

# Auburn News

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Friday, May 8, 2020

Newsstand: 75 cents



Photo Courtesy

bankHometown Senior Vice President and Commercial Loan Officer Shawn McNeerney with Matulaitis Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Administrator Lisa Ryan.

## bankHometown provides economic lifelines to local businesses

OXFORD — Through the initial round of funding, bankHometown has approved over 400 Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans totaling more than \$51 million, allowing hundreds of local businesses across central Massachusetts and northeastern Connecticut to keep more than 6,000 employees on the payroll.

One such small business is bankHometown customer

Matulaitis Rehabilitation and Skilled Care, a not-for-profit rehabilitation and nursing care facility located in Putnam, Conn. Administrator Lisa Ryan said that while the organization has not furloughed any of its 180 employees, it might have had to if PPP funding had not come through.

“We’re on the frontlines in healthcare, so everyone here is essential and we have to operate with all hands on deck,”

she said. “For us, the PPP is allowing us to go on delivering care much longer than we could have without it.”

Ryan said that nursing homes like Matulaitis rely not only on reimbursements from Medicaid for long-term care, but on revenues from short-term rehabilitative care for everything from cardiac events and strokes, to surger-

Please Read **LOANS**, page **A3**

## Alli Schoendfeldt receives Municipal Scholarship

AUBURN — The Auburn Municipal Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that its eighth annual scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 has been awarded to Alli Schoendfeldt, an Auburn High School senior who will be attending Roger Williams University in the fall.

While all applicants for the scholarship were certainly worthy, Schoendfeldt’s application stood out and was selected based on the following criteria: strong scholastic record, high moral character, exceptional extra-curricular activities, participation and leadership in extra-curricular activities, strong community involvement, and a need for financial

assistance.

The Municipal Scholarship fund is able to be awarded due to the generosity of Auburn taxpayers. It is derived from donations made by Auburn residents on their quarterly real estate tax bills. All funds raised go directly to Auburn graduates who meet the criteria established by the Scholarship Committee in keeping with MGL Chapter 60, Section 3(c). You are encouraged to consider making a contribution via an upcoming tax bill so that the Municipal Scholarship can continue to be awarded annually. Thank you.

## Worcester’s newest resident has a name

BAY STATE SAVINGS BANK WELCOMES CASH TO THE COMMUNITY



Photo Courtesy

Welcome to Worcester, Cash!

WORCESTER — The Friends of the Mounted Police Unit – Worcester’s newest horse has a new name – Cash!

The name was announced Wednesday morning by Bay State Savings Bank, which sponsored the horse. There were more than 600 names submitted, which the Bank narrowed down to four before asking the public to vote on the winning name.

“During these challenging times, we are happy to give people something positive to look forward to, as well as include them in the process of naming this beautiful horse,” said Peter Alden, President and CEO of Bay State Savings Bank. “The Bank is so proud to have helped the Friends of

the Mounted Police Unit – Worcester, as well as the Worcester Police Department, through our sponsorship of Cash.”

Cash is a 1,300 pound, seven-year-old Draft Cross with Palomino coloring. He is originally from Northfield, and has done extremely well throughout all the training he’s had thus far.

“We are so excited to have Cash, and are so appreciative of Bay State Savings Bank’s support,” said Audrey Kurlan-Marcy, President of the Friends of the MPU-Worcester. “The Mounted Police Unit has been a great addition to the Worcester Police Department and has been very well received by the public. I’m confident that a horse as beautiful as Cash will have no problem winning over the public just like the rest of the horses in the Unit have.”

The contestant that submitted the winning name of “Cash” was Anne Adams of North Brookfield.

Bay State Savings Bank of Worcester has been a mutually owned community savings bank since it was founded in 1895. In addition to its main office, Bay State Savings Bank has branches in Auburn, Holden, and Worcester. For additional information, visit [www.baystatesavingsbank.com](http://www.baystatesavingsbank.com).

## “SAINTLY” SANITIZER



Photo Courtesy

The Auburn Police Department were recently the grateful recipients of a shipment of hand sanitizer from the Saint-Gobain corporation. Photo courtesy of the department’s Twitter feed.

## Charlton requires employees to wear masks

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – Charlton is following suit with many towns and states by implementing the mandated use of face masks by town employees in order to help curb the spread of the COVID-19

virus.

During a livestreamed meeting on April 28, Town Administrator Andrew Golas presented a modification to the town’s policies regarding safe practices by town employees for the duration of the pandemic which will require the use

of face masks while in or around the town hall.

“There are a variety of opinions on the effectiveness of facemask covering; however, this policy is being implemented out of respect to health concerns of all employees required to do business on site or even

during the shutdown,” Golas told selectmen. “It’s highly encouraged that employees continue to work remotely as much as possible during this time.”

For the time being all business between employees and

Please Read **MASKS**, page **A5**



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## National Nurses Week

Thank you!



**Stonebridge Press and the following businesses would like to recognize nurses during National Nurses Week (May 6-May 12).** Thank you for your selfless dedication, kindness, compassion, and bravery especially during these pandemic times. You are truly angels in scrubs. Thank you for all you do all year long.

# What nurses do each day

There are millions of nurses nationwide. According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, there are roughly 3.8 million registered nurses in the United States. That number figures to grow along with the demand for qualified, highly trained nurses.

Nurses perform a variety of functions, some

of which may come as a surprise to those outside the medical profession. Learning more about what nurses do on a daily basis can paint a clearer picture of just how vital these health care professionals are.

Nurses are on the front lines of the medical profession, often interacting with patients more than any other

professional within the health care field. Nurses communicate concerns, answer questions about conditions and care and even administer such care. While there are many tasks nurses can perform, some of their main responsibilities are observing and recording behavior; performing physical exams and diagnostic tests, collecting

patient health histories, counseling patients and their families, and educating about treatment plans. Nurses also are responsible for administering medications, addressing and treating wounds and interpreting doctors' patient information to make decisions about necessary actions, where appropriate.

Nurses excel at listening to patients and analyzing their physical and emotional needs. Nurses also coordinate care with other health care providers and stay current with treatment options and cutting edge research and technology.

In addition to the aforementioned tasks, nurses may draw blood and perform other health-related tests. Testing may differ based on the subspecialty of the nurse. For example, obstetrics nurses may initiate sonograms or oversee urine testing for pregnancy hormones. Pediatric nurses may plot growth charts and administer routine im-



munizations.

Nurses are also there to listen to patients, and some may offer compassionate advice as they aim to help patients navigate difficult situations.

According to CareerBuilder, nurses who

work in physicians' offices, community health centers, schools, and other health environments may enjoy a regular working schedule and shifts during typical business hours. However, nurses working in hospitals and trauma centers tend to work rotating shifts to ensure patients receive round-the-clock care. Many nurses work outside traditional business hours, including during evenings, on holidays and on weekends. Some nurses are even on-call like doctors.

Nurses possess a distinct skill set that enables them to handle various tasks.

**In honor of Nurses week, I would like to recognize the following dedicated healthcare workers.**

Marylynn Pratt (ER Nurse at Baystate Medical)  
 Laurie Dibara (Nurse at Quaboag Rehab & Skilled Nursing Center)  
 Colleen Dibara (NP at St. Vincent's)

Your compassion, optimism, hard work, and kindness does not go unnoticed. Thank you, and all healthcare workers, from the bottom of my heart.  
 Happy Nurses Week!



  
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National

# NURSES WEEK



# Quaboag

Rehabilitation and Skilled Nursing Center

National Nurses Week May 6-12

## THANK YOU!

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## CELEBRATING NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

**MAY 6-12, 2020**





# THE HEART OF A HERO

Now more than ever, we are proud to honor all nurses on the front lines, selflessly serving others day and night with unwavering care. Your dedication keeps our communities healthy and stronger together. We thank you for carrying hope and courage in the fight.



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# TOGETHER STRONG.

Together Strong, we will weather this storm.

## How to implement infection prevention measures in the workplace



Protecting workers has long been a priority for business owners, but that responsibility took on new meaning in the wake of the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus in late-winter 2020. Business owners accustomed to traditional workplace safety protocols designed

primarily to prevent accidents and injuries were now tasked with protecting workers from a deadly virus.

Though many businesses were forced to close their doors in an effort to prevent the spread of the virus, many others remained fully or par-

tially operational. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration recommends employers implement the following hygiene and infection control practices in an effort to prevent workers from infection.

- Promote frequent and thorough handwashing. Workers, customers and worksite visitors should be routinely reminded of the importance of washing their hands. The OSHA advises employers, in instances where soap and running water are not immediately available, to provide their employees with alcohol-based hand rubs that contain at least 60 percent alcohol. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention urges people to employ the following techniques when washing their hands:

When washing with soap and water:

- Lather the hands by rubbing them together with the soap, making sure to scrub all surfaces of the hands, including palms, backs, fingers, between fingers, and under the nails
- Scrub for at least 20 seconds
- Rinse hands clean under running water
- Dry hands with a clean towel or air dry them

When washing with alcohol-based sanitizers:

- Cover all surfaces of the hands with the product before rubbing hands together
- Rub hands together until they feel dry, about 20 seconds

- Encourage workers to stay home if they are sick. Employers should emphasize to workers the importance of staying home if they feel sick. Even people who feel ill but are not showing any signs of COVID-19 in-

fection, which the CDC notes include shortness of breath, fever and cough, should stay home. That's because any illness can weaken a person's immune system, which makes them more vulnerable to viruses like COVID-19. Staying home when they feel sick is a great way for employees to protect not only themselves, but also their coworkers.

