

# Auburn News

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## LPN named to Dean's List at Fitchburg State University

AUBURN — Fitchburg State University recently released its Dean's List for the spring 2020 semester, and Elizabeth Mirekuua Lartey, LPN, was among those earning honors.

Elizabeth Mirekuua Lartey, LPN of Worcester is a dedicated nurse at the Life Care Center of Auburn. She is a full-time student in the LPN to BSN program. Her academic accomplishments at Fitchburg State University during the spring 2020 semester resulted in her being named to the Dean's List. To qualify for the Dean's List, full-time students must have earned at least a 3.2 grade point average for the semester. In a letter by Dr. William Cummings, Dean of Student Affairs, Lartey was wished continued academic success and recognized that her accomplishments reflect dedication to her studies and a commitment to academic success.

Lartey is a 2018 graduate of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy in Charlton. While at Bay Path Lartey was active with many volunteer activities such as Blood Pressure Clinics. She was inducted to the National Technical Honor Society and was an Officer for the UNICEF Club. She represented the PN Class of 2018 for the SkillsUSA District CPR/First Aid Competition. She is Certified in Infusion Therapy/Central Line Care through Intravenous Edu. In 2015 she obtained her Phlebotomy Certification at the Fieldstone School in Worcester.



Elizabeth Lartey

## State enters third phase of re-opening

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

REGION – Local businesses continue to reopen as part of the state's third phase, including fitness centers, health clubs, and movie theaters.

Gov. Charlie Baker launched the third phase of reopening on July 6, with specific guidance for each industry. The Governor thanks residents and business owners across the state for their efforts in mitigating

the spread of COVID-19. After a careful review of statewide health metrics, Baker's team felt comfortable with progressing to the third phase.

"Thanks to the hard work everyone has put in so far, more places will be able to reopen with strict guidelines," Baker said. "Phase three contains some bigger players that will draw more people into indoor settings. This phase will last significantly longer than other phases so we can closely

monitor the impacts."

The third phase of reopening also allows the following organizations and businesses to return:

Outdoor performance venues

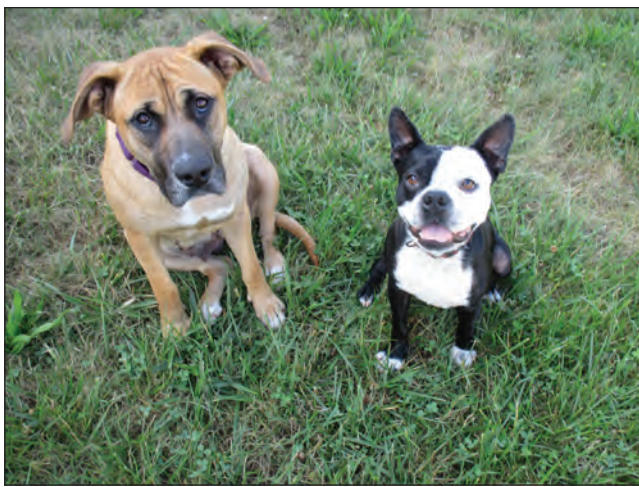
Museums, cultural venues, and historical sites

Certain indoor recreational activities with low potential for contact

Professional sports teams, under the authority of league-wide rules

Turn To **RE-OPENING** page A9

## Second Chance continues to evolve for the sake of pets



Courtesy

Rebel and Olive are two dogs helped by Second Chance.

EAST BROOKFIELD — Second Chance Animal Services helped 40,000 pets last year. Less than 5 percent of those pets ever entered the shelter doors. These two numbers tell a very compelling story about the rapidly changing landscape of animal welfare. It's a story of innovation that Second Chance has been writing for over two decades that comes down to a single question: How do we help pets in need?

When Second Chance was founded in 1999, the biggest need for pets seemed to be a home. Across the country puppies and kittens were being euthanized by shelters who had no space. Recognizing the root of the problem, Second Chance pioneered

low-cost spay/neuter and feral programs to provide a long-term solution to pet overpopulation. These two successful programs have helped 55,000 pets to date through spay/neuter and prevented an untold number of unwanted offspring from ending up in shelters.

In the following years, as pet owners told Second Chance they could not afford to keep their pet, Second Chance established a nonprofit veterinary hospital program and a pet food pantry program. Today, pet owners who may suddenly find themselves struggling financially can get pet food from affiliated local food pantries and have access to veterinary care for their beloved pets. Second Chance's Community Veterinary Hospitals in Springfield, Worcester and North Brookfield offer subsidized rates for qualified households, to help keep pets in their homes. All three locations provide full-service care, plus

low-cost vaccine clinics and spay/neuter clinics to help all pet owners care for their pets.

"When I started working in animal welfare, the euthanasia rate was well over 20 million pets a year in the United States," notes Second Chance founder Sheryl Blancato. "Through the hard work of organizations across the country, that number is now 625,000 and we are on track to hit zero in the next couple years. Every day, I ask 'How can we innovate to help even more pets?' What do they really need?"

Blancato says the greatest needs for the future will be medical and behavioral. There's currently a shortage of veterinary professionals, which is why Second Chance has partnered with Bay Path Vocational Technical High School to establish a Veterinary Education Center at their new Southbridge veterinary hospital which is expected to open next summer. The hospital will be open year-round providing the same high-quality care synonymous with Second Chance hospitals, while the lower-level of the building will house a classroom and learning lab to help prepare the next generation of animal welfare professionals to carry the torch.

Businesses and individuals interested in supporting the future of animal welfare by sponsoring a room in the new educational hospital can visit [www.secondchance-animals.org/](http://www.secondchance-animals.org/).

## Officials caution against threat of EEE

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

REGION – As COVID-19 numbers decline statewide and the Commonwealth continues to reopen, officials are monitoring an entirely different threat – Eastern Equine Encephalitis.

Last year, New England saw a significant increase in EEE cases. Six Massachusetts residents died as a result of EEE in 2019, plus another three deaths in Connecticut. The threat became so severe in September that fall sports and other activities had to be rescheduled to daylight hours or held indoors.

Ten months later, with the recent announcement of the state's first positive EEE detection in mosquitoes in 2020, officials are urging residents to use caution to prevent another outbreak.

Last week, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health announced that the EEE virus was detected in mosquitoes collected in Orange. No human or animal cases of EEE have been detected yet, but officials have already increased the EEE threat level to moderate in the communities of Orange and Athol.

In 2019, southern Worcester County and the Blackstone Valley were heavily affected by positive EEE cases. Officials want to get out ahead of the virus this year.

"We have been preparing for EEE activity this year," said Massachusetts Public Health Commissioner Monica Bharel. "It is early in the year for the first evidence of EEE. Therefore, continued mosquito surveillance over the next several weeks will help us understand more about how quickly the virus might emerge this year."

EEE is a rare but serious disease that can affect people of all ages. EEE is generally spread to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito; it can also be passed to domestic animals.

"People have been spending time indoors due to COVID-19, and now, as we venture out, we want to remind people about the need to protect themselves and their loved ones from illnesses caused by mosquitoes," said

State Epidemiologist Catherine Brown. "We are also asking people to remain aware of the level of virus activity in areas where they live, work, and play."

The best way to protect yourself against EEE is to apply insect repellent when outdoors. Use a repellent with an EPA-registered ingredient; DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age and should be used in concentrations of 30 percent or less on older children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under three years of age.

Additionally, residents are asked to avoid being outdoors during peak mosquito hours between dusk and dawn. Consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during the evening or early morning.

Experts also recommend wearing long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and socks when outdoors. Moreover, you can reduce mosquito activity around your home by draining standing water. Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water that can collect in buckets, wheelbarrows, birdbaths, flowerpots, and wading pools. Residents are asked to change water in birdbaths frequently and check gutters and drains for the proper flow of water.

Residents can also protect their homes by ensuring that all windows and doors have tightly fitting screens with no holes or tears.

Animal owners should also take several precautions to reduce risks. Water troughs should be flushed out at least once a week during the summer months to reduce mosquitoes near paddock areas. Horse owners should keep their animals in indoor stalls at night to reduce their risk of exposure to mosquitoes. Also, owners should speak with their veterinarians about mosquito repellents approved for use in animals, as well as vaccinations to prevent West Nile virus and EEE.

