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Friday, May 14, 2021

Good weather means great activity at Hitchcock Academy

BRIMFIELD — On Saturday, May 22, just in time for Memorial Day Planting, Hitchcock Academy will be holding its Grow With Us plant sale fundraiser. Beginning at 8 am on the HFA lawn, just off Route 20 in Brimfield, there will be a huge assortment of annuals, perennials, vegetables and hanging planters. Gardening is a great family activity, which provides the benefits of sunshine, exercise, and cooperation. Bring the children and let them choose some of their own plants while you support Hitchcock Academy's

State officials announce key reopening dates

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – State officials recently announced several key dates in the continued reopening of the economy.

With steady declines in weekly COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations, the Baker-Polito Administration is advancing in Phase 4 of the state's reopening plan. Officials are also pleased with the progress of the vaccination program, which has made it far more difficult for the virus to spread.

Effective May 10, large venues such as arenas and ballparks were authorized to increase capacity to 25 percent. The Commonwealth has also greenlighted amusement parks, theme parks, and outdoor water parks to operate at 50-percent capacity. Prior to reopening, these venues must submit safety plans to the Department of Public Health.

Residents are also looking forward to getting back to group athletic events.

"Road races and other large outdoor amateur or professional group athletic events will be permitted to take place with staggered starts after submitting safety plans to a local board of health," said Gov. Charlie Baker.

Youth and adult amateur sports tournaments are once again allowed for moderate-risk and high-risk sports.

Beginning May 29, gathering limits will increase to 200 people indoors and 250 people outdoors for event venues, public settings, and private settings.

Subject to public health and vaccination data, the following venues will be able to reopen on May 29: street festivals, parades, and agricultural festivals. All events must reopen at 50-percent of their previous capacity.

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community efforts. People, who have already begun their gardening by dividing their plants are encouraged to donate their excess to Hitchcock for this fundraiser.

Hitchcock Academy's 11th Annual Trash to Treasure Town Wide Tag Sale on Saturday, June 5 is a great time to sell those unwanted or unused items uncovered while quarantining in the pandemic. Registering for the Trash to Treasure Event at hitchcockacademy.org or by stopping in HFA and filling out a form during regular business hours, means a seller's location with a short description of their unique goods will be included on a printed Town Wide Tag Sale map available starting the

day before for \$2. A free online version will be available on our website.

According to HFA's Executive Director, Cindy Skowyra, "In 2020, there were over 55 participants in this event and HFA sold more than 400 printed maps the morning of the sale."

As it is a town wide sale, it draws in bargain hunters from many of the surrounding communities, which adds incentive to participate. In addition to uncovering terrific bargains, this event, while following Covid

Turn To **HITCHCOCK**, page **A8**

Capstone Planning Group, located at Cornerstone Bank, recruits another financial consultant

STURBRIDGE — The Capstone Planning Group, a full-service Financial Services and Investment Planning team located at Cornerstone Bank, recently hired Joe Delaney for the position of Financial Consultant.

Delaney has been in the industry since 2012, and brings a wide array of retirement planning and investing experience. In this role he will work to serve



Courtesy

Joe Delaney

The Capstone Planning Group's growing client base in Worcester, Shrewsbury, and surrounding towns.

"Joe's addition to our team will allow The Capstone Planning Group to help more individuals and families develop investment strategies to pursue their goals," said The Capstone Planning Group's SVP of Investment Services Jason Main. "In addition, he will be a valuable partner for business owners in the community looking to review and manage their retirement plan offerings."

Delaney is a resident of Worcester and a graduate of Southern New Hampshire University. He currently holds a Series 6 and Series 63 registration with LPL Financial and holds the designation of Chartered Retirement Plan Specialist. In addition, he is a licensed Accident and Health or Sickness Insurance Producer and Life Insurance Producer.

"The tight knit team at The Capstone Planning Group cares deeply about their customers and I am excited to be the newest addition to their growing group," said Delaney. "I am eager to add my experience to their lineup."

For more information about The Capstone Planning Group you may visit them in person at Cornerstone Bank, visit www.thecapstone.group or call 508-764-0046.

Harrington receives YMCA's George Vasil Community Award



SOUTHBIDGE — Harrington HealthCare System has been named as this year's recipient of the George Vasil Community Award by the YMCA of Central Massachusetts.

The YMCA of Central Massachusetts Tri-Community Family Branch in Southbridge, along with the Board of Governors, has chosen to award Harrington HealthCare System the award for its role in caring for the community in a variety of ways throughout the pandemic.

The George Vasil Community Service Award is traditionally given to a person or group in the Southbridge, Sturbridge, and Charlton (Tri-Community) area who work tirelessly for the

greater needs of others within their community, without expecting anything in return.

"Harrington without a doubt has played a major role in the last 12 months to help curb the pandemic," said YMCA of Central Massachusetts Tri-Community Family Branch Director Christina Hadis-Blackwell. "From assisting residents in the wide geographic area that Harrington serves to continue to be a silent yet powerful partner to agencies within the community, Harrington Healthcare System has stepped up and led the way in assisting so many in the community."

Turn To **HARRINGTON**, page **A8**

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May is National Nurses Month

Stonebridge Press and the following businesses would like to recognize nurses during National Nurses month.

Thank you for your selfless dedication, kindness, compassion, and bravery especially during these pandemic times. You are truly angels in scrubs. Thank you for all you do all year long.





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Saturday, May 22 • 9am-3pm


and 1st of 3 Flea Markets this summer!
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and Hot Dogs all day! Bring your table and sell your
used wares. \$20 for space.

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Shout Out to All Our Overlook Nurses

To all our nurses at The Overlook, we thank you every day for being here with us. Nurses are strong; they are resilient. Nurses are compassionate and kind. They provide for our residents, they sacrifice for others, and they meet every challenge they are given. The past year has given us more reason than ever to applaud and respect the work that you do. In the most difficult times; under the weight of loss, grief, and exhaustion; you have risen up every day to provide the best care possible for all of our residents. There are simply not enough words to tell you how much we appreciate, respect, and admire you. Thank you for all that you do.

- The Overlook

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Lawmakers reintroduced BRAIN TRAIN Act

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

BOSTON – Several lawmakers from the commonwealth of Massachusetts have joined an effort to bring high-performance rail projects to Western and Central Massachusetts with the goal of servicing unconnected or under-connected communities across the state.

Senators Edward Markey and Elizabeth Warren, along with Congressman James McGovern, announced on May 5 that they are reintroducing the Building Rail Across Intercity Networks To Ride Around Interior of the Nation, or BRAIN TRAIN, Act which would authorize \$5 billion annually, a total of \$25 billion over five years, to invest in the transportation initiative. The Act has received endorsement from numerous state and national groups including the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Rail Passengers Association, Transportation for America, Transportation for Massachusetts, and the Western Massachusetts Rail Coalition.

In addition to the billions of dollars in funding, the Act would also instruct the Department of Transportation to evaluate applications for funding based on numerous factors including anticipated favorable impact on air or traffic congestion and the estimated ridership and potential rail service frequency. It also instructs the DOT to give preference to projects that will improve commuter rail operations, reduce greenhouse

emission, and provide positive economic and employment impacts among other things.

“Passenger rail is an essential ingredient for a healthy economy, a healthy environment, and a healthy workforce,” said Markey in a statement. “That’s why President Biden’s American Jobs Plan rightfully calls for a massive expansion of rail across the United States. As we now flesh out the details and put together a comprehensive infrastructure package, we must ensure that we are building a passenger rail system that works for not just the megacities, but also for our Gateway Cities and the smaller communities too often left behind by the modern economy. We are reintroducing the BRAIN TRAIN Act to provide the focus and funding that will ensure every part of our Commonwealth is connected to the larger national rail network Congress is poised to create.”

“I’m glad to join Sen. Markey and Congressman McGovern in reintroducing the BRAIN TRAIN Act which would help fund critical infrastructure projects here in Massachusetts and across the country,” added Warren. “By expanding transportation to smaller communities, we can provide residents with more access to public transit, connect people to jobs, and spur economic activity across the entire Commonwealth.”

“We have a once-in-a-generation chance to cut through the gridlock in Washington and build a more thought-



Courtesy

Congressman James McGovern discusses the reintroduction of the BRAIN TRAIN Act.

ful, accessible, and inclusive transportation network that empowers communities and passengers throughout Central and Western Massachusetts to have a say in shaping the future of this country,” said McGovern. “President Biden got it right when he announced the American Jobs Plan: he said we need to go big, we need to go bold, and we need to get it done so we can have an economy that

gives everybody a chance to succeed. I’m proud to partner with Senators Markey and Warren to reintroduce this vital bill so we can ensure that as we work out the details of this infrastructure package, we build back not only better, but we build back in a way that ensures economic growth and opportunity is spread equitably throughout the Commonwealth.”

YMCA prepares for summer

CHARLTON — The YMCA of Central Massachusetts, Tri Community Family Branch in Southbridge has offered Camp at its Charlton location every summer. Camp Foscett sits on the shores of the East Charlton Reservoir and encompasses more than 100 acres of open fields, trails, beachfront, and wooded/wetland areas, all great for outdoor exploration by campers.

During the summer of 2020, the camp, licensed by the local Board of Health, operated at a limited capacity of 60 Campers due to the pandemic.

“Approved plans for the safety of campers and staff have always been a priority and will continue to be in the future,” stated YMCA Senior Program Director Susan Casine, who has been with the Tri Community Family Branch for 30 years and oversees the operation at Camp Foscett. “Each group of campers stay together the entire week. They participate in all of the fun activities offered: swimming, archery, boating, hiking, mountain biking, arts and crafts, and nature exploration and are simply allowed to be kids while there.”

Safety precautions are enforced daily at Camp Foscett.

“Parents drop off the campers every morning in the top field,” Casine said. “The parents don’t even need to leave their cars. Nursing staff screen every child for temperature and any signs of illness prior to the children leaving the car to go with their peers. Our nursing staff (2) are on site daily as long as the Campers are there. In addition, hand sanitizing stations are placed throughout the camp and all Camp

Staff are fully trained and certified in both CPR and First Aid.”

During the 2020 season, the groups of children, split up by ages, were each assigned to an outdoor platform area which they were allowed to decorate weekly as their home base.

