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After school program looks to create a Bright Future for local youth

WEBSTER — He was born in a small village called Techiman in Ghana, West Africa. He and his family moved to the United States at the age of 10. Ironically, his family ended up moving to North Village in Webster. "It takes a village to Turn To **BRIGHT** page **A13**

Public Safety Building goes back to voters on Election Day

BY JASON BLEAU
 VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — While Charlton voters will be a part of deciding who will be the next President of the United States on Election Day Tuesday, Nov. 3, they also have an important decision to make pertaining to their own community specifically as the latest proposal for the Charlton Public Safety Building goes to the polls.

Question 3 on the Charlton ballots will ask if voters want to support a debt exclusion for the amounts required to pay for the bonds issued for the construction and equipping of a new public safety building which were approved at a town meeting in 2019. Voters later decided against the funding mechanism in a ballot vote leading the Public Safety Building Committee to increase it's public awareness initiative, reassess the project's costs and details and initiate a capital campaign to offset the projected \$28.5 million price tag. The building would be erected on property on Masonic Home Road and would serve as the new home to both the fire department and police department which are currently housed in aged facilities.

A public forum concerning the project was held on Wednesday, Oct. 21 where citizens had their final opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the project before taking to the polls. As previously reported, although the debt exclusion had previously failed at a ballot vote it was decided.

A rendering of the exterior of the proposed Charlton Public Safety Building.

Photo Courtesy

Please Read **BUILDING**, page **A13**

Senate races, Public Safety Building on Charlton ballot

BY JASON BLEAU
 VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — The 2020 Presidential Election is quickly approaching on Tuesday, Nov. 3 but there will be more than just the presidential race on the ballot for the town of Charlton.

While voters will be asked to play a part in determining who will be the next President of the United States, incumbent Republican Donald Trump or Democratic challenger and former Vice President Joe Biden, six other races and three questions will also be presented on the ballot as voters will also determine the new Register of Probate, Senator, Representative, Councilor and State Senator and Representative that will represent Charlton for the next several years.

Just below the presidential race on the ballot, which also included Green-Rainbow Party nominee Howie Hawkins and Libertarian candidate Jo Jorgensen in addition to Trump and Biden, voters will have two choices for Senator in Congress with incumbent Democratic Senator Ed Markey being challenged by Republican Kevin O'Connor. Markey lost the town of Charlton to opponent Joe Kennedy, III during the Democratic primary in September and lost Charlton during the 2013 to his Republican challenger Gabriel Gomez. O'Connor easily defeated Shiva Ayyadurai in Charlton during the Republican primary. Unlike the Senate race, the

Please Read **BALLOT**, page **A13**



A WORTHY WALK

Photo Courtesy

Unable to join the annual Out of the Darkness Walk from Institute Park in Worcester, which was canceled this year due to the COVID-19 outbreak, Team JAK-L, formed in honor of captain Laurie Boucher's daughter Julie, decided to hold a walk of its own in Charlton.

Hockey rinks put on ice

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
 STAFF WRITER

REGION — Local hockey players are hanging up the skates for a while, as recent COVID-19 clusters at rinks caused the game to be temporarily put on ice statewide.

Last week, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health issued a new order prohibiting indoor ice rinks and ice skating facilities from operating for two weeks. The order is in effect from Oct. 23 through Nov. 7.

"This order is in response to multiple COVID-19 clusters occurring at rinks throughout the state following games, practices, and tournaments," read a statement released by the state's Department of Public Health. "Neighboring states, including New Hampshire, have enacted similar temporary restrictions regarding indoor ice hockey."

Statewide, there have been at least 30 clusters of COVID-19 associated with organized ice hockey activities, health officials said. The outbreaks have involved residents from more than 60 communities in Massachusetts. Each of these clusters includes two or more confirmed or probable COVID-19 cases, totaling 108 confirmed cases.

Health officials blame the outbreaks on the close proximity of hockey athletes, not only on the ice during games but also in cramped locker rooms. Mask use and social distancing are supposed to be taking place at rinks statewide, but these guidelines are nearly impossible to enforce.

In the state's return-to-play framework released over the summer, ice hockey, football, and several other sports were designated as high-risk activities. Amendments to the guidelines allowed for practices and other activities to take place, but officials are worried about future outbreaks.

"This pause will allow for the development of stronger

Please Read **HOCKEY**, page **A13**

2ND ANNUAL

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Bay Path Director walks at Purgatory Chasm to raise money for AFSP



Bay Path Director walks at Purgatory Chasm to raise money for AFSP

SUTTON — Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Director, Gretheline Bolandrina MSN Ed, RN, CRRN of Douglas, participated in the 2020 Out of the Darkness Experience, a walk joining Massachusetts together for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP).

According to Michele Lee, Associate Area Director (MA) and Area Director (RI) for AFSP, “mental health and suicide prevention are now a top priority for many individuals, businesses, organizations, and communities. The AFSP is committed to offering resources, support, messages, and connection to everyone in need.”

Bolandrina registered as captain for

Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy team and raised \$350, 75 percent more than the initial fundraising goal of \$200. Bolandrina was joined by her children Jessica, Lilly, and Max for the walk at Purgatory Chasm, Oct. 18.

“It was a beautiful day to walk for a great cause,” said Bolandrina, who said her main focus is to raise awareness for mental health and suicide prevention, but she added that she also wants to raise funds for AFSP. “I’ve been checking in with the alumni and the PN Class of 2021. As much as possible, we share insight, ideas, I hear about some of their challenges and successes, we continue to learn from each other on how we are here for all.”

Mental Health Awareness and Mental Health First Aid Training are ongoing

advocacies at the practical nursing education community.

“We have not been able to host fundraisers in our communities, we need to abide by state and town guidelines so the reinvented Out of the Darkness Walk into the Out of the Darkness Experience works well,” said Bolandrina.

“Together to Fight Suicide” was a special day to experience with family or small groups around local neighborhoods.

About AFSP

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention is a voluntary health organization based in New York City, with a public policy office based in Washington, D.C., and local chapters in all 50 states in the United States. The organization’s stated mission is to “save lives and bring hope to those affected by suicide.” For more information, visit www.afsp.org.

About Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy: Bay Path Practical Nursing is a 40-week, (10-month), full-time, Monday through Friday, evening program. The program begins mid-August and is completed in late June. Graduates receive a Practical Nursing Certificate and are eligible to take the NCLEX-PN licensure exam. For more information, visit www.baypath.net.

Charlton Villager

ACCURACY WATCH

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

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

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



CMS Chamber announces ‘Shop Local for the Holidays and Win!’ Contest

STURBRIDGE — The Chamber of Central Mass South, the leading advocate for local business, is incredibly pleased to announce a new contest designed to incentivize holiday shoppers to keep it local this season. Shop at Member businesses of the Chamber of Central Mass South between Nov. 1 and Dec. 15 and earn chances to win cash and valuable prizes, including a grand prize of \$500!

“It is more important than ever that we spend our dollars where they will do the most good, at neighborhood businesses in our local towns,” said Chamber Executive Director Alexandra McNitt. “With the ‘Shop Local for the Holidays and Win’ contest, we’ve created a fun and engaging way to keep it local this holiday season.”

Keep it local and keep it simple are the themes of the contest. Here’s how to get involved and earn your chance at some extra holiday goodness. Visit www.cmschamber.org and click on the Shop Local for the Holidays banner to read the official rules, download the entry form, and view more than 70 participating businesses. Bring the entry form with you as you shop and note all the businesses from which you made a

purchase along with the amount spent. Then, take at least one selfie of you and/or your crew shopping at one of these fine establishments. Once you have made purchases from six of the participating businesses and taken your selfie, mail, email or drop off your completed entry form and photo at the Chamber office at 46 Hall Road in Sturbridge by noon on Dec. 16. You can enter more than once as long as you are making 6 different and original purchases per entry. The winners will be drawn and announced on Thursday, Dec. 17.

The participating businesses include shops, dining establishments, service providers, as well as attractions and experiences located throughout the 12 towns served by the Chamber of Central Mass South. The Chamber is extremely grateful to the ‘Shop Local for The Holidays and Win’ contest sponsor, Cornerstone Bank, for their generous support of this effort.

Seeking promotion or advocacy for your business? If it is time for you to grow your business and join a dedicated and passionate business community, visit the Chamber of Central Mass South online at cmschamber.org or reach the office at 508-347-2761.



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Isabella is a sweet, caring, and bubbly teenage girl who loves animals. She is a great conversationalist and enjoys speaking to and learning about new people. Isabella is always open to trying new activities and is a talented artist. She also likes to play soccer and is currently taking a cooking class once a week after school. Isabella’s greatest wish is to have a family of her own where she can have a pet.

Isabella likes going to school and she reports that she has many friends this year that she enjoys spending time with. Her favorite class is chorus and she does well in school with extra supports.

Isabella really wants to be a part of a family and loves participating in all kinds of family gatherings. Isabella will do best in a patient family that can give her a lot of individualized attention. Her social worker is open to exploring families that consist of a single mother, two mothers, or a mother and a father. She will do best as an only child or with an older sister in the home. Isabella is legally freed for adoption.

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Question 1 has ‘a number of risks and uncertainties’

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

Besides the well-known and very expensive political races on this year's ballot, Massachusetts voters are also being asked to decide two key ballot questions. Question 1 is a fairly technical one regarding whether smaller car repair shops will be able to access the “telematics” that are now only available to garages owned by

the car companies. Question 2 would change the way we conduct most elections from the present system to a “ranked choice” system. (For Question 2, see related story.)

