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School employee tests positive for COVID-19

BY JASON BLEAU VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON - The COVID-19 pandemic has hit home for Dudley and Charlton once again with the announcement from both towns and their school district that a staff member of the Dudley Charlton **Regional School District** has tested positive for the virus.

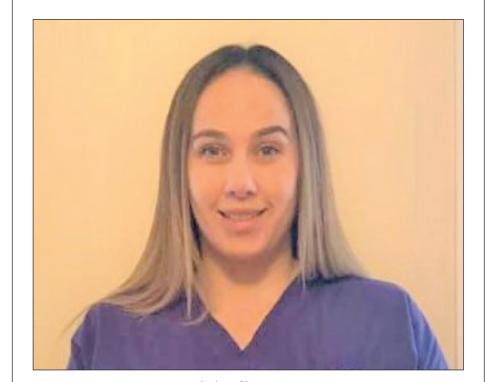
In a joint statement from Charlton Town Administrator Andrew Golas, Dudley Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda and school district Superintendent Steven Lamarche, it was revealed that a positive test was delivered to the unnamed staff member on Tuesday, March 31. The employee reported the diagnosis to the Dudley and Charlton Boards of Health on their own. For privacy the individual has remained unnamed.

In the press release, the joint statement noted that schools in the district had been closed to students since March 18 and that nonessential personnel were to remain home as of March 23. Teachers were invited back into the school om March 30 to retrieve resources for at-home teaching. The infected individual was confirmed to have been a teacher who entered one of the schools during this

time. "The individual diagnosed with COVID-19 was among those present at Dudley Elementary school, retrieving resources to prepare for the extended closure. Since Monday, March 30th, the DCRSD schools have been closed to teachers and non-essential staff. On Tuesday, upon learning of the March 30 brief admittance of Elementary Dudley School staff to retrieve resources, the Town of Dudley Board of Health Agent and officials, district school officials and Charlton Board of Health discussed the immediate steps being taken by the school district to address the risks the exposure may have presented," the..... press release stated.

The steps laid out include the complete of Dudlev closure Elementary School to all staff with a third party being brought in to disinfect the entire school. Charlton Elementary School, Heritage School, Dudley Middle School, Dudley Elementary School and Mason Road Elementary School have also been closed to all personnel until further notice. These schools will all be disinfected by personnel trained for mitigation of the infection. After the cleaning is complete the district central office will remain open to essential employees only. Shepherd Hill Regional High School and Charlton Middle School will remain open as distribution locations for the grab-n-go lunch program and school business. Both schools are electrostatically sanitized every week and disinfected daily. The staff member in question who has contracted the virus has also been put in con-

Turn To EMPLOYEE, page A17





Friday, April 10, 2020

Paragon Power Washing cleans off the playground at Dudley Elementary School.



The Charlton Community Playground gets a proper cleaning.



Andrea Champagne

Bay Path's Andrea Champagne among 2020 **DWC** Scholars

C H A R L T O N education." - Andrea Champagne, a 2020 candidate of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy was named Dudley Women's Club (DWC) 2020 Scholastic Award Program recipient (Adult Winner).

DWC The announced recently that Champagne, Webster, of was one of four scholars chosen this year. Champagne's scholarship is for a non-traditional adult woman student returning to an accredited training program.

In a letter to Champagne, Diane Perry Dudley Women's Club Scholarship Chair, stated that "we were impressed with your academic success, commitment to community service and furthering your

The DWC supports local female students who reflect DWC's mission and values of public service with an emphasis on literacy and learning. Scholarship applicants were ranked considering their community service essay, financial need, work, academics/GPA, community service as well as extracurricular activities.

Champagne, who was a MassHire grant recipient in 2019 is a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) at Care One in Millbury, plans to pursue academic progression in nursing. After completing her studies at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, her goal is to obtain her BSN and specialize in trauma care. Her path, she says, is inspired by her mother who had such a strong work ethic. "One of her jobs that impacted my life most, was when she worked as a respite aid/job coach for a company that assisted in improving the daily lives of adults with intellectual and physical disabilities" said Champagne. This allowed her to learn real-world empathy-building through volunteer work.

Champagne vol unteered for Bagong Kulturang Pinoy (www.BKPInc.org), a registered non-profit organization whose mission is to develop a reading culture among Filipino chil-

> Turn To SCHOLAR page A3

steps up to clean playground equipment

BY JASON BLEAU VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/ CHARLTON – With the COVID-19 pandemic demanding social distancing and the avoidance of even small crowds, playgrounds across the region have been left untouched and unutilized to ensure the safety and health of local youth and their families. However. when kids do return to

their beloved play places, they will find them clean and refreshed thanks to volunteer efforts from Paragon Power Washing.

The local business, owned by David Cantwell, has been donating time and resources to towns and schools to clean playgrounds while youngsters are unable to use the facilities as their way of giving back to the communities that

have supported them as a business for so long. Cantwell said he was inspired to donate his time locally after seeing similar efforts from business owners across the country on Facebook.

