



Don't Miss this week's special section

Meet Your LOCAL MERCHANTS

And our MEET YOUR MERCHANTS SCRAMBLE located in this week's paper

Investigation continues into drowning at Dark Brook Reservoir

AUBURN — Police continue to investigate after a man was found dead last week in Dark Brook Reservoir.

The victim's body was recovered from the reservoir on Sept. 18 after he apparently fell from his boat the previous night, according to Worcester County District Attorney Joseph Early, Jr.

The victim, whose identity was not released as of press time, took his motor boat out on the reservoir sometime after 5 p.m. on Sept. 17. Several 911 calls were received just before 6 p.m. reporting that an empty boat was circling in the water. The empty boat eventually ran ashore, police said.

A search was started on Sept. 17, but it was called off due to darkness and dangerous conditions. The search resumed the next morning and the victim's body was discovered in 18 feet of water at about 9:30 a.m.

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner accepted the case.

State Police detectives assigned to the Worcester County District Attorney's Office continue to investigate the incident, along with the Auburn Police Department.

Police received assistance during the search from the Auburn Fire Department, the District 7 Regional Dive Team, the State Police Underwater Recovery Team, the State Police Air Wing, and the Environmental Police.



Courtesy

Police continue to investigate after a man was found dead last week in Dark Brook Reservoir.

Baker declares September Emergency Preparedness Month

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — With wildfires destroying western communities and a hurricane ravaging the Gulf Coast, Mother Nature provided a chilling backdrop for Gov. Charlie Baker's announcement last week that September has been named Emergency Preparedness Month in Massachusetts.

The proclamation was made to encourage residents, families, and organizations to prepare for emergencies and disasters, Baker said. September is also National Preparedness Month.

Last week, beneath hazy skies veiled by smoke traveling across the country from the western fires, Governor Baker and his team required little more than a skyward glance to highlight the importance of emergency preparedness.

Of course, preparedness isn't limited to readying communities for weather disasters, Baker reminded.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the importance of emergency preparedness, and the role we all must play in better preparing our homes, workplaces, and communities for the unexpected," Baker said. "It has also highlighted the incredible contributions of so many individuals who have stepped up every day to ensure that essential services and goods continue to be delivered throughout this public health emergency."

In addition to promoting preparedness initiatives this month, state officials also recently launched a public thank-you campaign on social media to recognize emergency workers.

Moving forward, state officials hope to spend more time working with local leaders on preparedness in many forms.

"Emergency Preparedness Month provides us with an opportunity each year to focus on what we can do to make ourselves and our families better prepared," said Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito. "Especially now, we are thankful for all of the tireless efforts of the Commonwealth's essential workers throughout the COVID-19 pandemic."

Visitors to www.Mass.Gov/EPmonth can download a certificate of appreciation to thank an essential worker or organization in their community. After personalizing the certificate, residents are asked to post a picture of the certificate to social media.

"Everyone plays an important role in staying prepared, especially in the face of new challenges posed by the pandemic," said Massachusetts Public Safety and Security Secretary Thomas Turco. "I hope these initiatives raise awareness of risks, outline measures we all should be taking, and facilitate collaboration between the public and private sectors. When we embrace preparedness, we all have an opportunity to serve our communities."

Each time the calendar flips to September, MEMA and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health will team up to share information on their respective social

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Maxfield to retire in October

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — The end of an era is on the horizon for the Charlton Police Department with the recent announcement of the impending retirement of Chief Graham Maxfield effective Oct. 3.

Chief Maxfield has been a staple of the Charlton Police Department for 23 years, eventually becoming Chief in 2017 with the retirement of Chief James Pervier. During his tenure the chief also briefly served as interim Town Administrator in

2019 after the departure of Robin Craver.

Chief Maxfield provided his notice of intent to retire prior to the Sept. 3 Board of Selectmen meeting where the board officially accepted the chief's decision while complimenting his years of service to the community.

"I think you know how I feel about you and the job you've done," Selectman David Singer told the chief. "I can tell you with absolute certainty that it will take (a lot) to list Chief Maxfield's accomplishments as chief of police

for the town of Charlton. We've had good chiefs time after time, no question, but I think we'll be hard pressed to fill Chief Maxfield's shoes looking at the lengthy list of achievements he's done in such a short period of time."

Selectman Bill Borowski added to Singer's sentiments calling the chief "phenomenal" and complimenting the many contributions he has made to the community as both police chief and in other roles he has filled during the past two decades.

"The fact is, you keep us all safe at night with your team. You have cultivated a staff that is really the sign of a true leader. At any time, people can call the police station regardless of what it is and they know they will be taken care of. The fact that you help people sleep at night I think, at least as chief, will be your greatest accomplishment," Borowski said.

The chief himself was humbled by the support he received from selectmen. In the end though

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MTD doubles manufacturing space



CHARLTON — MTD Micro Molding is a contract manufacturer that specializes in problem solving for the micro-medical device market and is a strategic partner for bringing the smallest, most critical, cutting-edge devices to life. MTD is vertically integrated with tooling and molding in-house at our facility in Charlton and are uniquely specialized in micro-injection molding bioabsorbable and drug-delivery appli-

cations.

In 2017, MTD announced the plans to expand the facility in Charlton to accommodate the fast-growing medical micromolding business. In 2019, MTD unexpectedly lost their president and leader, Dennis Tully, who was the mastermind behind the building expansion project. In his honor, MTD carried on Tully's vision and completed the project on schedule, despite set-

backs from the COVID-19 pandemic.

As vice president, Gary Hulecki explains, "We were nearing our capacity in our existing manufacturing space and needed room to grow."

The expansion measures 11,700 square feet, creating a new facility size of 27,450 square feet—effectively doubling MTD's cleanroom manufacturing space. The expansion is complete

with a new tooling department, more material storage, a new conference space, additional offices, and even a fitness center for employees. MTD is a single-source supplier for customers, performing all micromolding services in-house, in a single controlled environment.

For example, the expansion allows MTD to better handle the logistics of the increasing need for custom packaging and

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Trinity Catholic Academy returns to class full time!

SOUTHBRIDGE — Tuesday, Sept. 8 was the first day of in person learning for Grades 1-8 at Trinity Catholic Academy. It was a day with so many smiles even if they were behind masks, for teachers to see students and students to see teachers once again after being away from the classrooms since March of this year. So many missed their “extended family members”!

As reported in the past, teachers at TCA and across the Diocese have put returning to “in-person” class as their top priority all summer.

(Certainly not a “summer off”) To put all the details in place for this to happen took dedication and “heart” with the safety of students and teachers alike at the top of the list.

Principal Josie Citta, Fr. Ken Cardinale along with faculty & staff were curbside or statically stationed to welcome all students for their first day with new procedures in place. Students are temperature checked before exiting their vehicle, hand sanitized before entering the building and then directed promptly to their classroom. Proper signage with reminders

of “six feet apart” and masks continue to be very visible. The usual first day general assembly did not happen. Instead, the PA system was used for welcoming comments from Principal Citta and a new school year blessing from Fr. Ken for a safe and successful unique school year, asking the Virgin Mary to guide us through this new path for their education. Fr. Ken concluded by leading all students and faculty to join in from their classes to sing Happy Birthday to Mary as Sept. 8 is her birthday.

being, hoping that similar bonding experiences will result accordingly. Kindergarten students are usually grouped at tables, this year they are at individual desks with their own supplies. New activities have been put in place to keep physical activity and transitions not only fun but educational!

Thursday, Sept. 10 was the first day for Pre-K at Trinity. You might think they had been going for weeks already. Both Pre-K and Kindergarten did individual orientations for each student and their parent along with the child a couple weeks before. This proved to be very beneficial for expectations of children, parents, and teachers alike. Each preschooler also has their own desk with their own supplies at their fingertips. Floor time locations for each child is strategically marked for proper spacing, this done with colored dots to station themselves, but airplane arms is the best to “make sure” you are the right distance apart from your fellow preschooler.

All teachers can have several classes held outside if weather cooperates. Classes such as sci-



ence physical education, movement and other classes are easily adaptable for a change of scenery and the opportunity to move to the outdoors. No matter what age, the variety of masks to observe is a new entertainment, from shark faces to American flags, they are great way students are sharing their personalities!

Throughout Trinity, programs are being introduced that are easily

adapted at home should this become a necessity, but hopefully, with all guidelines in place TCA classes will remain “live” for the entire school year! TCA is very grateful for those who have contributed in the past and currently toward technology upgrades to have what we need for the students along with the personal attention each student deserves.

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Wednesday, Sept. 9 was the first day of Kindergarten with the same safety procedure. The added difference for the Kindergarten students was that they got to meet their (eighth grade buddies/mentors) at a distance curbside with each eighth grader holding a sign with their personal buddy's name. This buddy system will be virtual within the school for the time

Cornerstone Bank receives First Place for Overall Quality in Banking Choice Awards

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank has been recognized as the top bank in Central Massachusetts for overall quality.

“We are honored to be recognized as this year’s New England Banking Choice Awards best in overall quality in Central Massachusetts,” said Cornerstone Bank Chairman & CEO K. Michael Robbins. “We thank our customers for their continued support, and our employees for their hard work and dedication in achieving this award.”

The award is presented by American Business Media and Customer Experience Solutions LLC who interview thousands of banking customers in a double-blind format. These banking benchmarks are highly respected as they are created with input directly from local consumers.

“We’re honored to be recognized for best overall quality in Central Massachusetts,” stated President and Treasurer of Cornerstone Bank

Todd M. Tallman. “This award was made possible by our employees’ commitment to delivering respect, integrity, trust, and excellence to our customers.”

About Cornerstone Bank
 Cornerstone Bank is an independent, mutual savings bank serving the residents, businesses, and communities throughout Central Massachusetts from offices in Charlton, Holden, Leicester, Rutland, Southbridge, Spencer, Sturbridge, Warren, Webster, and Worcester along with a Loan Center in Westborough. Deposits are insured in full by a combination of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Depositors Insurance Fund. The Bank is an Equal Opportunity Employer, Equal Housing Lender, and SBA Preferred Lender. For more information, visit online at cornerstonebank.com, on Facebook, or call 800-939-9103.

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Hitchcock Academy gears up for a changing season



BRIMFIELD — Hitchcock Free Academy has stood at the corner of Brookfield Road and Route 20 in Brimfield since 1855. It strives to be a vital part of the community by reacting and adapting to changing times. With the turn of the season comes new challenges and, as always, Hitchcock meets them with some innovative ways to enjoy favorite activities.

With the weather becoming cooler it is time to bring Outdoor Yoga indoors. Beginning September 21 practitioners can savor the relaxation and revitalization of a Sharon Palmer yoga class at home. All that is needed are a mat and a Wi-Fi connection and for one hour and 15 minutes, from 7:15 to 8:30 p.m. on Monday evenings, yogis can flow into the rest of the work week. Online yoga is just one way Hitchcock Academy has adjusted to the guidelines dictated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Hitchcock is still offering martial arts classes but with modifications in order to ensure the safety of students and instructors. Classes of no more than six students will be offered on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Students will wear masks; temperatures will be taken at the door and, after washing their hands, students will head upstairs to the dojo where appropriate social distances will be mapped out on the practice mats. Parents will not be allowed in the dojo but they may watch class activity via a ZOOM link. As in years past, the judo program, which runs from September through Dec. 1 is free for the lessons.