According to Ballotpedia.org, Question 1 is the sixth most costly ballot question campaign in the country this year, collecting \$50.9 million – \$24.4 million for yes, \$26.5 million for no. About 75 percent

of the no side's funding came from five major car manufacturers, while about half of the yes side's money comes from four major auto parts dealers. It seeks to expand on a ballot question the voters approved in 2012.

The two sides briefly summarized their points of view last Saturday on WATD 95.9 FM in separate interviews posted at <https://959watd.com/blog/2020/10/ma-interviews-with-representatives-on-both-sides-of-ballot-question-1-debate/>. But there does not seem to have been a publicly-available debate on the subject.

Pro-1 spokesman Tommy Hickey said the goal is to “update” a law passed by the voters in 2012 to give car owners “direct access” to certain kinds of information that’s “necessary to diagnose, maintain and repair the car. That is not GPS information; it’s not personal information.” To him, it closes a “carve-out in that law for wireless communications systems,” which are now common but were not then. Those wireless systems diagnose car issues from the car’s sensors, and such information would go to the owners if they have a certain smartphone app; they could then take it to any mechanic,

Anti-1 spokesman Conor Yunitz, however, said the existing right to repair law already covers such “telematics” data. If the manufacturers chose to make all data wireless, they’d still have to provide it to independent shops, he said. Instead, he sees this as “an enormous cybersecurity risk” because it “creates a wireless entry point” into a car that could be hacked. To him, problems mechanics face “should be addressed under the existing law. They won’t be solved by Question 1.”

“This is a national fight over data” between big parts companies and big car manufacturers, Yunitz said. “It’s

not about right to repair.”

Earlier this month, the Tufts University Center for State Policy Analysis released a report by Evan Horowitz looking at the issues surrounding Question 1. It’s available at https://tischcollege.tufts.edu/sites/default/files/cSPA_right_to_repair.pdf.

In it, Horowitz essentially echoed Yunitz’s last statement and the Ballotpedia data, noting, “[T]he large amount of spending and political advocacy surrounding this ballot question suggests there’s more to it than just a codification of existing rights. Over 100 automobile repair shops have joined the campaign in support of Question 1, indicating this is an issue they believe matters significantly to their business. And hefty spending from the “yes” and “no” campaigns suggests both sides see real stakes.”

One well-publicized issue is that telematics access has been portrayed by some anti-1 ads as increasing the risk of stalking and other dangers. That, Horowitz found, is unlikely.

“So long as GPS and other privacy-related information is excluded — as it seems to be — concerns about data misuse are greatly diminished. Some risks remain, however, including potential exploitation of the system for remotely updating your car,” he wrote. “... Unauthorized access to tire pressure or airbag deployment details wouldn’t expose the same kind of personal details as unauthorized access to your GPS-tracked movements. Moreover, telematics data already involves a real risk of misuse, with or without this ballot question. Automakers are collecting large quantities of telematics data — including about your location — with little transparency or formal oversight, only a voluntary code of conduct.”

The variety and secrecy of

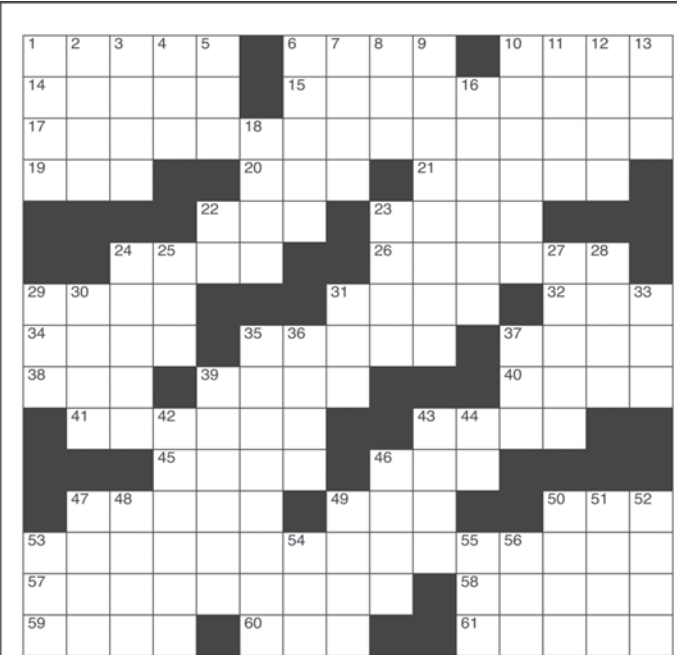
such data could make it difficult for mechanics to know if they’re actually getting what they need, and the remedies to enforce sharing are weak, he noted. If the law passes, he found, “Should you decide to use an independent shop, you can grant them access to your repair-relevant telematics data via the mobile app — not indefinitely but for a timeframe you determine.” That could include the ability to see how you drive in real time and advise on maintenance needs, among other things. Some of those could be done remotely, and already can be.

“It might have made sense for the ballot question to require some kind of express sign-off from drivers before updates take place. But the more general issue is that allowing independent mechanics to access telematics data requires changes to automobile security systems that could introduce new vulnerabilities, especially given the narrow timeframe,” Horowitz found. “...Note, however, that malicious and negligent manipulation of your vehicle would still be illegal under other laws. And the hacking issue transcends this ballot question; it is already a threat and will persist so long as new cars are designed to accept remote commands.”

In conclusion, Horowitz states, “There remain a number of risks and uncertainties associated with this ballot question, which could be mitigated with timely legislative action.” Such action could include extending the timeframe for compliance, which is now the 2022 model year.

Early voting runs through this Friday. Election Day itself is Tuesday, Nov. 3 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mailed or dropped-off ballots must be in the town clerk’s hands by the close of polls on Tuesday.

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

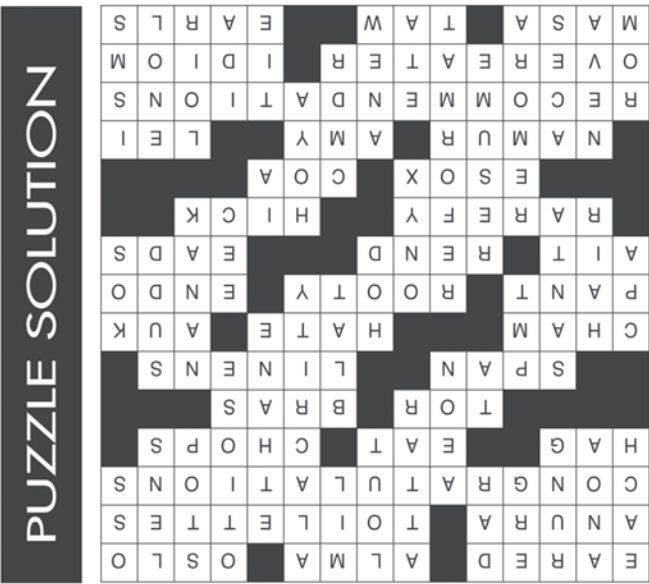


CLUES ACROSS

1. Battered corners: dog-
6. ___ Mater: one's school
10. National capital
14. Frogs and toads order
15. Bathrooms (French)
17. Praise
19. Witch
20. Consume
21. Pork and lamb are two types
22. Rocky peak
23. Women's undergarments
24. From end to end
26. Bed sheets
29. South Sudanese king
31. Dislike immensely
32. Diving seabird
34. Breathe noisily
35. Full of roots
37. Inside
38. Small island in a river
39. Tear into pieces
40. "CSI" actor George
41. Make less dense
43. Derogatory term for a country native
45. Pike and pickerel genus
46. Important in respiration and other biochemical reactions (abbr.)
47. Belgian city
49. "The Joy Luck Club" author
50. Essence of "Aloha"
53. Suggestions
57. One who overindulges
58. Expression
59. Maize dough
60. Make into leather
61. British noblemen

CLUES DOWN

1. One of two or more people or things
2. Small, deerlike water buffalo
3. Part of a ladder
4. Unit of work
5. Patriotic women
6. Fragrant essential oil
7. Aggressive, uncouth man
8. One thousandth of an inch
9. Brisk and cheerful readiness
10. Serving no practical purpose
11. Prevent from going forward
12. Camera part
13. Former CIA
16. Colorless, odorless gas
18. Long division of time
22. Atomic #73
23. Make a bleating sound
24. The kids love him
25. Female condition prior to menstrual period
27. Founder of Sikhism
28. Sudanese swamp
29. Can help with you finances
30. Part of the human body
31. Mortar trough
33. Greek island
35. Change pagination
36. Queens hip hop group
37. Precursor to the EU
39. A way to go on
42. Slender marine fish
43. Georgetown's mascot
44. Farm state
46. Military leader (abbr.)
47. Russian river
48. Teams' best pitchers
49. In a more positive way
50. Long French river
51. Reactive structures in organic chemistry
52. Distinctive practices
53. Male gypsy
54. When you hope to get there
55. Men's fashion accessory
56. Journalist Tarbell



REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

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\$600,000, 95 Osgood Rd, Real Est Alternatives Inc, to Maass, Zachary, and Maass, Kayse.
\$535,000, 64 Bond Rd, Jette, Matthew A, and Jette, Amy C, to Palmerino, Thomas J.
\$501,000, 10 Applewood Ln, Dougherty, James R, and Dougherty, Laurie J, to Smith, Chad C, and Smith, Emily B.
\$305,000, 43 Morton Station Rd, Conti, Clark R, and Wallace, Roxy L, to Vadeboncoeur, Scott A.
\$95,000, 23 N Main St, DTH Development LLC, to Raven Homes Inc.
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• **Charlton Federated Church**, 64 Main St., 248-5550, Sunday worship 10:30 a.m.

www.fedchurchcharlton.org

• **Charlton Baptist Church**, 50 Hammond Hill Road, 248-4488, www.charltonbaptist.org, Sunday worship 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

• **Charlton City United Methodist**, 74 Stafford St. 248-7379, web site: CharltonCityUMC.org

Sunday worship and Children's church 10am

• **St. Joseph's Church**, 10 H. Putnam Ext, 248-7862, www.stjosephscharlton.com, Saturday

Vigil Mass 4:30 p.m., Sunday Mass 8 a.m.,

Sunday Family Mass 10 a.m., Sunday LifeTEEN

Mass 5 p.m., Weekday Mass Monday, Tuesday,

Thursday, Friday 8:30 a.m.