"We did one for the town of Charlton then Brookfield and we posted them online to let people know we were

> Turn To CLEAN-UP, page A3

A Note to Readers

This week's edition of the paper might seem a bit smaller than you are accustomed to, but rest assured, this is only temporary. Due to the unique circumstances we are all living under at the present time, local sporting events and community activities have wisely been canceled as we all try to stay closer to home and practice social distancing.

As we ride out this temporary interruption of life as usual together, we urge you to continue supporting the local businesses that advertise in your newspaper. They have always been here for you through good times and bad, and now, more than ever, they need you to be there for them in any way you can.

Amid this temporary absence of local events and municipal meetings, we are also looking to celebrate the many quiet heroes in our communities who have gone above and beyond to make this situation easier for those most affected by it. Let us know if there is someone in your community who you think should be recognized by e-mailing news@stonebridgepress.news.

Above all, know that we have been your trusted source for local news for generations, and we plan to be here for you to generations to come, in print and online at www.stonebridgepress. com.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS SUSPENDED

With many local groups and organizations wisely canceling planned events due to the ongoing coronavirus outbreak, we have temporarily suspended publication of our weekly calendar of events. Once the current situation settles down, we will return to being your go-to source for the area's most comprehensive listing of local events and activities.

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Treasury and SBA Begin Unprecedented Public-Private Mobilization Effort to Distribute Funds

Following WASHINGTON President Trump's signing of the historic Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, SBA Administrator Jovita Carranza and Treasury Secretary Steven T. Mnuchin today announced that the SBA and Treasury Department have initiated a robust mobilization effort of banks and other lending institutions to provide small businesses with the capital they need.

The CARES Act establishes a new \$349 billion Paycheck Protection Program. The Program will provide much-needed relief to millions of small businesses so they can sustain their businesses and keep their workers employed.

'This legislation provides small business job retention loans to provide eight weeks of payroll and certain overhead to keep workers employed," said

www.StonebridgePress.com

Small Business Administration expect to have this program up and running by April 3rd so that businesses can go to a participating SBA 7(a) lender, bank, or credit union, apply for a loan, and be approved on the same day. The loans will be forgiven as long as the funds are used to keep employees on the payroll and for certain other expenses.

Secretary Mnuchin. "Treasury and the

"This unprecedented public-private partnership is going to assist small businesses with accessing capital quickly. Our goal is to position lenders as the single point-of-contact for small businesses - the application, loan processing, and disbursement of funds will all be administered at the community level," said Administrator Carranza. "Speed is the operative word; applications for the emergency capital can begin as early as this week, with lenders using their own systems and processes to make these loans. We remain committed to supporting our nation's more than 30 million small businesses and their employees, so that they can continue to be the fuel for our nation's economic engine."

The new loan program will help small businesses with their payroll and other business operating expenses. It will provide critical capital to businesses without collateral requirements, personal guarantees, or SBA fees - all with a 100% guarantee from SBA. All loan payments will be deferred for six months. Most importantly, the SBA will forgive the portion of the loan proceeds that are used to cover the first eight weeks of payroll costs, rent, utilities, and mortgage interest.

The Paycheck Protection Program is

specifically designed to help small businesses keep their workforce employed. Visit SBA.gov/Coronavirus for more information on the Paycheck Protection Program.

• The new loan program will be available retroactive from Feb. 15, 2020, so employers can rehire their recently laid-off employees through June 30, 2020

LOAN TERMS & CONDITIONS

• Eligible businesses: All businesses, including non-profits, Veterans organizations, Tribal concerns, sole proprietorships, self-employed individuals, and independent contractors, with 500 or fewer employees, or no greater than the number of employees set by the SBA as the size standard for certain industries

• Maximum loan amount up to \$10 million

· Loan forgiveness if proceeds used for payroll costs and other designated business operating expenses in the 8 weeks following the date of loan origination (due to likely high subscription, it is anticipated that not more than 25% of the forgiven amount may be for non-payroll costs)

• All loans under this program will have the following identical features:

- Interest rate of 1%
- Maturity of 2 years
- First payment deferred for six months 100% guarantee by SBA
- No collateral
- No personal guarantees

No borrower or lender fees payable to SBA

Visit treasury.gov/cares for more information on SBA's assistance to small businesses.



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- Restrict visitors Visit loves ones through the window, outside while remaining at least 6 feet apart or video chat when possible.
- Call your local senior center or Tri-Valley Elder Services if you need help with services or obtaining groceries/meals.
- Call your local grocery stores to find elder shopping hours and only shop during that time period.
- Wash your hands frequently with hot soapy water.
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Everyone, Everyday.

Second Chance founder publishes new book



out doing some

stuff.

Dudley

good

Then

Co-authors Sheryl Blancato and Joe Blancato, Sr.

BROOKFIELD — Last Saturday should have been a night of support and celebration for Second Chance. It was also to be the book launch of "Walking Off Leash" written by Sheryl Blancato and her husband, Joe Blancato, Sr. When the event was postponed in light of the current COVID-19 situation,

CLEAN-UP

continued from page A1

called me, and Leicester called me, and I got calls from Webster and Oxford. It was just kind of a trickle effect and it's just a good feeling to be able to give back to the community and the people who have supported me for so long," Cantwell said.