- Encourage respiratory etiquette. The OSHA and the CDC say covering your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze, putting used tissues in the waste basket and coughing or sneezing into an upper sleeve when no tissues are available can help prevent the spread of germs.

- Discourage sharing. Workers should be discouraged from sharing phones, desks, offices, and tools or equipment whenever possible. This can help prevent the spread of germs.

- Choose the appropriate cleaning chemicals. The OSHA advises employers to use chemical cleaners approved by the Environmental Protection Agency. The OSHA notes that products with EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens are expected to be effective against SARS-CoV-2 based on data for harder to kill viruses.

Protecting their employees from COVID-19 is of the utmost importance for employers across the globe. Safety measures can be implemented rather easily and ultimately save lives. TF206046

**SOCIAL MEDIA TEXT:** The Occupational Safety and Health Administration recommends employers implement the following hygiene and infection control practices in an effort to prevent workers from infection.

### LOANS

continued from page A1

ies like knee and hip replacements. With the drop in non-COVID patients at area hospitals and elective surgeries on hold, the coronavirus has significantly affected their bottom line. "Revenues are down. We're not seeing the level of referrals from hospitals we typically do," she said. "So, this loan essentially keeps us in business."

The Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) is a small business stimulus program included in the federal government's \$2.2 trillion Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The PPP provided an initial \$349 billion for SBA lenders like bankHometown to fund loans to businesses on a first-come, first served basis in order to guarantee eight weeks of payroll and other costs to help businesses remain viable. Funds were exhausted in less than two weeks, but Congress recently provided for additional funding capacity of \$320 billion. To qualify, businesses must have 500 or fewer employees and demonstrate that they have been negatively affected by the Coronavirus. If used for payroll and other qualifying expenses, the loans are forgivable.

According to Ryan, Matulaitis also made the decision to provide hazard pay for frontline employees, who often work several jobs but were asked to scale back to slow the spread of the

disease.

"We can't have them work in a COVID-positive environment and then come here. They've had to make a choice and a commitment to us, so in turn we've made a financial commitment to them," she said, noting that the fear of contracting the virus and passing it along to residents, who she said are like family, is always top of mind.

Since the PPP funds payroll, Ryan noted that operational cash flow can continue covering expenses that have resulted from, or have been sharply increased by, the pandemic.

One such cost is for personal protective equipment—or PPE—like gowns, masks, and shields. Nationwide, PPE is in short supply and prices have skyrocketed.

"We've been scrambling to obtain equipment from a number of vendors, and prices have tripled or even quadrupled. We're grateful we can continue purchasing the equipment we need to keep everyone safe," said Ryan.

Another is the cost of tablets that are used for telehealth services and to allow residents to connect virtually with family while their site remains closed to visitors.

"Those are added expenses that no one could have planned or budgeted for and that had to be incurred immediately. We couldn't wait," Ryan said.

bankHometown's commercial lending teams worked tirelessly to submit applications on behalf of hundreds of its small business customers like Matulaitis, knowing that for many business owners, timing was critical.

"These are trying times, and we

understand the financial situation our customers are facing and the negative impact it can have on their business, the staff, and the community," said bankHometown President and CEO Robert J. Morton.

"We've moved quickly to get these funds in our customers' hands so they can meet all of their obligations. As a community bank, this is what we do and I'm proud of our ability to help local organizations like Matulaitis," he said.

Ryan noted that her organization's application process with bankHometown "went smoothly" once federal guidance was issued, noting that they received funding in days and were able to put it to use quickly.

But, she admits that the pandemic has had a tremendous psychological effect on their business, though they remain focused on their residents and on trying to make the best of a difficult and unprecedented situation.

"Everyone is scared," Ryan admits. "But we're grateful our staff remains here to help keep our residents calm and their spirits up."

About bankHometown  
Founded in 1889, bankHometown is headquartered in Oxford and has \$1.0 billion in assets and 15 branches located throughout central Massachusetts and northeastern Connecticut. Through its sponsorship and charitable giving program, bankHometown and the Hometown Bank Community Foundation support non-profit organizations and causes throughout Worcester and Windham Counties. In 2019, the bank and foundation donated more than \$368,000 to nearly 270

organizations. Over the last four years, the program has donated more than \$1.1 million. For more information, visit bankhometown.com.

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**GOOD NEWS**

# Old Sturbridge Academy celebrates Better World Day with virtual connections

STURBRIDGE — Old Sturbridge Academy, an EL Education public charter school on the grounds of Old Sturbridge Village, celebrated its annual Better World Day in a different way this May 1, by encouraging virtual connections among students and their communities.

Education charter schools which mark Better World Day to reinforce the alignment between education, character and public service.

Because of the circumstances created by COVID-19, the focus of this year's program was Better World Day Connections. Students' home creations, such

as videos, paintings, sidewalk chalk creations, letters, and cards of appreciation for those who are demonstrating courage and kindness, were shared on social media with the hashtag #BetterWorldDay.

Better World Connections took place throughout April, culminating on Better World Day on May 1. Each post will appear on EL Education's Better World Day page in a gallery of student contributions from across the country.

"The message of Better World Day has never been more important," said Jim Donahue, President and CEO of Old Sturbridge Village. "Although we wish we could celebrate in person with our students, the virtual connections project is a way that our students can connect with our communities and share joy and hope, a vital message in today's world."

Last year's OSA Better World Day celebration included a procession through the Village with music and remarks, followed by agriculture projects on the property. Students then planted shade trees in each of the communities that the school serves, including Sturbridge, Brimfield, West Brookfield, East Brookfield, North Brookfield, Holland, Monson, Palmer, Southbridge, Spencer, Wales, and Webster.

"We're proud of our students' participation during this unprecedented time," said OSA Principal Lisa DeTora. "Better World Day Connections is a wonderful way to demonstrate that, although apart, we are all engaged together as one community to send support to one another. We love seeing our students' heartfelt contributions to this project."

About Old Sturbridge Academy  
Old Sturbridge Academy

Charter Public School, a K-5 EL Education school working in partnership with Old Sturbridge Village, provides a learning environment that represents all aspects of the diversity spectrum and where our students will meet or exceed grade-level expectations in all subject areas. A culture of quality permeates the school and our students graduate with an understanding of how they learn best and how to advocate for the resources they need when they are challenged. EL Education schools are high achieving, engaging learning environments that push teachers and students to do more than they think they can.

About EL Education  
EL Education (formerly Expeditionary Learning) is a leading K-12 nonprofit helping to build great schools in diverse communities across America. For more than 25 years, EL Education has been bringing to life a three-dimensional vision of student achievement that includes mastery of knowledge and skills, character, and high-quality student work. EL Education works with hundreds of public schools—both district and charter—across 35 states, serving over 200,000 students and 16,000 teachers. Rigorous impact studies by Mathematica Policy Research demonstrate

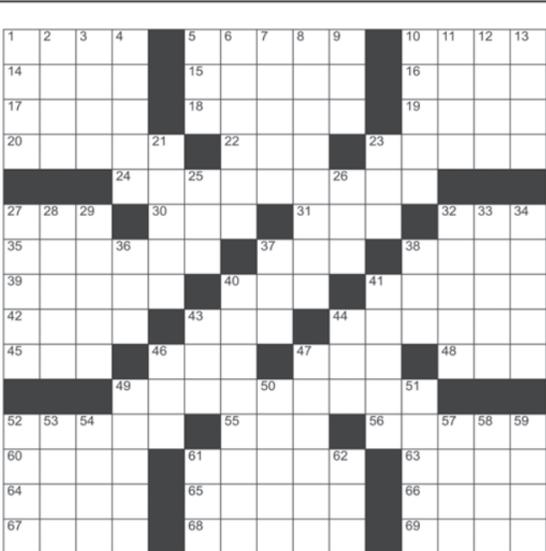


Photo Courtesy

Old Sturbridge Academy, an EL Education public charter school on the grounds of Old Sturbridge Village, celebrated its annual Better World Day in a different way this May 1, by encouraging virtual connections among students and their communities.

that EL Education's approach works: teachers significantly improve their craft and students achieve more, regardless of background.

Grounded in decades of in-depth work with educators, EL Education creates highly respected, widely distributed open educational resources, including: an acclaimed literacy curriculum that has been downloaded 8.7 million times and received the highest possible ratings from EdReports.org; the world's largest collection of exemplary student projects; inspiring instructional videos with over 1.3 million views; hundreds of free online resources; and best-selling education books.