If an animal is suspected of having WNV or EEE, owners are required to contact the Department of Public Health (DPH) at 617-983-6800.

For more information about WNV and EEE, visit [www.mass.gov/mosquitoesandticks](http://www.mass.gov/mosquitoesandticks). You can also call the DPH Division of Epidemiology at 617-983-6800.



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**Garden creator, Joe Coan (left) with Rotary Past-District Governor Klaus Hachfeld.**

STURBRIDGE — The Community Food Collaborative (CFC) committee held its monthly meeting at the garden located behind the Town Hall in Sturbridge recently after the regular work shift. The volunteer group had lots to discuss on their agenda and did so while maintaining proper social distancing.

The highlight of the meeting came when Sturbridge Rotary Past-District Governor Klaus Hachfeld, also a member of the CFC committee, surprised CFC President Joe Coan with a Rotary Paul Harris Fellow Recognition. This recognition is a way of honoring an individual who has gone above and beyond in doing something for the betterment of man and/or the community. In Coan's case, the recognition was for his idea and pursuit of creating a community

garden to help feed local hungry individuals. The garden is in its third year, donates everything it grows to the Saint John Paul II Food Pantry that distributes it to the local food insecure individuals in our communities. The garden is supported by the community and operates totally by volunteers. The Sturbridge Rotary Club donated \$1,000 to the Rotary Foundation in Coan's name in order to honor him with a Paul Harris Fellow.

“While the garden is an unusual and informal setting to present this recognition,” Rotary Past-District Governor Hachfeld commented, “it was the logical place to present it. During the pandemic, Sturbridge Rotary has been meeting weekly on Zoom but the Zoom platform isn’t conducive to making a per-

sonal presentation.”

A surprised Coan, while appreciative of the recognition, was quick to stress the recognition goes to everyone who volunteers at the garden.

“The idea to start this garden quickly gained the support of the town and business leaders who have faithfully sponsored us each year, as well as the garden’s committee members and volunteers who work to grow all the great produce,” Coan said. “I’d also like to add that without the encouragement and support we received from the Rotary Community Corps, comprised of Sturbridge Rotary and Southbridge Rotary, it may have taken a lot longer to launch this great volunteer community project.”

*Bryant University students  
named to Dean's List*

SMITHFIELD, R.I. — Bryant University is dedicated to the pursuit, recognition, and celebration of academic excellence. The University is pleased to recognize the students who have been named to the Deans' List for the spring 2020 semester.

“These outstanding achievements are particularly commendable as students have overcome significant challenges to demonstrate an unwavering commitment to excellence,” says Provost and Chief Academic Officer Glenn Sulmasy, JD, LL.M. “I am impressed and proud of their resilience, dedication, and innovative spirit.”

Congratulations on this outstanding achievement!

Jack Boyd, class of 2023, from Auburn  
Helen Hatzopoulos, class of 2021, from Auburn

Emily Lancaster, class of 2021, from Auburn

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Fairfield University  
congratulates  
Dean's List students

FAIRFIELD, Conn. — Shamrock Barrera of Auburn received Deans List Honors for the Spring 2020 semester.

In order to be placed on the Dean's List, students must have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours in a semester, have no outstanding or incomplete grades for that semester, and have attained a semester grade point average of 3.50 or better.



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# School Committee addresses AP course confusion

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON – With the school year officially over, attention has turned to summer courses and the fall semester in the Dudley Charlton Regional School District, and there seems to have been some confusion among students and parents as to how Advanced Placement, or AP, courses are being handled at Shepherd Hill Regional High School.

AP courses constitute the highest level of education for a given class in high school and, as such, usually require incoming students to complete work during the summer to prepare for the rigorous courses. However, at a school committee meeting in late July committee member Stephanie Reed revealed she had received communications from parents and students that implied that some AP courses may not take place and that summer work had not been assigned.

Reed read a statement that was sent out to parents from the Shepherd Hill principal stating that the school was hesitant to provide summer assignments for students who requested AP courses for the upcoming year due to questions regarding the scheduling for the fall and budget concerns sparked from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Shepherd Hill Principal William

Chaplin clarified that he wrote the communication and the intent was not to create confusion but to be considerate of students as the course schedule for the next year is finalized and make sure students aren't doing unnecessary work for classes they may not be able to take.

"That was a pause. I didn't want someone to jump into AP work right after school was over. All I ask, if you read the full thing, is we would get back to them and assign work at the end of July, so it was more of a pause. There was nothing in there about no AP courses or anything like that," said Chaplin.

Superintendent Steven Lamarche also commented on the situation noting there are still many unknowns for the upcoming school year and called Chaplin's release a "proactive" measure in case the school is unable to offer the full slate of AP courses.

"If the state asks us to reduce our budget by \$5 million, we are going to have to make cuts somewhere," said Lamarche. "We would hate to ask students to do a boat load of work during the summer and that happen to be the one course that we couldn't run because we had to cut \$5 million out of our budget."

As far as the district reopening for the summer and fall, Lamarche said he has received guidance on extended school year programming and expects more

input from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education by the end of July. The district will be adhering to public health guidelines when the buildings reopen, but they are also making sure to keep parents' concerns in mind. The district sent out a survey seeking input from families which the superintendent said will be a vital piece of their preparation and planning for the eventually reopening.

"Our effort was to provide a survey that is easy to complete and will always have the opportunity for families to share their thinking. So right now, it's a five question survey — we want to keep them short, collect as much data as we can so that we can use it to help guide us moving forward. Keep in mind that the feedback is critical, and we will continue to ask for your patience as this work is uncharted for us as a district and a state," said Lamarche.

The Dudley Charlton Regional School District has established a Reopening Committee with focuses on operations and resources, social and emotional health and safety, handling instruction for students, and communication and consultation as their main goals for discussion. The group meets weekly and will play a significant role in helping guide the reopening preparation and process throughout the summer.



## 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](mailto: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.

## Frost announces funding for district roads and bridges

BOSTON — Rep. Paul K. Frost (R-Auburn) is pleased to announce the Legislature has passed House Bill 4803, An Act financing improvements to municipal roads and bridges, for Fiscal Year 2021 in accordance with the Commonwealth's Chapter 90 program.

"Chapter 90" is a 100 percent reimbursable system providing funding assistance for cities and towns to carry out roadway construction, renovation, and improvement projects. It was established by the Legislature in 1973 and allocates according to a formula based on the weighted average of a community's population, employment, and total road miles. As passed in H.4803, the 7th Worcester District is set to receive the following funding:

\$611,723 for the Town of Auburn  
\$624,115 for the Town of Charlton  
\$424,242 for the Town of Millbury  
\$510,422 for the Town of Oxford

Frost said, "This is critical state funding for our towns in this district and all communities across the Commonwealth to assist them with repairing and maintaining their local roads and bridges. Local roads are always a priority for residents and businesses within a community, and this state funding will bolster the resources municipalities are using to address them in the ever-challenging New England climate."

The funding is part of a \$200 million statewide bond authorization that was unanimously approved by the House of Representatives on June 30. The Massachusetts Senate enacted H.4803 on July 2, and the bill is now on Governor Baker's desk to be signed into law.

## Harrington hospitals receive awards for stroke care

SOUTHBRIDGE / WEBSTER — Harrington Hospital in Southbridge and Harrington Hospital – Webster have each earned multiple awards for stroke care from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) Paul Coverdell Stroke Systems of Care Collaborative. The awards recognize achievements in meeting quality of care benchmarks and participation requirements of the collaborative. Both of Harrington Hospital's Emergency Care locations are designated Primary Stroke Service Centers.

Harrington Hospital in Southbridge received awards for achieving door-to-CT times of 25 minutes or less for at least 75 percent of stroke patients, and for completing the 30-day American Heart Association (AHA) get with the Guidelines Post-Discharge Follow-Up form for at least 75 percent of discharged patients.

Harrington Hospital – Webster also received an award for meeting the door-to-CT time of 25 minutes or less, as well as an award for completing a dysphagia (difficulty

swallowing) screen on at least 95 percent of stroke patients.

"The ability to rapidly identify and treat patients who exhibit signs and symptoms of stroke is critical to ensuring the best possible recovery for these patients," said Harrington HealthCare System President and CEO Ed Moore. "Our Emergency Care team works tirelessly to ensure that we meet or exceed best practices for stroke care. We strive for the best possible outcomes for all of our patients and that is the ultimate reward, but we're so pleased that our efforts have been recognized with these awards as well."

