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Friday, September 11, 2020

# Bay Path alum earns nursing degree at American International College



Nicole Kline

SPRINGFIELD — Nicole Kline, LPN, a 2016 graduate of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy in Charlton, graduated from the American International College with a Bachelor's in nursing degree, Cum Laude.

What is impressive about Kline in her nursing journey is how she excelled in both the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy to become an LPN and the American International College to become an RN. While at Bay Path, Kline completed the 10-month rigorous curriculum, was induct-

ed to the National Technical Honor Society, and passed the NCLEX-PN the first try! At the American International College, Kline was inducted to the National Honor Society, earned her BSN, Cum Laude and passed the NCLEX-RN the first try! Nicole Kline, LPN is now Nicole Kline, BSN, RN! She is employed at the Life Care Center in Wilbraham.

Proud parents Mark and Cyndi Kline share in the joy and pride of Nicole's accomplishments.

# Kennedy leads Democratic primaries in Dudley and Charlton

BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON – The numbers are in, and while incumbent Democratic Sen. Edward Markey might have bested challenger Joseph Kennedy III in state-wide in the primary for the 2020 election, Dudley and Charlton voters chose to support Kennedy when they took to the polls on Sept. 1.

Kennedy earned 940 votes in Dudley and 1,031 votes in Charlton to Markey's 590 votes and 850 votes in each town, respectively. Kennedy dominated the two small-town communities on a day where he earned much of the support from Worcester County but failed to unseat his rival for the nomination. Markey took 55 percent of the overall vote from voters in the Commonwealth while Kennedy became the first member of the famed political family to lose an election in Massachusetts.

On the Republican side, both Dudley and Charlton voted to support Kevin O'Connor as the GOP candidate for the Senate seat. O'Connor earned 370 votes in Dudley and 489 votes in Charlton opposed to his opponent Shiva Ayyandurai's 268 Dudley votes and 314 Charlton votes. O'Connor defeated Ayyandurai with 60 percent of the votes statewide to earn the right to contend against Markey in November.

In the race for the House of Representatives, Democratic Incumbent Richard Neal staved off a battle from Alex Morse easily winning the

primary with 59 percent of the votes and winning both Dudley, where he received 959 votes to Morse's 537, and Charlton, where he defeated Morse 1,184 votes to 649.

Looking at the state House and Senate seats, Republican incumbent Peter Durant look as if he will easily continue representing both Dudley and Charlton having no opposition from his own party in the primary or Democrats in the November vote. Ryan Fattman will continue to represent Dudley in the state Senate also having no opposition in the primary and no clear Democratic challenger for November. Republican Paul Frost has no opposition going into November to retain his seat as State Representative for Charlton. Democrat Anne Gobi easily retained her party's nomination for her seat in the state Senate representing Charlton and other towns, however she will have a Republican challenger as Steven Hall earned the GOP nomination during the primary running unopposed.

Finally, the Register of Probate vote saw incumbent Republican Stephanie Fattman win the GOP nomination unopposed. Democrat Kasia Wennerberg won the majority of the votes from both Dudley and Charlton however she was unable to earn enough votes throughout Worcester County to earn the nomination. Instead her challenge John Dolan will contend against Fattman for the position after earning 54 percent of the votes in the primary.

# COVID keeps school budget in flux

BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON – Many uncertainties remain for the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to loom over the new school year and beyond. As with many districts

across the state, finances are one of the biggest question marks with many different possible scenarios being examined for the rest of the fiscal year.

The district's financial status was one topic of discussion during a Regional School Committee meeting on Aug. 26,

where Director of Finance and Operations Richard Mathieu spoke candidly about the budget in his report saying that the FY 2021 spending plan is still very much "in flux."

"In normal years, this would be unthinkable, but given all the realities that have hit us all over the past six months

it really just draws a shrug of the shoulders. Certainty and finality are impossible at our level and even at the state level we still receive conflicting messages and statements that make planning a real challenge," Mathieu said.

Realistically, he said inaction on the federal level has proven

to be one of the biggest hurdles, as the federal government has not provided additional funding as state officials had anticipated. Looking ahead, Mathieu said the district still plans to apply for COVID relief grant funding which is expected to be discontinued at the conclusion

Please Read **BUDGET**, page **A13**

# Old Sturbridge Village celebrates Craft Weekend Sept. 19 & 20

STURBRIDGE — People of the early 19th-century were skilled artisans across many different trades and mediums, including pottery, woodworking, blacksmithing, quilting, tailoring and more. Recently, people of today have found inspiration in many of these mediums, using craft as a creative outlet and positive pastime during the COVID-19 pandemic. On Sept. 19 & 20, Old Sturbridge Village (OSV) will host its annual Craft Weekend, showcasing the major industries and crafts of the early 19th-century and their relevance and impact on life today.

New to the event this year, Old Sturbridge Village is hosting an "Exhibition of Craft" inviting members of the community to display items that they have created by hand, either as a hobbyist or professional maker, at

the Village. The showcase will accept items in a number of categories, including sewing, quilting, weaving, knitting, woodworking, metalworking, ceramic, leather-working, sketching and watercolor, at no fee to enter. Unlike a judged competition, the exhibition is intended to bring together a community of crafters during a time when craft plays a role in enriching daily life and inspiring so many.

Those wishing to enter the exhibition must pre-register online by Sept. 5. Exhibitors will be provided with a one-day complimentary admission ticket for taking part in the showcase.

Craft Weekend will dive into the more complicated or unique items and trades not normally displayed at the Village. Planned demonstrations in a variety of subjects have been adapted



for viewing outdoors, and feature a full schedule of events including:

- Tailoring
- Quilting
- Forging a Stake Anvil
- Bonnet Making

- Wool Dyeing and Knitting
- Book Binding
- Firing a Barrel
- Making Tin Coffee Pots

Please Read **OSV**, page **A13**



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# QCC’s early college program a direct pathway to higher education

WORCESTER — Students in the Worcester Public Schools and the surrounding communities have been taking advantage of Quinsigamond Community College’s Early College Program and the results have been promising. Early College Programs have become a way for high school

students to get a head start on college, by enabling them to earn college credits while still in high school, and according to the Baker-Polito Administration, the Early College program model has been successful. QCC has seen 42 percent of its Early College students enroll at the college within one year of taking early college courses during the program’s early beginnings.

In the first preliminary data analysis completed since the state’s Early College Initiative began in 2018, the findings showed that Massachusetts high school students who graduate from Early College programs are applying for Federal financial aid and are enrolling in college at significantly higher rates than their school or state peers. Data from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education showed that high school graduates who participated in Early College programs are enrolling in college at a rate that is 20 percentage points higher than their school or state peers; and their FAFSA completion rates are 25 percentage points higher than their school peers.

Since 2018, QCC has been providing Worcester Public Schools’ diverse student population with educational services, creating college equity access to more students who have historically been underserved. Data collected by QCC, found that of those students who participated in the college’s Early College Program during the 2018-2019 academic year, the largest participating student populations were Latinx (29.2 percent) and Black (28.8 percent).

“At a time when we see racial equity gaps widening, it is encouraging to see the impact of Early College as an effective strategy to propel Black and Latinx students to successful college completion,” said Higher Education Commissioner Carlos E. Santiago.

The state data also showed that when

outcomes for Black and Latinx students enrolled in Early College were compared with peers of the same race who were not enrolled in the program, Early College students of color attended college at higher rates. The differential between Black Early College graduates who enrolled in college and their Black school peers was 25 percentage points. Between Latinx early college program graduates and their Latinx school peers the difference was 30 percentage points.

“While the Commonwealth performs well in many education measures, the launch and growth of Early College is an important step forward in equitable access to college for all students and a proven way to close the college degree completion gap,” said Education Secretary James Peyser.

QCC has partnered not only with the seven Worcester Public High Schools, but also with 22 additional area Central Massachusetts High Schools. Students take classes that range from general education, business and healthcare, and fulfill their high school requirements while completing college credits.

“Our Early College Program is making such a difference in the lives of students. It is giving them a pathway to higher education and a way to realize their dreams and have a better life,” said QCC President Dr. Luis G. Pedraja.