As of the writing of this article, Paragon Power Washing had cleaned playgrounds as Dudley Elementary School, Mason Road Elementary School, Leicester Elementary School and Integrated Pre School, the Charlton Community Playground, Heritage School, Charlton Elementary School, Lewis Field and Brookfield Elementary School with projects in Webster and Oxford still on their schedule.

For Cantwell, who grew up and lives locally, his

efforts aren't simply a way to spread his business name. For him it's all about giving back to a community that has given him so much and one that he has called home for his whole life. "It's important for people to know there are

those out there not only still working but trying to make a different no matter how small that difference might be. We're all trying to do our part to help where we can and this is what we can provide to help make a difference," Cantwell said.

While it might still be some time before local children get to enjoy the playgrounds again, thanks to Paragon Power Washing parents can rest assured when the time comes that their kids will return to a clean, sanitized and beautiful play place when all goes back to normal.

the Blancatos decided to release the book online.

Joe Blancato began writing the book almost eight years ago to capture the stories that Sheryl told him throughout the years.

"I don't think Sheryl ever fully understood the magnitude of all she has done," says Joe who notes that the Second Chance founder works round the clock in the name of animals and rarely has a moment to look back at her accomplishments.

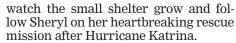
Sheryl Blancato, a self-described "reluctant autobiographer" who is still surprised that anyone would want to read her story, only agreed to publish the book so she could donate 100 percent of the proceeds to Second Chance to help pets in need.

According to Sheryl, "Right now, the need is great. It's imperative that we keep our vet hospitals and our adoption center open for all the pets and pet owners who truly need help.'

Sheryl hopes the book proceeds can help defray all the extra costs of keeping the doors open with mounting supply costs as a result of all the extra precautions put in place to safeguard the health of visitors and staff alike.

The book, subtitled "How Passion and Dedication Inspired an Animal Welfare Revolution" chronicles the nonprofit's evolution from a small, foster-based shelter to the animal welfare organization that serves as a role model across the country by focusing on the causes of animal homelessness instead of simply dealing with the aftermath. It begins with the origins of Sheryl's love of animals in her early childhood

and closes with a chapter entitled "The Journey Continues." In between, readers



Second Chance board member Heather Gablaski helped pen the book's back cover to let readers know the book is about more than animal welfare. "It is the story of someone who didn't take 'no' for an answer and found she needed to travel 'unleashed' if she was going to accomplish her goal."

Walking Off Leash" is available in paperback and eBook on Amazon. Signed copies will be available at Second Chance locations when it's safe to permit visitors back into buildings without restrictions.



ACCURACY WATCH

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

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

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

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SCHOLAR

continued from page A1

dren for better citizenship. She is also a member of the UNICEF Club at Bay

Path Practical Nursing Academy and is actively participating in fundraising efforts and children's advocacy. "In each of these experiences," said Champagne, "I sought opportunities to leverage my background as a practical nursing student." Her most meaningful community service has been with special needs children and caring for those who are "different," not feel so different. Champagne lives her life with urgency and purpose and doesn't waste her time. She doesn't take anything for granted, from her work, academic, volunteer, and social experiences. She comes back with a renewed sense of gratitude and a responsibility to share what she learns. Her interests and experiences position her well for what would be an extraordinary, impactful and meaningful nursing career.

THANKYOL

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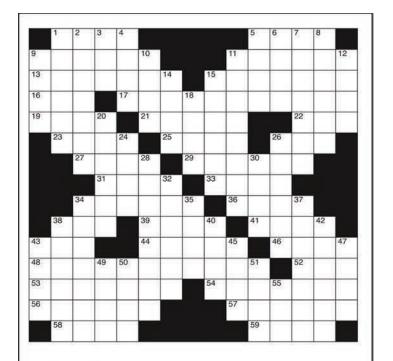
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Evangelidis opposes mass release of inmates

REGION — "As Sheriff of Worcester County, and in unanimous agreement with my fellow sheriffs, I strongly oppose the Emergency Petition calling for the mass release of incarcerated persons from Massachusetts prisons that is currently pending before the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court," said Worcester County Sheriff Lewis Evangelidis last week.