Harrington Hospital's nurses and doctors work in collaboration with the UMass Memorial Medical Center Department of Neurology TeleStroke Program to provide 24/7 on-demand emergency neurology consultation to subscriber hospitals in order to improve the care of stroke patients in the community.

The program utilizes two-way, audio-visual teleconferencing technology to allow the assessment and treatment of admitted patients or patients

who arrive in Harrington Hospital's Emergency Care Centers with suspected stroke symptoms.

These Coverdell awards are the latest in a series of recognitions awarded to Harrington HealthCare System recently for quality of care. In May the healthcare system was awarded its 14th grade "A" from in the spring 2020 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade, a national distinction recognizing Harrington HealthCare System's achievements providing safer health care. And in March, Harrington Hospital was named a Blue Distinction Center for Substance Use Treatment and Recovery, one of just six Massachusetts facilities to receive this new distinction from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts (BCBSMA).

Prior awards for the hospital's stroke care include the SCORE (Stroke Collaborative Reaching for Excellence) Defect-Free Care Award from the Paul Coverdell National Acute Stroke Program; the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Gold Plus

Quality Achievement Award in 2016; and the Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Silver Plus award in 2014.

About Harrington HealthCare System

Harrington HealthCare System is a comprehensive regional healthcare system serving more than 25 communities across south central Massachusetts and northeastern Connecticut. The system includes Harrington Hospital in Southbridge, Harrington HealthCare at Webster and three additional major medical office buildings: Harrington HealthCare at Charlton, Harrington HealthCare at 169, also in Charlton, and Harrington HealthCare at Spencer; Harrington Physician Services, our primary care and multi-specialty physician group; UrgentCare Express at Harrington in Charlton and Oxford; The Cancer Center at Harrington in Southbridge, and the region's largest Behavioral Health programs for mental health and substance use. [www.harrington-hospital.org](http://www.harrington-hospital.org)

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# Oxford selectmen grant Ruby a reprieve

BY GUS STEEVES  
CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD – Issues surrounding a Charlton Street dog named Ruby got extended at the last selectmen’s meeting, when the board approved a delay of the family’s time to comply with the town’s most recent orders.

By a 4-0 vote, they granted owner Kim Parker’s request to extend the time she has to fence in her property to Aug 31.

Back in May, selectmen voted to require that fencing and other restrictions be added to an existing containment order as what amounted to a last chance for Parker to keep Ruby. That hearing was sparked by a March 26 incident in which Ruby attacked another dog who was being walked by his owner and son.

The dog already had a record at that point; previous attacks on animals and people prompted the selectmen to deem Ruby “dangerous” in August 2017. That declaration resulted in a lengthy order on her and her owners, Kim Parker and Kevin Kiley, that required leashing and muzzling at all times outside her home, even while on their property.

“I can understand financial constraints as a reason to request an extension,” said Selectman Meaghan Troiano. “I’m just curious ... are we certain this is going to happen by Aug. 31? What if it doesn’t?”

Town Manager Jen Callahan said Animal Control Officer Kelly Flynn told her she believes “efforts on behalf of the dog’s owners are sincere. They do plan to do this; it’s not an effort to shirk their responsibility.” Flynn intends to watch the situation and will report to the selectmen before the deadline if there are problems, she added.

Also in canine-related business, Callahan noted the Oxford Dog Park reopened July 7 with various Covid-related restrictions. Among them are standard social distancing guidelines plus a prohibition on dogs sharing food and water bowls.

Covid-19 comprised a key part of the short July 8 meeting. Callahan reported she’s working to reopen municipal buildings “very slowly,” crafting plans for each of them because “every single one of these buildings has unique missions.”

Several weeks ago, the state released a four-phase economic reopening plan. Municipal sites fall into several phases, and sites that specifically serve seniors and others particularly at risk of the pandemic can’t open until later this month at the earliest. Some towns have opened their Town Halls at least partly, but others remain closed.

To address those things, she said town staff is working on “innovative ways” to get necessary work done and provide a “concierge service” to residents without having them need to enter town buildings.

Callahan said Oxford has recently received a bit more than \$70,000 in Covid-related grants, but she noted that money “doesn’t cover everything. ... It’ll be a drop in the bucket if we keep implementing things we know keep people safe.”

She noted money will be a school issue as well. The state recently issued school-reopening guidelines, but the district has already expressed concern about them being “unfunded mandates,” particularly regarding remote learning. “Hopefully, they’ll also come up with funding assistance” for that, she added.

So far, however, the state hasn’t approved a fiscal 2021 budget. Normally, that’s done in June, but the pandemic has delayed the Legislature’s process at the same time it has reduced state revenues by an estimated 20 percent. How much that will reduce local aid is still unknown, but most towns expect to make cuts later this summer or fall.

As of July 8, the pandemic has caused 85 cases in Oxford. Of them, 10 people have died and 10 cases remain active, she said.

At the even shorter July 1 meeting, the board reorganized. Dennis Lamarche remained chair, but Troiano was voted vice-chair and Cheryll Leblanc became secretary.

# School district hears calls for increased diversity

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON – The year 2020 will likely be remembered for two things, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the rise in calls for social justice and racial equality that have swept the nation. While the impact of the Coronavirus on schools is unquestionable, local parents in the Dudley Charlton Regional School District are hoping for a more positive influence from the

calls for social change including more diversity in hiring and in student studies.

Several parents spoke during a meeting of the school committee in late June voicing their opinions in favor of long-term changes to the district’s approach to hiring and education to promote inclusion and diversity. Eve Summer of Dudley was the first parent to speak having a six-year-old currently transitioning from Mason Road School to Dudley Elementary School as well as a

three-year-old future student of the district. She described the current state of the nation as a period of “heightened racial awareness in America” and wants to see this call for change result in a positive impact on the students of today and tomorrow.

“I appreciate the challenge of addressing this topic at a time when everyone’s plates are so full and there’s so much about the upcoming school year that’s still in the air, but I also believe it’s our duty to meet this moment in history,” Summer told the school committee.

In addition to reading the Massachusetts Association of School Committee’s anti-racism resolution for the record, a document that the school committee unanimously voted to support later in the evening, Summer asked the committee to consider swiftly discussing measure to support safer and better representative environments including professional development training in diversity, equity and inclusion, the recruitment of more diverse pools of candidates for teachers and administrators, the implementation of anti-racist policies, and embracing a curriculum that deviates from what she sees as the “white, cisgendered, male perspective” taught in schools today.

Another parent, Devon Wallace of Charlton who has four children in the school

system, also expressed a need for change and diversity while also complimenting the district as “caring” and “compassionate.” He wants to see Dudley and Charlton schools embrace more diverse candidate pools for jobs and wishes to see positive changes in school policies.

“It’s critically important to ensure that all voices are heard, and all perspectives are considered. I ask this committee to review the policies that are in place across the district and in the specific schools with respect to hiring and to augment the language as necessary to insure that there is a fully diverse set of candidates as a mandate rather than perhaps being considered a best practice,” said Wallace.

He also wants the district to be diligent in addressing any instances of discrimination past or present citing a recent social media post that he said revealed inflammatory statements of “bias and hate” uttered within the walls of the schools. He further requested, and was granted, a ten-minute moment of silence in honor of the lives touches by hate and discrimination and the resulting inaction.