“Having children experience the camaraderie of a small group and make new friendships has been such a strong part of camp,” said Casine. “Some of these kids are now returning with their own children because their experiences were so positive!”

While plans for spending the majority of time outdoors make camp safer for all, there are days when the rains will send campers inside. Camp Foscett has a large pavilion and two bath houses that serve as emergency space in inclement weather. The campers and their groups can still utilize the indoor space yet be “socially distanced” enough to stay away from other groups.

During 2021 many of the same safety precautions will remain in place.

“The camp is a hidden gem in Charlton,” states YMCA Branch Director Chris Blackwell. “Each year, staff and volunteers dedicate time to making sure the site is ready to open.”

In addition, camp staff often come together to plan new themes and programs for the children for the nine weeks that the camp is in operation.

There is no better place to be a kid! Blackwell also acknowledged that the local United Way of South Central Massachusetts has been a strong supporter of the camp programs, including this year.

Democratic Town Committee being formed in Brimfield

BRIMFIELD — A new Brimfield Democratic Town Committee is being formed as a big tent community activist group. All Brimfield progressives are welcomed – registered Independents can join as non-voting members.

A networking party is being held on Sunday, May 23 at 2 p.m. This is an

opportunity for town Progressives to get acquainted with each other. Those who don’t wish to join the committee can sign up for the email list, so they can be kept informed of activities.

For more information, contact one of the Co-Chairs - Paul Adams (pdadams74@charter.net) and Maria Thomson (mthomson@charter.net).

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Friday's Child

**Gavin – Age 12
Registration # 7640**

Hi! My name is Gavin and I like making people laugh!

Gavin is a playful young boy of Caucasian descent who has a great sense of humor! Some of Gavin's favorite things to do are reading and playing basketball. The adults in Gavin's life say he is engaging and enjoys connecting with others. He is well-liked by his peers, and he thrives off of adult attention. Gavin is diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, and he functions academically close to grade level. He is a smart boy who enjoys sharing his knowledge of the world with others.

with others.

Gavin is legally freed for adoption and would bring great joy to a family where he can be the youngest or only child. Gavin needs a family that can provide him with structure and consistency, and be open to maintaining contact with his sibling.

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 617-964-6273 or visit www.ma-reinc.org. The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have a permanent place to call home.

QCC offers solutions for post-pandemic recovery

WORCESTER — A Community Conversation hosted by Quinsigamond Community College for government, social service and religious organiza-

tions in Worcester drew over 60 attendees this week. The hour-long virtual meeting addressed ways to accelerate economic and civic recovery post-pandemic,

using education as a pathway to success. The College gave a snapshot into what it can offer the organizations, which serve the underrepresented populations in Worcester and surrounding communities that have been so devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We have the programs and the training and together with our community organizations’ help we can thrive. We are counting on you and your partnerships to achieve this,” President Luis G. Pedraja, Ph.D. said.

Chair for the QCC Board of Trustees Sue Mailman noted that as a community college, QCC has the unique ability to deliver pathways that will help Worcester communities grow and prosper.

“We need to get ahead of the game and lead the way in retraining and developing a stronger Worcester,” Ms. Mailman said. “We need to create conditions for our underrepresented populations to succeed and community colleges have a real lead in this.”

QCC’s Vice President of Academic Affairs James Keane, Ed.D., said the pandemic proved to the world just how nim-

ble a community college could be, and what was learned would be beneficial for years to come. He described the two-week timeframe in which QCC successfully transitioned to remote instruction and said the new virtual course modalities, coupled with increased online support services, have increased access and engagement in higher education, particularly for adult learners. Dr. Keane described new advisory boards that are a part of each college program. Board members advise on relevant workforce curriculum and course design to prepare students when they enter the workforce.

Lillian Ortiz, Ed.D., vice president for Enrollment Management and Student Engagement, highlighted the financial opportunities available at QCC. The College received \$13 million in Cares Act funds that have helped 3,800 students impacted by the pandemic with tuition, fees, laptops etc. An additional \$9 million is still to be awarded.

“The core mission of the College is to remove barriers that impede students from attending college,” she said.

Other supports and resources of note include the Student Success Center with its academic tutoring, QCC’s Food Pantry that feeds approximately 50 families per week throughout the year, and the Resource Center that coordinates with local agencies to offer assistance for students in need.

“We have a strong mentoring program and our Accessibility Services Department that serves 1,000 students annually on campus, offering accessible, equitable and inclusiveness to all members of the community,” Dr. Ortiz said, adding, “We have also been designated as a military friendly school.”

Carol King, dean of College and Career Pathways told of QCC’s 25 free English literacy programs from beginner to intermediate, as well as the HiSet and GED programs that even include a GED prep classes in Spanish.

“We understand the challenges of going back to school as an adult,” she said. “We offer free college readiness classes virtually any day and time.”

Kathie Manning, dean of Center for Workforce Development & Continuing Education described the flexibility of the programs and training that is being offered such as a new online, self-paced, professional development training subscription model. She said the College offers numerous programs at low to no cost and many even support transportation and childcare. Recent programs have included nurse assistant/home health aide, help desk, medical assistant and lead teachers for early childhood programs, with some offered in Spanish.

“Programs generally take six months to complete and classes begin every week throughout the year,” she said.

Nichole Wheeler, coordinator Career Services & Credit for Prior Learning mentioned the variety of ways students can gain credits for prior life experiences and save money and time.

“We meet with students and evaluate and match what they have with QCC courses to try and give them college credit,” said.

According to Dr. Pedraja, the COVID-19 pandemic brought unique conditions to community colleges that have historically seen an upsurge in enrollment during economic downturns. Today, on a national level 40 percent of students are now canceling their plans to enroll in college with 30 percent giving COVID-19 related reasons. Diverse populations have seen the steepest declines in college enrollment. However, He told the organizations in attendance there is reason to be hopeful as the region looks ahead.

“Hope is at the core of who we are at a community college. We are a beacon of hope for our students and our community. Losing students impacts us as an entire community and we cannot thrive if we leave anyone behind,” Dr. Pedraja said. “It takes a community to help students succeed and you know where your needs are and with your help, we can reach out and find strategies to bring people to college.”

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

In-person open studio returns at Massasoit Art Guild

REGION — Massasoit Art Guild is returning to in person open studio. On Wednesday, May 19, we will be returning to our studio in person.

Open Studio is from 9:30 a.m. - noon each Wednesday. Bring your supplies, your creativity and get back to painting together in person! The support, caring critiques, and encouragement is invaluable.

Membership is required. Our studio is at 108 School St, East Brookfield.

We will be following CDC Covid guidelines. Masks required. If you are not a member and would like more information please email us at massasoitartguild@gmail.com or visit us at massasoitartguild@gmail.com for membership information.

Woman’s Club meets May 21

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Southbridge Woman's Club will present a program entitled “Isolation” at its next meeting. Todd Carlson and Jessica Lapriore Reed will take us on a tour of “The Journey of the Chair,” which was followed by many people while living in isolation.

This program will be held at the Southbridge Hotel and Conference Center on May 21, beginning at noon.

VILLAGER ALMANAC

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REAL ESTATE

BRIMFIELD

\$620,000, 71 Reservoir St, Drohan, Ashley, to Pisqolla, Gloria, and Laudone, Pasquale W.

HOLLAND

\$133,000, Salisbury St, DeLongeaux, Olivier, and DeLongeaux, Marine C, to Perrone, Brett.

\$515,000, 533 Sterling Rd, Coskie, Joseph R, to Campo, Rebekah A, and McIntyre, Reid F. \$599,900, 17 Jordan Rd, Kendall Homes Inc, to Valdez-Hernandez, Marisol, and Herrera-Ortiz, Juan C.

\$605,000, 42 Joel Scott Dr, Snell, Charles S, and Snell, Judith E, to Urato, Richard, and Urato, Sylwia.

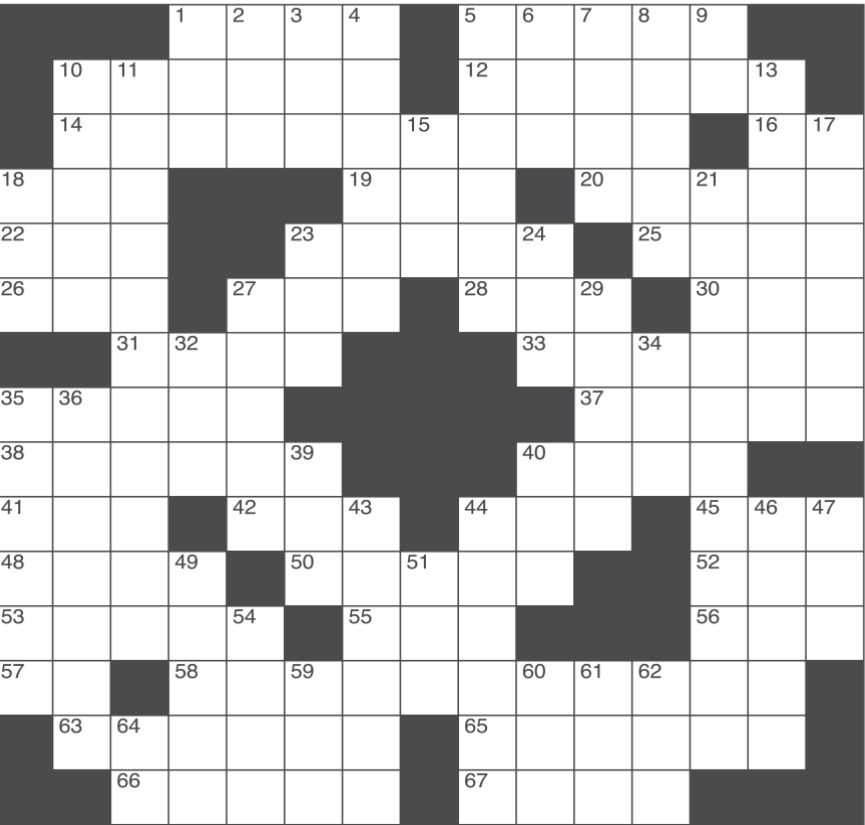
\$665,000, 78 Mixer Rd, Currie, William T, and Currie, Donna M, to Landry, Ryan, and Landry, Rachael.

