

Auburn News

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Friday, March 12, 2021

Newsstand: 75 cents

Julia Bancroft School to be converted into senior housing

— Pennrose and the Town of Auburn celebrated the groundbreaking of the historic rehabilitation of the Julia Bancroft School, a 60-unit, mixed-income development for seniors 62 and older, last week. Plans for the redevelopment include renovating the original 1920s historic school building, demolishing the later built addition and replacing it with a new, four-story building. The project is slated for completion in summer 2022.

Speakers at the virtual groundbreaking ceremony included: Karyn Polito, Lieutenant Governor, Commonwealth of Massachusetts; Jennifer Maddox, Undersecretary, Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD); Jim McGovern, Congressman, 2nd Congressional District of Massachusetts; Michael O. Moore, State Senator; Paul Frost, State Representative; Doreen Goodrich, Chairwoman, Auburn Board of Selectman; Julie Jacobson, Town Manager, Town of Auburn; Timothy Henkel, Principal & SVP, Pennrose; and Charlie Adams, Regional Vice President, Pennrose.

Designed to meet LEED Silver sustainability standards, the community will include studio, one-, and two-bedroom apartments. Of the 60 units, 45 will be designated for residents at or below 60 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI) and 15 will be market rate. Four of the affordable apartments have been set aside for Community Based Housing (CBH) and seven are designated as accessible units. Residents will have access to multiple elevators, a resident lounge, fitness center, two outdoor patios, on-site laundry facilities and supportive services. “We are excited to begin construction on another



A conceptual drawing of Pennrose's plans to convert the Julia Bancroft School into senior housing.

Courtesy

transformative redevelopment with the Town of Auburn to expand the region's affordable housing supply,” said Charlie Adams, Regional Vice President at Pennrose. “Our shared vision for the site preserves the rich history of the building while creating safe, welcoming homes where seniors can continue to be active members of the community.”

The community is conveniently located near multiple transportation options, including regular seven-day bus service connecting residents to the Auburn Mall and Worcester Union Station. In addition, the development will be served by Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA)'s paratransit service, which will provide door-to-door service when requested. To the rear of the building is a playground and ballfield that will continue to be owned by the Town and available for public and resident use.

The development team worked closely with the Town of Auburn to

ensure the community is designed to meet the needs of local residents. In September 2017, a successful Aging-in-Place Charrette was held to invite community input, brainstorm and prioritize important elements of quality senior housing.

“We are thrilled that this critical redevelopment project is underway which will provide much needed affordable senior housing units through the adaptive re-use of a vacant school property while paying tribute to the historical aspects of

the building”, said Town Manager Julie Jacobson. “This project, a model of local, state and federal government working in tandem with the developer to secure resources, is a shining example of the significant impact an effective public-private collaboration can have on the community and, in particular, on the quality of life for seniors.”

Financing for the project includes: Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) in

the form of 9% Federal Low Income Housing Tax Credits, State Low Income Housing Tax Credits, Housing Stabilization Funds, and HOME funds, \$1 million from MassHousing in Affordable Housing Trust Funds, \$750,000 in Community Based Housing funds from CEDAC, \$9.5 million in Federal LIHTC Equity and \$7.72 million in State LIHTC and Historic Tax Credit Equity from Redstone, \$3.4 million in Permanent Financing from Freddie Mac via

Lument, \$14.2 million in Construction Financing from TD Bank, and BlueHub Loan Fund Inc served as a state tax credit intermediary.

Pennrose is active throughout the New England region and has a successful track record partnering with the Town of Auburn to transform outdated school buildings into high-quality, affordable housing. Pennrose and the Town of Auburn are also currently developing Mary D. Stone Apartments, which will convert a 1920s school building into 55 units of affordable housing for seniors and expect to begin welcoming residents in fall 2021. Pennrose is also planning to transform the former Rogers School in Boston's Hyde Park neighborhood into the region's first LGBTQ-friendly senior housing.

About Pennrose With 50 years of experience, Pennrose combines quality development and proven management to deliver exceptional lifestyle-centered communities for its residents. With the superior knowledge and unparalleled dedication to get the job done right, Pennrose develops and operates conventional, affordable, mixed-income, and mixed-use communities throughout the United States. For more information visit www.pennrose.com.

Anti-littering campaign touted as a success

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — Charlton's Help Keep Charlton Litter Free campaign was a huge success according to Recycling Committee Chair Deborah Marquis who revealed that the campaign launched in late 2020 through a partnership with Keep Massachusetts Beautiful to help inspire a year-round effort by citizens to keep the local community clean especially in the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic that forced community-wide events like Earth Day to halt.

According to Marquis, Charlton stepped up in

a big way becoming the most active town according to data collected by Keep Massachusetts Beautiful which hosted a sign-up to allow residents to commit to keeping their specific area of town clean.

“They told us that Charlton had over 60 people, which was either a family or one individual, respond to that and do the pledge, sign up and get the free clean up kit. They said that was more than any other town that had joined the pledge,” Marquis said. “Charlton had a great response, and now we're trying to gear people up for clean-up efforts in April and our Earth Day events for

2021.” The Recycling Committee pitched in to help offset any costs to those who signed up by supplementing the cost of the kits. As a result, the committee donated \$500 to Keep Massachusetts Beautiful thanks to the overwhelming response from Charlton citizens.

“This effort by all of these 60-plus individuals helped in a year when we weren't able to do a town-wide event. We're really proud of the community for stepping up,” Marquis said. “We'd like people to join the effort in April and continue to clean up areas, whether it's their own street or any other area - We wish we could

have an Earth Day festival this year because we have a nice one every other year, but we just can't do it so we are doing what we can and hope to see a lot of people join in this effort.”

The Charlton Recycling Committee is also seeking a grant from The Last Green Valley to help fund grabbers and gloves for the April cleanup. Even if the community can't get together physically to continue to keep Charlton litter free, the Recycling Committee is hoping citizens continue to take it upon themselves to keep the town beautiful through 2021 and beyond.

Auburn awarded grant for improving public spaces

AUBURN — Rep. Paul K. Frost (R-Auburn) and Sen. Michael O. Moore (D-Millbury) are pleased to announce the Town of Auburn has been selected as a recipient of a grant from the Shared Winter Streets and Spaces program, an initiative offered by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation that enables municipalities to improve the condition of public spaces for safer transit and recreational activities.

Auburn has been awarded \$280,000 for a project to revitalize and expand an existing sidewalk into a larger, multi-use path with new pedestrian safety features, which connects Goddard Park, the high school and library, and commercial center.

Frost said, “I appreciate the Baker-Polito administration for awarding these grants to the communities of Auburn, Millbury and Oxford in my district. These grants will have a long lasting positive impact beyond the pandemic.”

“The Shared Streets Grant program is crucial for creating safe and accessible outdoor areas during the ongoing pandemic,” said Moore. “Being able to spend time outside has been an outlet for so many during these difficult times, and these grants allows this to be an even safer option.”

First launched in the summer of 2020, this grant program was expanded by MassDOT to assist municipalities in addressing the challenges of winter and support safety and mobility in public spaces during the pandemic.

Local nurse honored for work with homeless COVID-19 patients

REGION — Homeless COVID-19 patients from throughout the area have been greatly assisted this winter by a local nurse, whose selfless efforts were recently honored.

Last month, Worcester County District Attorney Joseph Early, Jr., honored Nurse Rebecca DeCoteau, who works at the Worcester COVID-19 field hospital.

Nurse DeCoteau continues to collect and donate clothing



Courtesy

Nurse Rebecca DeCoteau recently received an award from Worcester County District Attorney Joseph Early.



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Board of Health seeks to keep homebuyers informed of water issues

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – On Feb. 23, the Charlton Board of Health continued its discussion concerning proper communication with potential buyers of properties on Barry Corner Road and other areas of town with compromised water quality that is not tied into town water lines.

At a prior meeting in January the Board of Health discussed how properties on Barry Corner Road and other roadway could have water contamination from 1,4 dioxane. The Board of Health initially considered adding deed restrictions to the homes but decided instead to consider putting a notation on the Assessor's cards for the properties. A few weeks later, at a Feb. 9 meeting, the board cast a unanimous vote to include a notice on Assessor's cards for these locations informing buyers that Charlton has had contamination in different areas of town and to call the Board of Health to determine any potential contaminates on the property in question. However, it was also acknowledged at that meeting that many people don't look at the Assessor's cards and that the topic would continue to be discussed at future meeting.

The discussion continued on Feb. 23, where discussions turned to how the Board of Health would know when a property will be transferred and how they would try and communicate with them further. Board Chair Kathleen Walker explained there are options like a new interdepartmental communication program and using notices in the local newspapers to keep track of prop-

erty transfers and then possibly sending a letter as further communication.

Member Jonathan Sanborn said he feels the whole situation is a work in progress, but these ideas are better than what they've had before.

"I hate like heck to put a burden on town departments, whether it's ours or others. I also dislike having a buyer or seller having to incur any additional cost for this, but if we can at least get the message out there in some format so that the realtors and perspective buyers are aware that there is a potential problem I think that's at least a step in the right direction," Sanborn said.