"Filed by the Committee for Public Counsel Services and the Massachusetts Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. this petition calls for the immediate mass release of Massachusetts prisoners relative to the COVID-19 pandemic. If approved, this would lead to a mass release of many dangerous criminals, posing an enormous threat to the public health and safety of our community-at-large. In addition, many will be returning to unstable environments. Sheriffs always prepare our



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Canadian law enforcers
- 5. Actor Idris
- 9. Cut or bruise
- 11. Vegetables
- 13. Aircraft delivery
- 15. To make obsolete 16. Things similar to those
- already noted
- 17. Columbus is a famous one 19. Age group
- 21. Denotes nature of sound
- 22. Klutz
- 23. Uninteresting
- 25. Computer manufacturer
- 26. 2,000 lbs.
- 27. Genus of seabirds
- 29. Emerges
- 31. Baseball stat 33. Witnesses

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Churned 2. Seal bottles
- 3. Million barrels per day (abbr.) 4. Meat from a pig (French) 5. Within
- 6. Walk in a slow pace
- 7. Cries
- 8. About Andes
- 9. Fishermen use it
- 10. Expresses delight
- 11. Shouts

- 34. Observed
- 36. Satisfy
- 38. Former OSS
- 39. Small Eurasian deer
- 41. Wife of Sparta's king
- 43. Ballplayer accessory
- 44. Temporary cessation of breathing
- 46. Where construction workers ply their trade
- 48. Arguments that justify a
- religious doctrine
- 52. Thick cloud of tiny water droplets
- 53. Widens
- 54. Detection

- 58. Greek war god

28. Computes

30. Pop singer

37. Building 38. Per __, each 40. Six (Spanish)

32. Weds secretly

34. Having two poles

42. Makes amends

45. Baseball's best pitchers

43. Scoundrels

35. Yankee hero Bucky

59. Urinates

56. Period of inactivity 57. Tomato and vodka are two inmate populations for successful release by focusing on housing, medical and programming needs. It is this step-down reentry process, as opposed to mass-release, that protects the public, victims of crimes and the inmates themselves," Evangelidis continued.

"The Sheriffs, along with our District Attorneys, local judicial authorities, the department of probation and defense attorneys are currently reviewing our inmate populations to determine if any individuals are appropriate for early release. Our local authorities are best positioned to determine what is in the best interest of the public health and safety of our community and the inmate. These decisions are based on the charges, criminal history, age and health of the inmate, as well as re-entry support networks available. "Any decision by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, which would order the mass release of inmates as opposed to a case by case review, would not only jeopardize the public-at-large but in some cases, inmates themselves," said Evangelidis.

The Massachusetts Sheriffs are committed to serving the communities they are sworn to protect. This responsibility includes the health and well-being of their justice-involved populations and the dedicated men and women on their teams of corrections professionals. Every sheriff sees it as their duty to ensure that the public safety and public health needs of all who live and work within their facilities are fully met. That responsibility only grows during global emergencies, and the sheriffs are meeting the COVID-19 pandemic head-on. The

Massachusetts Sheriffs and their staff are working tirelessly to safely manage their staff and inmate populations and to curb the spread of COVID-19 to their county jails and houses of correction. They provide an exceptional level of care in their facilities, and are prepared for public health scenarios such as this. The sheriffs have implemented proactive and strategic steps to limit the transmission of COVID-19 including:

Providing in-service training on infectious diseases and emergency preparedness for staff before, during and after this crisis.

 Deploying enhanced intake screening protocols to evaluate new arrivals for symptoms of COVID-19 and limit potential transmission.

 Providing a high level of medical care for all individuals while employing specific protocols when potential or confirmed cases of COVID-19 arise.

Engagement with medical experts from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) and the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) to ensure that their medical practices are maximally effective and responsive to the COVID-19 pandemic.

✤ Encouraging staff and their justice-involved populations to follow the CDCrecommended practices regarding handwashing, social distancing, continuous sanitizing of facilities and general transmission prevention. Signage has increased throughout the facilities to serve as a reminder of these practices.

Enhancing screening of

staff entering the facility.

✤ Temporarily suspending in-person visits for families and friends while enhancing alternative means of communication. This includes a range of options such as additional phone calls, mail services or, where available, increased access to text messaging and video conferencing.

 Working with the courts, enhancing videoconferencing and teleconferencing technology to ensure that an inmate's access to the court is continued.

"At the Worcester County Jail & House of Correction, we have one 119 bed housing unit set aside in response to the COVID-19 crisis. All new non-symptomatic admissions to the Worcester County Correctional Facility are housed in the unit on an Observation Medical Watch, and monitored by medical for symptoms of COVID-19 for a period of fourteen (14) days. As a precaution, during the fourteen (14) day quarantine, new inmate movement is limited. These inmates are permitted out of the cell for a shower and phone use only. In addition, a separate housing unit has been designated for any inmate exhibiting signs or symp-toms of COVID 19. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) has been placed into POD-D for officer safety. To allow all inmates to communicate with their family members, free phone calls are available. As of today, there are no confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19 among the inmates at the Worcester County Jail & House of Correction," said Sheriff Evangelidis.

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- Feudal agricultural laborer
- 14. Sailboat
- 15. Small Eurasian willows
- 18. S. American native people
- 20. Extreme disgust
- 24. Nonsense (slang)
- 26. Produce male reproductive cells
- 47. Some are scrambled 49. Emit coherent radiation
 - 50. Singer Redding

against

- 51. Break
- 55. Institute legal proceedings

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supplies are immediately donated to hospitals and other medical facilities.

