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Friday, June 12, 2020

## Sturbridge resident recognized for exceptional trail advocacy



Photo Courte

Left and Right, Richard Paradise, and David Barnicle present the Pinnacle Award to Tom Chamberland, center, at the recent Friends of Sturbridge Trails mee

STURBRIDGE — With National Trails Day set for this June 6, The Friends of Sturbridge Trails (FrOST) who recently held their sixth annual meeting Hosted by at the Public House would like to announce their Pinnacle Award winner, Tom Chamberland.

A special presentation of the Pinnacle Award, FrOST's highest volunteer award for trail advocacy, promotion and involvement, was bestowed upon Tom Chamberland, presented by FrOST President David Barnicle & Secretary Richard Paradise.

In presenting this award, David Barnicle said, "We are recognizing a true trail volunteer. Tom's leadership on volunteer days, and his experience in trail design and construction has made the Town of Sturbridge a recognized leader as a trail destination."

Paradise continued, "I have worked alongside of Tom on many volunteer trail days, his understanding of how to work with volunteers and ability to insure every volunteer is engaged and enthusiastic in the work accomplished is terrific."

Upon receipt of this award, Cumberland said "I am surprised and humbled by this recognition. In the six years of the Friends as an organization, this is only the second time it has been awarded so to be recognized as one of those few individuals who have gone above and beyond in support of the Sturbridge Trails is very special. A very deep felt thank you for this special recognition"

Cumberland has been active in Sturbridge trail development as far back as 2000, while working for the U S Army Corps of Engineers, as a Park Ranger, starting on the Westville Lake section of the Grand Trunk Trail, to being appointed as a Sturbridge

Please Read CUMBERLAND, page A3

# Brimfield feels ripple effects of canceled Antique Show

BY KEVIN FLANDERS STAFF WRITER

BRIMFIELD – The eerie quiet in town continues to be deafening in the absence of the Brimfield Antique Show.

Three times annually, the showgrounds flanking a milelong stretch of Route 20 bustle with thousands of guests from throughout the world. Since 1959, the flea market has provided opportunities for the tiny community to shine in an international spotlight, with antiquers of all ages arriving for one of the largest shows in the nation. Dealers always mark their calendars early for the shows - some vendors have attended all three shows for decades – and families have made a tradition of the program for generations.

But in 2020, the showgrounds have been desolate due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The six-day May leg of the show was scrapped, and organizers recently announced that the July show will also be canceled. Residents, promoters, dealers, vendors, and local officials are devastated not only by the loss of revenue, but also the lost memories for families.

"I have never seen anything like this here. We've had bad weather for a few days, but entire weeks have never been canceled," said Shelton Antique Shows owner Lois Shelton, who started at her location in 1975. "There's so many people who are affected by this, from the

promoters, to the dealers, to the food vendors, to the supply people. And then you have all the guests."

Organizers have not announced plans for the September antique show – the final event of the year. Vendors and dealers hope the event can be salvaged if guests wear masks and social distance, but it is unclear how the many food vendors would be affected. Travel conditions at the time would also come into play, as the show relies on attendance from across the country and the world.

Show promoters have been advised by town officials to develop a safety plan and have it ready if the September show gets the green light. Organizers are also keeping a close watch of the latest guidance released by Gov. Charlie Baker. The fate of another massive September event in western Massachusetts

the Big E in West Springfield
will also be at the mercy of conditions in the early fall.
Brimfield Antique Show participants and leaders are eagerly awaiting a decision on the Big E, which will be used as a barometer for whether their event can be held.

"We have been meeting and planning as if there is going to be a show," said Randy Kolhoff, the owner of the Black Swan Meadows show field. "If it happens, we have to be prepared for it and make sure we have

Please Read ANTIQUES, page A10

## Community shows support for Black Lives Matter

BY ROSE PECCI VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

STURBRIDGE — The Sturbridge Town Common has always been the town's center of congregation, used to host events such as weekly farmer's markets and concerts. On Thursday, June 4, it was once again used to bring its citizens together as Sturbridge held its own peaceful protest in sup-

port of Black rights.

As the Black Lives Matter movement has re-emerged in response to the recent horrifying deaths of Black Americans

such as George Floyd, many cities have held protests to demand justice, denounce police violence towards Black people, and to mourn the Black lives lost. While Sturbridge is a small, rural town rather than a large city, it was not left behind. Although Sturbridge is a predominantly white area, they showed their support to the Black community.

Thursday's peaceful protest on the Common was organized by teens Brooke Gebo, Parker Paige, and Rosangeline Fleming. They spread word of the event through social media, and received an overwhelming response.

Paige expressed that their goal for the event was "to raise awareness and to mourn all of the hurt that's been put on people of color and the black community for so long," and Gebo added that she wants this event to "honor those that have been abused by the system, and just give people something to think about."

Fleming emphasized that she hopes to "continue fueling the energy for the Black Lives Matter movement...I don't want this to be the flavor of the week or a trend or something that's gonna die out...I want people to be able to express that energy in a peaceful setting where we are able to learn and explore ideas that may be jarring and upsetting to a lot of us who haven't had to deal with this."

Some Sturbridge residents expressed concern about the event and the possibility of violence erupting from the protests, but the coordinators of the peaceful protest continued to emphasize the intended peaceful nature of the protest and stressed that "it's a vigil,"

not a riot." In order to ensure the safety of those that were in attendance, the event coordinators worked with the local police.

Earl Dessert, Sturbridge's Interim Police Chief, stated "I don't anticipate anything getting out of hand, obviously if anything gets out of hand we'll be there to make sure peace is restored, but I'm looking at it as a peaceful event that we're going to be down there standing in solidarity with the cause which is to stop police brutal-

Please Read **BLM**, page **A10** 



Photo Courtesy

Chair artisans, Tim Bardsley (left) and Brian Rhea (right) celebrate with successful bidders Beverly Leaman, of Lancaster, Pa. winner of the 2019 Publick House Chair and Karen Schoch, of Henniker, New Hampshire, winner of the 2019 Sturbridge Chair setting a new record for both chairs last year's auction.

## Federated Church cancels annual Church Auction

STURBRIDGE — The Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale has canceled its 71st Annual Auction that was originally scheduled for Aug. 8, bringing to an end its proud distinction of being the longest consecutive church auction in the United States.

Citing the many health considerations caused by the Covid-19 pandemic in a recent letter to auction supporters, Auction Chair Tim Bardsley said it has been impossible for the committee to put together the many elements that have made the auction so special for the past seventy years.

"The physical distancing required by this virus cut short our Monday Night furniture refinishing sessions and the craft workshops," Bardsley said, "and the closure of so many area businesses has limited the donation of items and services for the silent auction. There are no guarantees our local board of health would even permit a food

booth."

With Massachusetts being one of the heaviest hit by the pandemic, the committee was also very concerned for the safety of attendees and the health and safety of Church Members and Volunteers who staff the auction according to Bardsley.

"Add to all of that the substantial costs associated with auction services, food, tent rental, etc. and, while sad, we are confident that canceling the auction is the right decision," he said.

They say every cloud has a silver lining. In this case, the silver lining is that next year, 2021, marks the 100th Anniversary of The Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale's incorporation, and it will be a year of special events marking that celebration, according to executive board president, Leigh Darrin. As part of that anni-

## House approves bill offering expanded voting options

Representatives has approved legislation that would allow Massachusetts voters to safely participate in upcoming state and local elections using expanded early voting and mail-in voting options.

House Bill 4768, An Act relative to voting options in response to COVID-19, was engrossed by the House on a vote of 155-1 on June 4, and will now move to the Senate for further action.

State Rep. Todd Smola (R-Warren) said House Bill 4768 takes several steps to help minimize the public health risks for voters and poll workers participating in this year's elections. It requires the Secretary of State to mail applications to all registered voters by July 15, and again by Sept. 14, so those who wish to do so can request a vote-by-mail ballot for the September 1 primary and the Nov. 3 general election, respectively. Voters must submit a ballot request to their city or town clerk by Aug. 28 for the primary and by Oct. 30 for the general election, using a pre-paid envelope provided with the application.

House Bill 4768 provides the same

application filing cut-off dates for absentee ballot requests, but sets a deadline of noon on the day immediately preceding the election for individuals wishing to cast an absentee ballot in person. Applications, as well as ballots, must be provided in any language required by the bilingual election requirements of the federal Voting Rights Act.

To avoid overcrowding at polling locations on election day, completed early voting ballots can be mailed using a pre-paid return postage envelope, delivered in-person to the local clerk's office, or placed in a secured municipal dropbox, if one is available. Cities and towns will be required to provide early voting hours, including weekend hours, for individuals casting ballots in-person for the primary election from Aug. 22-28, and from Oct. 17-30 for the general elec-

Representative Smola noted that House Bill 4768 gives qualified voters the option to vote early by mail for any city or town election held on or before Dec. 31. The bill also authorizes electronic voting signatures to be used for early

voting and absentee ballot applications for all elections held between now and

To further minimize the public health risks associated with the novel coronavirus and reduce the number of poll workers needed, House Bill 4768 allows municipalities to eliminate the "checkout" table at polling stations for voters casting ballots in-person on election day.

Several additional amendments were added to the bill during floor debate,

allowing municipal clerks to process early ballots as they are received by mail, provided they are kept secured, locked, and unexamined, and no results are announced until after the polls close;

allowing vote-by-mail participants to request certain accommodations from the Secretary of State's office, including authorized blank electronic ballots that can be filled out electronically and printed for mailing;

requiring the Secretary of State to provide regulations by July 15 for electronic poll books to be used for the 2020 state elections and all future elections;

allowing ballot applications to be sent to a mailing address if the address is different than the voter's residential

requiring any vote to move a polling place for the primary or general election be taken at least 15 days prior to the election, and requiring the local governing body to evaluate whether this change would adversely impact voter access based on race, national origin, disability, income or age, with a report made publicly available on the municipal website and in the clerk's office no later than 3 days prior to changing a polling place;

establishing the cut-off date for individuals registering to vote for any election taking place on or before Dec. 31 as 10 days prior to the election; and

allowing mail-in ballots for the Nov. 3 general election received by 5 p.m. on Friday, November 6 to be counted if they are postmarked on or before election

For additional information please contact Representative Smola at Todd. Smola@mahouse.gov or (617) 722-2100.

### **JUNE IS ORAL HEALTH MONT**

Our next Your Teeth Matter is running on August 7 for Dental Health Week. Hope you'll join us.

> Visit one of these Professionals to improve your family's oral health.

Good dental hygiene is *very important* to overall good health.



## Why dental hygiene is essential for overall health



The importance of maintaining clean teeth and healthy gums goes beyond having fresh breath and a white smile. Many people are surprised to discover that oral hygiene plays an integral role in overall health.

Research indicates that oral health mirrors the condition of the body as a

whole. Also, regular dental visits can alert dentists about overall health and pinpoint if a person is at a risk for chronic disease. An oral health checkup also may be the first indication of a potential health issue not yet evident to a general medical doctor.

**HEART DISEASE** 

According to the Academy of General Dentistry, there is a distinct relationship between periodontal disease and conditions such as heart disease and stroke. Joint teams at the University of Bristol in the United Kingdom and the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin, Ireland, found that people with bleeding gums from poor dental hygiene could have an increased risk of heart disease. Bacteria from the mouth is able to enter the bloodstream when bleeding gums are present. That bacteria can stick to platelets and subsequently form blood clots. This interrupts the flow of blood to the heart and may trigger a heart attack. Brushing and flossing twice daily and rinsing with mouthwash can remove bacteria and keep gums healthy.

### **FACIAL PAIN**

The Office of the Surgeon General says infections of the gums that support the teeth can lead to facial and oral pain. Gingivitis, which is an early stage

of gum disease, as well as advanced gum disease, affects more than 75 percent of the American population.

Dental decay can lead to its own share of pain. Maintaining a healthy mouth can fend off decay and infections, thereby preventing pain.