According to QCC’s Director of Educational Partnerships K-12 & Early College Initiatives, Christina Hebert, the majority of high school students taking classes are juniors and seniors, with a small percent who are sophomores.

“Some students take two courses per semester and summer classes,” she said. “The goal of Massachusetts

Early College Programs is to have all high school students graduate with at least 12 college credits. The opportunity is there for students to graduate from high school and also earn a certificate or associate degree. Some students have graduated with 15 to 24 or more credits.”

To learn more about QCC’s Early College program, visit [www.qcc.edu/early-college](http://www.qcc.edu/early-college).

For more information about QCC, contact Josh Martin, Director of Institutional Communications at 508-854-7513 [orjmartin@qcc.mass.edu](mailto:orjmartin@qcc.mass.edu)

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CHURCH LISTINGS

- **Charlton Federated Church**, 64 Main St., Pastor James Chase, 248-5550, Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. [www.fedchurchcharlton.org](http://www.fedchurchcharlton.org)
- **Charlton Baptist Church**, 50 Hammond Hill Road, 248-4488, [www.charltonbaptist.org](http://www.charltonbaptist.org), Sunday worship 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.
- **Charlton City United Methodist**, 74 Stafford St. 248-7379, web site: [CharltonCityUMC.com](http://CharltonCityUMC.com), Sunday worship 10:30 am, Sunday School 9 a.m.
- **St. Joseph’s Church**, 10 H. Putnam Ext, 248-7862, [www.stjosephscharlton.com](http://www.stjosephscharlton.com), Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 p.m., Sunday Mass 8 a.m., Sunday Family Mass 10 a.m., Sunday Life/TEEN Mass 5 p.m., Weekday Mass Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30 a.m.
- **Hope Christian Fellowship**, 6 Haggerty Road, 248-5144
- **Assemblies of God Southern New England District Headquarters**, Route 20, 248-3771, [snedag.org](http://snedag.org), Office hours Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- **Lamblight Christian Church**, 37 Main Street - Grange building 1st Floor, Charlton, Ma 01507, Rev. Stephen Wade, (774) 452-2393 - Pastor’s Cell. Sunday Service 10:30am. [www.visitlamblight.com](http://www.visitlamblight.com)
- **New Life Fellowship A/G, SNED Chapel**, 307 Sturbridge Road, Rt. 20, Charlton, MA, Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

Reading the morning newspaper is the realist’s morning prayer.

George Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel



LEGALS

NOTICE OF SALE  
Town Vehicles

The Town of Charlton is seeking sealed bids from individuals seeking to acquire the following surplus vehicles:

1. 2006 Ford F350 One Ton Dump, unknown mileage VIN: 1FDWF37P16ED84404
2. 2008 Ford Pickup, unknown mileage, VIN: 1FIWF31578ED12397
3. 2013 Ford Explorer, 96,328 miles, VIN: 1FM5K8AR3DGA51562
4. 2011 Ford Crown Victoria, 85,736 miles, VIN: 2FABP7BV1 BX100530
5. 2011 Ford Crown Victoria, 131,188 miles, VIN: 2FABP7BV3BX100531

These surplus vehicles and items will be available for public inspection on Tuesday, September 15, 2020 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Please call 508-248-2209 for directions to their locations.

Bid packages for use must be picked up at the Town Administrator’s office, 37 Main St., Charlton MA 01507. The Town Administrator’s office is open M, Wand Th from 7:30am - 5:00 and Tuesday - 7 :30am - 7 :00pm. The office is closed on Fridays.

Sealed bid packages shall be addressed to the Office of the Town Administrator and should be submitted on the attached Bid Form, with the attached Non-Collusion Form, in a sealed envelope marked “Charlton Surplus”, with the bidders name, address and telephone number.


All sealed bids must be received by the Office of the Town Administrator, 37 Main Street, Charlton, MA 01507, no later than 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 23, 2020 at which time the bids will be opened publicly.

September 11, 2020

PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Ch 40A §10 & §11, the **Wales Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on September 24th, 2020 at the Wales Town Offices at 6:00 PM**, on the application of Mark & Michelle Daricek of 20 Sichols Colony Rd. For a special permit in terms of the Town of Wales Zoning By-law Sec. 4.2.2. The Town of Wales Zoning By-Law Sec. 4.2.2 states “A pre-existing non-conforming use or structure may not be extended, altered, or changed except by special permit...” Specifically, the applicant wishes to build a front porch along the front of the existing house. Any person interested and wishing to be heard on this application should refer to the town website ([www.townofwales.net](http://www.townofwales.net)) under zoning board agenda for the above date to participate virtually. If you have any questions or concerns please email [planning@townofwales.net](mailto:planning@townofwales.net)

September 11, 2020  
September 18, 2020



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Charlton Villager

ACCURACY WATCH

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

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

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

Yard Sale – Sat. 9/12/20 9-1:00




Some items available from an apartment clean out: small wooden 2-drawer file cabinet; large black TV stand; side wooden bed stand; misc. cookware and dishes; many various collections of elephants; Peanut Pals Sculptures by The Hamilton Collection (\$5 ea.); Protect Nature’s Innocents Collectibles (\$5 ea.); Eftanbee Legends Series George Burns doll (boxed); Franklin Mint Diana Princess of Wales porcelain doll (boxed); small wooden roll-down cabinet with key; many record albums and cassettes; 2 tall light oak wooden swivel chairs; stained glass lampshades; small black roller suitcase; used washer (\$35) and dryer (\$35); antique clothing armoire (56”x34”); round (6 ft.) wool braided handmade rug (\$25); grandfather clock; and other collectibles and odds and ends.

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Friday’s Child



Jaiden  
Age 6

Hi! My name is Jaiden and I love to snuggle!

Jaiden is a sweet and loving little boy of Caucasian descent. Those who know him best adore him and share that he can make you smile as soon as you see him. Once you start speaking to Jaiden, he will turn towards you to see who is visiting and will give you a wide grin. The more you speak to him, the more excited he gets. He absolutely loves to be held and is a very happy boy. All of the staff members in the program at which Jaiden resides, as well as his teachers at school, have fallen in love with him and are hoping that he finds his forever family soon.

Jaiden’s favorite activities include playing with the Singing Elmo that he received for Christmas and listening to music. He loves being in the pool and enjoys pushing off the wall and splashing around in the water. Jaiden is also able to engage in many activities at school such as arts and craft projects with the help of his teachers and aide. Jaiden enjoys going to school and is always happy to see his teachers. Jaiden is non-verbal, is wheelchair bound, and has been diagnosed with cortical blindness. He relies on 24/7 support and receives occupational, physical, vision, and speech therapy at his school.


Legally freed for adoption, Jaiden is seeking a loving and caring home that can understand the complexity of his needs. The staff at his program are committed to helping a pre-adoptive family make Jaiden comfortable and happy in a home setting. Jaiden has the potential to thrive in family of any constellation, either as an only child or with siblings (he very much enjoys being around other children). It is important to Jaiden that he maintains a relationship with his two siblings who are placed in another home.

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](http://www.mareinc.org). The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have a permanent place to call home.




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# Bay Path Regional Vocational High School Menu

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|--|--|---|--|
| <b>Breakfast: Full Price \$1.75<br/>Reduced \$0.30</b><br><b>Lunch: Full Price \$3.00<br/>Reduced \$0.40</b>   | <b>Breakfast</b><br>Pop Tart & Cereal<br>Fruit Cup<br>100% Fruit Juice<br>Choice of 1% white or Nonfat Chocolate Milk    | Choice of 1% white or Nonfat Chocolate Milk   | Sauce<br>Pepperoni Slices<br>Cucumber Slices<br>Fruit<br>Choice of 1% white or Nonfat Chocolate Milk   |
| <b>September 10th &amp; 11th Breakfast</b><br>Whole Grain Mini Chocolate Donuts<br>Craisins<br>100% Fruit Juice<br>Choice of 1% white or Nonfat Chocolate Milk | <b>Lunch</b><br>Turkey & Cheese Sub w/condiments<br>3 Bean Salad<br>Fruit<br>Choice of 1% white or Nonfat Chocolate Milk | <b>September 15th &amp; 18th Breakfast</b><br>Whole Grain Benefit Bar<br>Raisins<br>100% Fruit Juice  | <b>***Snacks will not be available to purchase.<br/>Bottled water can be purchased for \$1.25***<br/>**Menu Subject to Change Without Notice**<br/>**This institution is an equal opportunity provider**</b> |
| <b>September 14th &amp; 17th</b>   |  | <b>September 16th Breakfast</b><br>Whole Grain Cinnamon Bun<br>Fruit Cup<br>100% Fruit Juice<br>Choice of 1% white or Nonfat Chocolate Milk |                                        |
|  |  | <b>Lunch</b><br>Whole Grain Soft Pretzel w/Cheese   |  |

## Mosquito program proposal resurfaces in Charlton

**BY JASON BLEAU**  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – For the second time this year, the idea of spraying for mosquitos has become a major topic of discussion before the Charlton Board of Selectmen.