The third board member Matthew Gagner agreed with Sanborn adding that the board will have a hard time finding someone to make sure that the town is keeping track of the property transfers.

"A lot of times, when people buy a house, if we're chasing them after the fact, they might not have any money

left, or they might have spent everything they could so I think at that point the maximum our board is going to be able to do is bring awareness to those residents," Gagner said. "Before the fact, when it's new construction, we have that well permit and we don't have to sign off on that until we have the data that were looking for so we have more teeth for the new construction, but the after the fact sales we can try to get that letter out but I don't think we're going to have any teeth to be able to enforce it."

Walker added her own comments saying that any communication doesn't have to be a demand and that the goal is simply to better inform the property buyer of what they're taking on with their purchase.

"The wording doesn't say that they have to have their well tested. It has no enforcement. It simply says that there may or may not have been contamination in areas where municipal water

was supplied and to call the Board of Health to find out if there was potential contamination in this area. We're just telling them that there's a possibility there's contamination there and they should follow up and contact the Board of Health," said Walker.

Even if property buyers decide to ignore the notice board members agreed that communicating with the buyers could inspire them to do their due diligence and perform tests to ensure their own safety while the town is doing its job to keep them informed properly. Another possibility brought up later in the meeting was to add something to the public access channel to remind everyone, not just newcomers to Charlton, to be diligent in checking their water periodically.

The Board of Health plans to continue to discuss this matter at future meetings making it a standing line items on their meeting warrants.

Bay Path graduate hired by Kent Hospital

Marina Daniels



CHARLTON — Marina Daniels, RN graduated last December with her Associate of Science in Nursing (ASN) from Quinsigamond Community College. She has worked the last few years as an LPN in LTC, and recently accepted a position at Kent Hospital for step down ICU as an RN. Daniels, originally from Webster, started her nursing career after graduating from Bay Path RVTHS Practical Nursing Academy in 2014. She recently hurdled the NCLEX-RN and passed the first try!

"When I took the NCLEX-RN in the morning of March 3rd, I was expecting to wait 48 hours for the results," Daniels said. "Can you believe I received a phone call in the afternoon, a woman from the Department of Health called to congratulate me!" According to the

woman, "there's no reason for making you wait and be anxious over the next two days."

Daniels happily shared the wonderful news with her family and then to Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy.

She is looking forward to sharing her journey with current practical nursing students, stating, "I am ready to give a motivational speech!"

Daniels loves throwing positivity and contributing to the future nurses. It is this spirit of nurturing, mentorship, and volunteerism that earned her the Community Service Award for Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy in 2017. Daniels is joyful to have reached her goal and plans to continue working to advance her education.

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State moves toward Phase 4 of reopening plan

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – With COVID-19 numbers going down and vaccinations on the rise, the state is progressing with its reopening plan.

On March 1, the state advanced to the second step in Phase 3 of the reopening plan. Over the last month, Massachusetts has seen reductions in average daily COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations.

"With public health metrics continuing to trend in a positive direction – and vaccination rates continuing to increase – the administration is taking steps to continue to reopen the Commonwealth's economy," said Gov. Charlie Baker.

The progression to the second step of Phase 3 marks the first time the state has reached

that level since the fall of 2020. In response to an increase in new COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations following the Thanksgiving holiday, the Commonwealth reverted back to a previous level.

But now, with more residents getting vaccinated each day, officials are confident that the reopening plan will be successful this time.

As part of the latest guidance, all indoor performance venues can now reopen at 50 percent capacity, with no more than 500 guests. These include concert halls, theaters, and performance spaces. Indoor recreational activities (laser tag, roller skating, trampolines, obstacle courses) will also be allowed to reopen at 50 percent capacity.

Additionally, restaurants will no longer have a capacity limit and will be permitted to host musical performances. The six-foot social distancing rule, as well as the cap of six people per table, will remain in place.

"Residents must continue to wear masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and are encouraged to avoid contact outside of their immediate households," Baker said. "The travel advisory and other public health orders remain in effect."

If statistics continue to trend positively, the state plans to transition to Phase 4 of reopening on March 22.

"This will open a range of previously closed business sectors under tight capacity restrictions that are expected to be adjusted over time if favorable

trends in the public health data continue," Baker said.

The following Phase 4 industries will be permitted to operate at a 12 percent capacity limit after submitting a plan to the Department of Public Health:

- Indoor and outdoor stadiums
- Arenas
- Ballparks

Also effective on March 22, gathering limits for event venues and public settings will increase to 100 people indoors and 150 people outdoors. Gatherings at private residences and in private backyards will remain at a maximum of 25 people, with indoor house gatherings remaining at 10 people.

Additionally, dance floors will be permitted at weddings, and overnight summer camps will be allowed to operate this summer. Exhibition and convention halls may also begin to operate, following gathering limits and event protocols.

The Baker Administration also announced more than \$49 million in grant awards to 1,108 additional small businesses. The funding comes as part of the eighth round of COVID-19 relief grants administered by the Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation (MGCC).

To date, the Baker Administration has awarded more than \$563 million in financial support to 12,320 businesses impacted by the pandemic. More than half of grantees are restaurants, bars, caterers, operators of personal services, and independent retailers.

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Coleman Picard of Auburn named to University of Hartford's President's Honors List

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. — The University of Hartford is pleased to announce Coleman Picard of Auburn has been named to its President's Honors List for Fall 2020.

The President's Honors List is made up of an extremely select group of students who earned a grade point average of 3.75 or higher in the semester. This is the GPA that must be sustained over a full undergraduate career to qualify for a degree summa cum laude.

Spread across seven dynamic schools and colleges, the University of Hartford has been guiding the purpose and passion of students for over six decades. On our 350-acre campus alongside Connecticut's capital city, approximately 5,000 undergraduate and 1,500 graduate students from 48 states and countries come together for a common purpose: to collaborate across different disciplines, diversify perspectives, and broaden worldviews. We're a four-year private university focused on advancing the public good through meaningful connections within our communities. Our unique approach to comprehensive education gives us the critical perspectives that lead to impactful change, regionally and beyond. With degree programs spanning the arts, humanities, business, engineering and technology, education, and health professions, we focus on doing the work that matters. Visit www.hartford.edu for more information.

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AUBURN NEWS PUBLISHED BY STONEBRIDGE PRESS
 PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER
 FRANK G. CHILINSKI
 860-928-1818 EXT. 103
 frank@stonebridgepress.news

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

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
 JIM DI NICOLA
 508-764-6102
 jim@stonebridgepress.news

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

PRODUCTION MANAGER
 JULIE CLARKE
 860-928-1818, EXT. 305
 julie@villagenewspapers.com

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

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Local nurse honored for work with homeless COVID-19 patients



Courtesy

Nurse Rebecca DeCoteau recently received an award from Worcester County District Attorney Joseph Early.

REGION – Homeless COVID-19 patients from throughout the area have been greatly assisted this winter by a local nurse, whose selfless efforts were recently honored.

Last month, Worcester County District Attorney Joseph Early, Jr., honored Nurse Rebecca DeCoteau, who works at the Worcester COVID-19 field hospital.

Nurse DeCoteau continues to collect and donate clothing and other items for homeless individuals being discharged from the Worcester field hospital. In recognition of her efforts, she was presented with the District Attorney's Team Excellence and Merit Award (TEAM).

Presented annually, the award recognizes outstanding service by employees in public safety.

"Working as a nurse on the front lines, she has seen others struggle to not only fight COVID-19, but face life after recovery," DA Early said. "Nurse DeCoteau's care goes far beyond the field hospital, bettering the lives of those who need it the most."

Throughout the pandemic, Nurse DeCoteau has witnessed sick patients in need of winter clothing and self-care items. These challenges have severely affected the region's homeless population, officials said.

Recognizing the need to immediately

address the problem, DeCoteau created Nurses for Hope, a nonprofit organization that collects winter clothes, cleansing wipes, and socks for COVID-19 patients. She has since donated essential goods to several discharged patients.

DA Early created the TEAM Award in 2019 to recognize public safety employees who go above and beyond the call of duty. If you would like to nominate someone for the award, contact the Worcester County District Attorney's Office at 508-755-8601.



ACCURACY WATCH

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.

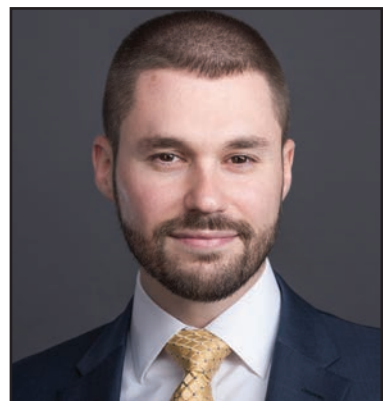
Local student named to WCSU Dean's List

DANBURY, Conn. — Serena Kelly of Auburn, a Musical Theatre major, has been named to the Dean's List for the fall 2020 semester at Western Connecticut State University.