### PANCREATIC CANCER

In 2007, the Harvard School of Public Health reported a link between gum disease and pancreatic cancer. In the ongoing study, 51,000 men were followed and data was collected beginning in 1986. The Harvard researchers found that men with a history of gum disease had a 64 percent increased risk of pancreatic cancer compared with men who had never had gum disease. The greatest risk for pancreatic cancer among this group was in men with recent tooth loss. However, the study was unable to find links between other types of oral health problems, such as tooth decay, and pancreatic cancer

### ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Various health ailments, including poor oral health, have been linked to a greater risk of developing Alzheimer's disease. In 2010, after reviewing 20 years' worth of data, researchers from New York University concluded that there is a link between gum inflammation and Alzheimer's disease. Follow-up studies from researchers at the University of Central Lancashire in the United Kingdom compared brain samples from 10 living patients with Alzheimer's to samples from 10 people who did not have the disease. Data indicated that a bacterium — Porphyromonas gingivalis — was present in the Alzheimer's brain samples but not in the samples from the brains of people who did not have Alzheimer's. P. gingivalis is usually associated with chronic gum disease. As a result of the study, experts think that the bacteria can move via nerves in the roots of teeth that connect directly with the brain or through bleeding

These health conditions are just a sampling of the relationship between oral health and overall health. Additional connections also have been made and continue to be studied.

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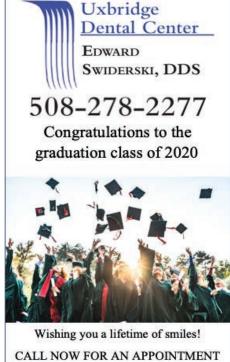
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## Trinity Catholic Academy hosting virtual open house

SOUTHBRIDGE — Trinity Catholic Academy is now accepting online registrations for Pre-K, Kindergarten, transfer and returning students for all grades for fall 2020. Proper adjustments in accordance with state guidelines will be in place for the safety of all students, parents and teachers and will continue to adapt as state regulations are further released.

Trinity Catholic Academy, a Pre-K to Grade 8 school emphasizes and promotes Christian values through example and instruction of academic excellence, athletics, and the arts with respect, compassion, and service among a diverse school family. This opportunity is available for all faiths.

Trinity Catholic Academy's goal is to provide a warm, loving, rich and safe environment designed to consider the total development of each child's needs and meet his/her individual interests. It is recognized that children learn best when they have a good self-image and are accepted for "who they are" by adults and children alike.

Pre-K teacher, Melissa Hilli offers the following prospective: "Some of the things parents like about TCA preschool is that it is a loving, caring and nurturing environment. children can learn independently and together with their friends. They are happy that their children are eager to come to school and excited about what they are learning. Parents are happy that children can learn about God and talk about God freely. They are very surprised at how much we do every day."

"My own children went to TCA from preschool through 8th grade", said Hilli. "One of the best parts of the school is that children and teachers alike, become TCA family members. Everyone helps each other. Parents enjoy being a part of our activities."

The Preschool is separate from the



Melissa Hilli, Preschool Teacher, left, and Sandra Lomme, Preschool aide, right, with preschool students at the start of Fall 2019.

rest of the school to keep the sound level to the preschool area, not interfering with the upper grade activities. However, the preschool is part of all the events and activities TCA does. Third Grade students are buddied up with preschool children empowering leadership and mentoring at the same time doing projects and reading days. This also happens with other grades.

Melissa Hilli offered that she loves the fact that she gets to introduce young children to school with her wonderful assistant, Sandy Lomme, and that the school is small enough so we can fully enjoy each child.

"It is extra special when I get to see them grow up from preschool to eighth grade

and watch them graduate." She said.

Preschool - Students must be age four by Aug. 31 to attend Trinity Catholic Academy's full day preschool program. This program is offered for both three and two days a week.

Kindergarten - Students must be age five by Aug. 31 for our five full day Kindergarten program.

An extended day program is available

until 5:30 p.m. for all TCA students.

Learn what Trinity can offer you and your family for all grades Pre-K – eighth grade.

Register for our Virtual Open house to be held Tuesday, June 16 at 6:30 p.m. by emailing SBDGECATHALUM@ tca11.com to participate.

### ACCURACY WATCH

The Sturbridge 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, 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.

### CUMBERLAND

Representative to the Regional Grand Trunk Trail Committee, to an associate member of the Sturbridge Trail Committee for some 10 years, and in 2017 appointed to the Massachusetts Recreational Trail Advisory Board to DCR, where he currently serves as their Chairperson.

The Friends of Sturbridge trails was formed in 2013 to help the Sturbridge Trail Committee in building, maintaining, and promoting the Town's open spaces and trails. To find out more on FrOST events, to volunteer your time, and to become a member of FrOST to receive their newsletter send an email to David at dmbarnicle8141@gmail.com or "like us" on Face Book at Friends of Sturbridge Trails.

Each year, on the first Saturday of June, the American Hiking Society and the trails community invite individuals of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds to unite on #NationalTrailsDay. A nationwide program to celebrate trails. This year, we will not be meeting in person on June 6, but we will still celebrate and preserve trails and promote access to quality green spaces. Join the American Hiking Society, and the Town of Sturbridge in this nationwide movement by taking the #NationalTrailsDay Pledge. bit.ly/ trails-day

## Sturbridge resident joins Junior League of Worcester board

WORCESTER — The Junior League of Worcester (JLW) announced its incoming 2020/2021 Board of Directors and nominated Lauren Evens as President during the League's annual dinner, held virtually for the first time ever via Zoom. Currently in its 95th year, the JLW is a volunteer-led organization that continues to grow by improving and enriching the quality of life for women and children within

Worcester County. Incoming Board of Directors

Lauren Evens, President - Worcester Nicole Theodoropoulos, Member-At-Large - Sturbridge

Allison Pearlman, Treasurer - Holden Diana Branch, Secretary - Hudson

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Evens joined the JLW in 2015 and has held past positions of Membership Director and Fundraising Director.

"I joined the league to meet like-minded women and to get to know my new community. Now five years later, I am so proud to be leading an organization that has been supporting the community for 95 years," Evens said.

'The JLW is committed to promoting voluntarism and developing the potential of women, and we are looking to increase our reach in the community by inspiring others to not only volunteer, but to make a difference. And you can do both with the JLW," she explained.

For the upcoming years, the JLW

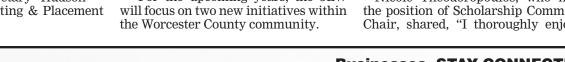
"First, we are joining the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI) in supporting the ABOLISH campaign, an association-wide initiative to raise public awareness on the hidden world of human trafficking in local communities. We will also launch a brand-new initiative focused on raising awareness of period poverty and filling the gap of menstrual hygiene products for girls and women in Worcester," she stated.

Additionally, the JLW supports the community by awarding scholarships to graduating seniors in the Worcester area who demonstrate outstanding voluntarism and community service during their high school career.

Nicole Theodoropoulos, who holds the position of Scholarship Committee Chair, shared, "I thoroughly enjoyed reading all the applications we received this year. It is clear that our graduates are really special and have been, and will continue to, give back to our com-

This year, the annual \$3,000 scholarship was awarded to Carolyn McDermott who plans to attend Fairfield University as a Nursing major.

"This scholarship truly means so much to me. Not only will it help me financially afford college, but it's also an incredible honor. I dedicated my time in High School giving back to my community, and I am so pleased and thankful that the JLW is so supportive of my work," said McDermott.



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## House, Senate pass municipal governance assistance bill

BOSTON - Repr. Todd M. Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways & Means) said cities and towns will be given additional tools to safely conduct Town Meetings and municipal elections during the global pandemic, under legislation recently approved by the Legislature.

Senate Bill 2680, An Act relative to municipal governance during the COVID-19 emergency, was enacted by the House of Representatives on a vote of 156-0 on June 4, and by the Senate on a voice vote the same day. The bill is now on Governor Charlie Baker's desk for his review and signature.

Smola said Senate Bill 2680 allows for municipal elections and municipal caucuses that were originally scheduled prior to June 30 to be rescheduled to a date no later than August 1. It also ensures that voters will have the option to vote by absentee ballot or through early voting by mail when a municipal election is resched-

The municipal governance bill also allows local select boards, boards of selectmen, town councils and boards of registrars to vote to eliminate any municipal caucus scheduled to occur between March 23 and July 31, if they determine holding the caucus would constitute a threat to public health and safety due to COVID-19. If a town cancels its municipal caucus, local candidates will be required to submit nomination papers signed by not fewer than 10 of the town's registered

Senate Bill 2680 also provides a number of options for conducting Town Meeting business while still maintaining safe social distancing protocols. In addition to allowing Town Meetings to be conducted virtually – with members participating and voting remotely through video or telephone conferencing - the bill also provides for reduced quorums during the State of Emergency,

as long as the reduced number is not less than 10 percent of the existing quorum requirement. It also allows the select board, in consultation with and with the approval of the town moderator, to move Town Meeting to an alternative site outside the town's geographic boundaries if needed to ensure public health and safety.

For communities that opt to hold a virtual Town Meeting, the bill requires town moderators to consult with the local disability commission or a coordinator to ensure compliance with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act. In communities with a representative Town Meeting form of government, registered voters who wish to participate in the virtual Town Meeting must submit a request to the town clerk at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

Smola noted that Senate Bill 2680 also provides additional time for cities to finalize a municipal budget for Fiscal Year 2021, by allowing local mayors to submit an annual budget to the city council within 30 days of the termination of the State of Emergency, or by July 31, whichever is earlier, and extending the deadline for city councils to act on the budget until 60 days after the State of Emergency is lifted. Cities that are unable to finalize a budget by June 30 can operate using a monthly continuing appropriation budget for up to 3 months.

To further assist cities and towns with the economic impacts of COVID-19, Senate Bill 2680 allows municipalities to suspend the dedication of revenues to one or more special funds in Fiscal Year 2021 and to place those revenues in the general fund, where they can be appropriated "for any lawful purpose notwithstanding the specified purpose of the fund" by a two thirds vote of the local governing body. If the specific stabilization fund or special fund has been established for

educational purposes, any money appropriated from these funds must be approved by the local school committee.

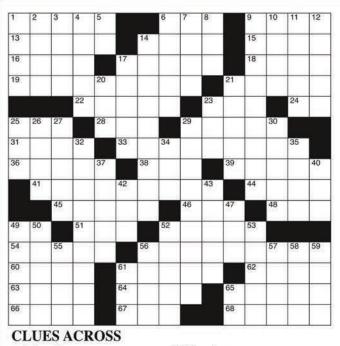
Additional provisions contained in the municipal governance bill would:

Prohibit the termination of essential services by cities, towns and districts for non-payment due to financial hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic, including water, trash collection and electricity;

authorize the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education to issue emergency educator licenses during the State of Emergency and for up to 180 days after the State of Emergency is terminated; and

facilitate payments on service contracts for school or education-related services provided to cities, towns and regional school districts.

For additional information please contact Smola at Todd. Smola@mahouse.gov or (617)



- American composer 6. Very fast aircraft
- 9. Workplaces
- 13. A mount on a surface 14. Small freshwater fish
- 15. Double-reed instrument 16. Canadian flyers
- 17. Famed astronomer
- 18. Smooth, shiny fabric 19. Profited
- 21. Conspiracy
- 22. Infections 23. Chum
- 24. Secondary school (abbr.)
- 25. Resistance unit 28. Sound unit
- 29. Ancient city of Egypt
- Crease
- 33. Polished
- 36. For goodness !