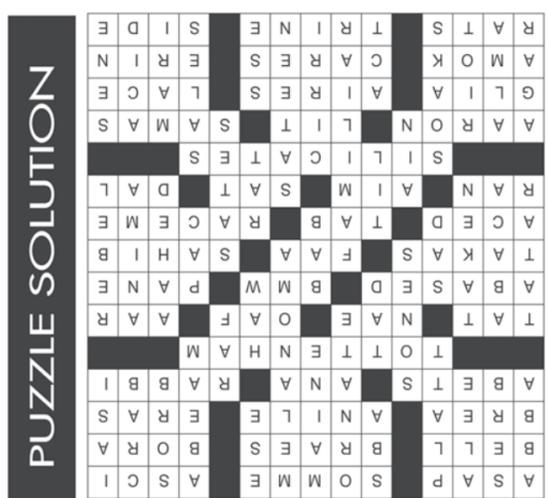


### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Common request
- 5. Department in France
- 10. Fungi cells
- 14. Famed inventor
- 15. Hillside
- 16. Cold wind
- 17. La \_\_\_ Tar Pits, Hollywood
- 18. Resembling a doddering old woman
- 19. Geological periods
- 20. Assists
- 22. Comedienne Gastereyer
- 23. Jewish spiritual leader
- 24. English soccer club
- 27. Body art
- 30. No (Scottish)
- 31. Clumsy person
- 32. Swiss river
- 35. Belittled
- 37. Luxury car
- 38. Single sheet of glass in a window
- 39. Monetary units
- 40. Supervises flying
- 41. Indian term of respect
- 42. Breezed through
- 43. The bill in a restaurant
- 44. Flower cluster
- 45. Moved quickly
- 46. Shooters need to do it
- 47. High schoolers' test
- 48. Split pulses
- 49. Salts
- 52. Breaking Bad actor \_\_\_ Paul
- 55. Set ablaze
- 56. Semitic Sun god
- 60. Nervous system cells
- 61. Tourist destination Buenos \_\_\_
- 63. A way to bind
- 64. Behave uncontrollably
- 65. Feels concern
- 66. Sportscastrer Andrews
- 67. Subway dwellers
- 68. Astrological aspect
- 69. You may take one

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Swedish rock group
- 2. Serbian
- 3. Away from wind
- 4. Actor Oliver
- 5. Helps little firms
- 6. Intricately decorative
- 7. American state
- 8. Type of tumor
- 9. Midway between east and southeast
- 10. On a line at right angles to a ship's length
- 11. Fruit of the service tree
- 12. Grouch
- 13. Romanian city
- 21. Units of loudness
- 23. British Air Aces
- 25. Small amount
- 26. Hem's partner
- 27. Turkish people
- 28. Member of the banana family
- 29. Liam Neeson franchise
- 32. Expressed pleasure
- 33. Inward-directed part of psyche
- 34. Insurgent
- 36. Unhappy
- 37. Gateway (Arabic)
- 38. Fundraising political group (abbr.)
- 40. Well-known
- 41. Satisfies
- 43. \_\_\_ death do us part
- 44. Jailhouse informant
- 46. French river
- 47. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
- 49. Drenches
- 50. Clouds
- 51. Companies need to make them
- 52. Created from seaweed
- 53. One's school: \_\_\_ mater
- 54. A type of act
- 57. Member of Russian people
- 58. Neutralizes alkalis
- 59. Monetary unit
- 61. Play a role
- 62. Midway between south and southeast



## Rate of fatalities on Mass. roadways doubles in April

BOSTON — The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is reporting that the rate of fatalities on Massachusetts roadways doubled in April: with 50 percent less traffic recorded on major highways, 28 individuals died in crashes, compared with the month of April 2019 when there were 27 deaths on roadways in the state. The high fatality rate last month, underscores the importance of not exceeding the posted speed limit, wearing a seatbelt, driving sober, and obeying the hands-free law.

"Our traffic and safety engineers continuously monitor roadways across the Commonwealth and have identified a dangerous trend that has led to the doubling of the vehicular fatality rate in Massachusetts for the month of April," said Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver. "During the pandemic, everyone in the Commonwealth has sacrificed and used disciplined actions to keep themselves, their loved ones, and our community safe. We ask that all residents use this same dedication to safety and reduce their speeds when driving."

"Reduced traffic volume is no excuse for excessive speed," said Jeff Larason, Director of Highway

Safety for the Executive Office of Safety and Security. "We're reminding everyone to drive responsibly, wear a seat belt, and watch the road for cyclists and pedestrians."

Stacey Beuttell, Executive Director of WalkBoston, added, "With the stay-at-home advisory still in place, everyone should expect to see more neighbors walking, rolling, or running in the street as they try to maintain six feet of physical distance on narrow sidewalks. If you are driving, be prepared to yield to people walking and drive slowly. Empty streets are not a license to drive faster. Please consider every street a shared street and stay safe."

Motor vehicle deaths occurred state-wide in April, including three deaths in a 24-hour-period on April 18 and April 19: in Richmond, on Route 41 southbound, in Hopkinton, on I-495 southbound, and in Seekonk, on I-195 eastbound. The most recent road fatality reported to MassDOT was on Saturday, May 2, occurring in Andover on I-93 near exit 42.

The Commonwealth has several initiatives which seek to improve road safety, including:

- The Massachusetts Strategic

Highway Safety Plan, crafted by a diverse cross section of government agencies, advocates, and other stakeholders which contains specific strategies, direct actions and legislative proposals to get Massachusetts closer towards zero deaths and to an interim goal of a 12 percent drop in five-year average fatalities and a 21 percent drop in five-year average serious injuries.

- The 2019 Massachusetts Pedestrian Transportation Plan and 2019 Massachusetts Bicycle Transportation Plan seek to eliminate fatalities and serious injuries for pedestrians, individuals using a wheelchair, cane or other assisted mobility device, and those riding bicycles while increasing the number of trips taken.

- MassDOT's public education program, "Scan the Street for Wheels and Feet," underscores the need for greater awareness on the road, citing statistics including, "one in four deaths in motor vehicle crashes involve people walking or bicycling." MassDOT has been pleased to work collaboratively on this public safety initiative with the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Boston Vision Zero, WalkBoston, MassBike, and the Safe Roads Alliance.

In addition, in January 2019, the Baker-Polito Administration filed several proposed safety bills, including the hands-free law which became law in February 2020, with fines for violations taking effect April 1.

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THE AUBURN NEWS (546-680) is published weekly for \$45 per year (in county) by Stonebridge Press, 25 Elm St., Southbridge, MA 01550. Out of county rate is \$56 per year. Periodicals postage paid at Southbridge. To subscribe call (800) 367-9898. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Auburn News, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550

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# Nichols sends off Class of 2020 with virtual celebration

BY JASON BLEA  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – Even though the Nichols College graduating class of 2020 were unable to enjoy their final months together on campus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the school still made an effort to recognize the achievements of these graduates with a special virtual ceremony on Saturday, May 2.

While the college does plan to hold an in-person graduation ceremony in the future, Nichols College did not want to send their outgoing graduates into the world without one more get together even if they had to do it online. The ceremony was held on YouTube the morning of May 2 featuring several speakers including Nichols President Susan Engelkemeyer who recalled her address from 2016 when many of the Class of 2020 started their Nichols College journeys. It was then she assured them that upon graduating in 2020 they would look back with “2020 vision” on their experiences. However, given recent events, she added to that sentiment calling the Class of 2020 one of the most prepared groups to face the trials that lay before them in their unknown futures.

“While you’ve learned lessons of fear and loss you’ve also found courage, hope and a greater sense of community. This pandemic has dramatically changed the celebration we had planned for today with your family and friends surrounding you, but in the not too distant future you may come to realize that this has given you a very special legacy and a really great story,” President Engelkemeyer said. “You will not only get past this, but you will be stronger because of how these past two months have shaped you. You are more prepared than most to come out on top



Courtesy Photo

Guest speakers for the Nichols College Class of 2020 Virtual Celebration President Susan Engelkemeyer, Valedictorian Jessica Larsh, Class Speaker Taylor Ward and Class Representative Janey Newman make a toast to the senior class.

because your resilience has enabled you to succeed in the face of adversity.”

Class Representative Janey Newman served as the guest speaker handpicked by the Class of 2020 for the ceremony. She held back tears as she addressed the students she helped lead through their college careers one final time. She called the unique and unprecedented virtual celebration a fitting one for the Class of 2020, a group she said was “anything by traditional.”

“This is a time when our relationships and our communities are an integral part of our daily lives. The world that we’re living in right now has brought us back to the basics. It has given us the rare opportunity to focus on what is important to each of us and a time to reflect on what matters most,” Newman said.

She capped off her address by recalling the words of the late Mr. Rogers and his famous quote about looking for the helpers in times of need. Just as many at Nichols College have helped the Class of 2020 reach their full potential, she believes the graduates are entering the world ready to step up to the plate when called upon.

The virtual ceremony also allowed a few students to address their class in one final farewell to their college years. Class Speaker Taylor Ward took the time to thank Nichols College and her classmates for giving her bonds that she will cherish for the rest of her life.

“If it wasn’t for Nichols, I’d still be an only child but now I have hundreds of brothers and sisters and I can’t wait to support each other for the rest of our lives,” Ward said. “We gave a lot, left

our legacy like they told us to, but we didn’t know how much more we would gain. An education, endless networks, role models, opportunities and countless memories but most importantly we got a family.”

Class Valedictorian Jessica Larsh admitted that her speech changed significantly from when she first wrote it in February, a month before the COVID-19 pandemic forced the school to close. She admitted had she known what was on the horizon she would have made a few more memories with her classmates before returning home, but said the memories she did make and the lessons she learned at the school will forever be a part of her life.