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Cornerstone Bank announces new Vice President, Mortgage Loan Officer



Jeffrey Moynihan

SOUTHBRIDGE — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with 12 locations throughout central Massachusetts, has recently hired Jeffrey Moynihan for the position of Vice President, Mortgage Loan Officer. Moynihan has over 14 years of banking and mortgage experience and will help lead the team responsible for helping customers finance their homes.

"Jeffrey's vast experience in the world of banking is what drew us to him," said Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman. "He has experience in every area of retail banking, including as a teller and manager, before exclusively focusing

on mortgages. This strong foundation will assist him in helping our customers make their dreams of home ownership a reality."

Moynihan, a resident of Norton, has a Bachelor's degree in finance and economics from Southern New Hampshire University. Prior to joining Cornerstone Bank, he held positions as a Vice President of Mortgage Lending at a lending firm in Boston and a Sales Manager in the home loan department for a bank in Quincy.

"I am excited to begin the next chapter of my career," said Moynihan. "My family values giving back to the community and so does Cornerstone Bank, making it a perfect fit. Life is not fulfilled if we cannot touch the lives of others in a positive way, and I hope to do that through mortgage lending and charitable opportunities with the bank."

About Cornerstone Bank
Cornerstone Bank is an independent, mutual savings bank serving residents, businesses and communities throughout Central Massachusetts. Our customer promise, Built on Trust, is not just a brand, but also a corporate focus. Whether a business or personal partnership,

Cornerstone Bank rests on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. Deposits are insured in full by a combination of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Depositors Insurance Fund. The Bank is an Equal Opportunity Employer, Equal Housing Lender and SBA Preferred Lender. To learn about Cornerstone Bank's personal and business banking offerings, please visit cornerstonebank.com or call 800-939-9103.



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Friday's Child



Jondreus
Age 13

Hi! My name is Jondreus and I love science!

Jondreus is a caring boy of Caucasian and Hispanic descent who likes to be called Jon. Those who know him say that he is empathetic, committed, and a kind friend. Jon loves video games, science, playing outdoors, and swimming. When asked what he wants to be when he grows up, Jon states he wants to be a scientist, firefighter, or police officer. Jon's teachers describe him as goal-oriented, very bright, kind, caring, and a great student who gets A's and B's in his classes. He gets along well with his peers, foster parents, foster siblings, and all adults both in his school setting and personal life. All of his teachers and his

guidance counselor have great things to say about him. He loves animals and would like to be in a home with pets.

Freed for adoption, Jon has an amazing amount of potential. He would thrive in a family of any constellation with older or no other children in the home. He would benefit from a family that could offer him stability, structure, and love. Jon is especially excited to potentially have a pet in his future home and a swimming pool in his backyard. His new family must be willing to support his relationship with his sister who lives in Western MA. Contact could be in the form of visits and other forms of media contact.

Who Can Adopt?

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

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

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

All We Know Is Local



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Windstorm leaves thousands in the dark

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – March roared in like a lion last week, pummeling the region with damaging winds.

At the height of the March 1 & 2 windstorm, thousands of customers throughout the area were without power. Spencer was especially hard hit, with widespread outages causing schools to be closed and the emergency shelter at Knox Trail Middle School to open on March 2.

Wind gusts topped 60 miles per hour along the Route 9 corridor, combined with temperatures that didn't exceed the twenties. For many residents, early March felt more like January.

"There were several outages all over town, but especially in the southern part of town," said Spencer Fire Chief Robert Parsons.

Leicester emergency management officials nearly

activated their shelter as well, but crews were able to clear most roads in a timely fashion.

"The Highway Department was quick to react to several trees blocking streets, as well as National Grid to shut off power where we had trees on live wires," said Leicester Police Chief Ken Antanavica. "Once the Highway Department cleared the trees, they restored the power in short order. All in all, the town fared pretty well, except for some tree-related property damage to private homes in the area."

By the end of the day on March 2, most Spencer and Leicester customers had the lights back on. Other area towns also saw significant wind damage, including downed power lines, damaged vehicles, and minor structural damage to homes.

In Brimfield, Dunhamtown Palmer Road was closed for several hours due to wires strewn across the road. Sturbridge residents contended with the extended closure of Holland Road, and major tree damage was also reported on Woodlawn Drive.



Courtesy

Power lines were down throughout the area during the March 1-2 windstorm, causing thousands of outages.

QCC's Dental Assisting Program highlighted during Dental Assistant Recognition Week

WORCESTER — During the week of March 7, the American Dental Assistants Association (ADAA) will recognize the invaluable contributions these healthcare workers make to quality dental care through Dental Assistant Recognition Week,™ held each year on the first full week on March.

Quinsigamond Community College's Dental Assisting Certificate program has become an important part of the education landscape in Massachusetts and dental assistants who graduate from the College are making important contributions to the region.

"We are continually getting calls from dentists in the area looking for quality assistants," said Professor of Dental Assisting/Hygiene, Jennifer McKeon. "This demonstrates the value that is placed on graduates from QCC's program."

As the only program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation in Worcester, students who come from QCC's program often have job

offers before they graduate, according to Ms. McKeon.

"Our students can take their Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) exam in the last few weeks of the program so they are credentialed with Dental Assisting National Board and are a certified dental assistant when they graduate," she added.

The one-year Dental Assisting Certificate program prepares graduates to perform a wide range of patient care duties in the dental office that includes hands-on education in digital radiography, as well as taking part in the College's state-of-the-art dental materials lab. Lab equipment such as CAD/CAM technology; digital cameras, a milling machine that can make crowns; a high-tech scanner; staining unit and oven, and other cutting-edge dental equipment help students become proficient on equipment they might one day work within a dental office.

Students also have the opportunity to experience different avenues of dentistry while in the program, by being placed in different offices, such

as an oral surgeon's office and an orthodontist's office.

Additionally, students who complete the program will be prepared to continue their studies at the Associate's degree level in such disciplines as allied dental services or dental hygiene.

"We have a bridge program that allows two students every year from the dental assisting program to bridge into the dental hygiene program and bypass the waitlist. Student must have all the admission requirements for the dental hygiene program to qualify to bypass the waitlist," Ms. McKeon said.

According to the state's Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, the number of Massachusetts dental assistant jobs is projected to grow by 12.5 percent over a 10-year period ending in 2022.

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

QCC receives millions to help drive student success

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College has received \$2.4 million in federal emergency funds from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II, authorized by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA), to support students. The College has also allocated an additional \$1 million in institutional funds to assist students during the Coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic.

"This unprecedented time in our history requires us to dig deep and support our students in every possible way. This funding will go a long way in helping students realize their dreams of a better life," said President Luis G. Pedraja, Ph.D. "QCC is the first choice for many

students in our region, from traditional high school students, non-traditional students, and students interested in beginning their education to transfer to a four-year college or university."

QCC has continued to increase its support services since the onset of the Coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic, recognizing the financial challenges many students are currently facing.

"Students have lost jobs, or had their hours decreased, and are now facing emergency expenses. Yet they continue to persevere in their quest for a better life through higher education. Our goal is to make sure that every student who has a dream for a quality education can obtain one," Dr. Pedraja said.

The College instituted a Student Emergency Fund for students in significant

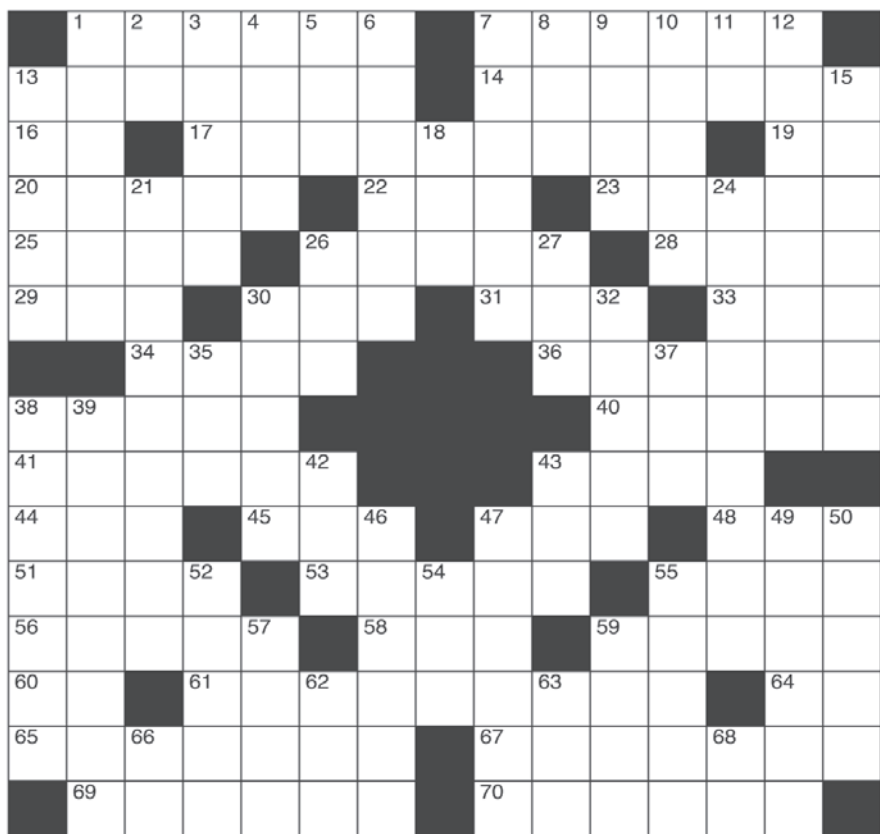
hardship at the onset of the pandemic. These funds are also available to students exempt from receiving certain federal aid due to citizenship, residency or enrollment status. Thanks to the Student Emergency Fund, 571 students have received emergency aid to date.