Hitchcock Academy has not forgotten the musically inclined either, offering two different venues for those who wish to pursue this option. Violin and viola lessons are offered via ZOOM with instructor Linda Day Newland, who was a violinist in the Austin Symphony Orchestra for 22

years. Students preferring an in-person music experience can opt for individual piano lessons with instructor Ann Macon at Hitchcock Academy. Macon has been a pianist for over 25 years and holds a BA in Music Composition and Theory. Piano instruction includes reading music, music theory and writing for beginner to intermediate levels for ages six to adult.

Sue Gaulin's Let's Cake Decorate classes have always been popular at Hitchcock and this fall, in order to accommodate social distancing, Hitchcock is offering four separate classes featuring seasonal themes. These classes are limited to just nine pupils each and the instructor will provide all materials. Limited class size doesn't mean limited fun though and every lesson includes step by step instruction for working with buttercream and learning piping techniques to create unique designs.

As Always, Laurie Merritt is on hand to lend a hand to our four-legged friends. As the weather permits the Buddies Dog Training and the K9 Nosework© classes will be held outdoors. Laurie also offers individual and advanced classes for those wishing specialized training. When the weather turns cold classes will be modified to accommodate an indoor setting.

With 2020 being both challenging and draining, Hitchcock Academy hopes to bring some light into the community with a celebration of World Smile Day which is always celebrated on the first Friday in October.

This year marks the first time Hitchcock will participate in the event but, according to executive director, Cindy Skowyra, "with all that has gone on this year this will be a good opportunity for the community to come together to share some joy."

On Friday, Oct. 2, we are inviting all community members: old, young, teen or tween, to join us and become a World Smile Day Ambassador by dropping in anytime from 2 to 6 p.m. and paint a Kindness Rock. The rocks can be taken home to leave at on a friend's, neighbor's or even a stranger's porch, or leave the rock and let Hitchcock distribute them in the area to spread good cheer. Participants in this free event will receive a World Smile Day Ambassador certificate, sticker and poster. The World Smile Day celebration is yet another example of how Hitchcock Academy adapts to the needs of those it serves in order to remain relevant and follow the World Smile Day mantra – "Do an act of kindness, help one person smile!"



ACCURACY WATCH

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

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

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

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Thomas J. Bartholomew of Bartholomew & Company honored in Barron's Top 100 Independent Advisors for 2020



Thomas Bartholomew

WORCESTER — Bartholomew & Company, a provider of financial services with headquarters in Worcester, Massachusetts, announced that Thomas Bartholomew has been named to Barron's list of Top 100 Independent Advisors for 2020. The list is published on barrons.com.

According to Barron's, a leading financial publication, the ranking reflects America's top 100 independent financial advisors. List makers are determined based on the volume of assets overseen by the advisors and their teams, revenues generated for the firms, and the quality of the advisors' practices.

"I am pleased to have been named to this prestigious list—a recognition that, to us, speaks to our firm's commitment to providing financial planning

and investment advice tailored to each client," said Mr. Bartholomew. "I am grateful for the trust our clients place in us, and we remain committed to providing the guidance and support they need to achieve their unique financial goals."

About Bartholomew & Company Bartholomew & Company has been providing individuals and organizations with financial guidance since 1994. Located at 370 Main Street, Suite 1000, Worcester, MA 01608, with branch offices in Bedford and Chatham, Bartholomew & Company's advisors pride themselves on crafting unique strategies for each client. For more information, please visit www.bartandco.com. Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network®, member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser.

To compile this annual list, Barron's bases its ratings on a proprietary analysis of the following criteria: 1, including assets under management; 2, experience, which includes a minimum of 7 years in the industry with at least 1 year with current firm, revenues generated by advisors for their firms; quality of practices, which includes examination of regulatory records; and philanthropic work. Barron's does not provide a count of eligible nominees for the award, citing their data as proprietary. This award is not indicative of the wealth manager's future performance. Your experience may vary.

JetBlue honors LPNs with pairs of roundtrip flight certificates

CHARLTON — When JetBlue (NASDAQ: JBLU) launched JetBlue Healthcare Hero to honor 100,000 healthcare workers with roundtrip flight certificates for two to anywhere JetBlue flies, it was not just in New York.

Three Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Alumni became recipients of the honor. Marina Daniels, LPN of Webster (Class of 2014), Ruth "Dee Dee" Betz, LPN of Worcester (Class of 2015), and Kaitaly Chunis, LPN of Millbury (Class of 2020) all received pairs of roundtrip flight certificates for dedicated work and service during the pandemic. Daniels,

Betz, and Chunis are more than just healthcare heroes, they are nurses.

According to president and chief operating officer Joanna Geraghty, "JetBlue's mission of inspiring humanity is stronger now more than ever, we applaud the healthcare workers who are helping us get through this challenging time and inspiring humanity along the way. This is an opportunity for us to fly forward and show our appreciation for the heroic efforts of medical professionals, first responders and public servants – not just here in our home of New York but around the country as well."

JetBlue called on the public to thank the

healthcare heroes in their life – from doctors and nurses, to pharmacists, therapists, social workers, public health administrators and more – by nominating them for a chance to receive one of 90,000 pairs of roundtrip flight certificates for two to use when the time is right.

Gretheline Bolandrina MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Director stated, "I'm not surprised that Bay Path alumni were nominated and honored. Each alumna excelled in their role as LPNs. We are proud of their contributions to the community."

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Friday's Child



Khamari Age 12

Hi! My name is Khamari and when I grow up, I want to be a video game designer, music beat maker, and doctor!

Khamari is an extremely creative young boy of African American descent. Khamari enjoys expressing himself by creating his own music, board games, and videos! He thrives when he receives one-on-one attention from caring adults, but is also able to play independently. He loves to stay busy and is up for engaging in a wide range of activities. He is also very curious and loves to talk and ask questions.

Legally freed for adoption, Khamari would benefit being part of an energetic and loving family of

any constellation, with or without older children in the home. A family for Khamari would be engaging, nurturing, and able to continue the beneficial services he has in place for him.

Who Can Adopt?

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

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

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



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Climate solution: Let the trees grow

AG HOSTS CLIMATE, FOREST AND HEALTH FORUM

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

REGION — While Bay State forests have been taking up more carbon over the last few decades than cutting them has released, proposals to cut trees for development, solar and/or biomass energy would have century-long payback times or longer.

That was one of the takeaways from last Tuesday's online forum conducted by the Attorney General's Office. More than 300 people attended to hear Tufts Professor emeritus William Moomaw, MIT professor John Sterman, and Richard Birdsey of Woodwell Climate Center talk on the "Critical Role of Forests in Protecting Climate and Public Health."

For Moomaw, the key solution to climate change is "proforestation." That involves two major changes to what we now do: set aside forest reserves that cannot be harvested and allow the trees we do harvest to grow longer.

"The largest one percent of trees in mature and older forests comprise half of the biomass," and therefore store half of the carbon, he said.

But those are the trees lumber companies typically target first, so there aren't very many of them left. In general, Birdsey said, trees need to grow about twice as long as most Massachusetts forests have been growing to reach that state. Forests today are "middle-aged" — between 45 and 105 years old — so they "still have a long way to go before they get old."

While "forests are growing almost five times faster than they're being harvested" right now and the state "has the highest carbon density in the Northeast," Birdsey said, they're only catching about 10 percent of our carbon emissions.

Moomaw noted most of the rest are going into the oceans, but enough end up in the atmosphere to have hiked CO2 levels from 330 to about 420 parts per million since 1880. That figure is higher than it has been in nearly 800,000 years.

"It's accelerating and rising more rapidly," Moomaw said. "...All but one of the warmest years on record have occurred since 2000," and that one exception was 1998. While the world signed the Paris Accords in 2015 agreeing to avoid a 1.5C average temperature increase, most countries have not met their goals to date, which would lead to a 45 percent emissions reduction by 2030. (Statistics widely show that emissions have fallen during the Covid-19 lockdowns, but the atmosphere's total CO2 concentration continues to rise, just a little more slowly.)

Moomaw noted there are many methods that can help stop and reverse CO2 emissions, including reforestation, cropland and pasture, improved forest management, especially letting them live longer, planting more trees outside forests. In short, he said, "We just need to let more trees grow."

"New England forests are among the most resilient forests in this country," but climate change could hurt that, he later added in response to a question. Generally, though, our region is likely to fare better than most because forests can adapt to the increased precipitation predicted for New England better than increased drought expected elsewhere, he said.

But what Birdsey termed "overly pessimistic" projections over the rest of the century show that development, climate change, and increased harvesting will cause a "continued loss of forest area."

located, "ironically, a few miles away is a cleared strip mall ... which could have hosted those solar panels," he said.

Since 1900, only 19 percent of the carbon harvested from the state's forests is now stored in various kinds of products, while 16 percent is in landfills and 65 percent is now in the atmosphere, he said.

To Sterman, one concept sometimes touted as a "green energy" source is anything but — biomass burning. That's just what it sounds like: burying wood in powerplants; while they get some scrap and post-consumer waste, most of what they burn is newly-cut trees.

Sterman said doing that actually has far worse climate impact per unit of useful energy than even fossil fuels — it produces 25 percent more CO2 than oil and 75 percent more than natural gas — with emissions all along the supply chain, from harvesting and soil disturbance, transportation, processing and combustion itself. Yes, the trees can eventually regrow but that "takes time and is not certain," he said, especially given that a lot of land is then developed.

"The only opportunity for reducing CO2" with biomass is "if the forests you harvested regrow faster than the ones you harvested," he said. In practice, though, that does not happen easily. Regrowing forest takes anywhere from 98 to 138 years to accumulate the carbon that was emitted by burning it, depending on how old the harvested forest was to start with and how it was harvested (thinned vs clearcut). He also noted such a calculation ignored the probable negative effects of climate change itself that might harm forest regrowth, such as precipitation changes and invasive pests.

Later, in response to an audience question, he said climate change will be a "very serious" risk to forest health. It will also change the species mix, which is already starting, with "the maples having a hard time trying to survive here and trying to migrate north." As the climate warms, he added, we'll see the "zone of success of these species [change] faster than they can migrate."

"We just don't have that time.... Burning trees, burning wood for bioenergy makes climate change worse for at least a century or more," Sterman said. After noting several public health

groups oppose biomass due to pollution and health issues, he added, "This should in no way be taken as a justification for continuing to use fossil fuels, because those are just making climate change worse."

Instead, he advocated for solar and wind with storage cells as "the cheapest source of the energy we need," but the biggest need is for increased energy efficiency. (Even the federal government's own Energy Information Agency data shows that around half of all the energy produced is simply wasted, often either lost during transmission or emitted as heat. Within buildings, a lot of that can be captured by heat pumps.)

Audience member Kristen Sykes agreed in the chat, writing, "If people overall used less energy, that would make a huge difference. We have an energy addiction here in the US."