“I hope that this experience we are all going through can bring our class closer together and make our return, whether it be for an in-person graduation or on homecoming weekend, something we can cherish more than we could have ever imagined. Going through this quarantine has taught me to appreciate my friends that I made at Nichols more than ever and to not take anything for granted,” Larsh said. “Just because our graduation will be held in a different format right now and on a different day in the future that has yet to be determined doesn’t mean that it takes away our achievements as a whole. Class of 2020, we will forever be united and remembered as the class that persevered despite these difficult times.”

The ceremony closed with educators from the different departments all coming together to wish the graduates good luck. Finally, it was all capped off by a toast to the future and a promise to remember the Class of 2020 as one of the most enduring group of students in Nichols College history.

# Charlton to host virtual Candidates Night

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – Although limitations on public gatherings remain in place for the month of May, Charlton is marching towards its annual town elections in June and with that a new format has been established for voters to meet the candidates that will be on the ballot.

On May 18, the town will host a Zoom event where candidates for office will be introduced to the public and presented with questions to help voters determine who they would like to choose for town leadership. The candidates’ night will allow citizens to learn more about those running for town offices in a similar manner to past events but from the comfort of their homes with respect to social distancing practices currently in effect.

Selectman David Singer said during a Zoom meeting in late April they are currently working on getting all candidates involved with the event and that public input will be welcome during the livestream.

“All questions should be submitted to Kathleen Walker, coordinator for the event, at [kwalker4@mac.com](mailto:kwalker4@mac.com). Questions will also be taken from the audience. The event will be posted on YouTube. Karen Spiewak will be the timer,” Singer said.

The hope is to end the event by 8 p.m. making it an approximately two-hour commitment for voters either during the livestream or during YouTube viewings.

Charlton announced in April that the town election and spring annual town meeting have been moved to June 13 and June 15 respectively due to the ongoing pandemic. With the change also comes a new format for absentee ballots and early voting. Selectman Karen Spiewak said she has received numerous questions from citizens and felt compelled to clear up some of those concerns after speaking with the Town Clerk’s office.

“They did clarify that the state has allowed the use of an absentee ballot application with no reason. Usually you

have to have a reason, but this year because of the virus you can use it. That’s what they’re using for early voting actually,” Spiewak said.

Absentee ballots are currently available on the Town of Charlton website. Questions, concerns, and completed

applications can be directed to Eric Tully at [eric.tully@townofcharlton.net](mailto:eric.tully@townofcharlton.net). For more information on the 2020 Charlton town election as well as a list of candidates visit [townofcharlton.net](http://townofcharlton.net).

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## Friday’s Child



Photo: Maura Wayman

Braydon  
Age 12

Hi! My name is Braydon and you can call me Brady!

Braydon “Brady” is a polite and caring boy of Caucasian descent. Braydon has many talents and interests including dancing, music, sports, drawing and playing games. His favorite activities are basketball, football, video games and being active! Braydon is described by those who know him as enthusiastic and fun-loving.

Brady shares that he loves going to school. His favorite subject in school is math. He reports his favorite colors are red and blue and his favorite food is pizza but is open to trying different foods. Braydon can be a good advocate for himself and has shared he is looking forward to having his own family.

Legally freed for adoption, it will be important to Braydon that he continues to maintain contact with his two older siblings. Braydon sees them at least monthly and has a positive relationship with them and their families. Braydon absolutely loves animals and hopes his future family will have a dog and that one day he will become a vet! Braydon shared that his three wishes for his future family are for them to always make hot breakfast (or buy sweet cereal and a lot flavored oatmeal), to have dogs, and to have a bike and a helmet! Braydon would do best as the only child or youngest child in a family.

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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 617-6273 or visit [www.mareinc.org](http://www.mareinc.org). The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have a permanent place to call home.



To sponsor Friday’s Child call Mikaela at 508-909-4126 or email [Mikaela@stonebridgeoress.news](mailto:Mikaela@stonebridgeoress.news)

### MASKS

continued from page A1

citizens is to take place outside of the Town Hall. Golas also noted that the town has a supply of face masks available through the Board of Health that will allow them to provide face coverings for employees as needed. The policy was put into effect days before the Baker-Polito Administration announced that face masks will be required for all public places where social distancing cannot be maintained. That mandate went into effect statewide on May 6. Charlton selectmen

agreed with the Town Administrator’s policy changes with Selectman David Singer complimenting Golas on doing an effective job of leading the Town Hall through the pandemic.

“I think Andrew is doing a great job and I think that what he’s doing is putting in place a system that is temporary and can be lifted at any time as the situation dictates,” Singer said.

Selectmen discussed whether or not a formal vote of approval was required in order to put the policy in place. It was determined that the Town Administrator has

the authority to implement the policy without selectmen voting in a public forum. Selectman Deborah Noble confirmed this fact.

“It’s my understanding that a lot of these policies can be implemented and also rescinded without board approval at this time. This is happening at multiple levels of government right now,” Noble said.

Whether it was to record an official vote or simply to symbolically show their support of the Town Administrator’s decision selectmen did vote unanimously to give the policy their blessing.

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# Mother's Day gifts sure to please



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Each year, we set aside one day to honor mothers. And each year, we struggle to find the perfect gift to show them we care.

Cut flowers are one of the most popular gifts. No dusting and maintenance required, and they are sure to generate a smile. Behavioral research at Rutgers University found the gift of flowers had immediate and long-term benefits no matter the age of the study participants.

Participants demonstrated true or excited smiles as well as delight and gratitude when they received flowers. They also reported feeling less depressed, anxious and agitated long after receiving the gift of flowers. Floral gifts also helped create connections between family and friends.

A hanging basket or container gar-

den is another way to give mom a season of flowers and more. Gardening helps improve health and well-being by reducing stress, lowering blood pressure, strengthening muscles and increasing flexibility.

If mom likes to cook, a potted tomato, container of greens or window box of herbs may be the perfect gift with increased benefits. Mom can grow and further boost her health with fresh nutrient-rich vegetables.

A gift certificate to her favorite garden center, hobby store or retail location allows mom the freedom to select her own gift. She can enjoy time shopping for something special she wouldn't normally buy for herself.

The gift of time is appreciated by many mothers. Helping mom in her garden, working around her home or assisting her with another hobby is a great way to spend time together doing something mom loves.

Update her garden tools if she is an avid gardener. Consider a tool caddy and fill it with her favorite hand tools such as a weed knife, hand pruner, sunscreen, and gloves.

Add elegance and function to your mother's daily activities with durable



Photo Courtesy

Protect mom's hands with quality, colorful gardening gloves.

and fashionable gloves. Their practical and fashionable nature makes them a popular add-on or stand-alone gift item.

Elbow length garden gloves, like Foxgloves (foxglovesinc.com),

protect forearms and hands from sun, scratches, and plant oils. The 'cottony soft' feel of Supplex® nylon makes them comfortable but extremely durable and tough. They can be washed and dried quickly, so mom always has a pair of gloves ready to use. Add some fun to this functional gift by choosing one of the bright colors.

Add a hat to further protect mom from the heat and sun when working outdoors. If it's comfortable and looks good, she is more likely to wear it.

Take the pressure off and make mom's day extra special with one of these Mother's Day gifts that provide immediate and long-term benefits. She'll appreciate your thoughtfulness when she opens the package, unwraps the flowers or puts the tools and gloves to use all season long.

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

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# From trout to turkeys

All it took was a few warm days to get trout and other numerous fish species to actively start feeding. Trout were surface feeding at many ponds throughout the valley. This week, Wallum Lake had set up a thermocline, and fishing improved dramatically. Fresh water bass are also being caught at local waters throughout the area. There are more people fishing now, which is a good thing. Unfortunately, all boat ramps in Rhode Island are closed to out of state residents. Hopefully, that will change soon.

Local turkey hunters harvested some impressive birds after the weather warmed up a bit. This week's picture is of Steve Rondeau with his 22 pound tom which was a nice bird with a 10 inch beard and sporting one inch spurs. Numerous other successful hunters harvested some nice birds also.

A bit more history on Wallum Lake involving attempts by Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife to make it a trophy brown trout pond (lake). Many attempts to introduce live smelt from the Quabbin Reservoir into Wallum Lake more than 40 years ago seemed to be working, and anglers were catching some impressive brown trout in the four to six pound range until the smelt failed to spawn in a couple of tributaries in the lake.

A second attempt to get a permanent population of smelt into the lake was made by the Mass. Fish & Wildlife by setting up screens of fertilized smelt eggs at a couple of tributaries in the lake, but that failed because of the acidity of the water. As mentioned in last week's column about the liming of the lake by "Living Lakes," which seemed to take care of the problem a few years



later, but the Division abandoned their efforts to restock smelt.

Under pressure from local sportsmen, the Division of Massachusetts fisheries started to stock shoal spawning alewives, and fishing started to improve. Unfortunately, the D. F. W. stopped stocking many brown trout in the lake, and removed the 2 brown trout limit. Rhode Island did continue to stock brown trout in the lake, but they were quickly fished out before they had a chance to grow into trophy fish, because of the six fish limit at that time. The daily bag limit is now five trout under Rhode Island Regulations of any species.

