



REAS Foundation concludes “Charlton Strong” apparel fundraiser

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – The Charlton Residential Energy Assistance for Senior Foundation (REAS) is wrapping up its first major fundraiser of the year, sales of Charlton Strong merchandise during the December and January holiday season.

Like many businesses and nonprofit in 2020, The Charlton REAS Foundation found itself in a difficult situation trying to maintain a public presence and fundraising while also adhering to social distancing guidelines. As a result, the organization knew going into 2021 that their annual Taste of the Town event would have to be canceled, or at least postponed, paving the way for a new fundraising and public awareness campaign. The organization partnered with a local business to make Charlton Strong sweatshirts, masks, and blankets available for purchase with part of the proceeds helping providing energy assistance to local seniors.

Sabrina Webb, Treasurer for the Charlton REAS Foundation, said the fundraiser only brought in around \$350, far less than Taste of the Town, which is traditionally their biggest event, but it still helped provide funds for the cause and allowed the REAS Foundation to connect with the public in a new way.

“The idea behind this was just to continue to be active in the community and to get the word out there that we’re still active and looking to fundraise to support our seniors in town,” Webb said. “While this fundraiser didn’t bring in anywhere near what Taste of the Town would have brought us, it still helped us get our name out there and remind people we are here working to help those in our community. We wanted to test the waters and see how well this would do and maybe we would do

it again if people were wearing the apparel and the demand was there.”

The REAS Foundation partnered with JamTshirts, a local business who Webb called and “awesome partner” for the organization, to produce the products that were sold on Facebook and the REAS Foundation’s website. The foundation will be proceeding with several other fundraising efforts in 2021 including their lottery calendar in March. Representatives are also reaching out to local businesses for support where possible.

Thanks to the successful 2020 Taste of the Town event, which took place just before the pandemic shutdown began, the foundation is prepared and able to handle the non-stop caseload they have seen since the energy program started for the season in October.

However, looking ahead, the foundation knows the need will only get higher and they will be depending on community involvement to continue their mission.

“With the pandemic our seniors are the most at risk. They’re staying home a lot more which means they’re using more energy, more heating and so their costs go up. Every season is different, but we’re still in the middle or winter and have had some pretty cold days. It’s important, even now, to be able to provide these seniors with assistance and the continue that going forward,” Webb said. “We have a great need every year and we want to continue to support these citizens.”

Those looking to a way to donate can visit www.reascharlton.org or email info@reascharlton.org for more information.



Courtesy Photo

One of several “Charlton Strong” items sold as part of the REAS Foundation’s fundraiser

Charlton experiences post-holiday COVID spike

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – While the town of Charlton has continued to be among the lowest number in COVID-19 infections locally, increased cases in December and early January have proven to be concerning for town officials.

Many experts believed that the holiday season would bring an increased number of COVID cases nationwide due to family gathering and the shopping experience. Charlton appears to have suffered such a fate with one of its highest numbers to date, 80 recorded cases, during the first week of January. Town Administrator Andrew

Golas said these numbers are a red flag but weren’t necessarily unexpected especially with the national warning of potential spikes due to the holidays.

“It’s obviously concerning. Really, we’re in the position of just reminding people to continue to observe the precautions that were given by the state and to continue mask wearing and try to avoid gatherings as much as possible. We haven’t seen a giant cluster in one area like we did earlier when the numbers first started going up. It’s really just a town-wide reminder to stay vigilant and continue to observe social distancing and mask wearing,” Golas said.

Charlton also got a forewarning of a potential spike. Leading up to Thanksgiving Charlton’s had recorded less than 30 cases per week, including only seven cases in the first week of November. The week of Thanksgiving Charlton his 55 cases and only once since then have Charlton’s numbers been below 50. Even then Charlton has not gone one week without more than 35 positive COVID cases since mid-November. The first week of the new year brought 80 cases, a new high for the town. Several local

communities recorded numbers consistent with or similar to Charlton’s recent spike during the same timeframe.

Looking ahead, Charlton’s town hall remains largely closed to the public with only employees allowed in the facility except for specific scheduled meetings. Golas doesn’t see this changing any time soon, however the spike in cases aren’t resulting in more precautionary measures either. Charlton plans to remain with the status quo at least for the month of January until the numbers start to

fall. With that in mind, Golas acknowledges that almost a year into the pandemic citizens are probably starting to get frustrated but they need to remain vigilant or risk and even larger spike in infections.

“The tough part is that we recognize people have fatigue from all of this. A lot of times people just let their guard down when they are around people that they know, especially people outside of their household. It’s tough when we’re almost a year into this situation and trying to stay as vigilant as possible, but really

that’s the mantra that we have to keep sharing with everyone. As the state ramps up its vaccination protocols hopefully more and more people are able to get access and we strongly recommend those who can get vaccinated to do so to stem any further transmission,” Golas said.

Citizens are encouraged to continue to use the Town of Charlton website for COVID-19 updates weekly. Details on vaccinations, guidelines and workplace safety standards are also available on the site.

Dudley-Charlton Education Foundation announces 12th Annual Appeal

REGION — The Dudley-Charlton Education Foundation (DCEF) is pleased to announce the launch of our 12th annual appeal with a \$2,500 donation from Cornerstone Bank. Cornerstone Bank has supported DCEF annually since our inception.

Each year, the DCEF awards grants to educators in our district to fund the implementation of creative and exciting ideas that enhance the school experience for our students. Although the classroom and school year look different this year, the need still exists and all funds contributed to the DCEF are used to support education in the community.

Previous donations have made a significant impact across all 7 schools in the past 11 years funding 118 grants and more than \$300,000 for fresh and creative ventures in the classroom.

Please consider investing in the future of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School district students by supporting our 12th Annual Appeal which is running through March 31. Donations may be made securely, on-line at: www.dcedfoundation.org or by sending a check to: DCEF, PO Box 92, Dudley, MA 01571.

On behalf of the thousands of students impacted, and the teachers who facilitate these learning opportunities, thank you for your support!

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – Nichols College is enhancing its sports management and real estate offerings by launching three new concentrations within in Business Administration degree program.

Starting in the fall of 2021 Nichols will offer three new concentrations, Sport Sales & Strategy, Sport Marketing & Content Creation, and Real Estate Management which will offer specialized training including hands-on learning and internships with professional sports organizations among other coursework. The college announced the new programs in a Jan. 13 press release where Dean of Academy Affairs Mauri Peltó, Ph.D said these new courses will prepare students of in demand careers within sports management and the real estate market.

“These new concentrations are driven by industry demand, but also by the interests and passions of students who want to increase their skills and

channel those passions into targeted careers,” said Peltó. “Nichols can offer them distinctive opportunities and access to a faculty and alumni network who are successful in both fields. The success of these alumni underscores the value Nichols can offer.”

Both sports-related concentrations were created partially in response to the project 8.9 percent

growth in sports careers through 2026. Sports Sales & Strategy will prepare students for sales and relationship building as part of a sales team within the sports world while the Sport Marketing & Content Creation will enhance students understanding and capabilities in brand management and social media engagement. Both programs will require internships

according to Brittany Jacobs, Ph.D., chair of Sports Management at Nichols but will also include substantial classroom and hands-on work.

“These opportunities prepare students for a seamless transition into sport sales or marketing careers upon graduation and provide an ‘test-classroom’ where students can

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Oxford church celebrates 300th year with steeple lighting

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD – If you think a lot has happened in the past year, cast your eyes on the last 300.

That's what Oxford First Congregational Church is doing this year, kicking things off last weekend with a short outdoor ceremony for lighting their steeple. It plans a bigger weekend of celebration this summer, if Covid permits.

"We want to try and make the 300th year something special," Church Historian Todd Sauter said earlier last week. "It's not just a look at the past, but a springboard for what we want to be in the future."

To Rev. Karen Fournier, the goal is to "become more diverse, understanding that's not our community demographics now" while maintaining the current "open and affirming" practices.

Part of that, she hopes, will be better outreach. Because of Covid, she's been broadcasting sermons online and seeing them garner nearly 1,000 viewers, some from out of state, alongside the 50 or so regular parishioners.

"The more we listen to those entering in, the better we'll be equipped to grow our community," she observed, not-

ing some people want to "check it out without being seen."

Fournier admits she never expected to be a TV ministry when she came here in 2016 as co-pastor or took over full-time in July 2018, and doesn't do anything different other than make a few minor wording changes. "What we present [online] is what we'd present if you were there live," she said.

"It's interesting how the pandemic forced us to look at things from a technology level that will help us," Sauter added.

He hopes it will "make us stronger in the long run."

Indeed, the Congregational Church has seen numerous changes since it came to these shores with the Pilgrims and Puritans in the 1600s. Now often seen as one of the nation's more liberal denominations as part of the United Church of Christ, it was anything but that in the beginning.

Religion scholar Karen Armstrong has noted early Puritanism had a lot in common with Wahhabi Islam, which was born about the same time and for similar reasons. Both grew out of a minority's opposition to the cultural trends of the day, seeing themselves as representing a return

to "true religion" and an effort to purify their faith. In Puritanism's case, that had roots in the ideology of John Calvin, who preached a rather rigid form of Christianity in opposition to what he saw as a corrupt Catholic and Anglican churches of the day.

When they landed here, they brought their goal of trying to build themselves a "shining city on the hill," and made Congregationalism their de facto state religion. Among other things, they were known for opposing music other than singing Psalms, outlawing holidays including Christmas, driving out and sometimes killing minority believers, but also for promoting literacy.