• **Hope Christian Fellowship**, 6 Haggerty

Road, 248-5144

• **Assemblies of God Southern New England**

District Headquarters, Route 20, 248-3771,

snedag.org, Office hours Monday-Friday 8:30

a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

• **Lamblight Christian Church**, 37 Main Street - Grange building 1st Floor, Charlton,

Ma 01507, Rev. Stephen Wade, (774) 452-2393 -

Pastor's Cell. Sunday Service 10:00am. www.visitlamblight.com

• **New Life Fellowship A/G, SNED Chapel**,

307 Sturbridge Road, Rt. 20, Charlton, MA,

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Question 2 changes how elections work

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

REGION — Question 2 has seen by far the greatest difference in spending of the two questions. According to Ballotpedia.org, the pro-2 side has collected about \$9.7 million in donations, while the anti-2 side has just \$3576.77. Voters need to turn their ballots over to vote on this one; it's on the back.

In September, the Edward M Kennedy Institute for the US Senate hosted a debate between pro-2 spokesman Evan Falchuk and anti-2 spokesman Lee Goodman. Falchuk is chair of the Yes on 2 board and ran for governor in 2016, while Goodman was a Federal Elections Commissioner 2013-18 and a key attorney in the failed effort to overturn Maine's Ranked Choice Voting law in 2019. The event is still available at <https://www.emkinstitute.org/explore-the-institute/public-events-programs/public/ranked-choice-voting>.

In general, both sides agree ranked choice voting (RCV), also termed instant runoff voting, has existed for "well over 100 years" and is used in several American city elections plus several foreign systems. It works this way: Instead of picking just one candidate in a multiple-candidate race, the voter ranks them however they wish. They can choose just one, or they can rank them all (some states set a limit on the number of choices voters can rank). If nobody gets a majority of votes in the first round, the candidate with the lowest total is eliminated and the voters who ranked him/her first get their ballots counted for their second choice

instead. This rolling process goes on until someone has a majority and wins the race.

"If you can rank your donuts ... as so many do, you can do ranked choice voting," Falchuk said. Later he summarized the need this way: "Voters have to be able to vote for the person they really like, versus worrying about voting for someone that might cause someone else to win."

To him, the voters have repeatedly said they "want more choices" and RCV will push candidates to reach beyond their core voters to "ask them what we agree on." At the same time, it will allow third parties a better chance to be heard.

Goodman saw that as a problem, claiming it will increase polarization as mainstream candidates try to court supporters of single-issue and other "fringe" candidates. He claimed RCV requires voters to try to "predict" who will make it to second and subsequent rounds, that studies have shown Latino and African-American voters "tend to mismark their ballots at statistically-significantly higher rates than [those from] more affluent communities," that it favors more educated voters, and that it's not needed in Massachusetts, where most elections are "won by over 60 percent" even with third-party candidates. To him, two alternatives are better than RCV: having actual runoffs on a separate date or giving the voters on one date multiple ballots that would show them the choices in "conjectural runoff rounds."

Goodman noted that about 90 percent of RCV elections are actually won by

the first round's top vote-getter, but about 10 percent see someone else end up on top. He noted that one aspect of RCV is that voters who do not rank enough candidates can see their ballots drop out as the number of rounds gets higher.

Falchuk, on the other hand, argued Goodman was making it much more complicated than it is and that his arguments "have been rejected over and over again," particularly by the courts in Maine. One issue that came up there, he added, was a claim that older voters had trouble with RCV, but the judge "destroyed the expert for cooking the books. ... It's not true." He also rejected the idea that "black and Latino voters aren't as smart as other voters," noting many RCV proponents are black and Latino.

Goodman argued he was "merely reflecting what the studies say" and sees such things as "practical and documented concerns" that should be considered. Both men agreed that educating voters on how to mark their ballot and how it's counted are important to make it work well. Falchuk said he thinks the Secretary of State and municipal clerks can do that.

Goodman agreed they can, saying, "I think this has been templated enough that your state can do it," but it will require some funding for new software and maybe more voting machines. Falchuk agreed, but pointed to Maine, where early predictions said it'd cost \$1 million more, but it actually cost just \$100,000 more to run the first RCV election. What needs to be determined is whether towns will handle the second

and later counting rounds, or if those will go to the state. Maine communities didn't have the capacity to do that, but Goodman noted it is possible to program the voting machines to do it locally.

Falchuk said RCV would prevent what happened in the recent 4th Congressional District primary, where the winner only received 22 percent of the vote – "78 percent of voters voted for someone else," and all of the candidates have endorsed RCV.

Regarding constitutionality, the Maine case and Massachusetts have different language. Maine's Supreme Court initially ruled it unconstitutional because the document specifically calls for "plurality" elections, Goodman said. (Maine voters subsequently changed that.) In Massachusetts, though, the language doesn't use that word, just calls for the winner to be the one who gets the most votes. Falchuk noted the state constitution doesn't say how that's calculated, and this ballot question will define that if it passes.

RCV would first be used for the state and federal elections of 2022, but will not apply to future presidential races. A local option would allow towns to adopt it for local elections.

Early voting runs through this Friday. Election Day itself is Tuesday, Nov. 3 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mailed or dropped-off ballots must be in the town clerk's hands by the close of polls on Tuesday.

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

Junior League of Worcester moves wreath fundraiser online

WORCESTER — The Junior League of Worcester (JLW) announced that its fourth annual Wreath Workshop Fundraiser will take place on Saturday, Nov. 28 at 7 p.m. Teaming with Sparkle on Park, the JLW curated five do-it-yourself packages complete with a fresh wreath, ribbon and decorations to create from the comfort of your own home.

This year's event will use a virtual format, with a live

stream, as well as a recorded video if the start-time is incompatible with one's schedule. Tickets can be purchased through the League's eventbrite at bit.ly/wreath2020.

"The Junior League of Worcester is celebrating it's 95th year of serving the Worcester community," explained JLW President Lauren Evens. "2020 has been unlike any other but we are happy to be able to still deliver the workshop and provide

people with a fun night in," she said.

Wreaths and decor will be available for pick up in Worcester on the afternoon of Friday, Nov. 27, and the morning of November 28. A variety of raffle items will also be on display during pickup hours.

"The funds raised will help support our league's mission to develop the potential of women and create positive change for our community. Our initiatives are focused on bring-

ing awareness to and ending human trafficking and period poverty in our local community," said Evens.

About the Junior League of Worcester

Celebrating its 95th year of supporting Worcester County, the Junior League of Worcester is an organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through effective action and leadership of

trained volunteers. The JLW was founded in 1925 and is affiliated with the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI), which oversees 291 chapters in four countries – the US, Canada, Mexico, and the UK – with 155,000 volunteers. To learn more about the Junior League of Worcester or to join our new member class, please visit www.jlwma.org.



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QCC's virtual legislative town hall demonstrates positive impact of community college

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College student Tabitha Leber defined the past six months during the COVID-19 pandemic as a time of resiliency. Ms. Leber was one of a group of current and former students and college administrators who took to the virtual airways recently for a Legislative Town Hall to discuss the pandemic, remote learning and what it means to be a student at QCC. Ms. Leber said she and her fellow classmates have learned to be prepared and resilient, thanks to the skills they were taught at the college.

Attending the event were Senator Michael Moore, Senator Anne Gobi, Representative James O'Day; Representative Natalie Higgins, Representative Hannah Kane; Melissa Olesen, regional director of Central & Western Massachusetts for Senator Edward Markey; Yael Langer, legislative director for Senator Anne Gobi; and Emily Johnson, on behalf of Representative Paul Frost.

Moderating the event was Mason Wheaton, a first-generation college student who kicked off the event with her inspirational parody song, "We Can Fight the Virus." Ms. Wheaton described her time at QCC as transformative.

"I am so grateful to have come here. Every day I have more experiences than I could have ever imagined. Without QCC I would have never attended college and life would have looked a lot different," she said. "So many students like me came here to have a better life."

The college recently announced it was going remote for its spring semester, and the students who participated

in the event gave praise to the proactive way in which the college has supported its students.

Ms. Leber presented statistics on the needs of QCC students during the pandemic and told of the positive impact the QCC Foundation's Student Emergency Fund has made on their immediate, basic life needs.

"All QCC students qualified for the Student Emergency Fund: associate degree seeking students, certificate and workforce development students, adult students' programs, undocumented, international, part-time, full-time," Ms. Leber said, noting that the CARES Act Fund stipulations excluded many students.

The Student Emergency Fund has currently assisted 526 students. In a study of those who received this aid, 81 percent were women, 66 percent were parents or had other dependents, 63 percent were students of color and 43% were foreign born.

"I myself, as a single mother and a full-time student, am represented in this data," Ms. Leber said, telling of her own experiences coming to QCC as a single mother after a catastrophic injury.