Massachusetts Fish & Wild Life seemed to have enough of Wallum Lake, and now considers the lake a put & take fishery. Local anglers had hoped to convince the Division to acquire some fingerling brown trout from upstate New York 40 years ago or so, and stock them into Wallum Lake. Myself and a couple



of local anglers convinced New York to give a stocking of brown trout to Mass. for Wallum Lake.

Unfortunately the fish biologist at that time felt he had enough species of brown trout in the state, and he turned down the offer. Anyone that has fished upstate New York's Lake Ontario know how fast they grow. They are footballs in only a couple of years. I often think of what Wallum Lake could have been. Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife did stock some impressive trout throughout the state this year. Wachusett Reservoir has also been hot, giving up some large Lake Trout.

A call from Harry Salmon a former Douglas resident now living in Florida, reported on some great fishing for crap-

pie and bluegills, with a largemouth bass once in a while. He is fishing almost every day aboard his pontoon boat, with a couple of buddies. He had hoped to return to Douglas this past week, but decided to stay a bit longer because of Covid-19.

An attempt to make it easier to obtain a permit to carry a concealed handgun on Wild Life Management Areas by the Corps of Engineers will hopefully pass soon. Any lawful person that has a License To Carry cannot bring a handgun onto Management property at this time.

Stay safe!  
Keep them Rods Bending & Take a kid Fishing.

## Second Chance volunteer fosters making the best of stay-at-home



**EAST BROOKFIELD** — Some very lucky families have found a great way to spend their time during the current stay-at-home advisory — helping to care for newborn kittens for Second Chance Animal Services. Right now, Second Chance has four litters of kittens in their care and they are grateful to their volunteer fosters who are providing round the clock care for these helpless

babies.

Fosters follow many of the steps of the lifesaving kitten protocol which was developed by Second Chance to help save the lives of prematurely born kittens, including weighing the kittens twice a day to ensure they are receiving the proper amount of nutrition. The protocol was published last year to help increase the odds of survival for premature kittens through animal welfare organizations across the country.

Second Chance has so many kittens in foster right now that they dedicated their weekly Wish List Wednesday Facebook post to the kittens in hopes of receiving more kitchen scales to help fosters track each kitten's weight. Second Chance shared a video of a foster kitten nicknamed Mitten being brushed with a toothbrush. The toothbrush feels like a mother's tongue for the kitten.

Mitten and his sibling are getting extra attention from the whole family. Five-year-old Lila asks her mom to bring home

foster kittens and likes to help feed and bathe them daily. Her mom says fostering provides important life lessons, from caring for others to saying goodbye to the kittens when it's time for them to go back to Second Chance so they can find forever homes. Lila's two-year-old brother Callen is doing his part, cuddling with the kittens to provide socialization under the close supervision of mom's watchful eye.

When the kittens are old enough, they will return to Second Chance where vets will

clear them for adoption after they are spayed or neutered and vaccinated. The next step is the adoption center in East Brookfield where they will be available for adoption.

Second Chance is currently working to process all the foster applications that have been submitted by animal lovers looking for a way to help during the COVID-19 crisis. For more information becoming a

foster, visit [secondchanceanimals.org](http://secondchanceanimals.org).

## Bigfoot comes home



Photo Courtesy

After a brief theft, Bigfoot was returned to owner Todd Disotell's Brimfield residence last week.

**BRIMFIELD** — Police last week were pleased to announce that Bigfoot has been returned home safely.

After the Bigfoot statue was stolen from a residence

overnight on April 23, it was returned the next day to owner Todd Disotell. Police thank residents who reached out with tips.

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 EDITOR

## An important lesson from history

We have several thoughts now that states are beginning to slowly re-open. Each state is doing it in their own way. We have noticed that this situation has made more aware of the remarkable amount of control state governors actually have. This is a good thing.

As we've seen on the national news, some states are riddled with protesters, in many cases armed with guns. We simply cannot fathom this approach. Governors are taking measures to protect the health and well being of their residents. Mistakes are bound to happen in the face of an unprecedented scenario such as this, but we are quite certain that no one — governors and legislators included — wants to be dealing with a highly deadly contagious disease that has now killed more Americans than were killed during Vietnam. No one.

The Stay at Home orders are not easy on anyone, especially those who are still waiting for unemployment checks, and who are dealing with a backlog of unpaid bills. It's also stressful to have to watch the impact on our economy. Again, no one wanted or invited this situation, but here we are. Whether things might have turned out differently if we had seen a quicker response from the federal government, we cannot say, but in any case, what is in the past should be left there.

The question now becomes, what happens if states rush to open too much too soon? Will we have to close everything down again if a second wave of COVID-19 washes through?

Flashing back to the 1918 Spanish Flu epidemic, we can learn a few things about how and what happens when reopening. Cities who kept strict orders in place such as social distancing, earlier and kept them longer, fared better both financially and health-wise in the long run. Noted was fewer deaths and a faster bounce back to their economies. Health and economy went hand in hand.

Studies show that in Denver, San Francisco and St. Louis, measures to distance were taken early; however, those cities made what was, in retrospect, the mistake of reopening too soon, and a second wave hit that was worse than the first. People in states who lifted restrictions too early in 1918 went out into the streets to celebrate the armistice that ended the First World War sans masks, and from there, a severe second wave hit.

In 1918, New York City kept their measures in place for much longer. Officials waited until the death rates were extremely low. Consequently, New York experienced only one wave, and had the lowest death rate in the country. What we can learn here is that it is better to shut down once, for longer, than experience a shutdown far longer, if two shut downs become necessary.

A study recently posted by the CDC tells the story of a woman who was dining at a restaurant while asymptomatic. She spread the disease to nine other diners who were eating nearby. Noted was the fact that those who were infected were in the same zone as the air flow from an air-conditioner.

At the end of the day, we learn from history that the most advisable approach is a slow, steady, and cautious one.



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## Shopping with zombies

As an extreme extrovert, quarantine is torture. An extrovert gains energy from being with and communicating with others. Quarantine prohibits what gives me energy. I've slept more and have stared at the TV more in the last month than I did in the last year. I can't take much more.

A friend recently posted a meme on social media that said,

"Now that I am living through a plague, I understand why most of the Italian renaissance artists painted pictures of fat, half-naked people laying on their couch."

A few days ago, I decided enough was enough. I donned a mask, slipped on my gloves, and headed to my local grocery store. I should not have gone out, but shopping is a social event for me. I can go in for a quart of milk and spend two hours chatting and meeting people. I can't help it. It's who I am. I'm an extrovert.

So, properly protected, and with much excitement and anticipation of connecting with other human beings, with proper social distancing, I ventured into the store. I grabbed my cart, wiped it down with disinfectant, walked through the door to find the store was both packed with other mask and glove wearing individuals, but the silence was surprising. With a big smile on my shielded face, I began trying to make eye contact, but everyone, eyes down, seemed to resist.

And there was something new and unusual on the floors ... arrows indicating that all the aisles were now traffic coordinated with one-way signs, which limited my ability to smile and make contact in hopes of finding another human in need of a conversation.

Like a horror movie about the living dead, I was shopping with zombies. No eye contact. No smiles. No social interaction of any kind. The brief momentary eye contact I did experience seemed both unwelcome and fearful, as if zombie eyes can send a virus causing death ray into the eyes of others. I'm making light of it, but the people in the store were scared.

What are we doing? Where are we going? How will quarantine impact the rest of our lives, and will it ever end? I don't have answers but only questions.

As I've said several times before, human beings are herd animals. We thrive with family and friends. Most are happiest within the familiarity of the herd. What we are experiencing is unnatural.

I understand the need for social distancing and cooperating with the directives of our governing bodies. This all began with us knowing so little about this virus that extreme measures were warranted



POSITIVELY SPEAKING

GARY W. MOORE

and welcomed. As we learn more about who is at risk and how, we can more intelligently manage the dangers. Isn't it time to begin a slow and measured return to some level of normalcy?

One-size-fits-all measures are rarely, if ever, good. The elderly and those of us with health conditions that make us susceptible must shelter in place and take every precaution to remain safe. But is that true for the young and healthy?

Our business community is being crushed. Hospitals have been prohibited from doing elective surgery. In the beginning, I understand there was a fear that our healthcare systems would be overwhelmed and collapse. It didn't happen. Instead, like our small business community, our hospitals could conceivably collapse under the extreme mandates and financial pressures of not taking in the cash needed to function. How would we cope without hospitals?

Why can't a young and healthy twenty-something athlete get his/her knee repaired? Why can't a healthy thirty-two-year-old data processor have carpal tunnel surgery? The hospitals need to function, and the demand is there. Isn't it time to cautiously begin the slow and measured process of returning life back to normal?

As for shopping with zombies, my feeble attempt at humor, I understand that protective measures must be continued, and I'll fully comply. There is no evidence however that the virus is transmitted by making eye contact at a safe distance. As I hope there is a slow return to normalcy in governmental restrictions, I equally hope that we can lift the fear from our minds and hearts and begin making eye contact again and sharing smiles. Smiling does lift our spirits and make us feel better. I don't need you to remove your face mask to see your smile. Our eyes tell it all. Let's all snap out of our zombie state, become less fearful and start seeing each other again.