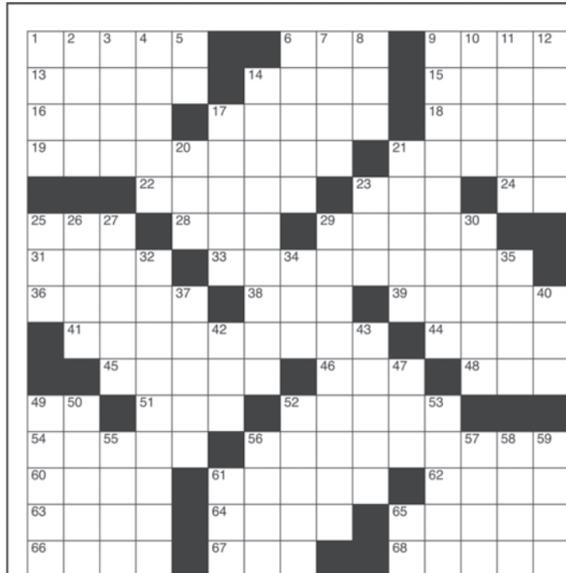
Sterman also said he considers "meaningful" carbon pricing "among the highest leveraged things we can do" provided the revenue is rebated to the public (sometimes termed carbon tax-and-dividend). Moomaw added he feels "paying people to let their forests keep growing" is "one of the cheapest methods" to encourage carbon sequestration, and should be seen as "an investment."

In the chat, participants also proposed encouraging the use of hemp as a crop and building material, decreasing dairy and meat consumption, reducing overall resource consumption, and other approaches.

"We need a holistic, comprehensive approach that restores the ecosystem and works with Nature," wrote Lenore Bryck.

"It's not going to be easy to solve this crisis, but it is possible and it's worth it," Sterman concluded.

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

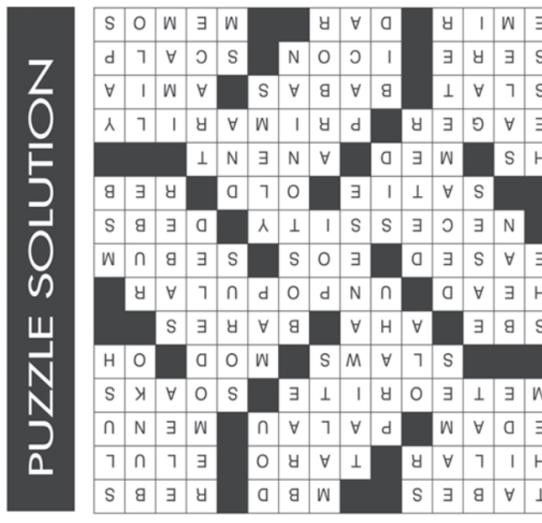


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Emaciation
- 6. Million barrels per day (abbr.)
- 9. Light dry-gap bridge system (abbr.)
- 13. Anatomical term
- 14. Tropical starchy tuberous root
- 15. Jewish calendar month
- 16. Round Dutch cheese
- 17. Western Pacific republic
- 18. List of foods
- 19. It can strike the ground
- 21. Drenches
- 22. Some are cole
- 23. ___ Squad
- 24. Expresses emotion
- 25. One point east of due south
- 28. Satisfaction
- 29. Holds nothing back
- 31. Top of the body
- 33. Not well-liked
- 36. Did slowly
- 38. Greek goddess of the dawn
- 39. Gland secretion
- 41. Vital to existence
- 44. Aristocratic young women
- 45. Erik __, composer
- 46. Not young
- 48. Jewish term for "Sir"
- 49. Secondary school
- 51. ___ student: learns to heal
- 52. Regarding
- 54. Highly excited
- 56. Mainly
- 60. Thin, narrow piece of wood
- 61. Cakes
- 62. Biomedical nonprofit
- 63. Dried-up
- 64. One who is symbolic of something
- 65. Body part
- 66. Muslim ruler
- 67. Women from Mayflower
- 68. Notes

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Not us
- 2. Helper
- 3. Bleat
- 4. Type of chair
- 5. Jr.'s father
- 6. Necessary for certain beverages
- 7. Hillside
- 8. Dutch painter Gerrit ___
- 9. Gave a new look
- 10. Ancient Greek City
- 11. Confidence trick
- 12. Type of fund
- 14. From an Asian island
- 17. Malay boat
- 20. Western Australia indigenous people
- 21. Cluster on underside of fern frond
- 23. You need it to get somewhere
- 25. The woman
- 26. It may be green
- 27. Makes less severe
- 29. One from Beantown
- 30. Cavalry sword
- 32. Metric linear unit
- 34. Hawaiian dish
- 35. Yokel
- 37. Dissuade
- 40. Mutual savings bank
- 42. ___ Caesar, comedian
- 43. Primordial matters
- 47. We all have it
- 49. Hermann __, author of "Siddhartha"
- 50. Historic MA coastal city
- 52. Shady garden alcove
- 53. Small amount
- 55. Horse-drawn cart
- 56. Nocturnal rodent
- 57. Spiritual leader
- 58. Air mattress
- 59. Speaks incessantly
- 61. Auction term
- 65. Atomic #62



Regarding one solar project in Berkshire County (although many others are similarly

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Old Sturbridge Academy opens for in-person learning

STURBRIDGE — Old Sturbridge Academy (OSA) welcomed 230 students and 40 faculty back for in-person learning with 50 students learning remotely on Sept. 8.

Old Sturbridge Academy and Old Sturbridge Village came together to expand the Academy campus in order to maintain social distancing and guidelines put out by the CDC and Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

"While the decision to shut down our banquet and conference facilities due to Covid-19 was difficult, the silver lining was that we had the available space to transform our ballroom and other function space into classrooms which the students have thoroughly enjoyed," said Jim Donahue, President and CEO of Old Sturbridge Village.

"We are so excited to welcome our students and families back to Old Sturbridge Academy in a safe and positive environment," said Lisa DeTora, Principal of Old Sturbridge Academy. "I am so impressed by all the students and faculty for their patience and understanding which has made our re-opening a great success."

Old Sturbridge Academy is also offering free before and after care for all academy families in order to be as flexible as possible for parents during this time. The outside-of-school-hours care is made possible by their partnership with Old Sturbridge Village's Museum Education Department.

"The interpreters and museum education staff have been extremely helpful and flexible to ensure that we can support every student and family of the Old Sturbridge Academy community," said Emily Dunnack, Director of Museum Education.





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

Whiz Kid launches tech support service

STURBRIDGE — Today's household has more computer users than ever. With Mom and Dad working from home either full- or part-time, the kids attending school under normal, hybrid or remote conditions, many households have more computers than some small businesses. The only difference being most small businesses have some sort of IT support in-house or on retainer.

Seeing this need prompted Sturbridge resident Paul LaFlamme to create Whiz Kids Support to serve consumer users and small businesses with three or fewer PCs.

What is a Whiz Kid? In simple terms, it's somebody who is good with computers and can find quick fixes and add protection systems to keep your computer running smoothly. Ironically, many Whiz Kids are not exactly kids.

"Some of our Whiz Kids are Gen X'ers, even a Baby Boomer or two. But each Whiz Kid has a special ability to provide solutions to common and not-so-common computer issues," said Paul LaFlamme, founder of Whiz Kid Support and the owner of Centrend, a Sturbridge-based IT solution provider for small to mid-size businesses. "While there may be a few households that have their own computer whiz

living there, most don't. Whiz Kids Support provides a remote resource for households to solve computer problems, address security issues and remove the stress from having something go wrong with your computer. That's why we call it stress-free tech."

Whiz Kid Solutions provides remote computer services on a wide range of common issues—slow computer, e-mail problems, security, stopping pop-ups, or setting up new computers. For those issues that can't be fixed remotely, Whiz Kid Support also offers on-site and zero-contact drop off repair by appointment.

Other issues Whiz Kid Support addresses include computer security and safety; printing problems; e-mail issues; slow dropping Wi-Fi; back-ups; and more. Whiz Kid Support also offers coaching and training as well as new computer sales and replacements.

"Without being cruel, most home users do not take the proper precautions for their computers. That could be for any number of reasons, ranging from lack of knowledge to not wanting to bring their computer to the big box store and being without it for an unknown period of time," said LaFlamme. "With Whiz Kids, we can fix 95 percent of your problems remotely so you're not without your PC or Mac. Whiz Kids also provide tech solutions for Smartphones."

In addition to household customers, Whiz Kid Support also serves small businesses with three computers or less. Whiz Kid Support service plans range from one-time fixes to Bronze, Silver and Gold options. The plans are per household and not for one specific computer.

"Our service plans are flexible and offer a

viable, stress-free solution for a wide range of users, including households with one or more students; home businesses; seniors; etc.," said LaFlamme.

For complete information on Whiz Kid Support plans and services, visit whizkidsupport.com.

About Whiz Kid Support

Whiz Kid Support provides computer support services to individual home users and to small/independent businesses with three or fewer computers. A sister company to Centrend (<https://www.centrend.com/>), Whiz Kid Support offers one-time rates and annual service plans and fixes a wide range of computer issues. Whiz Kid Support also offers coaching, training and consultation services on purchasing new computers. For more information, call 774-778-2800 or visit <https://www.whizkidsupport.com>.

BAKER

continued from page A1
media accounts about several emergency preparedness topics. These include emergency planning, building an emergency kit, preparing for disasters, youth preparedness, and ways to get involved in municipal readiness.

"Preparedness takes a whole community effort. During the COVID-19 pandemic, so many essential workers and organizations across the Commonwealth have worked tirelessly to keep medical services operating and public safety operations functioning," said MEMA

Director Samantha Phillips.

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation is also displaying signage along highways to raise awareness of Emergency Preparedness Month.

At the local level, police, fire, and EMS departments have made preparedness a year-round commitment. The Leicester Police Department takes part in several emergency preparedness activities, including servicing the generator, readying portable generators, and inventorying supplies of emergency cots, blankets, and other essential items. Additionally, the town's

portable sign boards are ready for deployment if needed, and the police department's backup radio system was recently tested for operation. Moreover, police cruisers feature water safety bags in the trunks of front-line patrol cars.

"All of these items are ready and available year-round, but having September marked as the month to prepare is a terrific reminder to recheck these items, as well as our stock of batteries and other items necessary to keep the citizens of Leicester safe," said Leicester Police Chief Ken Antanavica.

MAXFIELD

continued from page A1

he said it takes more than just one person to create a successful police department to serve the community at large.

"It's been a pleasure to serve this town and all of you. I have great people in my

building, my lieutenant, my sergeants, all top of the line individuals, my executive assistant. Although I speak for the department as the chief it's really a collection of moving parts. I have great people and a great department. You're in good hands," Chief Maxfield said.

MTD

continued from page A1

assembly services.

"The days of bulk packing tiny medical parts are becoming a thing of the past. Custom packaging solutions are becoming a requirement for medical OEMs," Hulecki said.

At a time when many businesses are worried about their future, Hulecki admits that he does have one concern

with this expansion project.

"Our fear is that we will grow out of this expansion, at the rate of growth we're seeing," he noted.

About MTD Micro Molding

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To learn more, visit mtdmicromolding.com or come tour our facility in Charlton.