"It is imperative we do everything we can to help our students mitigate the cost of higher education. In today's economy, people are realizing that minimizing debt through affordable college options is a smarter decision that will have positive and far-reaching implications," Dr. Pedraja said.

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



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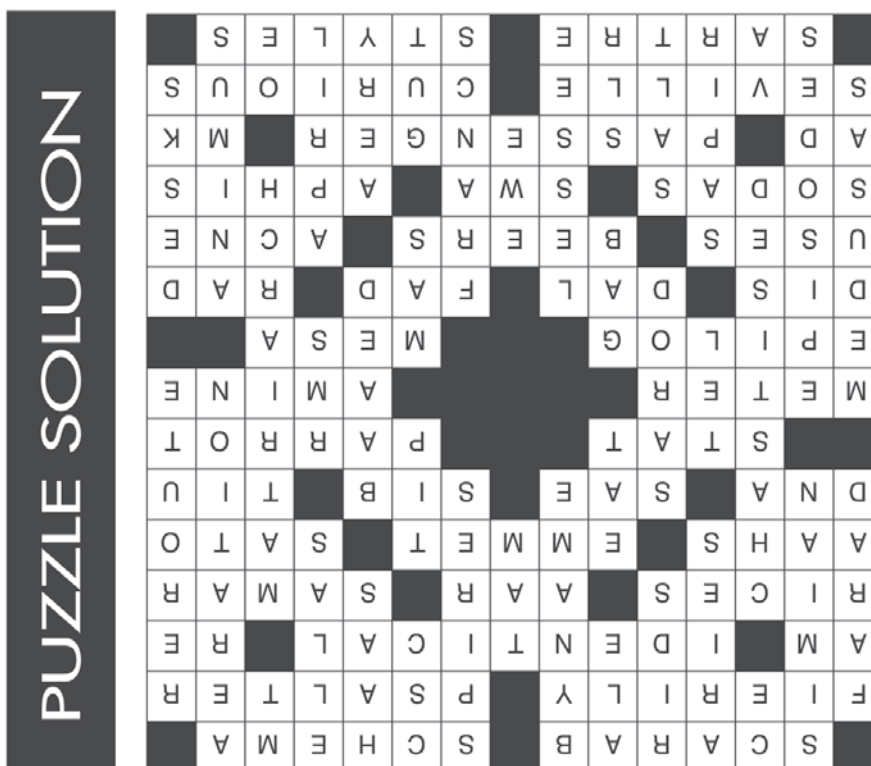


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Large dung beetle
- 7. Representation of a plan
- 13. In a fervid way
- 14. The Book of Psalms
- 16. Morning
- 17. Exactly the same
- 19. About
- 20. Brown and basmati are two
- 22. Swiss river
- 23. Philippine island
- 25. Expressions of surprise
- 26. An ant
- 28. Common Japanese surname
- 29. Deoxyribonucleic acid
- 30. Car mechanics group
- 31. A person's brother or sister
- 33. Ancient pharaoh
- 34. Quantitative fact
- 36. Vividly colored bird
- 38. Your home has one
- 40. Organic compound
- 41. Section at the end of a book
- 43. Flat tableland with steep edges
- 44. Criticize
- 45. Split pulses
- 47. Brief trend
- 48. Cool!
- 51. Purposes
- 53. Brews
- 55. Skin condition
- 56. Pops
- 58. American air travel company
- 59. Minute bug
- 60. Anno Domini (in the year of Our Lord)
- 61. One who rides in your car
- 64. One of the Gospels
- 65. City in southern Spain
- 67. Inquisitive
- 69. Jean Paul __, author
- 70. Pop singer Harry

CLUES DOWN

- 1. An ape or monkey
- 2. Chemical element
- 3. Zodiac sign
- 4. Removes
- 5. Brew
- 6. Nickname
- 7. Architectural structures
- 8. Trigonometric function
- 9. Postmodern architectural building in Vienna
- 10. Henderson and Fitzgerald are two
- 11. Mountain (abbr.)
- 12. Landscaping practice
- 13. Capacitance unit
- 15. Redirect
- 18. Hat for women
- 21. In a way, dressed down
- 24. Granny
- 26. Feed
- 27. Endpoint
- 30. Indian instrument
- 32. Bleated
- 35. Cablegram (abbr.)
- 37. Root mean square (abbr.)
- 38. Jellyfishes
- 39. Individual TV installments
- 42. Talk
- 43. More (Spanish)
- 46. Leaseholder
- 47. Monetary units
- 49. Hostility
- 50. Work stations
- 52. Linguistics giant
- 54. Female sheep
- 55. Calendar month
- 57. Seasoning
- 59. Lofty nest of a bird of prey
- 62. Single Lens Reflex
- 63. A way to remove
- 66. Virginia
- 68. Old English



PUZZLE SOLUTION

Old Sturbridge Village receives \$5 million bequest

STURBRIDGE — Old Sturbridge Village (OSV) has announced the largest single gift received in the museum's history with a five-million-dollar unrestricted bequest from the estate of Honorary Trustee and long-time friend of the Village, Helen A. (Susie) Titus of Newport Beach, Calif. Susie passed away in 2020 after a short illness.

This incredible gift comes at a critical time as the museum celebrates the 75th Anniversary of Old Sturbridge Village over the next 18 months. The Village plans to use this gift as the cornerstone of a planned capital campaign. The gift will ensure living history continues at Old Sturbridge Village in the future, and address capital needs on the campus, including the preservation of historic buildings and landscape.

"I am grateful to Susie Titus for her dedication and commitment to Old Sturbridge Village, and



Helen A. (Susie) Titus and Jim Donahue.

for her confidence in our Board and staff to steward such a significant gift in her memory," said Jim

Donahue, President and CEO. "Susie was incredibly supportive of the museum over the past

twenty years, and we are grateful that she made such a generous provision for the Village in her

estate planning. Susie's legacy and impact will live on for generations to

come."

Old Sturbridge Village has seen tremendous growth over the past several years. In 2017 the Village opened Old Sturbridge Academy Charter Public School, which now has over 280 students. These students attend from a wide range of communities throughout central Massachusetts. In January of 2020, Old Sturbridge Village announced a management partnership with Coggeshall Farm Museum in Bristol, Rhode Island. This partnership saw a successful first year in spite of the unprecedented times of COVID 19. As Old Sturbridge Village begins its 75th anniversary year, the Village is positioned to have continued growth and innovative programming that will keep visitors engaged for many years to come.

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Increased stipends proposed for elected officials

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — Charlton's Stipend Advisory Committee has been hard at work updating the salaries that should be earmarked for elected officials in the town with the goal of bringing the compensation in line with other communities to ensure fair pay to those who serve their community.

With the acknowledgment that most elected officials don't join town government to make a living, and that many don't even accept their stipend and instead donate it back to the town, the goal of the committee is to make sure that everyone

who serves Charlton is receiving fair compensation, regardless of whether or not they want to be paid. Bill Borowski, who represents the Board of Selectmen on the committee, updated is fellow selectmen during a livestream meeting in late February where he detailed the goals and objectives of the committee's research and why adjustments are being proposed.

"At one point, the stipends for all the appointed members were a little bit higher than what they were, but due to a variety of different reasons, they were cut, and in order to attract or retain candidates, the idea is that we would reassess what the stipends are. Clearly,

nobody is getting rich off of this. Many of us either don't take the salary or we donate it back to the town or a charter organization regardless, but the idea being that some of the numbers don't make sense," Borowski said, adding that the algorithm has been deemed outdated and that they want to standardize it. "These are not enormous incremental changes. It's really more of a matter of making sure, for example, the Planning Board would be at parity with let's say the Board of Health. We're really just looking to make it fair across the board."

Borowski stressed that any adjustments to the stipends would not be immediate but

rather incremental. His presentation included a three-year proposed total impact for increasing the stipends of different departments and there were years where there were no financial impacts projected at all for some departments. The proposed total after three years for all departments included in the presentation came to a little over \$26,151 which was broken down in an estimated \$11,151 in year one and two more \$7,500 increases in years two and three respectively. The increases were determined using trends from both Charlton itself and from other surrounding towns.