STURBRIDGE

\$175,000, Upper North Row Rd #19, Justice Hill Inc, to Frankian, William T, and Serra, Maggie M.

\$245,000, Roper Rd #14, Justice Hill Inc, to Andrade, Karen, and Andrade, Michael.

\$325,000, 3 Gates Ter, Protano, Robert J, to Stephens, Lisa M



CLUES ACROSS

1. Large, flightless birds

5. Lifts and moves heavy objects

10. Hyundai sedan

12. Wear away by erosion

14. Arranged alphabetically

16. Top prosecutor

18. ___-de-sac: Dead-end street

19. Digital audiotape

20. Linguistics pioneer

22. Singer DiFranco

23. Arms of the sea

25. Near-reach weapon (abbr.)

26. Ballplayer’s accessory

27. You get one at the beach

28. U.S. founding father

30. W. Australia indigenous people

31. Amounts of time

33. Put on the shelf

35. Russian dynasty member

37. City along the Elbe River
38. A peninsula between the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf

40. Actor Damon

41. ___ King Cole, musician

42. Company that rings receipts

44. Scatter

45. Basics

48. Part of a door

50. Indicates silence

52. Moved quickly on foot

53. Monetary units

55. A place to crash

56. Many subconsciouses

57. Group of countries

58. About line of latitude

63. Female follower of Bacchus

65. A dentist can treat it

66. Dull brown fabrics

67. Int’l nonprofit

CLUES DOWN

1. Midway between northeast and east

2. Partner to cheese

3. One from Utah

4. A way to move

5. Playing cards

6. Baseball stat

7. Long river in western Asia

8. Grandmothers

9. Entertainment legend Sullivan

10. Steam bath room

11. One who kills

13. Food

15. Swiss river

17. Fleet

18. Taxi

21. Working class

23. More (Spanish)

24. High schoolers’ test

27. Heavily built goat antelope
29. Murdered in his bathtub

32. Tease good-naturedly

34. Morsel

35. Cause persistent resentment

36. A radioactive element

39. Perform in a play

40. Witty remark: Bon ___

43. A great place to kayak

44. Conclude by reasoning

46. In an unfavorable way

47. Complex of nerve tissues (abbr.)

49. Machine for making paper

51. Feline

54. Yugo’s hatchback

59. Check

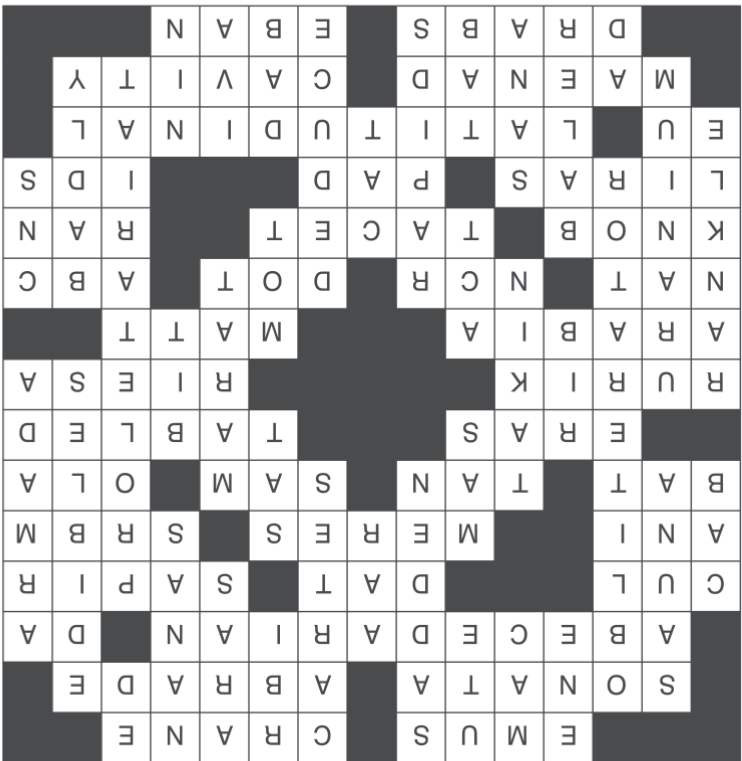
60. Press against lightly

61. Wind-pollinated plants

62. ___compoop

64. Commercial

PUZZLE SOLUTION



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DON'T TEXT AND DRIVE

Ladies Auxiliary of Quinebaug Lodge to host Craft Market

SOUTHBRIDGE — On Sunday, May 30, the Ladies Auxiliary of Quinebaug Masonic Lodge, located on Route 131 at

339 Ashland Ave. in Southbridge, will be hosting a Craft Market. This will be held on the last Sunday of each month start-

Former Nativity School president to lead GWCF Philanthropy

WORCESTER — Patrick T. Maloney was welcomed by the Greater Worcester Community Foundation recently as the Foundation's new Vice President of Philanthropy. In this role, Maloney will oversee donor services and the development and implementation of all fundraising and endowment building activities at the Foundation.

"Patrick is an asset to the GWCF team," said Carolyn Stempler, Interim President and CEO of the Foundation. "As we emerge from the pandemic and work to build a more inclusive and resilient Central Massachusetts, he will lead an exciting new era of impactful philanthropy at the Foundation."

"I'm grateful to join the GWCF team at a formative moment in its history," said Maloney. "I'm looking forward to contributing to the Foundation's efforts towards making a more equitable Worcester for all residents."

Maloney had served as President of

Nativity School of Worcester since 2016. Prior to that he headed the advancement efforts at the school as Vice President of Advancement and Director of Advancement starting in 2012. Prior to Nativity School of Worcester, he also played a role in fundraising efforts at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, first as Associate Director of Annual Giving before advancing to Senior Associate Director of Annual Giving.

For the past three years, Maloney has chaired the board of directors for the Worcester-based housing relief nonprofit Matthew 25, Inc. He is also a member of the Supervisory Committee of Millbury Federal Credit Union and a GWCF Corporator.

A native of Worcester, Maloney is a graduate of the College of the Holy Cross and Saint John's High School in Shrewsbury. Maloney and his wife Kristine live in Worcester with their two children.



Courtesy

Just one example of the craft tents set up by Norah's Fabric Creations that will be at Quinebaug Masonic Lodge in Southbridge on Sunday, May 30.

ing on May 30, for the next five months, from May through September, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

This Craft Market offers a great opportunity to find all kinds of unique gifts and crafts for your home or anyone on your shopping list. Everything from hand sewn items, crochet items, candles, signs, soaps, jewelry, active wear, kids and women's clothing and much, much more. All Covid-19 Guidelines must be followed.

Some Vendors including, but not limit-

ed to are, Little Hearts Custom Creations, Norah's Fabric Creations,

SOR Creations, Matilda Jane, Jackson's Creative Cakes and Crafts, Nicole Singer Arts. If you are interested in setting up a tent display and would like more details of space availability and setup information or have any questions or concerns, please contact Norah Proper at 1-413-297-8374 or e-mail her at norahsfabriccreations@yahoo.com.



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PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Equalizing access to education

It's that time of year when high school seniors are committing to colleges and making a plan for what will happen after graduation day. College tuition has become so incredibly unaffordable that many students are opting out or seeking a career in various trades, in which they stand to make more money than a classmate with a four-year degree — depending, of course, on which route they take.

Harvard University cost ten schillings per year in the early 1700's, which was equal to about a pair of shoes and two pairs of stockings. Interesting to note is that back then, most jobs did not require a degree, license or certification and laborers learned via apprenticeship. If the price of Harvard over time had risen at the same rate as prices generally equaled to the rate of inflation, tuition today would cost \$1,703 per year. However, that is not the case, and the current tuition at Harvard is upwards of \$67,580.

As a society, we stress the need for a solid, good education. Any job that pays a livable wage requires you to have a degree, however many students are not making much more than their counterparts who chose to enter the work force right out of high school. Really this depends on where you live and what you do.

The significant increase in college tuition has angered many parents and students. One has to wonder how a financial aid office at any given school comes up with the numbers for a student's financial aid package. In one recent example, a college in Massachusetts, cost \$73,000 per year. Yes, you read that right. A student with a single mother who makes in the ballpark of \$30,000 a year was offered \$13,000 in financial aid for the year. Does this school discriminate based on socio-economics? One has to wonder. Are wealthy students somehow more special than their less fortunate counterparts?

Students who do make it through the four years will graduate with an exorbitant amount of debt, a bill they could potentially be paying well into old age.

Way back when, state universities were free, however did include a small fee. In the 1960's, social and legislative changes turned higher education into a business, hence the student loan debt crisis we see today.

Through some research, we discovered an interesting time line that laid out the path higher education has taken since its inception during Medieval times in Europe. Back then, few of these schools charged tuition and were supported by the government or a church, and areas of study were limited.

In 1796, Thomas Jefferson proposed an education system that was supported through taxes. He did this because he believed that for a government to truly work, that its people needed to be educated. As a result, in 1818, the government began subsidizing elementary schools and Jefferson used a \$15,000 grant to start the University of Virginia.

In the early 1800's, many colleges did not charge tuition; however, only the wealthy could afford the living expenses incurred during study. In 1810, students lived as simply as possible, keeping room and board rates extremely low, compared to today's living conditions.

In 1870, Harvard's tuition was \$150 per year, while Brown University was just \$75. This equals to about \$3,000 in today's terms. Again, only the wealthy could afford to attend.

A spike hit in 1920 when admissions doubled between then and 1930. The cost was about \$250 per year, with 20 percent of college aged Americans attending university.

The G.I. Bill was passed in 1944, but has since been modified.

In 1965, the Higher Education Act passed. This act helped provide financial assistance for those who needed it. In 1973, in today's dollars, an average year, at an average school cost just over \$9,000 and just over \$2,000 for an in state public school.

In 1972, only 49 percent of high school graduates went on to college. Back then, grants covered 80 percent of the costs. Today more and more students are heading off to school, leaving less grant money to go around. In 1975, the rates started to increase faster than inflation. Prior to the 1970s, tuition rates increased roughly two to three percent each year. In 2003, the cost went up 14 percent in just one year. In 1987, the rate for a public school saw a 44 percent change.

In the late 1990's, the debt was so bad that people put off weddings, having children and making other big lifetime decisions.