My daughter is a pastor and often ends her church service with this statement. "I need you. You need me. We need you and you need us." It's never been truer.

Let's make eye contact. Let's acknowledge each other. We need each other. The herd needs to see your smiling eyes.

Will you look at me once again when I see you?

I miss you. ■

*Gary W. Moore is a freelance columnist, speaker, and author of three books including the award-winning, critically acclaimed, "Playing with the Enemy." Follow Gary on Twitter @GaryW Moore721 and at www.garywmoore.com.*

## Smart moves for women business owners



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Mother's Day is upon us. If you're a mother, you'll enjoy the recognition you get from your family on this day. And given the health concerns caused by the coronavirus, your appreciation of family may be even greater this year. As we all know, mothers have a difficult job. And many mothers also run their own businesses — another demanding task made even more difficult these days. What special challenges do women face who embark on careers as business owners?

Of course, motherhood itself presents a major challenge. As a society, we have not achieved gender equity yet, in terms of family responsibilities, so mothers — even busy business owners — still face time constraints and interruptions from work to care for children. And it's not just children, either — the vast majority of caregivers for elderly relatives are women, according to a study from Northwestern University. So, many women business owners may be coping with multi-generational family issues.

You can't change the demographic pressures you may face, but, as a business owner, you can take some steps to help improve your financial outcomes. Here are a few ideas:

Seek networking opportunities. You can find useful, and empathetic, allies in other women business owners, who may be able to direct you to valuable resources. To illustrate: Women's businesses often lack financial support to a greater degree than men's, and it is unfortunately not uncommon for women to be denied loans because of gender and cultural biases. But if you become active in a network of women business owners, you could find some leads to financial institutions that have showed themselves to be free of gender-based prejudices.

Be extra aware of investment risks. Everyone should always be aware of investment risk, of course, but if you have most of your assets tied up in your business, you may need to be extra diligent. You're already taking a fair amount of risk by just having a business, so you may need to balance this risk in your investment portfolio by choosing the mix of investments that can help you move toward your goals without subjecting you to excessive market volatility.

Establish a retirement plan for yourself. Have you established a retirement savings plan for yourself? About one-third of business owners haven't, and 40 percent are not confident they can retire before 65, according to data compiled by SCORE, a nonprofit organization that works with small businesses. Fortunately, you have several good retirement plan options, including an "owner-only" 401(k), a SEP-IRA, a SIMPLE IRA or even a solo defined benefit plan, which functions like a pension.

Create a succession plan. You may need a strategy for transferring or selling your business. Do you want to keep the business in the family? If so, who do you want to take it over? Or would you prefer to simply sell it to someone else? Your decisions, whatever they are, will affect your financial picture and possibly that of your family, so you will want to consult with your tax, legal and financial advisors to arrive at a plan that works best for your needs.

You've got some twists and turns ahead of you on the road to financial security. But planning ahead, considering various possibilities and seizing your opportunities can help you smooth out the journey.

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

## Old stock certificates

We sometimes find old stocks and bonds certificates when we handle multigenerational New England estates. Some date back over 100 years. Some of these stock certificates are only worth around one dollar. Rarer ones may be worth as much as a new car though.

Scripophily is the study and collecting of stock and bond certificates. Like with most collectibles, there is a dedicated group of serious collectors.

A 2016 CoinWeek article on scripophily reported that the "Stock and Bond Collectors Association (ASBCA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to furthering the education and study of American historical securities. ... certificates which otherwise have no value as financial claims, are bought for their artistic and historical value by collectors."

There are estimated to be tens of thousands of scripophily buyers worldwide. They range from casual buyers looking to decorate their home or office to serious collectors and museums. The Museum of Finance in New York holds a large collection of certificates. Their Web site states "stocks and bonds comprise a large portion of the Museum's collection with thousands of examples ranging in date from the 18th century to contemporary corporations including the Internet bubble."

With people trading stocks online and day traders buying and selling multiple stocks within hours "Paper Stock Certificates Are Gone With the Winds of Change" according to an Investopedia article. Most companies no longer issue paper stock certificates. For example, Disney stopped issuing certificates picturing cartoon characters in 2013.

Now that you have a little background on stocks and bonds, how do you find how much yours is worth? Even if the stock is cancelled or the company went out of business years ago, the stock certificate may be prized by collectors. Two examples are mining and sports related stocks.

Some mining stocks are desirable to collectors. An Alabama Gold and Copper Mining certificate signed by lawman Pat Garrett (famous for shooting Billy the Kid) brought \$2,200 at auction in 2012. An 1863 Governor Stanford Gold and Silver Mining Company signed by Leland Stanford sold for \$5,500 in 2013. An 1865 San Francisco District Bella Gold and Silver Mining Company stock certificate reached \$35,000 in 2011.

As you might expect, sports related



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES  
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stock certificates are often highly desirable. A 1940 Coca Cola stock certificate that was signed by Ty Cobb while he was the Twin Falls Bottling Company president was auctioned for over \$11,000 in 2012. Share number 1 of Red Sox stock from 1901 went for \$19,120 in 2011. A 1923 Green Bay Packers stock certificate sold for \$44,000 in 2019.

If you have an uncancelled stock it may still be valid. Beginning in July of 1964, CUSIP (Committee on Uniform Security Identification Procedures) numbers were introduced. You can research your stock using the CUSIP number listed on it. You may also be able to find the transfer agent for a stock on the company's investor information page of their website.

Older stocks are harder to evaluate by yourself, unless you are fortunate enough to have a certificate from a company that is still in business today. Sometimes companies have merged and the stock for a defunct company may even have value. Stocks may have split over the years and your certificate may actually be worth more. Checking your old stock certificates may be an interesting project to take on while we are all sheltering in place. You may even get lucky and find that you have stock worth millions.

I have found that online auctions continue to bring strong prices despite the current health crisis. We are currently cataloging an online auction of antique paintings, gold jewelry, sterling silver, coins, vintage sports memorabilia, comic books and other valuable items. You can call or email us for no-contact options for consigning your items.

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# OBITUARIES

## Sheila V. Noonan, 93

AUBURN- Sheila V. (Sheehan) Noonan, 93, died Wednesday, April 29 in Care One at Millbury, due to complications with the Covid-19 virus.



She leaves her sons; John J. Noonan and his wife Wallis of Rutland and James E. Noonan and his wife Caren of No.Grafton, her daughters; Sheila V. Noonan of Worcester, Patricia A. Ianotta of Auburn, Mary T. Sjoblad and her husband John of Worcester and Anne M. Carroll and her husband Mark of Charlton, grandchildren; Edward, Christian, Megan, Jennifer, Michelle, Erin, Kayla, Jill, Derrick, Jenn and Sarah. Great grandchildren; Lily, Owen, Jason, Allison, Michael, Kayleigh, Delaney, Isabella, Gabriella, Aiden, Roman, Trisha, Renee, Sydney and Taylor. Her nephews John and Tommy Maloney. She is predeceased by her four brothers;

Jacky, Thomas, Jeremiah and Maurice Sheehan and her three sisters, Anna & Mary Sheehan and Eileen Maloney.

She was born in Worcester, the daughter of Jeremiah and Mary (Wallace) Sheehan. She was a member of St. Joseph's Church in Auburn. She enjoyed spending time with her children, family and especially her grandchildren. She loved Bingo, The Lifetime Channel and their many love stories. She was proud of her Irish heritage and loved to listen to Irish music. She looked forward to her yearly vacation to Maine, taking rides by the ocean and shopping.

Due to health restrictions, funeral services and burial in St. John's Cemetery, Worcester are private for the immediate family.

The MORIN FUNERAL HOME, 1131 Main St., Leicester is assisting the family with arrangements. Due to this difficult time, please consider making memorial donations to Worcester County Food Bank, 474 Turnpike Rd., Shrewsbury, MA 01545 or Feeding America, P.O. Box 96749, Washington, DC 20090-6749.

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## Jason Nicholas King. 37

Jason Nicholas King of Ashford, CT. 37, went to be with his Lord on April 27th, 2020.



Jason was born April 7th, 1983 in New Haven, CT to Peter and Melinda Basto King. A 2001 graduate of Woodstock Academy, he worked as a skilled carpenter and became versed in plumbing and electrical. He made his home in Maine, Rhode Island, East Killingly, Eastford and Ashford. Jason was a gentle soul, always eager to say a kind word and lend a helping hand. Nature was his

soul mate. In the woods with Ox, his loving golden lab, was where he felt most comfortable.

Jason is survived by his parents, Peter (Springfield, Ma) and Melinda King (Ashford, Ct.) His brothers, Peter (Woodstock CT) and Brandon King (Eastford, CT) and his Grandparents, Dana Basto (Woodstock, CT) and Marieann MacGinnis (Auburn, MA).

Due to current pandemic limitations Jason's Memorial Service will be scheduled at a later date. Interment at the discretion of the family. In lieu of flowers, donations in Jason's memory may be made to: The Evangelical Christian Ctr., 574 Ashford Center Road, Ashford, CT 06278.