Quinsigamond Community College gets the vote out

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College students are getting the word out about the power and impact of voting. As a service to our community, the College has developed an informational video campaign that highlights college students discussing the importance of voting. The videos remind people of the October 8 deadline for voter registration, and encourage everyone to participate in our upcoming elections. In addition to producing videos, the College is using #QCCVotes to drive voter registrations and student participation via social media.

The College's easy to navigate Web page, www.QCC.edu/vote, offers a direct link to the Commonwealth's voter registration page and other important voting information. QCC is working in collaboration with the Higher Education Consortium Central MA (HECCMA) and its Get Out The Vote Group, as well as MassVote, to promote the videos throughout the City of Worcester and help build awareness. QCC is also supporting MassVote's Spanish speaking Zoom event on Sept. 24 from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m., "Your Voting Rights During the COVID 19 Crisis"/"VOTE INFORMADAMENTE: Sus derechos al votar durante la crisis de COVID 19."

"It's such an important time in our nation's history and exercising your right to vote is one of the most impactful and powerful duties we can do as

American citizens," said Director of Community Bridges Déborah González.

Young voters have the power to change elections and represent close to one third of the voting population, yet historically vote less often than those of the baby boomer generation. QCC's Voting campaign shines the spotlight on the ability to shape the future through voting.

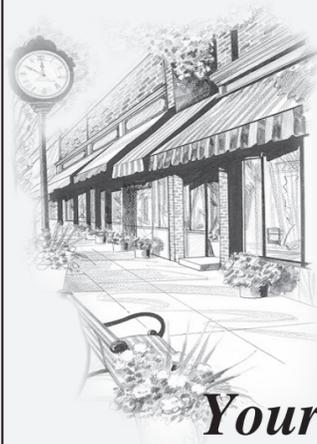
"Voting enables people to affect change, shape policies and make a better future," Ms. González continued.

A 2018 study done by Tufts University showed that college students more than doubled their rate of voting between mid-term election voting in 2014 and 2018, and according to Pew Research Center, Millennials, Gen Z and Gen Xers cast more votes in the 2016 presidential election.

"This demonstrates the power of younger voters. They are the driving force behind what will happen on Nov. 3 and what the future holds for our country," said QCC Associate Vice President for External Affairs, Viviana Abreu-Hernandez, adding, "I encourage everyone to make sure they register to vote and vote early."

Visit www.QCC.edu/vote to get more information on how and where to vote.

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





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Plant in fall for a colorful spring display



Photo Melinda Myers

Lilies grow from bulbs and their large prominent flowers brighten up gardens and provide vertical appeal.

It's time to think spring. Fall is the time to plant tulips, daffodils, crocus and other spring flowering bulbs. Use these early bloomers to welcome spring to your landscape. You'll appreciate the color and cheery blooms after another long winter passes.

Extend your enjoyment by including early blooming bulbs like snowdrops, squills, and winter acornites. Add early, mid,

or late spring blooming tulips and early and mid spring flowering daffodils for a continuous display of color. Check the package or catalog description for bloom times.

Create some winning combinations by planting white tulips with grape hyacinths or yellow daffodils with the equally assertive blue squills. Plant a fragrant garden bouquet by combining tulips, daffodils and hya-

cinths. Select varieties that bloom at the same time in complementary colors or blends.

Include summer flowering hardy lilies. Many are fragrant and these stately beauties provide vertical accents in the garden. Cut a few stems to display in a vase or mix with other flowers in summer bouquets.

Don't let hungry animals stop you from brightening your spring with these bulbs. Include animal resistant bulbs like hyacinths, grape hyacinths, daffodils, fritillarias, and alliums.

You can plant tulips, crocus, and lilies, just be sure to use physical barriers like chicken wire or animal repellents like rain resistant Plantskydd(plantskydd.com). It's an organic repellent that comes in both liquid and granular formulations to protect bulbs animals prefer to eat.

Lay the bulbs out on newspaper, apply the

liquid repellent, and allow them to dry before planting. Add an extra layer of protection by sprinkling the granular repellent over the soil surface. In spring, begin protecting the plants before the animals begin feeding. Follow label directions for proper timing of additional repellent applications.

Prepare the soil before planting. Work compost, peatmoss, or other organic matter into the top twelve inches of soil to improve drainage, a key factor in growing success.

Wait until the soil is cool to plant your bulbs. This is usually after the first hard frost or when night temperatures average between 40 and 50 degrees. Plant the bulbs two to three times their vertical height deep and at least two to three times their diameter apart. Try grouping at least six to nine larger bulbs, like tulips and daffodils, and



GARDEN MOMENTS

MELINDA MYERS

15 to 20 smaller bulbs, like squills and crocus, together for greater impact.

Mix a low nitrogen, slow release fertilizer into the soil surface and water thoroughly after planting. Continue watering thoroughly when the soil is dry throughout the fall, while the bulbs grow roots.

After you enjoy their blooms next spring, leave the leaves intact until they yellow. Leaves produce the energy needed for next year's floral display. Mask the fading foliage by planting winter hardy pansies with your bulbs in fall, adding color to both fall and spring

gardens. Or plant bulbs amongst perennials. Early spring flowering perennials double your pleasure, later bloomers extend the flowering season, and both help hide fading bulb foliage.

Break out your trowel and gloves and get busy planting. You'll be glad you did when that first flower appears next spring.

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

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
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BRENDAN BERUBE
 EDITOR

Fall Lawn and Garden Care

As the harvest season wanes and the leaves begin to fall, it becomes apparent the backyard garden, so alive and abundant in recent weeks, is soon to retire for a long winter's nap. While bountiful garden rewards may be behind us, garden chores are not. There is still much to keep a New England gardener busy during the autumn season. From planting to pruning, efforts now will be celebrated next year. It is the anticipation of these future crops that sustains weary gardeners through the roster of fall chores.



TAKE THE HINT
KAREN TRAINOR

OCTOBER
 October Stats: Average temperature (Worcester, MA): 58.3; Possibility of Sunshine: 58%; Precipitation: 4.7".

October is the month to:

- Plant spring flowering bulbs such as tulips, crocuses and daffodils.
- Prune roses to prepare for winter. Cut non-blooming roses back half way.
- Rake leaves from lawn; add to compost pile.
- Make sure evergreens have a good deep watering before the ground freezes. They should receive at least an inch of water a week, preferably more.
- If you test your soil and add any needed amendments now, the soil will be ready for planting in spring.
- Cut back and mulch fall chrysanthemums after blooming.
- Christmas cactus should rest in a cool, dim room with little water. Bring it back out November 15 for holiday bloom.
- Protect pumpkins from frost
- As leaves begin to fall, remove them long before snow arrives. They not only shade the grass during late fall, but become wet and mat down to smother the grass over winter.
- Raked leaves make an excellent mulch on the bare, winter garden. They can prevent weeds next year, and as they decompose add organic matter to the soil.
- Continue to mow your lawn until growth ceases. Make the last mowing a notch or two lower, in order to remove much top growth. This will avoid the need to rake off dead growth in the spring, and will help prevent snow mold disease.

Other Fall Garden Chores
 Stowing the Stash: Proper storage of your bountiful harvest will ensure your family the fruits of your labor throughout the New England winter. Generations ago, a root cellar was a basement staple. Today, the temperature can be achieved via a little creativity. Whether you are growing your own root vegetables or are buying in bulk from a local farm or farmers market, proper storage is imperative to its flavor and quality. Here's the rundown on proper temps to keep your harvest safe and flavorful: Potatoes, beets, carrots, parsnips, turnips, cabbage and celery should be kept in a humid atmosphere at about 35-40 degrees. Squash and pumpkins should be stored in a dry area at 40-60 degrees. Onions and dry beans should be kept at 33 degrees in a dry area.

Generations ago, a root cellar was a basement staple; today some improvising is in order: Those with unheated basements report success creating a substitute root cellar by partitioning off one corner, installing insulation and a heavy, solid door. Keep in mind the temperature inside the root cellar will be coolest near the floor, so place roots there atop an old door or boards. Or create a root box by filling a large, sturdy cardboard box with a few inches of sawdust or sand. Place a layer of roots such as carrots, leaving two inches along the sides. Cover lightly with sawdust and alternate layers, adding a final three inches of sawdust on top. Store in a cool basement or in the cellar bulkhead area. Roots can touch each other in storage, just don't pack them in tightly, as some moist air must be able to circulate.

Lawn Care: New England lawns can be a challenge, but there are some shortcuts to ensure a lush lawn come spring. As leaves begin to fall, remove them long before snow arrives. They not only shade the grass during late fall, but become wet and mat down to smother the grass over winter. Raked leaves make excellent mulch on the bare, winter garden. They can prevent weeds next year, and as they decompose add organic matter to the soil. Or add them to the compost pile. Some run over the leaves with a rotary mower, shredding them into fine pieces. Unless too thick, or adding to an existing thatch problem, this may work for your lawn. Continue to mow your lawn until growth ceases, often sometime in October. Make the last mowing a notch or two lower, in order to remove much top growth. This will avoid the need to rake off dead growth in the spring, and will help prevent snowmold disease.

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 E-mail KDRR@aol.com. Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn.

Open enrollment choices can have big financial impact



FINANCIAL FOCUS
DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

It's that time of year again, where, if you work for a medium-to-large employer, you've got some decisions to make because it's open enrollment time. Of course, depending on your situation, you may have been working remotely for a while, but, even so, you will likely have the opportunity to review your benefits package and make changes. And you'll want to make the right moves, because your choices can have a big financial impact on your life.

So, take a close look at these key areas of your benefits program:

Health insurance – Think about your health care needs over the coming year – will you or someone in your family be coping with a chronic illness or facing a surgery? Will you need to at least consider testing and possible treatment for COVID-19? In any case, make sure you're choosing the right plan for your needs. And pay close attention to any changes in your health insurance, such as whether the plan's provider networks have changed – you may want to make sure your own doctor is still in-network. Also, check to see if you can reduce your health care premiums by taking part in a wellness program or health-risk assessment.

Life insurance – Your employer may offer a group life insurance policy for free, or for a small amount. It's probably worth your while to take this coverage, but it may not be enough for your needs. If you only had this group policy, but your family situation has recently changed through marriage or the addition of a new child, you may well need to add some private insurance.

Disability insurance – In addition to offering group life insurance, your employer may provide short-term disability insurance as an employee benefit. Like group insurance, this disability coverage may not cost you anything, but it may not be adequate – typically, short-term disability only replaces part of your income for three to six months. And while you may never need to miss work for an extended period of time, you never can tell – after all, more than one in four 20-year-olds will become disabled before they retire, according to the U.S. Social Security Administration. You may want to consider purchasing your own long-term disability policy on top of the coverage offered by your employer.

Retirement plan – You can probably make changes to your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan at any time, but why not look at it now, when you're reviewing all your benefits? If you can afford to increase your contributions, you probably should, because a 401(k), with its tax advantages and ease of contribution through paycheck deductions, is a great way to save for retirement. At a minimum, put in enough to earn your employer's match. You'll also want to review your 401(k)'s investment mix. Is it still providing you with significant growth potential within the context of your individual risk tolerance? Over time, you may need to make some adjustments, either because an investment is underperforming or because you're getting close to retirement and you need to reduce your risk exposure. In any case, it's a good idea to check up on your 401(k)'s investments at least once a year.