Within that structure, each congregation was semi-independent, electing its own leaders (at the time, only land-owning men) and with church politics greatly overlapping community politics. Out of that grew the New England Town Meeting system, which eventually shed the religious elements and broadened the voting franchise to every citizen over 18.

In Oxford, Congregationalism actually took a while to arrive. The first church here was associated with



Courtesy

Oxford's First Congregational Church launched its 300th anniversary celebration last weekend with a ceremony marking the lighting of its steeple.

the French Huguenot settlement of the 1600s, but that community was abandoned in the upheavals surrounding King Philip's War. A second round of settlers founded Oxford as we know it in 1713, but it took seven more years for them to meet the era's threshold of having a Congregational pastor to claim legal existence as a town.

To Sauter, that first pastor, John Campbell, has always been "fascinating." Originally a Presbyterian, he came to the colony as a "political exile" from Scotland "because he chose the wrong side" in the conflicts over the throne. To escape, he found his way to "a tiny little farming settlement," where his education and noble background gave him a ton of influence. Campbell ended up as Oxford's main counselor, judge, doctor and teacher, among other things, during his 40 years as pastor.

"Being the first female

pastor, [Fournier] is required to serve 40 years, too," he joked.

Among a fairly long list of other famous folks associated with the church, he also particularly likes Dr. Elliot Joslin, founder of Boston's Joslin Diabetes Center. The church still uses a baptismal font donated by his family about a century ago, and the center recently asked for photos of it.

"Despite going on the great fame and prestige, he never forgot his church," Sauter said.

Slowly shedding their Puritanism, the Congregationalists became key players in several of the social change movements of the 1800s, including abolitionism, temperance and women's suffrage, Sauter said. Oxford's church joined the UCC in 1957, although some Congregationalist groups opted for two other more conservative organizations: the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches

and the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference, according to Wikipedia.

Today, Oxford has at least a dozen religious groups of various kinds. Most of them would have been considered heretical in the 1600s.

Over the years, Sauter said, many things "could easily have affected the church to its ruin," including wars and previous pandemics. "The church has been through this type of thing before. ... The church's deep past was a comfort" to many members.

"We feel blessed to be able to celebrate this moment in the midst of everything that's going on," Sauter said. "The steeple project is a wonderful sign of good things to come that are very much beyond what goes on within the walls of the church."

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

Friday's Child



Donna
Age 16

Hi! My name is Donna and I'm very athletic!

Donna is an athletic girl of Caucasian decent. She is incredibly articulate and insightful. Conversation comes easy to Donna. She also has the ability to let her sense of humor shine through in her conversations. Donna has a warm demeanor and is described as having the ability to "light up a room with her personality." She is very polite and always shows her caring nature towards others. Donna is very energetic and loves to participate in athletic activities, especially basketball, soccer, and working out. Aside from her activities and hobbies, she has a great love for all animals. She hopes to be a veterinarian one day so she can spend all her time

around animals! Donna is also a BIG fan of Dominican food, music and good shoes. Donna is always appreciative of people who spend time with her. She loves connections with adults, they are very meaningful to her and she holds these relationships as very special. Regardless of her age, Donna is still wishing for a forever family to come into her life.

Donna is legally freed for adoption. She very much wants to be adopted. She welcomes the idea of moving out of state if it's the right family for her. Her social worker believes that a family with at least one female parent would be of benefit to Donna. Additionally, it is recommended that Donna be the only child in the home or the youngest child in a home with much older children. Donna responds well to nurturing behaviors and clear communication styles. The ideal family would encourage Donna's many aspirations, support her hobbies and positively influence her potential.

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

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

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

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Lynda B.

Assumption, Holy Cross alumni lead development of virtual mental health museum

MILFORD — The National Museum of Mental Health Project, Inc. (NMMHP), a group initially formed in 2019, has been incorporated as a not-for-profit organization with an expanded mission to develop virtual exhibits that transform society's understanding of mental health.

The work of NMMHP founders Paul Piwko, a professor in the Grenon School of Business at Assumption University, and Alexandra Orlandi, a University alumna and Mental Health Specialist at McLean Hospital, initially focused on researching and publishing the benefits of mental health exhibitions. Prior to the pandemic, the display of mental health exhibitions in museums, airports, and malls was increasing. NMMHP now seeks to expand this trend from brick-and-mortar establishments to the internet at a time when museums are increasing their online visibility and the COVID-19 pandemic has created an unprecedented need for mental health resources.

Virtual museums sidestep the cost of physical buildings and dramatically increase visitor accessibility. Piwko compares the concept of a virtual museum to a "museum without walls" like GirlMuseum.org, an online museum dedicated to

celebrating girlhood. Piwko states, "What Ashley Remer has done with Girl Museum is what we seek to replicate. From her living room in New Zealand, financed by a few thousand dollars annually, she created one of the world's first virtual museums."

NMMHP exhibitions will promote mental health literacy by sharing personal narratives and expanding vocabulary. Orlandi says, "Learning about mental illness and wellness isn't just about reading textbooks, listening to lectures, or seeing a therapist. Learning is also observing and exploring." Exhibits will provide a unique space for visitors to experientially interact with content.

NMMHP is currently developing its first exhibition, I Get It, which will launch in 2021 on its website NMMHPProject.org and via social media. The website was designed by Assumption alumna Kate Kruzick and launched via Wifi hotspot from the grounds of the Medfield State Hospital Cemetery — a place of early inspiration for the Project.

Although NMMHP seeks a national audience for its research and exhibitions, all founding board members are residents of the Worcester area. Piwko and board secretary Anne Walton are

Milford residents, and Orlandi lives in Hudson. Piwko and Orlandi completed a research fellowship at Assumption about mental health exhibitions and have been published by numerous news outlets, including the Des Moines Register, the Omaha World-Herald, and the Worcester Telegram. They presented their work to the New England Museum Association in 2018 and will be presenting at the 2021 Mental Health America Annual Conference.

In January 2020, prior to its formation as a nonprofit, NMMHP participated in the annual Nonprofit Careers Conference at College of the Holy Cross where a team of students developed fundraising strategies. The organization's connection to Holy Cross and the Worcester area deepened this past fall with the hiring of Communications Intern Emily Taylor, a junior at Holy Cross who is from Hopkinton.

Piwko says, "We take inspiration from the rich history and people of the Worcester area in impacting the national dialogue on mental health, such as nineteenth century reformer Dorothea Dix and mindfulness innovator Jon Kabat-Zinn. We feel our goals come from that same spirit."

The impact of the mental

health exhibition trend has already been experienced locally. In 2019 the Worcester PopUp Museum hosted the first public unveiling of I Am More: Massachusetts by artist Amy Kerr, whose exhibition is profiled on NMMHP's website.

More information about NMMHP and its plans for its inaugural exhibition I Get It is available at NMMHPProject.org. Anyone seeking additional information or offering to volunteer or donate can contact the group by email at NMMHPProject@gmail.com.

About the National Museum of Mental Health Project The National Museum of Mental Health Project, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that researches and creates exhibitions that transform society's attitudes about, and understanding of, mental health. Initially conceived as a clearinghouse for the sharing of mental health exhibitions and information about them, its formation as a nonprofit will enable the development of online exhibits that educate, interpret, advance dialogue, and develop literacy on the topic of mental health. For more information, visit NMMHPProject.org.



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Health Foundation announces the 2021 Activation Fund grant opportunity

WORCESTER — The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts is pleased to invite grant applications for its Activation Fund in 2021. Letters of Intent are due April 29. The Activation Fund supports discrete, one-year projects in Central Massachusetts that demonstrate creative and innovative approaches to addressing community health concerns and that move an organization to its next level of capacity and effectiveness, which can be sustained beyond the term of the grant.

Activation Fund grants typically range from \$10,000 to \$100,000. Final decisions about 2021 Activation Fund grants will be made in September, with funding awards to be made in October. In 2020, fourteen grants were awarded, with an average grant of approximately \$50,000.

Those interested in applying for an Activation Fund grant should visit the Foundation website at www.hfcm.org and attend an online information session (registration required) for details including guidelines, deadlines, and examples of previous grants. In addition, interested parties are asked to email The Health Foundation staff at thfcmgrantadvisor@gmail.com by April 1, 2021 to discuss proposed project ideas before submitting a Letter of Intent.

The Foundation was established in 1999 with the proceeds from the sale of Central Massachusetts Health Care, Inc., a physician-initiated, not-for-profit HMO. The Foundation currently has assets of approximately \$80 million and has awarded grants totaling over \$47 million.

Neal joins vote to impeach Trump

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congressman Richard Neal, Representative of the 1st Congressional District in Massachusetts, was among the members of the House of Representatives to vote to impeach President Donald Trump for a second time on Jan. 13.

The House voted 232-197 to impeach President Trump with accusations of "incitement of insurrection" after lawmakers blamed Trump's rhetoric for encouraging his supporters to storm the Capital Building on Jan. 6, an event that some have labeled a violent riot and attempted insurrection in protest of the results of the 2020 Presidential Election which Trump claims was

rigged in favor of his opponent and eventual winner Joe Biden. Trump was previously impeached in early 2020 by the House for abuse of power and obstruction of Congress but was acquitted following a Senate hearing.

