recently been reassessed to maintain its accredited status.

This week, a team of assessors from the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission examined various aspects of the Upton Police Department's policies and procedures, operations, and facilities.

Upton Police Chief Michael Bradley announced that verification by the Assessment Team that the department "meets the Commission's standards" is part of a voluntary process to retain Accreditation—a self-initiated evaluation process by which police depart-

ments strive to meet and maintain standards that have been established "for the profession, by the profession."

According to the state's Police Accreditation Commission, the process consists of two major components: the establishment of a body of professional standards for police agencies to meet, and a voluntary assessment process by which agencies can be publicly recognized for meeting those standards considered best practices for the profession.

The program involves a thorough examination of the agency to determine "compliance with program standards." The Massachusetts Police Accreditation Program consists of 257 mandatory standards, as well as

125 optional standards. In order to achieve accreditation status, the department must meet all applicable mandatory standards, as well as 55 percent of the optional standards.

"Achieving Accreditation is a highly prized recognition of law enforcement professional excellence," the department released in a press statement. "Anyone interested in learning more about this program is invited to call Chief Bradley to discuss the departments involvement in the accreditation process."

In other department news, Upton Police recently added a 2021 Chevy Silverado SSV 1500 pickup truck to its fleet.

Turn To UPTON page A5



Courtesy

Ann Labonte, RN, BS (Infection Control Nurse for SALMON VNA & Hospice) prepares the vaccines.

SALMON VNA takes part in COVID-19 vaccine Clinic

UXBRIDGE — In a multi-town collaboration aimed to vaccinate more Massachusetts residents, board of health members, healthcare workers, and volunteers have organized a COVID-19 vaccine clinic at McCloskey Middle School in Uxbridge. This location has been accepted as a state vaccination site, and all residents that are eligible according to the guidelines set in place by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, have the opportunity to receive the vaccine.

The clinic takes place weekly, with available times from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 4 - 8 p.m. Residents from Hopedale, Uxbridge, Northbridge, Blackstone, Millville, Mendon, and Milford are able to sign up for a time slot.

As part of its services, SALMON VNA participates in coalitions surrounding public health and infectious disease. In total, there are about 20

staff and additional volunteers each day helping at the clinics.

Vice Chair and Medical Director for the Uxbridge Board of Health, Dr. David Tapscott, described the clinic as, "positive," and expressed that, "volunteers and residents alike are feeling great." Dr. Tapscott explained that about 20-25 percent of vaccine recipients so far, are educators from the towns.

About 130 people had signed up to receive the vaccine during Wednesday's clinic.

"It's a wonderful opportunity to participate in an event for a great cause," says Executive Director for SALMON VNA, Hospice and PCO, Michele McGovern, RN, MSN. "We welcome opportunities to help our neighboring towns."

Infection Control Nurse for SALMON VNA & Hospice, Ann Labonte, RN, BS, explains that while the clinics have been busy, "the high-level

of participation and excitement surrounding the vaccines has been great."

She concludes, "Here's to a new future!"

About SALMON Health and Retirement

SALMON Health and Retirement is a trusted leader in the operation of senior living communities. Founded as a skilled nursing center in 1952 by Dan and Helen Salmon, today, the third generation of the Salmon family runs the region's only complete care continuum—from active living to hospice care, and everything in between. To learn more, please visit www.SalmonHealth.com.

SALMON at Medway is the organization's newest community opening in summer 2021, offering active independent living, assisted living, and memory care. For more information, please visit www.MedwaySeniorLiving.com.

State now offering 'Homebound Vaccination' program

BY KIMBERLY PALMUCCI TRIBUNE CORRESPONDENT

REGION — Residents who are unable to leave their homes to get to a vaccination site, even with assistance, are now eligible to receive their COVID-19 vaccine at home.

The Commonwealth recently announced a "homebound vaccination program" to provide in-home vaccinations to homebound individuals who cannot leave their homes, even with supports. The program began on March 29.

According to information from the state's Department of Health,

in-home vaccinations are available to homebound individuals who have "considerable difficulty and/or require significant support to leave the home for medical appointments," require an ambulance or two-person assistance to leave the home, or "are not able to leave home for medical appointments under normal circumstances."

According to reports, 168 local Boards of Health (representing about 40 percent of the state's population) will conduct a homebound vaccination program for their community residents, while homebound residents of 183 municipalities (representing 60 percent of the

state's population) will receive vaccines through the statewide service through Commonwealth Care Alliance.

"CCA is honored to lead this critical mission of vaccinating homebound citizens of Massachusetts," said Christopher D. Palmieri, President and Chief Executive Officer, Commonwealth Care Alliance. "Since our inception, CCA's approach to care has been rooted in the community to ensure the most appropriate site of care for the individuals we so proudly serve. Over the past few weeks, we have successfully vaccinated

Turn To HOMEBOUND page A5

BVT budget unanimously approved by School Committee

UPTON – The Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District's FY22 budget was unanimously approved by its District School Committee on March 4. The fiscal request is a financial blueprint designed upon projected state revenue in the Governor's House 1 budget. As the state awaits additional federal stimulus aid, the District is only expected to receive a modest subsidy from state-based sources.

As each town navigates its FY22 financial capability, the District advanced a total budget increase request of 3.1 percent to address operational needs with a bottom line of \$26,396,703. Endorsement by its member municipalities of the BVT budget will enable the District to cover all operational expenses, including multiple costs commonly found in town warrants for local town departments. Mindful of its thirteen towns' respective budget

limitations, BVT complements local assessments with multiple cost containment strategies. Helping to improve cost reductions by securing over \$2 million in new grants and competitive reimbursements and applying \$225,000 of its state Department of Revenue certified E&D funds to reduce a portion of each town's appropriation request.

"To self-fund roof repairs while securing multiple competitive grants to renovate learning environments which avoid dependence upon local town debt and capital appro-

priations is remarkable," said Christopher Morin, Milford Finance Committee Chairperson.

"Eleven of our member towns agreed to share a portion of the 2020 federal CARES Act funding with our school system, which was greatly appreciated," said Superintendent-Director Dr. Michael Fitzpatrick. "Due to their generosity, we were able to offer in-person and distance learning throughout the pandemic and subsequently reduce our budget request."

"We look to the next fiscal year with optimism, having successfully navigated significant challenges of the past year," said Fitzpatrick.

"Preparing our students with an exceptional career-technical education, they graduate ready to join the Blackstone Valley workforce either directly or with the added benefit of higher education credentialing."

BVT's proposed budget will head to 13 town meetings this spring. Traditionally, it receives favorable support, but it relies on your continued support and an endorsement in support of your vocational-technical school system. To learn more, visit www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/annual-budget.

About Blackstone

Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT)

Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School serves the towns of Bellingham, Blackstone, Douglas, Grafton, Hopedale, Mendon, Milford, Millbury, Millville, Northbridge, Sutton, Upton, and Uxbridge. Located in the heart of the Blackstone Valley, BVT creates a positive learning community that prepares students for personal and professional success in an internationally competitive society through a fusion of rigorous vocational, technical, and academic skills.

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Farmers to Families distribution event planned in Charlton

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – Local volunteers are teaming up with the USDA to offer a Farmers to Families Food Box Program this month.

Food box distribution events will be held on April 15 and April 29 at the 508 International site in Charlton (219 Brookfield Rd.). Each program will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with fresh food products provided free to those in need.

The events were organized in coordination with the USDA. Although both programs will take place in Charlton, residents in need from throughout the region are invited to attend. Because there will only be 400 food boxes distributed each day, pre-registration is required for both sessions. Residents are encouraged to sign up as early as possible.

"This is a great way for us to help get food out to those in need," said Michael McGrath, who volunteers at the local Chip In Food Pantry and also serves

on its board of directors.

Several other food pantry volunteers are also involved in the local Farmers to Families Food Box Program. Not only does it assist area residents in need, but also farmers offering fresh local produce.

"This program started last year to help the farmers out. Because of the pandemic, restaurants stopped getting products from farmers [during the height of COVID-19 restrictions]," McGrath said. "We wanted to get the word out about this to people in the area."

Residents may sign up ahead for both of the Farmers to Families distribution days this month. However, each family may only pick up one box per day.

To sign up for the distribution days, residents can visit the Chip In Food Pantry's Facebook page and find the easily accessible links.

Each USDA food box contains approximately 30 pounds of

food, including produce, dairy, and protein. A typical box might feature the following items: five pounds of potatoes; three pounds of onions; one pound of root vegetables, such as carrots or beets; three pounds of hand fruit, typically apples or oranges; one gallon of milk; four pounds of soft dairy, such as yogurt, sour cream, cottage cheese, or butter; one pound of cheese, such as cheddar, American, mozzarella, or parmesan; four pounds of cooked protein, such as roasted chicken quarters, ground turkey, or taco meat; and one pound of deli meat or chicken hot dogs.