## Irene A. Barry, 91

WORCESTER- Irene A. (Klimaski) Barry, 91, died Thursday, April 30, at Summit ElderCare, with her family by her side. She leaves



a son, Richard Barry and his wife Maureen, of Shrewsbury, 3 daughters; Kathryn Ducey and her husband David, of Whitinsville, Anne Barry and her husband Raymond Giumentaro, of Dudley, and Patricia Banafato and her husband Brian, of Durham, NH; 14 grandchildren: Katelyn Ahern, Christopher and Courtney Barry, Michael, Nicholas, Erin and Patrick Ducey, Juliana, Anthony and Adrian Giumentaro, and Jessica, Melanie, Talia and Brendan Banafato; 2 great grandsons; Rowan Ahern and Jaidev Giumentaro; her sisters-in-law Margaret Klimaski, of Berlin and Helen Haughey, of Framingham and many nieces and nephews. Mrs. Barry was preceded in death by her husband, Richard (Dick) C. Barry, in 1978, her brother Charles Klimaski and sister Genevieve Dymek.

A daughter of Thomas and Josephine (Oleszewski) Klimaski, Irene was born May 9, 1928 in Worcester and graduated from Saint Mary's High School and the former Salter Secretarial School.

She lived more than 50 years in Auburn, where she and Dick raised their family. Most recently she resided at Notre Dame du lac Assisted Living. Mrs. Barry retired from First Service Insurance, in Worcester, where she worked for many years as a customer service representative.

Mrs. Barry enjoyed socializing and taking day trips with her family and friends, lunches with her "insurance group ladies", the Boston Red Sox and shopping. She especially loved spending time with her grandchildren as much as possible. She was a woman of strong faith and a life-long member of Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish. The family would like to thank the staff at Notre Dame du lac Assisted Living and Summit Eldercare, Grove St., for the outstanding and compassionate care she received.

Burial in Saint John's Cemetery, Worcester, is private. A Memorial Mass will be held at a date to be announced. In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Irene may be made to Notre Dame du lac Assisted Living - Harmony Unit, 555 Plantation St, Worcester, 01605, and/or Summit Eldercare, 288 Grove St. Worcester, 01606. Arrangements are in the care of Carr Funeral Home, 24 Hill St., Whitinsville. To leave a condolence for the family, please visit [www.carrfuneralhome.com](http://www.carrfuneralhome.com)

## Kay King, 81

HUBBARDSVILLE, NY- Kay King, 81 passed away peacefully on April 13, 2020. She was preceded in death by her husband Richard H. King, granddaughter Patricia Rae King, one brother, and two sisters.

She is survived by her sister Ann Wood of Washington, her five children Veronica Roden, Richard H. King II, Raymond King, Kurt King, Kimberly Reed, 15 grandchildren, and 11 great grandchildren.

Kay raised her family in Terrebonne, OR. before moving to Auburn, MA. in 1986 to run the family store King's Spa. After the loss of her husband she moved to Hubbardsville, NY. to live near her youngest daughter.

Kay was a private person with the kindest and biggest heart. She always

seemed to have a smile on her face and found joy in the smallest things. Kay was a huge RedSox fan and would stay up all different hours just to see them play.

It was always Kay's wish to be able to remember her life and the wonderful people as well as friends she met along the way. Kay's wish was granted. Kay will be laid to rest with her husband at Oakridge Cemetery in Southbridge, MA. at a later date to be announced. There will be no calling hours.

Please send any condolences, cards, donations, etc to her family at: Kimberly Reed 8759 Wratten Rd. Hubbardsville, New York 13355, where they will be accepted per her wishes. [www.sansoucyfuneral.com](http://www.sansoucyfuneral.com)

# Nostalgic Favorites from the Heirloom Garden

The delightfully heady scent of lilacs in bloom, lofty daylilies swaying in a summer breeze, and dainty purple Hosta buds rising above lush greenery - such are the things an heirloom garden is made of. Generations of New England gardens have been graced with the beauty and simplicity of these historic flowering plants. Poets have penned prose about them and artists have brushed their images for posterity. Heirloom flowers and plants invoke nostalgia, while providing both beauty and sentiment to an outdoor garden. Lilacs, Daylilies, and Hosta are perennial New England favorites. In some cases plants grown a century ago continue to thrive and bloom today, serving as living antiquities in the garden. Read on for a review of these historic New England plants.



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**Lilac** blooming. For optimum blooms, a lilac bush should be planted in areas that receive full sun (at least six hours per day). Lilacs like a slightly alkaline soil. Spread roots out vertically and cover with topsoil. A newly planted lilac bush should be kept well watered. Add a loose mulch above the roots to help with water absorption. Keep in mind different varieties of lilacs bloom at different times. When lilac flowers have finished blooming, prune the dead flowers back to just above where new buds are forming. Be prudent with pruning, as over cutting can result in a decrease of blooms next year.

**Lilac Uses**  
Lilac flowers have been known to treat liver problems, rheumatism, bronchitis, and bruises. The following is a published "recipe" for a topical rub claimed to aid in relieving the symptoms of bruising: Mix together one cup of lilac flowers and one half liter of vodka. Soak a compress and apply to bruises or wounds. Legend has it lilac drives away evil wherever it is planted or strewn. It is said that lilac bushes were planted on the homestead by colonists in an effort to protect the inhabitants from bad forces.

\*\*

### Hardy Hosta

Hosta plants are a common throughout the New England landscape. The plants abundant lush, green foliage and sprouting blue flowers have made them a favorite for over a century. Originally from Japan, the Hosta was brought to America from Europe in the mid 19th century. Doctor and botanist Englebort Kaempfer (1651-1715), is named as the pioneer researcher of Japanese plants, including Hosta, which led to the plants eventual import to this country. Hostas were an important element in the Victorian garden, a tradition that continues today as the border plant is often found along pathways to historic New England homes.

### Growing Hosta

The Hosta is a very self sufficient plant, requiring little or no sun, fertilizer, or tending. A shade tolerant plant, hostas are very low maintenance and easy to grow, making them a favorite for shady rock gardens, walkways and lawn borders. Little bell shaped blooms emerge from center spikes of the plant in summer. Hosta boasts a variety of different strains, offering various leaf size, texture and color, including an array of variegated leaves. While Hostas are known as shade plants, they should not be planted in deeply shaded areas. For best results, choose an area with morning sun and afternoon shade. Dig a hole one and a half times the width

of the root ball, as the plant's roots with grow and spread horizontally. Hostas grow and spread fast, making them a popular offering at spring garden club sales, as members typically divide and share their plants. Hostas are best divided in early spring as the plants are just beginning to sprout. Dig out the whole plant clump to separate the plants.

### Hosta

While Hosta is a gorgeous, lush plant, its usefulness may not be limited to its spectacular eye appeal. According to some gardeners, Hosta is an edible plant, with young leaves best enjoyed steamed in the same manner as dandelion greens.

\*\*

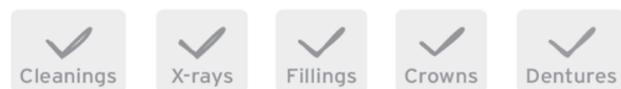
### Dazzling Daylilies

The historic orange Day Lily, which blooms but one day, is a common sight along New England back roads, flourishing within the confines of picket fenced yards as well as sprawling through countryside fields. Daylilies, originally from Asia, made their way to Europe and arrived in this country with the colonists where they became a backyard reminder of their homeland. Daylilies belong to the genus Hemerocallis, which translates from Greek to "beautiful for a day." While many new colors and varieties of the Day Lily are offered today, the heirloom

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# QCC students share stories at virtual legislative town hall

WORCESTER — The power, strength and resiliency of Quinsigamond Community College students was the highlight of a virtual Legislative Town Hall meeting held today for area state and local legislators. The event was set up to inform legislators of the impact the pandemic is having on QCC students, as well as enlighten them on the ways in which the College has rapidly stepped up to meet these unprecedented challenges.

Attendees to the event included Sen. Michael Moore; Sen. Harriette Chandler; Rep. Hannah Kane; Rep. Joseph McKenna; Rep. David LeBeouf;

Rep. Natalie Higgins; Aide to Senator Anne Gobi, Yael Langer, Rep. Jim O'Day; Aide to Rep. O'Day, Alexis Foley, QCC Board Chair Sue Mailman, QCC Foundation President Dr. Linda Maykel, QCC President Dr. Luis Pedraja, as well as QCC students, administrators and staff.

"I am really appreciative of the quick work that Quinsigamond Community College has done to adjust to the changing landscape. We are seeing more and more essential workers who we never thought of as essential. I am seeing many, many essential workers trained by Quinsigamond

and this really does amplify the importance of Quinsigamond Community College and the entire state college system," said Representative McKenna. "I have an appreciation for all that QCC has done."

QCC Student Government President Jorgo Gushi, along with the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society President Alexander Riopel and PTK Vice President of Leadership Tabitha Leber spoke of their experiences transitioning to remote instruction; the College's handling of the situation, as well as the impact of the health crisis on them and their classmates. QCC transi-

tioned to remote instruction in record time, while adapting its support services to fill its diverse student population needs. Mr. Gushi spoke of the quick transition to remote instruction and the rallying of the entire College to make the new mode of learning work for all, while continuing to keep students engaged and a part of the QCC community through an online student engagement portal.