Congressman Neal was among those who voted in favor of his impeachment both times. With the most recent impeachment Congressman Neal said he felt it was essential that lawmakers hold President Trump accountable for his part in the events that unfolded on Jan. 6 which left five people, four Trump supporters and a Capital police officer, dead.

"We are a nation of laws, traditions, and values. The seditious act we witnessed on Jan. 6 was unprecedented, and President Trump's response to this horrific

attack and deadly insurrection was inexcusable. When the citadel of our democracy comes under attack, actions taken by the President need to be swift and unwavering. Instead, the President incited this mob. He called on his supporters to come to Washington, to march to the Capitol and to fight. When my colleagues plead with him to call off his supporters and their dangerous actions, he ignored them," Congressman Neal said in a statement following the vote on impeachment.

"What occurred (Jan. 6) was an affront to our historic republic, and the President illustrated his complete inability to lead this country with honor and effectively fulfill his constitutional duty. When we called for President Trump's impeachment in December

2019, I said, 'Impeachment is reserved for moments of grave danger, when the constitutional order becomes dangerously out of balance. Moments like this one.' This is unequivocally another one of those moments. We are a nation built on rule of law, not the law of rulers — The President incited an insurrection and today I voted once again to impeach him," the Congressman concluded.

While the initial impeachment of President Trump in 2020 was split mostly along party lines, the second impeachment saw ten Republicans join every voting Democrat to affirm the impeachment. As of this report a Senate trial had yet to be scheduled as the Senate was not set to return back into session until Jan. 19 for Biden's inauguration.

School Committee finalizes reopening plan

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON — The future for the Dudley Charlton Regional School District under COVID protocol has been decided. After months of planning, discussion and debate the Regional School Committee finally laid out a plan for the remainder of the school year which will see several models enacted over the next several months easing students back into the classroom.

The Dudley Charlton School Committee met on the evening of Jan. 13, when Superintendent Steven Lamarche presented the models on the table for discussion and acknowledged that the decision made that night might not meet everyone's expectations, but that the process leading up to the meeting was arduous and focused on providing the best and safest experience for students in mind.

"We are trying to take everything into consideration. As I've expressed before we have all become students of public education in a COVID world. It has not been easy. It has not been the same anywhere you go. We're putting the effort in for the Dudley Charlton Regional School District. We want it to be the best education possible," Lamarche said.

Discussion lasted several hours as the School Committee debated which models to roll out and when and if any changes needed to be made to the plans. Their final votes solidified the plan to roll out a series of models starting with "Model A" on Jan. 25. This will maintain the framework of the current plan in place for the district but will add three and a half hours of live instruction on Wednesdays. The model will maintain the use of cohorts with certain groups of students attending in-person classes on different days while Wednesday will remain remote learning across the board.

On March 15, the district will skip ahead to "Model C." This model will create five fully in-person morning half-days for all cohorts. Students for all schools will be dismissed during lunch and continue their education remotely in the afternoon. Wednesdays will be the exception with only the morning in-person learning taking place. Finally, the district plans to move to "Model D" on May 3. This returns the district to the traditional full-day in-person education with lunch at the school bringing students back to a more normal school day. The reopening plan also includes professional development days in January and April.

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Reach across the aisle in the spirit of Lincoln

I don't think I'll find many that will disagree that our nation is in turmoil. From an election that a large minority of our friends and neighbors feel was stolen, to an assault on our nation's Capital, the concern about what will come next is eerie.

There has never been a more important moment than now for both sides, red and blue, liberal and conservative, to consider the attitude and wisdom of Abraham Lincoln ...

"With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds ..."

We are on a dangerous path, only a few steps away from a point of no return. Let's not take those last few steps.

Can it begin now, with us?

We need a peaceful transfer of power without any hitches and we need a new administration that enters office in the spirit of Abraham Lincoln.

"With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds..."

Yes, our nation is wounded. Anything less than this attitude carries the potential of lighting a powder keg. It's a matter of choice at this moment. President-Elect Joe Biden can calm his supporters and move forward with malice towards none and with charity for all. Extremists on the side of the left are using words like, 'purge' and 'punishment' when talking about those on the right who supported President Trump. Make no mistake about it, President Trump has acted like a petulant child in the weeks leading up to the attack on our Capital. His careless words were and are dangerous.

I implore us all, red or blue, liberal or conservative, to abandon the violent and angry rhetoric and come together as friends and neighbors. We may see the world differently ... but we are still friends and neighbors.



POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

GARY W.
MOORE

I was taught a valuable lesson by my former, Pastor, Dr. Dan Boone. I was CEO who was at odds with a business competitor. We both attended the same church and the aggressive businessman within me was screaming, "Go in for the kill" and I easily could have. I had a clear advantage, and I could have ended my competitor's business. Over lunch. My pastor said, "Oh. I'm wondering if you'd do me a favor."

I assured him that I would. He then told me of a local business that was in trouble and asked, "Will you pray for Tom and Mary? (not real names)" "There business is in trouble and a failure will cause them to lose everything." He was of course talking about my competitor.

I gave my word and prayed for them daily. My attitude changed.

I found a way that my success would not cause their failure. I have never regretted the decision to back off. My prayers for a competitor created compassion and an invaluable realization.

Life isn't a zero-sum game. For one side to win the other doesn't have to lose. I'll admit that I didn't vote for President-Elect Joe Biden, but now he's first on my daily prayer list.

Even if you were a candidate, your success in life didn't depend on this election. Your personal happiness wasn't destroyed or created by who won or lost. Your happiness is a choice. If you are angry and miserable, it is because you chose to be so.

I happened upon a delightful movie on Netflix this week. "Full Count" is a story of a young athlete's success that was unfairly stolen from him and how he deals with his future. After many twists and turns he comes to a life changing realization. "Life isn't going to make you happy. Your happiness is going to make your life." Lots of wisdom

in those words.

So, what's my point? The election is over. On January 20, 2021, a new administration will take office. Let us stop being Biden or Trump supporters and be supporters of our country and each other. For those of you who pray, I'm asking you to join me in praying for peace and unity.

First, let's pray for the health of our new President and administration, let's pray for wisdom to move our country successfully forward and for compassion for, and from, our new leadership.

Let's also pray for President Trump and his supporters. Pray that he will come to terms with his loss and move forward the rest of his life using his influence for the good of all. I pray he takes a lesson from the example set by former President Jimmy Carter.

If you're not a praying person, set aside what anger you feel for your fellow citizens. Extend kind thoughts and words for all regardless of which candidate they supported. If your candidate won, rejoice ... but please

do not think of revenge or getting even. If your candidate lost, pray for the success of the new administration.

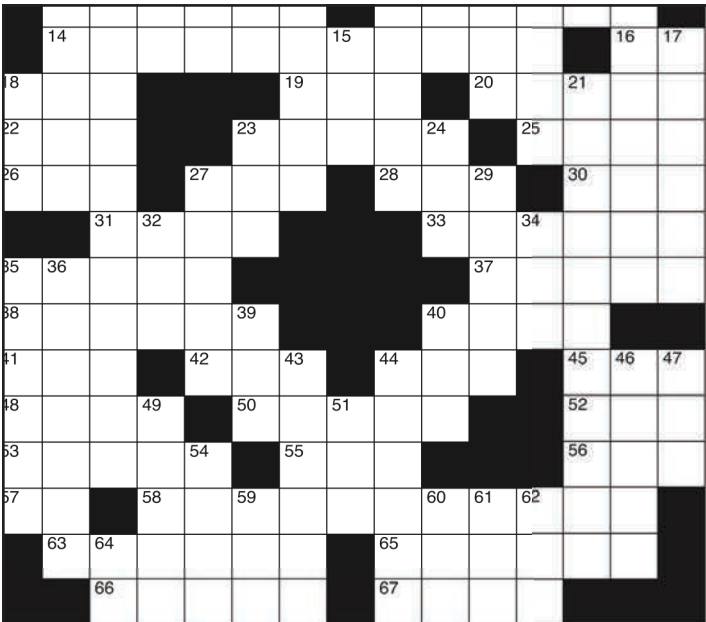
Do not allow your joy to turn into vindictiveness nor let your disappointment turn to violence. We can do better ... and will.

Only our adversaries benefit by our division and failure, while the entire world benefits from the unity and success of the United States of America. Don't allow the actions of extremists on either side to extinguish the beacon of democracy.

Will you join me in prayer and positive words and actions?

May God continue to bless the United States of America.