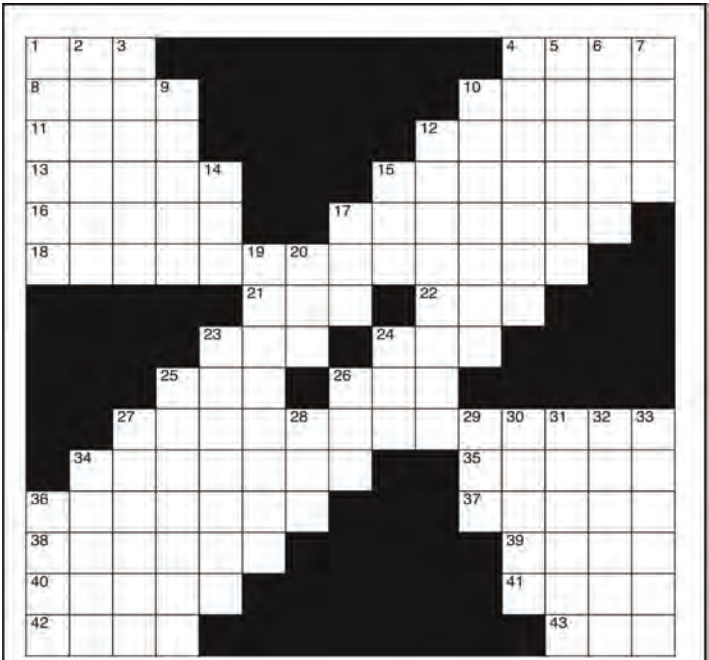
As it happens, the idea of increased diversity and revamped policies was always going to be a subject of discussion at the meeting. Superintendent Steven Lamarche provided his comments on the state of the world

and how it will result in change in the district during his report to the committee.

“As a school district, we have a real and sincere responsibility to ensure school committee policies and the civil liberties of our schools and staff are whole. We embrace our public identity and must make certain that we welcome everyone free of bias and racism. Our collective work is to maintain unfettered access to every benefit for every student who enters our school. To be clear the Dudley Charlton Regional School System will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability or homelessness,” said Lamarche.

The Dudley Charlton Regional School District plans to reestablish an equity committee to review the districts instructional programs and lay the foundations for continued learning in the changing world of today. Lamarche said he believes the district has long strived for equality, but that’s there’s always room to improve.

“I know that we are doing a lot. I know that we believe we are doing well, but we need to take this opportunity to bolster our efforts and be precise and match the expectations of the community around us and our state and nationally,” Lamarche concluded.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Sound unit

4. Trim by cutting

8. Small buffalo

10. Ancient manuscript

11. Look angry or sullen

12. Glum

13. Northern Zambia peoples

15. Central

16. Collector of birds’ eggs

17. Misbehavior

18. Top of the line

21. Political action committee

22. Have already done

23. Al Bundy’s wife

24. Entertainment channel
25. Holiday (informal)

26. The common gibbon

27. Legendary actress

34. Seasoned sausages

35. Bluish greens

36. Ridiculed

37. Three-dimensional arrangement

38. Emerged

39. Type of protein

40. Denmark natives

41. Leak slowly through

42. Expression of sorrow or pity

43. Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN

1. Artistic dancing

2. Plenty

3. Act leisurely

4. Serve as a warning

5. Admired lovingly

6. Leftover oil from distillation process

7. Company officer

9. Egyptian unit of capacity

10. One transmits information

12. Middle layer of an embryo

14. Form of “to be”

15. Cairo Regional Airport

17. Partner to cheese

19. Sample
20. A shirt may have none

23. Public gatherings

24. Disallow

25. Overnight suitcases

26. French river

27. Where boats dock

28. Top of a pot

29. Type of drug

30. City along the Rhine

31. Animal disease

32. They go in martinis

33. A way to break away

34. Intermediate ecological stage

36. Baby term for father

# Charlton considering applying for grant funding

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – The town of Charlton is examining the possibility of applying for a state sponsored grant that would allow the town to potentially procure funding for small projects associated with public health and mobility.

Called the Shared Streets and Spaces Grant Program, the grant is described by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation as a “quick-launch/quick-build municipal funding program” meant to provide grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$300,000 for cities and towns to quickly implement programs meant to improve streets or town amenities like sidewalks, on- and off-street parking and actual roadways.

Charlton Superintendent Andrew Golas brought the grant opportunity to the attention of selectmen during a meeting on June 23 where he said officials are examining the options for what projects meet the guidelines for the funding.

“What they’re looking to do is basically projects that can be implemented in a very short window. The awards are looking for projects that would take 15 to 30 days to complete and would be completed before Friday, October 30,” Golas said adding that he had participated in a webinar hosted by the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning

Commission detailing the specifics of the grant that same day. “This program stemmed from the COVID-19 pandemic and what they’re specifically targeting are things that help the pedestrian’s ways and businesses that might be infringing upon parking lots and sidewalks. Some of the projects that they suggested included temporary bike lanes, expanded sidewalks, curb improvements, expanded outdoor dining areas, safe routes to school, traffic calming measures and outdoor sitting spaces.”

The traffic calming measures were what stood out to Golas. Traffic issues and safety concerns have been a constant talking point at selectmen meetings in recent years with further talks in June bringing the subject back to the forefront. Selectman Patricia Rydlak noted that while the timing is short mitigation like tree cutting or simple fixes to help with visibility could be something to consider. Selectman Steve Koronis suggested looking at Stafford Street and Center Depot Road as starting points for potential projects involving the grant.

While the town has no solid plans in mind for what they would propose to procure the grant, Golas made his intent to explore the funding opportunity clear declaring that his office will “try to make it happen” as more options are put on the table.

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# Dean’s, President’s Lists named for UA Spring 2020 Term

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — A total of 16,470 students enrolled during the 2020 spring semester at The University of Alabama were named to the Dean’s List with an academic record of 3.5 or above or the President’s List with an academic record of 4.0 (all A’s).

The UA Dean’s and President’s lists recognize full-time undergraduate students. The lists do not apply to graduate students or to undergraduate students who take less than a full course load.

Christopher Keyes of Auburn, named to UA Deans List  
Tiffany Moen of Auburn, named to UA Presidents List  
Bridget White of Auburn, named to UA Deans List  
Lily White of Auburn, named to UA Presidents List

The University of Alabama, the state’s oldest and largest public institution of higher education, is a student-centered research university that draws the best and brightest to an academic community committed to providing a premier undergraduate and graduate education. UA is dedicated to achieving excellence in scholarship, collaboration and intellectual engagement; providing public outreach and service to the state of Alabama and the nation; and nurturing a campus environment that fosters collegiality, respect and inclusivity.

# Worcester Academy proudly announces Honor Roll and Headmaster’s List

WORCESTER — Worcester Academy proudly announces its Honor Roll and Headmaster’s List for Semester 2 of the 2019-2020 School Year. The honors represent the achievements that each of these Worcester Academy students has earned through academic excellence, challenge, and personal growth.

Among the students are:  
Eva O’Reilly of Auburn, 9, First Honors.  
Kathryn O’Reilly of Auburn, 10, Headmaster’s List.

About Worcester Academy

Worcester Academy is an exceptional co-educational independent school for day and boarding students in grades 6 through 12 and postgraduates. Through an innovative and thoughtfully designed curriculum, Worcester Academy instills in students a lifelong passion for learning and a foundation of core values that enable them to “Achieve the Honorable” as leaders and world citizens. The school takes pride in its diverse local and international community, and situates its curriculum within a global, multicultural context that helps students develop the independence, confidence, and world-readiness they need to succeed in college and beyond.



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ANSWER: A VACATION

Crossword Puzzle

1				2				
4				5				
6								

ACROSS

1. Long journeys  
4. Strong desire to achieve something  
6. Quality of being orderly

DOWN

1. Break from work or school  
2. Against  
3. Vacation properties  
5. Runs on rails

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• 1943: THE BATTLE OF KURST, THE LARGEST TANK BATTLE IN HISTORY, ENDS IN GERMAN DEFEAT.

• 1977: A 25-HOUR BLACKOUT BEGINS IN NEW YORK CITY.

New word

RECHARGE

return to a normal state of mind or strength

How they SAY that in...

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**SPANISH:** Descansar

**ITALIAN:** Riposarsi

**FRENCH:** Se détendre

**GERMAN:** Entspannen

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# OPINION/COMMENTARY



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**BRENDAN BERUBE**  
EDITOR

## Common sense has left the building

It seems like our country remains, and will remain, divided over how to stop the spread of Covid-19.

It distresses us that common sense seems to have left the building. When our cars break down, we bring them to a mechanic. When our phones or laptops go on the fritz, we bring them to a tech professional to fix them. When we need a new prescription for whatever ails us, or we break a bone, we call the doctor. When we are speeding down the highway and get pulled over for doing so, we are given a ticket to deter us from speeding again, and to keep ourselves and each other safe.

