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Friday, April 10, 2020

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Photo Courtesy

The Auburn Police Department recently posted this playful 'selfie' on its Twitter feed to encourage residents to maintain the recommended six feet of social distancing when interacting in public.

## NOTE TO READERS

This week's edition of the paper might seem a bit smaller than you are accustomed to, but rest assured, this is only temporary. Due to the unique circumstances we are all living under at the present time, local sporting events and community activities have wisely been canceled as we all try to stay closer to home and practice social distancing.

As we ride out this temporary interruption of life as usual together, we urge you to continue supporting the local businesses that advertise in your newspaper. They have always been here for you through good times and bad, and now, more than ever, they need you to be there for them in any way you can.

Amid this temporary absence of local events and municipal meetings, we are also looking to celebrate the many quiet heroes in our communities who have gone above and beyond to make this situation easier for those most affected by it. Let us know if there is someone in your community who you think should be recognized by e-mailing news@stonebridgepress.news.

Above all, know that we have been your trusted source for local news for generations, and we plan to be here for you to generations to come, in print and online at www. stonebridgepress.com.

## Frost encourages donations to local food pantries

REGION — Rep. Paul K. Frost (R-Auburn) is encouraging district residents to donate to their local food bank/pantry services as the need for assistance grows amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Frost also encourages those in need to to seek out and utilize these food banks.

Frost said, "It's always a good thing to donate to food banks but the COVID-19 pandemic and the social distancing practices make it more difficult for those in need to get food and supplies. Demand for these local services will increase and we can come together in this time of crisis to help our neighbors in trouble."

Please see details below by town for how to get assistance or make a contribution during this challenging time for our communities. There are spe-cific requirements to follow to receive support or drop off donations. Requests for certain items are also listed which Frost's office obtained directly from the food banks.

Town of Auburn

Auburn Youth & Family Services

21 Pheasant Court, Auburn, MA

Phone: 508-832-7677

10 am to 4 pm - Monday to Friday

Call Ahead

Assistance: Actively offering assistance to those in need by making boxes of food available via curbside pick-up. Auburn residents should call ahead to arrange a time to stop by at their convenience.

Donations: For those looking to contribute to the effort, the specific needs are cereal, peanut butter and jelly, boxed pasta, canned goods, and all non-perishable items. Donations are welcome during business hours and can be left inside the front door of the building.

Meals on Wheels: Elder Services' Meals on Wheels is still operating. Phone: 508-756-1545

- Town of Millbury The Millbury Senior Center 1 River Street, Millbury, MA
- Phone: 508-865-9154
- 9 am to 3 pm Monday to Friday

Call Ahead

Assistance: Millbury Senior Center is offering curbside pick-up of food at 1 River Street. Millbury residents should call

Please Read PANTRIES, page A7

## Alicia Murphy of Auburn inducted into

## Nichols College donates protective gear to Dudley FD

#### **BY JASON BLEAU** CORRESPONDEN

DUDLEY – While the COVID-19 pandemic has brought about many kind and thoughtful gestures nationwide, some of the most generous donations have been directed towards hospitals and first responders. In order to stay safe and reduce risk of exposure to the coronavirus, medical personnel and emergency responders must wear personal protective equipment, or PPE, while on duty but, as has been highly publicized nationwide, many of these entities have run short on these essential supplies.

In Dudley, the town's Fire Department started to run low on equipment in March but thanks to numerous local businesses and entities the department is now better equipped to handle the pandemic and keep its emergency responders safe from exposure. Among those donating to the department was Nichols College, which is housed on Center Road in Dudley. Upon hearing Fire Chief Dean Kochanowski's

Please Read DONATION, page A7



Dudley Fire Chief Dean Kochanowski accepts a donation of PEE gear from Nichols College.

## Psi Chi Honor Society

W O R C E S T E R - Assumption's Department of Psychology has announced that Alicia Murphy, of Auburn, has become a member of Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology. Murphy, Class of 2021, was inducted into the honor society during the 2019-20 academic year.

"We are honored to induct some of the top psychology majors and minors at Assumption College into Psi Chi, including Alicia," said Assistant Professor of Psychology Leamarie Gordon, Ph.D., who is a co-advisor of the honor society along with Assistant Professor of Psychology Karen Lionello-DeNolf, Ph.D. "An invitation to join Psi Chi signifies that each inductee has not only exceeded academic requirements, but is also committed to the practice of compassionate service in the pursuit of helping others,

which are core values shared by both an Assumption education and a career in psychology.

Psi Chi was founded with the purpose of encouraging, stimulating, and maintaining excellence in scholarship, and advancing the science of psychology. Membership is open to graduate and undergraduates, of sophomore, junior, or senior academic standing, who major or minor in psychology. Inductees must have completed nine semester hours of psychology courses, rank in the top 35 percent of their class, and have a minimum grade point average of 3.25. Members of Psi Chi have the opportunity to submit scholarly articles to the Psi Chi Journal of Psychological Research, apply for research grants, and attend and present at regional and national con-

Please Read MURPHY, page A7

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS **SUSPENDED**

With many local groups and organizations wisely canceling planned events due to the ongoing coronavirus outbreak, we have temporarily suspended publication of our weekly calendar of events. Once the current situation settles down, we will return to being your go-to source for the area's most comprehensive listing of local events and activities.

## Frost, Moore announce Legislature's response to COVID-19 outbreak



BOSTON — Rep. Paul K. Frost (R-Auburn) and Senator Michael O. Moore (D-Millbury) announce Governor Baker has signed into law legislation passed by both the Massachusetts House and Senate to address the COVID-19 outbreak in the Commonwealth on Friday, April 3.

The bill, An Act to address challenges faced by municipalities and state authorities resulting from COVID-19, was designed to assist municipal governments with the continued operation of essential services for residents as Massachusetts faces the impact of the global pandemic. The new law affords flexibility for communities to conduct business under the considerable constraints imposed by the State of Emergency declared by the Governor on March 10.

In an effort to help local businesses suffering from the temporary ban on dining-in, restaurants and bars holding liquor licenses are now allowed to sell beer and wine

to customers ordering take-out food. In accordance with recent changes to the federal tax filing deadline, the state's personal income tax filing deadline has been extended from April 15 to July 15 this year. Town moderators have been granted the authority to declare a recess or

Please Read RESPONSE, page A7



## Second Chance founder publishes new book

BROOKFIELD — Last Saturday should have been a night of support and celebration for Second Chance. It was also to be the book launch of "Walking Off Leash" written by Sheryl Blancato and her husband, Joe Blancato, Sr. When the event was postponed in light of the current COVID-19 situation, the Blancatos decided to release the book online.

Joe Blancato began writing the book almost eight years ago to capture the stories that Sheryl told him throughout the years.

"I don't think Sheryl ever fully understood the magnitude of all she has done," says Joe who notes that the Second Chance founder works round the clock in the name of animals and rarely has a moment to look back at her accomplishments.

Sheryl Blancato, a self-described "reluctant autobiographer" who is still surprised that anyone would want to read her story, only agreed to publish the book so she could donate 100 percent of the proceeds to Second Chance to help pets in need.

According to Sheryl, "Right now, the need is great. It's imperative that we keep our vet hospitals and our adoption center open for all the pets and pet owners who truly need help."

Sheryl hopes the book proceeds can help defray all the extra costs of keeping the doors open with mounting supply costs as a result of all the extra precautions put in place to safeguard the health of visitors and staff alike.

The book, subtitled "How Passion and Dedication Inspired an Animal Welfare Revolution" chronicles the nonprofit's evolution from a small, foster-based shelter to the animal welfare organization that serves as a role model across the country by focusing on the causes of animal homelessness instead of simply dealing with the aftermath. It begins with the origins of Sheryl's love of animals in her early childhood and closes with a chapter entitled

"The Journey Continues." In between, readers watch the small shelter grow and follow Sheryl on her heartbreaking rescue mission after Hurricane Katrina.

Second Chance board member Heather Gablaski helped pen the book's back cover to let readers know the book is about more than animal welfare. "It is the story of someone who didn't take 'no' for an answer and found she needed to travel 'unleashed' if she was going to accomplish her goal."

"Walking Off Leash" is available in paperback and eBook on Amazon. Signed copies will be available at Second Chance locations when it's safe to permit visitors back into buildings without restrictions.

Photo Courtesy

Co-authors Sheryl Blancato and Joe Blancato, Sr.





Quaboag

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For our elder community members a few things that you can do at home to keep yourselves safe...

- Restrict visitors Visit loves ones through the window, outside while remaining at least
   6 feet apart or video chat when possible.
- Call your local senior center or Tri-Valley Elder Services if you need help with services or obtaining groceries/meals.
- Call your local grocery stores to find elder shopping hours and only shop during that time period.
- Wash your hands frequently with hot soapy water.
- Stay home as much as possible.

We want to thank all of our dedicated staff for taking care of our residents in every department. We appreciate you all so very much and are humbled by your dedication. #strongertogether

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## Thomas Bartholomew of Bartholomew & Company named among nations top financial advisors

WORCESTER — Bartholomew & Company, a leading provider of financial planning and wealth management services in Worcester, Massachusetts, announced that Thomas J. Bartholomew, AIF® has been named to Barron's list of America's top 1,200 Financial Advisors for 2020. The list is published on barrons.com1. This is the seventh consecutive year that Mr. Bartholomew has been named to this list.

According to Barron's, a leading financial publication, the ranking reflects America's best financial advisors, organized by state.2 List makers are determined based on data provided by approximately 4,000 of the nation's most productive advisors. In its ranking, Barron's considers assets under management, revenue produced for the firm, regulatory record, quality of practice and philanthropic work.

"I am pleased to have been named to this prestigious list—a recognition that, to us, speaks to our firm's commitment to meeting the financial planning and investment needs of each of our clients," said Mr. Bartholomew. "I am grateful for the trust our clients place in us, and we remain committed to providing the guidance and support they need to achieve their unique financial goals."

About Bartholomew & Company

Bartholomew & Company, has been providing individuals and organizations with financial guidance since 1994. Located at 370 Main Street, Worcester, MA, with branch offices in Chatham and Bedford, MA, Bartholomew & Company's advisors pride themselves on crafting unique strategies for each client. For more information, please visit www.bartandco.com. Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser.

To compile its annual list,\* Barron's,

a leading financial publication, uses data provided by some of the nation's most productive advisors. Barron's takes a number of criteria into account for this state-by-state ranking, including assets under management; revenues generated by advisors for their firms; quality of practices, which includes examination of regulatory records; and philanthropic work. Overall, 4,000 advisors were considered, and 1,200 (30 percent of candidates) were recognized. The list includes both Registered Investment Advisers and Investment Adviser Representatives; some states may include more advisors than others, in proportion to state populations.

\*This award is not indicative of the wealth manager's future performance. Your experience may vary. Investment performance is not a criterion.



**Thomas Bartholomew** 

## Evangelidis opposes mass release of inmates

REGION — "As Sheriff of Worcester County, and in unanimous agreement with my fellow sheriffs, I strongly oppose the Emergency Petition calling for the mass release of incarcerated persons from Massachusetts prisons that is currently pending before the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court," said Worcester County Sheriff Lewis Evangelidis last week.

'Filed by the Committee for Public Counsel Services and the Massachusetts Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, this petition calls for the immediate mass release of Massachusetts prisoners relative to the COVID-19 pandemic. If approved, this would lead to a mass release of many dangerous criminals, posing an enormous threat to the public health and safety of our community-at-large. In addition, many will be returning to unstable environments. Sheriffs always prepare our inmate populations for successful release by focusing on housing, medical and programming needs. It is this step-down reentry process, as opposed to mass-release, that protects the public, victims of crimes and the inmates themselves," Evangelidis continued.