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



CLUES ACROSS

1. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
5. 2014 Winter Olympics host
10. Soft fabric
12. Covered in flowers
14. Works at a college or university
16. Keeps us cool
18. Corpse count (abbr.)
19. Similar
20. Birthplace of Muhammad
22. They ____
23. Preamble to a book
25. Southern China people
26. Hair product
27. The woman
28. Partner to cheese
30. One point north of due east
31. Round Dutch cheese
33. Be in awe of
35. Christmas song
37. Emits coherent radiation
38. Something that is comparable to another
40. Monetary unit
41. The cutting part of a drill
42. Resinlike substance secreted by certain insects
44. Touch lightly
45. Toyota SUV
48. ____ and Andy, TV show
50. Made less dangerous
52. Assets under management (abbr.)
53. Nostrils
55. Moved quickly
56. Thai isthmus
57. TV personality Roker
58. Honors anew
63. Rags
65. One who obtains pleasure from inflicting pain or others
66. Marketplaces
67. Dark brown or black

CLUES DOWN

1. Nowhere to be found (abbr.)
2. Not new
3. Brew
4. Stain with mud
5. Chief or leader
6. Luke Skywalker's mentor ____-Wan
7. Type of sauce
8. Sharpens
9. Priestess loved by Zeus
10. Jean Henri ____, French entomologist
11. Regulates supply of fuel
13. Disturbing and horrifying
15. Equal (prefix)
17. Hosts film festival
18. Tattered piece of clothing
21. Rich desserts
23. Unique motor (abbr.)
24. Disfigure
27. Chemical substance
29. Slang for famous person
32. Department of Labor
34. The A-team rode around in one
35. Beach cabin
36. Living things
39. Gun (slang)
40. Disconsolate
43. Stroke gently
44. Actress Richards
46. "Cletus Hogg" actor
47. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
49. Brazilian mountain range
51. Upset
54. One with supernatural insight
59. Insecticide
60. Taxi
61. "Much ____ about nothing"
62. Cannister
64. Popular clothing retailer



Quinsigamond Nursing graduates hold virtual pinning ceremonies

WORCESTER — Amid the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, Quinsigamond Community College graduated 85 nursing students during two virtual nurse graduation pinning ceremonies held in late December.

Due to the pandemic, 51 evening program graduates and 34-day program graduates sent recordings of their loved ones pinning them in the safety of their own homes. The pinnings were captured in a video by the College and aired on Dec. 18 and 23. Pinning ceremonies have become an important part

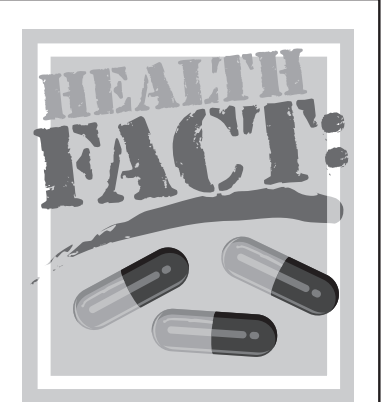
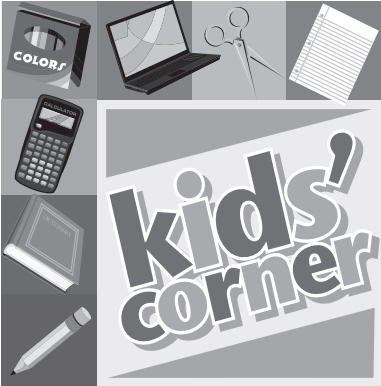
of nursing graduations, dating back as far as the 1800s.

"Our nursing students have made an indelible impression on our healthcare system during this pandemic," said QCC President Luis G. Pedraja, Ph.D. "Now 85 new graduates will stand alongside their nursing colleagues and help care and protect our community. The challenges healthcare workers face from the COVID-19 virus have not deterred these amazing graduates from their dreams of fulfilling their calls to duty."

"While we could not be there in person to honor the gradu-

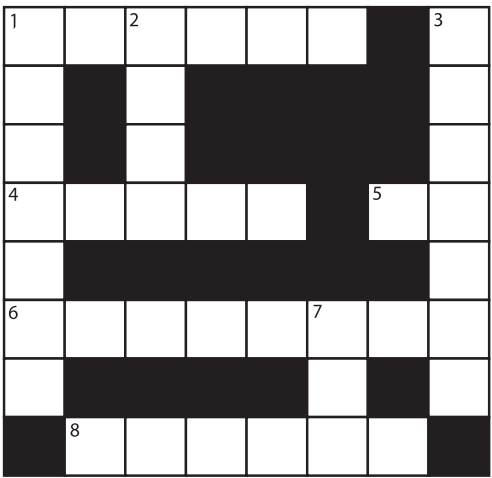
ates, we were fortunate we were able to recognize their determination, grit and persistence that has gotten them where they are today," determination, grit and persistence that have gotten them where they are today," said the College's Dean of Healthcare, Pat Schmohl. "We know they will make a valuable contribution to our healthcare system."

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



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Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

1. Downhill sport
4. Very breezy
5. Scary film and book
6. In the north
8. A bit cold

DOWN

1. Frozen precipitation
2. Type of metal
3. Blades on ice
7. Snakelike fish

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1921: THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY COMES OUT OF THE REMNANTS OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE.
- 1945: FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT IS SWORN IN FOR AN UNPRECEDENTED FOURTH TERM AS U.S. PRESIDENT.
- 1980: THE UNITED STATES BOYCOTS THE OLYMPICS IN MOSCOW THIS YEAR.



COAST

move easily without using power



ENGLISH: Coat

SPANISH: Abrigo

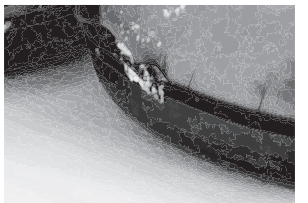
ITALIAN: Cappotto

FRENCH: Manteau

GERMAN: Mantel



SNOWBOARDING WAS FIRST INTRODUCED AS A WINTER OLYMPIC SPORT IN 1998 DURING THE GAMES IN NAGANO, JAPAN.



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: SNOW TUBE

Assumption students named to Dean's List

W O R C E S T E R — Assumption University has announced those students named to the University's Dean's List for the fall 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. Due to the pandemic, this fall semester was divided into two accelerated seven-week terms.

Local students include: Mackenzie Bolduc of Auburn, Class of 2021

Emma Halloran of Auburn, Class of 2021

Kileigh Hynes of Auburn, Class of 2021

Stephen Acquista of Auburn, Class of 2023

Cameron Carpenter of Auburn, Class of 2023

Madison Kapulka of Auburn, Class of 2023

Philip Benvenuti of Auburn, Class of 2024

"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 programs."

An Assumption education prepares students to succeed in a continuously changing world and for jobs that do not yet exist. Steeped in the liberal arts tradition, students studying at Assumption are exposed to a broad range of disciplines in the humanities, sciences, and social sciences as they explore fundamental questions characteristic of the liberal arts, while also learning best-practices and developing valuable communication and critical-thinking skills, traits sought after by employers in nearly every industry. A combination of classroom theory and hands-on learning through internships, participation in community service, or one of the more than 60 on-campus clubs and organizations help students develop into leaders who will make a difference in the communities in which they live and work.

For more information, visit assumption.edu.

A s s u m p t i o n University, founded in 1904 by the Augustinians of the Assumption, is New England's premier university for high-quality education, integrating career preparation and education of the whole person, drawing upon the best in the rich and centuries-long tradition of Catholic higher education. Assumption, located in Worcester, Massachusetts, seeks to provide students with a transformative education that forms graduates who possess critical intelligence, thoughtful citizenship, and compassionate service. The University offers 34 majors and 49 minors in the liberal arts, sciences, business, nursing and professional studies; as well as master's and continuing education degrees and professional certificate programs. For more information about Assumption University, please visit www.assumption.edu.

QCC announces Fall 2020 Dean and Merit Lists

W O R C E S T E R — Quinsigamond Community College has released its Fall 2020 Semester Dean and Merit Lists. A total of 577 students were named to the College's Dean's List and 953 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.

QCC's Dean's List Fall 2020 Semester

Auburn: Kiara Almeida, Casey Clouthier, Gracie Curtis, Samantha Deso,

Aidan Foley, Kevin Foley-Foster, Catherine Forde, Rebecca Forrett, Lauren Francis, Dawson Gemme, Collin Hines, Luke LaBonte, Hailey Martell, Quinne Masiello, Benjamin Rackett, Xabriana Santiago, Meloney Thapa, Rheina Viruet, Makenzie Ward

Blackstone: Colin Johnson, Erin McDonald, Cassidy Tellstone, Patricia Wozniak

Charlton: Elaine Bond, Alaina Chiminiello, Lauryn Dawson, Rebekah Diaz, Natasha Emco-Rollins, Kimberly Kreig, Paige Leite, Alexandria Macaruso, Collin Mulcahy, Jeffrey Pearlstein, Kassidy Robertson, Gabriel Varner

Fiskdale: Drew Darger, Warren Zelenak

Southbridge: Jamal Blyther, Rayann Carl, Jaime Fuentes, Jessica Harvey, Lizzette Hernandez, Melynda Marcato, Eridon Mehmeti, Christina

Ruberti, Justin Santiago, Juan Velasco

Spencer: Dylan Connors, Judith Hickman, Nelmarie Irizarry, Jennifer Jarmulowicz, Ashley Leighton, Tonya Morrill, Kevin O'Rourke, Sofia Ocana, Kyle Paquette, Brian Payson, Jade Shultz, Josephine Tang, Dustin VanDyke

Sturbridge: Megan Curboy, Abigail Glazebrook, Jason Hastings, Bonnie Hensley, Alyssa Lalashius

Webster: Carolyn Almanzar, Gutierrez, Anthony Barnardo, Abigail Biernacki, Katelyn DiTullio, Audrey Ducharme, Anna Israelian, Joshua Kichar, Chime Lama, Antonia Lopez, Makenzie MacGregor, Anne Marie Markiewicz, Joe Ramos, Alicia Rogalski, Orion Walker