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Heritage School (508) 248-4884
Charlton Middle School(508) 248-1423
Shepherd Hill Regional High School
(508) 943-6700
Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical
High School (508) 248-5971 or (508) 987-0326

CHURCH LISTINGS

• Charlton Federated Church, 64 Main St. Pastor James Chase, 248-5550, Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. www.fedchurchcharlton.org

· Charlton Baptist Church, 50 Hammond Hill Road, 248-4488,www.charltonbaptist.org Sunday worship 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

 Charlton City United Methodist, 74 Stafford St. 248-7379, web site: CharltonCityUMC.com Sunday worship 10:30 am, Sunday School 9 am • St. Joseph's Church, 10 H. Putnam Ext, 248 7862, www.stjosephscharlton.com, Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 p.m., Sunday Mass 8 a.m. vigii iviass 4:30 p.m., Sunday Mass 8 a.m., Sunday Family Mass 10 a.m., Sunday LifeTEEN Mass 5 p.m., Weekday Mass Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30 a.m.
Hope Christian Fellowship, 6 Haggerty Road, 248-5144

· Assemblies of God Southern New England District Headquarters, Route 20, 248-3771 snedag.org, Office hours Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

• Jehovah's Witnesses, Route 169, 765-9519 · Lamblight Christian Church, 37 Main Street - Grange building 1st Floor, Charlton, Ma 01507, Rev. Stephen Wade, (774) 452-2393 Pastor's Cell. Sunday Service 10:30am. www

visitlamblight.com
New Life Fellowship A/G, SNED Chapel, 307 Sturbridge Road, Rt. 20, Charlton, MA, Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.



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Thomas Bartholomew of Bartholomew & Company named among nations top financial advisors

WORCESTER — Bartholomew & Company, a leading provider of financial planning and wealth management services in Worcester, Massachusetts, that Thomas announced J. Bartholomew, AIF® has been named to Barron's list of America's top 1,200 Financial Advisors for 2020. The list is published on barrons.com1. This is the seventh consecutive year that Mr. Bartholomew has been named to this list.

According to Barron's, a leading financial publication, the ranking reflects America's best financial advisors, organized by state.2 List makers are determined based on data provided by approximately 4,000 of the nation's most productive advisors. In its ranking, Barron's considers assets under management, revenue produced for the firm, regulatory record, quality of practice and philanthropic work.

"I am pleased to have been named to this prestigious list—a recognition that, to us, speaks to our firm's commitment to meeting the financial planning and investment needs of each of our clients," said Mr. Bartholomew. "I am grateful for the trust our clients place in us, and we remain committed to providing the guidance and support they need to achieve their unique financial goals."

About Bartholomew & Company

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

To compile its annual list,* Barron's, a leading financial publication, uses data provided by some of the nation's most productive advisors. Barron's takes a number of criteria into account for this state-by-state ranking, including assets under management; revenues generated by advisors for their firms; quality of practices, which includes examination of regulatory records; and philanthropic work. Overall, 4,000 advisors were considered, and 1,200 (30 percent of candidates) were recog-



Thomas Bartholomew

nized. The list includes both Registered Investment Advisers and Investment Adviser Representatives; some states may include more advisors than others, in proportion to state populations.

*This award is not indicative of the wealth manager's future performance. Your experience may vary. Investment performance is not a criterion.

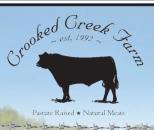


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LEARNING

QCC community donates supplies to area healthcare facilities

WORCESTER — As the Coronavirus/ COVID-19 crisis deepens, Quinsigamond Community College faculty, staff, students and alumni have come together to assist area hospitals and healthcare facilities. The College's science department recently donated 45 cases of nitrile gloves to Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA).

"This totals 45,000 gloves, which will go to hospitals and healthcare facilities in the most need," said QCC President Dr. Luis Pedraja.

Other initiatives by the QCC community include a project spearheaded by Lee Duerden, associate professor of Manufacturing Technology. Mr. Duerden is utilizing QCC's Fab Lab and its form lab resin printers to make respirator masks that have removable HEPA filters, capable of filtration rates to 0.01 microns. In comparison, according to the Centers for Disease Controls, N95 filtering face piecerespirators filter out at least 95% of very small (0.3 micron) particles. N95 FFRs are capable of filtering out all types of particles, including bacteria and viruses. Mr. Duerden has currently printed prototypes that are being tested and utilized by 10 area nurses.

QCC students are also taking part in the crusade to help out. QCC student Ilina Ivanova is a Liberal Arts Biology major, due to graduate this May. Ms. Ivanova has begun sewing masks after finding a Facebook group, "Worcester Stitchers for Health," where people share patterns online. These masks also enable a filter to be inserted.

"I have made about 25 masks so far and I plan on making as many as I can. They take about 20-25 minutes to sew each, depending on the template," she said, adding that the masks can either be dropped off at a drop box at the home of the coordinator of Worcester Stitchers for Health, or the coordinator will make arrangements to safely pick them up. They are taken to Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) where they are either autoclaved or UV irradiated, depending on the mask material (anything that contains plastic will melt in an autoclave), packaged in sterile pouches and distributed by MEMA.