Back in February, Selectman Bill Borowski proposed the possibility of examining a contract with the Central Massachusetts Mosquito Project, or CMMP, that would have initiated an optional praying program for businesses and property owners to help reduce the local population of the insect especially after 2019’s outbreak of EEE. At the time, selectmen decided not to pursue the partnership which would have cost \$120,000 if approved siting it as exclusionary and expensive.

On Aug. 25, the topic was brought up again, this time by resident Kristin Kustigian, who, after researching the program, felt it would be a worthy investment of the town if the taxpayers were to support it.

“I looked at some of their citizen surveys. They have overwhelmingly wonderful results. People are very happy. They get service within one to three days when they call to have their own property prayed,” Kustigian said.

She also noted that the program examines “tire dumps,” which are prominent in Charlton and notable breeding grounds for mosquitos every year.

“They go in, they take all the tires out. They recycle them all. So, they get rid of these tire dumps where water basically fills the tire and they breed in the tires. I basically would call that a recycling effort. The public education component I think is really awesome too concerning the situation with public health viruses like West Nile and EEE,” Kustigian said.

According to the CMMP’s 2019 annual report, the program has served more than 50 communities including both Auburn, Millbury, Sturbridge, Webster and Worcester. After speaking with the project’s director Kustigian gave selectmen a quote of \$112,000 per year, less than the previous estimate, which would be paid out of local aid. She further explained that joining the project would require a vote of the people at a town meeting.

“This would really be up to the people. If they say yes then you can, if they say no then you can’t. That’s the only way to join. There’s no other way – I guess my main point was just to bring up a program for people to consider,” Kustigian said.

Selectmen reminded those viewing the livestreamed meeting that this wasn’t the first time this year this idea was brought up and Selectman Borowski publicly stated that he did not coordinate bringing it forward again with Kustigian. He acknowledged that selectmen already made their voices heard on the matter but reaffirmed his support for at least exploring the idea.

“At the time, the Board of Health and I believe the majority of the former board (of Selectmen) was not interested in moving forward. It’s a new board, new reality, it could be different – For all intents and purposes it is probably too late for this season so it would have to be next season,” Borowski said.

While selectmen didn’t shoot down the possibility of bringing the idea to a future town meeting, like in the spring, Selectmen David Singer, who chaired the board during its previous vote in February, restated his concerns that the spraying is optional and that if too many citizens and entities were to opt out it would not only be a waste of money, but an ineffective treatment method as well.

“What people have to be aware of is that, yes everyone is allowed to participate. However, you can say no. Part of the problem is while it comes out of the monies before you get it that still means you’re getting \$100,000 less money which means there’s something you can’t pay for. In the end, given the current situation, we’d have to decide as a board where we want to cut,” said Singer.

Selectman Patricia Rydlak fell somewhere in the middle with her opinion being that the people should be given the opportunity to say “no” or “yes” regardless of the concerns of the board.

“I’ve always been adamant about putting things in front of our residents. That’s always a good thing. I read the social media post about this and whenever you see one people start saying things, some of them aren’t true and some of them are,” Rydlak said. “I have no issue putting it in front of the voters. We’re not sitting here saying we’re going to spend \$112,000. What we’re saying is let the majority of our residents decide if this is something that will help them.”

Selectmen decided to table the discussion vowing to revisit the idea later at a future meeting.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Aurochs

5. Central Dravidian language

10. Split pulses in Indian cooking

14. Tropical starchy tuberous root

15. Well known constellation

16. About aviation

17. Bowfin genus

18. Proper

19. Expression of annoyance

20. Cabbies

22. Bro or sis

23. Spiritual leader

24. Where football coaches work

27. Old TV part

30. A way to color

31. Touch lightly

32. Surround

35. Breached

37. Aristocratic young woman

38. Dry ravine

39. Hebrew measurement units

40. Supporter

41. Type of sword

42. Influential Irish playwright

43. Witch

44. Flower cluster

45. Mark Wahlberg’s animal friend

46. Psychedelic amphetamine

47. Actors’ group

48. Cool!

49. Salts

52. Group of SE China

55. Illuminated

56. Semitic Sun god

60. Water (Spanish)

61. Employed

63. Japanese ankle sock

64. Fishing fly

65. Some pheasants are this

66. Literary name for Ireland

67. Must have

68. A way to write

69. One point east of southeast

CLUES DOWN

1. American state

2. Hindu model of ideal man

3. Type of acid

4. Drenches

5. “The Raven” writer

6. Emerged

7. Alpha Centauri: \_\_ Kentaurus

8. Democratic Presidential candidate

9. Hostelry

10. Fathers

11. Any plant with leaves used for flavoring

12. Member of a Semitic people

13. Lesotho monetary unit

21. Lots

23. Jewish address for “Sir”

25. Male parent

26. A way to get

27. Body part

28. Seam in an organ

29. Landlocked African country

32. Process for producing ammonia

33. Fluid accumulation in tissues

34. Bogged down

36. Native American tribe

37. Unfashionable person

38. Female grunts

40. Well known

41. Gurus

43. Norse mythological site

44. Tell on

46. \_\_ Farrow, actress

47. Cotton fabric

49. Reciter of Scandinavian poems

50. Clouds

51. Satisfies

52. Shuttered Air Force base in Germany

53. Phil \_\_, former CIA

54. Japanese seaport

57. Female horse or zebra

58. 1st month of ancient Hebrew calendar

59. Trigonometric function

61. Fashionable knowledge (Slang)

62. Insecticide

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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N I P Э Q Э P V Э T P Э H

I B V Л Q Э P I H V П G V

S V W V S Л I T V X X V H

S Э Л V O I T I S

Q V P G V S W Э W Q Э Л

Э W Э O V P G V H M V H S

P Э B V S N V J S V H P Э

I Q V M B Э Q Q Э X O V H

W Э H B V Q N V Л Л P O

S Э N I T Э Q I S

I B B V P B I S S X O V H

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O P Э V N O I P O O P V Л

T V H Q I P P V d S П P П

## Primary sets the stage for November contests

**BY KEVIN FLANDERS**  
STAFF WRITER

REGION – With last week’s State Primary in the books, the stage is set for several central Massachusetts rematches in the Nov. 3 general election.

Incumbent Democratic Congressman Jim McGovern is being challenged again by Tracy Lovvorn for the Second Massachusetts Congressional District. Lovvorn, a Republican from Grafton, only picked up 33 percent of the votes in her 2018 battle against McGovern. After running unopposed in the Republican Primary on Sept. 1, she is looking forward to her rematch with the longtime incumbent McGovern.

“I want to bring a new energy to Washington – a positive energy focused on unification and solutions,” read a statement released by Lovvorn. “I am tired of being lied to by career politicians. I am done with allowing them to advance their personal agendas and careers, instead of working for us in support of our needs.”

Congressman McGovern, who has held his seat for 24 years, is the current Chair of the House Rules Committee.

“Since his first election to Congress in 1996, Jim has consistently delivered millions of dollars for jobs, vital local and regional projects, small businesses, public safety, regional and mass transportation projects, and affordable housing throughout his district and Massachusetts,” read a statement from Congressman McGovern’s office.