Organizers are also seeking approximately twelve volunteers to help out with the program. If you are interested in volunteering, send an email to chipinfoodpantry@gmail.com.

A re-evaluation of the program will be held at the end of the month. If all is successful, the program could become more frequent or even permanent in the future.

PET of the WEEK



BAYPATH HUMANE SOCIETY OF HOPKINTON
Small Shelter Big Heart

Meet **Kaitlyn** a 2 year old female. This sweet girl is excited to meet you! Kaitlyn has been through a lot, and is ready to settle into her home. Kaitlyn loves other dogs and would be happy to have dog friends. She is very playful, and can have fun with any toy! Kaitlyn is energetic and enjoys going for walks. She is a smart girl and is ready for training with her family! We think she would do well with kids over 10. If you think Kaitlyn could be for you, please email adopt@baypathhumane.org today!

500 Legacy Farms North • Hopkinton, MA 01748



Milford Federal Bank is proud to sponsor Baypath Humane Society's Pet of the Week!

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MilfordFederal.com

Milford | Whitinsville | Woonsocket

Baker lays out vaccination timeline

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – Last week, the Baker-Polito Administration announced the vaccination timeline for all remaining residents.

On March 22, all residents age 60-plus became eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. On April 5, all residents 55-plus will become eligible, as well as residents with one medical condition.

On April 19, the general public will be able to schedule a vaccine appointment (ages 16 and older). The full vaccine timeline is available at www.mass.gov/COVIDVaccinePhases.

"The Administration has received assurances from the federal government that an increased vaccine supply will be available to states soon," Gov. Charlie Baker said. "Depending on supply, it could take weeks for people to be notified that an appointment is available at a mass vaccination site."

Officials expect that more vaccination sites will come online in April.

Last week, the

state received approximately 170,000 first doses of the vaccine, including 8,000 doses of the J&J vaccine. In total, the Commonwealth received 316,000 first and second doses as part of the latest state allocation.

The state is also adding more mobile vaccination clinics to support long-term care facilities, congregate care, low-income senior housing, and homebound individuals. The goal is to ensure that no seniors are denied an opportunity to receive the vaccine simply because they do not have transportation.

Looking ahead, state officials continue to rely heavily on communications from the federal level.

"Weekly allocations are subject to change based on federal availability, demand from providers, and obligations to meet second doses," Baker said. "Providers have ten days to use their doses and must meet specific performance thresholds."

In addition to the weekly state allocation of vaccines, the federal government also distributes doses to CVS Health sites as part of the Federal Retail Pharmacy Partnership.

Individuals looking to book vaccine appointments

should visit www.mass.gov/COVIDvaccine.

Baker also announced a new \$24.7 million investment in the administration's Vaccine Equity Initiative. This program was created to increase trust and vaccine acceptance among residents, as well as enhanced equity across all locations and demographics.

"Recognizing equity as a critical component of the state's vaccine distribution plan, the Department of Public Health is working closely with 20 hardest hit communities in Massachusetts as they identify their specific community needs, further building on existing support," Baker said. "These funds will also provide direct vaccine administration to populations that are not effectively reached through existing vaccine supply channels."

State officials are also working to increase collaboration with community partners, faith-based organizations, health centers, and minority-owned business leaders, among others.

Additionally, Baker is promoting the newly created COVID-19 Vaccine Ambassador Program, which has helped residents across the state access vital

information about the vaccine. The program includes a multilingual public awareness campaign, as well as volunteers tasked with helping to identify community-based solutions.

The administration's Vaccine Equity Initiative focuses on 20 cities and towns with the greatest COVID-19 case burden. They include Boston, Brockton, Chelsea, Everett, Fall River, Fitchburg, Framingham, Haverhill, Holyoke, Lawrence, Leominster, Lowell, Lynn, Malden, Methuen, New Bedford, Randolph, Revere, Springfield, and Worcester.

To learn more about the state's vaccine program, visit www.mass.gov.

Webster Public School Department



<p>Cafeteria Worker, Park Ave - 2 Positions Schedule: M-F 10:00-1:00 (15 hrs.) Rate: \$14.25/hr. *these 2 positions will primarily deliver meals to classrooms Start Date: ASAP</p> <p>Breakfast in the Classroom Worker, Park Ave - 1 Position Schedule: M-F 7:30-10:30 (15 hrs.) Rate: \$14.25/hr. Start Date: ASAP</p>	<p>Cafeteria Worker, Webster Middle School - 1 Position Schedule: M-F 8:00-11:00 (15 hrs.) Rate: \$14.25/hr. Start Date: ASAP *this position is primarily a kitchen prep position</p> <p>Cafeteria Worker, Bartlett High School - 1 Position Schedule: M-F 9:30-12:30 (15 hrs.) Rate: \$14.25/hr. Start Date: ASAP</p>
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Please apply to: Attn: Lori Marrasso
Webster Public Schools, 77 Poland Street, Webster, MA 01570
For questions about positions please call or email Ellen Nysten at 508-943-0104 ext. 40016 or enysten@webster-schools.org
*At this time all positions run through the end of the school year.

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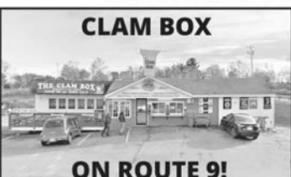
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MILLBURY SENIOR CENTER

SUMMER CONCERTS ARE BACK!
The Millbury Senior Center Announces...

Thursday, June 17th, 6 – 7:15 P.M.
Featuring Robert Black an ELVIS IMPERSONATOR

Thursday, July 15th, 6 – 8 P.M.
4 Ever Fab “A Beatles Tribute Band”

Thursday, August 19th, 5:30 – 7:30 P.M.
Eddie Forman Polka Band Orchestra

Concerts are sponsored by the Massachusetts Cultural Council & Mike and Lucille Maguire

Hot dogs & drinks will be available for sale. These events will be held rain or shine, bring your lawn chairs!
Masks required along with social distancing!

Millbury Senior Center COVID-19 Vaccine Assistance

We will assist Millbury residents who are 65 and older schedule a vaccine appointment

The sites open are the larger ones the Governor has set in place.

As soon as a nearby site opens up we will call you

If you have a computer you can go on to the Mass.gov website and schedule an appointment

If you do not have access to a computer or require assistance, please call the center and leave your name and phone number
508-865-9154

Blood Pressure Clinic

Every Tuesday from 9 A.M. - 10 A.M.
The Blood Pressure Clinic is held inside now

Come to front door and we will let escort you from there

Masks required, along with social distancing!

Millbury Senior Center Transportation

Transportation is provided for Millbury Senior Residents Monday through Friday from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M.

We travel one town out in each direction including Sutton, Grafton, Auburn and Worcester

A 48 hour notice is required for scheduling rides (business days)
Rides are free until July 1st
For more information or to schedule transportation call the center at 508-865-9154

Millbury Senior Center Food Pantry
Our pantry is open for Millbury residents Monday through Friday

9 A.M to 1 P.M.
Please call ahead to place your order and pick up
508-865-9154

Millbury Friendly Visitor Program

Our Friendly Visitor Program is now being provided by telephone

Volunteers call clients to check in with them, chat and hear a friendly voice

For more information on coordinating a Friendly visitor

Call the center at 508-865-9154

“MEMORY CAFÉ”

Our Traveling Memory Café is visiting people monthly.

If you are interested in a visit (outside) please call Julieanne Fitzgerald at the senior center

We are also looking for volunteers to assist with this program

For more information call to RSVP 508-865-9154!

“Grab & Go Meals”

Lunch meals will be available to be picked up daily at the front door, 11:30 A.M.

Menu is available on Town Website, www.townofmillbury.org

Or our Millbury Senior Center

Facebook page

A 48 hour reservation is required
For more information or reservations call us at 508-865-9154

THE MILLBURY SENIOR CENTER IS ACCEPTING SNAP APPLICATIONS (Food Stamps)

Our appointments are on Tuesdays & Thursdays 10 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Call for an appointment & required documentation
508-865-9154

“This project has been funded at least in part with Federal Funds from USDA. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

The SNAP Logo is a service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

USDA does not endorse any goods, services or enterprises.”

The Senior Center is closed to the Public.

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

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

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

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



ACCURACY WATCH

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

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

Fattman announces office hours in Uxbridge

UXBRIDGE — State Sen. Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton) will host his first in-person office hours

since the start of the pandemic on Monday, April 5 at 4 p.m. at the Uxbridge Town

Common. The office hours will be held rain or shine.

Constituents are encouraged to stop by at any point during the hour to discuss issues or concerns they may have. Constituents should adhere to masking and distancing guidelines put forth by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Those who cannot make the office hour may call 617-722-1420, or email Ryan.Fattman@masenate.gov to have their issues addressed by the Senator.

Sturbridge-Part-Time Reception-Processor

Small insurance agency in Sturbridge, MA looking for a Part-time morning receptionist 9am-1pm M-F.