Your employee benefits are an important part of your overall financial picture – so do what you can to get the most from them.

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.

The passing of a trail blazer

The world lost a champion for justice last week with the passing of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. A role model for both men and women, Ginsburg passed away at the age of 87. Ginsburg was active up until the last two weeks of her life, even performing a wedding ceremony.

She became the second female justice to sit on the U.S. Supreme Court, and the first Jewish woman. Her path to the highest court in the nation was not an easy one being cast off because she was a woman. Despite the push-back, Ginsburg had a list of firsts under her belt, including being the first tenured female professor at Columbia University. She was also the first female member of the Harvard Law Review. Ginsburg was one of nine females out of 500 attending Harvard Law School. At one point, the law dean asked each of the women to justify taking places at the school that could be filled by men.

Serving as the Director of the Women's Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union during the 1970s, Ginsburg fought to make legal the right for women to sign a mortgage without a man, the right to have a bank account without a male co-signer, the right to have a job without being discriminated based on gender and the right for women to be pregnant, have children and work at the same time. It was around this time she met her husband Martin Ginsburg, a tax lawyer who she helped through school, while he battled cancer. Together they had two children.

After graduation from Columbia, Ginsburg applied to work for 12 firms; however, she was denied based on her sex. Eventually, she was offered a clerkship at the U.S. District Court with Judge Edmund G. Palmieri. According to Ginsburg, she was declined other positions due to men feeling uncomfortable with her in chambers.

Ginsburg became a professor of law at Rutgers in 1963 just after studying the Swedish legal system.

In 1980, she was appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. In 1993, she was named to the U.S. Supreme Court by President Bill Clinton. During her Senate confirmation hearings, she refused to answer any questions that would reveal her personal opinions, and would not comment on hypothetical cases. She did so to "maintain [her] open-mindedness and integrity as a jurist."

Her list of achievements can fill a book and her life story is exceptional. Outside the steps of the Supreme Court, thousands have paid respects by leaving flowers, candles and messages that read "Rest in power" and "we can because she did."

A black drape was hung over the entrance of the Supreme Court building on Saturday, a tradition that dates back to 1873 after the passing of Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase. Ginsburg's chair and the front of the bench where she sat was also draped with a black cloth. Both will remain for 30 days.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Police Destruction Bill

To the Editor:
 As a former legislator and chairman of the Joint Committee on Public Safety, I am both dismayed and disappointed in the legislature's push to pass the "Police Destruction Bill." All major reform bills (education, healthcare, transportation) took between two and five years to pass, after detailed debate, scrutiny and public input. This so called "Police Reform Bill" was written, introduced, and passed the legislature in three weeks, with no public hearings and little professional input.

Democratic legislators had a knee jerk reaction to the fatal and unfortunate incident surrounding George Floyd's death in Minneapolis, along with several other disturbing incidents across the nation. However, this is not the norm or precedent in Massachusetts. Our biggest abuse of police power had to do with an overtime scandal, not police brutality. In fact, I would argue the reverse is happening in Massachusetts. Police and correction officers have been the victims of overwhelming increased violence and slayings, from Auburn police officer Ronald Tarentino, Souza Baranowski, Correction Officer Nate Beauvais stabbed 17 times in the neck and face, to the police slaying of Weymouth police officer Michael Chesna, to name just a few.

This pending "Police Destruction Bill" in the legislature goes way beyond com-

mon sense reform and improved training. Currently, Massachusetts prohibits police choke holds, emphasizes de-escalation tactics, supports more mental health awareness, has some of the highest educated and trained public safety officers in the nation, and most importantly, denies qualified immunity for any officer found violating an individual's civil rights.

The bill pending in the legislature oversteps its original intent and seeks to de-stabilize, de-fund and demoralize public safety in Massachusetts. It boldly and broadly eliminates qualified immunity for our public safety officials, which will create a flood of frivolous lawsuits and disciplinary charges. It eliminates due process and establishes a kangaroo appeal board run by civilians (that excludes public safety experience), limits the scope of no-knock search warrants, and panders to special interest groups committed to disrupting the duties and responsibilities of our public safety personnel.

Legislators need to vote in the best interest of their constituents, district, and citizens of Massachusetts, and not blindly with legislative leadership. Legislators should develop political fortitude and courage, and protect those that have dedicated their lives to protecting us.

GUY W. GLODIS
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Home is within your heart

I awoke this morning in a different place. Everything is new. I rose around 3 a.m. and walked straight into a wall. I thought for a moment that I broke my nose. I did not. Everything is unfamiliar, yet this is our new home.

For those regular readers of this column, you know we sold our home of twenty-six years and moved to a downsized place. We love our new digs, yet old habits are hard to break. I'll have to learn a new route to the restroom in the dark.

My biggest concern with this move was that Arlene would be happy and love our new place ... and she does. Watching her unpack and arrange things has been a joy ... but also a relief. Our first night here, she awoke in



POSITIVELY SPEAKING
GARY W. MOORE

the middle of the night, sat straight up, looked around at the darkened room and said, "I'm going home now."

I embraced her, coaxed her back onto her pillow and said, "We are home."

She sprung back up, looked around the dark room and responded, "I don't think so. I'm going home."

It scared me. I tossed and turned the rest of the night, worried that we made a mistake. A few hours later, she was enthusiastically brushing her teeth and mum-

bling through the toothpaste that she loves our new place.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 - To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.

Change can be difficult to accept and tough on us all. We have the choice, like Don Quixote, to foolishly charge at Windmills in protest, or to embrace the now and optimistically look forward and build a happy future. We choose the optimism of a new day and I'm left wondering why others would choose differently.

Nothing in this world remains the same. As the saying goes, nothing in life is as consistent as change. Fighting change is like cursing the wind. There is nothing you can

do to stop it. Instead, why not unfurl your sail and see where the wind might take you?

What have I learned through this process?

Life is an adventure and not a place. Let go and enjoy the ride.

A home is where you love others in your heart and where you lay your head at night.

Home is not an outer building but a place within you.

A home is your current place of residence, where you plan and launch your next adventure.

A home is a state of mind and not a location. Arlene and I, after three nights, feel comfortable at home.

be more thrilled with the prospects of our future.

We feel optimistic, happy, and blessed. It is a choice we have made to feel this way.

What choices will you make this day about your life? Whatever they are, make sure one of your choices is to be happy in the present and optimistic about your future.

Those are always our choices.

Will you join us?

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.

Hunting season in the air



THE GREAT OUTDOORS
RALPH TRUE

The recent cool weather has made a big change in my two dogs, Molly and Twig. They can sense the change in weather, and know that hunting season is just around the corner. My yellow Lab, Twig, is my main hunting dog, but my beagle Molly tags along, and often finds a bird or rabbit to chase. Man's best friend and hunting companion will make the hunt a lot more enjoyable. If you are fortunate enough to belong to a Rod & Gun Club that has a pheasant hunting program, the season should start in a couple of weeks. The state upland bird hunting season starts on Oct. 17.

Ruffed Grouse populations have taken a hard hit over the past 20 years or so. Most local bird hunters would not shoot a grouse if they encountered one while hunting, as they have high hopes that every bird

could make the difference in a substantial rebound in their populations in the coming years. Loss of adequate habitat is one of the main reasons for the loss of this fast flying game bird. Upland bird hunting has only two species of birds for hunting locally, which include woodcock and Pheasant, not counting the grouse. The woodcock populations are also on the decline due to loss habitat.

If it was not for the state stocking pheasant annually, bird hunting as we know it would be basically gone. Areas North & West of the valley still get to enjoy grouse hunting, but these areas are also seeing a large decline in their population. Numerous bird hunters have suggested closing grouse hunting in some zones in Mass. in hopes of bringing back a healthy population of birds. Hopefully, Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife will take the recommendation under advisement.

Duck hunting opens in Massachusetts on Oct. 13, in the Central District, with a daily bag limit of six ducks. The Wood Duck and Mallards make up most hunter's daily bag limits with a few black ducks making a slight come back in their

populations. This year, MFW has set aside a special season for duck hunting statewide for veterans and the military. Oct. 3 and Jan. 30 are the two days which are well earned by those that have sacrificed so much for their country.

Goose hunting picked up last week after farmers started cutting their corn. One pair of hunters bagged 15 birds in couple hours of hunting. These are geese that are defined as nuisance birds, that keep their residence hear all year long, often fowling golf courses, beaches, etc.!

With all of the Hurricanes and weather activity on our doorstep, it has been hard for boaters to get in a little fishing. High surf and rough seas are not fun to fish in. Hopefully, the tropics will calm down soon, but there seems to be no letup in sight, and we are only in the first half of the hurricane season. The canal started to heat up last week with a lot of big fish. Tons of bait fish were observed in the area. At least fishing from shore can still provide some good fishing on the saltwater.

Freshwater bass fishing continues to provide anglers with



Photo Courtesy

This week's picture shows young Derek Tetreault with a five-pound largemouth bass caught at the Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club last week.

some great fish, as this week's picture shows.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES
WAYNE TUISKULA

Selling estate contents during the pandemic

In previous columns, I have discussed options for buying antiques and collectibles during the COVID-19 pandemic. I have also written about online auctions during these times. This column will offer a comprehensive look at options for selling estate personal property during the pandemic.

The shelter in place orders at the beginning of the pandemic put live auctions, estate appraisals and estate sales on hold. There were many people who waited for the regulations to be loosened so they could sell their estate personal property. We received very few calls during the spring, but now we have

been fielding more calls than ever.

If you are an estate personal representative, methods of selling estate personal property have changed since the pandemic. Although things have changed, there are still many options available for sellers.

Some companies are still running estate (tag) sales. The Massachusetts August 7th updated gatherings order states "indoor gatherings are limited to eight people per 1,000 square feet, but should not exceed 25 people in a single enclosed, indoor space." Sellers cannot hold estate sales with 40 people in a house now. Estate sale company proprietors need to carefully monitor the number of people who enter and leave the home and have people waiting outside stay socially distanced.

To avoid the large crowds associated with traditional estate sales, many companies are using other options. They may be holding private sales where buyers are invited to attend one at a time and make their pur-

chases. Some companies are offering items online with a set price. Other estate sale companies have begun auctioning items online.

Some auctioneers have moved their operations outdoors. The updated gathering order provides for a "maximum of 50 people in a single enclosed outdoor space. Outdoor gatherings in unenclosed spaces are not subject to capacity limitations."

Auction houses like ours are strictly running online auctions. Auctions may take place at the estate, where we typically offer a preview prior to the end of bidding. Winning bidders may pick up their items the weekend after the end of the online bidding. We also gather higher valued items from multiple estates and offer them in a multi-estate antiques and collectibles auction. Many other auctioneers are selling strictly online too.

Which one of these methods is best for you? It depends. Auctions have been the preferred method for selling valu-

able items for hundreds of years. Estate sales have also become a popular way to sell estate contents and with companies adjusting to meet the challenges that have arisen with COVID-19. Sometimes a combination is best. We auction items like estate jewelry, coin collections, sterling silver, antique artwork and better collectibles online. We then may sell other items privately or in an online auction at the home. Auctions have been in existence since 500 B.C. The pandemic may have slowed them up for a few months, but it certainly won't shut them down.