- 38. College basketball tournament

- 39. Scorches 41. Describe precisely
- 44. Thick piece of something
- 45. Frocks 46 Indicates near
- 48. Senior enlisted US Army member 49. A note added to a letter
- 51. A nose or snout
- 52. Clumsy
- 54. Satisfied to the fullest
- 56. Display of strong feeling
- 60. Popular awards show
- 61. Cuisine style 62. Expresses pleasure
- 63. Monetary unit of the Maldives
- 64. Utah city
- 65. Fight
- 66. Messenger ribonucleic acid
- 67. Body part
- 68. Suspiciously reluctant

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Fruit of the service tree 2. At some prior time
- 3. Mongolian city \_\_ Bator
- Strongboxes 5. Russian river
- 6. Gurus 7. Horse mackerel
- 8. Pearl Jam's debut album 9. Confines
- 10. First month of Jewish
- ecclesiastical year
- 11. Famed Idaho politician
- 12. Prevents from seeing 14. Indicate time
- 17 Male parents
- 20. Tab on a key ring
- 21. The Great Dog constellation: Major
- 23. Frying necessity
- 25. Former CIA
- 26. The leader Produces

- 29. London soccer club
- 30. Closes
- 32. Region in the western Pacific Ocean
- 34. Not present
- 35. Small drink of whiskey
- 37. Begat 40. Helps little firms
- 42. Pointed end of a pen
- 43. Fencing swords
- 47. Inches per minute (abbr.)
- 49. Hymn
- 50. Philippine island 52. Flemish names of Ypres
- 53. A way to inform
- 55. Small lake
- 56. Linear unit
- 57. Central Japanese city
- 58. Partially burn
- 59. Sports award
- 61. Part of your foot
- 65. Atomic #21

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**NEWSPAPERS IS A QUEST** LIKE NO OTHER

## House approves Restaurant Relief Act to assist

BOSTON — The House of temporarily approve requests Representatives has given initial approval to a bill that would allow restaurants to begin offering mixed drinks with food takeout orders, and to provide expanded outdoor table service with alcohol, subject to local approval.

State Rep. Todd Smola (R-Warren) said House Bill 4767, An Act addressing challenges faced by food and beverage establishments resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, would also allow restaurants to delay the filing of meals tax payments collected this year, while capping the fees charged by third-party delivery service companies for online food orders. The bill, which passed the House on a vote of 156-0 on June 3, still requires Senate approval.

The Restaurant Relief Act builds on the guidelines recently issued by Governor Charlie Baker for the state's Phase 2 re-opening, which could begin as early as June 8. Phase 2 allows restaurants to begin offering outdoor dining to customers, but continues to prohibit indoor table service for now.

House Bill 4767 authorizes local licensing authorities to for outdoor table service at restaurants, with alcohol sales, through Nov. 30. Smola said this change will allow cities and towns to bypass the current licensing review process conducted by the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission (ABCC), which typically takes seven to 10 weeks to complete. Communities would still need to notify the ABCC once an amended license is approved.

Under the bill, licensed establishments can continue to sell beer and wine for off-premises consumption for the duration of the Governor's State of Emergency, or until Feb. 28, 2021, whichever is later. In addition, restaurants currently licensed to sell alcohol for on-premises consumption will now be able to offer cocktails for off-premises consumption during the same time period, under certain restrictions. Mixed drinks must be sold as part of a food order in a sealed container - packaged so it is clear if the lip, cap or seal has been removed or broken and will be limited to no more than 64 fluid ounces per transaction.

Smola said House Bill 4767

addresses concerns raised by restaurants about the excessive fees charged by some third-party delivery companies during the pandemic. He noted that the bill caps delivery fees at 15 percent and other non-delivery fees at 5 percent of the online order purchase price during the State of Emergency, a restriction that will remain in effect until 45 days after the State of Emergency is lifted.

Restaurants will see additional financial relief from a temporary change in the state's procedure for collecting meals tax payments. Businesses will have the option of delaying their meals tax payments for the remainder of the year, without being assessed any late-file or late-payment penalties or interest. Businesses that choose this option will have until September 20 to submit meals taxes collected from June 1-August 31, and will not have to submit meals taxes for Sept. 1-Dec. 31 until Jan. 20, 2021.

For additional information please contact Representative Smola at Todd. Smola@mahouse. gov or (617) 722-2100.



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## QCC releases Spring 2020 semester **Dean and Merit Lists**

QCC releases Spring 2020 semester Dean and Merit Lists

WORCESTER Quinsigamond Community College has released its Spring 2020 semester Dean and Merit Lists. A total of 578 students were named to the College's Dean's List and 1035 students were named to the Merit List.

Students named to the Dean's List must have a Quality Point Average (QPA) of 3.5 or higher and have earned 12 or more credits in a given semester. Students named to the Merit List must have a QPA of 3.5 or higher and have earned 6 or more credits in a given semester, but fewer than 12 credits.

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

### Dean's List

Auburn: Brighid Campbell, Gracie Curtis, Corey Duff, Catherine Forde, Dawson Gemme, Jason Henry, Nicholas John, Quinne Masiello, Benjamin Rackett, Haley Rivers, Rheina Viruet

Brimfield: Allyson Chase, Kenneth Farrell, Alexis Fluegel, Madison Miller. Jennifer Polesnak-Custance, Jonathan Rubio

Brookfield: Quintin Aubin, Justin Zielinski

Charlton: Matthew Beals, Bond, Rebekah Elaine Diaz, Lucas Lanier, Paige Leite, Robert Orasz, Jeffrey Pearlstein, Christopher Shannon Ross, Rapoza. Rebekah Ukpong

Valley: Hunter Cherry Guinto, Robert Howard, Alec Iott, Sarah Kacevich, Krissy Lindner

Douglas: Kristina Chacon, Daphne Sevilla

Dudley: Erin Bernard, Gabrielle Boivin, Jessica Clark, Jacqueline Coggans, Joy Goguen, Veronica Helock, Francesca Johnson, Montana Josey, Meaghan Krajcik, Conner Meece, Aidan Murray, Mick Sullivan, Meroon Zahrah East Brookfield: Allison Hingston

Douglas: East Amy Ackerman, Bethany Buller, Dominic Corso, Adam Gaulin, Jenna Glode, Sarah Happy, Jacob Masi Carina Holt, Fiskdale: Tristan Shaw

Leicester: Grace Ankrah, Tiffany Beer, Sajed Chreim, Anastasia Cichowski, Jillian Dube, Dylan Havey, Kristina Jarobski, Austin Le, Ayla Martinez, Meaghan St. George, Lindsay Tucker

North Brookfield: Skye Guertin, Jay Mason, Michelle Nguyen, David Vincent

North Uxbridge: Sarena Gervais

Northbridge: Joshua Desjardins, Tyler Hewitt, Brian Iarussi, Tyler Novitch, Lauren Springer, Donovan Tames

Oxford: Gabriella Blackwell, Kayla Brodeur, Nathan Hagopian, Luke Knowles, Samantha Lemay, Trenton Lovejoy, Paul Maynard, Abigail Rice, Madeline Tomlin, Felecia Violette

Southbridge: Kevin Brady, Edgardo Camacho, Caiden Ellis, Breanna Filion, Jaime Fuentes, Jessica Harvey, Megan Hufault, Dalizbeth Rivera-Szczypien, Dianis Sanchez, Justin Santiago

Spencer: Chantel Croteau, Joseph Hamel, Nelmarie Irizarry, William Marrier, Morgan Mercadante, Johnny Nguyen, Dustin VanDyke, Savannah Vangel

Uxbridge: Anthony Abate, Gabrielle Casey, Marcus Cruz, Jenna Dagle, Erika Ethier, Mark Jordan, Michaela Randall, Christopher Videto Wales: Lilyth Bourque

Webster: Carolyn Almanzar Gutierrez, Destiny Baldwin, Anthony Barnardo, Tom Bednarz, Audrey Ducharme, Maikeal Gwargious, Timothy Hansen, Sokkheng Khem, Joshua Kichar, Eric Lefebvre, Antonia Lopez, Orion Walker

West Boylston: Kingsley Duodu, Matthew George, Dylan Hemenway, Sarah Maino, Sophie Mulhearn, Jaycie Opuda, Zackery Vanvleck, Brady Weldon

West Brookfield: Robert O'Shea, Marissa Parker, Leah Robillard, William Walker

Whitinsville: Alexandra Clauss, Rachel Fremeau, Jameson Murray, Sharon Ridley, Anastasia Robinson, John Roche, Allison Salamack,

Braelyn Sessa, Bishoy Soliman Hanna, Marie Soliman, Cody Spencer

### **Merit List**

Michelina Auburn: Balsavich, Faith Barbieri, Bright Bremang, Caleb Buckley, Elizabeth Burch-Elder, Chantal Champagne, Hannah Chapdelaine, Lyndsey Delorto, Adam Eastty, Rebecca Forrett, Danielle Hastings, Desiray Hayes, Thi Thanh Huynh, Anelia Hyland, Tia Leo, Abigail Lloyd, Indra Nagassar, Lolitha Ntonmeu Messa Tiako, Joseph Paine, Abigail Randall, James Robertson, Laura Ruzzoli, Brian Smith, Dylan Tang, Dien Truong, Jonathon Wambach

Blackstone: Christina Boyan, Alexa Boyt, Eric Lawler, Thomas Saladin, Cassidy Tellstone, Justyne Tellstone, Patricia Wozniak

Brimfield: Amber Beaulieu, Amanda Childs, Steven LaRocco, Noah Pestaina

Brookfield: Shawna O'Day Kida, Angela Palmere

Charlton: Rasa Auskalnyte, Danielle Cadarette, Byron Dean, Gwen Earnest, Chelsie Elliott, April Foskett, Riley French, Victoria Gaspar, Alexander Hayward, Chase Mannila, Amanda McDermott, Ashley Steelman, Jennifer

Cherry Valley: Tiara Bates, Sarah Gaffney, Alferid Hussin Shifa, Inutu Mwinga, Esther Njeri, Brandi Sagendorph, Nehemiah Wanjiku

Douglas: Kattie Turgeon

Dudley: Celia Bohaboy, Shawn Coltran, Alexandra Cowher, Amanda Cronauer, Michael Cyrek, Gregory Gunsalus, Cassidy Hamilton, Stedroy Hortance, Hannah Lawson, Travis McDonald, Danielle Moore, Elizabeth Naumann, David Njoroge, Abigail Northrop, Jacinda Peters, Tiffany Sousa, Melesia Swanston-Alonzo, Owen West, Ashley Westgate, Eridania

East Brookfield: Madison McKenna Lamothe, Hatt, Amber Wadden

East Douglas: Amanda Alexion, Carol Benson, Holly Callahan, Samantha Drew, Brendan L'Italien, Nathan Milliken, Emily Muscatell, Earl Parfitt, Michael Purvis

Fiskdale: Brianna Lawrence, Victoria Masse, Jaime Pingree, Phillip Sipe, Rosalyn Sosik, Ryan Zahr, Warren Zelenak

Holland: Edward Fisher, Sean Higgins

Colleen Leicester: Beaudreau, Owen Boisvert, Campbell, Taylor Erica Chouinard, Sherri Frotten, Kristen Johnson, Lilly Kinney. Jamie Pasternack, Christina Penney, Maria Rosado, Miosotis Rosado, Jonah Wicklund

North Brookfield: Meghan Brill, Harold Burroughs, Cassandra Chouinard, Kelsie Fantasia, Melissa Fontaine, Leo Gauthier, Jessica Jesky, Jordan Olson, Stephanie Ranellone

North Oxford: Salvatore DeMalia, Alyssa Durham, Alexzandra Hays, Shannen Hennessy, Stefanie Weaver

Northbridge: Juliana Asante, Kyran Bishop, Emily Massoni, Giovan Panzanella, Crystal Tardie, Anthony Zanca

Oxford: Regan Arraje. Richard Audette, Amber Comptois, Nicole Cosway, Nichole Donahue, Lindsey Donnelly, Tommy Estevez, Aliya Guillotte, Jennifer Gum, Carolyn Hodge, Audrey Hopkins, Jacob Laplante, Justin Mosher, Denise Otano, Nicholas Rawson, Ethan Smith, Olivia Spring, Kathryn Tagg, Heather Wilcox