The year 2008 saw an increase of 439 percent since 1982, while income has

Turn To **EDITORIAL**, page **A7**

OPINION

Views and commentary from Sturbridge, Brimfield, Holland and Wales

DIY Repairs on Vintage Finds

Brimfield Flea market time is right around the corner, and despite the fact that only a few fields are expected to open due to COVID restrictions, eager shoppers itching to get back in the antiques game are prepped to snap up bargains at the famous shows as well as at area yard sales. While good deals on vintage wares are exciting finds, chances are many old items will need a little TLC before being put into active duty.

To usher in a new season of flea markets, tag sales and estate auctions, this week's column will review a roundup some of my favorite tricks to transform your (not so perfect) bargains into fantastic finds!

Marble repairs can break the budget, but this do-it-yourself tip does the trick for a lot less! Small cracks in marble can be hidden with a mixture of wax and chalk dust. Melt a candle the color of the marble, blend in chalk dust to give it body and apply to the crack carefully with a paintbrush.

Aged linens are lovely, but are often found with stains. Take a tip from housewives of the past to keep vintage textiles terrific: To remove rust stains from old linens the chemical free way, simply rub lemon juice and salt directly on the stain and hang in the sun to dry. For stubborn stains on sturdy linens, boil them in a pot of hot water to which a little eco friendly powdered laundry detergent has been added. Let cook for about twenty minutes. Hang out in the sun to dry. If the stain is not gone, try leaving linens out for subsequent sunny days until stain has faded.

If your less than perfect porcelain or glass piece needs repair, the following chemical free glue often yields great results: You'll need: two packets (½ ounce) unflavored gelatin; two tablespoons cold water; three tablespoons skim milk. To do: In a small bowl, sprinkle gelatin over cold water. Set aside to gel. Heat milk to boiling point and mix into softened gelatin. Stir until gelatin is dissolved. Apply a thin layer of warm glue to edges of glass, being sure to align break. Press firmly and apply masking tape over fix. Then prop the piece in a box filled with sand for support until completely dry, or tape and clamp the item to ensure a tight adhesion.

Old wicker is gorgeous, but it isn't always without its splits and breaks. Here is the easiest way to repair old wicker: For breaks that require the two pieces to be fused: Coat each half of the break with Elmer's glue, applying glue to area around break points. Cover wicker on both sides with wax paper and clamp the broken piece between boards overnight. If the break requires further strength, it can be further reinforced by weaving wire through the surrounding wicker to secure. Wicker splits can be repaired in the same manner.

Was that antique mirror a deal because of its peeling silver? Before you dish out big bucks to resilver the glass, try "foiling" the eye by taping pieces of aluminum foil to the backs of the offending spots. Or, if you can't live with a tinfoil patch, completely remove silver from the back of the old mirror with a razor blade. Have a new mirror cut to fit the size of your frame and attach it to the frame behind the old glass. Voila! You have the look of the old glass with a nice clear view!

Retro liquor decanters are fabulous finds, but the alcohol they once held will often leave dark stains. What do to? Treat it with an organic acid such as citric acid, white vinegar or a mixture of one tablespoon of salt to a quarter of a pint of vinegar. Leave in the glass or decanter for 24 hours, shaking occasionally, then rinse and dry thoroughly. If stains are still there, repeat the process although tough stains may never completely be removed.

The crossing from poor country to here

I always try to make sure my column has a point to it. I want to share a life lesson and encourage readers to live an optimistic and positive life. As for this column, I really don't know what the point is, other than I'm missing my mom and dad now...

and decided to write about them. I hope you'll allow me just this once.

May I?

My dad grew up in the coal mining area of deep southern Illinois. If you asked my dad what nationality we were,



TAKE
THE
HINT

KAREN
TRAINOR

Black and brown sponge on type shoe polish are also great touch up tools for old wrought iron pieces.

Swinging sixties plastic furniture and accessories are hot collectibles. But many of the vintage pieces on the market are well used - and scratched up! The good news is, you can sometimes hide surface scratches on plastic simply by applying a good coat of car wax.

Want to spruce up silverplate cutlery without hash chemicals? Try the old fashioned tin foil technique to remove silver. It's quick and easy, especially if you have several pieces to clean.

Fold a thick piece of tin foil and place it in the kitchen sink to cover the entire bottom. Add the tarnished silverware and fill sink with boiling or very hot tap water to fully cover the pieces. For each quart of water add one teaspoon each of salt and baking soda. Soak the silver for several minutes until the tarnish is gone. Remove silver, rinse and buff dry with a soft cloth. Note: Homemade methods may leave a dull white luster on pieces or damage them. Don't polish valuable or enameled silver this way and always test a few pieces first.

If the veneer is bubbled on your vintage furniture piece, place a piece of stiff cardboard on the wood and press with an iron set at medium heat. Press until you the heat softens the glue and you can feel the wood give a bit. Then press down and weight the area until the glue has redried.

Vintage trunks are affordable finds, but they often come with a musty odor from basement storage. Here's a quick fix: Simply sprinkle some powdered cat litter box deodorizer generously in the trunk. Close it up and let it sit for a week. Better yet, after you've mowed the lawn, toss some grass clippings inside and close the lid. Stir the grass each day for a week. The chlorophyll from the grass will absorb the smell!

Old games and boxes sometimes still wear their original price tags written in permanent marker. Try wetting a Mr. Clean Eraser and carefully rubbing away the ink. This works well on glossy finishes. Be careful, if you start wearing away the paper, stop. Or try removing marker on washable surfaces with hair spray. Spray on and immediately wipe off. Repeat as necessary.

**

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!

Please note the contest had been suspended due to COVID restrictions for seating in restaurants. It is expected to start up again in June. All entries have been collected and will be entered into an upcoming drawing.

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

POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

GARY W.
MOORE



he'd usually laugh, then respond, "Hillbilly." My mom was from Sands Springs, Oklahoma. When asked the same question, Mom would say, "Okie."

As such, they lived their newly married years bringing their culture with them to their new northern Illinois home. I remember early in my life, eating lots of squirrel, rabbit, and catfish. I remember a neighbor asking my dad in disbelief about eating squirrel, to which he

Turn To **MOORE**, page **A7**

First-time homebuyer? Follow these steps



FINANCIAL
FOCUS

JEFF
BURDICK

Is homeownership a goal of yours? It does offer some benefits, in addition to meeting your basic need for shelter. The equity you build in your home can be a valuable financial asset, and you may get to deduct your interest payments on your taxes. But if you're a first-time homebuyer, what steps should you take?

First, make sure the time is right for you in terms of your personal and financial situations. For example, are you fairly confident that your employment is stable and that your earnings won't decline? Of course, external events can also play a role in your decision. A recent study by Morning Consult and Edward Jones found that 12 percent of respondents postponed purchasing a house during the COVID-19 pandemic.

But if you're ready and eager for homeownership, consider the following moves:

- Save for a down payment. The more money you put down for a home, the lower your monthly payments, although there's also a point at which overly large down payments can be financially unwise. However, if you can make a down payment of more than 20 percent of the purchase price, you can generally avoid having to pay for private mortgage insurance on top of your monthly payments. Also, as a first-time homebuyer, you might qualify for down payment assistance from your local or state housing authority or a nonprofit group.

- Check your credit score. A higher credit score gives you a better chance for a lower interest rate. You can request a credit report from annualcreditreport.com, and you might be able to get a credit score for free from your bank. If you need to improve your score, you may want to delay your home purchase.

- Learn how much you qualify for – and how much you should spend. Once you think you're ready to begin the home-purchasing process, you may want to contact a few lenders to determine the size of the mortgage for which you qualify. Be aware, though, that just because you can get a mortgage of a certain amount, does not necessarily mean that you should. You don't want to become "house poor" – that is, you don't want to spend so much on your house payments that you are cash strapped and can't afford to save for other goals, such as college for your children or a comfortable retirement. You may want to establish a budget for how much you can readily afford to pay for your mortgage each month – and try sticking to it before you buy the house. If you have extra savings, put it toward your down payment.

- Prepare for unexpected costs. You can plan for your mortgage, utilities, taxes and insurance – but when you own a home, you'll always encounter unexpected costs. You may need to get a new furnace, repair your roof or face any number of other maintenance issues. To help prepare for these costs, try to build an emergency fund containing three to six months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account. Without such a fund, you might be forced to dip into your long-term investments or take on added debt to pay for these unanticipated expenses.

Homeownership can be a rewarding experience – and the rewards will be even be greater when you've "done the numbers" and prepared yourself financially.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones financial advisor.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Jeff Burdick, your local Edward Jones Advisor in Sturbridge at 508-347-1420 or jeff.burdick@edwardjones.com.

A fisherman's paradise



THE GREAT
OUTDOORS
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RALPH
TRUE

Living in New England is a sportsman's paradise. The three seasons provide hunting & fishing opportunities that are hard to match anywhere in the country. We also rarely see violent storms like they encounter out West on a yearly basis. The big storms upset residents for years in other parts of the United States. A few windstorms that we encounter on an annual basis are nothing like those in other parts on the country. We have had a lot of wind lately, keeping charter boats and private fishing vessels tied up at the dock.

For those that brave the elements like rough seas, fishing has been very good. Cod and haddock fishing has been great on most days on the North Shore, but the three-to-four-hour boat ride to the fishing grounds eats up a lot of fishing time. The speed limit of 10 miles per hour on much of the North shore should be lifted soon. Reduced speed limits have been in effect for a couple of months because of the Right Whales that are residing in the local waters.

A local angler took his 30-foot boat out to Stellwagen Bank last week which took him slightly over 4 hours to get to his destination. He reported close to 40 commercial draggers in the area and decided to fish in 250 feet of water to stay away from the commercial fleet. They managed to catch their limits of 15 haddock, and one cod apiece. Reeling fish to the surface from that depth had an



Courtesy

Six-year-old Katelyn with her prize-winning derby fish at the Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club.