"However, many people know people personally who are working in high risk healthcare settings that are asking for these masks. For example, I know that a client at an ER veterinary hospital just made masks for the entire staff to alleviate pressure on their dwindling surgical mask supply. I made masks for my brother, Boris Yanachkov (he is also a QCC student) who is currently working at IPG Photonics as an essential employee. Not to mention all of the grocery store workers, delivery drivers, and other essential workers who may not have access to a mask," she said.

Classes and labs at QCC's Center for Healthcare and Workforce Development, located at 25 Federal Street, Worcester have also made donations to:

• UMASS Medical School - N95 masks, gloves, gowns, surgical masks

• Harrington Hospital – Gowns, and surgical masks

• Salmon Healthcare – Gowns, gloves and surgical masks

• Knollwood Nursing Home – Gowns, gloves and surgical masks

"In these unprecedented times, we must all do our part and try and help mitigate the medical supply demand our hospitals and healthcare facilities are facing," said QCC President Dr. Luis Pedraja. "We will continue to do everything we can to assist our healthcare workers who work tirelessly on the front lines."

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

QCC awarded National Science Foundation grant

W O R C E S T E R - Quinsigamond Community College (QCC) was recently awarded a \$298,108 National Science Foundation (NSF) Grant for a new Robotics Technician Certificate program. The program will be designed to offer a curriculum that supports technical communication, teaches problem-solving skills and offers a strong integration of industry-recognized certifications. Underrepresented QCC student populations that participate in QCC's existing robotics community outreach programs will directly benefit from the program. Additionally, other beneficiaries targeted include

400 pre-college and undergraduate students, who have demonstrated interest in robotics technology.

Robotics education is not a new concept at QCC. It is already a part of the College's manufacturing and mechatronics programs. According to Jacob Longacre, associate professor of Electronics Engineering Technology at QCC, the new Robotics Technician Certificate will be based on input from industries within the region, as well as local high schools and fouryear institution educators. The hope is for the new certificate program to act as a conduit between K-12 robotics outreach

programs.

"We want to be sensitive to industries' needs, how things are changing, and bring more of that interest and need to the program," "Mr. Longacre said.

While QCC faculty and staff have already begun reaching out to industry leaders, the grant funding will now enable QCC to formally begin a comprehensive fact-finding process. This summer, QCC will establish a local business and industry leadership team for robotics, to identify and prioritize the skills desired by local employers. The goal is to have the pilot program tested and in place within three years.

One key component to the

program is finding ways in which to engage and inspire students in the world of STEM, particularly those students in middle and high school. For many years QCC has been involved with the VEX Robotics programs. These programs and competitions target high school and middle school students, in an effort to increase interest in STEM from an early age.

"These programs expand students' interest in STEM and connects those students who may not have these types of technology opportunities," Mr. Longacre said. "We want our certificate program to get these students excited and interested in robotics."

"The awarding of this NSF Grant enables us to develop new career pathways for students," said QCC President Dr. Luis Pedraja. "We must teach not only for today's industry needs, but also teach to the needs of the future. I believe this program will be a gateway to self-sufficiency for many students."

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



We just can't be too safe today!

Information as of April 2020 by:

International News Media Association

Executive Director and CEO

Earl J. Wilkinson

Charlton Youth Basketball to sponsor college scholarship

STONEBRIDGE PRESS Together Strong, Strong Together

CHARLTON — Charlton p Youth Basketball proudly sponsors a scholarship program of for four Charlton high school y seniors accepted for enrollment i at a university or college for the 2020-2021 academic year. The applicant for this scholarship must be a Charlton graduating senior who has participated in Charlton Youth Basketball for a minimum of two years and com-

pleted the application and typed an essay (250-word minimum) describing how playing Charlton Youth Basketball has had a positive impact on my youth. The due date is May 1, and four \$500 scholarships will be presented by Charlton Youth Basketball upon review of all applications.

Along with the essay, please provide your name, address, telephone, email, number of years playing Charlton Youth Basketball, grades participated, additional involvement (coaching, refereeing, volunteering, etc.), names of coaches from your experience, high school, college/ university attending, and a signature. Please mail to: Charlton Youth Basketball, PO Box 811, Charlton, MA 01507.

Jake Hughes named to Honors List at Pomfret School

POMFRET, Conn. — Jake Hughes of Charlton, from the Class of 2020, was named to the Winter 2019-2020 Honors List at Pomfret School. To achieve this level of distinction, Jake earned

POMFRET, Conn. — Jake a grade point average of at least ughes of Charlton, from the 3.330 and received no grade lass of 2020, was named to the lower than a B.

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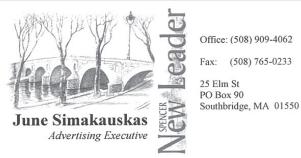


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> FRANK G. CHILINSKI PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE Editor

Finding a silver lining

This editorial is being written immediately after our Editor returned from a walk around town. While we are all undergoing a complete change in the way we live our lives, and the reason is scary and horrifying, there is a silver lining. This coronavirus has caused a camaraderie among people that seems to break through barriers of religion, race, political beliefs, socioeconomic status or where we live in the world. We truly are all in this together.