Southbridge: Andre Beaudet, Karl Benkert, Felicia Boucher, Melissa Boudreau, Jessica Brunell, Audrey Clark, Jacquelinet Conde Arias, Awtumn Courville, Melinda Cruz-Rios, Ashley Deorsey-McNeaney, Tanishia Espino, Kirstianna Ferschke, Kiley Gouin, Maria Hernandez-Santos, Melynda Marcano, Luz Marquez, Javier Melendez. Kyle Morrill, Sean Moynagh, Amy Nadeau, Erik Newton, Krystal Pagan, Brady Parent, Matthew Porra, Mariana Powell, Tanner Renaud, Stephanie Rivera, Christina Ruberti, Sujeidy Sagastibelza, Austin Skarnes, Cassandra Smeltzer, Gabriel Varner, Natyarie Villanueva, Tyler

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Sturbridge: Brian Cardrant, Tiondra DeBoise, Kristen Gaudet, Ethan Hunter-Mason, Agnieszka Orlowska, Jeannine Szumski

Uxbridge: Joseph Cafarella, Jason Dullaghan, Michael Dumican, Caitlyn Ellis, Shannon Gilmore, Stephanie Gosselin, Mycala Labbe, Taylor Lee, Gabrielle Morrow, Jocelyn Murzycki, Mariangela Pereira, Matthew Stark, Katie Vautrain

Wales: Stephen Hughes, Janelle VanHook

Webster: Krystle Bedrick, Ashley Belanger, Natalya Cazarreal, Tirso Cristian, Emily Cutler, Katelyn DiTullio, Tyler Ellis, Edna Makepeace, Jamie Marshall, Alexis Mazza, Eunice Osei, Sabina Potem, Heather Quinn, Joe Ramos, Ivette Rivera Toribio, Michael Russo, Sarah Mae San Agustin, Sara Soule, Apryl Vancellette, Gage Velez, Andrea Woodford

West Brookfield: Jenna Chisholm, Savannah Finney, Karen Laprise, Alexandra Mendenhall, Jasper Roche, Payton Wooldridge

Westborough: Audrey Buck, Franklin Burkey, Kevin D'Alto, Sowmya Gontla, Daniel Leinweber, Tania Montanez, Jennifer Morrissey, Caroline Nakabiili, Christopher Xu

Whitinsville: Forrest Amtmann, Jocelyn Arriaga, Jill Beschi, Kelly Buurma, Adam Dullea, Casey Hibbard, Nikole Kamishlian, Ian Kelly, Kimberly Lloyd, Melissa Lozeau, Rebecca Malo, Emily Miller, Charlotte Murphy, Juli Nasralla, Alexander Romero, Raquel Sabatino, Katie Sansoucy, Ian Schopf, Christina Woods

## Quinsigamond Community College to continue remote instruction this fall

WORCESTER - Quinsigamond Community College will continue remote instruction for the Fall 2020 semester. According to QCC President Dr. Luis G. Pedraja, the decision was made to ensure the safety of the College's students, faculty and staff.

"We did not make this decision lightly. The administration felt this was in the best interest of the QCC community with the continued uncertainty of COVID-19," President Pedraja said. "Due to the pandemic, we feel it's most prudent to leverage our experience and expertise with online and remote instruction and unprecedented support. This will allow for little to no disruption of services in the Fall, should the virus spike as predicted later this year. We will continue to monitor the situation, and follow the medical advice of local, state, and national organizations. A limited number of courses, such as labs or clinical experiences that require direct handson participation and cannot be delivered remotely, will be

offered on campus, as long as

we can do so safely." QCC has a long history of online education and has offered hundreds of courses remotely prior to the pandemic. In early March, the College adapted quickly to the changing landscape and transitioned its in-person spring semester courses to remote instruction, in addition to delivering its full array of support services remotely.

Today, college students are facing an uphill battle as many are rethinking their fall college

plans and looking for impossible guarantees from four-year schools that dorms will remain open for the academic year. Students looking for the "on campus" experience could find themselves back home and out thousands of dollars in a few short weeks or months, should residential schools find they must move to a remote form of education delivery as they did this Spring.

"This pandemic is one that is transforming how we look at higher education," President Pedraja continued. "Right now, no one knows what the future holds and while we all want to be optimistic, we must be cognizant that our world may be forever changed. Making smart higher education decisions now, will pay off substantially in the future."

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







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## Local students earn placement on Assumption College's Dean's List

WORCESTER — Assumption has announced those students who have been named to the College's Dean's List for the spring 2020 semester. Students must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 for a five-class, 15-credit semester to be included on the prestigious list, which is announced at the completion of the fall and spring semesters. Local students include:

Madison Baril of Fiskdale, Class of

Jillian Fabrycki of Fiskdale, Class of

Jayme Pruitt of Sturbridge, Class of

"This semester, our students faced

unprecedented challenges due to the global pandemic," said Francesco C. Cesareo, Ph.D., president of Assumption College. "Following a rapid transition to remote learning, students adapted to the new form of education delivery amid difficult circumstances. The Assumption community is proud of these students who, despite the distractions of the COVID-19 situation, were able to remain focused and maintain a commitment to their academic pro-

Founded in 1904 by the Augustinians of the Assumption in Worcester, Assumption College is a Catholic liberal arts institution that offers under-

graduate students 33 majors and 49 minors in the liberal arts, sciences, business, and professional studies; as well as master's and continuing education degrees and professional certificate programs-each through an educational experience that is grounded in the rich Catholic intellectual tradition. The curriculum enables students to gain a depth and breadth of knowledge that leads to professional success and personal fulfillment. Students-whether on the Worcester campus or at the College's Rome, Italy, campus-become engaged participants in Assumption's classic liberal arts education, exploring new ideas and making connections across disciplines. To prepare for the workforce, students learn cutting-edge theory and best practices, conduct innovative research, and develop excellent communication and critical-analysis skills. Assumption graduates are also known for their thoughtful citizenship and compassionate service to their community. For more information about Assumption College, please visit www. assumption.edu.

### Oscar Appleton named to Dean's List at Georgia Tech

ATLANTA, Ga. — Oscar Appleton of Sturbridge made the Dean's List for the Spring 2020 semester at the Georgia Institute of Technology. This designation is awarded to undergraduate students who have earned a 3.0 or higher academic average for the semester.

One of the nation's leading research universities, the Georgia Institute of Technology is in the business of Creating the Next -- the next idea, the next technology, and the next legion of agile minds well equipped to imagine and engineer our future. More than 36,000 undergraduate and graduate students are enrolled, and Georgia Tech is ranked in the nation's top five public universities by U.S. News & World Report. For more information, visit gat-

## Congratulations, QVCC Class of 2020

DANIELSON, Conn. — Nearly 150 Quinebaug Valley Community College students will receive degrees and certificates in QVCC's 48th commencement, which will be virtually celebrated on QVCC's Facebook and Instagram pages. Congratulations to the Class of

Auburn: Kelsey L. Gallo Dudley: Kerrissa Danielle Cobb Oxford: Rosanne Marie Wheeler-

Kathryn Eizabeth Bohm, Kristen Anne

Webster: Jennifer L. McKinstry

## Southbridge Credit Union announces new main branch opening

SOUTHBRIDGE — Southbridge Credit Union announces a new main branch opening. SCU's main branch will now be located at 179 Main St., Southbridge.

Since being incorporated in 1938, the SCU main branch called 205 Main St., Southbridge home. The new branch opening signifies a transformation into a new chapter for SCU. The new building will provide more support to the growing membership community. Breaking away from the traditional floorplan of large lobbies and high ceilings, the new branch differentiates SCU with a practical modern design to better serve members.

"We are excited to offer this new beautiful location, reinforcing our commitment to the Town of Southbridge and to fostering positive member experiences," said Kate Alexander, President and CEO. "The welcoming and open design of the new main branch will allow for more personable member interaction and human connection."

All SCU branches have now re-opened while valuing the health and safety of the staff and members. Social distancing guidelines are in effect, and employees will also be monitoring capacity limits at all locations.

The SCU main branch lobby and drive-up options are open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. About Southbridge Credit Union

The state-chartered Southbridge Credit Union, incorporated in 1938, is a community credit union with both federal and private deposit insurance. SCU operates under the supervision of the Massachusetts Banking Commissioner and is a not-for-profit cooperative, with a democratic structure, and member ownership and control.

For more information, call 508-765-

## Selectmen hold tax rate steady for Fiscal Year 2021

STURBRIDGE — At the most recent Sturbridge Board of Selectmen meeting, the board reviewed and adopted a revised budget that held the current tax rate for the upcoming year at \$19.02.

The original budget presented to the Board for review was developed before the COVID-19 crisis impacted the Town and the nation. Significant modifications had to be made to adjust the budget to the expected lower revenues and to ensure no increase in the tax burden on the property owners in Town.

A combination of spending reductions, use of alternative funding streams, and application of reserves to the budget were approved to stabilize the tax rate for the year. The Board of Selectmen certainly understands the fiscal environment we are all in and wanted to ease the any new burdens on the Sturbridge taxpayer. A similar process was undertaken for the water and sewer utility budgets resulting in no increase in user fees for next year. School.

trips@yahoo.com

Final action on the budget is to take Southbridge: Brent Andrew Bohm, place at the Annual Town Meeting on June 29 at the Tantasqua Regional High

## TRIPS OFFERED

The "Trips Offered" section is X1715 for non-profit organizations and will run as space allows. Mail New Hit Show Queen Esther your information to Trips Offered, c/o Brendan Berube, PO Box 90. Southbridge, MA 01550; fax to (508) 764-8015 or e-mail to news@ stonebridgepress.news.

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

The Boston Red Sox vs The **Baltimore Orioles** 

3 Days/2 Nights August 21 -

What's Included: Roundtrip motor coach, 2 nights hotel lodging, breakfast at hotel, lower reserved seating to 2 ballgames, The United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Guinness Brewery & More

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

For a brochure and complete itinerary please contact

Lori Douthwright 508-248-5971

Penn Dutch Country with the 3 Days/2 Nights September 23-25, 2020

What's Included: Roundtrip motor coach, 2 nights lodging, 5 meals, ticket to "Queen Ester", touring and More!

\$499pp Double Occ. - \$599 pp Single Occ.

For a brochure and complete itinerary please contact Lori Douthwright 508-248-5971

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

Saint John, Annapolis Valley 5 Days/4 Nights June 29-July

What's Included: Roundtrip motor coach, 2 nights lodging Marriott Saint John - New Brunswick, 2 nights lodging -Westin Nova Scotian - Halifax, breakfast each morning (4), 2

scrumptious dinners, 1 lobster luncheon, guided tours each day 508-248-2231, or email: charlton-

\$1499pp Double Occ. - \$1899 pp Single Occ. For a brochure and complete

itinerary please contact

Lori Douthwright 508-248-5971

Montreal & Quebec Getaway 4 Days/3 Nights August 18-21,

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

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

For a brochure and complete itinerary please contact Lori Douthwright 508-248-5971

### **CHARLTON SENIOR CENTER**

TRIPS w/Charlton Senior Center 2020 Our new Trip Coordinator is

Mary Lou Lepko. A few things to know:

Council on Aging/Senior Center • Mail payments to: Charlton Senior Center Trips, 37 Main

Trips are open to the public

or online at www.townofcharlton.

net. Click on Government, then

St., Charlton, MA 01507 or bring into center and give to Elaine or Katherine. Please be sure to make checks payable to the company stated below.