Today she is a dual major and working on a third degree in the current remote learning environment, while also helping her daughter with her own remote schooling.

She went on to explain that the emergency aid was critical for students to stay in college and complete the spring 2020 semester (93 percent of those who received aid did not withdraw during the spring semester). However, with a minimum aid award of \$100, and a maximum of \$250, the aid was not enough.

"It's heartbreaking how many of our students have been impacted by the pandemic," President Pedraja said. "Many of the students we serve are living on the margins and the pandemic has put them in survival mode. You cannot think about education when you are in survival mode. My fear is this population, which benefits greatly from education, is being affected the most by the pandemic and further increasing the equity gap."

"We need to continue to raise funds to provide emergency aid to our students during the COVID-19 pandemic. QCC is trying to make our lives and the lives of our families better," Ms. Leber said.

Board Chair Sue Mailman reminded legislators that community colleges receive only 25 percent of the state's education funding, while UMass universities receive 50% of funding and state universities receive the other 25 percent of the state funding.

"If there was ever a time to rethink that formula it's now," Ms. Mailman said. "This school matters in this region for our students and for employers."

Recent 2020 graduate Jorgo Gushi, an electrical and computer engineering student at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, addressed QCC's continued commitment to its students and their success, in addition to its strong community engagement, such as in its recent census and voting campaigns.

"I was recently elected as a member of the QCC's College Foundation's Board of Directors. I am also serving as the Chair of the Student Advisory Council to the Board of Higher Education and sitting on this board in a non-voting

advisory capacity. Some of you might be surprised by the level of engagement I have in student leadership, advocacy and community service; however, this is common for QCC students," he said. "We enter QCC with a goal, a dream, and along the way we acquire skills needed to be successful in the workforce, and in life. We are taught confidence, communication, teamwork, humanity and awareness of our community."

QCC student Veronica Morson and alumnae Nelly Medina are also active in the college community and beyond. They both introduced their voting campaign videos and discussed the importance of voting, as well as being engaged members of the community.

"QCC is not a college in Worcester; QCC is Worcester's college. QCC is our community's college and it strives day after day to make it better for its students and the community's residents," Mr. Gushi said.

"QCC supports all of their students because we are a community," Ms. Leber added.

Representative Kane, whose district includes Shrewsbury and Westborough, commended the work the college has done transitioning to remote learning.

"I really like the Worcester college comment," she said during the event. "I certainly believe QCC is our community college as well and take great pride in all that you are doing."

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



Photo Courtesy

Pictured, from left to right: Diane Giampa, SVP of Human Resources, Marketing and Retail Banking, Bay State Savings Bank, Bill Moore, Executive Director, Project New Hope, and Peter Alden, President and CEO, Bay State Savings Bank.

Bay State Savings Bank Charitable Foundation awards grants to local non-profits

WORCESTER — Bay State Savings Bank is proud to announce their recent disbursement of more than \$17,000 to local non-profits. The Bank's Charitable Foundation met on Wednesday, October 7 and awarded grants to local non-profits in need of assistance for general, project, and capital support.


Funded organizations include ArtReach Studio, Inc., Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central MA and Metro West, Dismas House, Dress for Success Worcester, Inc., Living in Freedom

Together, Love Your Labels, McCauley Nazareth Home for Boys, Inc., Project New Hope, Rise Above Foundation, Simon Says Give, VOX New England, Inc., and Worcester Youth Center, Inc.

The next Charitable Foundation Meeting is scheduled for April 7, 2021. Non-profits interested in applying should visit the Bank's website at baystatesavingsbank.com/bss-charitable-foundation for the application and guidelines.

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Julia L. Touhey receives degree from Western New England University

SPRINGFIELD — Julia Touhey of Uxbridge graduated from Western New England University with a MS in Applied Behavior Analysis on Aug. 15.

Touhey was among more than 140 students who received degrees from 19 states and four countries.

Having just celebrated its Centennial, Western New England University is a private, independent, coeducational institution. Located on an attractive 215-acre suburban campus in Springfield, Massachusetts, Western New England serves 3,825 students, including 2,580 full-time undergraduate students. Undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs are offered through Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and the School of Law.

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In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Ch 140 §58 the **Wales Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on November 2nd, 2020 at the Wales Town Offices at 6:30 PM**, on the application of William Matchett of 45 Union Rd, for a special permit seeking a Class II car dealers license. Any person interested and wishing to be heard on this application should refer to the town website (www.townofwales.net) under zoning board agenda for the above date to participate virtually. If you have any questions or concerns please email planning@townofwales.net
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October 30, 2020

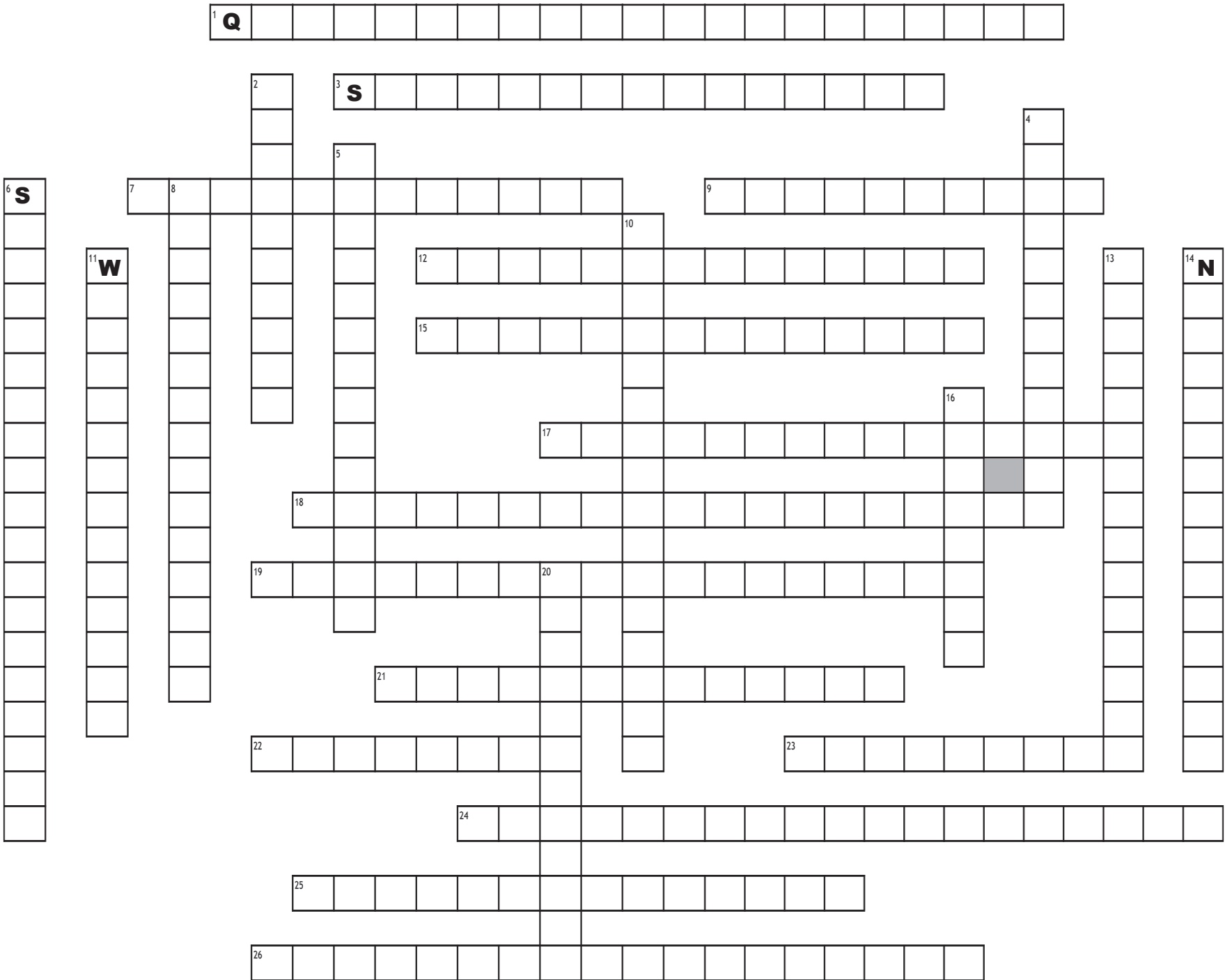
Wales Zoning Board of Appeals Notice of Public Hearing
In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Ch 40A §10 & §11, the **Wales Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on November 16th, 2020 at the Wales Town Offices at 6:00 PM**, on the application of William Matchett of 45 Union Rd, for a special permit in terms of the Town of Wales Zoning By-law Sec. 4.2. The Town of Wales Zoning By-Law Sec. 4.2.4.1 states "The proposed extension, alteration, or change must not increase the non-conformity (if any) with open space, yard, height, and off-street parking requirements." Specifically, the applicant wishes to build a 20 X 40 garage. Any person interested and wishing to be heard on this application should refer to the town website (www.townofwales.net) under zoning board agenda for the above date to participate virtually. If you have any questions or concerns please email planning@townofwales.net
October 30, 2020
November 16, 2020



**If it's important to you,
It's important to us.**

StonebridgePress.com

3rd Annual ABC's of Fall Crossword Puzzle 2020



Across

- 1. A rewarding Career Awaits
- 3. Restore harmony and balance
- 7.small town charm
- 9. Call us today 508-868-4291
- 12. Need to get it done? Call me!
- 15. Advertisers trust us
- 17. Special discounts on new layaways
- 18. We can save you time and money!
- 19. Company owner since 2000
- 21. Best sales experience!
- 22. Yours could be Next
- 23. Buyer and seller representation
- 24. Order online
- 25. 24 Hr. Roadside Assistance
- 26. Cooper Tires Fall Tire Promotion

Down

- 2. Now taking Thanksgiving pie & bread orders
- 4. I'll beat my competitors' prices
- 5. 6 & 12 months financing available
- 6. All instruments fully sterilized
- 8. Country Toys and great gifts
- 10. We will be happy to assist you
- 11. Rental car or truck can be arranged for you
- 13. Always going the extra mile
- 14. Find our BOGO Coupon on our website
- 16. Reporting for Duty!
- 20. ...services starting at less than \$1.50 a day.