The Second Massachusetts Congressional District contains communities in four counties, including the Worcester County towns of Auburn, Leicester, North Brookfield, Douglas, Uxbridge, Northbridge, Spencer, Sutton, West Brookfield, and Webster.

Another rematch is looming in the state Senate race, with Senator Anne Gobi once again facing opposition from Republican challenger Steven Hall, of Sturbridge.

In their 2018 battle, Sen. Gobi, of Spencer, took 55 percent of the votes. Her Senate district represents portions of Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire, and Middlesex Counties. The district runs from Winchendon and Ashburnham at the northern end of the state to Monson and Wales at the southern end.

Sen. Gobi currently chairs the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture, as well as the Joint Committee on Higher Education.

Meanwhile, State Rep. Donald Berthiaume will be challenged for the Fifth Worcester District by Samuel Biagetti, a North Brookfield Democrat. In 2018, Berthiaume cruised to re-election over challenger Jean Strauss, collecting 60 percent of the votes.


Biagetti, an antiques dealer and teacher, is focusing on healthcare, education, and infrastructure improvements as part of his platform.

The Fifth Worcester District includes the towns of Barre, Brookfield, East Brookfield, Hardwick, Hubbardston, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Oakham, Spencer, Ware, and West Brookfield.

In other State Primary news, Incumbent Senator Edward Markey defeated Joseph Kennedy III in the Democratic Primary. Markey, 74, will face challengers Kevin O’Connor, Andre Gray, and Frederick Mayoock in the Nov. 3 general election.

“Tonight is more than just a celebration of an election – it is a celebration of a movement,” Markey said after the Primary. “Thank you to the thousands of grassroots supporters who organized around the principles that we believe in. We could not have done it without you.”

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



**The Town of Sturbridge** is seeking applicants for the Full-time position of Administrative Assistant to the Conservation Department. This benefit-eligible position is 30+ hours per week to include night meetings. Reporting to the Conservation Agent, this position supports the Conservation Commission, prepares meeting agendas and minutes, and serves as the first point of contact with the public. The qualified candidate will be an organized and detail oriented individual with the ability to interact well with the public and a variety of departments and to multi-task in an often fast paced busy department.

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*The Town of Sturbridge is an EOE.*





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# Girls on the Run Worcester County launches fall season

REGION — Recently, Girls on the Run Worcester County (GOTR) announced the launch of its fall season. GOTR is a leader in delivering evidence-based, life skills curriculum to girls of all abilities. Through more than 20 sites across Worcester County GOTR has served more than 2,100 since it was founded in 2015. For the 2020-2021 school year, GOTR is offering a variety of programs to accommodate the changing and unpredictable school year due to the pandemic. Registration for the fall 2020 season is open at several of our sites, with more being added daily at [www.gotr-worc.org](http://www.gotr-worc.org).

“Our staff and coaches are ready to bring critical social-emotional programming to Worcester County girls at a time when they need it the most,” said Karen Spencer, Executive Director. “We have adapted based on the recommendations of local health officials and decisions of local governments and school districts. Our fluid model will work completely in-person, completely virtual or can

seamlessly transition between the two as needed. We are excited to offer for the first time, our new residential program which will work great for small teams of 6-12 neighboring girls or home schoolers. Coaches do not need to be runners to implement this amazing social emotional curriculum.”

#### Flexible Programming Model

If schools and sites are in session, GOTR afterschool programming can be delivered as in the past, with enhanced safety measures including physical distancing modifications. Should school and site close, the program will be easily transitioned to a virtual model, with lessons that mirror the in-person program. This fluid programming model ensures that participants will experience the social, emotional, and physical outcomes of the program while allowing local teams to adjust to changes in the school and community health guidelines throughout the season.

100 percent Virtual

Virtual fall programming is delivered by trained coaches in a safe virtual space, with lessons that mirror the in-person Girls on the Run or Heart & Sole program. Virtual programming will include physical activity and social-emotional learning, providing girls with an opportunity to still build meaningful connections with their peers and caring adult role models.

#### GOTR at Home Activity Kit for Fall

For 25 years, Girls on the Run 1 has provided evidence-based programming that builds confidence and empathy in girls when they need it the most. Girls on the Run is proud to unveil the GOTR at Home Activity Kit. Designed to fuel girls' mind, body and spirit, the kit includes 50 activities that emphasize the important connection between physical and emotional health. Each activity helps girls learn valuable skills such as how to cope when things get difficult, demonstrate care for self and others, and practice positivity. From the silly starters to the fun

movement games and challenges, girls will laugh, create, and grow through each activity.

Volunteer coaches will receive the training and materials required to provide girls a safe, trauma-sensitive space to learn valuable life lessons and be active.

Added Spencer, “Together, we will find a way to motivate girls to nurture their physical and emotional health, no matter the circumstances.”

About Girls on the Run Worcester County

Through more than 20 sites across the Worcester area, GOTR Worcester has served more than 2,100 girls since it was founded in 2015. Last year, over \$33,000 was provided in financial assistance to 44 percent of participants, ensuring that the program remains accessible to all girls who wish to participate. For more information, visit [www.gotr-worc.org](http://www.gotr-worc.org) and follow us on social media @gotr-worcester.



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**BRENDAN BERUBE**  
EDITOR

# The flavors of fall

The first day of fall is upon us. Sept. 23 will mark the first day it is socially acceptable to drink pumpkin and apple flavored coffee, doughnuts, bread and burn fall scented candles. Coffee shops and bakeries are already busting out the fall flavors.

Pumpkin enthusiasts beware, on the flip side, there are several people who think it is too soon. A survey that posed the question, “When is it OK to start drinking and eating pumpkin?” produced the following responses:

“Right now!”  
“First day of fall.”  
“I always strive for after Labor Day, but often start on July 12th.”  
“I’m waiting until September 1st.”  
“After zucchini season.”

It is true, there are more people in New England who are holding on to every last bit of summer than those looking forward to fall. To those people, we get it. Some people refuse to swap their flip flops for boots until the first snow fall. The end of the summer season really isn’t so bad. With fall comes hearty crock pot recipes, crisp evenings, sweaters, boots, and Halloween. The closer to Halloween we get, the closer to snow, which means the ski resorts will soon be open for businesses. What could be better?

Perhaps the best part about fall is foliage. The leaves are already changing and soon New England will be swarming with tourists, camera’s in tow. Peak foliage will hit during the last week of September through the first week of October.

Within the next four weeks, temperatures will drop drastically, with some hot days still sprinkled in for balance. The good news is, there is still plenty of time to sneak in a few more summer hikes, a kayak excursion on the lake, a few more backyard barbecues, or a day reading out on the hammock.

The Old Farmer’s Almanac says of winter 2021, “Our long-range forecast is calling for a cold winter with normal to below-normal temperatures in areas from the Great Lakes and Midwest, westward through the Northern and Central Plains, and Rockies. Remember last year’s almost snow-free winter in the Northeast? Well, this year our prediction is very different, with the possibility of a blizzard hitting the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast states during the second week of February. This storm may bring up to one to two feet of snow to cities from Washington, D.C. to Boston, Massachusetts.”

So wether you’re still sipping pina coladas or drinking a pumpkin spiced latte while dreaming of jack-o-lanterns and the smell of wood stoves, this IS the perfect time of year for you.

## LETTERS

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

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

But first, you have to write us!

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

Or e-mail your letters to the editor at [news@stonebridgepress.com](mailto:news@stonebridgepress.com).


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

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

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

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

So, what are you waiting for? Start writing!



# OPINION

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

## Home Canning Tips & Tricks

Farmer’s Markets are selling tomatoes and cukes in bulk, workshops on preserving produce are filling up fast and canning jar manufacturers report double digit hikes in sales. There’s no doubt about it, self quarantines and the current homebound culture have spawned a renewed interest in gardens and home grown goods.

Whether canning in bulk to stock the pantry, or filling a few jelly jars for holiday gifts, the following information is geared toward helping your preserving efforts pay off in both financial and “feel good” benefits.

\*\*\*

One of the joys of canning is the ability to literally put the fruits of your garden labor on the dinner table. For those who do not grow their own foods, a trip to a farmer’s market or neighborhood farm stand can reap bushels of freshly picked produce. In rural areas, farmers typically offer boxes of produce in bulk to home canners at discounted prices.