 You will be notified of pick up time & location

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

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

LAKE September 2

• Sign up at the center, or call WINNIPESAUKEE CRUISE & CASTLE IN THE CLOUDS \$129 includes transportation, Lake Please put your full name and Cruise, Luncheon, Visit to Castle in the Clouds. Driver gratuity not phone number on sign-up sheets included. Make checks payable to: Flyers available at the center Best of Times (payment due 7/30)

November 17 — YESTERDAY ONCE MORE w/The Carpenters, ABBA, 5th Dimension, The Mamas & The Papas all in one show! \$92 includes transportation, Luncheon, meal tax w/gratuity and Show ticket. Driver gratuity not included. Make checks payable to: Best of Times (payment

Dec 4-7 — A COUNTRY CHRISTMAS IN NASHVILLE, TN. Gaylord Oprey Hotel! 4 days/3 nights. Call for more info

### **DAUGHTERS OF ISABELLA**

For reservations contact Jan Caouette at (508) 887-2215. Make checks payable to Bernadette Circle #709 and mail to Bernadette Circle #709, PO Box 201, Webster MA 01570. The Daughters of

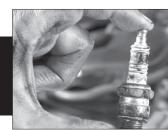
Turn To TRIPS page A13

### **PROVIDERS** LOCAL











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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

KESIDENT AND I OBLISHE

Brendan Berube Editor

### **EDITORIAL**

## United we stand, divided we fall

In the 6th century B.C., Aesop shared a fable about the Lion and The Four Oxen. The story, if you have not heard it, goes like this....

A lion used to prowl around a field where four oxen dwelled. Several times, he would try to eat them but whenever he approached the four oxen would back their tales up to each other with their bodies pointed outward in different directions. No matter what direction the lion approached, he was met by the horns of one of them and could do nothing. Finally, the oxen began quarreling amongst themselves, and so each went off to a pasture of their own in a separate corner of the field. Then the lion attacked them one by one and soon made an end to all four.

Aesop's moral to this tale has become one of the most well known sayings of our time, "United we stand, divided we fall." President Abraham Lincoln parroted the sentiment in his acceptance speech, made in the year 1858: "A house divided against itself cannot stand."

As of late, it seems the division throughout the country and even in our small communities has grown deeper. What we noticed, however, is that most well minded, kind, compassionate, intelligent people all want the same things. To be happy and successful. The arguments ensue, when people have different ideas on how to reach such a state of success in our government, and even in our own lives. When one person thinks we should reach A by doing X and Y, and another thinks we should reach A by doing Z, tempers flare. We want to remind you, that there is no reason to get heated when talking to a friend or colleague. Getting heated at a stranger is even more inappropriate. It's ok if someone disagrees with you. Remain

What needs to unfold is the ability to hear each other out with a listening ear. Where one person's experience ends, another's begins. Solutions always appear in that middle area, where compromises are made.

To be steadfast in your beliefs is important, but it's even more important to exercise some flexibility, that is where growth takes place. This is where we can learn from someone who doesn't think the same way we do. It does not make a person weak, when there is a mind shift. It makes them smart.

We're seeing a lot of arguing on social media, people publicly going back and forth and the thread never ends with any real change being made. If you want to have a meaningful, productive conversation with someone online, take it to a private message, where the world isn't watching. In the public eye, we all can be defensive.

Now, there are extremists on both sides of any argument, in those cases, there's not much you can do. There are people who want to see things through one lens and one lens only. Fine, let them. You will also see ignorance and evil come flying out of the mouths of those you never thought capable, fine let them. Remember that the majority of the people in this country want to unify. It comes down to common sense. United we stand, divided we fall. That statement couldn't ring truer.

Be strong enough in character, where you are a leader, whether in your own community, at work or in your own family. Unity should always be the end goal. Therefore, if you see someone that disagrees with you, and you want to unify, have a conversation that will do just that.

Sometimes simply saying, "Hey the country is really divided right now, how can we start to unify on a small scale?" That question puts both people in a position to come up with a solution that works for everyone. Then the domino effect takes hold. Then unity happens, then change, then success.

In the words of author Ken Blanchard, "None of us is as smart, as all of us."



## OPINION

VIEWS AND COMMENTARY FROM STURBRIDGE, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND AND WALES

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### A \$9,000 drone?

To the Editor:

I recently learned of an article to be voted on at the Sturbridge Town Meeting that calls for spending \$9,000 for a drone to survey the landfill. All I can think is that it must be one heck of a drone to cost that much.

Seems like the town could save about  $\,$ 

\$8,500 by buying a camera-equipped drone at the local hobby shop that could do the same thing. For \$9,000, I'm wondering if the drone is to be armed with mini-Stinger missiles to take out rats?

TED HOUGHTON STURBRIDGE

### Local Clergy Association speaks out

To the Editor:

The Southbridge/Sturbridge Clergy Association finds it hard to breathe as they add their voices and their hearts to all those who are grieved and appalled by recent events. We can best express it by adapting, with permission, the words of our sister in Christ, Rev. Valeria Schmidt of Trinity Church, UCC in Northborough.

Last Sunday was Pentecost, a normally joyous celebration of breath and of fire.

But today, we can't breathe. We want to breathe in the Spirit of God, the Spirit of love and community and diversity, but we can't breathe.

As we watch churches and our Sacred Texts used (without permission or consideration) as politicized photo op props. We can't breathe.

When we think about George Floyd, and Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery, and the many, many more black and brown people who have been killed by white police officers, or former police officers. We can't breathe.

When we read the hateful comments online about how they are rioting and looting and destroying other people's property. We can't breathe.

The Holy Spirit comes with tongues of fire. Tongues of fire were burning down businesses in Minneapolis as acts of protest against centuries of systemic racism, oppression and violence against people of color.

We're not condoning acts of violent protest. But when we see how the police reacted to peaceful protests by people of color: with rubber bullets, tear gas and water cannons, in comparison to how they reacted to screaming white people sporting guns at city halls all over the country because they wanted businesses to open up again – we can't breathe.

When we hear George Floyd cry out to his mother it reminds us of how Jesus took care of his mother in his dying moment on the cross, and we can't breathe.

Eric Garner said the same thing six years ago before he died at the hands of police: "I can't breathe." And nothing has changed.

When we feel we feel our hearts pounding because we know we are offending people who are police officers or have a police officer in their family, we can't breathe.

We're not making a blanket statement about any individual police officer. We're talking about the institution with its cover-ups and the ignoring of complaints and the lack of vetting and training of future officers.

We can't breathe.

As white men and women. White, Christian, straight, middle-class, privileged men and women. We can't breathe. And we can't remain silent

breathe. And we can't remain silent.
[...]
God, forgive us for remaining silent much too long. Forgive us for enjoying our freedom and privileges while others are dying every single day. Forgive

much too long. Forgive us for enjoying our freedom and privileges while others are dying every single day. Forgive us our lack of courage to speak up from the pulpit, even the virtual pulpit, because we don't want to make anyone uncomfortable, because we don't want to face criticism or conflict.

Forgive us white Americans who have benefited far too long from an unjust and racist system.

Send Your Spirit on us, with tongues of fire and loud and rushing wind, to inspire and encourage us to speak, and to act. But send also Your Spirit of listening and understanding so we will truly hear what our brothers and sisters of color need from us, and so we will hear which way You want us to go. Help us to breathe, God. Help us.

IN HIS SERVICE,
REV. KATHRYN LIGHT, ELM
ST. CONGREGATIONAL, UCC,
SOUTHBRIDGE (CHAIR)
REV. DR. JANET PECK, NEW
HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST,
STURBRIDGE
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REV. DAN PURTELL, BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH, STURBRIDGE FR. RICHARD SIGNORE, HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTHBRIDGE

PASTOR SABINA TERRADES, SOUTHBRIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, SOUTHBRIDGE

## Nearing retirement? What questions should you ask?



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The recent market volatility has affected just about everybody's financial and investment situations – so, if you were planning to retire soon, will it still be possible?

Of course, the answer depends somewhat on your employment situation. With so many people's jobs being affected by the coronavirus pandemic, your retirement plans may also have been thrown into confusion. But assuming your employment is still stable, what adjustments in your financial and investment strategies might you need to make for your retirement?

Here are a few areas to consider, and some questions to ask yourself:

- Retirement goals – Now is a good time to review your retirement goals and assess your progress toward achieving them. You may want to work with a financial professional to determine if the current environment has materially affected your goals or if you need to make modest adjustments to stay on track

- Retirement lifestyle - You probably created your investment strategy with a particular type of retirement lifestyle in mind. Perhaps you had planned to become a world traveler when your working days were over. Of course, in the near term, extensive travel may not be possible, anyway, but once we move past the pandemic, your freedom to roam will likely return. But if your investment portfolio is not where you thought it might be, can you (or do you want to) adapt your lifestyle plans? And can you accept the same flexibility with your other lifestyle goals, such as purchasing a vacation home, pursuing hobbies, and so on?

- Tradeoffs – Based on your retirement goals and your willingness to adjust your retirement lifestyle, you'll want to consider your options and tradeoffs. For example, would you be willing to work more years than you had originally planned in exchange for greater confidence in your ability to enjoy a comfortable retirement lifestyle? By working longer, you can continue adding to your IRA and 401(k) or similar retirement plan, and you may be able to push back the date you start receiving Social Security to receive bigger monthly benefits. You might also review your budget for opportunities to reduce spending today and potentially save more toward your retirement goals.

- Social Security - You can file for Social Security benefits as early as 62, but you can get 25 to 30 percent more each year if you wait until your full retirement age, which is likely between 66 and 67. As you created your retirement plans, you likely also calculated when you would take Social Security, but you may need to review that choice. If you postpone retirement a few years, what effect will that have on when you choose to take Social Security and, consequently, the size of your benefits? You won't want to make a hasty decision, because once you start taking Social Security, you can't undo your choice.

This is certainly a challenging time to be entering retirement, and you'll have some questions to answer. But even in the midst of uncertainty, you still have many choices. Consider them carefully and make the decisions that work for you.

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.

Say it in living color!

The world isn't black and white. So, why is your ad?

## Tantasqua needs Pat Barnicle and Ted Goodwin

To the Editor:

I have had the pleasure of working with Pat Barnicle and Ted Goodwin for many years on the Tantasqua School Committee. They are people of remarkable intellect and tremendous talents, which greatly benefit the community and our schools.

Serving as the Chairman of the Curriculum Sub-Committee, Pat has gained a reputation for always asking the tough questions and demanding straightforward and solid answers. Her viewpoint is well respected by all members of the committee, and her experience and background is second to none.

Having worked closely with Ted during his years as a selectman, and more recently on the School Committee, I have seen how his experience and knowledge can bring people together and get the results that we're all looking for. Pat and Ted do not have a hidden agenda. They always work hard to do right by their community and our kids

I'm asking all residents of Sturbridge to vote for my colleagues, Pat Barnicle and Ted Goodwin! We need them at Tantasqua!

MIKE VALANZOLA WALES

## Summertime Lawn Care Tips

A recent past column touched on a few lawn tending tips. Based on a request from a reader for more basic lawn tips, the following compilation of hints and ideas from past columns is offered:

If the grass is always greener on the other side of the fence - it

may be time to review the basics of lawn care.

A beautiful lawn is worth the effort. And properly groomed grass doesn't offer only aesthetic benefits. An average sized lawn creates enough oxygen to meet the needs of a family of four every day, is a natural provider for our ecosystem, and can boost property value by nearly ten percent! Need another reason invest time and energy into your lawn? Ponder this: The front lawns of a block of eight average houses have the cooling effect of about 70 tons of air conditioning-enough to cool 16 average houses. On a hot summer day, grass can be 10 to 14 degrees cooler than exposed soil and as much as 30 degrees

TAKE
THE
HINT
KAREN
TRAINOR

cooler than concrete or asphalt. And it also provides oxygen. A 50' x 50' well-maintained grass area will create enough oxygen to meet the needs of a family

TRAINOR

Watering Your Way
to a Lush Lawn: When
and how much you water
your lawn can determine lawn success.
If you subscribe to the old rule of thumb
of watering for a short time each day,
you may want to rethink your strategy. Lawn experts claim a healthy lawn
with a good root system doesn't require
watering more than one to three times
per week. The bottom line? Your lawn
needs about an inch of water once every
seven to 10 days to grow strong roots.