I will be appraising items virtually for the Townsend Historical Society's "Virtually Vintage: A Live, Online Antique Appraisal Event" on Oct. 10. You can buy tickets to get your items appraised on their website: townsendhistoricalsociety.org. You can either send photos of your items or bring them in person to Townsend on the day of the event. We are still accepting



Photo Courtesy

Peter Joyce and Patricia McNany of Brooklyn, Conn. attending our online auction pickup. quality consignments for our Oct. 29 multi-estate online auction.

Contact us at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/ Appraiser Central Mass

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OXFORD – 377 Main St! 9 Rm Center Hall Colonial! .59 Acre Corner Lot! Charm of Yesteryear! Eat-In Frplcd Granite Kit w/Updated Cabinets, Frplcd Din Rm w/ Built-in China Cabinet & Butler Closet! Gracious Foyer! Spacious Frplcd Liv Rm! Breezeway to a Home Office or an Unfinished Cathedral Ceiling Fam Rm or Craft Rm! Sit on the Front Porch and Enjoy Morning Coffee or Evening Tea! Huge 2-Car Garage w/Loft-Storage Area! Mature Tree Studed Yard! **\$339,000.00**

WEBSTER – 9 Lake Parkway! Newly Remodeled 6 Rm Cape Conveniently Located! 3 Bdrms & 1.5 Baths! New Granite Kit w/SS Appliances, Siding, Gutters, Windows, Ext Doors, Oil Tank, 1/2 Bath, Plumbing, Electrical, Lighting! Oak Hrdwds! Recent Steam Boiler & Roof! Enclosed Porch! Deck! Garage w/Opener! Private Back Yard! **\$279,900.00**

DOUGLAS – 102 SE Main St! Start Packing! Spacious 9 Rm Colonial! 2.23 Acres! Center Island Granite Kit w/Soft Close Cabs, SS Appliances! Slider to 24' Deck! Open Floor Plan! Hickory Wood Floors throughout the Kit, Din & Liv Rms, all w/Recessed Lighting! 1st Flr Office or Possible 4th Bdrm w/Oak Hrdwd Flr! Full Bath in the Hall! 2nd Flr w/Full Dble Vanity Bthrm & 3 Comfortable Bdrms, all w/Beautiful Wood Laminate Flrs! Master w/Cathedral Ceiling, Skylight, Ceiling Fan, Bay Window overlooking the Back Yard and a Master Bath! Lower Level w/2 Finished Rms, Utility Rm w/Laundry and Half Bath! 3.5 Baths Total! Recent C/Air, Heat & Roof! 2x26 2 Car Detached Garage! Huge Shed! Nearby Nature Trails & Walkum Lake Beach! **\$379,900.00**

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! 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**

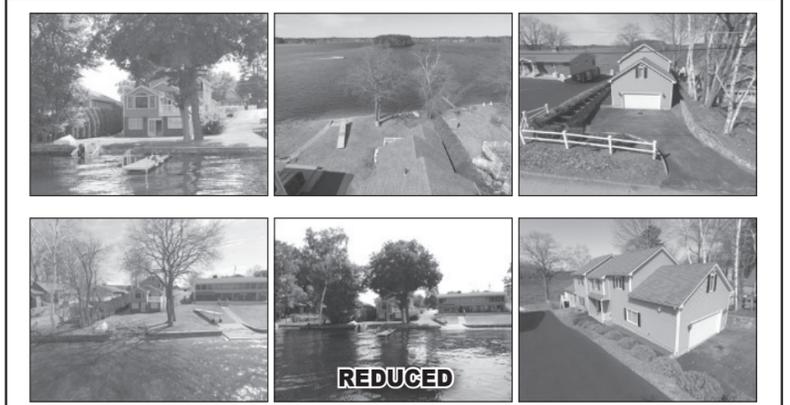
HOLDEN – 315 Holden St! 6 Rm Ranch! Meticulously Maintained! 2 Spacious Bdrms, Full Tiled Bath & 1 Car Garage! Move In Ready! Granite Oak Cabinet Kit w/Tiled Back Splash & JennAir Stove! Frplcd Liv Rm! Fam Rm! Gleaming Hrdwds! Perfect Yard w/Major Landscaping this Year! New Roof 2019! **\$344,900.00**

WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT – 3 Lakeview Rd! Middle Pond – Reid Smith Cove! Ideal Summer or Yr Round 6 Rm Ranch! Western Expo – Beautiful Sunsets! Near All the Excitement that "Indian Ranch" provides, Dining, Concerts & the Indian Princess! An Arched Bridge to Your Own Private Island, a Great Place to Enjoy the Lake from! Open Flr Plan! Being Sold Fully Furnished! Recent Kit w/Quartz Counters, Breakfast Bar, SS Appliances, Tile Flr & Recessed Lighting! Liv Rm w/Hrdwd Flr, 6x14 Lake Facing Picture Window & Stone Frplcd! 3 Remodeled Bdrms w/Ceiling Fans & Hrdwd Flrs! Master w/Bath & Laundry Closet! Screen Porch w/Lake Views! Dock! Carport! Shed! Still Time for this Summer! **\$579,900.00**

GRAFTON – 168 Brigham Hill Rd! 8 Rm Garrison Colonial set on 1.3 Acres! 4 Comfortable Bdrms & 2 Full Bthrms! Freshly Painted, Floors Recently Refinished! Spacious Kit w/Lunch Counter! SS Appliances w/Gas Cook-Top! Grand Dining Rm for Family Gatherings! 19x26 Living Rm w/Pellet Stove! Master Bdrm w/Dble Closets & Hot Tub! Bright & Airy Mudroom out to the 2 Car Garage! Furnace & Hot Water Tank 5 Years Young! Radon tested at 2.5! Newer Roof on Garage & Breezeway! New Well Water Tank Installed! Title V in-hand! Property Abuts Grafton Land Trust - Hiking Trails Right Out Your Back Door! Convenient to Routes 90, 9 & 20! Immediate Occupancy! **\$449,900.00**

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 Appliance 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! Frplcd Lower Level Fam Rm! 1st & 2nd Flr Laundries! 2 Car Garage! **\$949,900.00**

WEBSTER LAKE – 11 Bay View Rd! One of the Lake's Premier Properties! 9,822' of Nice! .68 Acres of Park Like Grounds! 297' Waterfront! \$4 Million Spent, Nothing Spared! 17 Rms! 5 Water View Bdrms, 5.5 Bathrooms! Brazilian Cherry Hrdwd Flrs, Grand & Spiral Stairways! Elevator, Ground Flr to Master Suite! In-door Resistance Swimming Pool, Hot Tub & Bthrm w/Steam Shower off Exercise Rm! Billiard Rm! Media Rm! Center Isl Granite Kit w/Viking Gas Range, Sub-Zero Frig, Pantry & Breakfast Bar! Open Flr Plan! Din Area, Fam Rm w/Entertainment Center w/Wet Bar! Formal Din Rm, Frplcd Liv Rm & Atrium! Library w/Deck! Waterfront Master Suite w/Office, Bdrm w/Triple Glass Dr to Private Deck w/Lake Views, 3 Walk-in Closets, Bathrm w/Multi-Head Shower, Whirlpool, Dble Vanity, Separate Commode/Bidet/Sink Area! 16 Z's of Updated Geothermal Heat/A/C! Recessed Lights & Fire Sprinklers Through Out! 3 Car Garage! Generator! Slate Roof! Reward Yourself! **\$2,499,900.00**



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55+ COMMUNITY
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Dudley: Welcome to Legacy Landings future 55+ community with 22 units. Sewer, water and gas available per town. This site is a fantastic location with Nichols College and Nichols Golf Course within walking distance. Close proximity to town beach and walking trails. Easy access to highways. **61 Airport Rd - Call Diane or Jo-Ann for details.**

Worcester: Burncoat Area 3 Bedroom, 2 fireplaces, First floor family room, 2 car garage, Pristine condition
12 Eleanora Dr - \$458,300

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Featured New Listings!

WEBSTER - 52 CUDWORTH ROAD
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! SOO MUCH MORE!
\$499,900.

OXFORD - 4 SPICEBUSH LANE
One level living with added 35 x 18 finished walk-out lower level. Cathedral ceilings, skylight dining, hard-wood flooring and central air. Stainless appliances/w/ large double oven. Over-sized 30' x 14' deck, quiet cul-de-sac!
New Price \$314,900.

WEBSTER - 39 OLD DOUGLAS RD
First time offered! Lovingly cared for ranch situated on 1 acre! Recent improvements: windows, siding, gutters & new composite rear deck. Cabinet packed kitchen to the cedar closets. 3 full baths! Master Bath with laundry! Lower Level - Potential for an in-law or extra personal space for the Kiddos!!!! don't miss out on this one!!
\$338,000.

DANIELSON CT - 52 TAFT STREET
ON DEPOSIT
Spacious Ranch, 1520 +/- Sq Ft 8 room 3 Bedroom, 2 Full Baths. Hardwood Floors throughout. Fireplace family room. FHW/OIL Heat. - New Furnace, Windows, Also, recent Asphalt Driveway! Over sized Garage! 1/2 Acre Lot. Dead end road. Close to I-395!
\$255,500.

WOODSTOCK CT - 110 JOY RD
NEW LISTING
Quisential Woodstock Farmhouse w/Spectacular views of Pond. Detached Studio Building! 2.5 Acres. Prof. Landscaped. 5 Bedrooms. Fireplaced Dining, library/Music room. Master Bedroom. 2 Full Baths! Renovated Kitchen. Upstairs, 4 Bedrooms w/Full Bath.
\$425,000.

WEBSTER - 195-199 THOMPSON RD
3 ACRE COMMERCIAL SITE! APPROX. 550 FT ROAD FRONTAGE ON STATE HIGHWAY RTE 193 A/K/A THOMPSON ROAD. STRATEGICALLY NESTLED BETWEEN TWO (2) I-395 (NORTH & SOUTH) ON-RAMPS & TWO (2) I-395 (NORTH & SOUTH) OFF-RAMPS! PROPERTY DIRECTLY ABUTS I-395! 48'X80' CONCRETE BLOCK BUILDING, 7,680 SF TOTAL! FULL LOWER LEVEL USE & DRIVE IN GARAGE DOOR! HIGH TRAFFIC - HIGH EXPOSURE! WHAT DO YOU HAVE PLANNED?!
\$600,000.

LAND WEBSTER/OXFORD/DUDLEY/DOUGLAS
Webster - Upper Gore w/View of the Lake! 1+ Acre! Artesian Well, Septic Design & Conservation - DONE. **NEW PRICE \$115,000.**
Webster - Cooper Road 2 Buildable Lots! Water & Sewer Access. Zoned Lake Res! **\$49,000.**
Douglas-Mount Daniels 2.5 Acres abuts Douglas State Forest! **ON DEPOSIT! \$132,900!**
Dudley - Marshall Terrace 12,000 +/- Sq Ft Lot Potential for a 2 Family! **VERY SOLD! \$70,000.**
Dudley - Packard Dr. 2 Lots! Slightly Private off Ridge Dr. **ON DEPOSIT! \$50,000**
Oxford - 4 Leicester St - Approx. 8.47 ACRES! River Frontage Possible to be Subdivided!
\$89,900

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

WEBSTER LAKE - 100 LAKESIDE AVE
ON DEPOSIT
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.