Ms. Leber, a single mom to a young child who is now at home due to the closure of Worcester Public Schools, spends four to six hours teaching her daughter before doing her own full

course load of school work. She said she applauds the College and its faculty for the quick and thoughtful response to getting courses online, while making sure the remote mode of instruction worked with the students.

"Each professor has put all their coursework online in a way that works for them and their students. They have been outstanding in understanding our situations and working with us," she said. "I am incredibly grateful for all the college has done for us at this time."

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**OXFORD** – 10 Hugenot Rd! 8 Rm Colonial! 1.36 Acres! Country Setting! Country Kitchen w/Bay Window Overlooking Back Yard, Front to Back Living/Dining Rm w/French Doors to Deck! Office! Side Entry Breezeway! 3 Bdrms Plus a Study/Craft Rm on the 2nd Floor! 1 Car Detached Garage w/Workshop! Easy Access to Shopping and Highways! **\$179,000.00**

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**WOODSTOCK** – 9 Fawn Ridge! Renovated 4 Rm Townhouse! New Granite Kit w/SS Appliances! Kit & Liv Rm w/Hrdwds! 2 Comfortable Bdrms w/New Wall to Wall! New Full Bath! Freshly Painted Throughout! Lower Level w/Laundry & Storage, Able to Finish Additional Living Space! 2 Parking Spaces! **\$129,900.00**



**WEBSTER LAKE** – 62 Bates Point Rd! Middle Pond! Absolute Prime 51' Level Waterfront Lot w/Western Expo! Beautiful Sunsets! Fantastic Panoramic Lake Views! 11 Rms, 6 Bdrms, 4 Bathrooms, 3,269' A/C'd Colonial! Custom SS Appliance Granite Kit! Formal Din Rm w/Cherry Hrdwds! Lake Facing Liv Rm w/Cathedrals, Cherry Hrdwds! Slider to Waterfront Deck! Spacious 1st Flr Master Bdrm w/Full Bath, Cherry Hrdwds & Walk-in Closet! Frplcd Lower Level Fam Rm! 1st & 2nd Flr Laundries! 2 Car Garage! **\$1,199,900.00**

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## Oxford's Robert Kersting receives promotion at Westfield State University

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Professor Robert Kersting

WESTFIELD—Oxford resident Robert Kersting, Ph.D., a long-time professor in Westfield State University's Department of Social Work, has been appointed the University's interim provost and vice president for academic affairs. The appointment was announced at the April 30 Board of Trustees meeting by Westfield State President Ramon Torrecilha, Ph.D. Dr. Kersting will start his new role July 1.

According to President Torrecilha, Kersting, as the University's chief academic officer, will most immediately provide key oversight to critical academic initiatives and the planning for the University's upcoming New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) accreditation, as well as ongoing enhancements to the University's student engagement, achievement, and retention measures.

"Dr. Kersting's extensive institutional knowledge and demonstrated leadership with student-centered programs and initiatives and influential University committees position him well for success as provost on the University's executive leadership team," said President Torrecilha.

Kersting founded and directed Westfield State's highly-enrolled social work undergraduate and graduate degree programs. He continues to serve as director for the Master of Social Work (MSW) program, which offers classes at the YWCA in Worcester. In addition to his respected management with both programs, Kersting has provided valuable contributions to a lengthy portfolio of critical committees during his nearly 25 years at Westfield State. These include the Academic Policy Committee, Graduate Education Council, Science Center Building Steering Committee, Special

Committee on University Planning, Campus Technology Committee, Institutional Diversity Advisory Committee, and the 2016-17 Provost Search Committee, among others.

Prior to Westfield State, he taught at Bridgewater State College, Eastern Connecticut State University, and Rutgers University's Graduate School of Social Work. Beyond his teaching experience, he was a practicing social worker for 15 years.

Kersting's national professional affiliations include service on the Council for Social Work Education's (CSWE) Commission on Education Policy and the National Association of Social Work Massachusetts Chapter Board of Directors. He also serves as an accreditation site visitor for CSWE. His current areas of interest include social work practice with individuals and families, critical thinking, gerontology, and HIV/AIDS.

Kersting holds a Ph.D. in social work from Rutgers University in New Jersey, a Master of Social Work from Fordham University in New York, and a Bachelor of Arts in psychology, sociology, and social work from Hope College in Michigan.

He will assume the role of provost and vice president for academic affairs at Westfield State in July, following the service of current Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Diane Prusank, Ph.D.

"I thank and celebrate Provost Prusank's many achievements and contributions that have paved a path for Dr. Kersting to assume this important role. Her commitment to and exemplary leadership of the Division of Academic Affairs since 2018 will ensure the continued success of our formalized college structure and improved processes to benefit our students and the faculty and staff responsible for inspiring, educating, and supporting them," said President Torrecilha.

Founded in 1839 by Horace Mann, Westfield State University is an education leader committed to providing every generation of students with a learning experience built on its founding principle as the first public co-educational college in America to offer an education without barrier to race, gender, or economic status. This spirit of innovative thinking and social responsibility is forged in a curriculum of liberal arts and professional studies that creates a vital community of engaged learners who become confident, capable individuals prepared for leadership and service to society. For more information about Westfield State University, visit [www.westfield.ma.edu](http://www.westfield.ma.edu), [www.twitter.com/westfield-state](https://www.twitter.com/westfield-state), or <https://www.facebook.com/WestfieldStateUniversity>.

**QCC**  
continued from page A12

Mr. Riopel told of his financial struggles. H recently lost his job and still has to pay his bills, noting the increased financial need many students now have. Prior to the pandemic close to 50 percent of QCC students were struggling with food insecurity and that need is only increasing as the health crisis continues. The QCC Food Pantry and Resource Center has been addressing this need; however, with the State's stay at home orders in place, the food pantry has transitioned to a mobile operation, serving students once a week. To help support this initiative, a Student Emergency Fund was set up by the QCC Foundation and to date has raised over \$70,000, according to Dr. Maykel. Other ways in which the funding is being used include purchasing laptops for students

who cannot afford them, Internet access and scholarships.

During the meeting, Mr. Gushi read a note to the legislators from a student who had recently used the food pantry, in order to highlight the need and impact of that service.

"I have never been to a food pantry before and didn't know what to expect. I fasted for a few days and it was horrible, making me unable to do work and get my responsibilities done, but now having healthy food that's energizing, I feel like I can get back on track."

"Seeing the perseverance of your students is amazing," said Representative Kane, noting food insecurity is a top priority on the state level.

"QCC is always stepping up," Representative LeBeouf added.

For more information about QCC, contact Josh Martin, Director of Institutional Communications at 508-854-7513 or [jmartin@qcc.mass.edu](mailto:jmartin@qcc.mass.edu).



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**TRAINOR**  
continued from page A11

loom flowers of our ancestors are the orange Tawny Day Lily (Hemerocallis Fulva) and the yellow Lemon Day Lily (Hemerocallis Lilasphodelus). Daylilies were another mainstay of the Victorian garden, often lining a path through a garden gate or walkway. The familiar orange Day Lily still serves as nature's mark of summer today. In New England, the tubular's blooms begin to open between the start of school summer vacation and 4th of July. (Much to her delight, the first blooms coincide with our daughter Katie's July 2nd birthday each year.)

**Growing Daylilies**  
The Day Lily is easily established, growing quick and vigorously. It enjoys full sun, which will maximize blooms, but adapts to light shade well. Daylilies are tolerant of most soils, but do best in ground that is slightly acidic. The plants should be well tilled and hole should be large enough to accommodate roots without crowding. When planting, be sure the crown of the plant is at least an inch below the ground and water thoroughly. The plant is hardy and very forgiving, usually flourishing with little effort. Daylilies grow and multiply vigorously, so they should be divided about every three years. Divide and transplant plants in early spring or just after

flowering. Be sure divisions have two to three stems or leaves with roots intact.  
**Day Lily Uses**  
The flowers of Daylilies are edible, and are typically served cooked in Asian dishes and soups. \*\*\*  
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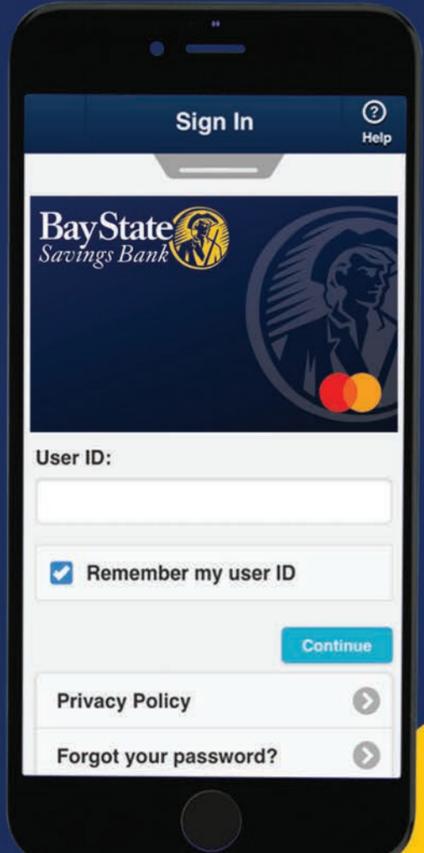
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