QCC's Merit List Fall 2020 Semester

Auburn: Zahraa Alshammari, Gabriella Amoros, Tatiana Baez, Michelina Balsavich, Dawn Bombard, Elizabeth Burch-Elder, Loni Camdzic, Chantal Champagne, Hannah Chapdelaine, Madison Cove, Kali Daniels, Adam Eastty, Giselle Escobar-Alegria, Kirsten Farfan, Brian Lynch, Adrian Marin, Emma Martin, Indra Nagassar, Katelyn Pike, Abigail Randall, Haley Rivers, James Robertson, Alexis Rodney Chretien, Laura Ruzzoli, Matthew Seaman, Brian Smith, Lina Un, Jonathon Wambach, Cheryl Wheeler

Blackstone: Alexa Boyt, Kelly Buurma, Jill Johnson, Gabriella Piette, Justyne Tellstone, Jason Torrey

Charlton: Rasa Auskalnyte, Leslie Chaves, Riley French, Victoria Gaspar, Lucas Lanier, Karina Lareau, Caroline Lawson, Chase

Mannila, Brianna Ramsden, Jennifer Vezina

Charlton Depot: Kayla Simons

Fiskdale: Alexis Carson

Southbridge: Amanda Alicea, Kendra Alicea, Anyelyn Alvarado, Kandy Alvarado, Karl Benkert, Jean Boucher, Gabbriel Burrows, Monique Caissie, Phillip Cepeda, Sol Cruz, Lesliann DeLeon, Lisa Dennis, Ashley Deorsey-McNeaney, Breanna Filion, Maria Hernandez-Santos, Jennifer Lang, Courtney Menard, Devin Molina, Kyle Morrill, Erik Newton, Krystal Pagan, Matthew Porra, Kaidy Ramirez, Shantell Ritchotte, Kelsea Santa, Austin Skarnes, Ashley Stevens, Kristopher Stevens

Spencer: Courtney Barry, Carley Burns, Draven Casey, Nicole Dayutis, Andrew De Klerk, Thomas Fuller, Melissa Groccia, Joseph

Hamel, Gabriel Kankam, Shadia Kousi, Samantha Lackey, Kelly LeBeau, Rhiannon McIntyre, Danielle Provencher, Jennifer Reilly, Mark Robillard, Whitney Simonovitch, Leif Torres

Sturbridge: Colleen Blackmore, Norma Cignarella, Tiondra DeBoise, Megan Faford, Leandra Giguere, Nolan Kingman, Mandy Koska, Alexander Starr

Webster: Julia Bileau, Danielle Cerasoli, Courtney Currier, Stephen Danso, Lynn Fellman, Kaylie Gendreau, Jill-Anne Godbout, Madeleine Grillo, Natalie Guzman, Timothy Hansen, Champayne Leshore, Kelly Marcoux, Nathan Phelps, Matthew Rakowski, Elena Ralph, Genesis Rodriguez, Sarah Mae San Agustin, Sara Soule, Brian Tvelia, Maria Verdejo, Hannah Waldron, Danielle Zecco

Nichols College students named to Fall 2020 Honors List

DUDLEY — Many hard-working students at Nichols College in Dudley have achieved Dean's List or President's List honors during the fall 2020 semester.

The Dean's List and President's List give recognition to those students who achieve high grades during a single semester. In order to be included on the Dean's List, a student must have a minimum grade point average of 3.5 for at least 12 undergraduate credit-hours and must have received no grades below B- during the semester. Students whose semester grade point average is 3.85 or higher for at least 12 undergraduate credit-hours and no grades below B- will receive President's List honors.

Lauren Duquette of Auburn has achieved Dean's List honors.

Desiray Hayes of Auburn has achieved Dean's List honors.

Kelly Ngo of Auburn has achieved Dean's List honors.

About Nichols College

Nichols College is a college of choice for business and leadership education as a result of its distinctive career-focused and leadership-based approaches to learning, both in and out of the classroom, and through impactful research and professional education. Students thrive in a learning and living environment that is supported by an experiential business curriculum and a strong liberal arts foundation aimed at transforming them into tomorrow's leaders. Nichols also offers master's degrees in business, leadership, accounting, and counterterrorism, as well as a range of certificate programs, to promote career advancement for today's professionals.

Sophia Mazzone of Auburn presents at Lasell University Symposium

NEWTON — Sophia Mazzone, a Lasell University student from Auburn (01501), presented at the University's Fall Career Readiness Symposium in December.

Mazzone was on the social media team for Polished, Lasell's award-winning, student-produced fashion and culture magazine. The Fall issue of Polished was released during Symposium.

The December 2020 event showcased the work of Mazzone and more than 150 other students in a dynamic digital format, a triumph for flexible teaching and learning amid COVID-19. The December 2020 event was reimagined to celebrate and showcase the ties between career preparedness and Connected Learning, thanks to a three-year grant from the Davis Educational Foundation.

All Symposium presentations focused on four of the National Association of Colleges and Employers' (NACE) career-readiness competencies: Global and Intercultural Fluency, Professional and Work Ethic, Leadership, and Career Management.

"The Fall Career Readiness Symposium showcased student work and experiences, especially ways in which students have applied Connected Learning to develop their careers through internships," said Provost Eric Turner. "The event highlighted competencies in leadership and global/intercultural fluency with an emphasis on ways our students lead and serve by example."

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



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

OPINION/COMMENTARY



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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
STONEBRIDGE PRESS PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Take your Vitamin D

Recent studies have suggested that Vitamin D is one way to build our immune systems against inflammation and viruses, including COVID-19. During summer months, it's easy to get our daily dose by eating fresh fruit and vegetables and by spending more time outdoors. However, with winter brings a challenge with shorter days and the ability to absorb the much needed vitamin.

During a trek to the top of a mountain last week, we met a doctor who went on to explain how, during winter months, the Vitamin D the sun gives off does not radiate to the levels high enough for our bodies to absorb it. He suggested taking Vitamin D supplements until about April, advice he takes himself. We can also find vitamin D in oily fish, mushrooms and certain dairy products.

Individuals who live in the Northeast during winter at higher latitudes are at higher risk of having a deficiency in the vitamin. Experts say adults should get at least 600 IU per day of Vitamin D.

It was during the 1980's when it was discovered that our immune cells had receptors for Vitamin D, and that it played a crucial role in the gastrointestinal tract. Experts suggest that the more vitamin D in your system, the less likely you will suffer from inflammatory bowel disease or Crohn's disease. Lung and gut health was also improved. Vitamin D offers aid to the gut by keeping the micro-biome healthy.

Of course, with all things, do not go overboard. It is recommended that individuals do not take more than 4,000IU per day to avoid any toxic side effects. Vitamin D aids in calcium absorption, so if those levels spike, calcium levels may spike, affecting the kidney. As with all things, always check with your doctor before taking any supplements.

On another note, this winter seems to be flying by for some of us. The holidays seem to have come and gone in a flash. We are just two weeks away from what many call the longest month of the winter, the dreaded February. Usually temperatures drop well below zero, and stay there for far too long. However, we find that if you embrace these winter months, enjoy your snowy walks and hot cocoa you might actually find yourself missing these chilly, refreshing days when the extreme heat hits this summer.

Readers Reveal their Favorite Tips and Tricks

The holidays are over and we're all looking forward to a better 2021! Meanwhile, readers took time out this month to share their favorite ideas to make life a little easier! Read on for the latest round of hints from readers:

Some like it hot; some, not so much. This reader's quick and easy flavor fix gets it just right:

If you like ketchup or hot sauce on your eggs or any other dish, but find the ketchup too mild or the hot sauce too spicy try mixing them together for the perfect combo!

Annie Wuelfing
East Brookfield, MA

This space saving tip repurposes a kitchen tool in the bathroom:

I have a hint for the paper. I actually use this one and want to pass it along.

In the bathroom, to hold the spare toilet paper rolls for future use, I use a kitchen paper towel roll holder. I find that three rolls of toilet paper can be stored on this smaller version of the larger stand up one that many people use.

The smaller version provides just enough storage for future rolls and is small enough to be hidden out of the way.

MC
Sturbridge, MA

Want perfect pasta? This reader's technique perfects "al dente" and saves energy in the process:

Here is an energy-saving hint with pasta: Bring the salted water for the pasta to a full boil, add pasta and stirring gently, boil 1 to 2 minutes only. Turn off the burner, cover the pot and leave on the burner for 2-3 minutes longer than the usual pasta cooking time. Test pasta; if needed, recover and leave an additional 1-2 minutes.

2nd pasta hint: before draining pasta always save a half cup or so of the pasta cooking water. If added to your pasta recipe near the end of cooking,



TAKE
THE
HINT

KAREN
TRAINOR

the pasta water will make the sauce silkier and sauce will adhere to the pasta better. With pasta casseroles, it can also be used to loosen up any leftovers in the pan for later use!

Virginia Brousseau
Willington CT

Old fashioned Mason jars are back in active duty with a myriad of new uses, and this reader shares her favs:

It seems someone else had shared about the tops from parmesan cheese fitting Mason jars, boy do they ever, pint and quart size alike, the fit.

My new use that works great is for ice tea for adults! Paper straws (no plastic) or pasta large noodle straws fit in the sprinkle side opening. Straws stay upright and larger flip/pour side of the lid once affixed to your beverage jar for the day, opens so you can refill easily. Just pour in more tea, soda, fruit juice etc. with very little or no touching! Each person opens their own flip-side for a refill!

Color code the straws, one color per person, or add those wine glass charms with a ribbon or pipe cleaner to the outside of your Mason Drink Glass!!!