Still not convinced when it comes to watering less is more? Keep in mind frequent shallow watering leads to shallow root growth because roots only grow where the soil is moist. Shallow root growth can make a lawn more sus-

Turn To **TRAINOR** page **A9** 

## A service for those who served



THE GREAT OUTDOORS **RALPH TRUE** 

Charter boat Captain Mark Petitt of "Firehouse Charters "in Plymouth volunteers his services every year to servicemen & women that love fishing. Petitt is part of a group called the Veteran Anglers Association. The Veteran Anglers organization have five boat Captains that offer their services to the program with two boats in Connecticut, one in Rhode Island and one boat in Maine and Massachusetts! The organization is funded by donations, and by numerous functions that are held each year. If you would like to donate to this worthy program or find out more about the group, contact Mark Petitt at 1-508-326-3185. This week's picture shows a veteran angler with a cod he caught on one of the recent trips aboard Captain Petitt's

This past week, this writer

fished the Providence River hoping to catch a legal-size fish to take home for the dinner table, but that did not happen. There were thousands of (porgies) in the river and snagging a few to fish with was easy, but there were very few bass in the area feeding on them. Many reports still say that the stripers are late, and by the time you read this column things could be totally different. We did manage to lose a few live porgies to bluefish in the area as this week's picture shows. It is amazing how the bluefish could steal half of the porgy without getting hooked. I also tried placing the hook a bit farther back, but the bluefish managed to miss the hook by less than one half inch. Because of a new law, we are required to use circle hooks when using live bait or chunk baits this year and many anglers dislike them already. Love or hate circle hooks they are here to stay for a while.

Freshwater anglers are still catching some nice fish in local lakes and ponds, but finding live bait to fish with is becoming a lot harder to purchase. Local Bait & Tackle shops have reported a shortage of shiners, which is a favorite bait to



fish with for many freshwater anglers.

Back in the day mummy chubs were caught in the saltwater tributaries of the state & were used to fill the shortage of bait back then. Chubs were a lot cheaper to buy back then, and were a lot more active even after having a hook stuck through them. They were a favorite bait for ice fishermen

They were easy to keep for the next day of fishing by simply placing them in some seaweed and kept in an old refrigerator or cooler. Catching your own live bait is not as easy



as it was 20 or 30 years ago. Many rivers and small ponds still have a small population of redfin shiners, but you need to know where to go. Purchasing a minnow trap at your local tackle shop and doing a bit of research could have you locating some live bait. No special license is needed. My brother Ken and his son Mark trolled some streamer fly's at Webster Lake and had a great day catching Browns, Rainbow trout, along with a couple of small mouth bass last week.

In the last 20 years or so, a large decrease in the bullfrog population was noticed by this writer. Living on the banks of the West River in Uxbridge I could always listen to the frogs from my front porch during early morning and evening hours. I was excited to hear the croak of the bull frogs again this spring, and hope that their populations have started to rebound, at least in my area.

I know that the snake population has increased over the past years and are more than likely responsible for the decline. At one time, Fish & Wildlife was requiring a license to harvest frogs, but realized it was not that popular, and dropped the frog license. Frog legs are a delicacy, but are rarely eaten by today's residents.

This past week, a good friend and fellow sportsmen Roy Underwood of North Uxbridge passed away in a local rest home after a lengthily illness. Roy loved the outdoors and enjoyed Pheasant hunting and goose hunting with his good friend Bob Brooks. He was a life member of the Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club. Our deepest sympathy goes out to his family, and many friends.

Take a Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

## I'm optimistic that common sense will prevail

What a mess

The tragic and unjustified death of George Floyd has shaken the soul of our nation and broken our collective hearts. It is compounded by the realization that he was murdered by someone we should have been able

to trust. It wasn't just murder but preceded by eight agonizing minutes of torture. There is no excuse for what happened. There is no justification possible. I grieve for the Floyd family. I believe

As usual, a tragedy, that should spur positive change, has been hijacked, not for George Floyd or his family, but for a political ideology. The conversations are now all being directed by the extremists and it's turned into violence and more

What about the "Common-Sense Majority?" I'll coin the phrase here. I think it's a great descriptive label for most Americans.

What does the "common-sense majority" want? They want to be safe. They

### TRAINOR

continued from page A8

ceptible to heat stress and drought damage. On the other hand, if you water too much and saturate the lawn, you run the risk of suffocating grass roots. In saturated soil, deep roots can't get air and die. The only roots that survive will be those near the surface.

Your goal in irrigating should be to wet the soil where the grass roots are growing, no more and no less. To achieve this, experts advise wetting the top six inches of the soil thoroughly. To gauge how long you should run your sprinkler to achieve the six inch mark, place a few tin cans around the yard and run the sprinkler for a set amount of time. Then measure the accumulation to figure out how long it will take to equal six inches.

Despite the best intentions, watering a lawn thoroughly enough to wet the soil at least six inches deep is often easier said than done. Most sprinkler systems apply water much faster than the soil can absorb it. As a result the water just runs off, especially if you have a sloped landscape. To control runoff, take periodic pauses in watering by turning off the sprinklers to allow the water to seep in.

Compacted soil is another cause of water runoff. Soil compaction also restricts air, water and nutrient entry and slows root development. Remedy this by aerating the soil. Keep in mind lawns with deep roots can be watered less often than lawns with shallow root systems.

Also, let the weather work for you. Keep a rain gauge to determine how often you will need to water your lawn. For example, if it rains an inch, you can skip watering until next week!

Water at the Right Time of the Day: Early morning is by far the best time for watering lawns. For optimum efficiency and success, try to water in the wee morning hours. The high humidity and morning dew adds to the moisture quota, and evaporation of the water is lessened during this time. If you cannot water in the morning, irrigate after sunset. But remember, early morning watering helps to prevent lawn diseases that can be caused by watering at night because it gives your lawn time to dry by night fall.

Mowing Minders: Experts say a common mowing mistake is cutting your grass too short, particular for cool season grasses. Higher heights usually provide for a deeper root system, looks better, and is less likely to have weeds

raise their families, build Positively SPEAKING GARY W.

their careers, and start small businesses. They want the opportunity to own their home and pursue the American Dream. There is no color attached

want to be left alone to

to the common-sense majority. I believe most black, brown, and white parents want the same. They

want to build a happy and successful family and safe life. Above all, they want to know when their kids leave home, they'll safely return. Yes, black lives matter. I have no prob-

lem saying it. I believe it. It doesn't mean that all lives don't matter, it just means that the average black person in America is at greater risk. Unfortunately, the idea that black lives matter has been hijacked to become a political hashtag and the common-sense majority see it. Most are just afraid to say it because if you disagree with any part of the narrative, you risk being verbally assaulted.

Looting, burning, and destroying property is not a form of legitimate pro-

invading, particularly crabgrass.

Lawn pros advise adjusting your blade so that you never remove any more than one third of the grass leaf at any one cutting. By doing so, you can safely leave clippings that will quickly decompose and add valuable nutrients back into the soil.

The direction you mow your lawn is also important. For best results, your lawn in a different direction with each mowing.. Altering the direction gives you an even cut and will prevent your grass growing in a set pattern.

To ensure a good cut, make sure your lawn mower blade is sharp, which may translate into sharpening it at least three times during mowing season.

Want to up your odds of a lush lawn? Try mowing during the moon phases. Here's how: If you want your lawn to grow, mow it during new or first quarter moon. If you want your lawn to grow more slowly, mow it during a full or last quarter moon.

Lawn Statistics: That patch of backyard grass is much more beneficial than you think. Consider these lawn

\*Healthy, dense lawns absorb rainfall six times more effectively than a wheat field, four times better than a hay field, and prevents runoff and erosion of our precious top soil. It also traps much of the estimated 12 million tons of dust and dirt released into the US atmosphere annually. Lawns also purify water entering into underground aquifers-its root mass and soil microbes act as a filter to capture and breakdown many types of pollutants.

\*Increases real estate market value and saleability. A Gallup Survey reported 62% of all US homeowners felt investment in lawns and landscaping was as good or better than other home improvements. The investment recovery rate is 100-200% for landscape improvement, compared to a deck or patio that will recover 40-70% of installation cost. Proper and well maintained landscaping adds 15% to a home's value according to buyers.

\*Recovery rates among hospitalized patients are often quicker when their rooms view a landscaped area compared to patients with non-landscaped

\*Playing fields covered with dense turf have proven safer, as demonstrated by a simple egg drop test. When a dozen raw eggs were dropped from a height of 11 feet onto a two-inch thick piece of dense turf, none broke; two thirds broke on thin turf from that height, and from just 18 inches, all broke on an all-weather track.

test. Those politicians and political leaders defending these actions are only perpetuating the problem to gain favor with those committing violence.

We all know the name George Floyd and should ... but does the name Miosotis Familia ring a bell? Probably not. She's not given much attention at all and there is a reason.

ABC reported, "An on-duty New York City police officer was killed early Wednesday after a gunman walked up to a police vehicle and fired one round through a window, authorities said. Officer Miosotis Familia, a 12-year veteran assigned to the New York City Police Department's 46th Precinct's anti-crime unit, was taken to St. Barnabas Hospital in the Bronx, where she was pronounced dead at 3:37 a.m. ET. She was 48 years old, according to police sources.'

What the above statement didn't say,

is she was black. Much was made of George Floyd's color but not Miosotis Familia. Did her black life not matter? The truth is that her story didn't fit the narrative, so her life didn't matter to this movement. Her death didn't advance their agenda, so there will be no protests on her behalf. Do you see the disconnect? Don't all black lives matter?

So, this column is entitled "Positively Speaking!" What's positive about any

I believe cooler heads will prevail. I believe in the American spirit. While many of our political leaders are bowing down to the political agenda and threatening the defunding of police departments, or disbanding them com-

pletely, I don't believe the majority of

common-sense Americans, left or right,

Turn To MOORE page A15

PLACE MOTORS IS PROUD TO SPONSOR

## \*\* Triday's Child \*\* \*\*



**David** Age 13

Hi! My name is David and I love board games!

David is a very polite boy of Caucasian descent. He has a great sense of humor and loves to be silly with others. David loves to take on new challenges. He enjoys swimming and has been considering playing sports as well. David loves to play outside and shows his inventive and imaginative skills when doing so. A big interest of David's is playing board games, especially Monopoly, which he explains is his greatest talent. David has expressed his many goals and aspirations, including his interest in being a police officer when he is older.

Legally freed for adoption, David does well with structure, routine and clear and concise expectations. He also would do well with having his own bedroom. He has no preference for family constellation but would like at least one other child in his new home. He currently has contact with his siblings, and it is very important that this is maintained after adoption as well. David would do very well in a family that could supply clear rules, structure, and expectations for him. Ultimately David expresses his wish to be safe and secure in a home and have the ability to still have a relationship with his siblings.

### 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 617-6273 or visit www.mareinc. org. The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have a permanent place to call home.



## **OBITUARIES**

## C. Robert Phipps, 78

SOUTHBRIDGE- C. Robert Phipps, 78, passed away on Tuesday, June 2nd, in the Webster Manor Nursing Home, Webster, after a long illness.



His wife of 48 years, Diane C. (Poirier) Phipps, passed away in 2011. He leaves his daughter, Kimberly A. Blake and her husband Robert of Bedford, NY; his Scott W. brother, Phipps of Hobe Sound,

FL; his sister, Susan L. Grandone of Fiskdale; two granddaughters, Megan Blake and Erin Blake; and nieces and nephews. He was born in Southbridge the son of the late Chauncey W. and Margery E. (Simpson) Phipps. Bob was a graduate of UMass Stockbridge School of Agriculture.

Bob was the course superintendent

of the Shorehaven Country Club in East Norwalk, CT for 24 years, retiring several years ago. He was previously the course superintendent at the Wethersfield Country Club in Wethersfield, CT and the Cohasse Country Club in Southbridge. When not working the course he enjoyed playing golf.