"The Sheriffs, along with our District Attorneys, local judicial authorities, the department of probation and defense attorneys are currently reviewing our inmate populations to determine if any individuals are appropriate for early release. Our local authorities are best positioned to determine what is in the best interest of the public health and safety of our community and the inmate. These decisions are based on the charges, criminal history, age and health of the inmate, as well as re-entry support networks available. "Any decision by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, which would order the mass release of inmates as opposed to a case by case review, would not only jeopardize the public-at-large but in some cases, inmates themselves," said Evangelidis.

The Massachusetts Sheriffs are committed to serving the communities they are sworn to protect. This responsibility includes the health and well-being of their justice-involved populations and the dedicated men and women on their teams of corrections professionals. Every sheriff sees it as their duty to ensure that the public safety and public health needs of all who live and work within their facilities are fully met. That responsibility only grows during global emergencies, and the sheriffs are meeting the COVID-19 pandemic head-on. The Massachusetts Sheriffs and their staff are working tirelessly to safely manage their staff and inmate populations and to curb the spread of COVID-19 to their county jails and houses

of correction. They provide an exceptional level of care in their facilities, and are prepared for public health scenarios such as this. The sheriffs have implemented proactive and strategic steps to limit the transmission of COVID-19 including:

✤ Providing in-service training on infectious diseases and emergency preparedness for staff before, during and after this crisis.

• Deploying enhanced intake screening protocols to evaluate new arrivals for symptoms of COVID-19 and limit potential transmission.

Providing a high level of medical care for all individuals while employing specific protocols when potential or confirmed cases of COVID-19 arise.

✤ Engagement with medical experts from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) and the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) to ensure that their medical practices are maximally effective and responsive to the COVID-19 pandemic.

✤ Encouraging staff and their justice-involved populations to follow the CDCrecommended practices regarding handwashing, social distancing, continuous sanitizing of facilities and general transmission prevention. Signage has increased throughout the facilities to serve as a reminder of these practices.
Enhancing screening of

staff entering the facility.Temporarily suspending

in-person visits for families and friends while enhancing alternative means of communication. This includes a range of options such as additional phone calls, mail services or, where available, increased access to text messaging and video conferencing.

✤ Working with the courts, enhancing videoconferencing and teleconferencing technology to ensure that an inmate's access to the court is continued.

"At the Worcester County Jail & House of Correction, we have one 119 bed housing unit set aside in response to the COVID-19 crisis. All new non-symptomatic admissions to the Worcester County Correctional Facility are housed in the unit on an Observation Medical Watch, and monitored by medical for symptoms of COVID-19 for a period of fourteen (14) days. As a precaution, during the fourteen (14) day quarantine, new inmate movement is limited. These inmates are permitted out of the cell for a shower and phone use only. In addition,

a separate housing unit has been designated for any inmate exhibiting signs or symptoms of COVID 19. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) has been placed into POD-D for officer safety. To allow all inmates to communicate with their family members, free phone calls are available. As of today, there are no confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19 among the inmates at the Worcester County Jail & House of Correction," said Sheriff Evangelidis.



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

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

If you find a mistake, call (508) 909-4106 or email news@stonebridgepress.news during normal business hours. During non-business

hours, leave a message in the editor's voice mailbox. The editor will return your phone call.

## QCC awarded National Science Foundation grant

W O R C E S T E R - Quinsigamond Community College (QCC) was recently awarded a \$298,108 National Science Foundation (NSF) Grant for a new Robotics Technician Certificate program. The program will be designed to offer a curriculum that supports technical communication, teaches problem-solving skills and offers a strong integration of industry-recognized certifications. Underrepresented QCC student populations that participate in QCC's existing robotics community outreach programs will directly benefit from the program. Additionally, other beneficiaries targeted include 400 pre-college and undergraduate students, who have demonstrated interest in robotics technology

Robotics education is not a new concept at QCC. It is already a part of the College's manufacturing and mechatronics



programs. According to Jacob Longacre, associate professor of Electronics Engineering Technology at QCC, the new Robotics Technician Certificate will be based on input from industries within the region, as well as local high schools and four-year institution educators. The hope is for the new certificate program to act as a conduit between K-12 robotics outreach programs.

"We want to be sensitive to

industries' needs, how things are changing, and bring more of that interest and need to the program," "Mr. Longacre said.

While QCC faculty and staff have already begun reaching out to industry leaders, the grant funding will now enable QCC to formally begin a comprehensive fact-finding process. This summer, QCC will establish a local business and industry lead-

Turn To **GRANT** page A5



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## *Freelance Writer WANTED*

The Auburn News has an immediate opening for a local correspondent interested in producing two to three news stories each week focused on interesting people, places, events, and activities around town and in our local schools.

The ideal candidate for this position will have a familiarity with the area and a flexible schedule enabling them to cover occasional events or municipal meetings on nights and weekends. Compensation will be provided on a per-story basis in an amount commensurate with experience. Interested applicants are encouraged to send a resume and writing samples to Editor Brendan Berube at news@stonebridgepress.news.

## Local company steps up to clean playground equipment

### BY JASON BLEAU CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON - With the COVID-19 pandemic demanding social distancing and the avoidance of even small crowds, playgrounds across the region have been left untouched and unutilized to ensure the safety and health of local youth and their families. However, when kids do return to their beloved play places, they will find them clean and refreshed thanks to volunteer efforts from Paragon Power Washing.

The local business, owned by David Cantwell, has been donating time and resources to towns and schools to clean playgrounds while youngsters are unable to use the facilities as their way of giving back to the communities that have supported them as a business for so long. Cantwell said he was inspired to donate his time locally after seeing similar efforts from business owners across the country on Facebook.

We did one for the town of Charlton then Brookfield and we posted them online to let people know we were out doing some good stuff. Then Dudley called me, and Leicester called me, and I got calls from Webster and Oxford. It was just kind of a trickle effect and it's just a good feeling to be able to give back to the community and the people who have supported me for so long,' Cantwell said.

As of the writing of this article, Paragon Power Washing had cleaned playgrounds as Dudley Elementary



Courtesy Photos

Paragon Power Washing cleans off the playground at Dudley Elementary School.

School, Mason Road Elementary School, Leicester Elementary School and Integrated Pre School, the Charlton Community Playground, Heritage School, Charlton Elementary School, Lewis Field and Brookfield Elementary School with projects in Webster and Oxford still on their schedule.

For Cantwell, who grew up and lives locally, his efforts aren't simply a way to spread his business name. For him it's all about giving back to a community that has given him so much and one that he has called home for his whole life.

"It's important for people to know



The Charlton Community Playground gets a proper cleaning.

there are those out there not only still working but trying to make a different no matter how small that difference might be. We're all trying to do our part to help where we can and this is what we can provide to help make a difference." Cantwell said.

While it might still be some time before local children get to enjoy the playgrounds again, thanks to Paragon Power Washing parents can rest assured when the time comes that their kids will return to a clean, sanitized and beautiful play place when all goes back to normal.

## **Registry of Motor Vehicles extends renewal deadlines**

BOSTON - The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) is continuing to take several important steps following Governor Charlie Baker's declaration of a State of Emergency the week of March 9 and to complement the work that has been underway for weeks across state government to keep residents safe and healthy.

Effective today, April 1, all of the passenger plate registrations that have expired in March or will be expiring in April have been extended for 60 days. Registrations that expired in March have been extended until May 31 and registrations that expire in April have been extended until June 30th. Registration renewals can continue to be performed online at Mass.Gov/ RMV during this time. Customers seeking to do so in-person will not be able to make an appointment and should delay their visit to a Service Center at this time.

In addition, the RMV recently has implemented key changes to service delivery and organizational protocols as follows:

• Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the RMV has implemented a strict no walk-in policy at a limited number of Service Centers that remain open to the general public. Service for necessary in-person transactions is available by appointment only. Customers should visit Mass.Gov/RMV to make a reservation at an open Service Center or find information on over 40 transactions that can be conducted online, by phone, or by mail.

All Driver's Licenses, ID cards, and Learner's Permits, including Commercial Licenses & Permits, that have expired or are expiring between March 1 and April 30 have had a 60-day extension applied to the current expiration date and do not need to be renewed at this time. This does not apply to customers whose end of stay in the United States is the same as the expiration date on their Driver's License, ID card, or Learner's Permit. CDL Medical Certificates that expire on or after March 1 until April 30 will be extended until June 30th to prevent license downgrades and elective medical visits, as well as alleviate demand on medical providers.

The annual motor vehicle safety and emissions inspection stickers that expire on March 31 and April 30 have been extended 60 days and all motorcycle inspection stickers originally set

to expire on May 31 must be inspected by June 30. The RMV is also extending the time during which newly registered vehicles must be inspected based on the purchase date.

In addition, the RMV has suspended all road tests through April 12. Class D and M Learner's Permits knowledge exams have been suspended indefinitely. Commercial Learner's Permit tests are available to be taken at the Milford and Wilmington RMV Service Centers during normal business hours and commercial road tests continue to occur.

For details on all of these extensions and additional information on RMV services and the RMV's response to COVID-19, visithttps://www.mass.gov/ info-details/rmv-covid-19-information.

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## Oxford police procedures 'changed drastically' by Covid-19

### BY GUS STEEVES CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD - The pandemic has sparked quite a bit of activity in Oxford, according to Town Manager Jen Callahan.

Speaking to last week's remotely-held selectmen's meeting, she led off with a point that will affect - hopefully positively - most Massachusetts communities. On March 28, the federal government included the state in its Covid-19 disaster declaration, making it possible for towns to get reimbursed for various kinds of pandemic-related expenses.

That will probably be some time coming, though.

'This is not a sprint; it will be a marathon," she said, noting Oxford had its first two official virus cases shortly before the meeting.

Some of the pandemic aid is already coming, at least from the state. Besides formally applying for authority to deficit spend, she noted Oxford recently received \$10,000 from the state Department of Public Health for case surveillance and monitoring and is seeking funds to beef up local public health nursing capacity. Additionally, the schools are ramping up their ability to provide students with breakfast and lunch by curbside pickup, and the local Food Shelf pantry has been offering similar help for non-students in need.

Quite a few locals - individuals and businesses - have come forward to donate protective equipment of various kinds, including gowns, gloves, masks, safety glasses and face shields, she said.

"As days go by, it's becoming more and more apparent ... the kinds of things we need,' Callahan said.

Most of those items are going to the police or fire departments, which have both changed numerous practices to deal with the pandemic.

"The way that business is conducted has changed drastically here," observed Police Chief Tony Saad.

Among other things, he said officers are being required to decontaminate cruisers every shift; the department is screening calls to determine if they need a physical response or just phone calls; and they've set up a buzz-in system for visitors plus a drop-off box for paperwork such as pistol permit applications. Additionally, they're working "to limit con-tact if possible" by issuing more summonses rather than arresting people, and waiting outside for ambulances to arrive to some calls before entering houses, he said.

But the most notable change may be the fact they're now conducting bail hearings and arraignments at the station via conference call with judges, lawyers and other key personnel. If the judge orders a person held, the House of Correction is dispatching a van to pick them up, Saad said.

He also noted reduced traffic has meant fewer accidents, and public support is high..

"Overall, people seem to be pretty good respecting this epidemic we're going through," he said. "... Everybody knows the situation we're in as first responders."

Fire Chief Laurent McDonald said his department has reopened the North Oxford station, both to shorten response

times in that part of town and to avoid cross-contamination if someone gets exposed to the virus. He said he ordered six thermometers (but had yet to receive them) to enable staff to check themselves for fevers twice daily. So far, it's "on the honor system," and a couple people did stay home recently.