During our walk, we saw entire families slowly strolling up and down side streets, with no real destination, simply enjoying the sun and warmer weather. It was nice to slow down enough to notice the cracks in the sidewalks, or notice the intricate woodwork on the old houses we passed. Seeing the community through a new, calmer, less stressed pair of eyes was interesting. While a cloud of uncertainty hangs above all of us, it's clear that despite the unknown, shoulders have dropped a bit, and we have been forced to slow down and just be present. These are stressful times, no doubt, but it hasn't gone unnoticed that the majority of people seem to appear more relaxed. [This, of course, does not include those on the front lines fighting this virus, to whom we say a heartfelt thank you.]

There are so many unknowns when it comes to this situation. We don't know when it will end, we don't know whether the virus will mutate when the warmer weather we've all be waiting for finally arrives, and we don't know how it will affect our economy or our livelihoods in the long run. What we do know is that, again, we are all in this together.

Strangers are stopping strangers (at a safe distance, of course) and having conversations that go beyond the weather. This outbreak has created a need for us to talk and to relate to each other for comfort, and to simply process what is happening.

While passing by a gentleman getting ready to grill his dinner on the oack porch, we struck up a conversa

I awoke at 5:30 a.m., started a fire in our darkened kitchen fireplace and am sitting in the quiet of the morning, counting my blessings.

My family is healthy and quarantined together. We are only missing my

oldest, who is sheltered in Los Angeles. My daughter, son-in-law and my two grandsons are sleeping soundly on the floor above me. My youngest son is sleeping in the basement with our grand dog Walter. Our dear friends and my daughter's in-laws, Stu and Lynn, are here and I'm going to make my grandmothers recipe for biscuits and gravy for breakfast. I cannot describe the joy am feeling at this moment.

I think people often interchange the words joy and happiness as though they are the same. They are not. Happiness is a feeling you get from outside events and/or circumstances, while joy radiates from within. Your happiness is dependent on things or other people while your joy is only dependent upon you. Want to be joyful? Easier said than done? Start by counting your blessings. Joy is from the heart.

I find my joy in my love of family and friends. I am joyful in making breakfast for my family. I get happiness from seeing them feel enjoyment from my efforts. I feel joy in writing. I'd do it even if no one ever read it. I get happiness knowing people do.

So, what is my goal in quarantine? Love my family. Reach out to friends. Write to positively influence others. Finish my book, "Carbon Hill." Spend more time in prayer and contemplation. My plate is as full as my heart.

What about you?

How many times have you wanted to do something, but you complain you have no time? How often have you thought you'd just like to have a little time to yourself, or just a moment of peace and quiet? Sheltering in place can make those wishes come true.

You know me as a weekly columnist, but I'm also an author. In fact, I think of myself as an author that also writes a column, and not the other way around. I need to get busy and finish my fifth book.

I'm told that Shakespeare wrote King

Finding joy in quarantine

antine and put them into action!

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

Why waste time? What is that project you've always wanted to complete? Get moving! Write a book, build the model, complete the puzzle, write some letters, renew contact with those

you've lost contact with. Explore the possibilities, then act!

And I do understand that some of you are afraid. I think we all harbor some level of fear and that's normal. Work to turn your fear into healthy caution and follow all the guideline for remaining safe.

And for some of you who have a loved one who is sick, or you are not well, I'm praying for you now and I encourage others to do the same. Want me to pray for you or a friend or loved one by name? Send me an email or snail mail and I will do so. I won't post it here, but my phone number is on my Web page. It's easy to find. If you want me to pray with you, give me a call. And for those of you who don't believe in the power of prayer, please accept my positive thoughts for you as I pray for you.

To pray is a decision I make personally. You don't have to do the same. I had a young student who said, "I don't believe in God or prayer ... so will you pray for me?" I prayed for her until her crisis passed. (Let the contradiction of her question sink in ...)

This too shall pass.

I don't know what's in store for us over the next few weeks and months. I'm not a health care worker or government official. All I'm certain of is that this isn't the end of the world. This too, shall pass. The world will survive. I also understand that the death toll is high and growing. Just remember, if you shelter in place, the odds of you getting sick are minuscule. And if you are sick and remain in place, you won't pass it to others. I think this will fit into the category of "Do good. Be good."

Turn your fear and boredom into positive productivity during quarantine. Decide to make the most of this time and find both happiness and joy in doing something you have always wanted to do.

Stay healthy. Don't be afraid. I'm praying for you.

CARES Act offers help for investors, small businesses



As we go through the coronavirus crisis, we are all, first and foremost, concerned about the health of our loved ones and communities. But the economic implications of the virus have also weighed heavily on our minds. However, if you're an investor or a business owner, you just got some help from Washington – and it could make a big difference, at least in the short term, for your financial future.

Specifically, the passage of the \$2 trillion Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act offers, among other provisions, the following:

Expanded unemployment benefits The CARES Act provides \$250 billion for extended unemployment insurance, expands eligibility and provides workers with an additional \$600 per week for four months, in addition to what state programs pay. The package will also cover the self-employed, independent contractors and "gig economy" workers. Obviously, if your employment has been affected, these benefits can be a lifeline. Furthermore, the benefits could help you avoid liquidating some longterm investments you've earmarked for retirement just to meet your daily cash flow needs.