Also, heavy enough and flip-pour side large enough opening to add ice by hand or hold beneath the ice dispenser if you have one!

Quart size Mason jars are heavy and stay upright on your stove top when cooking chili, soup or other messy dishes. It's the perfect place to stow a ladle or large spoon. It stays upright, collects drips into the jar and is easy to locate.

Mason jars are cheap at hardware stores, etc., work like a charm and clean up in a dishwasher – one more way they are COVID sanitize friendly!

Here are a couple of other tips:

The top of vegetable oil bottle equals one tablespoon. It sanitary to use it as a measure right into pan and reseal the bottle.

My trick each year putting the Christmas Tree and lights away: I have elongate spools or winders and I always wind the non-plug end onto the winder first. Note the very first bulb in the string (end away from the plug) is the "blinker" the set comes with. I plug the string in to test in one more time before winding the remainder on, with the plug last left exposed. Makes next year easy, plug in and test before stringing the whole tree and if one is burnt out or knocked loose, the blinker bulb moved over one at a time lets me test and repair a strand before placing on the tree.

Viola Bramel
Northbridge, MA

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

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

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

Pre-retirees: Plan now for health care costs



FINANCIAL
FOCUS

DENNIS
ANTONOPOULOS

If you're close to retirement, you'll have several financial issues to consider. But you'll want to pay attention to one of the most important of these issues: health care costs. How can you prepare yourself for these expenses? First, get an early start on estimating health care costs. More than two-thirds of those planning to retire in the next 10 years say they have no idea what their health and long-term care costs will be in retirement, according to the Edward Jones/Age Wave Four Pillars of the New Retirement study. And some people don't worry much about these costs, which may be considerable, thinking that Medicare will pay for most of them.

While Medicare does cover many medical expenses, it also has its own costs. You probably won't pay a premium for Part A (inpatient/hospital coverage), since you likely had this cost deducted from your paycheck when you were working. But if you are hospitalized, you'll have to pay deductibles and coinsurance (the percentage of costs you pay after you've paid your deductible). Part B (doctor's visits) requires a premium, deducted from your Social Security checks, and you must pay an out-of-pocket deductible. After you meet this deductible for the year, you typically pay 20% of the Medicare-approved amount for most doctor's services. And when you enroll in Part D (prescription drug plan), you will likely also have to pay a monthly premium, an annual deductible and coinsurance or copays.

To help pay for the Medicare deductible, coinsurance and copayments, you may want to get supplemental insurance, known as Medigap. Premiums for Medigap vary, depending on the plan you choose.

As an alternative to original Medicare, you could select Medicare Advantage (sometimes called Part C). Medicare Advantage plans are offered by private companies approved by Medicare, but the benefits and costs vary by plan. These plans generally will incorporate Medicare Parts A and B and will provide additional medical coverage, such as prescription drugs.

When you incorporate all the above, the annual out-of-pocket costs for traditional medical expenses likely will be about \$4,500 to \$6,500 per year, per person – not insignificant, but certainly a number that can be addressed by careful planning.

But there's one more expense to keep in mind: long-term care. The average cost of a private room in a nursing home is more than \$100,000 per year, according to the insurance company Genworth. And Medicare typically pays few of these expenses.

Clearly, between regular medical costs associated with Medicare or those not covered by it, and costs resulting from the possible need for long-term care, your health care bills can mount. To meet these costs, you need to plan ahead – and take action.

For example, it's essential that you incorporate health care expenses into your overall financial strategy. You can also work with a financial professional to run some "what-if" analyses to see if your strategy would be derailed by a potential long-term care stay. And the professional you work with may be able to suggest specific protection vehicles that can help you meet the costs of long-term care.

The best time to prepare for your health care costs during retirement is well before you retire. So, if you haven't already started, now is the time to do so. When it comes to paying for health care, the fewer surprises, the better.

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

Changed

BY S.J. SHEPERD
AUBURN

We're calling for You Lord,
in the middle of the night.
Life has changed for everyone,
it's time to do what's right.

We're lost and we don't know
exactly what to do,
Desperate for some answers
we're crying out to you,

You love the ones who love you,
You love the one's who don't.
Each one has a chance to choose You,
some will - but some just won't.

Time is of the essence,
it's beginning to unwind.
We don't want to be lost here,
it's You we need to find.

A kind & loving Father
is who You really are.
Are you near to us, dear Lord,
or are you very far?

No longer standing up,
we are now down on our knees.
Have mercy on us, forgive us,
it's You we want to please.

We've sinned against You,
but we want a fresh, new start.
We say 'Jesus is our Lord,
please come into our heart.'

Just like that, we're born again,
and You really love us too.
Now we're your children,
You've made us all brand new.

I chose the title for this poem, for two reasons. One, life has changed for everyone since the Corona Virus outbreak. And two, when we choose to invite Jesus into our lives, we are changed forever.

LETTERS

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

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

But first, you have to write us!

Mail your letters to the Auburn News, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550.

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

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

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

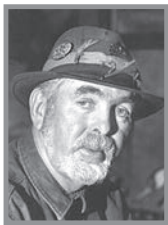
If you want to write a bit longer about a particular issue, maybe a guest Your Turn column is your cup of tea. If you do that, try to keep it between 700-800 words.

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

So, what are you waiting for? Start writing!



Just when you thought the ice was ready...



THE GREAT
OUTDOORS
.....
RALPH
TRUE

Just when we think we are going to have safe ice, Mother Nature decides to take it all away with a good rainstorm and mild temperatures. With only five weeks left for making safe ice locally, ice fishing is going to be another short season. Trying some fishing on the Cape ponds with Rod & reel is a good way to get out & do some fishing. Some of the ponds that are a short drive from the valley include Hamblin Pond, Cliff Pond, and Mashpee Pond. They are heavily stocked with trout in the spring & fall.

Hamblin Pond is a favorite of mine, and has provided some great

trout fishing all season long. Fishing at the beach area at Hamblin, is the best, and launching a small boat or Kayak is easy. Be sure to wear your life preserver if you are fishing from a boat. The beach area has a slow shallow draft, and wearing a good pair of waders can have you right into some impressive trout, which consist mainly of Rainbow & Brook trout. Shiners and grubs are the ideal bait for catching trout, not to forget the Power Bait line.

Massachusetts Wildlife recently signed a conservation restriction in the towns of Shutesbury, Pelham, & Leverett. The 2,038-acre parcel of property will ensure that the land will be open to the public, for all outdoor activities for many years to come. The land is known as the Walter Cowsls ,Jones Working Forest.



The latest report on the Massachusetts 2020 deer harvest for 2020, came close to breaking the 2018 deer harvest record, with archers again having the highest number of deer harvested. The numbers are as follows: Youth deer hunt 120, Paraplegic hunt 2, Archery 6,552, Shotgun 4,855, Primitive arms, 2,802, for a state total of 14,331. The numbers are preliminary, and could change a bit.

Unfortunately, the cross-bow bill did not pass again last year.

This writer reported on the planned increase in the saltwater fishing license for 2022 in Mass. & raising the free license to 70 years old. Increases in the regular hunting and fishing license are also on the table for 2022. I understand that there will be a virtual meeting for license holders on zoom or some other

site, for those that may have any comments on the planned increases in the coming weeks. Stay Tuned!

The Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club membership chairperson Janice Neitz has set up a Venmo account for membership renewal this year because of the pandemic. You can e-mail her at uxbmembership@gmail.com if you have any questions. The club has also set out new application forms at the club that can be picked up any day. They need to be filled out and mailed or brought to the club with your check. Your 2021 membership can be picked up the following week.

The pond Chairman, Ed Gervis, reported that the pond will be stocked with trout this Friday. Depending on the ice condition of the pond, fishing may or may not start the same day. Be sure to check the

signs at the pond ,that show the pond is open or closed. Stay off of unsafe ice! Many clubs in the valley will not be stocking there pond this year because of unsafe ice. The spring derbys are still being planned!

Steelhead fishing in upstate New York was a bit slow, but started to pick up this week, according to Fat Nancy's Tackle Shop in Pulaski, N.Y. You need to be in top physical shape to do any type of fishing at this time of year, especially fishing on the Salmon River. For those that can make a trip to New York to fish for Steel Head, the rewards are great. This week's picture shows local legend, Dan Southwick with a nice steel head caught on an earlier trip.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!



GARDEN
MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA
MYERS

The beginning of a new year finds many gardeners preparing for the growing season ahead. Clearing space to start seeds indoors, inventorying seeds and supplies, and ordering seeds, plants, and more are usually part of the process.

While organizing, you may uncover seeds from past seasons. Do not discard these just yet. When seeds are stored properly, many can last from one to five years or more.

Seeds stored in a cool location like the refrigerator in an airtight container maintain their viability best. But even those stored in less-than-ideal conditions may surprise you. Older seeds may still sprout once they pass their average life expectancy, but you are likely to see a reduction in the success rate.

The type of seed also influences how long seeds can be stored and remain viable. Start by checking the expiration

date on the seed packet. Onions, parsley, and parsnip seeds usually last one year. Corn, okra, and peppers two years; beans and peas for three years; tomatoes, turnips, beets, chard, and watermelon four years; and Brussels sprouts, cabbage, muskmelons, radishes, and spinach last for five years.