\*\*\*

When choosing produce for canning, overlook those with bruises or obvious imperfections. Common backyard garden vegetables such as tomatoes and cucumbers are popular candidates for canning as they offer a variety of finished products from condiments to side dishes.

\*\*\*

A few old fashioned canning recipes can transform the versatile garden favorites into glistening jars of pantry staples. For example, tomatoes can be prepped to be canned as tomato sauce, tomato soup, tomato juice, salsa, ketchup, and more. Cucumbers transform into sweet gherkins, dill pickles, chow chow and a variety of relishes. Orchard fruits such as apples and peaches can be processed as jelly, butter, chutney, pie filling, syrups and sauces.

**Proper Processing:** Before choosing a preferred method of processing be sure to study the options, all of which are available in canning “how to” books or online. For safety’s sake be sure your resources are up to date, since processing recommendations have changed in the past several years. The classic Ball Blue Book serves as the canners bible. Online, a reliable and free resource titled “U.S. Department of Agriculture’s “Complete Guide to Home Canning,” is available and can be accessed by visiting [www.uga.edu/nchfp/publications/publications\\_usda.html](http://www.uga.edu/nchfp/publications/publications_usda.html)

\*\*\*

A general rule is that the traditional boiling water bath is a canning option only for high acidic foods such as fruits, preserves and some pickled vegetables. All vegetables, which are low in acid (except some that you acidify first), must be processed in a steam pressure canner. Consult a trusted resource before you attempt to can your own food, as improper processing can cause Botulism, which is a serious and often fatal form of food poisoning.

\*\*\*

Once you have completed processing of the jars according to safety guidelines, another important step in the canning process is testing your jar seals. After jars have cooled for 16-24 hours, a few easy visual and manual tests can ensure the jars have sealed properly. After removing the screw band:

1. Press down on the middle of the lid with your finger. If the lid comes back up when you let go, the lid did not seal correctly.
2. Lift the jar to eye level and look across the top of the lid. It should curve down slightly in the center. If the center is flat or convex, the jar did not take a good seal.
3. Or, try the old fashioned “tap test.” Tap the top of the lid with the bottom bowl of a teaspoon. A properly sealed lid will make a high pitched ringing sound.

According to the National Center for Food Preparation, if lids are tightly vacuum sealed on cooled jars, the screw bands may be removed before storing the jars. Before storing, jars and lids should be washed to remove any waste, and rinsed and dried. Jars should be stored in a cool dark, dry place. For best quality, store between 50 and 70 degrees and use canned products within a year.

\*\*\*

**Home Canning Recipes:** Even the novice home canner can experience success with the following recipes that use fresh garden ingredients:

**Pepper Jelly**  
**This jelly, which uses up the last of the season’s garden peppers, makes a festive holiday gift.**  
**Ingredients:** 3 green bell peppers, minced; 2 (4 ounce) cans diced jalapeno



**TAKE THE HINT**  
**KAREN TRAINOR**

peppers  
1 1/2 cups distilled white vinegar; 6 1/2 cups white sugar; 1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper; 1 (6 fluid ounce) container liquid pectin; 5 drops green food coloring.

**Directions:** In a large, stainless steel saucepan, combine peppers, vinegar, sugar, and cayenne pepper. Cook over medium high heat. Stir frequently until mixture begins to boil.

Stir in pectin; boil 5 minutes longer, stirring constantly, and mix in food coloring. Skim off foam, and remove from heat.

Ladle into sterilized jars. Seal and process in a boiling-water canner for 5 minutes.

\*\*\*

**Apple Chutney**  
**It’s apple season in New England and this chutney, made from freshly picked fruit, will be the perfect accompaniment to upcoming holiday feasts.**  
**Ingredients:** 2 quarts chopped, cored, pared tart apples (about 10 medium); 1 cup chopped onions; 1 cup chopped sweet red bell peppers (about 2 medium); 2 hot red peppers, seeded and chopped; 1½ pounds seedless raisins; 4 cups brown sugar; 3 tablespoons mustard seed; 2 tablespoons ground ginger; 2 tablespoons ground allspice; 2 teaspoons canning salt; 1 clove garlic, crushed; 1 quart white vinegar (5%).

**Directions:** Combine all ingredients; simmer until thick, about 1 hour and 15 minutes. As mixture thickens stir frequently to prevent sticking. Pour boiling hot chutney into hot jars, leaving ½ inch headspace. Remove air bubbles and adjust headspace if needed. Wipe rims of jars with a dampened clean paper towel; adjust two-piece metal canning lids. Process in boiling water canner according to the altitude recommendations below. Makes about six pint jars.

**Recommended process time for Apple Chutney pints in a boiling water canner (altitude chart): 1-1,000 ft, 10 minutes; 1,001-6,000 ft, 15 minutes; above 6,000 ft, 20 minutes.**

**Home Canning DOs and DON”Ts**

**DOs**

- Do be sure to wash, wash, and wash again! Wash hands, all food prep surfaces and all canning supplies thoroughly before starting the canning process.
- Always wash and examine all foods to be canned. Be sure to cut out any bruises and discard any overripe fruits and vegetables.
- Do an inspection of your glass jars, old and new. Before sterilizing jars, look and feel for nicks or chips. Inspect new lids for imperfections and make sure the screw bands fit properly.
- Do use only proper glass canning jars and avoid the old time practice of reusing mayonnaise and other such jars.
- Do take advantage of farm fresh fruits and vegetables in season. Buy in bulk and process to enjoy gourmet style foods at rock bottom prices.

**DON”Ts**

- Never use overripe fruit. A good rule of thumb to remember is that canning can’t improve the quality of food, so always begin with top quality fruits, ripe and free of bruises.
- Never add considerably more spices or seasonings than a recipe calls for. Some spices can be high in bacteria and too much of a good thing can put your safety at risk.
- Never reuse canning jar lids. Be sure to seal jars with a new, clean lid each and every time.
- Do not store filled jars above 95° F or near hot pipes, a range, a furnace, in a non insulated attic, or in direct sunlight. Under these conditions, food will lose quality in a few weeks or months and may spoil.
- Don’t store jars in damp areas such as a basement. Dampness may corrode metal lids, break seals, and encourage spoilage.

\*\*\*

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

## Grandparents: Consider these financial moves



FINANCIAL FOCUS  
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Each year, on the first Sunday after Labor Day, we observe National Grandparents Day. Although it’s not as widely recognized as Mother’s Day or Father’s Day, if you’re a grandparent, you probably want to do whatever you can to help your grandchildren on their journeys through life. So, you might want to consider the following moves:

Contribute to their education. If you want to help your grandchildren pay for college, you have a variety of options, including 529 plans. You could also simply set aside some money in an investment account earmarked for education. But you don’t just have to stick to helping out financially – you might also want to do some research to see what scholarships are available.

Consider a UGMA/UTMA account. The Uniform Gifts to Minors Act (UGMA) and Uniform Transfer to Minors Act (UTMA) are custodial accounts that provide a relatively easy way for you to give money to your young grandchildren. A financial advisor can help determine if such a plan is right for you. However, once you put money into the UGMA or UTMA, you no longer have any legal access or authority over the funds unless you are the custodian managing the account.

After children reach the age of majority – typically 18 or 21 – or the age of termination if the state where they live allows for the assets to be held until a later age, they will control the assets, and they may not want to use the money as you had envisioned, such as for college. (Also, tax issues for custodial accounts can be complicated, so, before opening an UGMA or UTMA, you’ll want to consult with your tax advisor.)

Consider gifts to older grandchildren. If you have older grandchildren, you might want to help them out if they’re saving for a down payment on a home, or are between jobs, or perhaps are even having children of their own. You can give \$15,000 per year, per individual, without having to file a gift tax return. Your spouse can also give \$15,000 per year to the same individual, again without triggering the need for a gift tax return.

Review your will. If you’ve already created your last will and testament, you may want to review it upon the arrival of grandchildren. You can include specific instructions, such as requiring your grandchildren to turn a specific age before they can receive their inheritance. You could also codify the same requirements through the use of a living trust. Contact your legal advisor to determine if such a trust is appropriate for your situation.