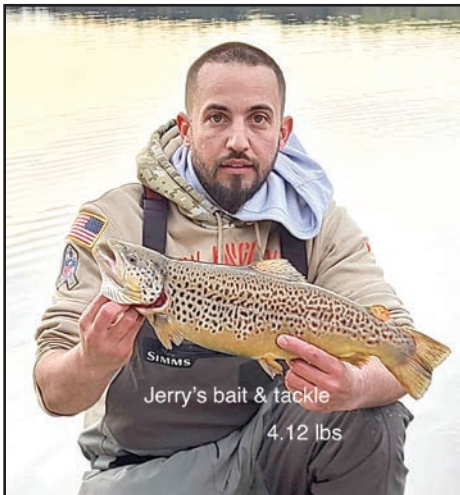
adverse effect on the survival of undersize fish. One angler reported that the eyes of the fish were popping out of there head because of the pressure change. Cod also have their bladder pop, but most boat captains take a small needle which is inserted into the bladder, releasing the air before they are tossed back into the ocean. There are sure to die and become crab bait if simple precautions are not taken. Haddock are more likely to die trying to return to the bottom of the ocean.



Courtesy

Riley & Emma Palmer and Savannah Beals enjoyed their day at the Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club last week. It seems as though most youngsters caught trout. They were not all monster trout, but the youngsters all had a good time.

What a waste of fish. Allowing anglers to catch and keep all cod and haddock up to 16 fish per day would sound a lot more sensible. With that many draggers working one area like Stellwagen, the fish population is sure to crash again after sportsmen were limited to catching haddock and cod for many years hoping to rebuild fish stocks. Numerous wolf



Courtesy

Pete Walker with a four-and-a-half-pound brown trout caught at Ashland Reservoir last week.

fish were also caught and released, as they too are restricted species to retain.

Porgies are also starting to enter coastal waters which will soon be followed by striped bass. Unfortunately, stripers now have

.....
Turn To **RALPH**, page **A8**

Vacation care for container gardens



GARDEN
MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA
MYERS

Planning a few long weekends or a vacation may have you rethinking your garden plans. Don't let time away from home stop you from growing flowers and vegetables in containers.

Irrigation systems with timers and self-watering pots are options to make container gardening and vacation care easier. You may, however, just be looking for ways to adapt your existing container gardening care while on vacation.

Find a plant sitter and take time to provide needed plant care instructions. It can be difficult, but you may be able to convince the person stopping by to feed the cat to water your plants. Move containers to a shady spot to extend the time between watering. Make sure the hose is handy. The easier the task, the more likely it will be done, and your plants will survive. Sweeten the deal by offering to share the harvest or return the favor when they leave town.

Create your own self-watering system with a 5-gallon bucket and strips of absorbent material like cotton fabric strips or rope to serve as wicks. Place the bucket amongst your containers. Run the fabric wick from the 5-gallon bucket into the drainage holes of your containers. As the soil dries the water will move from the water-filled bucket into the container moistening the soil. Use long wicks that reach and rest on the bottom of the bucket. Add a lid with holes for the wicks to slow evaporation.

Use an individual setup to create a water reservoir for each container. Set each pot on its own enclosed water filled container. Cut holes in the lid of the water filled container and run wicks into the drainage holes of the pot.

Test whatever system you create before leaving on vacation. You want to make sure everything is in place and working.

For short trips consider using a wine bottle or two-liter soda bottle. They can be used alone or combined with commercial products to help regulate the flow. Just punch a hole in the soil and insert a water filled wine or soda bottle. With cap in place, punch 10 holes in the bottom of the plastic bottle before filling with water and setting in the soil. Evaluate and test how many bottles you need per pot and how long they can sustain your plants.

Increase the watering-holding ability of your potting mix with a product like Wild Valley Farms' wool pellets (wil-



Melinda Myers

Water or wine bottles can be combined with commercial products to help regulate the flow of water to container gardens while away on vacation.

dvalleyfarms.com). This organic soil additive made from wool waste holds up to 20 percent of its weight in water. It releases water as needed, so you do not have to water as often.

Further reduce the need to water by growing more drought tolerant plants. Zinnias, lantana, sunflowers, and succulents look beautiful and tolerate drier soil conditions.

A beautiful and productive container garden does not have to stop you from enjoying a long weekend or vacation out of town. Make plans for your container gardens as you plan your next trip.

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

MOORE

continued from page A6

answered, "When you catch a squirrel, it's like being given a free chicken."

I look back and realize they'll be shocked to believe their dad and uncle ate squirrel... and I did. Mom breaded the squirrel and fried it like chicken in an old cast iron skillet. After removing the squirrel, she'd make a milk gravy that we'd pour over the squirrel and fried potatoes. It was delicious.

I realize many of you are grossed out while a few may have some of the same early memories. When you were born into the Great Depression as both of my parents were, I think you ate what was available and were grateful.

Today, I look at my kids, nieces and nephews and realize they'll be shocked to believe their dad and uncle ate squirrel... and I did. Mom breaded the squirrel and fried it like chicken in an old cast iron skillet. After removing the squirrel, she'd make a milk gravy that we'd pour over the squirrel and fried potatoes. It was delicious.

I guess if tuna can be labeled "Chicken of the Sea," squirrel can be labeled "Chicken of the Tree's." And I'd choose fried squirrel over tuna anytime.

My mom and dad are both gone but their lives and culture still course through our veins. I was born in Kankakee County, but I still feel as though the little coal mining town of Sesser, Illinois is home. There is a world of difference between where I live now in a growing suburban area, but when back in Sesser, I'm immediately transported back, unconsciously using the dialect and accent of the area.

While on a book tour a few years ago, the route took me near Sand Springs, Oklahoma and I stopped at the family cemetery to see my two oldest brothers. Once again, even though I had not been there in forty years, it immediately felt like home in ways my real birthplace never has.

The older I get, the more I yearn to relive my early days. To be scrambling up and down the streets of Sesser. To run past Caesar Marlow's Bar and hear the voice inside yell, "Hey, aren't you Gene Moore's boy?" I'd stop and walk in.

Someone would buy me a kiddy cocktail and start telling me stories about my dad and his baseball career. Getting up before the sun with my grandfather to go to the barn and get a bucket of coal for the furnace was an early morning joy. And yes, eating squirrel. The son of a Hillbilly and Okie is who I am, and I could not be prouder.

Our family prospered in an adopted life in the suburban north and our cuisine changed along with it. One thing that never changed was country music on the weekends and WSM Radio and the Grand Ole Opry on Saturday nights.

I moved to Chicago and received a degree in music education. And for a while, I turned my nose up to the music of my youth, but now it's back in my life and I love it. The food and music are permanent threads in the fabric of our family. Over Memorial Day weekend when we all get together, just open your car window and follow the sounds of Merle Haggard, George Jones, Ray Price and Dwight Yoakum... and point your nose to the smell of Barbecue Ribs. There you'll find the kids and grandkids of a Hillbilly and Okie, celebrating our family and heritage... without the squirrel.

My mom and dad were far from perfect people. At times, I think I may have been unfairly critical of their lives and parenting skills. The truth is they loved us and did the best they knew how. I was never hungry or without clothes. Their children all turned out well and successful. Their grand kids and great grand kids are wonderful. I'd say all-in-all mom and dad raised a successful family. They never left us and always loved us. I wish they were here so I could thank them.

As the saying goes, "What is remembered, lives." I guess I not only want my parents remembered in our family, but I also wanted you to know them too.

And besides... no one could fry squirrel like my mom.

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.

EDITORIAL

continued from page A6

only increased 147 percent. If things continue as they are in 2028, the cost will be \$340,800 for a private school education per year and \$95,000 for a public school.

Americans over the age of 60 currently owe more than \$86 billion in unpaid loans, and many of them are concerned that the government will garnish their Social Security, leaving them with nothing.

LEGALS

Town of Holland Zoning Board of Appeals Notice of Public Hearing

The Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on Wednesday June 09, 2021 at 7:15 pm at the Holland Town Hall, 27 Sturbridge Rd, Holland MA 01521 or remotely for more information please refer to the town website at <https://town.holland.ma.us> under Zoning Board of Appeals under agendas for the date specified above. The purpose of the hearing is to consider a request from Paul and Tracy Pannier for a variance according to Bylaw section 7. Relief requested: Owners would like to add a sunroom. The property is located at: 41 Shore Drive, Parcel ID # R01/A/21.

Don Beal, Chairperson, Zoning Board of Appeals
April 26, 2021
May 7, 2021
May 14, 2021

Notice of Public Hearing

The Brimfield Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on the request of MDW, LLC, Michael Woloshchuk, regarding lots 2 & 3, Brimfield Parcel ID Map 10 Block C Lots 1.12 and 1.13. The Board will consider whether the proposed construction of a multi-use building and future addition in the business district will be detrimental to the neighborhood. Intended business uses include vehicle/equipment maintenance and storage, as well as automobile restoration/customizing services. Abutters are invited to consider the proposals and provide public input. The hearing will be held on Thursday, June 3, 2021, 6:00 pm, at the Town Hall, 21 Main St Brimfield, MA 01010

May 7, 2021
May 14, 2021

The Brimfield Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearing

The Brimfield Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on the Special Permit request of Webber Road, LLC, regarding 275 Sturbridge Road, Brimfield, Parcel ID Map 15 Block A Lot 6. The Board will consider whether the proposed Marijuana Retail Establishment, Webber Road, Ops, LLC, will be detrimental to the neighborhood. Abutters are invited to consider the proposals and provide public input. The hearing will be held at the Town Hall, 21 Main St Brimfield, MA 01010 on Thursday, June 3, 2021 at 6:30 pm.

May 14, 2021
May 21, 2021

The proposed American Families Plan is slated to include, for those who wish, two years of free community college tuition. Expenses for books and supplies would be funded by the student. In our small rural communities, we see high school seniors who really want to go to college, but just can't afford it. Often times they are working part time jobs to help support their own families which is commendable. It is extremely difficult, especially in rural areas for high school students to save up enough money to afford even a community college.

Often times those students who do attempt to save thousands of dollars, have to do so by giving up after school activities such as soccer, band etc. If the cost of colleges hadn't increased so drastically, we wouldn't need to think twice about this.

Many parents who make just over minimum wage are drowning in debt after taking out Parent Plus loans, just to see to it that their children can get an education. Even trade schools are rising in cost.

A two-year tuition free community college (not universities — there's a difference) would be a great opportunity for any American wanting to get a jump start on their education, especially for those students who come from lower income households. Seniors who would never otherwise have had a chance at an education would now be offered one. Any opportunity for us to help educate our youth, especially those with the most need, is a good one.