THOMPSON - 5+ ACRE WATERFRONT LAND
NEW LISTING
Thompson - New 5+ Acre waterfront land listing on Little Pond! Private, pastoral setting, open field surrounded by tree line. Plan of land and septic design in hand!
\$179,900

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 Flr. 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.**

QCC helps stop spread of COVID-19 with drive-through testing

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College will be supporting the Worcester community by hosting a drive-thru COVID-19 test site at its main campus, 670 West Boylston Street, Worcester beginning on Wednesday, Sept. 16 and running through September 30. Testing is being conducted by AIDS Project Worcester, Inc., and is part of the Commonwealth's "Stop the Spread" program. The testing is open to the general public regardless of whether or not a person is symptomatic. No insurance is required, and testing is free.

"We are proud to help reinforce the City's campaign to stop the spread of

COVID-19. The best way to help stop the spread is by wearing masks, social distancing, hand washing, and getting tested to make sure you do not have the virus," said QCC President Dr. Luis G. Pedraja.

The drive-thru testing site will be open by appointment only. Tests will be conducted on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 3 - 6 p.m. and Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. There will be no weekend hours, and only those with appointments will be tested. Call 508-847-0623 for an appointment. Tests will be given in Lot 3 of the College's main campus.

"AIDS Project Worcester is an excellent partner for this endeavor. They are fully self-contained, and bring all testing equipment to every host site. It's a remarkable operation," said Community Public Health Specialist/Consultant, Susan Johnson. "The test is a PCR nasal test, the most reliable test available because of its high sensitivity. Tests are processed through the Broad Institute and results are sent by email within 24-48 hours."

To make an appointment for a COVID-19 test, call 508-847-0623. For information on how QCC is responding to this pandemic, visit the College's

COVID-19 Information Center at www.QCC.edu/covid19

"We are delighted to be working with such a compassionate and professional organization like Quinsigamond Community College. We look forward to this collaboration that will provide an important public health service to the Worcester community," said Michelle Smith, Executive director for AIDS Project Worcester.

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



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Pierpont Estate Neighborhood Yard Sale
 Saturday, September 26th
 8am-12pm
 Noble, Queen, and Castle Circle in Dudley
 No Earlier Birds
 Raindate: 10/3

HELP WANTED
 Looking for handyman to do some carpentry, plumbing, painting, drywall & bathroom re-do. Need estimate.
 Also looking for someone to cut grass, weed wack, and rake this fall
 House cleaner needed. References required.
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010 FOR SALE
EXC. SOLID 68" L SHAPED OAK DESK LHF return 48" Power center with hutch lights & 2 glass doors & BK case. Original price \$2200. now in like new condition \$1595. 5 drawers & 2 file drawers with key lock. Pictures available on facebook. Click on messenger then. **Paulette 508-765-1231**

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FOR SALE LINCOLN WELDER
 Tombstone Style, Plug-in 250 amps. \$250
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61,908 other MA and Southern NH area homeowners have trusted us. That means we understand the window and door problems in this area. And our installers are true craftsmen who will completely and thoroughly clean up after your upgrade is complete.

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Soccer, field hockey among approved sports at Shepherd Hill

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON – The landscape for the new year in the Dudley Charlton Regional School District is ever changing as the district works to provide the best education and experience for students as possible while also considering the guidelines associated with COVID-19. This includes sports at Shepherd Hill Regional High School.

Several fall sports were given the go-ahead by the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee during a meeting on Sept. 9 where

Shepherd Hill Principal William Chaplin and Athletic Director James Scanlon lobbied for four sports to return to action in the coming weeks and months. Initially Chaplin and Scanlon had intended on requesting that just cross country and golf be approved but at the last minute the two also request that soccer and field hockey be allowed to progress as well.

The justification for adding the two sports to the mix was that both have been deemed among the safer sports to return to action with adjustments to social distancing. Also, while other sports are being held off

for later “seasons” over the course of the year both Chaplin and Scanlon explained that delaying those sports could leave no competition to play as other districts have already green lit field hockey and soccer athletics.

“We’ve been having conversations within the district but also outside with many of our colleagues. Many districts are choosing to move forward with the sports of field hockey and soccer. So with our initial recommendation there were some unintended consequences which were such that if we did move forward with moving soc-

cer and field hockey to a later season there was the potential that they wouldn’t have any opponents to face,” James Scanlon said. “This has been a creative reimagination of what extra-curricular athletics look like with a tremendous amount of work throughout the state with our league and the MIAA - What they’ve done is create a four season structure and that’s unusual compared to what we’ve usually had, but again the focus here is taking it one step at a time and reassessing before each season and throughout each season.”

Principal Chaplin

agreed and said he feels the district will be able to make proper adjustments to allow for safe and competitive environments for all four sports this fall. As conditions change the school is hoping to request the return of other sports in the months to come where appropriate.

“There’s a lot of logistics, how many spectators you can have and the cleaning of things and so forth. One of the biggest ones is going to be transportation. Students are leaving at 11:15 a.m. here. It’s also important to note remote only students are eligible for athletics. So aren’t home

school students. So, we need to look at that because there might be some recommendations moving forward regarding transportation. Other schools have already said they are not going to provide transportation and you have to get yourself to practice and to the games. That’s something that we’re going to have to tackle.”

The school committee voted unanimously to allow the return of all four sports, golf, cross country, field hockey, and soccer, this fall.

Local student named to Dean’s List at Northern Vermont University

LYNDONVILLE, Vt. — Vanessa Symonick of Auburn, a student at Northern Vermont University in Vermont, was named to the Dean’s List for the spring 2020 semester. Students who achieve between a 3.50 and 3.99 semester average are placed on the Dean’s List.

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Eftihia Fotos of Auburn joins cohort of new Lasell University students

NEWTON — Eftihia Fotos became a new student at Lasell University this fall. Fotos, a resident of Auburn, will study Psychology.

More than 370 new students joined the Lasell community in September for the fall semester. New and returning students were given a choice to study in residential, commuter, or fully online settings to accommodate their preferences during the pandemic.

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

Helping Hand Society announces tag sales

CHARLTON — The Charlton Helping Hand Society will be hosting an inside and outside tag sale at the Dodge Chapel, 81 Hammond Hill Rd. on Saturday, Sept. 26, Oct. 3, and Oct. 10 from 9 a.m. to noon.

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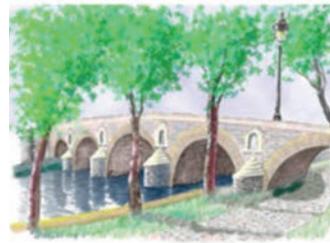
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All of our community newspapers are mailed by the U.S. Post Office to households who have requested the paper (nine of our publications are free to households and two by paid subscriptions). We have a circulation of approximately 47,000+ households in Massachusetts and 20,000+ households in Northeast Connecticut.

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Meet Your Sales Representatives



June (Carroll) Simakauskas
Account Executive
Spencer New Leader, Charlton Villager, Auburn News, Blackstone Valley Tribune

On August 25 of this year, I celebrated my 20th anniversary as an account executive, selling newspaper advertising to local businesses, municipalities, and non-profit organizations. I am now covering four of Stonebridge Press' territories in 14 of the 28 towns that we cover. What began as a sales assistant position working part-time in 2000, soon turned into a full-time position. Now 20 years later, I still enjoy making connections with local business and community leaders, and hope to continue to assist all in the above newspaper areas with your advertising needs, whether it be for retail, classifieds, or help wanted advertising.

I would like to thank all businesses who continue to support us, especially during the past few COVID months. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions, or for any suggestions on how you can grow your business through newspaper advertising. We've survived the worst and deliver the best!

June Simakauskas 508-909-4062 email: jsima@stonebridgepress.news

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Mikaela Victor
Account Executive
Sturbridge Villager, Southbridge News, Webster Times, Thompson Villager, Killingly Villager, Putnam Villager, Woodstock Villager
Legals Section

My name is Mikaela Victor. I have been part of the Stonebridge Press team since November 2015. Growing up on a small farm in quiet East Brookfield, I'm happy to be working close to home.

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With over 44 years of experience, I have a home office in Dudley. The RE/Max Advantage office is located on 25 Union Street in Worcester. Being a real estate agent is more than just placing an ad in the newspaper or marketing online. I act as a counselor to my client (buyer or seller). I provide assistance in marketing, staging, inspections, negotiation, and educating them to real estate values. It is a full time job. In order to provide good service, I have a client coordinator, Vicki Bennett assisting me.

I was originally a math teacher and always had an interest in real estate. When I acquired a license I approached a local broker and began my real estate career. I am still actively involved in teaching. I do teach real estate licensing and conduct numerous real estate education classes in buying foreclosures and landlord/tenant classes in Night-life programs at Bay Path Vocational and Assabet Valley Technical School.

The business has changed because of technology and the information network making it easier for buyers to obtain much of their needed information through the internet. For sellers, environmental issues and more informed consumers has made it critical that sellers get professional assistance early to sell their home. Buyers are all watching HGTV and have very specific expectations. Sellers need guidance in staging and making sure they have prepared their house for home inspections. Professionals are able to make it a more

pleasurable experience for both buyers and sellers by counselling them.

The most recent achievements I have received were the Ruby Level by the Board of Realtors for Sales Level, and the 100% Club from Re/Max which recognizes sales achievements. I would say more important to me is being the recipient of the Natalie Quinlan Award for service to the Board of Realtors, serving the town of Dudley as a selectman for 6 years and serving on the Dudley Board of Assessors for 20 plus years.

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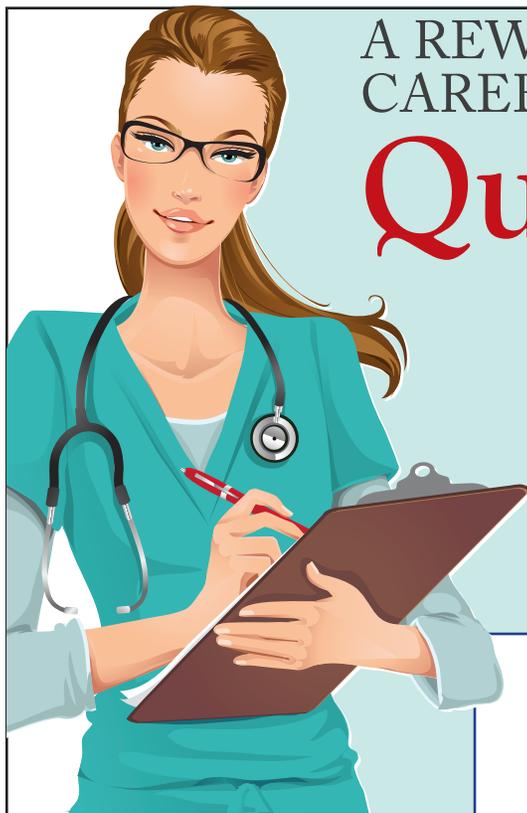


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J's Auto is locally owned and operated. The owner, **James Green**, is a resident of the Webster community and is also the owner of Cox Electric, LLC. They sell and install Generac Generators. With many vehicles in his fleet, JR understands the importance of keeping these vehicles in safe driving condition. At J's Auto, we want to do the same for you! If you've been unhappy with services provided elsewhere, or you're just not sure about previous repairs, let us show you how we do things.