The same principles apply to saved flower seeds. Marigold and zinnia seeds can maintain good viability for two to five years; ageratum, nasturtium, sunflowers, and yarrow for three to five years; monarda four years, and calendula for four to six years.

But the longer you grow plants, the more likely you are to push the limits. This often results in unexpected success or valuable insight for future gardening endeavors.

When in doubt use this quick-and-easy test to see if your seeds will sprout. Place ten seeds on a damp paper towel. Roll up the towel with seeds inside, place in a plastic bag and store in a warm location.

After a week or so, unwrap the paper towel and check the seeds for sprouting. If nothing has happened, rewrap the

seeds and wait a few more days.

If all the seeds have sprouted, you have 100% germination and can plant the seeds as recommended on the package. If only half the seeds sprout, for example, you will need to plant the seeds twice as close together to compensate for the lower germination rate.

The sprouted seeds can be planted indoors or out depending on the time of year, available space, and your climate.

If none of the seeds sprout, consider breaking out the glue and getting the family involved in turning these leftover seeds into works of art. Select a variety of sizes, shapes, and colors to create your masterpiece on wood or heavyweight card stock. Large seeds like beans, peas and corn are easy for crafters of all ages to handle. Use tweezers for finer seeds that add detail and texture to your creation.

Testing seeds now can help you save money when placing your seed order. You can focus your planting budget on new seeds and supplement with your existing inventory.

Melinda Myers is the author of



Melinda Myers

Older seeds may still sprout, but it is likely there will be a reduction in the success rate.

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

LEGALS

MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by Thomas Michniewicz and Carly J. Gustafson to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Drew Mortgage Associates, Inc., its successors and assigns, dated October 26, 2005 and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 37651, Page 16 as affected by a Loan Modification recorded on January 14, 2015 in Said Registry of Deeds at Book 53262, Page 352, subsequently assigned to New York Community Bank by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Drew Mortgage Associates, Inc., its successors and assigns by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 51751, Page 37, subsequently assigned to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee for Towd Point Master Funding Trust 2017-PM13 by New York Community Bank by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 59067, Page 335, subsequently assigned to FirstKey Mortgage, LLC by U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee for Towd Point Master Funding Trust 2017-PM13 by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 61620, Page 25, subsequently assigned to Towd Point Mortgage Trust 2019-3, U.S. Bank National Association, as Indenture Trustee by Firstkey Mortgage, LLC by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 61620, Page 28 for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at 11:00 AM on January 29, 2021 at 56 Barnes Street, Auburn, MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit: The land with the buildings thereon situated in Auburn, Worcester County, Massachusetts, on the southerly side of Barnes Street, bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at the northwesterly corner of the premises herein conveyed on the southerly side of Barnes Street at a drill hole in a stone wall; THENCE N. 80° 08' 30" E. by the southerly side of said Barnes Street, one hundred sixty (160) feet to a point;

THENCE S. 9° 51' 30" E. by Lot No. 2, as shown on the plan hereinafter mentioned, two hundred sixty (260) feet to a point; THENCE S. 80° 08' 30" W. by land now or formerly of George E. Kowszik et al, one hundred fifty-three and fifty hundredths (153.50) feet to a point; THENCE N. 11 deg. 17' 30" W. following a stone wall and land of owner unknown, two hundred sixty and eight hundredths (260.08) feet to the point of beginning. Containing according to said plan 40,761 square feet, more or less. Being shown as Lot 1 on a "Plan to show division of property in Auburn and Millbury, Massachusetts, owned by George and Anthony Kowszik, dated 12 April 1967, by Kenneth Shaw" recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 318, Page 53.

Being the same premises conveyed to the Mortgagors by deed dated 16 September, 2005 and recorded at the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 37651, Page 14.

The premises are to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, encroachments, building and zoning laws, liens, unpaid taxes, tax titles, water bills, municipal liens and assessments, rights of tenants and parties in possession, and attorney's fees and costs.

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS (\$5,000.00) in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or money order will be required to be delivered at or before the time the bid is offered. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Foreclosure Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid within thirty (30) days from the sale date in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee's attorney. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall

control in the event of an error in this publication. TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

Towd Point Mortgage Trust 2019-3, U.S. Bank National Association, as Indenture Trustee
Present Holder of said Mortgage,
By Its Attorneys,
ORLANDS PC
PO Box 540540
Waltham, MA 02454
Phone: (781) 790-7800
19-008368
January 8, 2021
January 15, 2021
January 22, 2021

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Keith Jacobson to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Mortgage Network, Inc., dated June 28, 2018 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 59018, Page 240 of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:

Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Mortgage Network, Inc. to PennyMac Loan Services, LLC, recorded on August 14, 2019, in Book No. 60873, at Page 132

for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 2:00 PM on February 19, 2021, on the mortgaged premises located at 5 Water Street, Auburn, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT:

The land with the buildings thereon located at 5 Water Street, Auburn, Worcester County, Massachusetts, situated on the westerly side of Water Street, bounded and described as follows, to wit:

BEGINNING at the northeasterly corner thereof on the westerly line of Water Street and at the southeasterly corner of land now or formerly of the American Steel and Wire Company; THENCE southerly by said Water Street, one hundred (100) feet; THENCE by land now or formerly of Joseph C. Grenier, S, 73 degrees W, one hundred forty-two (142) feet; THENCE by land now or formerly of

Amedie J. Guillet N. 17 degrees W., one hundred twenty-seven and 5/100 (127.5)feet to land now or formerly of American Steel and Wire Company; THENCE easterly by said Company's land one hundred forty-five (145) feet to the point of beginning. Being the same premises conveyed to said Grantor by deed of P&G Homes LLC dated December 15, 2017 and recorded in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 58236 Page 74.

For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 59018, Page 238 and a confirmatory deed recorded with said registry in Book 59020, Page 279

These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC
Present holder of said mortgage

By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.

150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458

(617)558-0500

17790

January 22, 2021

January 29, 2021

February 5, 2021

REAL ESTATE



Jules Lusignan



T.A. King



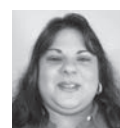
Maureen Cimoch



Ellen Therrien



John Kokocinski



Adrienne James

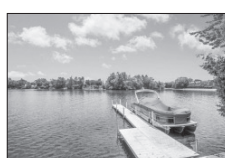


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WEBSTER LAKE – 7 Cedar Drive! Middle Pond! 8 Rm English Tudor across the street from w/Direct Waterfront Lot – Full Lake Access! Offering the Option of an In-Law Apartment or Plenty of Room for Family & Friends! Entry Foyer enters from 3 Sides w/locked door access into the house, stairway to the lower level in-law and the convenience of a Half Bath! The 1st Floor features Applianced Kit w/Breakfast Bar, Open Floor Plan – Frplcd Beamed Cathedral Ceiling Great Rm (Dining & Living Rms), Comfortable Bdrm & Hall Full Bath w/Laundry! Upstairs to the Spacious Master w/Master Bath & Slider to Lake View Deck! Additional Bdrm w/Built-ins! Lower Level with 2nd Kitchen, Open Dining & Living Area w/Brick Hearth, Full Bath & Possible (4th) Bdrm! Central Air! Huge Carport! Detached 3 Car Garage! Lakefront Lot w/Deck, Concrete Patio & Boat Dock! Take Advantage of the Low Interest Rates & make this House Your Home! Summer's Just Around the Corner! **\$489,900.00**

WEBSTER – 6 Nicholas Circle! 8+ Rm Center Hall Colonial! 1.22 Acres! Sought After Neighborhood! Great Commuter Location Accessible to Many Major Routes! Spacious Stainless Steel Applianced Cabinet Packed Eat-in Kitchen & Formal Dining Rm! 23 x 24 Frplce Family Rm w/Cathedral Ceiling & Slider to the Huge Deck! Front to Back Living Rm! 1/2 Bath w/Laundry Closet! The 2nd Floor You'll Find the Comfortable 12X17 Master w/Walk-in Closet & Full Bath w/Linen Closet! 2 Additional Bedrooms plus an Office/Nursery/Bedroom all w/Ample Closets! 2nd Full Bath off the Hall w/Linen Closet! 2.5 Total Baths! Lower Level Ideal for Storage or Future Expansion! 2 Car Garage w/Electric Openers w/Dble Door Entry to the Basement for Moving Larger Items aka Boys Toys! 2 Z Oil Heat, 2 A/C, Separate Oil Water Heater! Irrigation! Don't Delay! **\$418,900.00**

WEBSTER LAKE – 124-2 Gore Road! 1.68 Acres! Private Retreat Lot with 320' of Road Frontage and 200' of Waterfront! Located in North Pond! Beautiful Panoramic Views! Sucker Brook Cove! Lot has been split from a larger parcel! Survey, Home Rendering and Conservation Items Addressed - Order of Conditions Pending! This is the Opportunity to Build a Unique Home with Spectacular Views! Direct Lake/Boat Access! Water and Sewer in the Road! Walk to Restaurants! Surrounded by Wildlife, including Swans and Eagles! **\$175,000.00**



WEBSTER LAKE – 112 Gore Rd! NORTH POND! Sucker Brook Cove! 8 Rm, 3 Bdrm, 1.5 Bath Ranch is Ready for You! Southwestern Exposure! Gorgeous Sunsets! Unique Waterfront! An Open Floor Plan! Lake Views from Nearly All Rooms! 2x6 Construction! Energy Efficient Blinds in Every Room! 4 Oil Tanks - Fill Up Once a Year! C/Air! Gas Fireplace! Whole House Fan! Meticulously Cared For! Large workshop! 3 Car Garage! Carport! 2 Sheds w/Electric! Back Yard is Perfect for Family Gatherings! Plenty of Off Street Parking! Summer is Here! **\$539,900.00**