Callahan said the recent mandated business closures raised some concerns regarding the town's biggest employer, IPG, so town staff visited it. It's considered an "essential provider" because it makes things for both the medical industry and military, but has had to furlough some staff, make other work from home, and institute various preventive measures on those still working on-site, she noted.

She also raised an issue many may not have thought of. Local Animal Control is recommending families designate two or three caretakers for their pets, have food and medicine on hand, and stick a written list of them plus doses on their door so first responders can find it, should they "go to the hospital or need to leave abruptly" because of the pandemic.

Additionally, Callahan said she's working with the state on potentially using the closed Pine Street nursing home as a local/regional "lower level or step-down [pandemic] treatment facility" in case Worcester sites get overwhelmed. She added the Legislature approved a bill allowing towns with property taxes due April 1 to delay them until May 4 and to waive late-payment interest/penalties through June 1.

In other business, the board approved allowing Chief Saad to handle the lateral transfer of a police officer who wants to return to Oxford. Officer Roy Aquafresca served here from 2013-17 before going to Millbury, he said. He also announced a commendation for Officer Ryan Kasik for his part in a State Trooper's traffic stop in March, where Kasik saw an illegal gun in the car, leading to the driver's arrest on that and drug charges.

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

## School employee tests positive for COVID-19

#### **BY JASON BLEAU**

DUDLEY/CHARLTON - The COVID-19 pandemic has hit home for Dudley and Charlton once again with the announcement from both towns and their school district that a staff member of the Dudley Charlton Regional School District has tested positive for the virus.

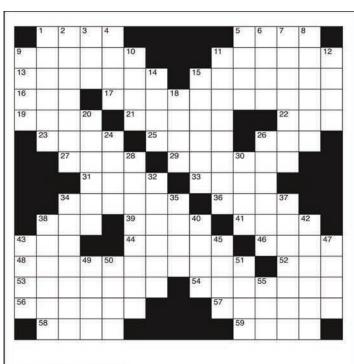
In a joint statement from Charlton Town Administrator Andrew Golas, Dudley Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda and school district Superintendent Steven Lamarche, it was revealed that a positive test was delivered to the unnamed staff member on Tuesday, March 31. The employee reported the diagnosis to the Dudley and Charlton Boards of Health on their own. For privacy the individual has remained unnamed. In the press release, the joint statement noted that schools in the district had been closed to students since March 18 and that nonessential personnel were to remain home as of March 23. Teachers were invited back into the school om March 30 to retrieve resources for at-home teaching. The infected individual was confirmed to have been a teacher who entered one of the schools during this time. "The individual diagnosed with COVID-19 was among those present at Dudley Elementary school, retrieving resources to prepare for the extended closure. Since Monday, March 30th, the DCRSD schools have been closed to teachers and non-essential staff. On Tuesday, upon learning of the March 30 brief admittance of Dudley Elementary School staff

to retrieve resources, the Town of Dudley Board of Health Agent and officials, district school officials and Charlton Board of Health discussed the immediate steps being taken by the school district to address the risks the exposure may have presented," the press release stated.

The steps laid out include the complete closure of Dudley Elementary School to all staff with a third party being brought in to disinfect the entire school. Charlton Elementary School, Heritage School, Dudley Middle School, Dudley Elementary School and Mason Road Elementary School have also been closed to all personnel until further notice. These schools will all be disinfected by personnel trained for mitigation of the infection. After the cleaning is complete the district central office will remain open to essential employees only. Shepherd Hill Regional High School and Charlton Middle School will remain open as distribution locations for the grab-n-go lunch program and school business. Both schools are electrostatically sanitized every week and disinfected daily. The staff member in question who has contracted the virus has also been put in contact

with a health nurse that serves both towns.

"Both towns will follow essential protocols of contact tracing and next steps. We continue to stress the need for physical distancing, washing of your hands, and if you do not feel well to reach out to your doctor via telephone and follow their guidance. Please continue to follow the Governor's Stay at Home advisory," the joint press released stated. "Both towns agree and will continue to take the appropriate steps to notify those with any potential exposure though contact tracing and stand ready to provide assistance to those in need. We appreciate the steps taken by the DCRSD Administration to mitigate this situation and will continue to work with them and the Town of Dudley towards keeping our communities safe during this public health



#### **CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Canadian law enforcers
- 5. Actor Idris
- 9. Cut or bruise
- 11. Vegetables 13. Aircraft delivery
- 15. To make obsolete
- 16. Things similar to those
- already noted
- Columbus is a f uis one 19. Age group 21. Denotes nature of sound 22. Klutz 23. Uninteresting 53. Widens 25. Computer manufacturer 54. Detection 26. 2,000 lbs. 27. Genus of seabirds 29. Emerges 31 Baseball stat 59. Urinates 33. Witnesses
- 34. Observed 36. Satisfy
- 38. Former OSS
- 39. Small Eurasian deer
- 41. Wife of Sparta's king
- 43. Ballplayer accessory 44. Temporary cessation of breathing
  - 46. Where construction workers
  - ply their trad 48. Arguments that justify a religious doctrine 52. Thick cloud of tiny water droplets

#### GRANT continued from page A3

ership team for robotics, to identify and prioritize the skills desired by local employers. The goal is to have the pilot program tested and in place within three years.

One key component to the program is finding ways in which to engage and inspire students in the world of STEM, particularly those students in middle and high school. For many years QCC has been involved with the VEX Robotics programs. These programs and competitions target high school and middle school students, in an effort to increase interest in STEM from an early age.

"These programs expand students' interest in STEM and connects those students who may not have these types of technology opportunities," Mr. Longacre said. "We want our certificate program to get these students excited and interested in robotics."

The awarding of this NSF Grant enables us to develop new career pathways for students," said QCC President Dr. Luis Pedraja. "We must teach not only for today's industry needs, but also teach to the needs of the future. I believe this program will be a gateway to self-sufficiency for many students.<sup>3</sup>

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

threat.

As of April 3, Dudley and Charlton have each reported nine confirmed cases of COVID-19 respectively, 18 in total. Around 915 cases of the virus have been recorded in Worcester County as of this writing.

🖼 🌋 We're All In This Together.

## As a retailer selling essential goods, Ocean State Job Lot stores are open.

As a company, we always look for ways to turn challenges into opportunities. During this time of crisis, we are using our global supply chain to source critical supplies, like masks, gloves, sanitizers and more. These supplies are immediately donated to hospitals and other medical facilities.

We have contributed \$250,000 toward acquiring these vital items, and we are asking for your help by donating at the register. We will use 100% of your donation to purchase supplies, and we'll use our buying power to get the most for your money.

During these difficult times, we are also ramping up our food donation efforts. We could not do this without the incredible support of our customers all throughout the year. We are grateful, now more than ever, for your continued partnership with us.

Thanks for your support, and stay safe.

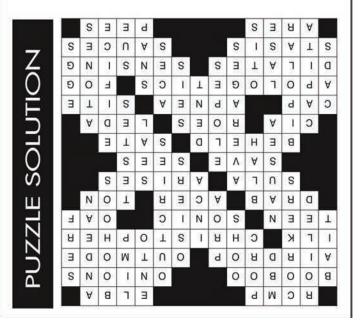
### **CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Churned 2. Seal bottles
- 3. Million barrels per day (abbr.) 4. Meat from a pig (French)
- 5. Within
- 6. Walk in a slow pace
- 7. Cries
- 8. About Andes
- 9. Fishermen use it
- 10. Expresses delight 11. Shouts
- 12. Feudal agricultural laborer
- 14. Sailboat
- 15. Small Eurasian willows
- 18. S. American native people
- 20. Extreme disgust
- 24. Nonsense (slang)
- 26. Produce male reproductive cells

- 56. Period of inactivity 57. Tomato and vodka are two
- 58. Greek war god

28. Computes

- 30. Pop singer
- 32. Weds secretly
- 34. Having two poles
- 35. Yankee hero Bucky
- 37. Building
- 38. Per \_\_, each
- 40. Six (Spanish) 42. Makes amends
- 43. Scoundrels
- 45. Baseball's best pitchers 47. Some are scrambled
- 49. Emit coherent radiation
- 50. Singer Redding
- 51. Break
- 55. Institute legal proceedings against



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continued from page A1

continuance of town meeting for 30 days at a time, while giving local select boards the ability to extend town meeting business beyond the normal June 30 cutoff. Communities unable to finalize a budget for the next fiscal year will be able to seek approval for monthly interim budgets from the Department of Revenue.

Frost said, "We have a long way to go. We will continue to work in a bi-partisan fashion with the Governor and Lt. Governor to weather this COVID-19 crisis. These measures aim to help our communities, struggling restaurants

and all state taxpayers deal with and adapt to the strict social distancing guidelines and rules we need to practice to slow the spread of this terribly contagious virus."

"Due to the state of emergency, many business in the Commonwealth face uncertain futures," said Sen. Michael Moore. "This legislation will provide a way for business affected by the ban on dining-in to generate revenue for their establishments. We must continue to adapt in a way that allows us to remain safe while still empowering local business"

The new law, known as Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020, also:

authorizes cities, towns

and districts that incur a deficit this year to amortize the debt over the next three fiscal years, using guidelines issued by the Commissioner of Revenue;

• extends the deadline for municipalities to exercise a right of first refusal option to purchase property until 90 days after the State of Emergency is lifted;

• removes the annual cap on hours and earnings for retired employees collecting a pension so they can work during the State of Emergency, provided they did not retire under a general or special disability law;

- permits cities and towns to extend the deadlines for property tax payments and applications for tax exemp-

tions to a date no later than June 1;

- authorizes cities and towns to waive interest payments and other penalties for late payments of excises and taxes, including water and sewer payments, if payment is made before June 30;

- prohibits cities and towns from terminating essential services – including water, trash collection and electricity – for non-payment of taxes or fees resulting from loss of employment, serious illness or other financial hardship related to the outbreak of COVID-19; - allows permit-granting authorities to hold meetings and public hearings remotely during the State of Emergency,

using the guidelines estab-

lished in the Governor's March 12 order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law:

- ensures that no permit, variance, special permit, license, amendment, extension, or other approval issued by a permit-granting authority will lapse or be deemed granted, approved or denied until 45 days after the State of Emergency is lifted, or by a date otherwise prescribed by law, whichever is later; and

- enables public corporations to conduct meetings remotely for the duration of the State of Emergency, and for 60 days thereafter.

Charlton's "Chip-In

#### PANTRIES

continued from page A1

ahead to arrange a time to stop by at their convenience, as no one can enter the building, but bags can be picked up from outside between 9:00am-3:00pm, Mondays through Fridays.

Donations: For those looking to contribute to the effort, the specific needs are boxed juice, peanut butter and jelly, paper/plastic goods, canned goods, and all non-perishable items. Donations are welcome during business hours via curbside.

Meals on Wheels: Elder Services' Meals on Wheels is still operating. Phone: 508-756-1545

Sudz City Laundromat

110 Elm St, Millbury, MA

Phone: 508-581-4454

6 am to 11 pm - Seven days a week

#### DONATION

continued from page A1

comments on a recent video stream of a Board of Selectmen's meeting Nichols College Assistant Director of Campus Services Justin Dolan saw an opportunity to help the school make a difference. The college provided their supply of gloves and N95 respirators to help protect the town's firefighters and EMC workers from exposure.

"It was kind of a quick turnaround to make that donation the next day. On the facility side, we work very closely with different town officials. Fire and emergency services is no exception. Our relationship with them is pretty close. We know these guys by name so it's nice to be able to help them out," Dolan said.

