



# 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.

Also permitted to reopen on May 29 are bars, beer

Turn To **DATES** page **A6**



Courtesy

## BAY PATH’S KAYLA CANTY NAMED MVA NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Kayla Canty is a Metal Fabrication senior student at Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School. Canty, who is from Charlton, was awarded the Massachusetts Vocational Association (MVA) non-traditional student of the year. She is the only Metal Fabrication female student in her shop class. She will also receive a check for \$500. Other accomplishments are a John and Abigail Adams Scholarship. She placed second in the district and will compete in the state contest for welding sculpture in Skills USA. After graduation she was accepted to Bridgewater State University and will study social work. Pictured here with Canty (center) are Chris Wong Kam (left) and Patrick Fogarty (right).

# Leicester man fatally shot during attack on police station

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER – A man was fatally shot by police early Sunday morning after repeatedly ramming his vehicle into the police station and then allegedly pointing a rifle at officers.

The victim was identified by authorities as Zachary Richardson, 24, of Leicester.

The May 9 incident occurred just after 6 a.m. According to Worcester County District Attorney Joseph Early, Jr., Richardson drove his SUV into the front of the police station. He repeatedly rammed the front doors of the station with his vehicle until he gained entry into the lobby, Early said.

“A dispatcher from the Worcester Emergency Communications Center [remotely] saw the incident occurring, in real

time, on surveillance video,” Early said.

The dispatcher immediately contacted Leicester police officers and notified them of the threat. When two officers arrived on scene, the driver exited his vehicle and aimed what appeared to be a rifle at the officers, Early said.

Police responded by shooting the driver, who wasn’t publicly identified until the next day. He was transported by ambulance to St. Vincent Hospital in Worcester, where he was pronounced dead.

“This is very early into the investigation, and interviews are still being conducted,” Early added.

The State Police assisted heavily during the response and preliminary investigation. Route 9 was closed for several hours following the incident.

“This appears to be an isolated incident, and there is no danger to the public at this time,” said Leicester Police Chief Kenneth Antanavica during a press conference hours after the incident. “Our thoughts and prayers go out to everybody involved in this incident. More information will be provided as it becomes available.”

The front entrance to the police station features two steel doors that open outward. The suspect accessed the station with his vehicle by pulling up the handicapped entrance ramp leading to the building, police said.

“Almost the entire vehicle was into the lobby,” Chief Antanavica said.

Richardson was known to the Leicester Police from at least one previ-

Turn To **SHOOTING** page **A6**

# 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

Turn To **YMCA** page **A6**

# 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.

Turn To **ACT** page **A6**




Courtesy Photo

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








### May is National Nurses Month

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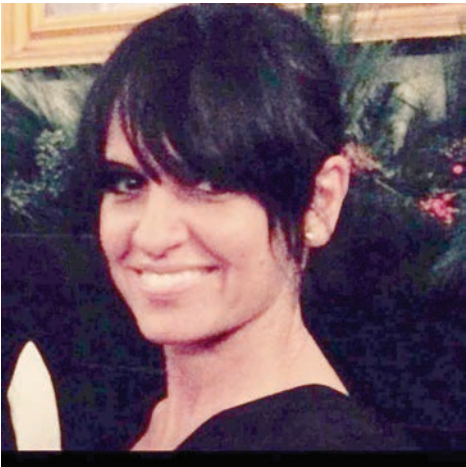
# Selectmen welcome new board member



Bill Borowski has been named Chair of the Board of Selectmen.

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – The Charlton Board of Selectmen welcomed its newest member during a short meeting on Tuesday, May 4, and named a new chair with the departure of previous chair Karen Spiewak.



Barbara Zurawski was welcomed as the town's newest selectwoman.

Bill Borowski received the unanimous vote to serve as the board's chair for the next year. The selectman was elected in 2019 to a term that ends in May of 2022. It is Borowski's first term as Chair of the board. He had previously served as the clerk of the board until May of 2020.

The meeting also put in place the

vice chair and clerk for the next twelve months. Patsy Rydlak was unanimously voted to continue serving as vice chair while the board's newest addition, Barbara "Basia" Zurawski, who won the 2021 municipal election on May 1, was named clerk, a usual tradition for newcomers to the board. Stephen Koronis had previously served as clerk after being elected in 2020 and along with Selectman David Singer, who ran unopposed on May 1, completes the new Board of Selectmen roster.

Before closing the meeting, the board's new Selectman Borowski took a moment to recognize his fellow selectmen on their successes and thanked everyone who participated in the 2021 municipal election.

"I just want to congratulate Selectman Singer for his reelection bid and formerly welcome Basia to the board. I know we're all very excited to have you. I also have to congratulate everyone who ran, regardless of the outcome. It takes a lot to put your name out there," Borowski said. "I hope those who came up a little short this time will consider staying involved in moving our town forward."