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Must have good working knowledge of word, excel and outlook.

Email resume to: siacobucci@mccurdyinsurance.com

Award-winning author to speak on opioid epidemic

WORCESTER – Worcester County District Attorney Joseph D. Early, Jr. will be hosting a virtual event on April 15 with award-winning author Sam Quinones to discuss the opioid epidemic.

Mr. Quinones will discuss the current state of the opioid epidemic, including the illicit drug market, the lawsuits against the pharmaceutical companies, and the stigma that still persists around the disease of addiction.

“Sam is a national expert on opioids and addiction and this discussion will provide invaluable insight on the current state of affairs and what we can all be doing to help those struggling with substance use disorder,” Mr. Early said.

The author previously visited Worcester County in 2017 at the invitation of Mr. Early to discuss his book, “Dreamland: The True Tale of America’s Opiate Epidemic,” which detailed the rise of the opioid epidemic in America. This talk will focus on his research beyond “Dreamland,” which

was published in 2015.

The event on April 15, which will feature a discussion between Mr. Early and Mr. Quinones, will be held virtually on Zoom and is open to the public. The talk begins at 1 p.m. and will include a public question period. For registration information, contact Elisabeth Haddad at haddad@mass.gov.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the continued need to work on the opioid epidemic. The Centers for Disease Control reported 81,000 overdose deaths in a 12-month period ending May 2020, the largest in a year-long period ever recorded. Locally, the most-recent numbers from Massachusetts show 2,020 overdose deaths statewide in 2019, including 267 in Worcester County.

Mr. Early has been passionately committed to addressing the opioid epidemic. In 2015, he formed the Central Mass. Opioid Task Force, which is now more than 600 members strong. Since then, he’s obtained multiple federal and state grants to work with partners across the

county and support local interventions for those suffering from substance use disorder. He’s funded Narcan for first responders, prescription drop boxes in local police departments, school prevention programs to teach students the dangers of drugs, and expanded drug diversion programs in county courts. Last year, Mr. Early’s office purchased and launched the use of Critical Incident Management Systems (CIMS) software to help police track overdose incidents and get victims into treatment.

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Annual Spencer Spring Consignment Auction

Saturday, April 24, 2021, 10 AM
(Preview at 9 AM) Please note that the auction is being held at:
The Spencer Fairgrounds
48 Smithfield Road, Spencer MA 01562

We will be selling tractors, farm/landscape equipment, and all types of Agriculture-related items, as well as any tools and construction-related items that are consigned at public auction. If you are seriously in the market for items of this type, or you have something you want to sell and are motivated to do so, this will be an excellent opportunity!

Consignment Contacts:
Malcolm Speicher: flat.tail@verizon.net – 508-868-8896
Donald Raucher: donraucher@comcast.net – 413-537-3177
Please contact us as early as possible with larger items to get maximum exposure.

Commission rate as follows:

- Any items that sell for \$100 or less: 20%
- Any items that sell for \$101 to \$999: 15%
- Any items that sell for \$1000 and up: 10%
- 10% commission on the final bid of any item that doesn't meet the consignor's reserve.

We will be following all COVID protocols

Terms of sale: Cash/check with proper ID. Most major credit cards. 15% Buyer's Premium. 10% for cash/check. Buyer's Premium for items that sell for \$10,000 or more reduced to 5%. 6.25% MA sales tax. Tax exempt buyers must present a copy of their resale/tax exempt certificate.

Management reserves the right to refuse items deemed inappropriate or in unacceptable condition for sale. No consignments will be accepted the day of the auction.

RAUCHER BROTHERS AUCTIONEERS
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HEALTH & HOME

A special supplement dedicated to the Health and Wellness of people, pets, and Spring Home Improvement

Advertise in this special supplement coming to the *Spencer New Leader, Auburn News, Charlton Villager, Sturbridge Villager, Southbridge News, Webster Times, and Blackstone Valley Tribune*, and tell readers how your business can help promote health & wellness for all, or spruce up your home for Spring.

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Sales Deadline: April 8, 2021

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Growing your own salad

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

REGION — Like salads? Don't buy them; grow your own.

That was the simple message from last week's installment of the ongoing regional library gardening series, formally sponsored this time by Charlton.

"The reason markets sell [certain kinds of] food is not because they taste the best, but because they travel best across the country," noted Kathleen Donovan of Blackstone Valley Veggie Gardens. Typically, as many people know, vegetables in stores taste bland at best and come in limited varieties. But there are hundreds, sometimes thousands, of varieties of such common foods as tomatoes, cucumbers and lettuce that can appeal to a wide range of tastes, textures, uses and even color palettes.

Donovan began with the often underappreciated lettuce, which is actually a member of the daisy family. It "comes up like a weed" and has "glorious shapes and textures" far beyond the relatively non-nutritious iceberg type. She noted it has lots of fiber, vitamin C and beta carotenes, and some types have a "whit-

ish, milky fluid" when fresh cut that helps sleep.

Lettuce comes in two major types — loose-leaf and head lettuce. The former grows faster (about 50 days to maturity), is "much easier to grow in the garden," and leaves can be picked and eaten throughout the season without stopping growth. Heads generally take about 80 days and can only be picked once, she said.

"Lettuce likes the cold" and is thus the first of the three to be planted (in early April; frost won't harm its seeds). If you plant right, with tomatoes and cucumbers, peas, or other crops (especially trellised ones) shading the lettuce, when summer heat comes, the lettuce will last longer before it becomes bitter and goes to seed. Likewise, it can be protected by growing it in a container because it "only needs about five inches of soil," she said.

"Succession planting is the key to growing lettuce," Donovan said. Planting different kinds "every two or three weeks will give you a steady supply" well into fall.

Cucumbers are also pretty easy, but can be a little quirky. They're in the squash family,

and most squashes can cross-pollinate. That makes seeds hard to save — they'll often be viable, in that you will get something the following year, but you won't necessarily know what it will be. Some crosses aren't edible, and some aren't viable. That's not an issue the first year; what you plant is what you'll get.

With cucumbers, there are "hundreds and hundreds of varieties." Donovan said they grow particularly well on trellises, where "you've got gravity working for you." The vines climb up the trellis and the cukes hang down through the lattice. But you want to trim the growing tips off at six to eight feet long; "Plants don't multitask well. Either they grow long, or they produce fruit for you," she said.

Like all squashes, cucumber plants have both male and female flowers. Some are self-pollinating; some use insects. Gardeners can help the process along by dipping a Qtip into the male flower and transferring its powdery pollen to the female (which is identifiable by the fact it has "a little immature cucumber" under it), she said.

Tomatoes are similarly numerous, with

the plants' thousands of varieties coming in three major types — cherry, beefsteak and sauce/paste based mostly on size and water content. The classic sandwich tomatoes are beefsteaks, which come in a wide range of colors including yellow, red, orange and even a purple so dark it's nearly black. Several of them also exist in the other two types, particularly cherry, which she described this way: "Anytime you want go out and pick a snack, there's bound to be some."

Donovan claimed tomatoes "cannot be grown from seed outdoors. They require a really warm soil to germinate." (Personally, I've done it; the key is making sure it gets lots of sun. As she noted "while it's growing to the sky, it's not producing fruit. That's often because it's not getting the sun it needs.")

Because of its warmth needs, tomatoes should only be planted outside (or transferred from inside, after gradually "hardening" them by giving them a couple hours a day at first) after May 7. She noted that used to be much later — as a child, she waited until Memorial Day.

Like cucumbers, toma-

atoes are vines that like trellising, which can be as simple as having a few posts linked with wires, with the plants tied to the wires with twine. She noted they're "one of the biggest [garden] plants" and can grow up to eight feet.

Once audience member asked how to deal with tomato hornworms, a big, green caterpillar that eats several plants in the tomato's nightshade family. Donovan said planting marigolds interspersed with the tomatoes often helps, since most insects don't like marigolds, but you can also spray with with Neem oil, sprinkle diatomaceous earth around them, or use a Bt-based pesticide (an organic bacteria).