Often times, it's hard to empathize with people, until you put a face to it. If you think hard enough, you can easily think of an individual in your life who could have really benefited from an opportunity such as the one mentioned above.

HITCHCOCK

continued from page A1

guidelines, provides an opportunity for friends and neighbors to get out and socialize.

Skowyrza is also excited to announce that Hitchcock will be sponsoring a new summertime event this year. Saturday, June 26 at 7:30 a.m. marks tee time at the Fore A Great Cause Golf Tournament to be held at the Heritage Country Club in Charlton. Heritage Country Club is an 18 hole championship course, considered one of Central Massachusetts' finest public golfing venues. At 6,710 yards, the par 71 course offers players of all abilities a superior golfing experience. The registration fee provides the option to sign up with a team or individually, and it includes 18 holes of golf with cart, a steak dinner at the end of the day, and the opportunity to win prizes throughout the tournament. Interested golfers can

sign up to play at hitchcockacademy.org. Skowyrza also notes that there are several levels of sponsorship opportunities available for the tournament. Organizations, which are interested in supporting Hitchcock Academy's community programming goals, while simultaneously increasing their outreach, are urged to contact Cindy Skowyrza at 413-245-9977 for more information regarding these opportunities.

The Grow With Us Plant Sale, the Trash to Treasure Town Wide Tag Sale and the Fore a Great Cause Golf Tournament mark the beginning of what Hitchcock Academy plans for a busy summer. According to Skowyrza some of the plans for the summer months are concerts on the common, movie nights and the annual Sip and Stars fundraiser. "We hope to be busy," Skowyrza said, "and to really make the most of the good weather and the ability for people to gather again."

Auxiliary members donated to the YMCA Child Care Center to ensure that all of the center's children had holiday gifts.

The award was officially presented to Harrington HealthCare System President and CEO Ed Moore virtually at the YMCA of Central Massachusetts 2021 Annual Meeting.

Harrington HealthCare System is a comprehensive regional health-care 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 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.

REOPENING

continued from page A1

Also permitted to reopen on May 29 are bars, beer gardens, breweries, wineries, and distilleries. A 90-minute limit will be imposed on each guest's stay, and no dance floors will be permitted to reopen.

On Aug. 1, the following industries are slated to reopen: dance clubs and nightclubs; saunas, hot tubs, and steam rooms at fitness centers and health clubs; indoor water parks; and ball pits.

Also on Aug. 1, capacity for all industries is expected to return to 100 percent. Pending approval from health officials, all gathering limits will be lifted.

Residents are reminded that all target dates are dependent on continued positive health trends. This includes declining COVID-19 numbers statewide through the spring and summer.

State officials also urge all eligible residents to schedule their vaccinations. This will help further combat the virus and allow industries to reopen sooner, officials said. If statistics trend

positively earlier than expected, the August 1 date could be pushed up.

"Depending on vaccine distribution and public health data, the administration may consider reevaluating the August 1 date," Baker said. "The Department of Public Health will also continue to issue guidance as needed."

As the state continues to reopen, many residents are wondering when they will be able to say goodbye to masks. Although the state's order on face coverings was relaxed for some outdoor settings last month, residents should expect that masks will be sticking around for the foreseeable future.

"Face coverings will still be required at all times in indoor public places," Baker said. "Face coverings will also continue to be required at all times at events, whether held indoors or outdoors, in a public space or private home, except for when eating or drinking."

For more information about the state's COVID-19 regulations and target reopening dates, visit www.mass.gov/reopening.

HARRINGTON

continued from page A1

"We are extremely honored by this award by the YMCA Tri-Community," said Ed Moore, President and CEO of Harrington HealthCare System. "This award shows how hard this organization and our employees have worked to protect the community and fight against the pandemic."

In announcing the award, Hadis-Blackwell noted several specific actions that led to Harrington being selected as this year's award recipient. Those actions included: working with local and state leaders to designate the YMCA Child Care Center as an emergency care center for children of hospital employees, first responders, and essential employees who needed a safe and secure place for their children while parents or guardians worked to fight the pandemic; providing efficient and compassionate COVID testing and vaccination services to the local community; and supporting the wellbeing of the community in other ways, such as when the Harrington

RALPH

continued from page A7

strict regulations on them allowing rod & reel anglers one fish daily and only stripers in the 28-inch to 36-inch length to be retained. It is known as the slot size. Again, this year, all striper fishing with bait, requires anglers to use circle hooks only. The circle hooks do help in hooking the fish in the mouth most of the time, but also cause a lot of misses when the bait is ingested and the hook pulls out.

Anglers need to remember not to set the hook but rather to just start reeling the fish in. It gives the hook the chance to pull into the mouth area and become set as the hook slowly turns and finds its mark. It does work, but many anglers like to set the hook themselves, ensuring a good hook up. Mass. fish biologists agree that a lot of released fish will die after being released, but still feel it is better to use circle hooks to minimize killing fish. Photo ops

of large stripers before they are released, also need to be done in a matter of minutes to ensure the fishes survival.

Wild Turkey hunting has been great so far with many big toms being harvested locally. The birds became extremely vocal last week as the big toms go in search of a hen. Many hens are on their nest by now, so funding a new chick to hang around with is becoming harder to find. Turkey hunting ends on May 22 in Massachusetts!

The Singletary Rod & Gun Club will hold their annual Kids fishing Derby May 16, this Sunday, starting at 8 a.m. The derby will end at 11 a.m. The club pond was stocked with trout prior to the event. As the Pandemic continues on a downward trend, more and more events by area clubs are being planned, as well as monthly meetings are also being held at the club, thanks to all nurses, doctors and hospital personnel that put their lives on the line caring for the sick. Thank you!

Numerous clubs are now planning their annual field days, and the Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club is planning an old fashion clambake July 17. Tickets are now on sale and are going fast. The club is open every weekend, or you can call to reserve your tickets.

More information on a new access road to Harrington's pool was received last week from a reliable source. The new road will be built with an access from the Uxbridge side. All plans are scrapped for any access off of Quaker Street! Please contact your state senators and state representatives to ensure that they are on board for building the new access road to this popular fishing and swimming hole. It is long overdue!

Katelyn Stacey was the winner in the Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club fishing derby with an 18-inch rainbow trout. The six-year-old young lady was excited as this week's picture shows. Nice fish! More than 30 youngsters attended the event.

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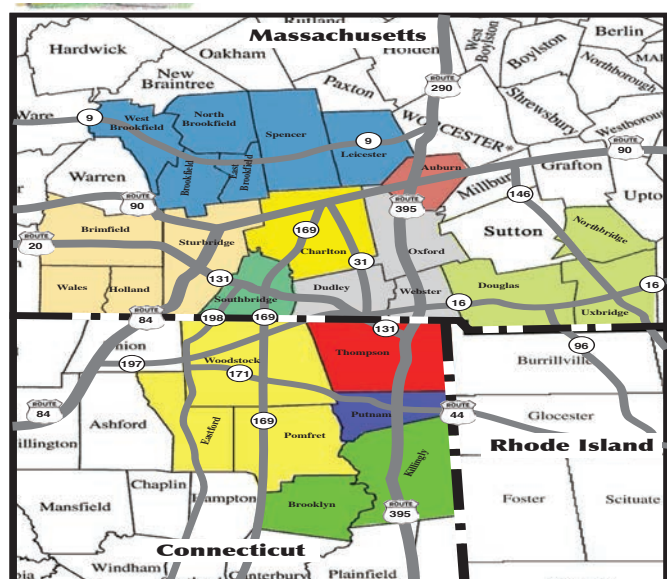
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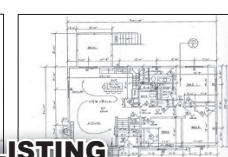
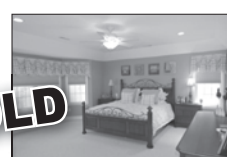
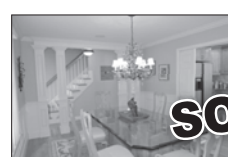
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WEBSTER LAKE - 11 Bay View Rd! One of the Lake's Premier Properties! 9,822' of Real Nice Set on .68 Acres of Park Like Grounds with 297' Waterfront! Over \$4 Million Spent! Nothing was Spared! 18 Spacious Rooms! 5 Water View Bedrooms, 4 with their Own Bathrooms! 5.5 Bathrooms Total! Brazilian Cherry Hardwood Floors, Grand & Spiral Stairways! Elevator from the Ground Floor up 3 to the Master Suite! In-door Resistance Swimming Pool, Hot Tub & Bathroom with Steam Shower just off the Mirrored Exercise Room! Billiard Room! Media Room with Custom Cabinetry & Wet Bar! Fantastic Center Island Granite Kitchen with Viking Gas Range, Sub-Zero Refrigerator, 16' Butler's Pantry & Breakfast Bar! Open Floor Plan! Dining Area, Family Room with Cherry Entertainment Center & Wet Bar! Open Formal Dining Room, Fireplace Living Room & Atrium! Library with Private Deck! Waterfront Master Suite with Private Office, Bedroom with Triple Glass Door to its Private Deck with Panoramic Lake Views, 3 Walk-in Closets, Lake View Bathroom with Huge Multi-Head Shower, Whirlpool Tub, Double Vanity Sinks & Separate Commode/Bidet/Pedestal Sink Area! 16 Zones of Updated Geothermal Heat & Air Conditioning - 30 Tons! Recessed Lighting & Sprinkler System Through Out! 3 Car Heated Garage! Full House Generator! Slate Roof! All Decks & Railings Brazilian Ipe Hardwood! Copper Gutters & Downspouts! It's Time to Reward Yourself! **\$2,249,900.00**

WEBSTER - 35 Everett Ave! 2 FAMILY GREAT INVESTMENT! 44 Rms, 27 Bdrms, 1/1 Baths! Family Home Lovingly Cared For! Quiet Residential Area! Set on a 11,000' Level Lot! Great Yard! Updates include Roof, Boiler, Electrical, Gutters, Porch, Sewer Lines, Insulation in Attic, Basement and Exterior Walls by Mass Save! Replacement Windows & Doors! Hardwood Floors or Workshop! **\$224,900.00**