He added that being able to give back to the first responders that keep everyone safe in a time when they need it most was a heartwarming experience. However, seeing the outpouring of support from other entities as well also proved inspiring.

"Not only was Nichols able to donate to the fire department other companies stepped up to the plate. It's nice to be part of a community that recognizes what's important and are willing to rally around that," Dolan said.

Nichols College was joined by Webc

No call ahead required

Assistance: Sudz City Laundromat is offering assistance to those in need by providing an "open-shelf pantry". Residents are able to walk-in to pick all the necessary items for their needs.

Donations: For those looking to contribute to the effort, the specific needs are cleaning products, toiletries, peanut butter and jelly, boxed pasta, canned goods, and all non-perishable items. Donations are welcome during business hours.

Millbury Federated Church 20 N Main Street, Millbury, MA Phone: 508-865-6274 Call Ahead

Assistance: Please call ahead for details on how the Millbury Federated Church can assist you.

Donations: Please call ahead for details surrounding acceptable dona-

#### ic.

Fire Chief Dean Kochanowski said he deeply appreciates the support his department has received from the community. With the help of local businesses, he said the department is now better prepared and is also seeing the first shipment of supplies from MEMA. The chief said his department is in better shape than many in the state although he acknowledged that if the pandemic results in a flood of calls or turns into a critical situation locally they may need more assistance as supplies start to wane. For now the equipment donated will be significant to helping the department follow the CDC guidelines and prevent exposure to the virus.

"If we go into a house now under current DPH and CDC guidelines without and personal protection equipment on, we're probably putting the ambulance out of service and the whole crew in quarantine for fourteen days. They're taking the appropriate precautions to flatten the curve. It's vitally important we have this equipment so we can do our jobs under the current circumstances safely," Chief Kochanowski said. "I think it's great that people are thinking of us, especially when things are probably more difficult for them. I think overall these entities are trying to keep everyone safe so by donating to us that, in turn, helps keep them and everyone else in safe if we have to respond to any emergency. It helps everybody all around and we can't say enough 'thank you's' right now. We're very humbled. For us we're just doing our job."

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tions to the Millbury Federated Church. Town of Oxford

The Oxford Community Center

4 Maple Road, Oxford, MA

Phone: 508-987-0162

4 pm to 7:15 pm on Thursdays No call ahead required

Assistance: The Oxford Community Center is providing boxes of food available via curbside pick-up at 4 Maple Road every Thursday from 4:00pm-7:15pm. Oxford residents can pull up to the front of the building to pick up a box.

Donations: At this time only monetary donations are being accepted, with every \$1 contributed allowing the Center to purchase up to \$5 worth of food.

Meals on Wheels: Tri-Valley Meals on Wheels is still operating. Phone: 508-949-6640

#### MURPHY

continued from page A1

ferences. For more information on Assumption, visit www.assumption. edu.

Founded in 1904 by the Augustinians of Assumption the in Worcester, Assumption College is a Catholic liberal arts institution that offers undergraduate students 33 majors and 49 minors in the liberal arts, sciences, business, and professional studies; as well as master's and continuing education degrees and professional certificate programs-each through an educational experience that is grounded in the rich Catholic intellectual tradition. The curriculum enables students to gain a depth and breadth of knowledge that leads to professional success and personal fulfillment. Students-whether on the Worcester campus or at the College's Rome, Italy, campus-become engaged participants in Assumption's classic liberal arts education, exploring new ideas and connections making across disciplines. To

prepare for the workforce, students learn cutting-edge theory and best practices, conduct innovative research, and develop excellent communication and critical-analysis skills. Assumption graduates are also known for their thoughtful citizenship and compassionate service to their community. For more information about Assumption College, please visit www.assumption. edu.



Town of Charlton

"Chip-in Pantry"

Phone: 508-248-2231

Call Ahead

949-6640

Assistance:

Charlton Senior Center

37 Main Street, Charlton, MA

Pantry", located at the Senior Center

on 37 Main St, is making boxes of food

available once a month to those that

qualify. Charlton residents should call

ahead to speak with Elaine to see if they

Donations: The Charlton Senior

Meals on Wheels: Tri-Valley Meals

Center has partnered with the Worcester

Food Bank and is not requesting addi-

on Wheels is still operating. Phone: 508-

tional donations at this time.

are eligible, or for further assistance.

Shields Packaging, and Gentex who all came forward to donated everything from PPE gear to hand sanitizer and other cleaning supplies to allow the fire department to stay safe and prepared for any emergency during the pandem-

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## PINION/COMMENTARY



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FRANK G. CHILINSKI STONEBRIDGE PRESS PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

> BRENDAN BERUBE EDITOR

## Finding a silver lining

This editorial is being written immediately after our Editor returned from a walk around town. While we are all undergoing a complete change in the way we live our lives, and the reason is scary and horrifying, there is a silver lining. This coronavirus has caused a camaraderie among people that seems to break through barriers of religion, race, political beliefs, socioeconomic status or where we live in the world. We truly are all in this together.

During our walk, we saw entire families slowly strolling up and down side streets, with no real destination, simply enjoying the sun and warmer weather. It was nice to slow down enough to notice the cracks in the sidewalks, or notice the intricate woodwork on the old houses we passed. Seeing the community through a new, calmer, less stressed pair of eyes was interesting. While a cloud of uncertainty hangs above all of us, it's clear that despite the unknown, shoulders have dropped a bit, and we have been forced to slow down and just be present. These are stressful times, no doubt, but it hasn't gone unnoticed that the majority of people seem to appear more relaxed. [This, of course, does not include those on the front lines fighting this virus, to whom we say a heartfelt thank you.]

There are so many unknowns when it comes to this situation. We don't know when it will end, we don't know whether the virus will mutate when the warmer weather we've all be waiting for finally arrives, and we don't know how it will affect our economy or our livelihoods in the long run. What we do know is that, again, we are all in this together.

Strangers are stopping strangers (at a safe distance, of course) and having conversations that go beyond the weather. This outbreak has created a need for us to talk and to relate to each other for comfort, and to simply process what is

## Finding joy in quarantine

I awoke at 5:30 a.m., started a fire in our darkened kitchen fireplace and am sitting in the quiet of the morning, counting my blessings.

My family is healthy and quarantined together. We are only missing my oldest, who is sheltered in Los

Angeles. My daughter, son-in-law and my two grandsons are sleeping soundly on the floor above me. My youngest son is sleeping in the basement with our grand dog Walter. Our dear friends and my daughter's in-laws, Stu and Lynn, are here and I'm going to make my grandmothers recipe for biscuits and gravy for breakfast. I cannot describe the joy am feeling at this moment.

I think people often interchange the words joy and happiness as though they are the same. They are not. Happiness is a feeling you get from outside events and/ or circumstances, while joy radiates from within. Your happiness is dependent on things or other people while your joy is only dependent upon you. Want to be joyful? Easier said than done? Start by counting your blessings.

Joy is from the heart.

I find my joy in my love of family and friends. I am joyful in making breakfast for my family. I get happiness from seeing them feel enjoyment from my efforts. I feel joy in writing. I'd do it even if no one ever read it. I get happiness knowing people do.

So, what is my goal in quarantine? Love my family. Reach out to friends. Write to positively influence others. Finish my book, "Carbon Hill." Spend more time in prayer and contemplation. My plate is as full as my heart.

What about you?

How many times have you wanted to do something, but you complain you have no time? How often have you thought you'd just like to have a little time to yourself, or just a moment of peace and quiet? Sheltering in place can make those wishes come true

You know me as a weekly columnist, but I'm also an author. In fact, I think of myself as an author that also writes a column, and not the other way around. I need to get busy and finish my fifth book.

I'm told that Shakespeare wrote King Lear while in quarantine for the plague. When I first heard that, I laughed and thought, as an author, hearing that is a lot of pressure. But then again, No pressure. I'm just a storyteller. I need to dig in and finishing telling the story of the Tallman brothers and "Carbon Hill."

Make positive decisions during quaran-

Time to Plan the Garden!

tine and put them into action!

Why waste time? What is that project you've always wanted to complete? Get moving! Write a book, build the model, complete the puzzle, write some letters, renew contact with those you've lost contact with. Explore the pos-

sibilities, then act!

POSITIVELY

SPEAKING

GARY W.

MOORE

And I do understand that some of you are afraid. I think we all harbor some level of fear and that's normal. Work to turn your fear into healthy caution and follow all the guideline for remaining safe.

And for some of you who have a loved one who is sick, or you are not well, I'm praying for you now and I encourage others to do the same. Want me to pray for you or a friend or loved one by name? Send me an email or snail mail and I will do so. I won't post it here, but my phone number is on my Web page. It's easy to find. If you want me to pray with you, give me a call. And for those of you who don't believe in the power of prayer, please accept my positive thoughts for you as I pray for you.

To pray is a decision I make personally. You don't have to do the same. I had a young student who said, "I don't believe in God or prayer ... so will you pray for me?" I prayed for her until her crisis passed. (Let the contradiction of her question sink in ...)

This too shall pass.

I don't know what's in store for us over the next few weeks and months. I'm not a health care worker or government official. All I'm certain of is that this isn't the end of the world. This too, shall pass. The world will survive. I also understand that the death toll is high and growing. Just remember, if you shelter in place, the odds of you getting sick are minuscule. And if you are sick and remain in place, you won't pass it to others. I think this will fit into the category of "Do good. Be good.'

Turn your fear and boredom into positive productivity during quarantine. Decide to make the most of this time and find both happiness and joy in doing something you have always wanted to do.

Stay healthy. Don't be afraid.

I'm praying for 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 @GaryWMoore721 and at www.garywmoore.com.

## It's not easy, but look past the market selloff

These are challenging times. Like everyone, you are concerned about keeping your family safe and healthy, and you're doing your part to help protect your community from the effects of the coronavirus. And if you're an investor, you must also address your financial situation. How should you respond to the current market volatility and recent declines in investment pric-

For one thing, try to avoid what many others seem to be doing: panicking. The market selloff may feel unsettling, but it appears to be driven as much, or more, by fear and panic than by economic or financial reality.



that provide more confidence in the longer-term outlook, suggesting conditions still warrant an eventual rebound. unemployment entered this situation near a 50-year low, with solid wage growth.

Uncertainty

is high, but there

We will see a temporary disruption to the labor market, of course, along with a decline in economic activity, but households entered this period in generally good shape.

Furthermore, housing market indicators were moving upward and the decline in mortgage rates could add more strength. Also, the Federal Reserve's recent interest rate cuts, taking short-term rates back near zero percent, will support the economic rebound as the impact of the virus containment efforts eventually fade.

In addition, while further volatility and the potential for further weakness will likely continue, the steep drops we've already seen indicate that the financial markets have "priced in" the likelihood of a short-term recession, which may mean that the worst of the stock market pain has already been endured, though, of course, there are no guarantees.