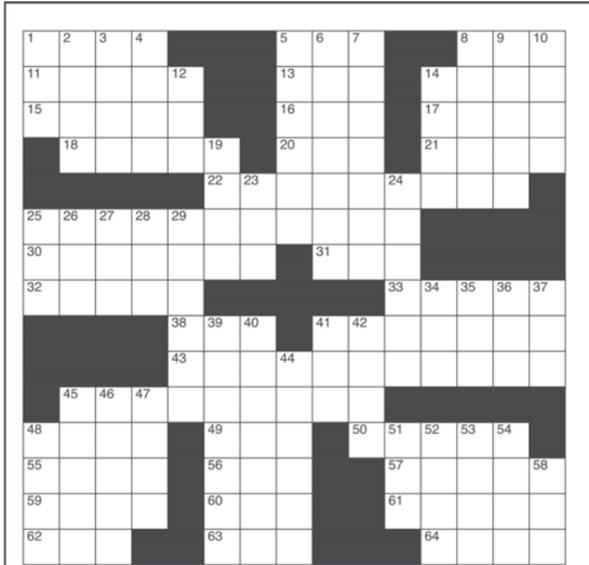
Regardless of what your growing, Donovan had some standard tips on preparing the raised bed. Most crucial is the soils — a few inches of rich, composted soil (with either plant or manure compost; she noted many local farms "will gladly deliver you a truckload of cow manure." But make sure it's been aged; fresh stuff "will stink to high heaven." Chicken manure is also "awesome fertilizer," but can't be put on plants direct-

ly due to its high nitrogen content; it needs to be composted for about six months or made into "compost tea."

Good soil "should be slightly acidic," with a pH of 6.2-6.8 (neutral is 7.0). She suggested adding ashes if you need to increase pH and using peat moss to reduce it. A barrier under the soil prevents weeds from growing up into it, but won't prevent them from blowing into it. Many plants benefit from using a mulch to keep the soil moister and warmer; dry straw or leaves work well, but don't use the common colored types or green grass.

The gardening series continues with online talks on raised beds April 6 and "The Organic Approach" on April 20. It has been sponsored by several area libraries, and participants can contact any of them to join the next sessions: Southbridge, Oxford, Sturbridge, Sutton or Charlton.

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



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Now and ___
- 5. Israeli city ___ Aviv
- 8. Indicates near
- 11. Minneapolis suburb
- 13. Large Australian flightless bird
- 14. Fine-grained earth
- 15. Plant genus that includes water caltrop
- 16. Peacock network
- 17. TV writer Dunham
- 18. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues
- 20. They ___
- 21. Muslim ruler title
- 22. Position given in respect of
- 25. Explaining further
- 30. Measuring instrument
- 31. Romanian monetary unit
- 32. Council of ___, 1545-1563
- 33. Savory jelly made with meat stock
- 38. Journalist Tarbell
- 41. Most suspenseful
- 43. Festivity
- 45. Animal embryos
- 48. Fertility god
- 49. Medical patients' choice (abbr.)
- 50. Type of sword
- 55. Competition
- 56. Bird of the cuckoo family
- 57. Afflicted in mind or body
- 59. Engineering organization
- 60. Beverage receptacle
- 61. Spiritual leader
- 62. Doctor of Education
- 63. Where golfers begin
- 64. Impudence

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Vietnamese offensive
- 2. Fast mammal
- 3. Oh goodness!
- 4. The back of one's neck
- 5. One who lives in another's property
- 6. Involve deeply
- 7. Alfalfa
- 8. Tropical tree resin
- 9. Sudden fear
- 10. Jewish religious month
- 12. Veterans battleground
- 14. Musical symbol
- 19. German river
- 23. Paddle
- 24. Lizard
- 25. Shock treatment
- 26. The common gibbon
- 27. Brew
- 28. Usually has a lid
- 29. Lenses in optical instruments
- 34. Time zone in Samoa (abbr.)
- 35. Wrinkled dog: Shar ___
- 36. Denotes equal
- 37. TV network for children
- 39. Take the value away from
- 40. Female graduates
- 41. Don't know when yet
- 42. "___ tú": Spanish song
- 44. "Seinfeld" character
- 45. Bleated
- 46. Entwined
- 47. Away from wind
- 48. Soft creamy white cheese
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Prejudice
- 53. Actor Idris
- 54. They resist authority (slang)
- 58. Speak ill of

Quinsigamond Community College offers assistance to Becker students

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College is opening its doors to Becker College students after learning of the College's closing at the end of the Spring 2021 semester.

"It is with a heavy heart that we learned of the impending closing of Becker College, one of the oldest institutions of higher education in our region. Becker has made a profound and lasting impression on our community and many QCC transfer students," said President Luis G. Pedraja, Ph.D.

QCC has developed a transfer agreement and memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Becker College to assist current Becker students in seamlessly continuing their education. This agreement is for all current Becker students in programs transferrable into QCC's comparable programs that include:

- Associate Degree in Business Administration Transfer
- Associate Degree in Criminal Justice
- Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education
- Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education Birth – Eight Years Old
- Associate Degree Nurse Education
- Associate Degree Nurse Education – Evening

"We are here to offer Becker College students a way to achieve their higher education dreams," President Pedraja said.

"We want to ensure that no one is left behind because of circumstances beyond their control. We worked diligently on this transfer/MOU agreement and while this agreement does not include all programs at Becker, we will endeavor to enroll and support all transfer students and those who were considering Becker in the fall."

In addition to the programs listed in the MOU, many of Becker's programs can easily transfer to QCC, such as its well-known video-game design program. QCC already has a robust gaming program, as well as an esports team, formed during the start of the pandemic.

QCC offers strong financial support to its students and many attend for free by qualifying for financial aid. Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the College has increased its financial support to students, by way of \$2.4 million in federal emergency funds from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II, authorized by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA), and \$1 million in institutional funds. QCC also has a Student Emergency Fund available to current students in significant hardship due to the pandemic,

regardless of citizenship, residency or enrollment status. All current and prospective Becker students will be offered the same financial supports and services, and will have the ability to transfer to other four-year institutions once they complete their education at QCC.

"Becker students and their families are not without options and we will be here to support them every step of the way," President Pedraja said.

For more information, visit <https://www.QCC.edu/becker>.

For more information about QCC, contact Josh Martin, Director of Institutional Communications at 508.854.7513 or jmartin@qcc.mass.edu

TRIBUNE ALMANAC

REAL ESTATE

BLACKSTONE

\$490,000, 17 Shore Dr, Michaud, Roland M, and Michaud, Suzanne M, to Varone, Matthew A, and Varone, Lindsey M.

\$354,000, 17 Connecticut Ave, Saccoccio, Beverly P, and Saccoccio, Edward L, to Carrasco-Santos, Melanie, and Iglesia, Alexandra M.

\$340,000, 34 Ethel St, Castonguay, James, and Castonguay, Bianca M, to Deoliveira, Vera./

DOUGLAS

\$407,500, 5 Cross St, Power, Timothy P, and Power, Karen M, to Mclarnon, Joshua D, and Woodcock, Ashlynn L

\$270,000, 9 Angel Rd, Trudeau, Raymond R, and Trudeau, Jeannette R, to Belcher, Elizabeth J, and Rigby, Steven.

\$110,000, 274 Yew St, Bangma, Stephen R, and Bangma, Amanda L, to Quality Homes Inc.

\$100,000, Hemlock St #3, Douglas Properties LLC, to Beroth, Michael C.

NORTHBRIDGE

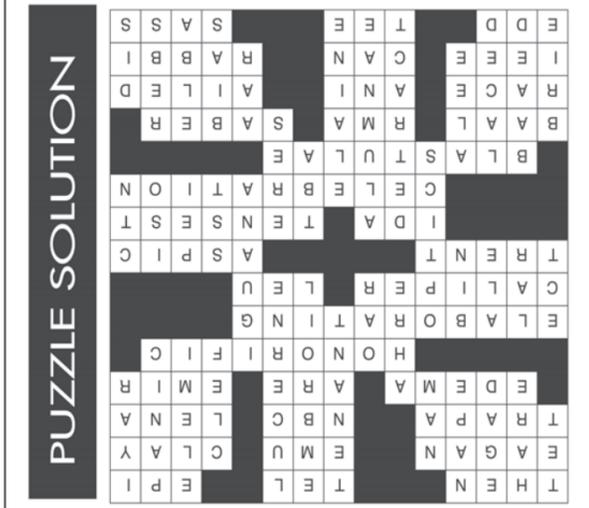
None

UXBRIDGE

\$400,940, 65 Tea Party Dr #M1, Independence Uxbridge Rlty, to Lowre, Peter S, and Lowre, Marie.

\$350,000, 221 S Main St, Delmonico, Michael M, to Steeves, Adam.

\$305,000, 25 Olde Canal Way #25, Andreola, Robert J, and Andreola, Amy B, to Sutton, Kristen M, and Sutton, Robert A.



TO PLACE AN AD:

JUNE SIMAKAUKAS
(508)909-4062
jsima@stonebridgepress.news

SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES:

KERRI PETERSON
(508) 909-4103
kerri@stonebridgepress.news

TO PRINT AN OBITUARY:

E-MAIL:
obits@stonebridgepress.news
CALL: 508-909-4149

OR send to Blackstone Valley Tribune
P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550

TO SUBMIT A LETTER

TO THE EDITOR:

E-MAIL:
news@stonebridgepress.news
OR send to Blackstone Valley Tribune
P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550

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PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

FRANK G. CHILINSKI
860-928-1818 EXT. 103
frank@stonebridgepress.news

BUSINESS MANAGER

RYAN CORNEAU
860-928-1818 EXT. 102
ryan@salmonpress.news

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

JIM DI NICOLA
508-764-6102
jdinicola@stonebridgepress.news

EDITOR

BRENDAN BERUBE
508-909-4106
news@stonebridgepress.news

PRODUCTION MANAGER

JULIE CLARKE
860-928-1818, EXT. 305
julie@villagernewsletters.com

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Quinsigamond Community College freezes tuition rates for 2021

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College has announced it will freeze its tuition and fees in 2021.