WEBSTER - 44 Sunny Ave! Sought After Neighborhood! 7 Room 1,632' Colonial! 1st Flr Features Open Flr Plan, Kit w/Is, Din Area, Fam Rm, Frpld Liv Rm, 1.5 Baths! 2nd Flr w/3 Bedrooms & Bathrm! 2.5 Baths Total! Tile Flrs Throughout! LPGas Heat & Hot Water! Town Services! **\$289,900.00**



DUDLEY - 12 Susan Drive! Ideal 7 Rm Split! Beautifully Landscaped 18,615' Lot including a Heated In-Ground Pool w/Pool House! Fully Appliance Kitchen w/Corian Counters, Island, Hrdwd Floor & Door to the Deck! Dining Rm w/Hrdwds & Slider to Deck overlooking the Pool! Living Rm w/Bay Window, Brick Fireplace w/Wood Pellet Insert & Fujitsu Wall Mount A/C Split Unit! 3 Comfortable Bdrms all w/Double Closets, Spacious 12x16' Master! Halfway Full Bathrm w/Skylight & Door to the Master! Lower Level 13x24' Family Rm w/Recessed Lighting! Convenient Half Bath! 2 Car Heated Garage! Many 2018 Updates - Roof, Siding, Windows, Buderus Furnace, Hot Water Super Store, Oil Tank & Pool Liner! Out Back a Garden Area & Storage Shed! Town Services! Won't Last! **\$339,000.00**

WEBSTER LAKE - 11 Henry Road! Bates Point - Middle Pond + Panoramic Views + Western Exposure = Beautiful Sunsets! Never 2 the Same! 3,184' 9 Room Fully Furnished Colonial Built from the Ground Up as a New Home in 2005! This Home Features 4 Bedrooms, 2 of which are Master Suites, 1 of which Overlooks the Lake, 4.5 Bathrooms, 2 of which have Separate Showers & Whirlpool Tubs, 3 of which have Double Granite Vanities, 2 Complete Granite/Stainless Kitchens! The First Floor Open Floor Plan with Hardwood Floors Features an Eat-in Kitchen with LP Gas Jenn-Air Range, Double Drawer Dishwasher & Trash Compactor! Spacious Formal Dining Room with Crown Moldings & Chair Rails! Lake Facing Great Room/Living Room with Gas Fireplace, Wet Bar with Bottle Cooler, Surround Sound & Slider to Composite Deck! Half Bath with Laundry Closet! The Second Floor with 4 Bedrooms! Comfortable Front 16x16 and Back 17x17 Masters with Tray Ceilings, Recessed Lighting, Ceiling Fans, Surround Sound & Full Tile/Granite Bathrooms! Full Hall Bath for the other 2 Bedrooms! Fully Finished Walk-out Lower Level with Full Summer Kitchen, Family Room with Gas Fireplace, Surround Sound, Slider to Paver Patio & Full Bath! Buderus 3 Zone Oil Heat! 3 Zone Air Conditioning! Central Vac! Security! 2 Car Heated Garage! Boat Dock! **\$1,099,900.00**

DUDLEY - 19 Progress Ave! NEW CONSTRUCTION! LEBEL Builders! 2,206' 8 Rm Split! Many Customized Features! Set on a 14,000' Lot! Features 3 Generous Bdrms, 2.5 Baths, OPEN FLOOR PLAN, Kit, Dining & Living Rm w/Hrdwd Flrs & SOARING CATHEDRAL CEILINGS! Liv Rm w/LP Gas Frpld! Granite Kit w/abundant White Cabinetry, 6' Center Isl & Stainless Appliances! Master Suite w/Large Walk-in Closet, Master Bath w/Tile Shower & Dble Sinks! Full Hall Bath! Spacious Lower Level Fam Rm w/Great Entertaining Space & 1/2 Bath! 2 Car Garage! LP Gas Heat & Central Air! Expert Craftsmanship & Appeal throughout, Truly Unique! Builder w/Yrs of Experience Delivering High End Homes! The Detail & Quality of Work Will Speak for Itself! Lot's Cleared & Construction Starting Shortly! Worth the Wait! **\$469,000.00**



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2 car garage. All town services. **\$425,000.**

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WATERFRONT THOMPSON - BECOLA RD



ON DEPOSIT

5+ Acre Waterfront Land On "Little Pond/Schoolhouse Pond. Private Setting. Open Field. 250+ feet Waterfrontage. Dead end road!
\$179,900

WEBSTER - 99 UPPER GORE ROAD



ON DEPOSIT

Location! Scenic Upper Gore! "BIRDS EYE VIEW" of Webster Lake! Spacious Tr-Level. 2,279 sf., 4 BRS, 1 full Bath, 2 half baths. Inground pool. 2 Car Garage
\$275,000.

WEBSTER - 155 THOMPSON ROAD



SORRY, SOLD!

Terrific opportunity for one Large business or Several businesses. 4784 sq bldg. Zoned B5. Off 1395 exit 1. High Traffic & Visibility. Excellent Location!
assisted sale **\$695,000.**

WEBSTER • 9 BIRCHWOOD DRIVE



SORRY, SOLD!

Beautiful CAPE! Enormous amount of updates. New Asphalt Shingles, & 8 New Skylights! 4 Bedrooms! 3 - 1/2 Baths! 24 x 26 Great Rm w/ Gas Fireplace! Master Suite w/"Spa Like" Bath & Soaking Tub! WHAT MORE COULD YOU WANT? INGROUND POOL? OK! has that TOO! All Painted! SS Appliances. New Tankless Hot Water Boiler. **\$467,000**

WEBSTER - 103 UPPER GORE RD



SORRY, SOLD!

Estate Sale! Scenic View of Beautiful Webster Lake! Boarding Stone Walls! Split Level! 3 Bedrooms, Kitchen, Dining Rm, Hollywood Bath! Master Bedroom & Master Bath. Fireplaced Living Room! Finished Lower Level w/1/2 Bath, Garage. "Salt Water" Inground Pool.
\$319,000.

LAND WEBSTER/OXFORD/DUDLEY/DOUGLAS

Webster - Douglas Rd (Rte. 16) 26 ACRES on Sugarloaf Hill. 1000+/- ft of road frontage

NEW LISTING! \$200,000

Oxford - 4 Leicester St - Approx. 8.47 ACRES! River Frontage Possible to be Subdivided!
\$89,900

Webster - Upper Gore w/View of the Lake! 1+ Acre! Artesian Well, Septic Design & Conservation - DONE.
\$115,000.

Webster - Cooper Road 2 Buildable Lots! Water & Sewer Access. Zoned Lake Res!
Each **\$24,500.**

WEBSTER • 233 - 235 NORTH MAIN STREET



SORRY, SOLD!

large 3 Family- a rare find! 1st Floor spacious 2 bedroom apartment. 2 - 2nd floor, 3 bedroom apartments Walkout basement to off street parking.
\$289,900.

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

Webster Lake - 100 Lakeside Ave



SORRY, SOLD!

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

Featured New Listing!



OPEN HOUSE SAT, MAY 15 • NOON-2PM

Webster - 401 Treasure Island Condo

WEBSTER LAKE! Treasure Island Townhouse! UNIT# 401 end unit. Year round enjoyment! Quiet summers on big & beautiful Webster Lake! 6 Rooms Appliance Kitchen. Open Floor Plan! Dining Area. Hardwood Floor & Carpet. Master Bedroom, W/2 Closets, Master Bath! 2-1/2 Baths Total! Slider to Deck & Slider to the Patio! Central Air! Central Vac! Very efficient natural gas heat & hot Water! 2 Boat Slips D10 & D11 in the Private Marina. Heated Pool! Natural Sandy Beach!
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APRIL'S SINGLE FAMILY HOMES REAL ESTATE MARKET

AUBURN

	April 2020	April 2021	Trend
Median Price	\$332,000	\$375,000	▲
Market Volume	\$4,846,200	\$5,431,500	▲
# of Homes Sold	13	13	►
Avg Days on Market	23	36	▲
Month Supply Inv.	1.00	.44	▼

WEBSTER

	April 2020	April 2021	Trend
Median Price	\$258,500	\$342,500	▲
Market Volume	\$2,856,325	\$6,070,650	▲
# of Homes Sold	15	10	▼
Avg Days on Market	53	21	▼
Month Supply Inv.	1.43	.31	▼

Contact us to find more about your neighborhood market & what your home is worth! Inventory is extremely low!



Monique Golemo
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Lisi Velez
774-289-4641



Doreen Gagliastro
774-242-2313



Jammie Geddis
774-242-9752



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Angela Clark
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ON DEPOSIT



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271 Beverly Rd. ~ \$334,900

ON DEPOSIT IN 3 DAYS



Leominster: 3 bedrooms,
2100 sq. ft. 2 baths, 2 car garage
44 Brown Ave. ~ \$479,900

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**Diane, Joann
and Maria**

Family Services of Central Massachusetts awarded grant to implement apprenticeship program

WORCESTER — Family Services of Central Massachusetts (FSCM), an affiliate of Seven Hills Foundation, was recently awarded funding through a grant program administered by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development. The \$200,000 funding is for FSCM to implement a Child Development Apprenticeship Program in Central Massachusetts. This initiative is designed to run until the end of June 2022, with an option to continue the program for an additional year.

The goals of the Child Development Program are to 1) Build competency in child development and classroom management and curriculum in entry level workers working in the private sector, including workers with English as a Second Language; 2) Provide meaningful credentials including the Apprenticeship certificate, the national Child Development Associate credential (national) and Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care Teacher Certification; 3) Provide a career

pathway including a track into higher education at the community college level; and 4) Improve retention of entry level, new workers including building a path on a compensation scale that leads to a self-sufficiency wage.

"The Apprenticeship program is a strategy to build child development knowledge and competency in unskilled, entry level workers and also provide a career pathway in the field to enhance retention and quality of care," said Jim Regan, Vice President of Family Services

of Central Massachusetts.

The field of early education and care is new to using the apprenticeship model. In addition, child care providers are currently considered "Essential Workers" during the COVID-19 pandemic. Working families with young children who cannot work remotely must depend on child care services. Child care programs have remained open during most of the pandemic to support other essential workers in health care, government, the super-

market industry, etc. The existing workforce has been stressed by departures of workers due to health concerns or family responsibilities.