"We took a baseline of what we, as a town, had

budgeted this past year, reviewed back to what it was in 2008 and 2009, and also looked at other towns and then we just kind of pyramided it," Borowski said. "The general assumption is that the Board of Selectmen, being the, in a sense, Chief Executive Board of the town, would be at the top of that pyramid, but directly below that, you'd have the Board of Assessors, for example, that have strenuous trainings you have to go through, and then underneath that, anyone who really met on average twice a month, like the Board of Health and Planning Board — things along those lines. We basically took a number we thought was fair for

the Board of Selectmen and then cascaded it down from there."

Borowski concluded by stressing a second time that most people serve their town because they love the community and want to be involved and many don't even accept the stipend. The goal is not to add more financial burden, but only to make sure those who do serve and decide to accept their salary are compensated fairly in accordance with their board or commission's contributions to town government.

Selectmen expect the new stipend schedule to be forwarded to the annual town meeting this May for consideration by the general public.

Local town employees to take part in cybersecurity training

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON — Town employees of both Dudley and Charlton were among the 44,000 employees of 107 government organizations in the commonwealth who will receive training in cybersecurity awareness and detection of cyber threats thanks to a grant program announced by Gov. Charlie Baker in late February.

The Cybersecurity

Awareness Grant Program is in its second round and seeks to provide education and resources to agencies and organizations to help identify security breaches and cyber attacks which the National Governors Association has deemed the most effective factor in preventing security breaches and data loss. The training provided through the grant will educate both municipal and school employees in how to identify and responds to potential

cyber security threats with the Executive Office of Technology Services and Security managing the program through \$250,000 in funding from the capital IT authorizations from the governor's General Government Bond Bill passed in 2020.

"Cyber threats continue to evolve, making cyber awareness training an essential tool for municipalities and public schools in the Commonwealth to equip their employees with the knowledge on how

to avoid the potentially costly missteps of falling prey to cyber attacks," said Baker in a press release. "We will continue to seek out opportunities to improve the cybersecurity posture of the Commonwealth and its communities."

The training provided will be in an online format in keeping with social distancing and will include simulations that examine luring techniques by cyber criminals to gain access to IT systems through

phishing attacks, SMS attacks, USB drop attacks and link-based, attachment-based and data-entry based attacks.

Through the grant, 213 employees of the town of Charlton and 30 town employees in Dudley will take part in the training. In recent years both towns have made cybersecurity a priority thanks to an attack on Charlton's computer network in the summer of 2019. Dudley responded by attempting to revamp its own cybersecurity to avoid a situa-

tion similar to its neighboring town. Both towns have received grant funds to invest in their networks in the months that followed, and the added training will only continue to build on the progress these communities have made to avoid a cybersecurity risk in an age of ever-increasing dependence on technology. Nichols College located in Dudley has also started a new master's program with an emphasis on cybersecurity.

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URI students named to Dean's List

KINGSTON, R.I. — The University of Rhode Island is pleased to announce the Fall 2020 Dean's List. The students represent nearly all of Rhode Island's cities and towns, all six New England states, New York and New Jersey, and many other states and countries. The following students were named to Dean's List:

Lindsay Berthiaume of Auburn

Ryan Murphy of Auburn

Isabelle O'Toole of Auburn

Shannon Sampson of Auburn

Justin Skaparos of Auburn

To be included on the Dean's List, full-time students must have completed 12 or more credits for letter grades during a semester and achieved at least a 3.30 quality point average. Part-time students qualify with the accumulation of 12 or more credits for letter grades earning at least a 3.30 quality point aver-

age.

As a public Land Grant University in a highly competitive region in the United States, URI carefully monitors and manages its tuition and fee rates to remain one of the most affordable universities in the Northeast for both in-state and out-of-state students. An estimated 90% of undergraduate students receive annual financial aid and institutional support.

The University's total fall 2020 enrollment of 17,649 students comprises 15,393 full- and part-time undergraduate students, including 748 pharmacy six-year professional practice, and 2,256 full- and part-time graduate students. About 52% of the total student body is from Rhode Island and 48% are from out of state or foreign countries. The student body includes students from 48 U.S. states and territories, and 67 nations.

The University of Rhode Island's pioneering research in ocean,

environmental and health sciences extends the University's influence well beyond its coastal borders, while its interdisciplinary courses provide students with unique opportunities and experiences.

Over the last ten years, the University has completed more than \$710 million in capital projects, including new construction, and renovation and rehabilitation of existing buildings across its four campuses. The University's campus locations, include the main campus, located on 1,248 acres in rural Kingston, the Graduate School of Oceanography, located on 165 acres on Narragansett Bay, the W. Alton Jones Campus in West Greenwich, a 1,200-acre nature preserve, the Alan Shawn Feinstein College of Education and Professional Studies and the Rhode Island Nursing Education Center, both in the capital city of Providence, R.I.

LEGALS

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 1 Westwood Drive, Auburn, Massachusetts

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by William J. Richinick, a/k/a William James Richinick, to Sovereign Bank, said mortgage dated September 28, 2011, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 47972 at Page 164 and now held by Santander Bank, N.A., f/k/a Sovereign Bank, for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, will be sold at Public Auction on **March 22, 2021 at 12:00 PM Local Time** upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

THE LAND IN AUBURN, WORCESTER COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS, BEING LOT #3 ON PLAN OF WESTWOOD ACRES, RECORDED IN WORCESTER DISTRICT REGISTRY OF DEEDS, PLAN BOOK 270, PLAN 106, BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BEGINNING AT THE NORTHWESTERLY CORNER OF THE LOT HEREIN DESCRIBED AT

LAND OF OWNERS UNKNOWN ON THE EASTERLY SIDE OF BURNETT STREET;

THENCE S. 2 DEGREES 18 MINUTES E. BY SAID BURNETT STREET, EIGHTY-NINE AND FORTY HUNDREDTHS (89.40) FEET TO A POINT;

THENCE BY A CURVE TO THE LEFT HAVING A RADIUS OF 10 FEET, CONNECTING BURNETT STREET AND WESTWOOD DRIVE, FIFTEEN AND SEVENTY-ONE HUNDREDTHS (15.71) FEET TO A POINT ON WESTWOOD DRIVE;

THENCE N. 87 DEGREES 42 MINUTES E. BY WESTWOOD DRIVE, NINETY-FIVE (95) FEET TO LOT #4 ON SAID PLAN;

THENCE N. 2 DEGREES 18 MINUTES W. BY SAID LOT #4, NINETY-TWO AND EIGHTY-ONE HUNDREDTHS (92.81) FEET TO A POINT;

THENCE N. 88 DEGREES 42 MINUTES 20 SECONDS W. BY LAND OF OWNERS UNKNOWN, ONE HUNDRED FIVE AND TWENTY-ONE HUNDREDTHS (105.21) FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

BEING THE SAME PREMISES CONVEYED TO THE GRANTOR

BY DEED OF J.E. MURRAY ET UX DATED OCTOBER 18, 1963 AND RECORDED AT WORCESTER DISTRICT REGISTRY OF DEEDS, BOOK 4414, PAGE 1.

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BEING THE SAME PREMISES CONVEYED TO WILLIAM JAMES RICHINICK FROM WILLIAM J. RICHINICK BY DEED (SUBJECT TO A LIFE ESTATE OF WILLIAM J. RICHINICK) DATED 1/8/2003, AND RECORDED ON 9/3/2003, AT BOOK 31498, PAGE 18, IN WORCESTER COUNTY, MA.

ASSESSORS PARCEL NUMBER: MAP: 3 BLK: 32

ATI ORDER NUMBER: 201109210604

Sources of Title: Book 31497 Page: 18
The description of the property that appears in the mortgage to be foreclosed shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication. For Mortgagor's Title, see deed dated January 8, 2003, and recorded in Book 31498 at Page 18 with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within sixty (60) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

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www.StonebridgePress.com

FRANK G. CHILINSKI
 STONEBRIDGE PRESS PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
 EDITOR

Here comes the sun, and we say it's all right

After a long (but, we think, mild) winter, warmer, longer days are finally here. As the official first day of spring nears on March 20, we're noticing people have more of a pep in their step. A refreshing sight given the year 2020 delivered.

While each season has its own perks, there is something about spring that seems to surprise us each year. We re-acquaint ourselves with our yards as they slowly reveal themselves as the snowbanks melt away. Muddy grass has never been a kinder sight.

Over the past few weeks, the common chatter has been about baseball, spring-time fitness goals, gardening, hiking, you know the usual. This week we reminisced about old April Fool's Day pranks in the office. Tacks on seats, the soda bottle filled with water sitting on top of a door waiting to be opened in order to drench an unsuspecting individual, saran wrapped cars, fake lottery winnings, fake wedding proposals and lost wedding rings, to name a few. Stunts to make Larry, Moe and Curly proud.

With spring comes "spring fever." In modern times this is a semi-positive term, however back in colonial times, "spring fever" referred to the poor quality of health everyone was in, after sustaining a winter without fresh vegetables and proper diet. Today's "spring fever" will have children restless, new romances transpire and people attacking their homes with dust cloths and Windex.