WEBSTER – 55 Hillside Ave! 7 Rm, 4 Bedroom Cape! Great Highway Access! Walk to Memorial Beach! View July 4th Fireworks from Your Backyard! Liv Rm w/Hrds, Ceiling Fan & Pellet Stove! Eat-in Kit! Fam Rm! Full Bath! 1st Flr Master w/Hrds & Ceiling Fan! Oil Heat! Vinyl Sided! Younger Roof! Replacement Windows! Town Services! Fenced Yard! 1 Car Garage! **\$239,900.00**

WEBSTER LAKE – 20 Bates Point Rd! Middle Pond! Western Exposure w/Panoramic Lake Views! Beautiful Sunsets! 7 Rms, 3 Bdrms, 2.5 Baths! Recently Renovated from Top to Bottom! Move-in Ready! Professionally Landscaped! Exterior Stonework Front & Back! Open Floor Plan! 1st Level w/Huge Family Rm w/Lake View & Access out to Stone Patio, 1/2 Bath & Laundry, Travertine Tile Throughout! 2nd Level w/Custom Granite Kitchen w/Stainless Steel Appliances, Center Island w/Seating & Large Pantry! Spacious Living Rm w/Sliders to 14X34 Composite Deck! Dining Area w/Water Views, Hardwood Floors Throughout, Bath w/Tiled Shower, Guest Bedroom or use as Office! Lake Facing Master Bedroom w/Walk-in Closet & Private Deck! Bathroom w/Double Sinks, Tiled Shower & Separate Tub! Comfortable 3rd Bedroom w/Lots of Storage! Level Lot w/Room for Entertaining and Enjoying All The Lake has to Offer! **\$749,000.00**

CHARLTON – 74 Daniels Road! Completely Renovated 9 Rm, 4 Bdrm, 2.5 Bath Gambrel w/Attached In-Law Apt! Picturesque 3.39 Acres! Deeded Water Rights to South Charlton Reservoir! Extensive Updates! House w/New Roof, Siding, Kit, Bthrms, Windows, Int Doors, Electrical, Flooring, R60 Insulation in Attic, Water Heater, Well Pump & More! In-Law w/Open Flr Plan, Kit, Bdrm w/Walk-in Closet, Full Bath w/Laundry! Both Fully Applianced! 2 New Driveways, Irrigation, AG Pool! Shed! Security! Generator Hookup! **\$489,900.00**



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DUDLEY - 22 ROBERTS ROAD
Lovely 3 bedroom Ranch! Single door 2 car garage with storage! Eat-in kitchen. Fieldstone Fire-placed Living Room! 3 bedrooms, hardwood floors, Remodeled bathroom! Lower Level fieldstone walls/fireplace! In-ground pool! - 3.58 ACRES includes extra lot. **\$312,000.**



SORRY, SOLD!

OXFORD - 12 WINTER STREET
Home "Sweet" Home! TOTALLY Renovated! New Roof - Updated Electrical - New Heating System!! Bedroom, 1.5 Bath - 2 Story Conventional Home. Dead-End St. Rare find, Large Lot .77 Acre - Inside - Neutral Palette of Complimentary Paint Colors throughout the Entire House! Loads of Character! **\$281,000.**

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THOMPSON - 25 TERRACE DRIVE



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Off Thompson Hill! At the end of a Dead end road well maintained & loved! Kitchen with double wall ovens, gas cook-top, granite countertops. Formal dining room, Fireplaced Living room! master, on the first floor. 4 bedrooms total! 2nd full bath -second level. 2 car garage! assisted sale **\$325,000.**

WEBSTER - 103 UPPER GORE RD



SORRY, SOLD!

Home "Sweet" Home! TOTALLY Renovated! New Roof - Updated Electrical - New Heating System!! Bedroom, 1.5 Bath - 2 Story Conventional Home. Dead-End St. Rare find, Large Lot .77 Acre - Inside - Neutral Palette of Complimentary Paint Colors throughout the Entire House! Loads of Character **\$281,000.**

LAND WEBSTER/OXFORD/DUDLEY/DOUGLAS

Oxford - 4 Leicester St - Approx. 8.47 ACRES! River Front-age Possible to be Subdivided! **\$89,900**
Webster - Upper Gore w/View of the Lake! 1+ Acre! Artesian Well, Septic Design & Conservation - DONE. **\$115,000.**
Webster - Cooper Road 2 Buildable Lots! Water & Sewer Access. Zoned Lake Res! **Each \$24,500.**
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OXFORD - 4 SPICEBUSH LANE



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Ranch with lovely landscaped yard, 2 bedroom, 1 bath home, with 1/2 bedroom, 1 bath in-law attached. Fireplace with wood stove insert, in-law has a pellet stove. There is a 2 car detached garage! assisted sale **\$240,000.**

SOUTHBRIDGE - 14 SERVANT WAY



SORRY, SOLD!

Young ranch with heated 2 car garage, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Efficient Propane heat, central air! Open floor plan! gas fireplace! Master Suite w/bathroom, Master California Closet! assisted sale **\$279,900.**

OXFORD - 115 CHARLTON ROAD



SORRY, SOLD!

Beautiful home set back off road providing privacy and oversized yard. Kitchen w/granite counters & abundance of cabinets. Cathedral ceilings kitchen, dining and living room. Open floor plan! large deck with large backyard through sliders in dining room. Hardwood floors! Tile baths. Master bedroom/master bath! Finished walkout lower level w/bat 2 car garage. Extras: above ground pool! **\$369,900.**

WEBSTER - 20 KINGSBURY



SORRY, SOLD!

NEW TO THE MARKET! Custom Sprawling Split 2800+ SF! Central Air! Kitchen, Dining Room, Cathedral Ceiling Living Room, 3 Bedrooms! Granite Counters & New Flooring! New Boiler - Hot Water Tank - Oil Tank! FULL finished Lower Level w/ Full Bath & Laundry! THERE'S MORE! 2 Car Garage, renovated to include Hydro Heat, AC & 1/2 Bath! Great for Fitness Studio, Game Room or Home School! Over 1.4 Acres! **\$360,000.**

WEBSTER - 52 CUDWORTH ROAD



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1.99 ACRE INDUSTRIAL ZONED LOT! GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE & WORK FROM HOME! Amazing 1790 Antique Colonial! Undergone major updates & renovations, maintaining Antique Charm! Great Room graced by an Open Hearth Stone Fireplace! Soaring Cathedral Ceilings! **\$499,900.**

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Webster Lake - 100 Lakeside Ave



SORRY, SOLD!

WEBSTER LAKE! PANORAMIC VIEWS! BEAUTIFUL SUNSETS! Extraordinary Waterfront Contemporary! Architect designed with Lake Living in mind, Custom Built with Attention to High Quality & Detail. Outstanding open concept, water view from almost every room. Nicely situated on a .25 acre level peninsula, 180'+/- prime lake frontage! Enhanced by a all natural shoreline! All you need to live is located on the 1st floor. Grand 2 story foyer, cozy fireplaced living room, gourmet kitchen, lake facing dining / formal dining room, media room & spacious 1st floor guest BR Suite w/ private bath. Incredible 2nd floor fireplaced lake-facing corner master suite w/luxurious private bath, 3 more 2nd floor BRs & full bath! Something Special! **Remember, Timing Is Everything!** **\$1,075,000.**

Lake Shirley - 647 Reservoir Rd



SORRY, SOLD!

Lakefront! Lake Shirley! Modern Flare on a Lakefront Colonial! 1st level Formal large entry foyer, living room, gas fireplace, chef kitchen, Impala black granite, center island, 3 season porch, overlooking the lake. 1st FL bedroom suite w/ shower and jacuzzi tub. 2nd floor Master Suite! Lower level Summer kitchen, full bath, game room. Crown moulding & hardwood floors throughout, wired sound system, radiant floors. oversize 2 car garage. Additional Guest House! assisted sale **\$1,040,000.**



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NICHOLS

continued from page A1

practice skills and develop competencies," said Jacobs.

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DA offers grants for safe post-prom & graduation activities

REGION – Worcester County District Attorney Joseph Early, Jr., is helping local students end the school year safely.
Worcester County high schools are invited to apply for mini-grants to support safe after-prom and post-graduation activities for students. These events offer drug-free and alcohol-free alternatives to high-risk activities with no supervision.
Recognizing that students have gone through a long, challenging year due to COVID-19, DA Early understands that kids will be eager to head out and celebrate their accomplishments this spring. As vaccinations ramp up and events resume across the state, Early’s team wants to make sure all students enjoy themselves safely in the “new normal.”
“Grants will be given to schools to support existing events, or to assist schools in establishing a new event,” read a statement released by Early’s office. “While none of us know what the status of school activities will be in the spring, we are cautiously optimistic and accepting applications for funding requests.”
The grants are funded by the Massachusetts Office of Victim Assistance Drunk Driving Trust Fund. The applications for funding requests are due by **Feb. 12**.

For more information about the grant opportunity, contact Ellen Miller at ellen.miller@mass.gov. You can also reach her by calling 774-317-2159.



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