3rd Annual ABC'S OF THE SEASONS OCTOBER 30, FALL EDITION

Hint... answers don't always include fall business name.

Name:_____

Address:_____

Circle which paper you found this in: *Spencer New Leader, Webster Times, Charlton Villager, Sturbridge Villager, Auburn News, Blackstone Valley Tribune, Southbridge News*

Daytime Phone:_____

Email address (optional)_____

Comments:_____

Please find the answers to this crossword puzzle on page 2. Enter for a chance to win a \$25 gift card to one of these ABC businesses by mailing in your completed crossword to **ABC Crossword Puzzle, Stonebridge Press, P. O. Box 90, 25 Elm Street, Southbridge, MA 01550** OR scan & email or take a picture and email it to jsima@stonebridgepress.news by Wednesday, November 18. Random-drawing for winner of all correct entries to be announced in the November 27th issue.

One entry per person.

Please support these ABC's businesses and tell them you saw their ad in your local paper! Good luck!



25 Elm St., Southbridge, MA 01550
Telephone (800) 367-9898
Fax (508) 764-8015
www.StonebridgePress.com

FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Your voice, and your vote, matter

We have heard a good deal of buzz from younger voters recently regarding the upcoming election, and the overwhelming consensus among them is a sense that their votes do not count. While there are exceptions to this rule, we feel it is important to stress to our younger counterparts how important it is to pay attention and to head to the ballot box.

The youth voice is important, whether you are a Republican, Democrat, Independent, Libertarian, or something in between. Important issues in every election directly relate to concerns students and young professionals have, which is even more reason to arm yourself with knowledge. Truth be told, younger voters are needed now more than ever. Issues that concern students are college tuition reform, healthcare and federal job programs to name a few. You may not care now, but you may care a few years from now when choices politicians make, begin to affect your life, and they will.

Young voters make up almost 50 percent of the voting population, giving you a stronger voice than you think, making your votes collectively more influential across the board. An interesting bit of trivia is that youth votes declined by 2 percent from a record of 52 percent in 2008. In 2016, 19 percent of those ages 18-29 voted in the presidential election. Those ages 45-64, however, made up for 49 percent of the vote.

You may not think your vote matters, but the fact is that every vote counts. The climate of the country appears to be so divided that the youth vote matters now more than ever. Oftentimes, politicians will win by a small margin as low as 20 votes, especially in local and state races, proof that your vote does matter. Young people that want to inspire change need to find the candidate who represents their values best, and cast their votes.

With news at our fingertips these days, it's easier now more than ever to educate yourself regarding politics. Sure it may seem boring and often times it is, but educating yourself on current events and the issues will serve you well. One bit of advice is not to believe everything you read or see, and to always fact check your sources. Protect your interests and use your voice, after all this is what democracy is all about.

Do not be discouraged or intimidated to vote — it's easy. You have a right to be at the polls just like every other American. Bring a friend and go grab some lunch or breakfast afterwards, making it a fun occasion.

LETTERS

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

We think you're important enough to tell all our readers to turn to the Opinion pages and read your Letters to the Editor.

But first, you have to write us!

Mail your letters to the Charlton Villager, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550.

Or e-mail your letters to the editor at news@stonebridgepress.news

You'll need to provide your name and place of residence, along with a phone number, so we can verify the letter is yours.

We don't have a set limit, but if you keep it around 600 words or so, you're going to have a better chance at seeing all your words in print.

If you want to write a bit longer about a particular issue, maybe a guest Your Turn column is your cup of tea. If you do that, try to keep it between 700-800 words.

Remember, libelous remarks and/or personal attacks are a no-no and could lead to your letter not being published.

So, what are you waiting for? Start writing!



OPINION

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

Take heart — the madness of 2020 is coming to an end!

A friend texted me a few days ago and said, "You're going to need to issue a retraction."

I responded with a very articulate and intelligent, "Huh?"

She then texted a picture of my first column of the year, entitled, "2020 Promises to be Awesome!" Maybe awesome wasn't the correct word.

Another friend posted on Facebook, "Dear Mom, you once threatened to slap me into next year. Does that offer still stand?"

Although a funny statement, I think most of us would endure that slap if it truly delivered the desired result.

I'll admit, 2020 wasn't exactly what I expected and hoped for. We were handed a virus, (I believe history will show it came from China, but does it really matter?) that we didn't and maybe still don't understand. One side is saying, "We left you a plan! All you had to do was follow it," while the other side is claiming that early closing of the borders saved lives. I really don't care who was in office, this is a virus no one understood and it's impossible to prepare for something you don't understand. Those screaming that the current administration has blood on their hands are making irresponsible claims to gain votes.

However, it's election season and irresponsible and ridiculous claims are being sprayed like machine gun fire from both sides. As we talked about a few weeks ago, it would seem that civility is dead.

The best news of the year is that the election will soon be over and "hopefully" the heat of the national discourse will cool.

Is that wishful thinking? I keep making the same point, but it's important.

I trust the will of the American people. If your candidate doesn't win, it's not the end of life on earth as we know it. There is another election in four years and the beauty of our system is that we have checks and balances to keep us from driving off the rails until then. The worse thing that can happen is if a single party takes control of all three branches of government. Trust me, neither party is always right or always wrong. A little gridlock slows things down and forces negotiation.

I've never seen both sides so fran-



POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

GARY W.
MOORE

tic. The screams from both left and right claim that if the other party ends, the nation will be irreversibly changed for the worse.

Irreversibly?

I don't think so. So please lower the volume, take a breath, and relax. The sun will rise on November fourth and life will go on.

As for COVID-19 ... it's become so politicized that it's hard to know what's true. And shame on both parties for using a national life and death circumstance as a tool to gain votes.

But that is how 2020 began. It doesn't mean that it must end this way. I am not naive'. I understand there's nothing that's going to change until after the election. If we are going to save our nation, we must accept the will of the people, regardless of who wins, then move forward together.

Sounds simple ... but it's not easy.

First, watch a few movies and skip the evening news channels. Prime time is where the barking opinion heads work hard to hijack your head and heart. Watch a movie, read a book, take a walk ... do anything but expose yourself to the evening vitriol.

While in your car, listen to music and again, avoid the shrill political voices coming out of your radio. Please understand ... these voices are rarely there to inform. They are there to manipulate your hearts and mind to come over to their side.

Relax. Take a breath. Turn off the noise. We are better than this and from Nov. 4 to Dec. 31, don't let the results of this election determine your happiness. Let's work on taking our year back and ending on a happier note.

American optimism is what has made the United States of America a beacon of hope, peace, and prosperity. Be hopeful. Find your peace. Let's all prosper together, regardless of outcome.

I choose optimism over despair.

Vote, then move on.

Will you join me?

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

Pandemic lessons

I don't know if you are aware, but the pandemic has been hard on just about everyone. I'm an introvert. At first, I thought, "Oh, great, I don't need to deal with people as much now." Strange thought for a pastor whose work is with people. Nonetheless, I thought it, and I'm glad I was wrong.

What the pandemic has taught me and others is how much we rely on one another. On some level we all know that. There is a deeper element to our relationships that are necessary, though, that the pandemic and consequent isolation have taught us. Friends don't merely spend time with us, let us vent, and make us laugh. Friends also, most importantly, keep us on the right track.

Certainly, many of us have found a bright side to physical distancing, like more family time and reading, but how many of us have also found ourselves doing what we otherwise hope we wouldn't do? Binge watching TV shows, drinking more alcohol, lighting a short fuse, crying for no reason, having trouble getting out of bed? Obviously, depression and anxiety may cause some of our darker moments and mental illness is not a choice—no illness is a choice—but turning to people



BEYOND
THE PEWS
.....
REV. JOHN H.D.
LUCY

who can ask us how we're doing, without expecting a superficial answer, is a good choice. How are you doing? Are you walking as much as you wanted to? Doing your jigsaw puzzles? Turning off the news when it's terrible? Counting to ten when you're about

to blow up at someone? Essentially, friends hold us accountable to the habits and character we want for ourselves. Now, more than ever, we need friends like that. When there is less to do to keep us busy, it is easy to fall into destructive habits.

Here's a church plug: since we're all still a work in progress, a good church is one where all members hold each other accountable in a good way. We don't sit around pointing fingers at people but we do seek to uphold one another in the behaviors, attitudes, and faith that are important to us. I've certainly come to appreciate my church family more for keeping me steady. It's one big group of friends, good friends.

I hope and pray for you that you'll find a good church family or a set of good friends who can say to you, "Hey, I've noticed you've been falling a bit short of being the person you want to be. How can I help kickstart some good habits with you?"

Vote for a solid investment strategy

Election Day is little more than a week away. As a citizen, you may feel the results will affect many aspects of life in this country. But as an investor, your situation probably won't change after the votes are counted.

No matter who wins, the financial markets may well show some politically driven volatility, but that often happens around elections, and it typically doesn't last long. But what about the longer term? How might changes in policy and new legislation affect your investment outlook?