Why, then, when doctors and scientists whose experience and expertise are beyond question almost universally advise us that the best way to slow the spread of this virus is to wear a mask in public and avoid gathering in large groups, are so many so adamant in their refusal to listen? We all want our economy to function normally again. We all want our children to be able to attend school safely. We all want to be able to enjoy shopping at our favorite stores and dining at our favorite restaurants. So why this bullheaded refusal to do two very simple things that will help all of that happen safely? The answer is, regrettably, that like seemingly everything else in today's world, COVID-19 has been politicized.

Here's the thing, though — political affiliation has no effect on reality, and the reality we face at this crucial moment is that we are being stalked by a highly contagious virus. This enemy could not only prove fatal to certain segments of the population; it appears to leave even those who survive it with debilitating health issues that may follow them for the rest of their lives. And it doesn't give a damn what side of the political divide any of us stand on. Masks have always, and still do, helped to decrease the spread of viruses. Granted, certain styles are proven to work better than others, but that is a different discussion. There is ample research demonstrating that even the flimsiest of surgical masks can dramatically reduce the ability of entities like the COVID-19 virus to traverse the air between two people, and at this point, with flare-ups happening across the country, there is simply no excuse for those who are physically able to wear one not to do so.

This brings us to our next point. The fact that you might have found an article published somewhere online purporting to prove that a face mask is unhealthy for the wearer does not make it legitimate. You can find all sorts of misinformation during a Google search that could fuel a point/counterpoint discussion on any topic under the sun. While the Internet was meant to open conversations and was dubbed the 'information superhighway,' it seems the opposite is happening. People rely on ever narrowing social circles, memes, and unverified social media posts to guide them in their behavior, and it has frankly become dangerous. Facebook and Twitter 'trolls' spread misinformation at an alarmingly high rate to create division and unrest, and unfortunately, it has worked. With so much misinformation out there, it's hard to determine what is and what isn't fact. Many argue that COVID-19 is "just the flu," while ignoring the fact that the flu does not cause such a flood of patients at hospitals that they have no space to treat anything else.

According to the CDC, an infected individual will spread the virus to at least five others. Our elderly population is the most vulnerable; however, that trend has seemed to spread to people of all ages becoming more and more infected with dire outcomes. If we value life, we must value it regardless of age.

No matter what our political persuasion, we all want to win the war against this pandemic. So why the refusal among so many to unite as one team to fight it? One of the defining characteristics of this great country of ours is that each time we have been faced with adversity, we have joined together as one to fight it. If all it takes is wearing a mask and some social distancing to get rid of this virus and to open our schools and economy, then there is no room for this childish refusal to cooperate. We are, and must be, better than this.

## A closer look at the Canal



THE GREAT OUTDOORS  
.....  
RALPH TRUE

A large bear was spotted in Douglas last week, and it was not a small one. The large bear was crossing through a resident's back yard during the morning hours. I was surprised to hear that the bear did not have any cubs with it. Black bear numbers have been increasing in the valley area over the last ten years or more.

Massachusetts hunters can purchase a bear permit for only \$5, and can be used to harvest a bear during any one of the three seasons. All Wildlife Management zones are open to bear hunting during the 2020 seasons. Be sure to read your Massachusetts hunting guide for all regulations and seasons.

Bobcat populations are also on the increase, but strict trapping regulations need to be followed. A first-time trapper must pass a trapping & hunter education program. All harvested fur bearing pelts need to be reported to Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife. The pelts need to be brought to any check stations to be registered. Again, if you plan on trapping this year, it is very important to read all of the rules and regulations prior to trapping.

The Massachusetts antlerless deer hunting permit system for 2020 requires the applicant to have applied for a permit by July 16 to be eligible for the antlerless deer permit lottery. The application is on your 2020 license. Starting Aug. 1-Dec. 31, an applicant can go on line at MassFishHunt and try to win an antlerless deer permit, for the zone that they applied for. Surplus permits will go on sale at a date to be announced.

Striper fishing on the Canal continues to give up some impressive stripers, but many need to be released. There have also been numerous people fighting at the famous fishing spot, which has turned off a lot of anglers that once enjoyed the area for fishing, but now go some-



where else. Most anglers at the canal are there to fish and enjoy themselves, but the few that are causing the problems need to be banned from the area, before it is too late. Closing the canal to fishing would be a terrible loss to the responsible law-abiding anglers.

The canal is over 100 years old, and was considered an engineering marvel back in the day. Under private ownership back in 1914, it was redesigned and reconstructed under federal ownership in the 1930's.

Congress directed the US Army Corps of Engineers on March 31, 1928 under authority of the Rivers & Harbors act of 1927 to operate and improve the founding canal. It was purchased by the federal government for \$11,500,000 on July 22, 2018. The canal is rich in history. Now anglers enjoy some of the best striper fishing around.

Fluke fishing remains fair around Block Island, but Bluefish and Dogfish need to be dealt with. Numerous large seabass are also being caught. Lots of big bluefish are rais-

ing havoc with bass fishing anglers, cutting their expensive eels in half, or even worse.

Freshwater bass fishing anglers are catching some impressive Smallmouth bass at Webster Lake. Bass anglers that do not mind doing a bit of work catching their own bait, can walk along the shallow water on small ponds and catch some crayfish by turning over small to medium rocks. They are fast so you also need to be ready when you slowly and gently lift the rocks. It can be a great family affair, and the bait is dynamite for smallmouth bass. Give it a try.

Wild Blueberries are now ready for picking. This writer found some high bush berries ready for the picking last week, and I have been eating them every day. They sure taste better than the cultivated ones, and they are free.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending! This week's picture shows a young lady with a nice doormat fluke.

## Managing withdrawals carefully can protect retirement income



FINANCIAL FOCUS  
.....  
DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

Throughout much of your working life, you contribute to your 401(k), IRA and other investment accounts to help ensure a comfortable retirement. However, once you do retire, you'll need to shift your focus somewhat from building these investments to using them – in other words, you'll have to start withdrawing from your portfolio to meet the costs of living. How can you be sure you're not taking out so much that you risk outliving your resources?

First of all, you need to establish a proper withdrawal rate – the percentage of your portfolio's value needed for one year's worth of retirement expenses. Ideally, if you were to stick with this rate, your portfolio would last as long as you do. Your withdrawal rate should be based on a number of factors, including your age, amount of assets, portfolio mix and retirement lifestyle. A financial professional can help you determine the rate that's right for you, but it's important to understand that this rate is a starting point since you will want to review your withdrawals each year to ensure they are still appropriate.

If the financial markets performed smoothly and predictably, year in and year out, any adjustments you make would likely be more modest. But, as you know, and as we've all been reminded the last several months, the markets are neither smooth nor predictable. Rather than constantly trying to change your withdrawal rate and spending in response to movements in the markets – which may be challenging if you have grown accustomed to a certain standard of living – you might be better off adopting a more conservative rate at the beginning of your retirement. For example, if you are in your mid-60s, you could start at a withdrawal rate of about 4 percent, which also assumes an increase in withdrawals (a "raise") of approximately 3 percent each year to incorporate inflation. By starting at a more modest withdrawal rate, you would have some flexibility for those years in which the market drops significantly. And you could increase your chances of extending the lifetime of your portfolio.

But even if you started out with a conservative rate, you may need to review it during periods of extreme market movements. If, for instance, your portfolio were to fall 20 percent in one year, the 4 percent you had planned to withdraw would actually become 5 percent because you're taking out the amount you had planned, but now it's from a smaller pool of money. If this happens, should you consider making an adjustment?

There's no easy answer. The amount you withdraw from your portfolio has a major impact on how long your money lasts. You'll improve your likelihood of success if you are able to be flexible and make some spending adjustments – spending less on some of your discretionary items, for example, or not taking a "raise" until your portfolio recovers. Importantly, your financial advisor can help run different scenarios to determine if adjustments need to be made to ensure you remain on track.

In any case, think carefully about your withdrawal rate. By managing it carefully, and reviewing it over time, you can take greater control over your retirement income.

*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@edwardjones.com](mailto:dennis.antonopoulos@edwardjones.com). Member SPIC.*

## Love Lavender!

Lush lavender has found a home in many New England gardens, and with good reason. The fragrant flowers are not only a favorite to display, but the popular herb also boasts many medicinal and practical uses. Since the time of the ancient Greeks, lavender has been hailed as remedy for everything from insomnia to moth invasions. With a renewed interest in the virtues of herbs, this week's column will review how lovely lavender can be utilized in an array of duties all around the house.