"We are committed to making college affordable for anyone who wants to better their lives through higher education," said President Luis G. Pedraja, Ph.D. "We want to remain the most cost-effective higher education option in our area, which is why we are proactively keeping our tuition rates the same for our students."

Recognizing the Coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic has affected many students and their families who lost jobs or had their hours reduced, QCC has also made emergency funds available.

These funds can assist students in paying bills, obtaining laptops, Wi-Fi and other basic life and educational necessities, to help offset some of the financial burdens brought on by the pandemic. Since the pandemic began last March, QCC has worked on innovative ways to help its students with the new financial challenges they faced that included increasing financial aid through state, federal and institutional funds, as well as a Student Emergency Fund available to all current students in immediate hardship due to the effects of the pandemic.

"Attaining a higher education has positive, lifelong implications to students and their families. Higher education

can rise people from poverty, improve our economy and make our nation stronger," Dr. Pedraja said, adding, "Higher education is a right of all."

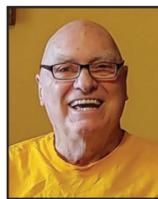
QCC's online associate degree programs were ranked in the top five for best return on investment by OnlineU.com, an unbiased rankings organization that compares all online colleges and universities in the country.

Registration for Summer/Fall begins on March 29 for returning students and April 12 for new students.

For more information, contact Josh Martin, Director of Institutional Communications at 508-854-7513 or jmartin@qcc.mass.edu.

OBITUARIES

Richard J. Gallant



WHITINSVILLE—Richard J. "Dick" Gallant (1936-2021) passed away after an eventful 84 years on March 18, 2021. Raised in Rochdale, MA, he recalled a pleasant childhood, roaming the fields

and ponds around that town and on his Grandfather Robidoux' farm. At 17, he left St Peter's High School and enlisted in the Marine Corps near the end of the Korean War. He was not deployed to combat but completed a tour of duty in the Mediterranean, visiting many ports of call. He became a lifeguard while in the Corps and got his first chance to try SCUBA, which became a lifelong pastime. He was extremely proud that he rose to the rank of Buck Sergeant, his earliest law enforcement role.

After the Corps, he joined the U.S. Border Patrol stationed in Laredo, TX, a true calling. After earning his GED, he took leave from the Patrol to further his education in Spanish at Worcester Junior College. Soon after, he met his wife of 60+ years, Joanne Berthiaume. They married and began their family. He returned to the Border Patrol and brought his family along to Laredo, where they resided for 7 years. "Ricardo" loved the Border Patrol and developed an affinity and respect for the Mexican people he encountered.

At his father's illness in 1972, he applied for a transfer to Boston in the US Immigration and Naturalization Service. He distinguished himself during numerous special details with the FBI and the Coast Guard, both domestic and abroad, and was promoted to Supervisory Special Agent. In the latter part of his career, he worked undercover on inter-agency operations with the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF), enjoying the work and camaraderie of his fellow agents from different federal agencies. He and his team received many accolades and commendations, until he retired as a Senior Special Agent in 1993.

He was a lifelong scuba diver, enjoying boating and lobstering, mostly off the coast of Cape Ann. After retirement he took up golf, enjoying the sport in both New England and Florida, where he and Joanne were able to spend over 20 years wintering. They enjoyed opportunities to travel and cruise

with their friends to Tahiti, London, Cancun, and Aruba. Dick was a member of the Elks Club, the Shriners, the VFW, the American Legion, and Singletary Rod & Gun Club. He was a gracious host of many family gatherings at his home of 50 years in Whitinsville. He was a larger-than-life, one-of-a-kind, memorable man, well-known for his generosity, and who came to be fondly called 'El Gallante'.

He is survived by his wife Joanne and their children: Judy Gallant-Root and husband Greg Root; Susan Marcotte and husband Rene Marcotte; Pamela Vesperi and husband Craig Vesperi; and Steve Gallant and wife Charlotte; and his grandchildren: Zachary Vesperi, Cameron Root, Laney Marcotte, and Caroline Root. He is also survived by his brother Robert A. Gallant and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents, Joseph S Gallant and Rita Robidoux Gallant, sister Dolores Gallant Mattson, infant daughter, Janet Marie Gallant, and beloved grandson, Spencer Marcotte. Rest in peace, Marine. Semper Fi!

Calling hours were held on Monday, March 29th from 9:30-10:30 A.M. at Buma Funeral Home, 480 Church Street, Whitinsville followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 11:00 A.M. at St. Patrick Parish, 1 Cross Street, Whitinsville. Face coverings and physical distancing required.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Dick's name may be made to: Whitinsville Community Center, 60 Main St. Whitinsville, MA 01588 Attn: Original Pool Restoration Fund.

www.bumafuneralhome.com



Edward Street hosting children's art exhibit

WORCESTER — To celebrate the annual Week of the Young Child™, April 10-16, Edward Street is presenting a young children's art exhibit entitled "Spring is Bursting Out All Over!" which will be held in the Printer's Building Hallway Gallery at 50 Portland St. in Worcester.

The exhibit is not only an opportunity for the young artists to display their creations but also for the public to discover the developmental stages of young children's creative expression and how this impacts their artwork.

The artwork will highlight each of the following age groups.

- 0-15 mo.
- 15 mo.- 2.9 yrs.
- 2.9-4 yrs.
- 4-6 yrs.
- 6-8 yrs.

Six area childcare centers submitted over 160 pieces for the exhibit. Participating childcare centers are Webster Square Day Care Center, Rainbow Child Development Center,

YWCA of Central MA Inc., Worcester Comprehensive Education and Care Inc., Guild of Saint Agnes, and Children's Friend Early Learning Center.

Ten pieces, from each age group, will be displayed in the gallery, and all of the artwork can be viewed online at edwardstreet.org.

The gallery will be open from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday through Friday starting April 5 and continue through the month of April. The gallery may be accessed from the 50 Portland Street entryway – press 011 to gain entry. You may also visit the gallery by appointment on Wednesday evenings from 4 to 7 p.m. Indoor gathering limits are four to five people at a time. Please contact Toni Ostrow at tostrow@edwardstreet.org to make an appointment.

This exhibit has been funded, in part, by a grant from the Worcester Arts Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Blackstone Valley Tech to host annual Golf Tourney in June

UPTON – Calling All Golfers ... register now for BVT's 22nd annual golf tournament to be held on Monday, June 14th, at Highfields Golf & Country Club. A fun-filled day of golfing will benefit the Valley Tech Education Foundation and Athletic Department activities and programs.

Your registration (individual golfer \$150/golf foursome \$125 per person) includes 18 holes on the championship course, a golf cart, delicious snacks, a silent auction, and raffles, all to help support a great cause. Not a golfer, sponsor a

tee, a putting green, or a cart to display your company name in the program proudly and during the event.

The day promises to be full of fun and friendly competition. For all tournament details, to view sponsorship opportunities, donate a raffle item, access the online golfer registration and payment portal, visit www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/golftournament. Register today to secure your spot.

About Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT)

Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School serves the towns of Bellingham, Blackstone, Douglas, Grafton, Hopedale, Mendon, Milford, Millbury, Millville, Northbridge, Sutton, Upton, and Uxbridge. Located in the heart of the Blackstone Valley, BVT creates a positive learning community that prepares students for personal and professional success in an internationally competitive society through a fusion of rigorous vocational, technical, and academic skills.

UPTON

continued from page A1

"This pickup, which replaces a 2013 Ford Interceptor sedan no longer suited for patrol, will be beneficial in assisting with many department functions," the department released. "Some examples of these functions include the deployment of traffic barriers during road closures and emergencies, call responses during storm weather, towing of department trailers, personnel/cargo

transport during special events, and movement of large property/evidence items in which a typical patrol vehicle would be inadequate."

Many of the above examples have been previously accomplished with the use of department members' personal vehicles, police added.

"We are grateful to have the opportunity to receive equipment that assists us in better serving our community," the department's statement concludes.

HOMEBOUND

continued from page A1

hundreds of our own homebound health plan members, and our team is ready to expand this effort across the state and aid the Commonwealth's vaccination effort in any way we can."

Health care providers, Aging Services

Access Points, Local Boards of Health, Councils on Aging, and other community organizations will be connecting individuals to the homebound program. In addition, homebound individuals and their loved ones can call 1-833-983-0485 to schedule an appointment and determine if they meet eligibility for in-home vaccination. The registration phone line is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Friday's Child



Aylin Age 12

Hi! My name is Aylin and I like to joke around!