Update beneficiary designations. If you want your grandchildren to receive proceeds from various accounts, such as your 401(k), IRA and life insurance, you may need to update the beneficiary designations, which can even supersede the instructions on your will. Keep in mind that if you have grandchildren with special needs, you may want to designate a supplemental needs trust for your grandchild as the beneficiary instead of naming your grandchild directly. Again, contact your legal advisor for more information.

These aren’t the only steps you can take to help your grandchildren, but they should give you some options to consider. The world is an expensive place, and any assistance you can provide to your beloved grandkids can make a big difference in their lives.

*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](mailto:jeff.burdick@edwardjones.com).*



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# Waterfowl weather sets in

The cool and pleasant weather of this past week-end signaled the start of the Massachusetts Waterfowl season. Although only Canada Geese are legal during the first segment of the hunting season, it will not be long before the opening of ducks and Pheasant season starting on Oct. 13. This year, the early goose season started on Sept. 8, and has a liberal daily bag limit of 15 birds. It may seem like a lot, but some areas in the state are overrun with Canada Geese that are polluting lakes and ponds and golf courses with their feces.

Unfortunately for sportsmen most corn fields are not cut during the early season, which has been keeping less areas open for sportsmen to hunt. Because of the extremely hot dry summer, farmers may be cutting there corn a bit early this year. Be sure to ask for permission to hunt private property prior to the season. A little courtesy goes a long way!

Numerous other problems are the posted private property that geese find every year to hang out in. Access to these properties are often off limit to hunting, or are just too close to houses. Remember to stay at least 500 ft. from any occupied dwelling when hunting.



THE GREAT  
OUTDOORS  
.....  
RALPH  
TRUE

Hundreds of local geese have been spotted in many grass fields in the past few days, and will survive the early hunting season if they continue to visit the same fields. When the regular season opens on Oct. 13, the two-bird daily limit goes into effect. Setting up a spread of Canada Goose decoys to harvest a couple of birds has kept many hunters away.

More bear sightings in Douglas this past week have prompted local deer hunters to purchase a \$5 bear hunting stamp from Mass. Fish & Wildlife this year. There are five bear hunting seasons in Mass. this year that include rifle, hand gun, muzzleloader, archery & shotgun, with the last two being the most popular among hunters in the Central District, as they coincide with the deer season. Be sure to read the 2020 hunting season abstracts prior to hunting.

The Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club will be holding their second Wild Game Supper on Sept. 12. It was postponed because of the Covid-19 outbreak. Sportsmen that had purchased tickets to the supper this past fall can pick up their meal at the outside window starting at 2 p.m. All meals are to go only. Anyone that cannot make the meal can redeem their



tickets for a full refund if they wish. The club is also planning a pig roast on Sept. 19, to benefit the Pheasant program. Tickets are \$10 each. The meal is also to go only. The club asks attendees to wear face masks at both events.

Reports of fast action on seabass in Rhode Island this past week, prompted numerous local anglers to give it a try. Knowing where to fish was the key

to success. The seven fish limit on big seabass were caught using squid strips baited on a single hook, or with squid strips and jigs. Very large bluefish were mixed into the fast action. Areas around Block Island were the most productive with large and small seabass.

*Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!*



GARDEN  
MOMENTS  
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MELINDA  
MYERS

Cooler temperatures and warm soil make fall a great time to add trees to your landscape. Make the most of this investment of money and time and give your tree its best chance at survival with proper planting and care.

Select a tree suited to the growing conditions, your landscape design and available space. Make sure it tolerates the sunlight, soil and temperature extremes. Check the tag for the mature height and spread. You'll have a better-looking plant that always fits the space with minimal pruning.

Avoid planting near overhead utilities since trees and power lines make for a dangerous combination. Contact your underground utility locating service at least three business days before placing the first shovel in the ground. It's free and all you need to do is call 811 or file an online request.

Once the area is marked, you can get busy planting. Ensure your tree thrives for many years to come with proper planting. Dig a saucer shaped hole three to five times wider than the root ball. It should only be as deep as the distance from the root flare to the bottom of the root ball. The root flare, where the roots bend away from the trunk, should always be at or slightly above the soil surface.

Set the tree in the hole, then peel back and cut away any burlap and wire cages. These can eventually constrict



Photo Melinda Myers

When planting, the tree's root flare should always be at or slightly above the soil surface.

root growth. Roughen the sides of the hole and backfill with the existing soil. Water thoroughly to moisten the roots and surrounding soil.

Continue to water thoroughly whenever the top few inches of soil are crumbly and moist. Proper watering, espe-

cially during the first two years, is critical for establishing trees. Watering thoroughly as needed encourages deep roots and a more drought tolerant and pest resistant tree.

Monitor soil moisture near the trunk and beyond the rootball. Since many

containerized trees are grown in soilless mix, the rootball dries out more quickly than the surrounding soil. Adjust your watering technique and schedule to accommodate this difference.

Mulch the soil surface with a two- to three-inch layer of woodchips or shredded bark to conserve water, suppress weeds and improve the soil as it decomposes. Pull the mulch back from the trunk of the tree to avoid disease problems.

Remove any tags that can eventually girdle the tree and prune out any broken or rubbing branches. Wait a year to fertilize and two years, once the tree is established, for additional pruning.

Continue providing tender loving care for at least the first two years. Make regular checkups, prune to create a strong structure, and keep grass, weeds and lawn care equipment away from the trunk throughout the lifetime of your tree. Your efforts will be rewarded with years of beauty and shade.

Gardening expert Melinda Myers has more than 30 years of horticulture experience and has written over 20 gardening books, including *Small Space Gardening*. Myers is the host of *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* DVD series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* TV & radio segments. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Myers' Web site is [www.melindamyers.com](http://www.melindamyers.com).

# Charlton to apply for Shared Streets and Spaces grant

BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – The town of Charlton is officially putting itself in for consideration to receive a Massachusetts Department of Transportation Shared Streets and Spaces Grant having worked with the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission to apply for the funding.

Selectmen discussed the status of the town's application during a livestreamed meeting on Aug. 25, where they were joined by CMRPC representative Ian McElwee, who spearheaded Charlton's application for the grant. Any money received from the grant would be used to fund quick, temporary improvements to help improve transportation and social distancing in the new normal of the COVID-19 pandemic. "The program is around to allow towns to implement temporary measures that would improve pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure in town as well as provide businesses and schools the extra space in order to allow for social distancing operations to happen," McElwee told selectmen. "The purpose of it being temporary is so that not only can it be installed quicker and then monitored, but then you can use data from the temporary measures to see if these are permanent solutions that can be put in place."

Under the grant guidelines, towns could receive anywhere from \$5,000 to \$300,000 for qualifying projects. Applications are due by the end of September with the grants expected to be awarded in October. McElwee partnered with the town as a CMRPC representative to help determine what projects would be the focus of Charlton's efforts if they are awarded the funds. The priority would be to address crosswalks and other improvements between Masonic Home Road and Burlingame

Road in the center of town.

"Where there are existing or faded crosswalks, there's about five of them, we would be repainting them with temporary paint to provide the brightness so that oncoming vehicles can see them as well as put into place along most of them some of the temporary state law yield to pedestrian signage," McElwee said.

One crosswalk in particular on North Main Street between the town hall and the library would be a special focus

with temporary flashing beacons being installed as well as improved signage.

Another project included in the proposal would be a special location behind the town's library which would serve as an asset to students who need a place to congregate and do homework while the library remains closed to patrons.

"The last thing that we are proposing to do is to place behind the library a temporary blocking off of several of the parking spaces and then putting in there a temporary tent and tables

that would provide for kids to be able to do some school work together, but in a socially distances and safe outdoor environment. We would provide some charging ports for if they have laptops," McElwee said.

Applications for the grant program are due Sept. 27. If Charlton is awarded the funds, they will not be required to provide any matching expenditures in order to utilize the money to pay for the improvement projects.