## ACCURACY WATCH

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

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

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

## 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](mailto:massasoitartguild@gmail.com) or visit us at [massasoitartguild@gmail.com](mailto:massasoitartguild@gmail.com) for membership information.

# QCC offers solutions for post-pandemic recovery

WORCESTER — A Community Conversation hosted by Quinsigamond Community College for government, social service and religious organizations 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 nimble 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](mailto:jmartin@qcc.mass.edu).

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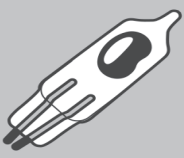
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- **1861:** QUEEN VICTORIA OF THE UNITED KINGDOM ISSUES A PROCLAMATION THAT RECOGNIZES THE CONFEDERACY AS HAVING BELLIGERENT RIGHTS DURING THE U.S. CIVIL WAR.



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DATES
continued from page A1

safer for all, there are days when the rains will send campers inside. Camp Foskett 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 pro-

grams, including this year. "Financial Assistance is available for those families who need it," Blackwell said. "Our staff is here and ready to answers any questions to help make Camp Foskett a great option for summer fun. We invite everyone to stop by the camp, located at 189 Daniels Rd. in Charlton, for our Open House this Sunday, May 16, between 10 a.m. and noon to meet staff and take a look around as we get ready for a summer of adventures around every corner!"

ACT
continued from page A1

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 thoughtful, 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."

SHOOTING
continued from page A1

ous incident, Early confirmed. He had a pending traffic-related case in East Brookfield District Court, with a court date set for June 1. Officials said surveillance video of the incident will not be released until later in the investigation. Early did not provide further details on the suspect's weapon that was described as appear-

ing to be a rifle. "We're very fortunate that no one else was hurt," Early said. "The police have a hard, hard job - at six in the morning, you're staring at what appears to be a rifle as you show up to the scene." Per police department policy, the two officers involved in the incident were automatically placed on administrative leave, pending an investigation. The State Police will lead the investiga-

tion. Leicester's police station has not been open to the public since the regional dispatch agreement was signed with Worcester. The agreement freed up funds to hire additional officers with the savings realized by removing the cost of dispatch from the police budget. However, the removal of town dispatch personnel caused the building to be closed to the public, officials said.

DATES
continued from page A1

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.

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.

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.

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

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

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



Junior Woman's Club selling ducks for annual race

AUBURN — The GFWC, Auburn Junior Woman's Club is holding their 18th Annual Duck Race on Memorial Day, but this year, it will be virtual due to current COVID-19 restrictions in place, and will be streamed Live via Facebook. This has always been our biggest fundraiser where we raise money to put towards scholarships and serving others in the community. In 2020, it was cancelled like so many other functions. Although it will be virtual, we will be selling duck chances at the Auburn Public Library on Saturday, May 15 from 9 a.m.-noon. Duck chances can

also be purchased at Coco's Tropical Ice which is located at 1D Swanson Road in Auburn. First prize is \$500. Duck chances are: One duck \$5 A six quack (6 Duck) \$25 And our COVID-19 Special (19 ducks) for \$50! We accept cash, check, or Venmo (GFWCAuburnJuniorWomansClub). The four digits for the Venmo purchase are 1369.

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: 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 Investing 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.

LEGALS

(SEAL) COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT Docket Number: 19 SM 005686 ORDER OF NOTICE TO: Susan Leary and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq.) U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee of Cabana Series III Trust claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Auburn, 853 Oxford Street, given by William Leary and Susan Leary to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Sherwood Mortgage Group, Inc., dated June 28, 2006, and recorded at the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book

39318, Page 205, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status. If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before 6/7/2021 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act. Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on 4/30/2021 Attest: Deborah J. Patterson Recorder May 14, 2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Division Docket No. WO21P1454EA Estate of: Joan Marie McMaster Also Known As: Joan M. McMaster Date Of Death: February 7, 2021 NOTICE OF INFORMAL PROBATE To all persons interested in the above-captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Erin M. McGill of Auburn MA a Will has been admitted to informal probate. Erin M. McGill of Auburn MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without

supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. May 14, 2021





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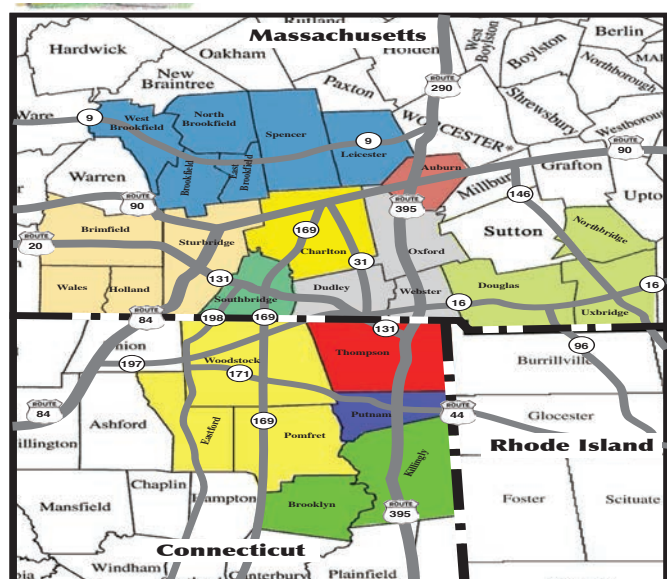
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# OPINION/COMMENTARY