Aylin is a girl of Hispanic descent with a great sense of humor who loves to draw. Those who meet Aylin immediately note her big smile, and it is clear that she takes pride in her appearance. Aylin enjoys working on craft projects, playing outside, riding her bike, and watching television. Aylin likes school and forms friendships well with additional support. She currently receives extra supports in class for social and emotional needs.

Legally freed for adoption, Aylin is very much looking forward to becoming part of a

loving family. Her social worker feels that she will do best in a family with two mothers, a mother and a father, or a single mother. Aylin will do well as an only child or with siblings that are older than her. She should be the youngest in the home, if possible. A family for Aylin must support her relationship with her younger sister, as well as help her visit with her biological mother twice a year, as specified in an Open Adoption Agreement.

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.ma-reinc.org. The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have a permanent place to call home.

LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Michael Labbe to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, acting solely as a nominee for Quicken Loans Inc., dated February 26, 2019 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 60085, Page 290 (the "Mortgage") of which mortgage Quicken Loans, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans Inc. is the present holder by Assignment from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS") as nominee for Quicken Loans Inc. its successors and assigns to Quicken Loans Inc. dated January 21, 2020 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 61801, Page 374, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 139 Fletcher Street, Whitinsville (Northbridge), MA 01588 will be sold at a Public Auction at 12:00 PM on April 16, 2021, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The land in said Northbridge, in the Village of Whitinsville, on the northeasterly side of Fletcher Street, containing 14,000 square feet, more or less, being the same premises shown on a plan of land entitled, "Land of Victor Racicot, Town of Northbridge, Massachusetts," dated December 30, 1971, by Charles E. Michaud, CE recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 359, Plan 11, and the same premises as described in a deed of Raymond J. Patnode, Jr. and Lorraine R. Patnode to those grantors dated February 15, 1977 and recorded with said Registry in Book 6124, Page 325, bounded and described as follows: Beginning at the most southerly corner thereof at a point in the northeasterly side of Fletcher Street at an iron pin in the ground in the northeasterly line of said Fletcher Street and at land now or formerly of the Whitinsville Golf Club, said point of beginning being about 12 feet northwesterly from the brook which crosses said Fletcher Street in this area; THENCE N. 50° 20' W. by and along said Fletcher Street 70 feet to an iron pin in the ground at land now or formerly of Wayne C. Smith, et ux; THENCE N. 39° 40' E. by and along said land now or formerly of Wayne C. Smith, et ux, 200 feet to an iron pin in the ground at land now or formerly of the Whitin Machine Works; THENCE S. 50° 20' E. by and along said land now or formerly of The Whitin Machine Works 70 feet to a granite bound in the ground at said land now or formerly of The Whitinsville Golf Club; THENCE S. 39° 40' W. by and along said land now or formerly of The Whitinsville Golf Club 200 feet to the point of beginning. Subject to restrictions and/or covenants referred to in Book 5897, Page 313, insofar as the same are now in force and effect. For grantor's title see deed from Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation dated February 25, 2019 and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds herewith.

For mortgagor's title see deed recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 60085, Page 287.

The premises will be sold subject to the redemption rights in favor of the Internal Revenue Service by virtue of a Notice of Federal Tax Lien recorded in Said Registry of Deeds in Book 64501, Page 162.

The premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and other municipal assessments and liens, and subject to prior liens or other enforceable encumbrances of record entitled to precedence over this mortgage, and subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, reservations and conditions of record and subject to

all tenancies and/or rights of parties in possession.

Terms of the Sale: Cashier's or certified check in the sum of \$5,000.00 as a deposit must be shown at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify as a bidder (the mortgage holder and its designee(s) are exempt from this requirement); high bidder to sign written Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid; balance of purchase price payable by certified check in thirty (30) days from the date of the sale at the offices of mortgagee's attorney, Korde & Associates, P.C., 900 Chelmsford Street, Suite 3102, Lowell, MA 01851 or such other time as may be designated by mortgagee. The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication. Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Quicken Loans, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans Inc.
Korde & Associates, P.C.
900 Chelmsford Street
Suite 3102
Lowell, MA 01851
(978) 256-1500
Labbe, Michael, 20-037244
March 19, 2021
March 26, 2021
April 2, 2021

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Ch 40A, Section 11, and Chapter 173, Section 47 of the Northbridge Zoning By-laws, the Northbridge Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 6:45 P.M. VIA ZOOM** Join Zoom Meeting:
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/97322430486?pwd=RkQwVkhWQXBxVXpDY2FkYVRRRTVfwdz09> Meeting ID: 973 2243 0486
Passcode: 097252
Dial by your location
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

To consider the application from Brandon S. Allard, 23 Sherry St, Whitinsville, MA 01588 for a Variance (07-V-21) pursuant to Article VI, Section 173-20 Table of Use Regulations in order to construct a new garage and allow the existing garage to be converted into living space. The applicant is requesting a variance for the rear yard and side yard setbacks. The property is shown on Assessor's Map 22 as Parcel 108, is located in an R-1 zoning district and is owned by Brandon S. Allard. The purpose of this hearing is to provide an opportunity for public comment. Anyone wishing to be heard regarding this matter should attend said meeting at the time and place designated. A copy of the petition is available for review at the office of the Town Clerk and Zoning Board of Appeals Office and may be reviewed during normal business hours.

Douglas Curving, Chairman
Northbridge Zoning Board of Appeals
April 2, 2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO21P1005EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
Robert S Baker
Date of Death: 11/25/2020

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Susan B Baker of Uxbridge MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **Susan B Baker of Uxbridge MA**

be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/27/2021.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 25, 2021

Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
April 2, 2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200

Docket No. WO21P0852EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate of:
Michelle Ann Dansereau
Date of Death: 09/22/2017
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Mark A Dansereau of Douglas MA**

requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **Mark A Dansereau of Douglas MA**

be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/04/2021.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the es-

tate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 24, 2021

Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
April 2, 2021

(SEAL)
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
SM 000265
ORDER OF NOTICE

NOTICE TO:

Pamela J. Fraser and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq) Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as Trustee, on behalf of the registered holders of Morgan Stanley ABS Capital I Inc. Trust 2007-HE4, Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2007- HE4 claiming to have an interest in a mortgage covering real property in Whitinsville, numbered 5 Grove Street, given by Robert L. Fraser and Pamela J. Fraser to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Decision One Mortgage Company, LLC, dated November 6, 2006, and recorded at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 40152, Page 205, and now held by Plaintiff by assignment, has filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's Servicemembers status. If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before 4/26/2021 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on ground of noncompliance with the Act. Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on 3/9/2021

Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
April 2, 2021

CONSERVATION PUBLIC HEARING/MEETING NOTICES

The Uxbridge Conservation Commission will hold a Remote Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 20 2021 at 6:30PM. Members of the public who wish to participate may do so in the following manner:

To access online: <https://uxbridge.zoom.us/j/8616203349>

To access by telephone: 301-715-8592 meeting i.d.: 861 620 3349

Persons who would like to view/listen to this meeting live may do so by watching the Government Channel @ www.uxbridgetv.org or on Uxbridge Community Television Channel 191

Those unable to watch it live may view the recording of the meeting on the Government Channel @ <http://archive.uxbridgetv.org>. The meeting will review the following applications under the MA Wetlands Protection Act (MGL Ch. 131, Sec. 40). Plans may be reviewed by appointment in the Town Clerk's office or by emailing uxbconservation@uxbridge-ma.gov.

Request for Determination of Applicability, Map 17, Lot 861, for treatment of an invasion, non-native watermilfoil specie in the Fairwoods Recreational Pond, located at 116 W. Hartford Avenue

Submitted by Michèle. Grenier, PWS, CWS Conservation Agent, Uxbridge Conservation Commission

April 2, 2021

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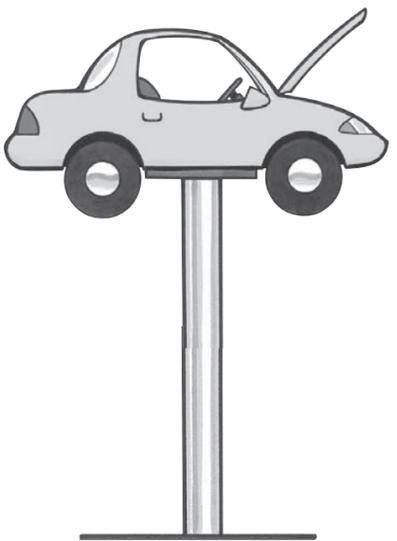
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EDITORIAL

Springtime legends

The first day of spring just passed us by on March 20. Now that we are over the hump and into the rainy, sunny, snowy, muddy bit we thought we would share some fun myths surrounding this blooming time of year.