First, though, it seems likely that the investment world will finally alm down only when the health situation shows signs of containment – and this will inevitably happen, despite the grim reports we are seeing these days. As a country, we have the motivation, the will, the solidarity and the resources to defeat the coronavirus and its effects, despite the pain and trauma it is now undoubtedly causing. So, back to our original question: What should you do? Here are a few suggestions: Remember why you're investing. Given the market decline, you may be tempted to change your investment strategy. But keep in mind that your financial goals, such as a comfortable retirement, are longer-term than the shelf life of the coronavirus. These goals, not today's headlines, should guide vour decisions. Re-evaluate your risk tolerance. The recent volatility provides a good test of your ability to weather short-term swings in your portfolio. If you're having a hard time coping with these losses, your portfolio may be positioned too aggressively for your risk tolerance. If so, you might want to adjust your portfolio mix to include more fixed-income securities, which can help provide more "downside" protection. However, this would also affect your long-term growth potential. Look for buying opportunities. Stocks are now at their most compelling values in more than a decade – in other words, there are plenty of compelling investments out there. You can find many high-quality investments at very good prices, so you may want to consider taking advantage of the opportunity. These are trying times for all of us. But as an investor, you'll help yourself greatly if you keep the situation in perspective, take a longterm view, evaluate your own risk tolerance and be receptive to new possibilities.

are reasons - solid, objective reasons that FINANCIAL Focus U.S. DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

happening.

While passing by a gentleman getting ready to grill his dinner on the back porch, we struck up a conversation about going stir crazy, sharing a few laughs and well wishes, and then we were on our way. People have slowed down enough to lift their heads from their phones, laptops, steering wheels and television sets to open their eyes fully to the world around them. There are more smiles and head nods exchanged. People are making more eye contact with one another, almost to say yes, I'm uncertain too, but we will be all right.

With nowhere to go aside from home and work (for some of us who also deserve thanks for continuing to put their health at risk so we have groceries and supplies to live on), priorities have shifted. People have used this time to really think about what matters in their lives. They have caught up on their reading, or re-visited old hobbies and house projects that have sat dormant for years.

Finally, this situation gives us all an excuse an excuse to just 'be.' Could it be that people can really benefit from simplifying their lives? How will things look when the world re-opens? We have a feeling that people will be friendlier and more appreciative of being able to clink beer mugs and raise a toast at their local watering holes. Perhaps people will find the value in slowing down.

We are living in a point in history that will live on in perpetuity. These few months will be read about and discussed for decades to come, long after we are gone, as we look back now and wonder about simple things like what it would have been like to live without electricity or a way to keep our food cold. We're not sure there has ever been a time when the entire society has shut down, when town squares look like ghost towns or something out of a movie set with no one in sight.

To those reporters and editors to come after us, we will tell you that these times are surreal. Despite not knowing what's going on and watching the news change every day, people are generally in good spirits and are finding ways to decrease stress and otherwise find some sort of joy.



Visions of a lush backyard garden can brighten these dark days, so why not use this time at home to plan a spectac-

ular summer garden? As all home growers know, it takes careful planning and many hours of labor to produce a bountiful garden. While nearly every successful gardener has their own special tricks to ensure a produc-

tive crop, the novice planter may need a helping hand to nudge green sprouts from uncooperative soil. If that's the case, the following tips culled from various "green thumbed" sources may just be all you need to make this upcoming season the most successful gardening year yet.

Starting Seedlings

You don't have to pay big bucks for packaged sterilized potting mix, as you can sterilize your backyard soil at home! (For best results the soil should be moist and crumbly, neither soggy nor too dry.) To do: Put two pounds of soil in a plastic turkey roasting bag. Do not seal the bag shut, as it could burst open. Place the bag in the microwave on high for two to three minutes. Allow the soil to cool to room temperature before using it.

Or, sterilize soil in the oven by filling metal pans, clay pots or other oven safe vessels with no more than four inches of soil. Cover with aluminum foil and bake at 180 to 200 degrees for a half hour. Use a meat thermometer to test temperature. Soil should reach 180 degrees, but don't allow temperature to go above 200 degrees because high temperatures could produce plant toxins. After heating, allow soil to cool before using. Note: heated soil may give off an odor.

Never buy peat pots again! Instead recycle those cardboard paper towel and toilet paper rolls, Here's how: Cut them into pieces with scissors (a toilet paper roll should yield two; paper towel rolls, four). Line them up in a tray, touching each other to ensure that they remain upright and to slow the evaporation of moisture. Fill with potting soil and plant as usual. And when the time comes to replant the seedlings, plant the whole pot, as the cardboard will disintegrate!

The addition of peat moss is necessary to keep window boxes and other contain-

TAKE THE HINT KAREN TRAINOR

er gardens properly watered.

But, if you are not wetting down the peat moss before adding it to the soil, you may be doing your garden more harm than good. Peat moss must be moistened before it is used in potting mixes. When dry, the substance actually repels water! Here's how to pretreat it: If you want to wet a full bag

of peat moss, poke several holes in the bottom of the bag and open the top. Then pour water slowly into the top of the bag until it seeps out of the bottom holes. Push on the bag and knead it to ensure the peat is getting saturated. To test, scoop out a handful of peat moss and squeeze it. If you can squeeze water out, it is ready to use. If not, keep wetting until you can.

Test Number 2: Here's an easy test to gauge if your garden soil is ready to plant. Simply scoop up a handful of dirt and squeeze it into a ball. If the ball crumbles when you release your fingers, the soil is all set for digging. If the ball sticks together, the soil is still to wet to work.

Storing, and sowing, seeds are not longer a hassle with this tip: Simply put seeds in a clean, empty spice, seasoning or Parmesan cheese shaker. If using tiny seeds, add little cornstarch to keep them from clumping together. When it's time to plant, just shake them evenly over the soil.

\*Here's an easy way to gauge spacing seeds in large flats: Cut a piece of oneinch chicken mesh wire the size of the flat. Simply lay it on the soil and plant a seed inside each hole for instant one-inch spacing. For two or tree inch spacing, simply skip the correct number of holes.

\*Leftover garden seeds will likely sprout next year if you keep them in the refrigerator in a tightly closed jar with a packet of silica gel. The gel packets can be recycled from vitamin bottles or even shoe boxes.

\$\$\$ Saving Hot Tip: If you're germinating seeds, don't spend your hard earned money on a plant heat mat. A heating pad can do the job at a fraction of the cost. Just be sure to cover it in plastic to prevent any water spill

Flower bulbs are now plentiful at large garden centers. But, bulbs sold at such places are a bargain Turn To **TRAINOR** page **A9** 

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.



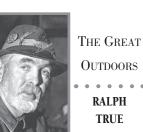
Stocking for spring

Fishing at some local ponds has been just fantastic, while some streams and brooks are very slow according to a few local anglers. This writer made a call to M.F.W. Central District this past Friday, April 3, and was told that the spring stocking is pretty much complete. The

stocking trucks were running nonstop to ensure that the spring stocking of trout would be completed. As of this date, the Division of Fish & Wildlife is holding on to the trout allocated for the fall stocking. The Covid-19 virus sure has negatively made a big change in our daily living, and will affect our lives for months and years to come.

This week's picture shows Amy with her large brown trout from Ashland Reservoir. this past week, that also had the upper jaw missing as the second picture shows. The heavy rain of the last two weeks, and the cold temperatures have kept trout fishing a bit slow, but the warmer weather of this week has brought the water temperatures up, which has had anglers catching some impressive trout.

Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife, along with some other states, have been feeding the trout at the hatcheries a new diet over the last few years, which has the trout growing very fast, and the end result is a more impressive trout being



stocked. The down side to the new diet that trout are being raised on have lost there sweet natural taste at the dinner table.

I am not the only one that has noticed the difference in the taste of trout over the last few years. Any fish or meat taste can be altered with numerous

brands of seasoning on the market today, but I and many other anglers miss the natural sweet taste of the trout. I guess we cannot have it both ways. Numerous anglers have switched to smoking trout, rather than pan fried.

Tautog fishing season in Massachusetts and Rhode Island is now open, but the water temperature was still a bit cold last week, hovering in the middle 40 degrees. The temperature needs to hit the low 50's for the fishing to improve. A few anglers fishing for tautog last week reported a few small tautog being caught, so it should not be long before the big fish move in. When the dandelions are out, it is time to fish for tautog.

A couple of years ago, both Massachusetts & Rhode Island stopped commercial fishing for tautog in the spring, and gave them a good season in the fall. It was long overdue. Tautog were returning to spawn in the spring, and were being depleted before they had a chance to spawn. It was a no brainer.

Rhode Island Marine Fisheries & NOAA has placed another nail in the coffin of the recreational fluke fishing season this year. Raising the Fluke size limit to 19 inches and allowing the commercial anglers to keep 14-inch fish is outrageous. A lot of fish are going to be wasted due to mortality after being released by recreational anglers. Taking home a few fluke fillets for the family this year is going to be tough. Massachusetts has held there legal size limit to 17 inches again this year. It was not that long ago that Rhode island raised the size limit for fluke to 21 inches for recreational anglers.

That was the year I sold my 21 foot boat. I love bottom fishing and we found ourselves coming home with one or two fish if we were lucky. Commercial anglers were fishing on the side of us keeping 14 inch fish!

Seabass are also being saved for the commercial guys, with the season starting June 24 this year for recreational anglers and a bag limit of three fish daily. Striper fishermen are not happy with the slot size on Striped bass. The big problem with the striped bass decline is in Maryland & Delaware, not in Massachusetts & Rhode Island. Massachusetts Marine Fisheries has also dealt a hard blow to the sport fishing boats up and down the coast.

My neighbor erected a blue bird box Rods Bending!



in his yard a few years ago, and is being used annually by a pair of them. They sure are nice to see in the back yard as they frequent my bird feeder daily along, with a pair of cardinals. It will not be long before the humming birds return.

Until next week, stay safe! God Bless America.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them

## Extend your garden season



Photo Courtesy — Gardener's Supply Company Cloches can help you plant earlier and harvest later, extending the growing season.

No matter where you garden, there never seems to be enough time to tivate to remove the young weed seedlings without bringing more weed seeds to the surface. You'll be pulling fewer weeds throughout the growing season.

Once the garden is planted, enlist some of these season-extending helpers (garden-

ers.com). Homemade and commercial cloches, cold frames and row covers can help you plant earlier and harvest later in the season.

Row covers made of spun fabrics let air, light, and water through while keeping the plants warm. Anchor the fabric with landscape pins, stones, boards, or other heavy items. Leave enough slack in the fabrics for the plants to grow. Lighter weight garden fabrics also protect plants from insect pests like cabbage worms and bean beetles.

Garden covers take this method one step further. These structures fit over plantings in the garden, raised beds or elevated planters. Look for those with durable greenhouse fabric covers that let water in and keep excess heat out. These types of structures protect plants from cold and wind, speeding up your harvest by as much as 25 per

GARDEN MOMENTS MELINDA **MYERS** 

tors have water wells to capture rainwater and gently disperse it to the plants below and vents for managing the tem-

Season Row Cloche Set

allows you to expand

your protection to the

desired size. These

clear PVC plant protec-

perature.

Further boost your tomato harvest with red plastic mulch, red tomato teepees and tomato boosters. University researchers found using red plastic mulch increased the individual fruit size and weight and overall tomato harvest by as much as 20 percent. They found the red plastic mulch reflected certain growth-enhancing wavelengths of light back onto the plants.

With a bit of extra effort and investment you'll be harvesting fresh vegetables long before your friends and neighbors. Then be sure to keep these season-extending devices handy to use again in fall. Protecting plants from those first few fall frosts can keep you eating garden-fresh tomatoes, peppers and greens well into winter.

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 Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio segments. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Gardeners Supply for her expertise to write this article. Her web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.



grow all the fresh vegetables desired. Planting earlier or just providing plants with some added warmth on chilly days and nights can reduce the time from planting to harvest. Southern gardeners will enjoy the additional time for harvesting heat-sensitive plants before the stifling heat moves in and plants begin to decline.