FINANCIAL
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To begin, keep in mind that many campaign promises remain just that — promises. And even when some of them are enacted, any ultimate legislation may be quite different from what was proposed on the campaign trail.

Still, sometime in the future, we could see election-related changes that could affect your investment strategy.

For example, over the years, we've seen many adjustments in the tax rates of capital gains and stock dividends, and it's likely these rates will change again one day. When that happens, you may need to look at the equities portion of your portfolio to see if you want to make some adjustments.

Many other changes, though, are hard to predict. It's possible that future legislation could affect specific industries, either positively or negatively. Such moves could also influence the way you look at certain investments, but if you have a diversified portfolio that contains a broad mix of stocks, bonds and other securities, any actions affecting one particular industry probably won't cause you to significantly adjust holdings invested in other sectors.

In any case, while it may be a good idea to keep an eye open for things like tax rate changes or how new policies may affect different market segments, your main emphasis, in terms of your investment decisions, should remain on your goals and what you need to do to achieve them.

At least once each year, review your portfolio carefully to make sure your investments are aligned with your goals, whether they are short-term (a new car, a long vacation and so on) or long-term (such as college for your children or a comfortable retirement). Periodically, depending on what's happening in your life and the progress of your investment portfolio, you may need to evaluate your goals to ensure they're prioritized appropriately to help keep you on track toward achieving what's most important to you.

Over time, your goals may change, too. Perhaps you've decided that instead of retiring early and traveling around the world, you now want to turn your hobby into a business. Changing this goal may require a different investment strategy. Or you might change your mind about where you want to live — instead of staying in your home, as originally planned, you might downsize and move to a different area. Your goals may change in many ways, all of which may warrant updating your investment strategies.

Here's the key point: You're the one electing to make these changes. No matter what happens in this or any other election, be sure to "vote" for the strategies that have the potential for a winning outcome.

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

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My favorite time of year



THE GREAT
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The month of October Is my favorite time of year. Hunting and fishing provides us with a lot of opportunities to get out and enjoy all Mother Nature has to offer, before we head into the cold weather, and more than likely a few snow storms before all is said and done. As we grow older, time seems to go a lot faster. I do not want to wish my life away, but because of Covid-19, I will be happy to see spring. That is when a vaccine will more than likely be available to the general public, and we can get back to some form of normality. Until then, we will need to take life a bit slower and refraining from social gatherings. It is only six months away. Hoping everyone stays safe until then.

People that love the outdoors and do hunting and fishing should have no problem social distancing while still enjoying life. Deer hunters are often perched up in a tree observing wildlife and waiting for that big buck to walk into shooting range. If he does not come, harvesting a smaller deer will still give him some venison for the cold months ahead.

Bird hunters also should have no problem with social distancing, walking through the woods with a couple of buddies, and their dog. With the state stocking birds once a week at two local hunting areas, bird hunting should



provide some great hunting opportunities through the Thanksgiving holiday. After hunting a local stocked area for pheasant last week, I noticed a few ticks on my Labrador retriever when I brought her home. After removing as many as i could locate, I ran a flea comb through her hair the best that I could. Next came a bath with a flea & Tick shampoo. I keep her on Nexguard which is a once a month pill to keep her from contracting Lyme disease.

This past weekend, I decided to bake one of the pheasant that i retained from a hunt in open covers. The Ringneck pheasant was at least a couple of pounds after cleaning. I located an electric roaster oven that my wife always used to bake our Thanksgiving turkey. After she passed a couple of years ago, I had to take up cooking my own meals. I always liked to cook, but she would never let me into her kitchen. I can remember her words «You like to cook but you never clean up when you are done.” That

was not exactly true. It was just that she was a very, very fussy person, and cleaning was something she practiced daily.

Anyway, I went on to YouTube and found a receipt for baking a chicken and figured it should apply to any bird. I quickly cleaned the baking oven three times, splashing soapy water all over the kitchen sink, and onto the floor. If my wife could see me now! After a good cleaning I washed the bird a couple of times and patted it dry per instructions. Salt and pepper and a full stick of butter was added to the bird along with a liberal amount of celery and onion. Placing the bird into the pan after heating it to 350 degrees, and it was time for the one hour or more cooking time. My two dogs Twig and Molly seemed to be entertained by my actions.

Finally, it was time to taste the results of my first baked bird. Allowing the bird to cool a few minutes I pulled a leg from the bird's body and took a good bite into the meat. It was a bit chewy and did not have



much flavor. After a few bites, I looked at the two dogs that seemed to be drooling, hoping for a bite. I took another bite and soon realized I had screwed it up. I lifted the remaining bird from the pan allowed it to cool, cut off some of the bird for the dogs, and threw the rest in the trash.

My next bird will come from the supermarket, and I still had the mess to clean up that I had made while preparing it. The two dogs will eat almost anything that looks like food, so I could not tell if even they really liked it!

My wife often said that I only married her because of her great cooking. It was one of the reasons, but staying married for 62 years there had to

be a lot more than just her cooking. Rest in peace, babe!

With many people out enjoying the outdoors this year, they to need to be very careful with their children becoming infected with Lyme disease. Daily checkups by parents should be made of all family members at the end of the day. A Thorough

examination of the body, looking for a tick requires a few minutes to spot the extremely small deer tick. It could save one of your family a serious tick infection, that can turn into a life-threatening disease. There is a spray for your clothes called Permethrin that works very well to ward off ticks, but it should never be used on the skin. It is for clothing only, and can last up to a couple of weeks or more. Be sure to read all of the instructions before applying the spray.

This week's picture shows Andrea Henchey and her husband Curis shooting clay birds at the Uxbridge Rod & Gin Club this past Sunday. The trap range is open every Sunday weather permitting. It is open to the general public, so give it a try. You cannot find a nicer group of trap shooters, and they will be happy to help improve your shooting skills.

Do not forget to vote!

Take a Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

Paint a Room – Change Your Mood

Perhaps nothing provides the “wow” effect as fast (or as cheaply) as redoing the walls of a room. After all, paint offers an easy and inexpensive means of transforming a living space - but that's not all. While paint can make a significant difference in a room's appearance, it can also make a difference in the mood of the people within those four walls. Case in point: In the 1950s color experts shared their groundbreaking data that revealed that rooms painted certain shades of blues and green not only served to calm, but could have a sedative effect! A decade or so later, prison officials discovered cell walls painted a bubble gum pink color calmed violent prisoners.

Alexander Schauss, Ph.D., director of the American Institute for Biosocial Research in Washington, who was the first to research and report on the “pink effect”, stated: “Even if a person tries to be angry or aggressive in the presence of pink, he can't. The heart muscles can't race fast enough. It's a tranquilizing color that saps your energy. Even the color-blind are tranquilized by pink rooms.” For all those painting this season, here's a rundown on the psychology of paint.

Creative Color: Want to foster your creativity? Try painting an office or

work space light blue. Light blue also promotes imagination, inner security and confidence! Need to be more organized? Try pairing light blue with yellow, to stimulate the mind and help with organizational skills.

Deep Sleep: Dark blue, however, tends to encourage deep and peaceful sleep, which makes the dramatic color ideal for a bedroom.

Diet Aid: According to the Paint Quality Institute, medium blue is an appetite suppressant, so you might want to avoid using it in the kitchen or dining room, unless you're on a diet. In that case, a blue plate might just do the trick.

Bright and Brighter: The color yellow is not only bright, it inspires mental brightness too! Yellow is associated with intelligence and expressive thoughts. Yellow is even credited with improving memory. If that's not enough to sell you on the color, yellow is a mood booster too!

But with yellow a little goes a long way, and too much bright yellow can over stimulate the nervous system.



TAKE
THE
HINT
KAREN
TRAINOR

Chit Chat: Aqua or Turquoise encourages communication, making it the perfect paint color for a teenager's room - or in a salesroom office where the deal is sealed.

Hunger Pangs: It's no secret red inspires hunger, and many restaurants use the color psychology to whet a diners appetite. Red also increases the heart rate, energy and passion. But don't run off to buy a gallon of red yet. Studies show too much of some intense reds can cause irritability and anger. If you're using red in your room, try a darker shade of red, or try painting one wall to avoid becoming overwhelmed by the energetic color.

Spa Shade: Green is considered a healthy color, fostering comfort, relaxation and a sense of wellness. Green is a good choice for a bathroom, sun porch or reading nook. On the other hand, lighter shades of green such as mint green, can refresh and invigorate the mind. Darker greens, however, add a sense of calm to the decor and are another favorite bedroom color.

Bust the Blues: Depressed? Try paint-

ing your walls orange, or at least a workable shade of orange, such as peach or terra cotta. Orange is the top mood booster, according to experts. Orange fights depression and cultivates good humor. The powerful energy of orange even promotes the capacity to forgive!

Win Dinner for Two
Your tips can win you a fabulous 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 renowned 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 publications? Send questions and/or hints to: Take the Hint!, c/o Stonebridge Press, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550. Or e-mail kdr@.com. Hints are entered into a drawing for a three course dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn!

Lasell Fashion Design and Production grads showcase at Boston Fashion Week

NEWTON — In the middle of a global pandemic, students in Lasell University's School of Fashion debuted original designs at Boston Fashion Week 2020.

Sarah Reese of Uxbridge presented “Derive,”

Samuel Bettencourt of Uxbridge presented “Threshold.”

Lasell's participation at Boston Fashion Week 2020 consisted of three virtual segments:

Red Carpet
A live-streamed broadcast to introduce Lasell's Fashion Week presence, featuring commentary from designer David Josef, fashion producer and model Munjeet Geyer, and Calderin.