The first story begins with Persephone and Demeter. Persephone was the goddess of spring and holds the most well known story of the season to date. Persephone is the daughter of Demeter, the goddess of agriculture and Zeus, the king of the gods. Persephone married Hades who kept her hidden against her will. Demeter set off to find her daughter and for every minute she was lost, not a crop would grow. Zeus then ordered his daughter to remain in the underworld for half of the year because she ate all of the fruit (pomegranate seeds), the other half of the year she spent with her mother. The idea is that every time Persephone goes into the underworld, winter arrives and the crops die, when she is with her mother, crops bloom.

According to Cherokee legend, the reason trees lose their leaves in the fall is because of the communication between animals and humans. Apparently, animals were able to communicate with humans and the world was utopian. Every year the birds would fly south for the winter. During one particular year, a sparrow who was injured was not able to fly south, he sent his flock ahead without him so the would not freeze, meanwhile he sought shelter. The bird flew to an old Oak tree and was told that he could not seek shelter in its branches, the same thing happened with every tree the bird visited until he was finally granted permission to stay in a pine tree. The pine tree, not popular with the others because of its hard, sharp leaves welcomed the little bird. The sparrow was forever grateful.

The sparrow survived the winter and welcomed his family home during the warmer months. Because the other trees, turned on the Sparrow during a most vulnerable time, the creator cursed their leaves to die during the winter except for the pine tree.

The Shinto Sun Goddess and Bringer of Light, Amaterasu, according to legend, is in control of the sun's movement to insure rice and other crops will grow. This goddess is well known for her ability to spin satin. Her fame caused her brother Susanoo, the god of storms, to become extremely jealous. The angry deity destroyed his sister's weaving loom and wrecked her rice fields. The rampage caused one of Amaterasu's closest friends to parish, as a result she locked herself inside a mountain resulting in the disappearance of light. Because of this, crops would not grow. Uzme, the goddess of laughter traveled to the mountain where Amaterasu was hiding. She placed a shiny necklace on a tree, then began to dance causing the other gods to laugh. When Amaterasu heard the laughter she peeked out of her cave and slowly began to walk towards the necklace. At this, Uzme had the cave blocked and light was restored to the world.

Some actual facts concerning the spring season are as follows; in 1582, if Pope Gregory XIII would not have established the Gregorian calendar, then every 128 years, the vernal equinox would have come a full calendar day earlier, which would put Easter in the middle of winter.

The famous myth about being able to balance an egg on its end on the spring equinox is not true. Attempting to balance an egg on its end is no easier on the spring equinox than on any other day.

During the springtime, birds are louder as they sing to attract mates and to warn enemies to steer clear.

The term "spring fever" refers to the psychological and physiological symptoms that go along with the arrival of spring, which include, daydreaming and restlessness. Over the years, scientists surmise the cause in the hormone shift could be due to the increase in sunlight and increased physical activity.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Blackstone Valley and beyond

A MOMENT IN
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Have you ever heard some of the stories of our richest American families - very privileged families - who made millions, spent it all, and died not so very rich or privileged? As my learned friend says: "In America, the elevator goes up. The elevator goes down."

Let's begin with the Vanderbilts (the people who built the railroads and the Newport Mansions). The Breakers mansion in Newport cost \$7 million to build in 1895 (Marble house, \$11 million, in 1892). You can still visit the Breakers or Marble House, but the Vanderbilts don't live there anymore.

I hate to break it to you, but the old Vanderbilt money is gone. The book, "Fortune's Children - The Fall of the House of Vanderbilt" by Arthur T. Vanderbilt, is a worthy read. It describes how the Vanderbilts spent, spent, and uh, spent their millions. Kind of like the United States today, spending ourselves into debt and oblivion.

The man who built the fortune, Commodore Vanderbilt, quit school at 11 years of age and began a small ferry business on Staten Island, New York. He was shrewd, hard working and a rascal, known for vastly improving the nation's infrastructure and for owning the New York Central Railroad. He left his money to his son who left his money to his son, Cornelius, the owner of the Breakers.

Cornelius' son, Reggie, however, spent all of his millions and died of drink in 1925 at the age of 45, in debt. He left a two-year-old daughter, Gloria, who grew up in the shadow of great wealth. The late Gloria Vanderbilt was briefly successful with Vanderbilt Jeans, but was swindled out of millions by

her attorney and therapist.

Footnote: Gloria's son is Anderson Cooper, a television personality. CNN pays him \$12 million a year. Can you recall anything he has said or done to merit \$12 million a year? Me neither. At least, he is making his own "new" money. Talking on TV doesn't compare, somehow, to vastly improving the nation's infrastructure.

In contrast, the late Walter E. Williams was an African American economist and Distinguished Professor of Economics at George Mason University. Williams grew up in a Philadelphia housing project without a father. He credited his success to "a demanding mother and teachers who didn't give a damn about my self-esteem." [See the 2015 PBS documentary: "Suffer No Fools"]

Let's keep in mind Dr. Ben Carson's 3 keys to avoid poverty. 1. Graduate from high school. 2. Don't have children before marriage. 3. Get married. That's it. Some people would have you believe only the government can solve poverty.

Williams graduated from high school. For a while, he drove a Yellow Cab but then was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1959. While serving, he "waged a one man battle against Jim Crow from inside the Army." He challenged the status quo and was court-martialed. He defended his own case and won. After the service, he worked for the Los Angeles Probation Department

while earning a degree in economics. He then earned a Master's Degree and Ph.D. in economics from UCLA. Impressive.

Did Williams hold radical views in college? Many young people do. He stated that he was more sympathetic to Malcolm X than Martin Luther King because Malcolm was more radical. But in the 1960's, Williams became radicalized by economics. He became an opponent of socialism because he believed that "capitalism was the most moral, most productive system humans have ever devised". He said that the welfare state "has done to Black Americans what slavery, Jim Crow and the harshest racism could not have done - namely, to destroy the Black family." Mr. Williams, by the way, got married and had a daughter, in that order.

Williams is the author of 11 books, including "Liberty vs. The Tyranny of Socialism" and "Up From the Projects: An Autobiography." Amazing what an unprivileged child can do in these United States if he or she puts his or her mind to it.

Walter Williams did not die rich (he passed away in 2020 from natural causes), yet he was rich in Human Capital. If you were to invest, would it be in Anderson Vanderbilt Cooper or in Walter Williams? My money would be on Williams, every time. Always bet on the hard working individual who uses his or her God-given talents. That's what we do in these beautiful United States. Honestly, is there another place on earth where this is possible? Name one.

[Please allow me to express my gratitude to my readers for their recent kind words of thanks. I am truly grateful.]

Millennials may need to boost life insurance



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If you're a Millennial - born between 1981 and 1996 - you're either in the very early or relatively early stages of your career, and as the old song goes, you've got a lot of living to do. Still, it's not too soon to think about a financial issue you may have overlooked: the need for life insurance.

Regarding this topic, Millennials need to ask three key questions:

When should I purchase insurance? The answer to this question depends somewhat on your stage of Millennial-ism. If you're a young Millennial, perhaps just out of college, single, and living in an apartment, your need for life insurance may not be that great. After all, you may well have other, more pressing financial needs, such as paying off your student loans. But if you're an older Millennial, and you've got a mortgage, a spouse and - especially - children, then you unquestionably need insurance, because you've got a lot to protect.

How much do I need? Millennials who own life insurance have, on average, \$100,000 in coverage, according to New York Life's 2018 Life Insurance Gap Survey. But that same survey found that Millennials themselves reported they need coverage worth about \$450,000, leaving an insurance deficit of approximately \$350,000. That's a pretty big gap, but of course, these figures are averages and may not apply to your situation. Still, you should know how much insurance you require. You might have heard that you need life insurance worth about seven or eight times your annual salary. And while this isn't a terrible estimate, it doesn't apply to everyone, because everyone's situation is different. A financial professional can look at various factors - your age, your marital status, number of children, size of mortgage, etc. - to help you arrive at an appropriate level of coverage.

Keep in mind, also, that your employer may offer life insurance as an employee benefit. However, it might be insufficient for your needs, especially if you have a family, and it will probably end if you leave your job.

What type of life insurance should I get? Many people initially find life insurance to be confusing, but there are basically two types: term and permanent. As its name suggests, term insurance covers a given time period, such as 10 or 15 years, and provides only a death benefit. It's generally quite affordable, especially when you're young and healthy. Permanent insurance, on the other hand, offers a death benefit and a savings component that allows you to build cash value. Consequently, the premiums are higher than those of term insurance. Again, a financial professional can help you determine which type of insurance is most appropriate for your needs.

Thus far, we've been talking about life insurance. But you may also need other types of protection, such as disability insurance, which can replace part of your income should you become ill or incapacitated. And you may eventually want to explore long-term care insurance, which can help cover you for the enormous costs of an extended nursing home stay.