Prepare the soil as soon as it can be worked. Cover the prepared soil with clear plastic, row covers or high tunnels for several weeks when planting earlier than normal. This warms the soil for planting and helps germinate many of the weed seeds. Lightly cul-

#### TRAINOR

#### continued from page A8

only if you know how to avoid poor quality bulbs. Here are some tips: \* Bulbs should feel solid and heavy. If they are light, they may be dried out. bulbs with Avoid discolored, dark or moldy spots. Make sure there are no holes or other signs of insect damage on bulbs. Pick over bulbs that have sprouted; it is better if they grow roots first.

Our forefathers took great pains to plant crops at the precise time of year to promote a bountiful crop. Here are some "old farmer's tales" that tell when it is time to plant garden vegetables:

Lilac's Bloom: When the lilacs have their first leaves it is time to plant cool-weather crops such as peas, lettuce, and onions. When the lilac flowers are in full bloom, it s safe to plant tender crops such as tomatoes and corn. Native American's Rule: The American Indians passed this reliable tip on to European colonists, and many farmers still rely on it today. Tender crops should not be planted until the leaves on an oak tree are as big as a squirrels ear (about an inch or so long). Moon Signs: Many natural gardeners plant successfully by the phases of the moon. Here's how: Between the new moon and the first quarter: sow or transplant leafy plants and those that bear seeds on the outside of the fruit, such as strawberries.

Raise the roof on these structures with high tunnels and plant protection tents. These are perfect for growing tall plants like tomatoes. As temperatures rise, the tops can be ventilated or in some cases replaced with a mesh that keeps out insects and critters, while providing plants enough room to reach full size.

Or maybe you just can't wait for that first red ripe tomato and only want to jump start a row of greens. Garden cloches have long been used for this purpose. They capture the sun's warmth to protect plants from frosty weather. Gardener's Supply Company's Early

Between the first quarter and the full moon: plant crops whose seeds develop inside the fruit, such as tomatoes, peas, beans and squash. From the full moon to the last quarter: plant root vegetables. Never plant from the last quarter to the new moon.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renown restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I'm in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I'm counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

Do you have a helpful hint or handy tip that has worked for you? Do you have a question regarding household or garden matters? If so, why not share them with readers of Stonebridge Press newspapers? Send questions and/or hints to: Take the Hint!, C/o the Southbridge Evening News, PO Box 90; Southbridge, MA 01550. Or E-mail KDRR@aol. com. Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn.

## www.StonebridgePress.com

Brianna Age 17

#### ride a horse!

Brianna is a fun teenage girl of Hispanic descent. Some of Brianna's favorite activities are listening to music and reading. She also loves animals and has recently started to learn how to ride a horse. Brianna does a great job caring for young children, and she has expressed wanting a job working with children when she gets older. She

is currently in the tenth grade where she has made friends and good relationships with many of her teachers.

Brianna is legally freed for adoption and can be placed in a one or two-parent home with or without other children. Brianna has stated she enjoys living in a suburban area versus somewhere that is rural or an inner-city. Interested families should be open to maintain four visits per year with Brianna's siblings. She also has other relatives she would like to maintain contact with once placed.

#### 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.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 Patricia at 508-909-4135 x321 or email patricia@stonebridgepress.news



## Patio Door Special! Window Special!

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**YEAR**<sup>1</sup>





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- Our composite Fibrex<sup>®</sup> window material is twice as strong as vinyl so our weather-tight seals stay weather-tight
- We handle the entire process—from selling to installation to the warranty—on our windows and patio doors, so if you ever have an issue, you're covered



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The entire experience was great. The installation crew was fantastic. They arrived on time and worked efficiently. They were all master craftsmen who were extremely knowledgeable about the product they were installing and the end-to-end installation process. They were courteous, professional and left our house very clean after each day of work.
- Heather S., Renewal by Andersen customer, Holliston, MA

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<sup>1</sup>DETAILS OF OFFER: Offer expires 5/9/2020. You must set your appointment by 5/2/2020 and purchase by 5/9/2020. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Get 20% off your entire purchase and 12 months \$0 down, 0 monthly payments, 0% interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or patio doors between 4/1/2020 and 5/9/2020. Additional \$250 off your project, minimum purchase of four (4) or more windows or patio doors required, taken after initial discount(s), when you set your appointment by 5/2/2020 and purchase by 5/9/2020. Military discount applies to all active duty, veterans and retired military personnel. Military discount equals \$300 off your entire purchase and applies after all other discounts, no minimum purchase required. Subject to credit approval. Interest is billed during the promotional period, but all interest is waived if the purchase amount is paid before the expiration of the promotional period. Financing for GreenSky® consumer loan programs is provided by federally insured, federal and state chartered financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, or familial status. Savings comparison based on purchase of a single unit at list price. Available at participating locations and offer applies throughout the service area. See your local Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. ©2020 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved.

## Antiquing during this health crisis

Many antique events and auctions have been canceled due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The usual online selling and buying options are still available though, and some new opportunities have even become available.

The biggest local antique news is that the May Brimfield Antique Show has been canceled. Westernmassnews. com quoted the Head of the Brimfield Select WAYNE TUISKULA Board who said "I think when you get 20,000 peo-

ple coming from around the world, it'd be disastrous ... I think everybody is sad for it. I don't necessarily apologize for the decision because I think it's the right one." Although this is disappointing to antique dealers and collectors, in my opinion July 2020 will be one of the best shows. Many other



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES

at

shows have also been canceled. Live auctions and estate sales have been put on hold. Antiques and the Arts Weekly has a long "running list" of many of the canceled events available on their website antiquesandt-

hearts.com. Like many other local businesses. antique dealers, auctioneers and estate sale companies have been going online to fill the void. For

example, some estate sale companies are running online only sales. Others are selling by appointment only to comply with social distancing guidelines.

Channel 7 News in Watertown, N.Y. reported that auctioneer Don Peck Auctions has turned to Facebook Live to run his auctions which had been held live in person prior to the pandemic. Peck said that prices have increased as he has found a group of new bidders. Most buyers are from within 50 to 75 miles of his Gouverneur, N.Y. location, but he has reached others from as far away as Florida and Las Vegas.

The pandemic has brought out the best in many. Many public figures have done exceptional things to help those affected by the COVID-19 virus. Former Ohio Buckeyes and Detroit Lions linebacker Chris Spielman is one example. The Detroit Free Press reported that he had previously donated \$100 each to 8 people who were in need for the past two weeks. He is now selling some of his personal memorabilia on eBay to help those in need during this pandemic. His Ohio State Big Ten championship ring is one of his prized possessions that he is auctioning for the greater good. "This hurts to give this up, but where is it going to serve a better purpose?" Spielman said. The ring sold for \$12,000, and Spielman said he will be offering more of his memorabilia.

Our company is practicing physical distancing, along with the rest of the state. If you are handling an estate or just have some items in your home that you think may be valuable and would like some guidance, we can virtually view and evaluate them. You can contact us by email or phone to schedule an appointment using Facetime, Zoom or Skype.

We are also planning an online auction in Warren, R.I. and an estate sale in Auburn when the situation allows. Our Rutland estate farm auction will go online again as soon as possible. Please see www.centralmassauctions. com for details on these and



other events. I hope all of you continue to stay safe and in good health and we can all be attending antique events together soon.

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

## TRIPS OFFERED

The "Trips Offered" section is for non-profit organizations and will run as space allows. Mail your information to Trips Offered, c/o Brendan Berube, PO Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550; fax to (508) 764-8015 or e-mail to news@stonebridgepress.news.

#### **BAY PATH ADULT EVENING SCHOOL**

Wine Country Pacific Coast Cruise 9 days/8 nights April 6-14, 2020

What's included: Roundtrip Motorcoach transfers, roundtrip airfare from Logan Airport, one night pre-cruise stay in Los Angeles, 8 day/7 night cruise on board Princess Cruises-The Star Princess, visiting Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, San Francisco, Astoria Oregon, Victoria, B.C., Vancouver, B.C., winery tours, all meals on board ship, and more!

\*A valid passport is REQUIRED for this trip

Prices starting at \$2,499pp double occupancy (plus tax, transfers & government fees)

For a brochure and complete itinerary, please contact Lori Douthwright at (508) 248-5971, ext. 1715.

The Boston Red Sox vs The Baltimore Orioles

3 Days/2 Nights August 21 - 23, 2020 What's Included: Roundtrip motor coach, 2 nights hotel lodging, breakfast at hotel, lower reserved seating to 2 ballgames, The United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Guinness Brewery & More

\$549pp Double Occ. -\$679pp Single Occ. \$539pp Triple Occ. - \$539pp Quad Occ.

For a brochure and complete itinerary please contact

Lori Douthwright 508-248-5971 X1715

please contact Lori Douthwright 508-248-5971 X1715

Penn Dutch Country with the New Hit Show Queen Esther

3 Days/2 Nights September 23-25, 2020 What's Included: Roundtrip motor coach, 2 nights lodging, 5 meals, ticket to 'Queen Ester", touring and More!

\$499pp Double Occ. - \$599 pp Single Occ. For a brochure and complete itinerary please contact

Lori Douthwright 508-248-5971 X1715

Nova Scotia w/Tattoo Fest

featuring The Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo Bay of Fundy, Halifax,

Saint John, Annapolis Valley

5 Days/4 Nights June 29-July 3, 2020

What's Included: Roundtrip motor coach, 2 nights lodging - Marriott Saint John – New Brunswick, 2 nights lodging – Westin Nova Scotian – Halifax, breakfast each morning (4), 2 scrumptious dinners, 1 lobster luncheon, guided tours each day and more!

\$1499pp Double Occ. - \$1899 pp Single Occ.

For a brochure and complete itinerary please contact

Lori Douthwright 508-248-5971 X1715 Montreal & Quebec Getaway

4 Days/3 Nights August 18-21, 2020

What's Included: Roundtrip motor coach, 2 nights lodging - Marriott in downtown Montreal, 1 night lodging Quebec City, four meals (4), 5 meals, guided tours each day and more!

\$849pp Double Occ. - \$1159 pp Single Occ.

For a brochure and complete itinerary please contact

Lori Douthwright 508-248-5971 X1715

• Trips are open to the public

• Flyers available at the center or online at www.townofcharlton.net. Click on Government, then Council on Aging/ Senior Center

• Mail payments to: Charlton Senior Center Trips, 37 Main St., Charlton, MA 01507 or bring into center and give to Elaine or Katherine. Please be sure to make checks payable to the company stated below.

• You will be notified of pick up time & location

• Bus pick up will usually be at St. Joseph's Church 10 H Putnam Rd. Ext. in Charlton

April 17- FOXWOODS \$34 includes transportation, buffet or \$10 food voucher and \$10 casino slot play. Make checks payable to: Fox Tours (payment due 3/17)

May 19-CAROLE KING TRIBUTE \$94 includes transportation, Luncheon, meal tax w/gratuity and Show ticket. Driver gratuity not included. Make checks payable to: Best of Times (payment due 4/17)

July 28 — GLOUCESTER HARBOR CRUISE LOBSTERBAKE \$135 includes transportation, Beauport Princess Cruise, Lobsterbake buffet, Entertainment & Dancing. Driver gratuity not included. Make checks payable to: Best of Times (payment due 6/25)

September 2 LAKE WINNIPESAUKEE CRUISE & CASTLE IN THE CLOUDS \$129 includes transportation, Lake Cruise, Luncheon, Visit to Castle in the Clouds. Driver gratuity not included. Make checks payable to: Best of Times (payment due 7/30)

November 17 — YESTERDAY ONCE MORE w/The Carpenters, ABBA, 5th Dimension, The Mamas & The Papas all in one show! \$92 includes transportation. Luncheon, meal tax w/gratuity and Show ticket. Driver gratuity not included. Make checks payable to: Best of Times (payment due 10/15) Dec 4-7 — A COUNTRY CHRISTMAS IN NASHVILLE, TN. Gaylord Oprey Hotel! 4 days/3 nights. Call for more info

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

**DOUGLAS SUNSHINE CLUB** 

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

#### **DUDLEY SENIORS**

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

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

#### FRIENDS OF THE STURBRIDGE

September 11th Museum & Memorial in NY City and West Point Academy

2 Days/1 Night May 14-15, 2020 What's Included: Roundtrip motor coach, hotel lodging, two (2) meals (1 breakfast & dinner theatre show), touring the Hudson River Valley & dinner theatre show and so much more!