\* Did you know lavender blossoms and leaves can be used instead of rosemary in many recipes? Try it to add a dash of color as well as flavor to your next gourmet dish. \*

\* Lavender lemonade is a summertime favorite. Here's a classic recipe using fresh lavender from the garden: Victorian Lavender Lemonade Ingredients: five cups water; one and one half cups sugar; 12 stems fresh lavender; two and one quarter cups lemon juice Directions: Boil two and one half cups of water with the sugar. Add the lavender stems and remove from heat. Place on the lid and let cool. When cool, add two and one half cups water and the lemon juice. Strain out the lavender. Serve the lavender lemonade with crushed ice and garnish with lavender blossoms and lemon wedges. Serves eight tall glasses over ice. \*

\* Drying tip: Dry lavender by harvesting it on a dry day and tying into bundles. Hang the bundle bouquets out of direct and allow to completely dry. \*

\* Essence of Lavender: Lavender essential oil is a concentrated form of lavender that



TAKE THE HINT  
.....  
KAREN TRAINOR

lends itself to many convenient uses. It takes about 175 pounds of fresh lavender flowers to produce a single pound of lavender oil! A little goes a long way, as one drop of lavender essential oil can be equal to one ounce of the fresh plant.

\*\*\*

Did you know pure essential oil of lavender is proven more antiseptic than many commercial chemical disinfectants? Make up your own spray by adding 20 drops of pure essential oil of lavender to one cup of water. Pour into a spritz bottle and use around the house to kill germs on surfaces. \*

\* Lavender oil also comes in handy when you vacuum. Just place a few drops on the vac bag before vacuuming to cut down on dust microbes that trigger allergies. \*

\* For generations, minor burns have reportedly been soothed by applying lavender oil immediately after the injury occurs. If done in time, the lavender can prevent a blister from forming and ease the hurt with its pain killing properties. \*

\* Lavender's role in inducing calm is legendary. Here are two remedies to try: Mix a little lavender essential oil with a carrier oil and massage on the bottom of the feet to soothe away stress. Or place a drop or two of the oil on a cotton ball and tuck it inside a pillowcase to lull you off to sleep. NOTE: Use herbs and essential oils at your own risk and only under proper direction. Consult an herb guide for direction on usage. \*\*\*

# Ephemera that was saved from the trash

Merriam Webster defines ephemera as “something of no lasting significance.” Their second definition reads “paper items (such as posters, broadsides, and tickets) that were originally meant to be discarded after use but have since become collectibles.”

Ephemera was not meant to be preserved. Posters were used to promote events like movies, plays, the circus, sport matches or to advertise products. The posters were typically ripped down after the event or another poster was plastered over them. Tickets were typically ripped or punched. Most people threw them away as soon as the event ended.

Merriam Webster’s definition for a broadside is “a sizable sheet of paper printed on one side.” Broad­sides documented events prior to the Revolutionary War, during the Civil War, and throughout other significant times in history. They were intended to inform the public and were not expected to last long after they were printed.

There are also other types of ephemera not included in Merriam Webster’s definition. Postcards were meant to communicate with family and friends and then be thrown away. Programs for a play or sporting event provided you information on the event and performers or players. Most were not saved. Locally, Whitney in Worcester



ANTIQUES,  
COLLECTIBLES  
& ESTATES  
• • • • •  
WAYNE TUISKULA

played a big part in producing greeting cards. Those made in Worcester and elsewhere were usually discarded after the holiday or event passed.

As with other antiques or collectibles, it is often the things that most people throw away that are the most collectible. Some ephemeral pieces can bring large sums at auction.

A 1959 ticket for a John F. Kennedy speech in Nashville, TN signed by JFK, Robert Kennedy and Jackie Kennedy sold for over \$8,000 last year. A “Mountain Road” lottery ticket signed by George Washington brought \$12,500 this year. The tickets were sold to raise funds for a proposed road to a resort in Virginia. A ticket stub for Michael Jordan’s first NBA basketball game from 1984 went for over \$36,000 at auction in 2018.

Real photo postcards are actual photographs with a postcard back and some can be quite valuable. A real photo postcard that read “WRIGHT AEROPLANE COLLEGE PARK MD OCT ‘09” pictured the Wright Brothers’ airplane. It sold for \$10,000 in 2017. A 1964 Beatles postcard signed by all four reached over \$18,000. As you might expect, sports related postcards can be some of the most valuable. A 1915 Red Sox team real photo postcard that included Babe Ruth during his rookie year fetched

\$80,000.

A six-color broadside offering sale of Missouri lands in 40 acre or more lots by the Hannibal & St. Joseph’s Railroad brought nearly \$20,000 in 2013. A broadside advertising a \$100,000 reward for Abraham Lincoln’s assassins sold for \$80,000 in 2009. A rare July 1776 printed broadside of the Declaration of Independence sold at auction in 2016. The Massachusetts-Bay Colony’s Authorized Edition was printed by Ezekiel Russell of Salem, Mass. It realized over \$500,000.

An 1892 Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec poster, “AMBASSADEURS / ARISTIDE BRUANT,” brought \$50,000 in 2016. An 1864 campaign poster for Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson sold for \$250,000 last year. A 1932 movie poster for the Boris Karloff’s “The Old Dark House,” which was said to be one of two known to exist, went for \$950,000 in 2019. Bela Lugosi’s IMDb profile shows his highest salary for a film was \$5,000. Lugosi would have had to make 190 films to pay for the poster.

We will soon be hosting an online auction in Warren, RI. We are planning an estate sale in Auburn later this summer. We also will be offering toys from a huge collection in multiple online auctions. The first auctions will feature diecast cars and later auctions will feature some of the finest antique toys that we have handled. Please keep checking [www.centralmassauctions.com](http://www.centralmassauctions.com) for details.



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# The decisions that change your life

The decisions that we make determine the trajectory of our lives.

Last week, this column spoke of the choices we make. I said that we are who we are, what we are,

and where we are in life because of the decisions we’ve made ... and it’s true. If you take a pad of paper and begin backtracking, step by step and decision by decision, your current situa-

tion, both good and bad, become clear. You are where you are because of the decisions and choices you made. That’s true for all of us.

I received an email dis-

puting my claim. The writer said, “I’m a victim of circumstances. I’ve lost everything and none of it was based upon my decisions. My life has always been in the hands of others.”



POSITIVELY  
SPEAKING  
GARY W.  
MOORE

My first question is, “Why is your life in the hands of others? Are they really making your decisions for you? Probably not.” And that question leads me to my next question, “What decision that you made placed you in

their hands?”

Blaming others is easy. “It’s not my fault!” To blame others is also a decision you make and an awfully bad one. It’s a decision to not accept responsibility for your results.

Let’s say that circumstances were such that they were completely out of your control. My next question would be, “What decisions are you making now to pull yourself out of this mess?” You can blame others and say it’s

not your fault, but you must accept responsibility to move forward. The decisions you make will pull you out of the situation.

I was diagnosed with cancer earlier this year. I don’t know why. Maybe environmental ... maybe stress ... maybe genetic. I don’t blame others or take a fatalist view. I decided to do the research and find the right team of doctors at the right medical facility to give me the best chances to live. I decided that I was going to fight and win. I decided

Turn To **POSITIVELY** page **A11**

## TRAINOR

continued from page **A1**

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renown

restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I’m in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I’m counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

Do you have a helpful hint or handy tip that has worked for you? Do you have a question regard-

ing 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](mailto:KDRR@aol.com). Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn.

## RE-OPENING

continued from page **A1**

Although COVID-19 numbers have declined statewide, officials are urging residents not to become complacent. As more indoor facilities reopen, the chance of spreading the virus will increase if preventative measures aren’t taken.

“It’s important that we continue to follow the guidance and do all of the things that have allowed us to get to this point,” said Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito. “Everyone has a role to play, and everyone must do their part. You have all made it possible for more businesses to reopen.”

Key public health data, including the number of new cases and hospitalizations, continue to be closely monitored. Since mid-April, the state’s seven-day average for the positive COVID-19 test rate is down 94 percent, and the three-day average of hospitalized patients is down 79 percent.