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**ON DEPOSIT**



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**SOLD**

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**WEBSTER LAKE** – 62 Bates Point Rd! Middle Pond! Absolute Prime 51' Level Waterfront Lot w/Western Expo! Beautiful Sunsets! Fantastic Panoramic Lake Views! 11 Rms, 6 Bdrms, 4 Bathrooms, 3,269' A/C'd Colonial! Custom SS Applianced Granite Kit! Formal Din Rm w/ Cherry Hrdwds! Lake Facing Liv Rm w/Cathedrals, Cherry Hrdwds! Slider to Waterfront Deck! Spacious 1st Flr Master Bdrm w/Full Bath, Cherry Hrdwds & Walk-in Closet! Frpld Lower Level Fam Rm! 1st & 2nd Flr Laundries! 2 Car Garage! **\$949,900.00**



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**ON DEPOSIT**

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**ON DEPOSIT**

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**LAKE SHIRLEY - 647 RESERVOIR RD**



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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 **\$859,000.**



# Baker launches initiative to help local businesses

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

REGION – Gov. Charlie Baker recently announced the launch of an initiative aimed at supporting local businesses.

Joined by Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito at an Aug. 25 press conference, Baker unveiled the new statewide effort to promote shopping local and supporting small businesses and attractions in a safe manner.

Although several sectors of the state's economy have reopened since May, countless businesses have seen significant drops in customers from pre-pandemic levels. Restaurants have had an especially difficult struggle, with many patrons afraid to return to their favorite locations due to COVID-19 concerns. Small shops have also struggled, and area attractions and recreational businesses have suffered the impacts of decreased discretionary income.

With his newly launched platform, My Local MA, Baker is employing several tools to promote safe in-person business interactions, online sales, curbside pickup, and takeout meals.

"The intent of the campaign is to showcase Massachusetts' vast array of businesses and attractions – from

family-owned restaurants to artisan boutiques to museums – that are a critical part of the Commonwealth's economy," read a statement released by the Governor.

One of the major problems for area businesses, officials said, is that many residents aren't aware of safe shopping accommodations like curbside pickup. Owners are encouraged to promote such offerings through physical signage, social media, and website announcements. Curbside pickup options should be heavily promoted, as well as a list of safety and sanitation measures in place at a given business, state leaders said.

"From Stockbridge to Provincetown, our local retailers and restaurants are open for business and are utilizing safe practices," Baker said.

To assist local businesses with promotions, Baker's My Local MA program will feature several advertising mediums. The campaign, which runs through December, will include print, broadcast, billboard, and digital ads, along with social media encouragement for residents to shop local.

Moreover, officials will feature resources for consumers and additional information on the website: [www.FindMyLocalMA.com](http://www.FindMyLocalMA.com).

FindMyLocalMA.com.

The Governor is also reminding residents that the best way to support local businesses and ensure they can stay open is to shop safely and responsibly. To that end, the My Local MA program features a "Masking Up" component devoted to promoting facial coverings and social distancing efforts.

"Supporting beloved local businesses also means acting responsibly," Baker added. "Masking up and practicing social distancing will be emphasized throughout the campaign to protect our quality of life and ensure that businesses can safely serve customers."

The Commonwealth's small business community plays a vital role in the overall state economy. According to the U.S. Small Business Administration, small businesses in Massachusetts employ approximately 1.5 million workers, accounting for approximately 45 percent of the state's total workforce.

"Through My Local MA, residents are encouraged to protect and preserve those elements that make Massachusetts unique," Baker said.

In central Massachusetts, local leaders continue to advocate for support of small businesses and entrepreneurs.

Area officials have seen several residents step up and seek out ways to help local enterprises as they begin their emergence from the COVID-19 crisis.

"We need to keep supporting our local businesses and make sure we do everything we can to help," said State Rep. Peter Durant, of Spencer. "There is a ground swell of people who are promoting buying local, but a lot of businesses are still struggling. We're seeing permanent layoffs in many places, and that affects everyone. People want to get back to work and start to come out of this."

Local officials remind residents that supporting farmers and growers is just as important as shops and restaurants.

"Our main streets and side street businesses have all suffered during this health crisis. We are blessed to have so many small businesses and farms in our region – all offer unique products and produce," said Sen. Anne Gobi, also a Spencer resident. "The more we can shop local, the better for our local economy, business owners, and their families."

For more information about the state's shop local effort, visit [www.FindMyLocalMA.com](http://www.FindMyLocalMA.com).

## Open Sky Community Services appoints new Director of Training and Professional Development

WORCESTER — Open Sky Community Services has announced the appointment of its new Director of Training and Professional Development, Suzy Langevin. As part of her new role, Langevin, who brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in behavioral health, will also lead the Bridge Training Institute, replacing long-time employee and recent retiree Stephen Murphy.

"2020 has brought unique challenges for the individuals we serve and our staff need high quality, up-to-date training. Suzy is the right person for that important job," said Ken Bates, President and CEO of Open Sky Community Services. "COVID-19 may have started as simply a health crisis, but it has morphed over the past several months into a mental health crisis as well. In order to help the individuals we serve, our Clinicians and Direct Care staff, we will be looking to Suzy to strengthen our collective skill sets."

For years, the Bridge Training Institute had hosted workshops at an off-site hotel, but these types of large

gatherings have been suspended due to COVID-19. Langevin sees this suspension as a growth opportunity rather than a barrier.

"Having worked with Steve Murphy for years, I have a strong understanding of what the Bridge Institute was, and I'm excited to expand its offerings. Having to innovate where and when we provide workshops is a real opportunity to broaden our audience beyond our core here in Central Massachusetts," said Langevin. "Reducing barriers like time and travel to make training opportunities accessible to as many professionals as we can will exponentially help more people and expand the training opportunities we currently provide from Open Sky."

Open Sky Community Services is an affiliation of The Bridge of Central Massachusetts and Alternatives Unlimited, Inc., which came together in 2018. Langevin previously served as Director of Dual Diagnosis Services, where she developed a model for services for co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders. She also

previously worked to implement and supervise the provision of Illness Management and Recovery (IMR) services and was instrumental in the development and opening of The Bridge Counseling Center, Open Sky's outpatient division. As a consultant and trainer, she specializes in Motivational Interviewing, and is a member of the Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers (MINT). She was recently named to the Leadership Worcester Class of 2021.

For more information about Open Sky Community Services, please contact Lorie Martiska, [lorie.martiska@openskycs.org](mailto:lorie.martiska@openskycs.org)

For more information about the Bridge Training Institute and its 2020-2021 training calendar, please visit the website [www.thebridgetraininginstitute.org](http://www.thebridgetraininginstitute.org) or contact [traininginstitute@openskycs.org](mailto:traininginstitute@openskycs.org)

About Open Sky Community Services  
Open Sky Community Services is dba for Alternatives Unlimited, Inc. and The Bridge of Central MA. Open Sky offers a wide range of services for adults,



Suzy Langevin

adolescents, and children with mental health challenges, developmental and intellectual disabilities, substance use disorders, brain injury, homelessness and other challenges throughout Central Massachusetts. Open Sky Community Services has over 1,300 dedicated employees and an annual budget of \$83M with more than 100 programs throughout the region. For more information, please visit [www.openskycs.org](http://www.openskycs.org).

Turn To **LANGEVIN** page **A13**



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|  <p><b>Spencer</b> – Cherry St – 1st time on the market! Antique 5 bdrm, 2 ba home w/ original, charming features throughout. 3-season enclosed porch. Large family room, living room &amp; dining room w/ hardwood floors. Beautiful yard w/ patio &amp; garden space. <b>\$319,900.</b></p>             |  <p><b>East Brookfield</b> – Oakland Dr – Extraordinary timber frame 4 bdrm, 2 full, 2 half bath home. Large living room w/ vaulted &amp; beamed ceilings. Gourmet kitchen w/ center island, cherry cabinets, breakfast bar. Master-suite w/ private bath, jetted tub, walk-in closets. Heated garage! <b>\$599,900</b></p>      |
|  <p><b>Leicester</b> – Sargent St – 3 buildings w/ 13000 sq ft of space. Detached warehouse/storage building &amp; a single family antique colonial home w/ in-law apartment. Two separate parcels – 1 w/ business building/parking lot &amp; other w/ house &amp; storage building. <b>\$549,000</b></p> |  <p><b>Spencer</b> – Ridge Rd – Attention builders! Rolling Ridge Estates! Four-1+ acre lots near the Paxton line. Definitive Subdivision Plan in hand. Fantastic location with less than 15 minutes to I-90 Square, minute to Moore State Park, St. Josephs Abbey, swimming @ Brooks &amp; Browning Ponds! <b>\$215,000</b></p> |

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# Establish winter habitats for backyard animals

Preparing a property for winter involves putting away lawn furniture, raking leaves and removing any annual plants that have shriveled up and spent the last of their energy. It can be tempting to want to clean up completely and leave a blank slate in the yard. But by doing so, you may be robbing wildlife of the resources they need to overwinter.