\$399 pp Double Occ. - \$499 pp Single Occ. For a brochure and complete itinerary

#### CHARLTON SENIOR CENTER

TRIPS w/Charlton Senior Center 2020 Our new Trip Coordinator is Mary Lou Lepko.

A few things to know:

• Sign up at the center, or call 508-248-2231, or email: charltontrips@yahoo.com Please put your full name and phone number on sign-up sheets

**DAUGHTERS OF ISABELLA** 

#### SENIORS

The Friends of the Sturbridge Seniors are happy to offer the following 2020 Trips to the General Public. Beginning on Thursday March 12th, join us as we travel by Deluxe Motorcoach on an appproximately 60 minute ride to the Fabulous Venus DeMilo in Swansea, Ma. To see Ireland's Most Exciting Young

Turn To TRIPS page A13











Featured New Listing!

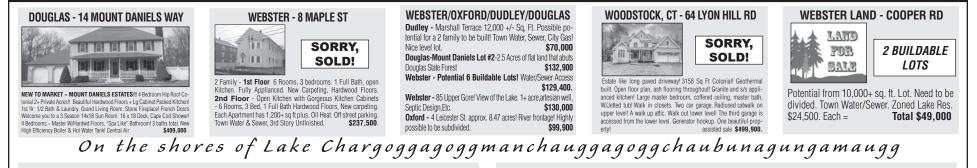
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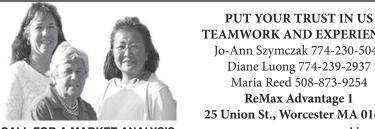
#### WEBSTER - 28 BLACK POINT RD

2019 CUSTOM BUILT WEBSTER LAKE (WATERFRONT ACCESSIBLE) CONTEM-PORARY CAPE! Sunrise (E) & Sunset (W) Exposure! 2,600+- SF, 11 Rms, 3 BRS Loft, & 2 Full Baths. Open FIr Plan, Cathedral Ceilings, Stone-faced Fireplace Upscale Gourmet Kitchen w/Huge Island, Sunny Breakfast Nook w/Built Ins, For-mal Dining, Office, Laundry Rm, Mudroom & Coat Closet, 2 Main Level BRs & Full Bath. 2nd FIr Private Master BR Suite w/Private Bath & Walk-in Closet! Central Air! Cavernous 1,500 SF+ Unfinished LL plumbed for a Bath, Oversized 2-3 Car Att'd Garage! Corner Lot, 12,599 SF (.29 Acre), of Land plus BOAT DOCK. \$699,900.



#### WEBSTER LAKE - 32 JACKSON RD

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- Investors Opportunities are Always Available
- -Call for a Consultation -WE ARE HERE FULL TIME &

### WE CARE ABOUT YOUR HOUSING NEEDS



## QCC community donates supplies to area healthcare facilities

WORCESTER Coronavirus/COVID-19 crisis deepens, Quinsigamond Community College faculty, staff, students and alumni have come together to assist area hospitals and healthcare facilities. The College's science department recently donated 45 cases of nitrile gloves to Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA).

"This totals 45,000 gloves, which will go to hospitals and healthcare facilities in the most need," said QCC President Dr. Luis Pedraja.

Other initiatives by the QCC community include a project spearheaded by Lee Duerden, associate professor of Manufacturing Technology. Mr. Duerden is utilizing QCC's Fab Lab and its form lab resin printers to make respirator masks that have removable HEPA filters, capable of filtration rates to 0.01 microns.

In comparison, according to the Centers for Disease Controls, N95 filtering face piecerespirators filter out at least 95% of very small (0.3 micron) particles. N95 FFRs are capable of filtering out all types of particles, including bacteria and viruses. Mr. Duerden has currently printed prototypes that are being tested and utilized by 10 area nurses.

QCC students are also taking part in the crusade to help out. QCC student Ilina Ivanova is a Liberal Arts Biology major, due to graduate this May. Ms. Ivanova has begun sewing masks after finding a Facebook group, "Worcester Stitchers for Health," where people share patterns online. These masks also enable a filter to be inserted.

"I have made about 25 masks so far



#### QCC continued from page A12

and I plan on making as many as I can. They take about 20-25 minutes to sew each, depending on the template," she said, adding that the masks can either be dropped off at a drop box at the home of the coordinator of Worcester Stitchers for Health, or the coordinator will make arrangements to safely pick them up.

They are taken to Worcester

#### TRIPS

#### continued from page A11

Tenor, Emmet Cahill. Emmet is the Star of PBS Phenomenon Celtic Thunder. Hear Emmet perform many of the Irish Classics as well as some of your Favorite Broadway Hits. He will be joined by the Emerald String Quartet, who are four young Ladies creating the Sweetest Sounds from their String Instruments. And let's add the All Male Dublin City Dancers who will shake up the Audience with their high stepping dance numbers. For 92.00 everyone will have a Plated Lunch of Corned Beef and Cabbage or Baked Haddock, Venus DeMilo's Famous Minstrone Soup, Vegetables, Breads, Dessert, Coffee and Tea, Bus Transportation and this Fabulous Show.

On Thursday July 16 come with us for a Lobster Bake at Foster's Clambake in York, Me. For 99.00 enjoy a 1 1/4 Boiled Lobster. Clam Chowder, Steamed Mussels, Fresh Steamed Maine Clams, Corn on the Cob, Potatoes and Onions, Blueberry Cake and a Beverage. Also available is 1/2 Barbecued Chicken in place of the Lobster. Now let us add the Ultimate Jimmy Buffett Tribute Show featuring Jimmy and the Parrots. They are the most requested Jimmy Buffett Tribute Band in the Country and they were also nominated as Band of the Year by Trop Rock Entertainer. Hear them play the favorite songs of Jimmy Buffett as well as songs by The Beach Boys, Paul Simon, Harry Belafonte, Bob Marley and many others. Included is Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation, Lunch and the Show. On Tuesday August 18 to Friday August 21st, have your Passport ready for a Spectacular 4 Day/3 Night Motor Coach Roundtrip visit to Beautiful Montreal and Quebec Canada. For 849.00 pp Double or 1159.00 pp Single Occupancy. Included are 3 Nights Hotel Lodgings, 4 Meals, touring as described in your travel Brochgure, Best of Times Travel Tour Director and all gratuities except Motorcoach Driver. gratuity are included. In Montreal take in a guided visit of Norte-Dame Basilica, the Botanical Gardens, the Biodome, enjoy time at Montreal Casino plus even more. In Quebec, visit the Basilica of Saint-Anne de Beaupre, Montgomery Falls, guided Tour of the beautiful Citadelle featuring the Changing of the Guard, the Royal Regimemnt Museum plus some Free Time to enjoy Quebec on your own. On Thursday August 20th, get ready for the 10th Anniversary Tour of The Texas Tenors. These 3 very Handsome, Classically Trained Men have performed over 1300 Concerts with Headliner Shows in Las Vegas, China, the United Kingdom and accumulated 3 EMMY AWARDS. The Texas Tenors will sing many of the Broadway Show Classics as well as many of your favorite Pop Songs. They were honored to be included among the Top 50 Acts in the World. This could be the Best Concert that you will see this year. We are traveling approximately 60 minutes to the Venus DeMilo in Swansea, Ma.. For 99.00 included is Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation, Plated Lunch of either Chicken Parmesan or Baked Scrod, Venus DeMilo's Famous Minnestrone Soup, Vegetables, Breads, Dessert, Coffee and Tea. Join us on Wednesday, September 2nd on our day trip to Lake Winnipesaukee for a scenic cruise out of Weirs Beach taking in the remarkable scenery of the

Polytechnic Institute (WPI) where they are either autoclaved or UV irradiated, depending on the mask material (anything that contains plastic will melt in an autoclave), packaged in sterile pouches and distributed by MEMA.

"However, many people know people personally who are working in high risk healthcare settings that are asking for these masks. For example, I know that a client at an ER veterinary hospital just made

masks for the entire staff to alleviate pressure on their dwindling surgical mask supply. I made masks for my brother, Boris Yanachkov (he is also a QCC student) who is currently working at IPG Photonics as an essential employee. Not to mention all of the grocery store workers, delivery drivers, and other essential workers who may not have access to a mask,' she said.

Western end of this magnificent lake. We will also visit the spectacular Castle in The Clouds a turn-of-the-century sixteen room mansion with its breathtaking mountaintop views overlooking Lake Winnipesaukee. Enjoy a delicious full course luncheon at Harts Turkey Farm in Meredith, NH. Famous and renowned for their turkey dinners you are sure to delight in this bountiful luncheon. All for just \$129.

We had 34 people travel to the Pennsylvania Dutch Country 3 Day/2Night Trip this past December and they had such a Great Time that many of them asked to go back again this September 23-25th. We will see the New Show "Queen Esther". One of the very most riveting Bible Stories of the Old Testament that comes to life in the Magnificent Sight and Sound Theater which incorporates Live Animals, Secial Effects and Jaw Opening Stage Sets. Ask anyone who has seen a Show at the Millenium Sight and Sound Theater and they will tell you this is a Must See. in your lifetime. Now let's add a 2nd Show called "Saturday Nigh Fever" at the Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre, a Backcountry Tour of the Dutch County Farmlands, enjoy your luck at the Sands Casino and more. Prices are 499.00 pp Double and 599.00 Single Occupancy and include 2 Nights Lodging, 4 Meals, Tickets to the 2 Shows.

& Claw, then a cruise in Portland Harbor. Viewing war forts, seals, lighthouses. We leave at 8:30 a.m. The cost is \$99.

masks

located at 25 Federal Street,

"In these unprecedented

Sept. 1-3: Trip to Bar Harbor, Maine. Many sights to see. Cost is in the low \$400's. More information coming.

Wednesday, Oct. 14: New Hampshire Turkey Train. Scenic foliage train traveling around beautiful Lake Winnipesaukee. Hart's Turkey Farm brings a full turkey luncheon on board. Then more sightseeing and foliage viewing. We leave at 9 a.m. Cost is \$89.

Thursday, Nov. 11: Newport Playhouse & Cabaret Restaurant presents "Ghost of a Chance," a buffet full with everything. The play, then back to your seats for the Cabaret. Two shoes for the price of one. We leave at 9 a.m. The cost is \$99.

Saturday, Dec. 12: The fabulous Reagle Players Christmas Spectacular and Dinner at the Chateau Restaurant. The entertainment is wonderful. The food is great! We leave at 10 a.m. The cost is \$119.

times, we must all do our part and try and help mitigate the medical supply demand our hospitals and healthcare facilities are facing," said QCC President Dr. Luis Pedraja. "We will continue to do everything we can to assist our healthcare workers who work tirelessly on the front lines.<sup>2</sup>

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

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

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

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

PAYMENTS DUE AT SIGN UP

Trips are open to the public!

Make checks payable to the Southbridge Senior Citizens Association.