Watch Party
The premiere of Lasell University RUNWAY 2020 featured three scenes highlighting Class of 2020 collections:

Street Smarts, featuring designers Sarah Rudker, Stephanie Amato, Sarah Kelly, Sarah Reese, Allie Doyle, and Sabrina Michaud

Transitional Elegance, featuring designers Kathleen Politica, Amanda Wagreich, Kaitlin Johnson, and Elizabeth Witherell

Teasing the Edge, featuring designers Cass Greeley, My Nguyen, Cass Starling, Hannah Bowerman, and Sam Bettencourt

After Party
A live, interactive event at which

Lasell Class of 2020 designers participated in “Meet the Designer” conversations. Participants wore blue, Lasell's collegiate color, to celebrate the unifying power of fashion and symbolize inspiration.

For more information contact: Samantha Mocle, assistant director of communications at smocle@lasell.edu or at 617-243-2386.

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OBITUARIES

Kenneth W. Blackman, 70



C H A R L T O N
Kenneth W. Blackman, 70, passed away October 10, 2020 in his home. He leaves behind a son, Erik S. Blackman and his wife Kristin of Feeding Hills, MA. a daughter, Tiffany L. Blackman and her partner Alex, a grandson, Avery Cruz of Putnam, Ct., his mother, Dot Blackman

of Albany, New York, 2 brothers, Robert and Peter of New York, his beloved dog ‘Yaz’ and fur baby ‘Georgia Peach’. Ken was born August 3, 1950 in Albany, New York a son of the late William Blackman, was a high school graduate and earned his bachelor’s degree in business from Siena College, he became a regional sales manager for Financial Federal in New Jersey and retired to Charlton in 2004. He enjoyed being a New England

Patriots fan, his home and pontoon boat on Glen Echo, a member of the Glen Echo Lake Association, but really enjoyed being with his grandson Avery. There are no calling hours. A Memorial Mass will be celebrated Saturday, November 7, 2020 at 11 A.M. in St. Joseph’s Church, 10 H-Putnam Rd., Ext. in Charlton, followed by a Celebration of Ken’s Life at 1PM at the Black Dog Bar & Grille, 146 Park Rd. in Putnam, Ct. (current

health precautions will be in place (masks and social distancing Please). In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to: GELA, P.O. Box 578, Charlton City, MA. 01508. The **ROBERT J.MILLER-CHARLTON FUNERAL HOME**, 175 Old Worcester Rd. is honored to be assisting with arrangements. To leave a message of condolence or to Share a Remembrance of Ken, please visit: RJMillerfunerals.net

Extend your enjoyment of nutritious pumpkins



**GARDEN
MOMENTS**
.....
**MELINDA
MYERS**

Pumpkin is not just for desert. Consider using this low calorie, flavorful vegetable, botanically classified as a fruit, in any of the courses of your fall or holiday meals. The beta carotene that gives pumpkin its orange color is an important antioxidant. Increasing the beta carotenes in your diet can reduce the risk of developing some cancers and provide protection against heart disease. And do not throw the seeds in the compost pile, roast them instead and enjoy the anti-inflammatory benefits of this snack. Remove the pulp by rinsing the seeds in cold water. Spread the seeds in a single layer on a baking sheet treated with a non-stick cooking oil. Lightly salt. Bake at 325 degrees for 25 minutes. Stir the seeds after 10 minutes. Allow to cool and store any leftovers, if there are any, in an airtight

container. Harvest pumpkins when the fruit is fully colored and the rind has lost its shine and is hard. The curly tendrils near the pumpkin will turn brown and die when the fruit is fully ripe. Use a pruning shear to cut the stem and avoid damage to the plant and your harvest. Leaving several inches of the pumpkin’s stem intact increases their storage life. And look for blemish-free fruit with intact stems when buying pumpkins from the grocery store or farmers’ market. Always harvest pumpkins before the first frost. Or cover plantings with floating row covers, old sheets or blankets when frost is in the forecast. Protecting plants from the first few frosty nights can keep them growing until the remaining frost-free days of the season are back in the forecast. Only store pumpkins free of soft spots, cuts and other damage that can lead to decay. Cleaning them before storing can help extend their shelf life. Wipe them down with a dilute solution of one tablespoon of bleach per gallon of water. Allow them to dry thoroughly before placing them in storage. Washing the fruit removes bac-

teria and fungal spores that can contribute to decay. Store pumpkins in a dark, dry, cool location between 50 and 60 degrees for storage. Place them in a single layer on cardboard, crates or wooden shelves. Avoid storing them directly on a concrete floor that can lead to rot. Check pumpkins regularly for rot and soft spots. Remove any that show signs of rot and add them to the compost pile. Pumpkins that are stored properly can last for several months. Remember to take time this season to enjoy the harvest and flavor as you cook up some tasty, nutritious pumpkin dishes this fall. *Melinda Myers is the author of more than 20 gardening books, including Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses “How to Grow Anything” DVD series and the nationally-syndicated Melinda’s Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.*



Photo Courtesy

This Orange Smoothie variety is a great pumpkin for carving, painting, and its meat is sweet for homemade pumpkin pie.

Respiratory Care Week recognized at Quinsigamond Community College

WORCESTER — Honoring those who are vital to our health and safety is the premise behind Respiratory Care Week, held this year from Oct. 25- 31. No one knows this better than the Respiratory Care students at Quinsigamond Community College. As the oldest Respiratory Care Program in the state of Massachusetts, QCC’s program has been leading the way in the region. This was never more evident than during the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, when the College received approval from the program’s accrediting agency to allow QCC respiratory care students to simultaneously work on their student licenses and earn credits. This added a dozen students to the workforce, increased the Respiratory Therapists in Worcester by 10 percent and brought much needed medical resources to an extremely stressed healthcare system. “From the moment QCC went remote,

the program and the students worked diligently to explore new and effective avenues to complete educational requirements. Their team spirit and professionalism demonstrated that they had indeed transformed from lay persons to the professionals that they had aspired to become,” said Amy Hogan, assistant professor of the College’s Respiratory Care program. “All sophomores graduated on time, achieved Registered Respiratory Therapist credentials, and secured Respiratory Therapist positions post-graduation.” This fall, there are 10 full-time students in the program, four second-year students and six first-year students. The second-year students are working on their clinicals at St. Vincent Hospital, Worcester and first-year students are at UMass Memorial Campus, Worcester. While the students do not directly caring for COVID-19 patients, they are administering aerosolized medications,

evaluating, and titrating oxygen therapy, caring for patients on mechanical ventilation, and providing various other therapies to optimize the lung health of their patients. “COVID-19 has brought Respiratory Therapists to the forefront of the healthcare profession. Respiratory Therapists are the only medical specialists specifically trained in the cardiopulmonary system. As such, they are uniquely qualified to manage not only patients with COVID-19, but also any patient who has breathing issues,” said QCC’s Respiratory Care Program Coordinator, Keith Hirst. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the 2019 median salary for Respiratory Therapists was \$61,330 and employment projections of 26 percent are anticipated in the next several years, due to an aging population that will lead to increased cases of respiratory issues.

“In Worcester County, with a population of approximately 830,839, approximately 97,500 (12 percent) of adults have some form of chronic lung disease. Now, with the COVID-19 virus, even more people are in need of these types of professionals. This is why Respiratory Care programs such as QCC’s are so essential,” Mr. Hirst said. Respiratory Care Week was established by President Ronald Regan in Sept 1983, due to the care that he received by respiratory therapists when he was shot, as well as to acknowledge the impact that chronic lung disease has on the population. To learn more at QCC Respiratory Care program, visit www.QCC.edu/respiratory-care. For more information about QCC, contact Josh Martin, Director of Institutional Communications at 508-854-7513 or jmartin@qcc.mass.edu.

CHARLTON LIONS HOLDING GRILL RAFFLE



Photo Courtesy

The Charlton Lions are selling raffle tickets for a Kenmore six burner gas grill. Chances are one for \$5 or three for \$10. The raffle is being drawn on December 13th.

You need not be present to win. Please contact Lion Carole at 508-341-4992 to get your chances. And as always...The Charlton Lions thank you for your continued support!