For 130 years, Family Services of Central Massachusetts has been serving the greater Worcester community as a valuable resource providing high quality support, guidance and counseling. FSCM offers a diversity of programs and services that include individual, child and family counseling; employee assistance; home care; community

mediation, senior volunteer and companion opportunities, and professional development for the early child care industry. On January 1, 2020, Family Services of Central Massachusetts (FSCM), headquartered in Worcester, became an Affiliate of Seven Hills Foundation.

About Seven Hills Foundation Headquartered in Worcester, the Seven Hills Foundation is a comprehensive health and human services network currently offering program sites at 190 locations throughout Massachusetts and Rhode Island employing nearly

4,600 professionals. Seven Hills Foundation offers a continuum of clinical, educational, and community-based supports to 60,000 children, adults and seniors with disabilities and other life challenges through its 14 affiliate organizations that are part of the Foundation.

Girl Scouts offer 'Intro to Outdoor Skills' event in Southbridge

SOUTHBRIDGE — Girl Scouts of Central & Western Massachusetts (GSCWM) invites girls and their guardian to an Intro to Outdoor Skills event Sunday, May 16 from noon to 1 p.m. on the Southbridge Town Common for girls currently in Pre-K and Kindergarten who are not yet Girl Scout members.

Girls will earn their first Girl Scout patch while learning basic campfire building techniques, first

aid, and jackknife safety. Sign up is at <https://bit.ly/GSoutdoorskills>.

Space is limited. All COVID safety precautions will be followed. This is an outdoor event, dress accordingly.

RSVP and register at: <https://bit.ly/GSoutdoorskills>

For more information contact GSCWM Recruitment Manager Tammy Gilpatrick at tgillpatrick@gscwm.org or 508-749-3639.

Sturbridge library hosting book sale

STURBRIDGE — The COVID pandemic seems to be winding down as vaccinations are ramping up, but experts are cautioning about letting down our guard too soon. So, what should we all be doing? Grab a good book (or a whole pile of books) and find a nice spot to sit in the sun and read!

The Friends of the Joshua Hyde Public Library in Sturbridge are ready to help by organizing the May Book Sale. This will be an outdoor event. Face masks and social distancing are required. Hand sanitizer will be available. A cash box will be available for donations. The workers will not

be handling money and change will not be given.

Adult, young adult and children's books will be available during the sale on Saturday, May 15 from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Rain date: May 22), 306 Main St., Sturbridge. Books will be outside on tables along the front walk.

The Friends of the Joshua Hyde Public Library is a tax-exempt organization as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code that supports and provides funding for programs and services at the Joshua Hyde Public Library.

Community members elected to Health Foundation

WORCESTER — The Board of The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts recently elected the following individuals to serve three-year terms as Community Members on Board Committees:

Elvis Mendez, MS, Co-Director of Neighbor to Neighbor Massachusetts, was elected to serve his first three-year term on the Community Outreach Committee.

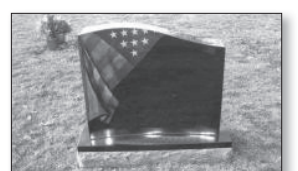
Daniel P. Ricciardi, MBA, Interim Chief Investment Officer and Assistant Treasurer at the College of the Holy Cross, was elected to serve his first three-year term on the Investment Committee.

B. Joyce Gilmore, RN, community activist, was elected to serve her first three-year term on the Nominating Committee.

The Foundation was established in 1999 with the proceeds from the sale of Central Massachusetts Health Care, Inc., a physician-initiated, not-for-profit HMO. The Foundation currently has assets of around \$90 million and has awarded grants totaling almost \$48 million to improve the health of those who live or work in Central Massachusetts. For further information about the Foundation's grant programs, please visit The Health Foundation's website at www.hfcm.org or call (508) 438-0009.

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BOY SCOUT TROOP 273
SPRING YARD SALE
Saturday, May 29th

Universal Tag Parking Lot, 36 Hall Road, Dudley
Early Birds (8am to 9am) \$10.00 per person fee
9am until 3pm FREE

"New this Year, we are able to accept CREDIT CARDS!"
24,000 sq.ft. of yard sale items **ONE DAY ONLY**
Pick your items and Make an offer!

Masks and Social Distancing Rules will Apply

Grouped Items: Electronics - stereos, speakers, etc. (no TVs)
Tools - hand tools, lights, flooring etc..
Furniture - Tables, chairs, bed frames, cabinets, hutches, etc..
Housewares - glassware, dishes, pictures, mirrors, bowls, cups, small appliances
Sporting goods - Bikes, skis, baseball equipment, golf, exercise equipment
Clothes - shirts, pants, jackets, shoes, bags
Kids toys and baby items - high chairs, bouncy, games, seats
Antiques

BIG YARD SALE

Sat. May 15 from 9-1
No Earlybirds

169 Sheryl Drive
Whitinsville, MA

50 years cellar, shed, garage
Something for everyone!!!

SUMMER INTERN
Town of Charlton

The Summer Internship would run from June - August. Hours are varied and would be 15-20 hours per week. Duties include filing, data entry, customer service and overall office support to various departments. Knowledge of computers to include Microsoft office, excel & word. Qualifications: High School Diploma. Salary: \$15.00/hr. Please apply online at <https://www.townofcharlton.net/158/Human-Resources> no later than May 15, 2021.

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TOWN OF DUDLEY
Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library
Library Aide – Part Time Position

The Pearle L Crawford Memorial Library seeks applicants for a part-time Library Aide. This position works closely with colleagues and patrons and requires outstanding customer service skills. Team players who have strong computer knowledge, a desire to learn, and a respect for patron privacy are encouraged to apply. Prior library experience preferred. Position requires regular Saturday and evening hours. Please submit resume to
Drusilla Carter, Library Director at dcarter@cwmmars.org.

A full job description can be found on www.dudleyma.gov.

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Qualifications include: Bachelors Degree in accounting or related field or 5 years of experience in a municipal finance related area; or any equivalent combination of education and experience.

Ability to be bonded.

Please see full job description for complete list of qualifications and responsibilities. Salary: \$24.85 – \$26.76/hr depending on qualifications. Please apply online at <https://www.townofcharlton.net/158/Human-Resources> no later than May 13, 2021

The Town of Charlton
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TOWN OF SPENCER
SEWER DEPARTMENT

Laborer Sewer Department: Assist in the operation and maintenance of a Municipal Sewer System duties including but not limited to, equipment and collections system maintenance, operate filter press, operate sludge disposal process, respond to emergency calls, pump station inspection, grounds keeping and snow removal, record keeping, and filing. The position requires a high school diploma or general education degree (GED), and/or one to three years of related experience working in wastewater treatment plants with three years of experience performing equipment and plant maintenance, or an equivalent combination of education and experience. Opportunity for advancement to Assistant Chief Operator with ability to obtain a Grade 5 Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator's License within a time period set by Sewer Commissioners and Superintendent.

Submit application letter, resume and standard Town application form, available at www.spencerma.gov to Town of Spencer, Human Resources Department, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA 01562. Open until filled. Reviews begin immediately. Subject to Union Rules and Regulations.

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TOWN OF SPENCER
SEWER DEPARTMENT

Assistant Chief Operator Sewer Department: Assist in the operation and maintenance of a Municipal Sewer System including Laboratory analyses, equipment maintenance, scheduled weekend rotation, collections system maintenance, respond to emergency calls, record keeping, and filing. The position requires a high school diploma or general education degree (GED), and/or three to five years of related experience working in wastewater treatment plants with three years of experience performing equipment and plant maintenance, or an equivalent combination of education and experience. Grade 4 Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator's License is required with the ability to obtain a Grade 5C within a time period set by Sewer Commissioners and Superintendent.

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¹DETAILS OF OFFER: Offer expires 5/31/2021. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Buy one (1) window or entry/patio door, get one (1) window or entry/patio door 40% off, and 12 months \$0 down, 0 monthly payments, 0% interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry/patio doors between 5/2/2021 and 5/31/2021. 40% off windows and entry/patio doors are less than or equal to lowest cost window or entry/patio door in the order. Additional \$50 off each window or entry/patio door, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount(s), when you purchase by 5/31/2021. Military discount applies to all active duty, veterans and retired military personnel. Military discount equals \$300 off your entire purchase and applies after all other discounts, no minimum purchase required. Subject to credit approval. Interest is billed during the promotional period, but all interest is waived if the purchase amount is paid before the expiration of the promotional period. Financing for GreenSky® consumer loan programs is provided by federally insured, federal and state chartered financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender or familial status. Savings comparison based on purchase of a single unit at list price. Available at participating locations and offer applies throughout the service area. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. License number available upon request. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. "ENERGY STAR" is a registered trademark of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of Andersen Corporation. ©2021 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. ©2021 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved.

Spreading some good vibes



Gus Steeves

Leslie and David Knightly of Hebron, Conn., get into the beat as part of the drum circle.

SOUTHBRIDGE – Yes, you did hear live music in downtown Southbridge Saturday. A small audience turned out to help Southbridge kick off summer

and inaugurate its new Central Street Plaza despite slightly chilly weather. As the first event in a weekly series running on Saturdays from 2-5 p.m. through

early June, it featured a community drum circle with half a dozen players and lots of drums of future use, reggae from Sista Dee and the Dis n Dat Band, and a food truck.



Gus Steeves

Olivia Knightly talks with a couple of the attendees and their dog.

The series is being organized by the town's Economic



Gus Steeves

Olivia Knightly collects padding after the drum circle.



Gus Steeves

For Sista Dee and the Dis n Dat Band, “when it comes to song, we don’t mess around” (a line from their song “Murder”). Sista Dee, the vocalist, introduced her bandmates as Felix on bass, Rongo on drums and Charleston on keyboard.



Gus Steeves

Drum circle organizer Tim Kane stacks up drums for transport.

Development department, specifically Clark University intern Olivia Knightly, as part of a state grant program aimed at drawing people downtown and encouraging multicultural participation. Future artists will include the Worcester Jazz Collective next weekend, Spanish-influenced jazz from Trinity May 22, and Carlos O’drio, with more to come.



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