Over a million COVID-19 tests have been administered statewide.

Also included in the Governor’s phase three announcement was a revised public gatherings order. Indoor gatherings are now limited to eight people per 1,000 square feet; gatherings should not exceed 25 people in a single enclosed indoor space.

Outdoor gatherings in enclosed spaces are limited to 25 percent of the facility’s maximum permitted occupancy, with a maximum of 100 peo-

ple in a single enclosed outdoor space. This includes community events, civic events, sporting events, concerts, and conventions. This order does not apply to outdoor, unenclosed gatherings if proper social distancing measures are possible.

Also addressed in the third phase of reopening, healthcare providers can now offer in-person group treatment programs and day programs. These include adult day health programs, day habilitation programs, substance abuse services, and outpatient services. Additionally, community-based day services for adults with intellectual and cognitive disabilities can also reopen.

Additionally, visitation guidelines have been updated for several sectors. These include the Departments of Developmental Services, Youth Services, Children and Families, Public Health, Mental Health, and the Mass. Rehabilitation Commission. Offsite visits, including overnight visits, will be allowed under specific guidelines.

MassHealth will also extend its current telehealth flexibility through at least the end of the year to ensure member access to critical healthcare services.

The state’s reopening plan includes four total phases. The fourth phase won’t likely be reached until there is a COVID-19 vaccine, officials said.

For a full list of state guidance and regulations, visit [www.mass.gov/reopening](http://www.mass.gov/reopening).

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## Friday’s Child



Photo by Erin Mathieu

Hailey  
Age 12

Hi! My name is Hailey and I love horses! Below is a letter I have written to help you get to know me.

Hi,  
My name is Hailey and I am 12 years old. I am a sociable, funny, cool, kind, sweet, and outgoing person. I am someone who likes to stay on topic, listen to others, and am a good planner. I consider myself a brave person and a hard worker.

I have several family members who I am close with, including my aunt, grandmother, grandfather, and two cousins. I am particularly close with my aunt who I speak with about funny things, my emotions, and my hopes. Along with my many strengths, I also have many talents and interests. I like to ride horses, play hockey, video games, and board games, and go swimming.

I’m looking for a family that will love me and have fun with me! I would like

to do many activities with my family including horseback riding, arts and crafts, movie nights, and cooking/baking. I am also learning to play the piano. I also would be a big help to my family by doing chores, playing with any siblings, and making everyone laugh. I would also love a visiting resource. I hope to speak with you soon!

Sincerely,  
Hailey

### Who Can Adopt?

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

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

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



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**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 Frplc! 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 Bathrm! 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 Applianced Granite Kit! Formal Din Rm w/ Cherry Hrdwds! Lake Facing Liv Rm w/Cathedrals, Cherry Hrdwds! Slider to Waterfront Deck! Spacious 1st Flr Master Bdrm w/Full Bath, Cherry Hrdwds & Walk-in Closet! Frplcd Lower Level Fam Rm! 1st & 2nd Flr Laundries! 2 Car Garage! **\$999,900.00**



**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 Bathrms! 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, Frplc 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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#### 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' BUILDING, 7,680 SF TOTAL! LOWER LEVEL USE AND ACCESS THRU DRIVE IN GARAGE DOOR! NATURAL GAS! HIGH TRAFFIC - HIGH EXPOSURE! MANY POSSIBLE USES. WHAT DO YOU HAVE PLANNED? **\$600,000.**

#### DUDLEY - 25 MARSHALL TER.



**SORRY, SOLD!**

Custom Hip Roof Ranch! 1,480+/- Sqft. One Level Living. Spacious Open Floor Plan. Combination Kitchen/Dining w/Breakfast Bar, Cooktop Range & Built-in Oven, 3 Large Bedrooms w/Large Closets, Linen Closet, 1st Floor Laundry Room, Hardwood Floors, Separate Bath Tub & Shower. Forced Hot Water Heat by Oil w/High End Cast Iron Baseboard, Recently Shingled Roof, Overlooks Attractive, Level Landscaping! **\$274,900.**

#### WEBSTER - 36 PARK AVENUE



**ON DEPOSIT**

Well cared for Colonial on Park Avenue! Hardwoods! Formal dining room, eat in kitchen, 3 bedrooms! Hollywood Bath. 1-1/2 baths total. deck! Garage! Freshly Painted **\$264,900.**

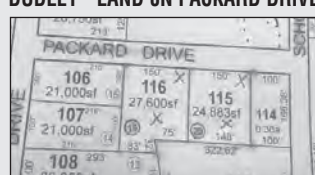
#### DUDLEY - 5 FAIRVIEW AVE



**SORRY, SOLD!**

3 bedroom 1-1/2 bath ranch. 16,000 ft lot. Plumbing for lower level bath. Garage. Needs little updating. Recent Buderus Furnace. assisted sale **\$248,500.**

#### DUDLEY - LAND ON PACKARD DRIVE



**Privacy!!** Off Ridge Drive - 2 abutting Lots offered as a package. Each, has there own Deed description. Lot# 19 Contains 27,699 SF of land area, Lot# 20, Contains 24,883 SF of land area. Total 52,582 SF. / 1.2 acre. **\$50,000.**

#### LAND

#### WEBSTER/OXFORD/DUDLEY/DOUGLAS

Dudley - Marshall Terrace 12,000 +/- Sq. Ft. Potential for a 2 family to be built! Town Water, Sewer. **SORRY SOLD \$70,000**

Webster - 85 Upper Gore w/View of the Lake. 1+ acre! Much work done! Artisan well, Septic Design, & Conservation **\$130,000**

Webster - Cooper Rd 2 Buildable Lots! Water/Sewer Access, Zoned Lake Residential! **\$49,000. ON DEPOSIT**

Douglas-Mount Daniels Lot #2-2.5 Acres of flat land that abuts Douglas State Forest **\$132,900**

Oxford - 4 Leicester St. approx. 8.47 acres! River frontage! Possible to be subdivided. **\$99,900**

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

### Webster - New Lake Listing!



**ON DEPOSIT**

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! It Truly is a Great Opportunity to Own Something Special! Remember, Timing Is Everything!

#### WEBSTER LAKE - 100 LAKESIDE AVE

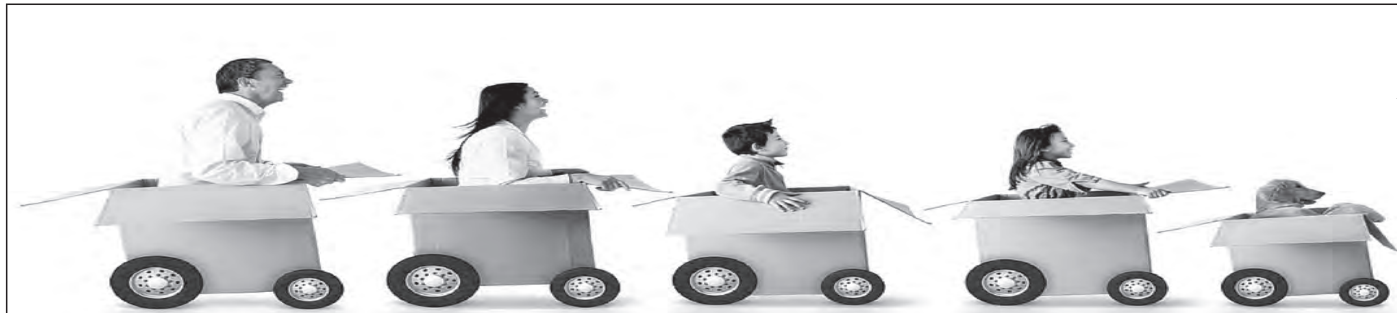
**WEBSTER LAKE!** PANORAMIC VIEWS! BEAUTIFUL SUNSETS! Extraordinary Waterfront Contemporary! Architect designed with Lake Living in mind, Custom Built with Attention to High Quality & Detail. Outstanding open concept, water view from almost every room, upscale features & amenities! Nicely situated on a .25 acre level peninsula, 180'+/- prime lake frontage! Enhanced by a all natural shoreline, exceptional views, professional landscaping & privacy. All you need to live is located on the 1st floor... including a grand 2 story foyer, cozy fireplaced living room, gourmet kitchen, lake facing dining, half bath & laundry, 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! It Truly is a Great Opportunity to Own Something Special! Remember, Timing Is Everything! **\$1,075,000.**

#### WEBSTER LAKE – 32 JACKSON RD



**SORRY, SOLD!**

**DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL!** EXTREMELY UNIQUE 3.32 ACRE WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT PROPERTY! Charming, year-round, 2 BR, 2 bath Ranch, located at the Southern most end of Webster Lake's South Pond beyond Cedar Island! Extremely private w/direct Lake access. The home offers a full finished LL w/walkout access, a screened-in 18x20 patio, 18x26 det'd garage & 8x8 storage shed. Park like grounds! **\$375,000**



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move!**

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of your  
neighborhood

POSITIVELY

continued from page 9

that I'll die someday, but not today ... and not from this.