Jessica Soullier is our Office Manager/Service Advisor/Car Sales Associate. She has 9 years experience in the automotive industry ranging from all different areas. She enjoys building relationships with every customer that comes through the door and loves what she does.

Joe Clune is our Service Manager/ASE Certified Master Technician. With over 40 years experience, his knowledge is immense! He is top-notch and will repair your car the right way the first time.

Joe Light has over 30 years automotive repair experience. He has a love for Ford Mustangs, especially his 2007 Mustang GT. When Joe's not on the clock in the shop, he enjoys being at the shop working on his cars!



J.R.



Jessica



Joe C.



Joe L.

Name of business: J's Auto

Business hours and days: M-F 8:30-5 • Closed Sat & Sun

Number of employees: 4

How long has your business been in operation? December 2014. Moved to Oxford October 2016

Who inspired you to start your own business? J.R. needed his own fleet serviced, he couldn't get the work done in a timely fashion, so he opted to start his own garage to maintain his fleet and service the general public.

Special awards/recognition: BBB Accreditation, ASE Certified Technicians, and 2018 Certified Auto Repair Service Center of the Year

What services do you offer? Full Service

What do you think the public should know about your business? An honest repair shop. Ask anyone who has been here, read our reviews. All our repairs are guaranteed.

How has your business changed since the beginning? Tremendous growth and repeat business. All the same employees since the beginning.

How have you grown? We relocated to a building three times bigger than where we were, and a much more visible location. Many new customers

Why do your customers select you over competitors? We are honest and loyal to our customers, we treat everyone fairly and respectfully.

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Caesar		6.49
Garden Salad	Side 3.49	6.49
Antipasto Salad		9.49
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Tuna Salad		9.49
Ham Salad		9.49
Turkey Salad		9.49
Chicken Salad		9.49
Chef Salad		9.49

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Pizza or Calzone

	Small 8 Slices	Large 10 Slices
Cheese	7.00	11.50
Add a Topping	1.00	1.50
Extra Cheese	2.00	3.00
Kids Pizza		One Size 3.49

All Calzones served with our marinara sauce on the side

Toppings

<input type="checkbox"/> Fresh Sliced Red Onion	<input type="checkbox"/> Breaded Eggplant
<input type="checkbox"/> Fresh Sliced Green Bell	<input type="checkbox"/> Seasoned Hamburger
<input type="checkbox"/> Pepper	<input type="checkbox"/> Sausage
<input type="checkbox"/> Fresh Sliced Mushroom	<input type="checkbox"/> Sliced Ham
<input type="checkbox"/> Chopped Garlic	<input type="checkbox"/> Bacon
<input type="checkbox"/> Tomato Slices	<input type="checkbox"/> Sliced Meatball
<input type="checkbox"/> Black Olive Slices	<input type="checkbox"/> Cooked Salami
<input type="checkbox"/> Broccoli Florets	<input type="checkbox"/> Genoa Salami
<input type="checkbox"/> Spinach	<input type="checkbox"/> Jalapeno Slices
<input type="checkbox"/> Pineapple Chunks	<input type="checkbox"/> Banana Peppers
<input type="checkbox"/> Feta Cheese	

Party Pizza

FULL SHEET 18 X 26 = 24 SQUARE SLICES	
REQUIRES AT LEAST 1 HOUR NOTICE	
Cheese	22.95
Each Additional Topping	3.00
Extra Cheese	5.00

Seafood Salad	9.49
Crispy Chicken Breast Salad	9.49
Grilled Chicken	9.49
Grilled Chicken Caesar	9.49
Chicken Stir Fry	9.49
Steak Tips	10.99
Buffalo Chicken Salad (Grilled or Crispy)	9.49
Fish	
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Haddock	7.99
Haddock & Curly Fries	9.99
Cole Slaw or Tartar Sauce	1.00

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ALL PASTAS COME WITH GARLIC BREAD & BAKED WITH CHEESE ON TOP

Spaghetti or Penne

Marinara Sauce	8.49
Meatballs or Sausage	9.49

Lasagna

Marinara Sauce & Cheese	9.49
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Marinara Sauce & Cheese	9.49
Meatball	10.49
Chicken & Broccoli Alfredo	10.29

Buffalo Chicken Mac & Cheese	9.49
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Mac & Cheese	8.99
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Roast Beef	7.49	8.49
Italian	7.49	8.49
Ham	6.99	7.99
Tuna	6.99	7.99
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Turkey	6.99	7.99
Turkey & Bacon	7.49	8.49
Seafood Salad	6.99	7.99
Crispy Chicken Breast	6.99	7.99
Chicken Salad Sub	6.99	7.99
Uncle Sam's Sub	8.49	9.49

Parm Subs

Meatball	6.99	7.99
Eggplant	6.99	7.99
Chicken Parmesan	6.99	7.99
Sausage	6.99	7.99

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Steak & Cheese	7.99	8.99
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PIZZA OF THE MONTH CALL! Small **5.99** Large **9.99**

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French Fries	sm. 3.79 • lg. 4.79
Tater Tots	sm 3.99 • lg. 6.99
Curly Fries	sm. 3.79 • lg. 4.79
Skin Fries	7.29
Potato Skins	7.99
Combo Platter	9.99
Onion Rings	sm. 3.79 • lg. 4.79
Mozzarella Sticks	6 - 5.79 • 12 - 8.79
Chicken Wings	6 - 6.99 • 12 - 10.99
	20 - 17.99 • 50 - 43.99 • 100 - 79.99

Chicken Tenders	6 - 8.29 • 10 - 12.29 • 20 - 22.29 • 30 - 33.99
4 Chicken Tenders w/French Fries	8.29
5 Chicken Wings w/French Fries	8.29
Chilli Cheese Bites	8 - 5.79 • 16 - 8.79
Broccoli Cheese Bites	6 - 5.79 • 12 - 8.79
Garlic Cheeze Toast	3.99
Cheeze Bread Sticks	6.99 • 10.99
Quesadillas	8.29
Mac & Cheese Bites	6 - 5.79 • 12 - 8.79

Dessert

Brownie/Blondie 2.49	Baklava 3.99
Fried Dough Balls	8 - 3.99 • 16 - 5.99

Beverages

2 Liter Bottle 2.99	All 20 Oz. Bottled Drinks 2.19
---------------------	--------------------------------

Party Platters

Salads	1/2 Pan Full Pan
Garden or Caesar Salad	14.99 • 34.49
Pasta	
Spaghetti or Penne	19.99 • 49.99
Lasagna	24.99 • 69.99
Chicken & Broccoli Alfredo	24.99 • 75.99

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20 pcs. Your choice of Seafood, Tuna, Chicken Salad, Ham or Turkey

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2 eggs w/ choice of toast	\$4.50
w/ ham, bacon, or sausage links.....	\$7.25
w/ house made corned beef hash	\$10.50
Side: Home fries or hash browns.....	\$1.75
Side: House made corned beef hash.....	\$6.50

Breakfast Bundle Wrap

Scrambled eggs, home fries, bacon & American cheese w/
salsa & sour cream

Porky's Pride

Served w/ home fries or hash browns & toast

2 eggs w/ ham, 2 strips bacon, & 2 sausage links

California Scramble

Served w/ home fries or hash browns & toast

2 eggs scrambled w/ ham, peppers, onions & cheese

Eggs Benedict

Served w/ home fries or hash browns

2 eggs poached, Canadian bacon, house made Hollandaise
sauce on an English Muffin.....

Danish

Ask your servers for today's variety.....

FROM THE GRIDDLE

Single buttermilk pancake.....	\$3.95
Buttermilk pancakes (2).....	\$5.95
Blueberry or Chocolate Chip (2).....	\$7.95

BREAKFAST SANDWICHES

Served on a grilled bulky

2 eggs & American cheese	\$3.95
2 eggs, bacon & American cheese.....	\$5.95

OMELLETTES

Served w/ home fries or hash browns & toast

Plain: 3 eggs & American Cheese	\$6.95
Vegetarian: Spinach, tomato, mushrooms, onion, peppers, & American cheese	\$10.25
Greek: Spinach, tomato, feta cheese, & kalamata olives	\$10.95
Meat Lovers: Bacon, sausage & ham.....	\$10.95

SALADS

Garden: Tomatoes, cukes & red onion	\$4.95
Add fresh Albacore white tuna salad or house made chicken salad	\$6.95

BURGERS

6 oz fresh ground beef hand formed daily

Served w/ FF or cole slaw

Cheeseburger	\$7.95
Bacon & Cheese.....	\$8.50
Bacon & Bleu cheese crumbles	\$8.95
Mushroom & Swiss	\$8.95

DELI 10" SUB COMBOS

11:30-2:00 Mon-Sat

Includes Chips & Can of Soda or
Bottled Water & Tax

Bacon, let & tom, mayo.....	\$7.50
Ham, American cheese, let & tom	\$8.50
Grilled bologna w/ American cheese	\$8.50
Roast beef let & tom, American cheese.....	\$9.50
Pastrami, Swiss cheese.....	\$9.50
Grilled chicken breast, let & tom, mayo.....	\$9.50
Chicken salad, let & tom	\$8.50
Tuna salad, let & tom	\$8.50
Italian hard salami, capicola, pepperoni, provolone cheese, red onion, let & tom w/ house Italian dress- ing.....	\$10.50

LUNCH COMBOS 11:30-2:00

(includes chips & can of soda or bottled water & tax)

Honey BBQ burger, Swiss cheese, bacon on roll.....	\$9.50
2 Coney Island grilled hot dogs.....	\$6.00
Cheeseburger on roll	\$8.50
Double cheeseburger w/ bacon on roll	\$11.50
Ball park sausage w/ peppers & onions.....	\$10.00

HOUSEMADE COMFORT MEALS

Marinated Steak Tips w/ mashed & gravy	\$13.95
American Chop Suey	\$9.95
Housemade Meatloaf w/ masked, gravy & veg.....	\$10.95
Shepherd's Pie.....	\$9.95
Swedish Meatballs w/ dutch noodles.....	\$11.95
Yankee Pot Roast w/ masked & veg.....	\$12.95

FRIDAY FISH FRY Fridays Only 11:30am - 8:00 pm

Includes Cup Clam Chowder, FF, Cole Slaw & Tartar

Whole Belly Fried Clams.....	\$21.75
Deep Fried Sea Scallops	\$21.95
Fried Scallop Roll.....	\$21.50
Fish & Chips (Haddock)	\$11.95
Fried Shrimp Basket w/ Cocktail Sauce.....	\$13.95
Fried Seafood Plate	\$25.95

Cash only - ATM inside



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* Prices subject to change without notice due to market fluctuations.

Dining Guide



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Blueberry Carrot Cake



Chicken Bruschetta Wrap



Grilled Swordfish Italiano



Peanutbutter Pie

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- Take-out curb-side & delivery available
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