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EDITOR

## 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 socioeconomics? 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

## 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



TAKE THE HINT  
**KAREN TRAINOR**

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.

\*\*\*

To save serious cash on commercial wax wood restorers, check your shoe shine kit. Lackluster wood finishes on mahogany or cherry furniture or frames can be instantly renewed with a coat of cordovan color wax shoe polish.

\*\*\*

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.

## First-time homebuyer? Follow these steps



FINANCIAL FOCUS  
**DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS**

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. Please contact Dennis Antonopoulos, your local Edward Jones Advisor at 5 Albert St., Auburn, MA 01501 Tel: 508-832-5385 or dennis.antonopoulos@edwardjones.com.*



# News,

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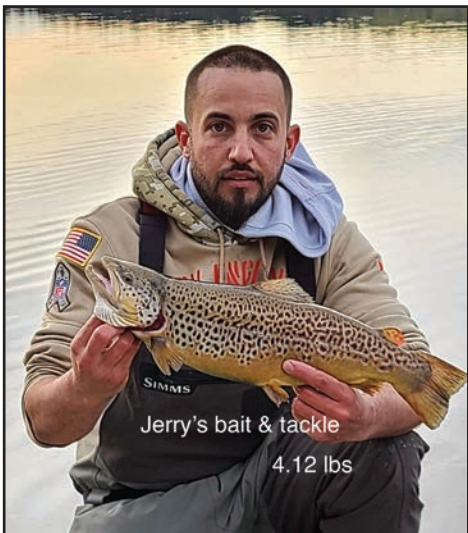
# A fisherman's paradise



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



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.



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

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 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.

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 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 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 striped fishing with bait., requires anglers to use circle hooks only. The circle hooks do help in hooking the fish



THE GREAT OUTDOORS  
• • • • •  
RALPH TRUE

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 to set 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.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods bending!

## EDITORIAL

continued from page A8

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 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.

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.

Oftentimes, 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.

# Vacation care for container gardens



GARDEN MOMENTS  
• • • • •  
MELINDA MYERS

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-li-

ter 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 (wildvalleyfarms.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

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

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](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).

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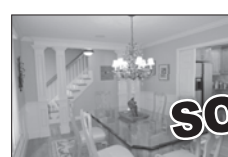
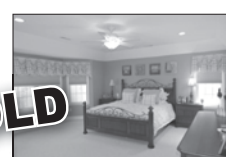
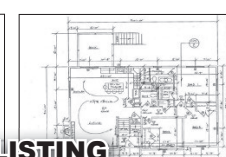
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**ON DEPOSIT**

**WEBSTER LAKE** - 11 Bay View Rd! One of the Lake's Premier Properties! 9,822' of Real Nice Set on .68 Acres of Park Lake 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**


**ON DEPOSIT**

**SOLD**

**NEW LISTING**


**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**

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#### WEBSTER - 99 UPPER GORE ROAD


**ON DEPOSIT**

 Location! Scenic Upper Gore! "BIRDS EYE VIEW" of Webster Lake! Spacious Tr-Level. 2,279 sq. ft., 4 BRS, 1 full Bath, 2 half baths. Inground pool. 2 Car Garage  
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#### WEBSTER - 155 THOMPSON ROAD


**SORRY, SOLD!**

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#### 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.**

#### 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


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#### 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	▼

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Diane, Joann and Maria



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

I look back and realize two things. 1. It was part of my parents' culture, and 2. It was an economic issue. My mom would fry squirrel just like chicken and it was delicious. I loved it. The rabbit was usually made into a soup or stew and the catfish fried in cornmeal.

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,



POSITIVELY  
SPEAKING

GARY W.  
MOORE

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 kiddie 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 par-

enting 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 grandkids and great grandkids 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.

## 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.

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Please submit resume to  
Drusilla Carter, Library Director at [dcarter@cwmares.org](mailto:dcarter@cwmares.org).

A full job description can be found on [www.dudleyma.gov](http://www.dudleyma.gov).

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maintenance, respond to emergency calls, record keeping, and filing. The  
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*Capstone Planning Group, located at Cornerstone Bank, recruits another financial consultant*



Joe Delaney

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 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](http://www.thecapstone.group) or call 508-764-0046.



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