Experts say the changes that a person goes through during the springtime are due to hormonal changes in the body. During the winter months, the body secretes a large amount of melatonin, (the sleep hormone). The presence of more sunlight in spring sends the body a message to stop producing as much melatonin. This causes folks to be more awake. Add this to the uptick in your serotonin levels due to the sunlight and you will not only be awake but enthusiastic.

Interesting to note is that during the springtime the body becomes more susceptible to illnesses. Way back when, scurvy outbreaks always occurred during this time of year as did rubella and measles. Doctors note that in spring, gout, a condition that affects joints, peaks in individuals. Because there are more allergens in the air, you will see more cases of rosacea and other skin irritations on the rise.

We encourage everyone to spend as much time outdoors this spring, including the days leading up to its official start. Get back to basics, back to nature, keep things simple and pick up an old hobby you have abandoned but have been meaning to reconnect with, life is meant to be fun.

Disappointment? Join the club

So, I get an email last night from a reader of this column ...

"You always write about optimism, now that you have cancer, what do you think?"

What do I think?

Let me begin with this

... If you want to avoid disappointment, don't do anything. Do not try to live your dreams. Stop reaching for the stars. Never build a business or try to compete. Don't apply for the promotion. Refuse to take a risk. Don't try to beat cancer. And above all ... never fall in love. If you want to avoid disappointment, its easy, just be the anti-Nike and Just 'Don't' Do It.' Problem solved, right? Not hardly ...

The best of life is available for those who go for it.

The rewards of life go to those who risk, and when you risk, you will often be disappointed. I've suffered more emotionally crushing moments in my life than I can recount. It's all part of the game. You win some, you lose some and some are rained out. Some disappointments are minor, and you move on quickly, while some stay with you for an exceptionally long time. So yes, I've suffered great dis-



POSITIVELY SPEAKING
GARY W. MOORE

appointment, while also enjoying great success. You can't have one without the other.

By coincidence, previously, on a day where I got the call from another reader about disappointment, I personally suffered a major disappointment.

About an hour before the call, I suffered a business setback that was stunning. It was something I didn't expect, and the disappointment lingered for an exceptionally long time. I was pursuing an opportunity that I was convinced was a sure thing, and had been working on it for months. I felt assured by the client that they were eager to take advantage of my proposal. It was a great program, and there was every reason that the group I was courting should have said yes. When I was told no, it was like a punch to my gut. I was given no reason for the refusal other than "we just think we'll pass at this time." When I came home from the meeting with my tail between my legs, my wife consoled me for a few minutes then said, "Get on the tractor and mow the grass" ... and I did.

The grass doesn't stop growing because I'm disappointed.

Life goes on. I had to pick myself up

Designing a wildlife-friendly landscape



Melinda Myers

Include habitat features in your garden and landscape that are needed to attract and sustain the wildlife you are trying to attract.

We love watching the bunnies hopping across the lawn or ground squirrels scurrying away with a cheek full of seeds. That is, until they dine on our favorite shrub or take just one bite out of each red ripe tomato in the garden. Finding a way to coexist is critical for wildlife struggling to survive and our enjoyment of nature and our landscapes.



GARDEN MOMENTS
 MELINDA MYERS

Work with nature to maintain a balance in your landscape. Invite hawks, owls, and fox to your backyard. Grow tall grasses and plants that provide cover for foxes. Include trees with good perches or install perch poles to attract and support

raptors.

And like any landscape endeavor, start with a plan. Make a sketch of your existing landscape. Identify existing plants and wildlife-friendly habitats. Make note of both the natural habitats and any supplemental food, water, and shelter you provide. Review and note various features in your landscape throughout the year.

Now decide what you want to accomplish in your landscape. What wildlife do you want to attract and have the space to support? Perhaps you want to attract more songbirds to your gardens or animals, like toads, that help manage pests in the garden.

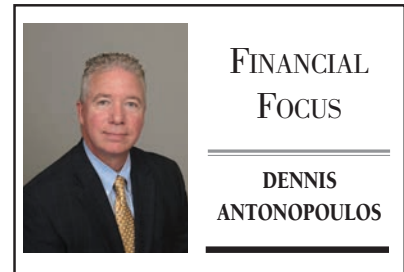
Make sure your landscape provides the habitat features needed to attract and sustain these welcome residents. You will find lots of helpful resources on National Wildlife Federation, Audubon, Natural Resources Conservation Services, Department of Natural Resources, and University Extension websites.

Be patient and wait for a year to evaluate the results of your efforts. Then begin making any needed changes to meet your goals.

Developing a landscape for you to enjoy and one that supports wildlife takes time, but as a gardener this is not only part of the process but an exciting adventure.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and the nationally-syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Tree World Plant Care for her expertise to write this article. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

Can you invest for retirement and education?



FINANCIAL FOCUS
DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

Typically, this time of year is filled with graduation ceremonies and celebrations. But with the coronavirus pandemic, not much has been typical lately. Eventually, though, things will return to normal and schools will reopen for in-person learning. And if you have young children, you may want to save for their higher education, whether that be college or trade school. At the same time, though, you're moving ever closer to retirement. Can you save for your kids' education and a comfortable retirement for yourself at the same time?

It is indeed possible, although you may need to prioritize somewhat. Specifically, you may not want to put off saving for retirement in favor of education. But by viewing these goals together and investing as early as possible in each of them, you can take advantage of one of your biggest assets - time.

Of course, you'll still have to budget your resources. You want to invest as much as you can, but not so much that your monthly cash flow is cramped. Consequently, you may have to consider retiring later, contributing less to your child's education, or a combination of the two. But in terms of logistics, you can make saving and investing easier.

First, consider your retirement accounts. If you have a traditional 401(k) or similar plan, your contributions come out of your paycheck before you even see the money - so it's about as painless a way of building your retirement fund as possible. Put in as much as your budget allows and consider increasing your contributions when you receive a raise at work. You can also direct your bank to move money each month from your savings or checking account into your IRA.

Now, let's move to your other key goal: education. Several education funding vehicles are available, but one of the most popular is the 529 plan. Your earnings grow tax-deferred and withdrawals are free from federal tax, provided the money is used for qualified higher education expenses. (529 plan withdrawals not used for qualified expenses may be subject to federal and state income tax and a 10% IRS penalty on the earnings.) Furthermore, your 529 plan contributions may earn a state tax deduction or credit if you participate in your own state's plan.

You can set up recurring contributions from a bank account to a 529 plan. And you don't have to fund your 529 plan on your own. Instead of gifts for birthdays, holidays, graduations and other occasions, why not ask friends and relatives to contribute to the 529 plan you've set up for your child? They're all eligible to participate - and their contributions may earn them tax benefits if they live in your state and you've invested in your own state's plans.

A financial advisor can help you plan for more than one goal, understand the benefits and tradeoffs of your decisions, and make the process of saving for those goals easier. So, get the help you need to stay on track - or rather, two tracks - toward the important objectives of education and retirement.

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 Alford St., Auburn, MA 01501 Tel: 508-832-5385 or dennis.antonopoulos@edwardjones.com.

Memories of fishing with Mel



Mike Daniels with a six-pound largemouth bass caught last Saturday in local waters. Nice fish!

The month of March will hopefully bring us some continued warm weather like we are experiencing this week. Mass. Fish & Wildlife will be stocking more than 500,000 trout in waters throughout the state starting any day now. More than 75 percent will be over 12 inches long. Ice conditions will become extremely dangerous in the days and weeks ahead, until total ice out. Most ponds and lakes rarely receive an allotment of trout before ice out, but if the waters are suitable for stocking, and the PH is correct, they could still receive trout.

This week's two pictures of largemouth bass caught in local waters last

week are a good indicator that there are plenty of big bass out there for this year's fishing, by diehard bass anglers. Catching largemouth bass and smallmouth bass in New England, provide some exciting fishing for anglers with bass boats during derbies, or just fishing with friends and family. Although I am not a big freshwater bass fishing angler like I was in my younger years, I still enjoy the excitement of landing a large bass on a flyrod, or other light fishing tackle. I have been told by numerous anglers that freshwater bass fish, that the colder New England waters provide a longer fight from the bass, than in the warmer waters of Florida and other Southern states.



THE GREAT OUTDOORS
.....
RALPH TRUE

In my younger years, I fished Meadow Pond and Arcade Pond in Whitinsville for many species of freshwater fish. Our dad often took my brother Mel & me fishing on Meadow pond in a 12-foot rowboat at least once a week. The boat was kept in a portion of the pond called Kanes Cove. The Kane family lived right on the water just off of Border Street, and was accessible to anyone that wanted to go fishing. The boat was moored out from the shoreline approximately 150 feet, and our dad kept a throwline and a block of wood to retrieve the boat when we wanted to go fishing.

My brother Mel and I sat in the back of the boat trolling a double spinner and worm combination, as our dad slowly rowed the boat. I can remember my brother Mel shouting to my dad to stop the boat, as he was stuck on

the bottom! Suddenly, a huge bass broke the water, and the fight was on. Back then a steel rod and a level wind reel loaded with a Dacron fishing line, was all that we had for fishing gear. Landing the fish took some time, but he did manage to land the fish. That was the start of my brother's fascination with fishing, and he became hooked on fishing big time, even more so through his adult life.