Massasoit Art Guild show live through Dec. 31

REGION — Due to COVID-19, this year’s show is being exhibited virtually on The Guild’s website at massasoitartguild.com. It was a difficult decision for us to make, but in light of the pandemic, we chose to hold our show online for the safety of the public and our artists. The exhibit showcases 151 pieces of art by our talented artists and photographers. In keeping with the tradition of The Guild’s mission to support the growth and development of local artists, our show has always doubled as an art sale. This year is no different as the virtual gallery has prices and contact information listed for the exhibiting artists. The Guild wishes to thank this year’s judge, Nancy Cooke Bunnell, an award winning pastel artist and teacher. Her work can be seen at ncbunnellstudio.com. Please be sure visit the virtual gallery. Your purchases of art make unique gifts for the holiday season and support your local community of artists. The Massasoit Art Guild is excited to announce this year’s winners. Best In Show: Traditional Photography~ Morning Light by Donna Cobb First Place Winners in all Categories

Acrylic: Irena Russell
Drawing & Printing: Marilyn Kulesa
Oil: Linda Spencer
Pastel: Judy Doyle
Watercolor: Maggie Hart
Photography: Peter Spencer
Digitally Enhanced Photo: Jonathan Dosick
Other Media: Karen Langlie
Presidents Award: Nancy McBride
Our Second and Third Place, Memorial Awards, and Honorable Mentions are as follows:
Norman Cabana: 2nd Place Acrylic and Honorable Mention
Susan Kennedy Scott: Emile Gaucher Memorial Award and Honorable Mention
Irena Russell: 3rd Place Acrylic, 2nd Place Other Media, 2nd Place Watercolor
Marilyn Kulesa: 3rd Place Drawing & Printing
Linda Spencer: 2nd Place Drawing & Printing, 3rd Place Watercolor
Michele Loftus-Trzcinski: 2nd Place Digitally Enhanced Photo, 3rd Place Traditional Photography
Donald Beal: 3rd Place Digitally Enhanced Photo



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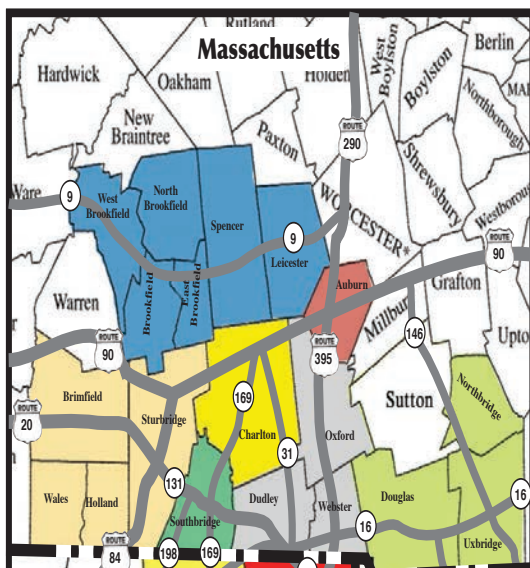
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This section reaches 47,000 households in 7 Massachusetts newspapers.

BALLOT
continued from page A1

Representative in Congress race is pretty cut and dry with only Democratic incumbent Richard E. Neal on the ballot.

The races for State Senator and State Representative both contested in 2020 with the Senate race consisting of incumbent Democrat Anne Gobi and Republican challenger Steven Hall. The State Representative race sees a familiar battle as Republican Paul Frost seeks to maintain the position he has held for 23 years while Independent Terry Burke Dotson will seek to usurp Frost as the new State Representative. Dotson has previously lost to Frost in 2014, 2016 and 2018 all as a member of the Democratic Party. Democrat Paul DePalo is seeking election for Councilor for the Seventh District unopposed and rounding out the ballot is the race for Register of Probate where Republican

incumbent Stephanie Fattman hopes to stave off a challenge from Democrat John Dolan, III.

In addition to the races, three questions will be found on page two of voters' ballots, two state questions and one local issue seeking public input. Question 1 is a statewide ballot question asking voters if they support a proposed law that would require manufacturers of motor vehicles sold in Massachusetts to equip vehicles from model year 2022 and on with telematics systems that collect and wirelessly transmit mechanical data to a remote server with a standardized open access data platform. The proposed law as written on the ballot states that that with vehicle owner authorization independent repair facilities not affiliated with a manufacturer and independent dealerships would be able to retrieve mechanical data from, and send commands to, the vehicle for repair, maintenance, and diagnostic testing. A yes vote would provide motor vehicle owners and independent

repair facilities with expanded access to wirelessly transmitted mechanical data related to their vehicles' maintenance and repair while a no vote would make no change to current regulations and laws.

Question 2 would implement "ranked-choice voting" where voters rank one or more candidates by order of preference in primary and general elections for all Massachusetts statewide offices, state legislative offices, federal congressional offices, and certain other offices beginning in 2022. Ranked-choice voting would not be used in elections for president, county commissioner, or regional district school committee members. This would effectively turn voting into a series of "rounds" and would be limited to single-winner races rather than positions with more than one winner. A yes vote would support the change and a no vote would keep the election format the same.

Question 3 is a Charlton-specific question for voters involving a debt

exclusion from Proposition 2 ½ the amounts required to pay for the bonds issued for the construction and equipping of a new public safety building. A debt exclusion is not the same as an override. The exclusion means the cost of the building would be removed from the tax levy once the facility is paid off. A town meeting previously approved \$28.5 million for the project however a previous debt exclusion question did not pass. The question is going before the voters again with adjusted figures with the hopes that the Presidential Election will bring a larger sample of the town population to the voting booth to have their say on the funding mechanism for the project. Details on the public safety building project can be found at www.charltonpublicsafetybuilding.com.

The 2020 Presidential Election will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 3. Voting details and a copy of the election ballot have been made available on the Town of Dudley Web site.

BRIGHT
continued from page A1

raise a child" is an African proverb that means that the whole community is needed to nurture a child. It feels as though, growing up in my Ghanaian village and moving to my American North Village were no accidents, but instead an important reminder of the old proverb. I was determined to seize the opportunities that come with involving myself in the community. One of the first ways I connected with people when I came to the U.S. was through soccer and I had some remarkable coaches that made a difference. North Village made me the man I am today and I owe a whole lot to my community," says co-founder Kwasi Acheampong.

After watching many of his peers succumb to a life of drugs and addiction, Kwasi decided to start a program that gave students a safer and more hopeful path in life. He created Our Bright Future, Incorporated.

Our Bright Future, Inc. is an after school enrichment program that incorporates stem with sports. Their mission is to empower youth and develop bright leaders through robotics, sports training, and guidance in academics. We incorporate core values such as education, empowerment, discipline, leadership, diversity, and respect into our daily programs to help students shape their futures into bright ones. The program launched four years ago and there are now programs in three Massachusetts locations — Webster, Southbridge, and Charlton.

STEM education is so often left out of school settings and it is not only personal experience, but also statistics that show that youth being involved in sports leads to lower dropout rates, higher GPAs, and more fine-tuned social skills. This is why we combine Stem education with sports. We also offer programs such as Mentorship (through our partnership at Big Brothers Big Sisters), Arts and Crafts, and Financial Literacy.

"We have been lucky to meet some wonderful people like Mr. and Mrs. Fels of the Fels Foundation and Mary O'Coin Executive Director of United Way of South Central Massachusetts. Without them, there would be no Our Bright Future, Inc." says co-founder Kwasi Acheampong. We would like to thank all of our 2020 donors. Cornerstone Bank, Savers Bank, Oxford Insurance, The Last Green Valley, Fels Foundation, United Way of South Central Massachusetts, Southbridge Credit Union, Walmart, and Precision Auto Rebuilder.

Our Bright Future, Inc. is currently operating programs in Webster from 3 pm to 5 pm and coming soon to Southbridge on November 2nd, 2020. Due to COVID, Charlton's location will be delayed until January. Please visit their Web site at www.ourbrightfutureinc.org for more information on how you can sign-up your child.

If you are interested in donating to this wonderful organization or sponsoring a student please email Co-founder Kwasi Acheampong at ourbrightfutureinc@gmail.com or call (774) 578-5111.

BUILDING
continued from page A1

ed to put the item before voters again during the election where a larger sample of the population is expected to turn out. A debt exclusion would mean that the project is removed from the tax levy once the debt is paid off. Such a vote is required to pass to exempt the project from the limitations of Proposition 2 ½. Captain Rob Barton, who sits on the Public Safety Building Committee, broke down the current cost estimate during the forum including it's expected impact on the average taxpayer throughout the life of the loan.

"The projected cost was \$28.5 million. The total debt exclusion to the taxpayer right now sits at \$26.8 million due to the fundraising committee," Captain Barton said. "The average home value in the town of Charlton is \$281,800. That equates to be the average homeowners tax bill will increase \$225 or a little bit more than \$50 per quarter."

HOCKEY
continued from page A1

COVID-19 protocols to further protect players, families, coaches, arena staff, and other participants, as well as communities surrounding hockey rinks," read the Department of Public Health statement.

ART SHOW
continued from page A10

Clifton Hunt: 2nd Place Oil
Loretta Medeiros: 3rd Place Oil
Sue Wiseheart: 3rd Place

Current protocols include limitations on the number of people allowed in an arena, social distancing measures, locker room regulations, and other precautions. Health officials said additional measures will be needed to minimize the risk of future clusters, but they will only be effective if rink managers, coaches, parents, and athletes

abide by them.

The Department of Public Health's current order includes all indoor ice rinks and ice skating facilities in Massachusetts. These rinks and facilities may not operate during this temporary two-week pause.

College and professional hockey programs are exempt from this order.

Other Media
Judy Doyle: Honorable Mention Pastel
Carole Bentley: 3rd Place Pastel
Veronica Furst: 2nd Place Pastel
Wendy Trucheon: 2nd Place

Traditional Photography
Maggie Hart: Vernon Graham Memorial Award, Mildred Terry Memorial Award
Sandy DeCoff: Gayle Magwood Memorial Award
Lauri Caswell: Doreen Sequin Memorial Award



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Thanksgiving
Prayer to
St. Jude

Dearest St. Jude, thank you for your prayer and intercession on my behalf to the Lord, you have always answered my prayer but still I will never be able to thank you enough. Please forgive me on occasion that I may have forgotten or overlooked in thanking you for the favours granted. I promise you St. Jude to be ever grateful and always be, devoted to be you as my patron saint. For by the good Lord's grace has got me to this point in life, and there is still a very long road for me to traverse. Therefore, St. Jude, I will always need you by my side and please continue to guide and help me with God's grace. I ask you St. Jude to not leave any prayers unanswered whether it is one of mine or from others who have invoked your aid. Look upon us the hopeless and desperate for the Lord's help in our life. I will always be in need of your help and you always hear my prayers, otherwise my life will be very difficult to lead. AMEN. N.F.L.

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