You should at least consider all forms of insurance as part of your overall financial strategy. The future is unknowable - and as a Millennial, you've got plenty of future ahead of you.

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

Care for spring flowering bulbs



Melinda Myers

Providing proper care to tulips and other spring flowering bulbs will extend your enjoyment and keep them coming back for years.

Bright yellow daffodils, colorful tulips and fragrant hyacinths brighten our spring gardens. Give them the care they need to extend their spring display and keep them coming back for years.

Hybrid tulips and hyacinths are short-lived stars of the spring garden. They bloom profusely the first spring, but the number of flowers decline each year. You may want to treat these like annuals, carefully removing them from the garden to avoid damaging any remaining plants. Toss these in the compost pile and start planning for their replacements. It is a great opportunity to try something new and freshen the look of your spring garden. If you are looking for a permanent replacement, consider using species tulips that are less floriferous but return each year.

Add a few years to the life of hybrid tulips and daffodils and get the most from all your long-lived spring flowering bulbs with proper care. Water spring gardens thoroughly whenever the top few inches of soil are crumbly and just slightly moist. Spring rains often take care of this task, but when they don't it is easy to forget to provide spring gardens with the water they need. Providing the right amount of water when needed will keep your bulbs looking their best.

Bulbs often receive sufficient nutrients at the time of planting or when the other plants in the garden are fertilized. Apply fertilizer to established bulb plantings, if needed, as the leaves begin to emerge

from the soil. Use a low nitrogen, slow-release fertilizer to encourage slow steady growth. Follow the label directions so you apply the recommended amount for the area you are fertilizing.

Remove spent flowers on tulips and hyacinths you plan to keep so the energy is directed back into the bulbs instead of setting seeds. Do the same if you want to improve the appearance of daffodils. Leave allium seed heads in place to extend their beautiful contribution to the garden. Remove these before they drop their seeds if you want to limit the number of seedlings sprouting in next year's garden. The same is true for grape hyacinths and squills. The only reason to remove their faded flowers is to slow down the spread.

Leave the leaves on your bulbs until they naturally yellow and dry. The leaves produce energy needed for beautiful blooms next spring. The longer you leave the leaves intact, the more energy and better bloom for next season.

Hide the declining bulb leaves by planting annuals between the bulbs. Or add perennial flowers that return each year for a more permanent solution. As the bulbs decline, the perennials will grow and mask the declining foliage. Try mixing spring flowering perennials for double the impact or combine with summer and fall bloomers to extend the floral show.

Take some pictures of your spring bulb display and make notes of the areas where you want to add some color. Then order early for the best selection and to make sure you are ready for bulb planting season next fall.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening 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 also a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

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WEBSTER – 44 Sunny Ave! Sought After Neighborhood! 7 Room 1,632' Colonial! 1st Flr Features Open Flr Plan, Kit w/Is, Din Area, Fam Rm, Frpld Liv Rm, 1.5 Baths! 2nd Flr w/3 Bedrooms & Bathrm! 2.5 Baths Total! Tile Flrs Throughout! LPGas Heat & Hot Water! Town Services! **\$289,900.00**

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WEBSTER - 155 THOMPSON ROAD



SORRY, SOLD!

Zoned General Business 5 Terrific Opportunity for one large business, or divide it up into smaller businesses, 4,784 sq ft building on 0.8 acre just off I-95 exit 1, with high traffic & visibility. Excellent location! assisted sale **\$695,000.**

THOMPSON - BECOLA ROAD



ON DEPOSIT

5+ Acre Waterfront Land On "Little Pond/Schoolhouse Pond. Private Setting. Open Field. 250+ feet Waterfrontage. Dead end road!
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WEBSTER - 103 UPPER GORE RD



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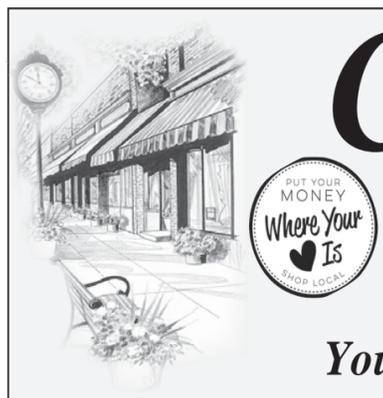
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8 tips for dyeing Easter eggs



Coloring eggs is a beloved Easter tradition. Eggs long have been symbols of fertility and rebirth, making them fitting icons for spring. One story links eggs to Easter as well. According

to some religious scholars, Mary Magdalene, the woman who was the first person to see Jesus Christ after His resurrection, was holding a plain egg in her hand while waiting for the emperor to

share the good news. The emperor then told her that Jesus' resurrection was as improbable as that egg suddenly blushing. The egg then turned red. Dyeing eggs is an entertaining activity, but one

that also may have some religious significance. Many families will color eggs this Easter, and these guidelines can make the process go smoothly. • Wait until just before coloring to hard-boil eggs.

Good Housekeeping recommends boiling eggs for 11 minutes for a hard boil. Do not chill the eggs afterward; warm eggs absorb color more effectively for more vivid results. • Egg dye can stain furniture, clothing or tablecloths. Therefore, dress in clothing that you're not worried about staining. Also, cover work surfaces with an old tablecloth and newspapers to soak up any spills. • Make a drying rack to ensure that eggs will dry evenly. This can be a rimmed cookie sheet lined with layers of paper towels to absorb any excess dye that runs off the eggs. Or push pins into thick foam board and place the eggs on top to allow air to circulate. • Consider using glass bowls or ceramic mugs to house the colored dye solutions. These vessels are more sturdy than plastic cups, and less likely to be overturned by eager young hands. • Scissor-style tongs are ideal tools for retrieving eggs from the dye. Eggs tend to slide off of the spoons or wire rings pro-

vided in kits, leading to splashing and kids dunking their fingers in to grab eggs. • Stir dyeing cups often to guarantee consistent color. • Use electrical tape to make patterns on Easter eggs. Dip the eggs and let dry. Afterwards, remove the tape to reveal the designs. • If food coloring-based dyes seem too messy, use watercolor paint sets and allow everyone to get creative. While some people may want to use Easter eggs for recipes later on, it may be safer to boil up a fresh batch of eggs for that purpose, even if it seems wasteful. According to Emily Rubin, RD, LDN of the Thomas Jefferson University Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, "hard-boiled eggs should be refrigerated within two hours of cooking and discarded if left out for more than two hours at room temperature." Chances are it may take two hours or more for children to find hard-boiled eggs hidden by the Easter bunny.



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- Heather S., Renewal by Andersen customer, Holliston, MA

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The Easter bunny is a tradition that has been passed down for centuries. Symbolizing fertility and wealth, the Easter bunny became a holiday standard in Germany during the 16th century.

The custom of chocolate eggs came along centuries after the Easter bunny, originating in the 19th century in France and Germany. As Easter celebrations evolved, chocolate eggs were not the only delicacy; chocolate Easter bunnies also were shared and enjoyed.

While there are scores of mass-produced chocolate bunnies available for purchase, and many local chocolatiers also make Easter bunnies and other sweet treats, families may want to try making their own chocolate Easter bunnies this year. This can be a family-friendly activity that favors togetherness with the promise of a sweet reward.

1. The first step to creating chocolate Easter bunnies is to select the type of chocolate you prefer. Bunnies can be made from white chocolate, milk chocolate, dark chocolate, or even a combination for a marbled effect. Chocolate melts, chips or chocolate couverture are widely available at specialty chocolate and food shops or craft supply stores, according to DoItYourself.com. This simplifies the bunny-making process. Some retailers also may sell bunny-making kits that pair the chocolate melts with the mold in one box for ultimate convenience.

2. Craft stores also have aisles devoted to culinary crafts. Browse to find an Easter bunny mold. Some may sell solid chocolate bunnies or hollow varieties. Choose molds in the desired size, as bunny molds may be large or small.

3. Follow directions to melt chocolate successfully. Some chocolates can be slowly melted in the microwave. A double-boiler method, in which the chocolate is melted in a bowl placed above a pan with boiling water, can help the chocolate melt consistently and prevent it from burning.

4. Pour the chocolate into the mold and gently tap the mold so that it displaces air bubbles and helps the chocolate settle evenly into the design. Allow the chocolate to set up in the refrigerator. If your mold is hollow, you can seal the two halves of the bunny with a little melted chocolate on the seam.

Creativity can be unleashed when making homemade chocolate bunnies. Experiment with adding a few drops of peppermint oil or orange liqueur to customize the flavor. Before sealing hollow bunnies, place peanut butter or raspberry jam inside for a tasty surprise. Use colored candy melts to add colorful eyes or cheeks or to tint the inside of the bunny ears.

For an even more festive effect, seal a lollipop stick in a chocolate bunny and use it to secure the Easter bunny to the top of a cake.

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