Meadow Pond and the Arcade Pond also offered some great Calico Bass (crappie) fishing, using a fly rod and a Micky Finn streamer fly. A bridge on the Meadow Pond Road (Main Street) was removed a number of years ago, but was a great place to fish for crappie. The water was crystal clear back in the day, and you could watch the crappie chasing the fly as it was retrieved just under the surface of the water. I can remember bringing home a stringer of them for my dad to clean & make a great fish chowder. Oftentimes, we caught yellow perch and bluegills to add to the pot. I sure do miss his fish chowder!

This past weekend, this writer was informed by a local sportsman, about a deer that had fallen through the ice in the West River. He was drawn to the deer carcass by a large Bald Eagle that was feeding on the deer. Sightings of Bald Eagles are at an all-time high throughout the state, and in the valley area. The informant tried to get a picture of the Eagle, but it left the area before he got ready to snap the photo. I am sure he will be back to dine



Jim Nickelson with a huge seven pound, two ounce largemouth bass, also caught last weekend while ice fishing local waters.

on the deer carcass in the coming days and weeks. Maybe he will get another chance to snap a photo!

March is the month for the Saltwater Fishing Show in Providence, R.I., but because of Covid, this year's show has been canceled, as were most other Fishing & Sportsmen's shows. Looking over the latest in fishing equipment, meeting old friends, and telling big lies about all of our fish we caught last year has been put on hold. Just wait until next year!

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

Spring has (Almost) Sprung: Ode to the Botanical Signs of Spring

New Englanders have long searched for signs of spring after a long, cold winter, and few promises of warm weather are more welcome than the annual arrival of early spring buds. From fuzzy pussy willows to blazing golden forsythia, nature ushers in the season with an abundance of color, texture and beauty that has inspired artist and poets for centuries. Such common "backyard blooms" are simple pleasures that evoke sentiment from both novice and experienced gardeners. Plentiful and easy to grow, these nostalgic perennials are gaining a new appreciation for the simple beauty the early spring blooms bring to the landscape.

Forsythia: As March arrives, so does Forsythia. Bursts of yellow blooms along country roads and splashes of gold color in New England yards bring a welcome change to the dreary winter landscape. Forsythia bushes are a mainstay of the Northeast, and these beloved flowers never cease to impress. While Forsythia is in bloom for only about two weeks, its early presence is so appreciated that it remains a popular plant, with its leafy shrub providing privacy throughout the rest of the growing season.

Arguably, the Forsythia signals the arrival of spring more than any other botanical cue. Named after the English horticulturist William Forsythe (1737-1804), the flowering plant is hailed for its hardiness and fast growth. The yellow bloomer, which is a member of the olive family, is native to China and Southeastern Europe.

Forsythia Folklore: Since it's not uncommon for snow to fly after the Forsythia has bloomed, it's not surprising the early spring plant has earned its way into American garden folklore.

"Three snows after the Forsythia blooms" was an oft repeated phrase by farmers of yore. The old weather forecasting method reminds us that although the blazing yellow Forsythia may be in full bloom, the New England winter is not yet over.

Forsythia, with its bright golden flowers and ability to thrive (and survive) harsh weather conditions, has been hailed and celebrated throughout the years. The Forsythia boasts several namesake festivals and celebrations held annually throughout the country; the most prominent Forsythia Festival held each year the second weekend in March in Forsyth Georgia.

Rooting Forsythia: Forsythia is easy to propagate. In fact, many gardeners report good results by simply cutting a branch on a slant and inserting the fresh cut end into a few inches of prepared soil.

Another option is to place fresh cutting into water to root. Leave in a cool, dark area until roots form. Once roots grow, plant outside in well watered soil.

Pussy Willows: Native to the Northeast, the tiny, furry grey buds of the pussy willow plant have long served as a welcome sign of spring. Long stalks of branches bearing "kitten toes" spring up in wetlands across New England, to be plucked and displayed in vases

as a reminder warmer weather is on its way. A childhood favorite, the velvety grey buds are a sentimental reminder of a simpler time, when the sprigs of willows discovered in the woods, or along a pond's edge proved an unexpected, yet delightful find. The simple form of the pussy willow continues to amaze today, as artists both past and present have replicated the lofty twigs in oils and ink, and naturalists gather the catkins to create long lasting bouquets.

Pussy willows do more than decorate a dismal wintry landscape, as they are very beneficial to wildlife. Wild birds, particularly cardinals and finches, consume the flower buds, and densely growing pussy willow shrubs offer nesting and shelter for a variety of native birds. Bees rely on the early season blooms of the pussy willow for pollen, and some species of butterfly larvae feed on the pussy willow's leaves.

Deer, beaver, grouse and squirrels all include willow in their diets, and the leaves of the pussy willow provide much needed vitamins and nutrients including hefty doses of Vitamin C and zinc.

Pussy Willow Folklore: As adorable as it is unusual, it's not surprising the fuzzy pussy willow has a place in folklore. According to an old Polish tale, a litter of kittens had been chasing butterflies at the river's edge and one by one fell into the moving waters. The mother cat, unable to save her kittens began crying out. The willow trees, located on the banks of the river swept their long branches into the water - to which the kittens clung on tightly and were



TAKE THE HINT
.....
KAREN TRAINOR

rescued. Legend has it that is why each spring the willow branches sprout grey furry buds - a reminder of where the little kitten's paws grasped onto the twigs. Another Polish legend isn't quite so "warm and fuzzy" but nonetheless has earned a place in Ukraine tradition. It is said just before Easter, families go into the woods to pick pussy willows with the intention of beating out the long cold winter. Reciting a childhood rhyme family members playfully strike each other with the long, pussy willow branches, an act which symbolizes the strength to break away from the winter season to welcome spring and new beginnings.

Propagating Pussy Willows: Pussy willows are moisture loving plants can be found wild along wetlands. The plant is a favorite remedy to remedy poor drainage areas and are useful for controlling soil erosion. Their tall branches are also used for privacy or borders, but most people enjoy the pleasures of pussy willow in bloom simply to display as a centerpiece.

Propagating pussy willows is not difficult and usually results in success. An easy way to plant pussy willows in the spring season is simply to cut a foot long branch of new growth and insert it into moist soil. Sink it into the ground at least three inches and allow a few nodes to remain above ground. With luck, roots will form within a couple of weeks. The trick is to make sure the cutting is from a male pussy willow (males change color and are often larger; female branches remain dull and grey). Keep in mind that roots

are aggressive so be sure to plant them away from anything you do not want them to invade such as sewer systems, etc.

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 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 newspapers? Send questions and/or hints to: Take the Hint!, C/o the Southbridge Evening News, PO Box 90; Southbridge, MA 01550. Or email KDRR@aol.com. Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn.



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ON DEPOSIT

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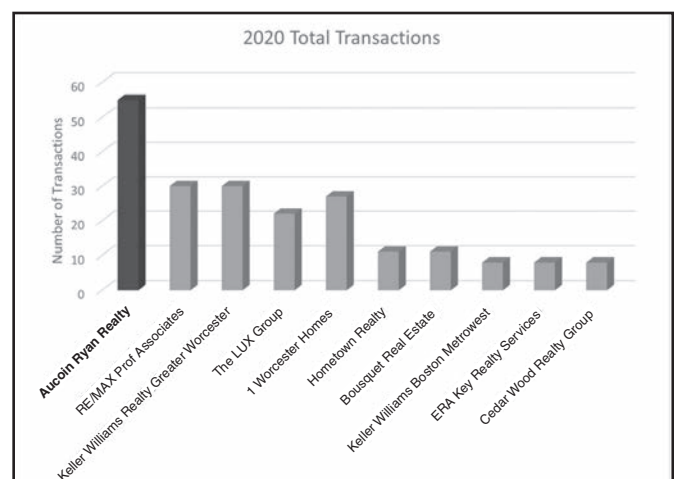
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OXFORD			
	February 2020	February 2021	Trend
Median Price	\$217,000	\$322,250	▲
Market Volume	\$1,447,500	\$3,281,653	▲
# of Homes Sold	6	10	▲
Avg Days on Market	42	29	▼
Month Supply Inv.	.86	.34	▼

WEBSTER			
	February 2020	February 2021	Trend
Median Price	\$238,950	\$249,500	▲
Market Volume	\$2,025,300	\$3,598,500	▲
# of Homes Sold	8	11	▲
Avg Days on Market	57	34	▼
Month Supply Inv.	1.26	.39	▼

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Antique reproductions and fakes

Antiques have been copied for years. For example, in 1876, the Centennial Exposition took place in Philadelphia. Americans were interested in their history and cabinet makers produced many quality reproductions of pieces from the previous century. Often, the goal with reproductions is to create copies of furniture or other antiques for people who couldn't afford to pay what an original would cost. Other times though, the goal is to deceive an unsuspecting buyer.