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

STURBRIDGE RECREATION

NYC Spring Bus Trip Saturday, April 25

Worcester have also made donations to: • UMASS Medical School -N95 masks, gloves, gowns, surgical masks • Harrington Hospital -Gowns, and surgical masks · Salmon Healthcare-Gowns, gloves and surgical masks • Knollwood Nursing Home - Gowns, gloves and surgical

Classes and labs at QCC's Center for Healthcare and

Touring as Described and Tour Director Gratutites. Last years Trip sold out early so don't get left behind

Have you ever thought about visiting Nashville? Come along on a 4 Day/3 Night Trip December 4th -7th. Included are Roundtrip transportation to Logan Airport, Roundtrip Airfare to Nashville, 3 Nights of Premium Lodging, 7 Meals including a Sunday Brunch, An Exclusive Dinner Show featuring the Oak Ridge Boys, Ticket and Show at the Grand Ole Opry, plus a Tour of the Grand Ole Opry, Admission to Country Music Hall of Fame, a River Cruise aboard the General Jackson Showboat, Tickets for a Holiday Show at the Opry House, Admission to ICE at Gaylord Opryland, a visit to Historic Studio B and a Guilded Tour Of Nashville. WOW!! Prices are 1949 pp Double and 2349 pp Single Occupancy which includes Tour Guides and Bus Drivers Gratuities as well.

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

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

#### LEICESTER SENIOR CENTER.

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

Thursday, May 14: Twin River Casino & Wright's Chicken Farm. \$10 slot cash and \$7 food credit at the Casino. Then we depart for Wright's Farm for a family style dinner. Cost is \$64. We leave at 9 a.m.

Wednesday, June 17: The Glouchester Lobster Cruise with lobster clam bake and chicken buffet. On the way home, we stop at Kimball's Farm for their famous ice cream. We leave at 9 a.m. Cost is \$109.

Thursday, July 16: The Lakes Region Summer Music Theatre's "The King and I" and Hart's Turkey Farm luncheon. We leave at 9 a.m. Cost is \$99.

Wednesday, Aug. 12: Casblanca By the Sea in Portland, Maine. Lunch at the Bull

#### MARY QUEEN OF THE ROSARY PARISH

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

\*USA: Wonders of Northern California Redwoods, Oregon & Washington: August 3-15 2020

\*Spain & Portugal: Sept.9-23, 2020 \*Galapagos Islands: Jan 4-13, 2021 \*Galapagos with extension to Peru (Machu Picchu): Jan 4-19, 2021

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

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

#### **PAXTON SENIORS**

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

#### SOUTHBRIDGE SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Contact Jim Julian at the Casaubon Senior Center Monday, Wednesday, or Friday 9-10 a.m. or call (774) 922-4049 or e-mail jimtrips@yahoo.com.

Trips are open to the public! Make checks payable to the Southbridge Senior Citizens Association, payment due at sign

#### SOUTHBRIDGE SENIOR CITIZENS **TRIP SCHEDULE FOR 2020**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Shopping & Sight Seeing

Cost: \$50 Per Person, \*Driver Gratuity Included

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

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

Depart NYC: At 6:30 PM return to your Lizak Charter and enjoy a peaceful ride home. Arrive to Sturbridge by 10:00 PM.

#### UNION SAINT-JEAN-BAPTISTE **CHAPTER 12**

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

#### **UXBRIDGE SENIOR CENTER**

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

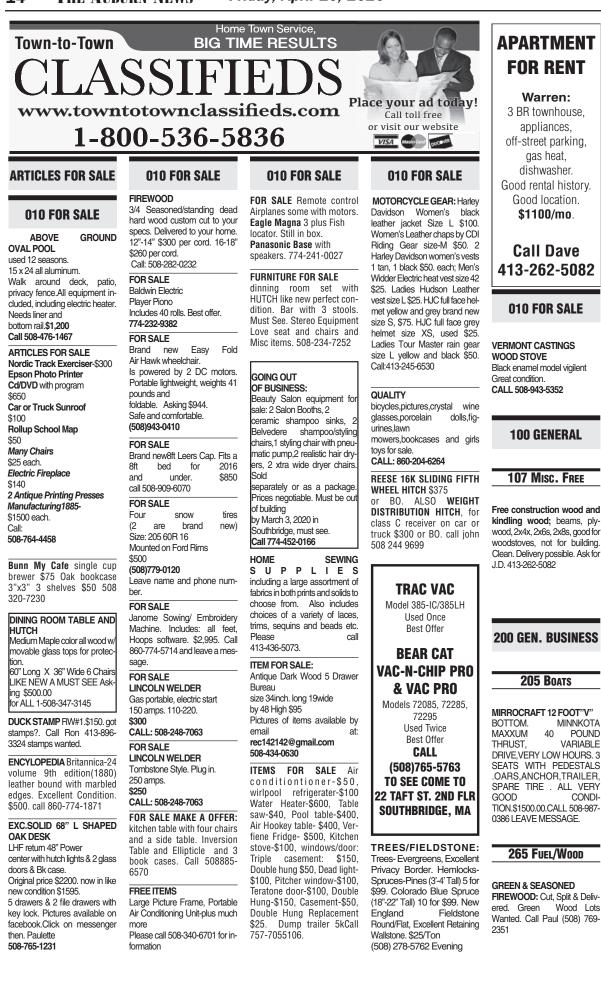
The Silver Club BUS TRIPS for 2020

Please call Sue at 508-476-5820 for more information.

The Uxbridge Senior Center is offering the following bus trips for 2020.

April 16, 2020 - Magic Wings Butterfly Gardens and Yankee Candle with lunch at the Golden Corral w/Fox Tours - \$71. April 27-29 Penn Dutch w/the new show Queen Esther at Sight and Sound -- (trip is full, sign up for the waiting list)- \$459. May 4 -- Granite State Chocolate and Wine Tour with lunch at Warren's Lobster House - Fox Tours - \$91. May 9 - Albany Tulip Festival w/Conway Tours -\$115. June 1 - Plymouth cruise on Pilgrim Belle with sightseeing tour and lunch at Hearth and Kettle - Fox Tours - \$91 June 26 - July 3 -- Atlantic Canada w/ Conway Tours - International Tattoo,

Turn To TRIPS page A14





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\$4,000

F150 118k miles. 4x4 single cab stepside capt. chairs Loaded Red with Cap \$4,000. 2002 Chevy Silverado 2500 HD black long bedloaded with plow. Low millige, 67 thousand, \$7500. Would consider partial trade Call Mike 508-752-7474.

#### **740 MOTORCYCLES**

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(low rider). Accessories added: windshield, crash bar, saddle bags. 5300 babied miles and care. Silver metallic. Recorded 100% mechanically sound by Sheldon's of Auburn. Bike is truly condition. new 508-414-9134 Call for showing. Firm \$12,000 as bike is MINT!

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custom 1981 with windshiled and engine guard. Has 24,500 miles. good condition. Wife no longer rides. \$2,000 or B.O. 508-892-3649

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on

## Bay Path's Andrea Champagne among 2020 DWC Scholars

CHARLTON — Andrea Champagne, a 2020 candidate of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy was named Dudley Women's Club (DWC) 2020 Scholastic Award Program recipient (Adult Winner)

The DWC announced recently that Champagne, of Webster, was one of four scholars chosen this year. Champagne's scholarship is for a non-traditional adult woman student returning to an accredited training program.

In a letter to Champagne, Diane Perry Dudley Women's Club Scholarship Chair, stated that "we were impressed with your academic success, commitment to community service and furthering your education."

The DWC supports local female students who reflect DWC's mission and values of public service with an emphasis on literacy and learning. Scholarship applicants were ranked considering their community service essay, financial need, work, academics/ GPA. community service as well as extracurricular activities.

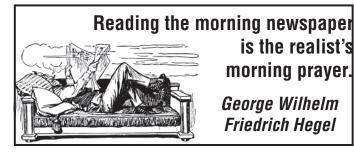
Champagne, who was a MassHire grant recipient in 2019 is a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) at Care One in Millbury, plans to pursue academic progression in nursing. After completing her studies at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, her goal is to obtain her BSN and specialize in trauma care. Her path, she says, is inspired by her mother who had such a strong work ethic. "One of her jobs that impacted my life most, was when she worked as a respite aid/job coach for a company that assisted in improving the daily lives of adults with intellectual and physical disabilities" said Champagne. This allowed her to learn real-world empathy-building through volunteer work.

Champagne volunteered for Bagong Kulturang Pinoy (www.BKPInc.org), a registered non-profit organization whose mission is to develop a reading culture among Filipino children for better citizenship. She is also a member of the UNICEF Club at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy and is actively participating in fundraising efforts and children's advocacy. "In each of these experiences," said Champagne, "I sought opportunities to leverage my background as a practical nursing student." Her most meaningful community service has been with special needs children and caring for those who are "different," not feel so different. Champagne lives her life with urgency and purpose and doesn't waste her time. She doesn't take anything for granted, from her work, academic, volunteer, and social experiences. She comes back with a renewed sense of



Andrea Champagne

gratitude and a responsibility to share what she learns. Her interests and experiences position her well for what would be an extraordinary, impactful and meaningful nursing career.



#### TRIPS

#### continued from page A13

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, St. John, New Brunswick - 3 seats left - \$1899. Aug. 30 - 31 - Saratoga Racetrack w/Conway Tours - enjoy a race atSaratoga, atour of the town, atour

of Haven Oaks Horse Farm, and drive up Prospect Mountain - \$329. Sept. 16 -18 - The Hamptons w/ Conway. Three day trip w/4 meals, guided tour of the "Rich and Famous," winery, ferry crossing, Old Westbury Estate Gardens, Montauk Point Lighthouse, Sag harbor, etc. - \$579. Green Mt. Railroad Oct. 6 --w/Fox Tours \$101. Nov. 19 -- Newport Playhouse w/Fox Tours \$101. Dec. 7 & 8 -- Equinox Resort and Hildene, VT w/Conway Tours. Two day trip with elegant dinner & piano entertainment, breakfast, tour of Hildene, chocolate tasting, etc. \$379.

Please call Sue at 508-476-5820 for more information or to be put on the emailing list.

## **OBITUARIES**

## Harry P. Rogan 93



AUBURN - Harry P. Rogan 93, formerly of Springbrook Road, died Sunday, April 5, 2020, at the Life Care Center of Auburn. He was predeceased by his wife of 48 years, Eunice J. (Anderson) Rogan of Auburn who died in 2001. He is survived by seven children, Patricia A. Rogan of Santee, CA, Michael Rogan and his wife Anne of Myrtle Beach, SC, William P. Rogan and his wife Sheila of Webster, Richard J. Rogan and

his wife Laura of Auburn, Nancy E. Marcinkus and her husband Peter of Leicester; Daniel J. Rogan and his wife Marilee of Chandler, AZ, and Steven R. Rogan of Auburn; his daughter-in-law, Carole Rogan of Oxford; two brothers, James Rogan of Arlington, VA, and Paul J. Rogan of Fishers Island. NY: two sisters, Gail Garill of Pensacola, FL, and Mary Stather of Attleboro; seven grandchildren, Arthur, Ryan, Patrick, Ben, Conor, Kylie, and Andrea; and several nephews and nieces. He was predeceased by a son, David H. Rogan who died in 2003; two brothers, Bernard Rogan and Peter Rogan; and a sister, Ann Leger. He was born in Fishers Island, NY, son of the late Peter and Lina (Forster) Rogan, and lived in Auburn since 1959. He graduated from Fishers Island High School and Manhattan College. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II.

Send all obituary notices to Stonebridge Press, PO Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550, or by e-mail to Obits@stonebridgepress.news





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