Many people accept their diagnosis, get their life in order, then go home to await the end. I chose differently. I decided not to die from cancer and that decision pushed me to make other decisions to find the right medical team and treatment. I am where I am now in my medical care because of decisions I've made.

The quality of our lives is determined by the decisions we make.

A friend on LinkedIn posted

something this morning that I found interesting and an example of how decisions impact results.

"If you have a bar of iron, it's worth five dollars. If you make the iron into horseshoes, the value increases to twelve dollars. That decision more than doubles the value of your investment.

Now, take the same bar of iron and turn it into simple sewing needles. The value becomes thirty-five hundred dollars.

But if you turn that same five-dollar bar of iron into springs for Swiss watches, the value becomes an astonishing three-hundred thousand dol-

lars. The decision you make of what you do with your iron gives you a variety of values and outcomes." The decisions you make about how you live your life are the same. The quality and value of your life are determined by your decisions.

Stephen Covey says, "We are the creative force of our life, and through our own decisions rather than our conditions, if we carefully learn to do certain things, we can accomplish our goals."

What about your decisions? Who you associate with, what you read, the importance you put into receiving training and/or education ... it all impacts your life by the deci-

sions you are able to make based upon the knowledge you have.

You are influenced greatly by the people you spend the most time with. Choose your friends wisely.

You are who you are, where you are and what you are in your life based by what you allow into your mind. What you let in determines the decisions you make. Read good books and choose your entertainment wisely. Don't allow negativity into your mind. Chose what and who you allow into your head.

Finally, I'll share that I've never met a successful pessimist. The most successful peo-

ple I have ever met are also the most optimistic. Successful people are those that believe in their success before it happens and they make the decisions to make it so.

Choose to be optimistic in all that you do.

What decisions will you make today?

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



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**Worcester:** 2000 sq. ft., 2.5 Baths, 1st floor master bedroom suite, kitchen with 10' center island with granite countertop.  
29 Bjorklund Ave - \$454,900

**Dudley:** Established Subdivision, Home office, 1st flr full bath, 1st flr bedroom, fireplace, 20' kitchen, 3 season porch.  
7 Joseph St - \$319,900

**SZYM CZK SELLS**

**SOLD**  
Auburn: 3 Bdrm., 2.5 BA, 1st flr, master bdrm suite, hardwood flrs.  
30 Oakwood Ave- \$379,900

**Dudley Coming Soon**  
Contemporary Ranch, 3+ Acres  
Central Air  
Geothermal Heating System

**Worcester:** Condominium, 2-3 BR, 2.5 BA, End unit, 1200 sq. ft.  
43 Whispering Pines #46 - \$274,900

**Woodstock, CT:** 21 acre, privacy, highway convenience, 4 bdr. nature's paradise, turkey, deer, solitude.  
480 Route 197- \$650,000

# Keep your landscape looking good with less effort

Keep your garden looking its best and reduce your workload by enlisting practices that provide multiple benefits. Your garden will flourish and you'll have more time to enjoy its beauty.

Put your yard waste to work in your garden. You'll save time hauling plant debris to the recycling center and money spent buying bagged material. Use shredded leaves, evergreen needles, herbicide-free grass clippings or other pest- and weed-free organic material as mulch. Spread a one to two-inch layer of these materials over the soil around annual and perennial flowers and vegetables.

Use woodchips and shredded bark to mulch pathways, trees, and shrubs. Consider joining forces with your neighbors, renting a chipper, and turning brush into mulch for your landscape. Maintain a two- to three-inch layer of mulch around these plants. And keep the mulch away from tree trunks and the crowns of the plants.

Organic mulch helps conserve moisture, reduce



## GARDEN MOMENTS

MELINDA MYERS

weeds, and improve the soil as it breaks down. So, you get multiple benefits from this one task while burning a few calories and strengthening your muscles.

Water plants thoroughly and less frequently whenever you irrigate the garden. This encourages deep roots, making your plants more drought tolerant and pest resistant. Water early in the day to reduce water lost to evaporation. And consider using drip irrigation or soaker hoses to deliver water right to the plant roots where it is needed.

Check container gardens daily. Water thoroughly until the excess water runs out the bottom. Or enlist the help of one of the many container irrigation systems. Consider using a slow release fer-

tilizer when needed to keep plants thriving with less effort. These types of fertilizers provide a slow, steady release of nutrients for balanced growth without sacrificing flowers or burning drought stressed plants.

Don't forget your trees and shrubs. Proper watering will also improve their health. Water new plantings and moisture lovers whenever the top few inches of soil are dry. Even established trees and shrubs need a helping hand during extended periods of drought. Always water thoroughly to encourage deep, drought-resistant roots.

Keep mowing your lawn as long as your grass is actively growing. Mow high since taller grass is better able to out compete the weeds and forms deeper roots, making it more drought tolerant. Minimize the stress by removing no more than a third of the total grass height each time you mow.

Always use a sharp mower blade. Sharp blades cut more efficient-



Melinda Myers

Manage weeds by using woodchips or shredded bark to mulch pathways and garden beds.

ly, saving you time whenever you mow. You'll consume 22 percent less fuel and the lawn will use up to 30% less water when using sharp blades. Plus, the clean cut will be less noticeable and the wound will close quickly, helping you grow a healthy, better-looking lawn.

Be sure to leave grass clippings on the lawn. They add nutrients, moisture, and organic matter to the soil. A season's

worth of clippings is equal to one fertilizer application. So every time you mow you are fertilizing the lawn and improving the soil.

Finish every garden chore with a bit of clean-up. Sweep clippings, plant debris and fertilizer off walks, drives and patios, so it won't wash into storm sewers. Keeping plant debris out of our waterways is good for us and the environment.

Melinda Myers is the

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

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**Local News**



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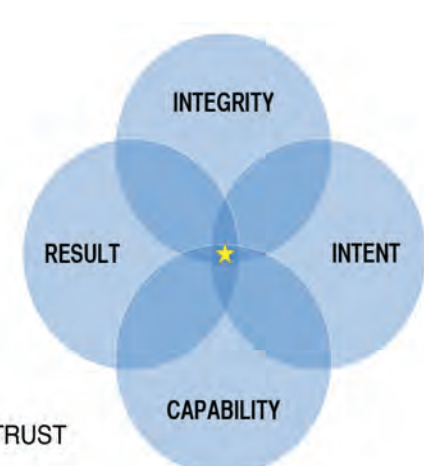
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# Brookfields, Sturbridge Rotary partner to assist area schools

REGION — Last week, our area Rotary clubs accepted a donation of 4,000 PPE masks from a Rotary club in Connecticut. These masks will be distributed to our local schools to assist them in their plans to reopen. Many more thousands of masks from this donation will be delivered to clubs throughout our Central Mass Rotary District.

Brookfields and Sturbridge Rotary are working collaboratively to assist our local schools get much needed PPE as they prepare to reopen in the Fall. In addition to the masks, the clubs are working on a joint Rotary Foundation matching grant to acquire hand sanitizer.

Seen in the photo with our donor partner from Connecticut are District Governor Pam Anastasi, Brookfields Rotary President Elect Lynn Duffy-O'Shea, Brookfields Treasurer Terry McCarthy, and Sturbridge Rotary President Klaus Hachfeld.

Brookfields Rotary serves the Brookfields, Spencer and Warren. For more information about our service activities and schedule, visit our Web site at [www.brookfieldsrotary.org](http://www.brookfieldsrotary.org).



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