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES
WAYNE TUISKULA

me that he was running a golf auction. I was new at the antique business and bought some cast iron doorstops of a man and woman golfer that I thought would be a good fit. My friend who was running the auction informed me that the doorstops were reproductions. Someone had artificially aged them by exposing them to weather and hitting them with chains. Even when accurately described as reproductions in his golf auction catalog, the pair sold for well over \$200 and I was able to make a small profit, despite my mistake.

Around 15 years ago, I was helping a friend set up his booth at the Brimfield Antique Show. We finished early that night and walked around to see what other dealers were offering for sale. My friend specialized in antique furniture and saw a barrister's bookcase that was reasonably priced. Barrister's (or stacking) bookcases are rectangular sections that fit on top of each other. The glass fronts lift upward and slide inward at the top. When my friend examined the bookcase more closely, he found a "Made in Malaysia" sticker in the back.

Around the same time, we auctioned a great collection of Tiffany Studios desk accessories for a client who had collected them for many years.



Fortunately, the collector sold the collection when they did. Many copies have been made in Asia since we sold the collection. The flood of reproductions has caused the price of originals to drop considerably.

There are so many reproductions that it may be easier to list antiques that haven't been reproduced than things that have. A search of Wayfair's Web site of antique reproductions lists: telephones, tea sets, telescopes, bottle openers, scrimshaw boxes, toilet paper holders, statues, and furniture. There are hundreds more. I should point out that they are doing nothing illegal or unethical by selling these. They are merely offering decorative pieces to people who want them.

On the other hand, U.S. Customs seized 36 fake guitars that were

shipped from China, according to a February NBC Washington report. Many of the guitars were Gibson Les Paul copies. A Gibson Ace Frehley had a suggested retail value of \$9,000. The total suggested retail value for all the guitars was \$158,692. Guitar.com reported that the bogus guitars were en route to buyers in 21 states and Australia.

If you are a collector, here are some things that you can do to make sure you are buying legitimate pieces. Buy from a reputable dealer. Learn as much about the items you collect. Before I became a full-time auctioneer, I spent a lot of free time in local antique shops. If I saw the same item in multiple shops I looked closely and found it was typically either a reproduction or a recent warehouse find. Sometimes, it can be obvious that what you are looking at is a repro-

duction. If you see "copy of," reproduction," or a modern "Made in China" label on a piece, you don't have to look any further.

We will soon auction another group of antique, vintage, and contemporary model trains, die-cast cars, and other toys online. We also picked up a large collection of sports and non-sports cards that will be sold by online auction. We are also still accepting quality consignments of valuable items like jewelry, coins, art, and better collectibles for our May multi-estate auction. See our website for details: <https://centralmassauctions.com>

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POSITIVELY

continued from page A8

and embrace the future of my next idea. I made the choice to move on.

Always fish with more than one pole.

The more baited hooks you have in the water at one time, the more chances you have of landing the big fish. Be creative. Have more than one idea, project, or proposal. Pursue more than one job. Apply to multiple schools. Never rely on a single outcome and never allow the disappointment

of one day, stop you from taking a chance on the next. Keep going. Keep trying and never give up.

There are only two things you can control in life ...

So back to the reader question. Having cancer has not changed my attitude or optimism. I'm focused on living a happy and optimistic life. I believe I can beat this cancer and am working to do so.

You can't control the weather ... or how others feel about you ... or the decisions others make that influence your

future. You can control your attitude and your attitude will drive how you respond to the inevitable disappointments ... and you can also control your effort. Be optimistic and work hard. Next time you won't be disappointed.

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.

NURSE

continued from page A1

and other items for homeless individuals being discharged from the Worcester field hospital. In recognition of her efforts, she was presented with the District Attorney's Team Excellence and Merit Award (TEAM).

Presented annually, the award recognizes outstanding service by employees in public safety.

"Working as a nurse on the front lines, she has seen others struggle to not only fight COVID-19, but face life after recovery," DA Early said. "Nurse DeCoteau's care goes far beyond the field hospital, bettering the lives of those who need it the most."

Throughout the pandemic, Nurse

DeCoteau has witnessed sick patients in need of winter clothing and self-care items. These challenges have severely affected the region's homeless population, officials said.

Recognizing the need to immediately address the problem, DeCoteau created Nurses for Hope, a nonprofit organization that collects winter clothes, cleansing wipes, and socks for COVID-19 patients. She has since donated essential goods to several discharged patients.

DA Early created the TEAM Award in 2019 to recognize public safety employees who go above and beyond the call of duty. If you would like to nominate someone for the award, contact the Worcester County District Attorney's Office at 508-755-8601.

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Prayer to the Blessed Virgin
Most holy Virgin Immaculate, my Mother Mary, to thee who art the Mother of my Lord, the queen of the universe, the advocate, the hope, the refuge of sinners, I who am the most miserable of all sinners, have recourse this day. I venerate thee, great queen, and I thank thee for the many graces thou has bestowed upon me even unto this day; in particular for having delivered me from the hell which I have so often deserved by my sins. I love thee, most dear Lady; and for the love I bear thee, I promise to serve thee willingly forever and to do what I can to make thee loved by others also. I place in thee all my hopes for salvation; accept me as thy servant and shelter me under thy mantle, thou who art the Mother of mercy. And since thou art so powerful with God, deliver me from all temptations, or at least obtain for me the strength to overcome them until death. From thee I implore a true love for Jesus Christ. Through thee I hope to die a holy death. My dear Mother, by the love thou bearest to Almighty God, I pray thee to assist me always, but most of all at the last moment of my life. Forsake me not then, until thou shalt see me safe in heaven, thee to bless thee and sing of thy mercies through all eternity. Such is my hope. Amen. N.F.L.

St. Jude's Novena
May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved, throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, help of the hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer 9 times a day. By the 8th day your prayer will be answered. Say it for 9 days. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank you St. Jude. N.F.L.

PRAYER TO THE ANGELS
Pray 9 Hail Mary's for 9 days, ask for 3 wishes, 1 involving business and 2 involving the impossible. On the 9th day publish the prayer and your wish will be answered even though you may not believe it. As promised. N.F.L.

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“Assist” local pets by joining Here Today Adopted Tomorrow’s “Meowch Madness”

BRIMFIELD — Brimfield shelter, Here Today Adopted Tomorrow, is participating in March Madness this year. But don't worry: you won't see cats on the court! Instead, HTAT is offering pre-game meals “to-go,” so that you can enjoy the March 21st game at home and help local pets at the same time. We'll feed you on game night, and your meal purchase will help us feed pets in need.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Here Today Adopted Tomorrow's “Meowch Madness” will take the place of its usual Spay-ghetti Supper. The fundraiser will benefit HTAT's programs that help keep pets and people together, such as their new Pet Food Pantry, their low-cost spay/neuter program, and their free behavioral help program.

Executive Director, Rachael Max, said, “The past year has shown us that pets and families need each other more than ever. Even though we can't gather together to watch the game, we're excited to offer our community a new way to come together in spirit and help local pets at the same time!”

“You can watch March Madness right from home while enjoying some delicious pre-game treats. The food is prepared by long-time Spay-ghetti Supper professional chef, Chef Casey, who is also one of our best volunteers. Chef Casey will serve chili, as well as his world-famous Mac and Cheese, a Spay-ghetti Supper favorite!”

From now until March 17, participants can pre-order their Meowch

Madness meal, or donate a meal to a neighbor, by visiting heretodaysanctuary.org or calling (413) 324-8224. Participants can pick up their meals without contact at the Brimfield Congregational Church on March 21st, from 4 to 6 pm. In order to keep Meowch Madness safe and COVID-friendly for everyone, meals are available by pre-order only. And stay-tuned for more cat-themed March Madness fun!

If you need assistance in feeding or caring for your pet, Here Today Adopted Tomorrow can help. Local cat owners can spay or neuter their cats for \$50 or less, and strays and ferals can be fixed for free! In addition, those struggling to feed their pets can apply to the Pet Food Pantry. Please visit heretoday-sanctuary.org or call (413) 324-8224 to learn



more about these and more community assistance programs.

About Here Today Adopted Tomorrow Animal Sanctuary

Here Today Adopted Tomorrow, HTAT, was founded by mother-daughter team Barbara Horn and Rachael Max. HTAT is a volunteer driven group focused on reducing the number of homeless animals in our community through prevention and adoption services. In

2012 we opened our no kill, cageless cat adoption center for adult cats and kittens in Brimfield MA. Our ultimate goal is to decrease the number of animals entering the shelter system. It is deeply important to us that every resident's stay at HTAT is comfortable and healthy, making for well-adjusted, happy animals. We have programs to help special needs cats flourish and get adopted, including shy, fearful and senior cats. Shortly after opening, we real-

ized there were more homeless cats than we could handle by adoption alone, so we started programs to spay and neuter local community cats. To date, HTAT has helped more than 2,500 cats. For more information, visit heretodaysanctuary.org.

Visit Here Today Adopted Tomorrow on Facebook at facebook.com/heretodaysanctuary, and follow us on Instagram at @heretodayadoptedtomorrow.




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