Robert's funeral service was held on Tuesday, June 9th, at 12:00pm in the Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge. Burial will follow in Oak Ridge Cemetery, Southbridge. Calling hours in the funeral home were held on Tuesday, June 9th, from 10:00am to 12:00pm, prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 417005, Boston, MA 02241.

www.morrillfuneralhome.com

### Irene M. Szumilas, 93

STURBRIDGE- Irene M. (Cisek) Szumilas, 93, of Gifford Rd., passed away on Tuesday, June 2nd, in the Harrington Memorial Hospital, Southbridge, after an illness.



Her husband of 58 years, Alphonse K. Šzumilas, passed away in 2005. Her son, Daniel Szumilas, passed away in 2000. She leaves her son, Andrew Szumilas of Sturbridge; and her daughter, Christine

Berard and her longtime companion, William Bishop of Southbridge. She was born in Holyoke the daughter of Joseph and Mary (Starzec) Cisek.

Irene worked at American Optical Company and Dewey Electronics both in Southbridge. However, her entire life was spent as a devoted wife, mother and caregiver. She was a woman of great faith and was a member of the former St. Hedwig's Parish in Southbridge and a member of its Holy Rosary Sodality. Irene enjoyed cooking, gardening and loved nature.

The family would like to thank the caring staff of Southbridge Rehabilitation and Health Care Center during her lengthy stay there, also the professional and compassionate members of the ER and ICU teams at Harrington Memorial Hospital.

A funeral Mass for Irene was held on Monday, June 8th, at 11:00am in St. Joseph's Basilica, 53 Whitcomb St., Webster. Burial followed in St. Hedwig's Cemetery, Southbridge. There are no calling hours.

The Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home. 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, is directing arrangements.

www.morrillfuneralhome.com

## Manage mosquitoes for a safer and more enjoyable summer

Don't let the buzz of mosquitoes keep you indoors. Most mosquitoes are a nuisance, causing rashes and itching but some species can transdiseases that can make you sick. Understanding how they breed and spread

disease can help you gain the upper hand in the battle against these pesky

Mosquitoes serve as a carrier (vector) in the spread of certain diseases. It starts when they feed on an animal infected with heartworms or an animal or person with West Nile, Saint Louis Encephalitis, Zika or other mosquito-vectored disease. The young heartworm or virus is taken in with the mosquito's blood meal. The heartworm larvae or virus is then transmitted to other organisms when the mosquito feeds on them.

Always take precautions when traveling to other regions. Find out about the health risks of the area and come prepared. Consult with your doctor and be sure to pack repellent and the appropriate clothing.

At home, start by eliminating mosquito breeding grounds. These insects need standing water to reproduce. The larvae hatch and feed on tiny organisms in the water. Once they morph into adults, they leave the water and look for animals and people to dine upon.

Get rid of any standing water to eliminate breeding grounds in your landscape. Clean clogged gutters where water can collect and mosquitoes can breed. Empty water that collects in

More than 300 people gathered at the

Sturbridge Town Common to support

the black community, not just those

in this area, but the whole country.

Though the event started at 5:30 p.m.,

many occupied the Common well before

then. As people arrived, a few police

officers greeted them and helped them

park safely. The coordinators stood in

the gazebo at the head of the common

with a microphone and were playing

empowering music as they waited for

protestors to gather. Although the event

was led by young people, a large variety

of citizens showed up; while there were

lots of young adults, there were equal-

ly as many older citizens and parents

with their kids. Despite the variety of

protestors, everyone had the same goal:

to show their support and stand in soli-

darity for the black community.

BLM

ity.'

continued from page A1

GARDEN MOMENTS

**MELINDA** 

**MYERS** 

any items left outside. Change the water in your birdbath at least once a week or anytime you water your container gardens.

Toss an organic mosquito control, like Mosquito Dunks and Mosquito Bits (S ummitResponsibleS-

olutions.com), into your rain barrel, pond or other water feature. Mosquito Bits quickly knock down the mosquito larval population, while Mosquito Dunks provide 30 days of mosquito control. The active ingredient is Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis, a naturally occurring soil bacterium that kills the mosquito larvae but is safe for children, fish, pets, beneficial insects and wild-

Invite the songbirds into your backyard with birdhouses, birdbaths and feeders. Most of them feed on insects, including mosquitoes and garden pests, while adding color, motion and beauty to your landscape.

Keep the garden weeded. Mosquitoes rest in shrubs, trees and weeds during the day. Removing weeds and managing neglected garden spaces will make your landscape less inviting to these

Further protect yourself by wearing light colored clothing, long sleeves and long pants when enjoying the outdoors. Apply EPA-approved repellents as directed on the label.

Use a fan when sitting on the porch or even working in the garden. The gentle breeze helps keep the weak-flying mosquitoes away.

Then add a bit of ambience to your



Photo Courtesy

Mosquitoes serve as a carrier in the spread of certain diseases, including West Nile, Saint Louis Encephalitis, Zika and other mosquito-vectored diseases.

next party by lighting a few citronella candles. Citronella oil and the scented candles do have some mosquito-repelling properties. Scatter lots of candles throughout the party and within a few feet of your guests for some short-term relief.

And be sure to keep mosquitoes out of your house. Repair windows and screens that may be providing easy access into your home.

Taking a few precautions will help you manage these pests so you can enjoy the outdoor summer activities

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 Summit for her expertise to write this article. Myers's Web site is www.melindamyers.com.

**ANTIOUES** 

continued from page A1

precautions in place to keep everyone

Antique specialists are also concerned about the long-term effects from the lost shows this year, not only in Brimfield but nationwide. It will be a struggle for many dealers, promoters,

and business owners to sustain their operations over the next year-plus, officials said. Kolhoff, who enjoyed a strong first year at his Brimfield location in 2019, was fully booked for 2020 before the COVID-19 crisis struck. He even had

"The industry has weathered many storms, but this is a very difficult, unprecedented challenge," Kolhoff

a waiting list of dealers for the May

added. The loss of the initial two thirds of the Brimfield event has also been detrimental to local businesses, especially motels and hotels in Sturbridge and surrounding towns. Many guests stay locally for an entire weekend before heading across the country or abroad.

For more information about the antique show, as well as updates on the September event, visit www. BrimfieldAntiqueFleaMarket.com.

One activist vocalized their motivation for protesting on behalf of the black community, stating "As an LGBT person, I stand with Black Lives Matter because I owe my rights to black lives.'

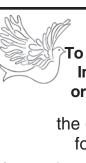
From the beginning, the mood on the Common was very uplifting and positive. People cheered each other on, those that passed by in cars beeped their support and in return received clapping from the congregation. People continued to show up. As some left, passersby took their places in the crowd. The event organizers encouraged those gathered not to respond to any hate directed towards the movement; only a few dared to jeer at the Common, but those gathered took the advice of their wise young leaders and ignored the negativity.

After the Chief of Police reiterated to the crowd that this was a peaceful event and made it clear that the few police officers were there to provide support and protection to those gathered, Paige, Gebo, and Fleming began the vigil in

which black lives that have been lost to police brutality were honored. Every minute for nine minutes, they listed names of those lost and a minute of silence would follow. They effectively concluded this list with the name George Floyd, a name that is recognizable to the whole world right now.

Only a few people were scheduled to speak, and after that anyone was welcome to share their experiences with those gathered, with Black speakers given priority. As each new person came up to speak, more became inspired, and while this made the protest go on longer than planned, everyone stayed and listened to the stories and experiences that were shared. People held signs high over their head during the whole event, and while their arms grew tired, one attendee said they knew this fatigue was nothing compared to the suffering the Black community has faced and continues to face. Each speaker shared new wisdom with the crowd and provided an additional call to action.

Although protesting during this pandemic is controversial to many and could be considered dangerous, one protestor illustrated that "It shows that people are willing to put themselves at some sort of risk to come and show their support for something like this, which is so important."



To place a Card of Thanks In-Memoriam, Birthday or Anniversary Greeting,

the deadline is Friday noon for the following week.

(Memoriams will run on the Obituary pages)

Ad prices are \$15 for a 2x3 (actual size 2.4" x 3") or \$25 for a 3x4 (3.7" X 4") or 4x3 (5" x 3"). You can add a photo at no additional cost.

To send by mail, please mail or drop off to June Simakauskas, P. O. Box 90, 25 Elm St., Southbridge, MA 01550.

Personal checks, Visa, Master Card, Discover and AMEX are accepted.

For more information, please call June at 508-909-4062 or email jsima@stonebridgepress.news and she'll be happy to help!







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\$375,000



### **TRIPS**

continued from page A7

Isabella is a nonprofit and charitable Catholic women's organization

### **DUDLEY SENIORS**

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

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

### FRIENDS OF THE STURBRIDGE SENIORS

The Friends of the Sturbridge Seniors are happy to offer the following 2020 Trips to the General Public.

with us for a Lobster Bake at Foster's Clambake in York, Me. For 99.00 enjoy a 1 1/4 Boiled Lobster, Clam Chowder, Steamed Mussels, Fresh Steamed Maine Clams, Corn on the Cob, Potatoes and Onions, Blueberry Cake and a Beverage. Also available is 1/2 Barbecued Chicken in place of the Lobster. Now let us add the Ultimate Jimmy Buffett Tribute Show featuring Jimmy and the Parrots. They are the most requested Jimmy Buffett Tribute Band in the Country and they were also nominated as Band of the Year by Trop Rock Entertainer. Hear them play the favorite songs of Jimmy Buffett as well as songs by The Beach Boys, Paul Simon, Harry Belafonte, Bob Marley and many others. Included is Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation, Lunch and the Show.

On Tuesday August 18 to Friday August 21st, have your Passport ready for a Spectacular 4 Day/3 Night Motor Coach Roundtrip visit to Beautiful Montreal and Quebec Canada. For 849.00 pp Double or 1159.00 pp Single Occupancy. Included are 3 Nights Hotel Lodgings, 4 Meals, tour-

On Thursday, July 16, come ing as described in your travel Brochgure, Best of Times Travel Tour Director and all gratuities except Motorcoach Driver. gratuity are included. In Montreal take in a guided visit of Norte-Dame Basilica, the Botanical Gardens, the Biodome, enjoy time at Montreal Casino plus even more. In Quebec, visit the Basilica Saint-Anne de Beaupre, Montgomery Falls, guided Tour of the beautiful Citadelle featuring the Changing of the Guard, the Royal Regimemnt Museum plus some Free Time to enjoy Quebec on your own.

On Thursday August 20th, get ready for the 10th Anniversary Tour of The Texas Tenors. These 3 very Handsome, Classically Trained Men have performed over 1300 Concerts with Headliner Shows in Las Vegas, China, the United Kingdom and accumulated 3 EMMY AWARDS. The Texas Tenors will sing many of the Broadway Show Classics as well as many of your favorite Pop Songs. They were honored to be included among the Top 50 Acts in the World. This could be the Best Concert that you will see this mately 60 minutes to the Venus DeMilo in Swansea, Ma.. For 99.00 included is Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation, Plated Lunch of either Chicken Parmesan or Baked Scrod, Venus DeMilo's Famous Minnestrone Soup, Vegetables, Breads, Dessert, Coffee and Tea.

Join us on Wednesday, September 2nd on our day trip to Lake Winnipesaukee for a scenic cruise out of Weirs Beach taking in the remarkable scenery of the Western end of this magnificent lake. We will also visit the spectacular Castle in The Clouds a turn-of-the-century sixteen room mansion with its breathtaking mountaintop views overlooking Lake Winnipesaukee. Enjoy a delicious full course luncheon at Harts Turkey Farm in Meredith, NH. Famous and renowned for their turkey dinners you are sure to delight in this bountiful luncheon. All for just \$129.