The nature and conservation resource In Habitat says plants and animals depend on one another to survive. During the winter, animals may struggle to find adequate shelter and food, especially when there is a lack of sufficient plant matter available. In turn, these animals may actually take up home in people's residences, turning into pests in the process. Bats, field mice and even opossums and raccoons may move indoors into attics or basements, leaving behind waste and damage if they can't find adequate shelter outdoors.

Homeowners concerned about potential pest infestations can take steps to ensure animals have places to bed down and escape the cold in their yards this winter. These tips can help local wildlife when the temperatures dip.

- Leave parts of the yard wild. Animals can make a nest in leaves or piles of brushwood. Just make sure piles left out are away from the home so curious critters don't try to get inside. Leave the task of tidying up shrubs and garden borders until spring, as shrubs can be dense areas to hide for both insects and animals.
  - Consider planting animal food sources prior to winter. Plants like elderberry, holly, mulberry, sumac, and crabapple will grow in colder months and animals can enjoy them as a vital food staple.
  - Don't forget water sources. Provide access to fresh water and replace as needed if the water freezes. For homeowners with fish ponds in their backyards, use a hot pot to melt a hole in the top of the pond and allow gases that have accumulated underneath to escape. This allows oxygen to reach fish and frogs in the pond.
  - Leave bird, squirrel or bat houses in the yard. This is a fun and crafty project that can ward off winter boredom while also providing a safe place for local wildlife to shelter in winter.
- Animals and insects need some extra



Leave some wild areas of the backyard so animals can roost safely during the winter.

help staying comfortable when cool temperatures arrive. Leaving some clean-up tasks for the spring ensures that there are plenty of backyard habitats available to local wildlife.

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Excel along with knowledge of applicable  
Massachusetts General Laws. Hourly rate: 22.31.  
Deadline for applications is 09/15/2020. Applications can be found at  
<https://townofcharlton.net/158/Human-Resources>.  
Email applications along with resume to  
[Lynn.Dyer@townofcharlton.net](mailto:Lynn.Dyer@townofcharlton.net).  
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The Town of Auburn Department of Public Works is  
accepting applications for snow plowing for the 2020 – 2021  
fiscal year.  
Applications may be obtained electronically from the  
Department of Public Works – Highway Division by emailing  
[pdagostino@town.auburn.ma.us](mailto:pdagostino@town.auburn.ma.us).  
Applications are also available on the Town's website  
[www.auburnguide.com](http://www.auburnguide.com), under the Public Works – Highway  
Division.  
Application must be returned to the DPW by October 9,  
2020 by mail or delivered to the drop box at the DPW located  
at 5 Millbury Street, Auburn, MA.  
The Town of Auburn reserves the right to waive any  
informalities and accept or reject any or all applications, or  
portions of such, if thought to be in the best interest of the  
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# Factors that can put kids at risk of vision problems

Vision can be taken for granted. Unless a person has experienced diminished vision or temporary or permanent vision loss, he or she likely cannot imagine life without the ability to see. But such a life is a reality for people across the globe, including many children.

The American Optometric Association notes that children who exhibit certain ocular signs and symptoms require a prompt, comprehensive eye examination to reduce their risk of vision loss. In addition, the AOA notes that certain factors can put kids at significant risk for eye and vision

problems. Learning about these factors may help parents recognize vision problems in their children before they contribute to substantial vision loss.

- Prematurity, low birth weight, prolonged supplemental oxygen at birth
- A family history of myopia, amblyopia, strabismus, retinoblastoma, congenital cataracts, metabolic or genetic disease
- Infection of the child's mother during pregnancy. Rubella, toxoplasmosis, venereal disease, herpes, cytomegalovirus or human immunodeficiency virus are examples of infections that can occur during pregnan-

cy that raise a child's risk of eye or vision problems.

- Maternal smoking, use of alcohol or illicit drug use during pregnancy
- Cortical visual impairment
- A difficult or assisted labor, which may be associated with fetal distress
- High or progressive refractive error
- Strabismus, a condition in which a person cannot align both eyes simultaneously or under normal conditions. This condition is sometimes referred to as "cross-eyed" or "wall-eyed."
- Anisometropia, a condition

that causes the eyes to focus unevenly. This condition is often marked by one eye being a different size or shape than the other.

- Known or suspected neurodevelopmental disorders
- Systemic health conditions with potential ocular manifestations
- Eye surgery or previous eye injury
- Taking prescription or non-prescription drugs (e.g., over the counter medications, supplements, herbal remedies) with potential ocular side effects

Parents also should know the eye exam recommendations for their children's ages. AOA guidelines recommend children receive their first eye exam between six and 12 months of age. Children should receive at least one additional exam between the ages of three and five, while kids between the ages of six and 17 should get annual exams.

Vision problems can affect youngsters of all ages and backgrounds. Learning the risk factors for such problems can help parents know when to contact their children's eye doctors.

## LANGEVIN

continued from page A11

About The Bridge Training Institute

The Bridge Training Institute is an industry leader in providing both theoretical and real-world training on evidence-based and best practices for clinicians and school personnel. Offering over 20 trainings per year, the Institute features expert trainers from human services, education, professional practices and academia. Institute trainers have worked directly with leaders in the field such as Marcia Linehan, Aaron Beck, the BU Center for Psychological Rehabilitation and others.

## BUDGET

continued from page A1

of the calendar year.

"To me, that means apparently, COVID is not going to be an issue in 2021. That would be good news to everybody, let's just hope that's actually true. However, given the rules of the road, our funding in those particular areas that the state points to as providing a lot of relief for COVID related expenses apparently they only run through the end of December at this point in time," Mathieu said.

Currently, the district is looking as potential expenses ranging from long

## TRAINOR

continued from page A7

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

term substitutes, remote learning adjustments, and the potential for additional technological needs or AVAC improvements to help adjust to the "new norm" of the pandemic.

"With the grant expiring, we certainly wouldn't want to leave any money on the table so we may take a look at using some of this to purchase technology if indeed we're not going to be able to fund personnel through the entire year," Mathieu said.

The school committee will continue to examine the status of its budget throughout the year as the district awaits further details from the state and federal governments on funding and COVID relief.

bers are required to purchase or reserve their tickets in advance, using OSV's new online reservation system, found at <https://www.osv.org/plan-your-visit/>. Available tickets will be released each week on Wednesday, with three blocks of time per day for arrival: 10-11:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., or 1-2:30 p.m. Once in the Village, visitors are welcome to stay until the museum closes at 5 p.m.

Guests are required to follow state guidelines when visiting OSV and must wear a mask when entering into the Village, interacting with staff or other guests, or when physical distancing is not possible. Masks may be removed when outside and physically distant from staff or other visitors. A full list of safety procedures and measures can be found online at: <https://www.osv.org/plan-your-visit/>.



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**OSV**  
continued from page A1

- Making a Pair of Ladies Walking Shoes
- Basket Making
- Straw Braiding
- Timber Framing Construction

Village potters will also fire up the 15,000-brick kiln found outside of OSV's Pottery Shop. The 24-foot-tall structure heats up to more than 1,900 degrees Fahrenheit and can fit up to 800 pieces stacked 10-feet high within its walls. It is a fan favorite among many visitors who come to the Village.

Craft Weekend will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sept. 19 & 20 and is included with standard daytime admission into the Village. Visitors and mem-



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