We had 34 people travel to the Pennsylvania Dutch Country 3 Day/2Night Trip this past December and they had such a Great Time that many of them year. We are traveling approxi- asked to go back again this

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

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

Have you ever thought about visiting Nashville? Come along on a 4 Day/3 Night Trip December 4th -7th. Included are Roundtrip transportation to Logan Airport, Roundtrip Airfare to Nashville,

Turn To TRIPS page A14

### 

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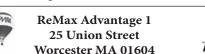
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Wednesday, June 17, 2020

**11:00 AM-DUDLEY** 17 Southbridge Road Unit 2 a/k/a 17-2 Southbridge Road (The Dudley Place Condominium)

condo, 952 sf liv area, 3 rm, 1 bdrm, 1 bth Worcester(Worc): Bk 34197, Pg 86

TERMS: \$5,000 cash or certified check at the time and place of the sale. The balance to be paid within thirty (30) days at the law offices of Korde & Associates, P.C. 900 Chelmsford Street, Suite 3102,

Lowell, MA 01851, Attorney for the Mortgagee. Auctioneer makes no representation as to the accuracy of the information contained herein.





basement that can be used as PLAYROOM or MAN CAVE. Home has 28 newly installed HARVEY WINDOWS & 2 ANDERSON STORM DOORS.NEW ROOF.Newly UPDATED ELECTRICAL system. Newer gas furnace & hot water heater. Seller is willing to leave the house partially furnished. Oversized garage with plenty of

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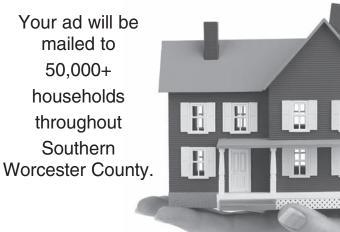
Dudley: Privacy & Inground pool, Custom built 4 BR colonial, 4 Bedrooms, 17' Kitchen, 1st flr laundry, Garage, Town services. 11A Paglione Dr - \$253,500



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I promise, O blessed St. Jude, to be ever mindful of this great favor, to always honor you as my special and powerful patron, and to gratefully encourage devotion to you. Amen. Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as

--CL

### **MAPLE** DINING **TABLE SET**

it is in Heaven.

w/insert capability & 6 chairs. \$350.

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Нитсн Maple w/ movable glass tops 60" Long X 3 6 Chairs LIKE NEW 36" Wide n garage for viewing Asking \$500.00 or B/O

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The Town of North Brookfield is looking for an Accountant. Please visit our website www.northbrookfield.net JOBS

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### **300 HELP WANTED**

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about 35 yrs old in sturdy condition but could use a light sandrefresh Asking \$75. CALL (508)637-1698

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Trailer For Sale w/en closed porch loacted at In Ranch, Webster Site:G13. Completely fur naished, All appliances included & extras, Refrigerator Over/under Wash/drv AC/Heat. View at www.indi anranch.com. Contact Arthu or Sage 508-892-4576

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FOAM CONCEPTS UXBRIDGE, MA Industrial Sales Position: We are looking for a career minded individual to sell EPS packaging to existing and potential customers. Must be able to work closely with plant personnel

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regarding account's production requirements. 1-2 years sales

machine operators. 1-3 years' experience preferred. Email resume to: Sales@foamconcepts.com **NO WALKINS ACCEPTED** 

## Town of Brimfield, MA – Job Posting

Treasurer-Collector:

The Treasurer-Collector performs highly responsible administrative, technical and supervisory functions related to the complete and overall operation of

the Treasurer-Collector's Office. • Thorough knowledge of the principles and practices of financial management, including Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and with the Uniform Massachusetts Accounting System (UMAS) of the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, the Massachusetts General Laws related to treasury and collection functions, and other applicable state and federal laws related

to municipal finance and taxation •Thorough knowledge of automated

collection systems (VADAR) Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Finance, Accounting or relat-

• Five (5) years of progressively responsible experience in business, financial management, municipal financial or

accounting environment; experience in

municipal cash management desirable; or any equivalent combination of education, training and experience which provides the required knowledge, skills and abilities to perform the essential

functions of the job Massachusetts Certified Municipal Treasurer-Collector certification re-

quired or in progress.

· Ability to be bonded Salary commensurate with experience. Candidate should apply with resume. cover letter, salary requirements, and contact information for four work-related references to: Select Board, 23 Main Street, Brimfield, MA 01010 or via email to the Board of Selectmen, selectmen@brimfieldma.org.

For complete job description visit www. brimfieldma.org , Board of Selectmen under job opportunities. Application deadline is June 17, 2020 or until position is filled. The Town of Brimfield is an equal opportunity employer June 2, 2020

### **HELP WANTED CONSTRUCTION LABORER**

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> **APPLY IN PERSON** MONDAY - FRIDAY 8:00 - 4:30

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HARLEY DAVIDSON 2014 (low rider). Accessories added: windshield, crash bar, saddle bags. 5300 babied miles and care. 5300 Silver metallic. Recorded 100% mechanically sound by Sheldon's of Auburn. Bike is truly condition 508-414-9134

for showing. Firm \$12,000 as

bike is MINT!

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**TRIPS** continued from page A13

3 Nights of Premium Lodging, 7 Meals including a Sunday Brunch, An Exclusive Dinner Show featuring the Oak Ridge Boys, Ticket and Show at the Grand Ole Opry, plus a Tour of the Grand Ole Opry, Admission to Country Music Hall of Fame, a River Cruise aboard the General Jackson Showboat, Tickets for a Holiday Show at the Opry House, Admission to ICE at Gaylord Opryland, a visit to Historic Studio B and a Guilded Tour Of Nashville. WOW!! Prices are 1949 pp Double and 2349 pp Single Occupancy which includes Tour Guides and Bus Drivers

Gratuities as well. Sturbridge Contact Department Recreation 508-347-2041, email recreation@sturbridge.gov for

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

### LEICESTER SENIOR CENTER.

For trip information and reservations, please call

Joan Wall at (508) 892-3967.

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

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

Wednesday, Aug. 12: Casblanca By the Sea in Portland, Maine. Lunch at the Bull & Claw, then a cruise in Portland Harbor. Viewing war forts, seals, lighthouses. We leave at 8:30 a.m. The cost is \$99.

Sept. 1-3: Trip to Bar

Harbor, Maine. Many

sights to see. Cost is in the low \$400's. More information coming. Wednesday, Oct. 14: New Hampshire Turkey Train. Scenic foliage train traveling around beautiful Lake Winnipesaukee. Hart's Turkey Farm brings a full

at 9 a.m. Cost is \$89. Thursday, Nov. 11: Newport Playhouse & Cabaret Restaurant presents "Ghost of a Chance," a buffet full with everything. The play, then back to your

seats for the Cabaret. Two

turkey luncheon on board.

Then more sightseeing and

foliage viewing. We leave

shoes for the price of one. We leave at 9 a.m. The cost

is \$99. Saturday, Dec. 12: The fabulous Reagle Players Christmas Spectacular and Dinner at the Chateau Restaurant. The entertainment is wonderful. The food is great! We leave at 10

### a.m. The cost is \$119. **MARY QUEEN** OF THE ROSARY

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

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

\*Spain & Portugal:

Sept.9-23, 2020 \*Galapagos Islands: Jan 4-13, 2021 \*Galapagos with

Picchu): Jan 4-19, 2021 \*Botswana, Zimbabwe and Victoria Falls: May 5-16, 2021

extension to Peru (Machu

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

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

Turn To TRIPS page A15

### **TRIPS**

continued from page A14

### SOUTHBRIDGE SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

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

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

### SOUTHBRIDGE SENIOR CITIZENS TRIP SCHEDULE FOR 2020

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

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

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

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

ment, and alcohol included. November 12, 2020 - Thursday - Foxwoods \$30 - 10 - AM bus.

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

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

PAYMENTS DUE AT SIGN UP Trips are open to the public!

Make checks payable to the Southbridge Senior Citizens Association.

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

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

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

**UXBRIDGE SENIOR CENTER** 

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

The Silver Club BUS TRIPS for 2020 Please call Sue at 508-476-5820 for more

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

information.

June 1 - Plymouth cruise on Pilgrim Belle with sightseeing tour and lunch at Hearth and Kettle - Fox Tours - \$91 June 26 - July 3 -- Atlantic Canada w/ Conway Tours -- International Tattoo, ferry crossing, Hopewell Rocks, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, St. John, New Brunswick - 3 seats left - \$1899. Aug. 30-31-Saratoga Racetrack w/Conwav Tours - enjoy a race at Saratoga, a tour of the town, a tour of Haven Oaks Horse Farm, and drive up Prospect Mountain - \$329. Sept. 16 -18 - The Hamptons w/ Conway. Three day trip w/4 meals, guided tour of the "Rich and

Famous," winery, ferry crossing, Old Westbury Estate & Gardens, Montauk

Point Lighthouse, Sag harbor, etc. - \$579. Oct. 6 -- Green Mt. Railroad Tours w/Fox Nov. 19 -- Newport Playhouse Tours w/Fox \$101. Dec. 7 & 8 - Equinox Resort and Hildene, VT w/Conway Tours. Two day trip with elegant dinner & piano entertainment, breakfast, tour of Hildene, chocolate tasting, etc. \$379.

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



## (508) 347-8956 FAX (508)347-7099 Email: MLPARTLOWANDSON@AOL.COM INLAND

### **AUCTION** continued from page A1

versary, the Auction Committee is now planning what will be its final Church Auction on Saturday, Aug. 14, 2021.

Long-time supporters of Sturbridge Federated Church and its annual antique auction, may be wondering, "how may I help?" The auction committee has a few suggestions:

To help ease the loss of revenue from canceling this year's auction - funds that the Church depends upon for capital improvements -- you may send a check in any amount, or visit the church website at http:// sturfed.org/make-a-donation.

Clicking on the "Donate" button will take you to a secure PayPal account where you may designate a donation to the capital improvement fund.

· Perhaps you would consider donating one item of value from your home for next year's auction. One item, in excellent condition and ready to put on the auction block, from each person reading this would save us hours of refurbishing time and create a ready inventory for a sensational final auction! (Please contact the Church office at (508) 347-3915 with details and arrangements will be made to pick up your donated item.)

 You can start putting aside a little each month to spend at next year's event, so you can

We as a nation are better than

I continue to grieve and pray

for the family of George Floyd.

We must demand justice, but

item from this important final auction on Aug. 14, 2021. Last, but certainly not least,

walk away with one memorable

if you are unable to attend next year's auction in person, perhaps you would consider helping to underwrite the costs of putting that final auction together with a small contribution.

"We are extremely grateful for the generous past support of the Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale and the extraordinary tradition that has been our annual Church auction on the lovely Sturbridge Common, said Bardsley. "We look forward to seeing everyone in 2021!"

her family not deserve justice

I'm optimistic. Common sense will prevail.

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.



www.inlanddocks.com Scotland Hardwoods is now offering 100% natural premium Hardwood Brown Bark Mulch

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SCOTLAND HARDWOODS

must stand up and be counted. I MOORE believe they will. We cannot let continued from page A9 our nation devolve into a lawless society run by those manipulatof any color, race or religion will ing emotion and causing harm allow that to happen. To believe for their political gain. Yes, I said if we didn't have police, anyone's we. I am a member of the comlife would be safer is nonsensical mon-sense majority.

to the common-sense majority. Members of the common-sense majority are often silent but consistently vote. They direct their dollars into causes they believe in. I know most protestors are peaceful and well-meaning,

law-abiding citizens who are saddened and hurt. Unfortunately, the criminal element arrives, and the legitimate protestors go home as their protest is hijacked by an angry mob with violent and destructive pur-

pose. The common-sense majority will not violently protest, loot, or burn buildings. They deeply care but will not hurt others or destroy property to make their point. They support common sense politicians and vote out, for example, those who believe a nation without police would not devolve into chaos and mob rule.

The common-sense majority of all race, religion or political leanings



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