Direct payments - Individuals will receive a one-time payment of up to \$1,200; this amount is reduced for incomes over \$75,000 and eliminated altogether at \$99,000. Joint filers will receive up to \$2,400, which will be reduced for incomes over \$150,000 and eliminated at \$198,000 for joint filers with no children. Plus, taxpayers with children will receive an extra \$500 for each dependent child under the age of 17. If you don't need this money for an immediate need, you might consider putting it into a low-risk, liquid account as part of an emergency fund.

No penalty on early withdrawals



tion about going stir crazy, sharing a few laughs and well wishes, and then we were on our way. People have slowed down enough to lift their heads from their phones, laptops, steering wheels and television sets to open their eyes fully to the world around them. There are more smiles and head nods exchanged. People are making more eye contact with one another, almost to say yes, I'm uncertain too, but we will be all right.

With nowhere to go aside from home and work (for some of us who also deserve thanks for continuing to put their health at risk so we have groceries and supplies to live on), priorities have shifted. People have used this time to really think about what matters in their lives. They have caught up on their reading, or re-visited old hobbies and house projects that have sat dormant for years.

Finally, this situation gives us all an excuse an excuse to just 'be.' Could it be that people can really benefit from simplifying their lives? How will things look when the world re-opens? We have a feeling that people will be friendlier and more appreciative of being able to clink beer mugs and raise a toast at their local watering holes. Perhaps people will find the value in slowing down.

We are living in a point in history that will live on in perpetuity. These few months will be read about and discussed for decades to come, long after we are gone, as we look back now and wonder about simple things like what it would have been like to live without electricity or a way to keep our food cold. We're not sure there has ever been a time when the entire society has shut down, when town squares look like ghost towns or something out of a movie set with no one in sight.

To those reporters and editors to come after us, we will tell you that these times are surreal. Despite not knowing what's going on and watching the news change every day, people are generally in good spirits and are finding ways to decrease stress and otherwise find some sort of joy.



Lear while in quarantine for the plague. When I first heard that, I laughed and thought, as an author, hearing that is a lot of pressure. But then again, No pressure. I'm just a storyteller. I need to dig in and finishing telling the story of the Tallman brothers and "Carbon Hill."

Make positive decisions during quar-

Garv 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 @ GaryWMoore721 and at www.garywmoore.com.

– Typically, you'd have to pay a 10% penalty on early withdrawals from IRAs, 401(k)s and similar retirement accounts. Under the CARES Act, this penalty will be waived for individuals who qualify for COVID-19 relief and/ or in plans that allow COVID-19 distributions. Withdrawals will still be taxable, but the taxes can be spread out over three years. Still, you might want to avoid taking early withdrawals, as you'll want to keep your retirement accounts intact as long as possible.

Suspension of required withdrawals Once you turn 72, you'll be required to take withdrawals from your traditional IRA and 401(k). The CARES Act waives these required minimum distributions for 2020. If you're in this age group, but you don't need the money, you can let your retirement accounts continue growing on a tax-deferred basis.

Increase of retirement plan loan limit Retirement plan investors who qualify for COVID-19 relief can now borrow up to \$100,000 from their accounts, up from \$50,000, provided their plan allows loans. We recommend that you explore other options, such as the direct payments, to bridge the gap on current expenses and if you choose to take a plan loan work with your financial adviser to develop strategies to pay back these funds over time to reduce any long-term impact to your retirement goals.

Small-business loans - The CARES Act provides \$349 billion to help small businesses – those with fewer than 500 employees - retain workers and avoid closing up shop. A significant part of this small business relief is the Paycheck Protection Program. This initiative provides federally guaranteed loans to small businesses who maintain payroll during this emergency. Significantly, these loans may be forgiven if borrowers use the loans for payroll and other essential business expenses (such as mortgage interest, rent and utilities) and maintain their payroll during the crisis.

We'll be in a challenging economic environment for some time, but the CARES Act should give us a positive jolt – and brighten our outlook.

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.

Visions of a lush back-TAKE yard garden can brighten these dark days, so THE why not use this time at home to plan a spectacular summer garden? As all home grow-

ers know, it takes careful planning and many hours of labor to produce a bountiful garden.

While nearly every successful gardener has their own special tricks to ensure a productive crop, the novice planter may need a helping hand to nudge green sprouts from uncooperative soil. If that's the case, the following tips culled from various "green thumbed" sources may just be all you need to make this upcoming season the most successful gardening year yet.

Starting Seedlings

You don't have to pay big bucks for packaged sterilized potting mix, as you can sterilize your backyard soil at home! (For best results the soil should be moist and crumbly, neither soggy nor too dry.) To do: Put two pounds of soil in a plastic turkey roasting bag. Do not seal the bag shut, as it could burst open. Place the bag in the microwave on high for two to three minutes. Allow the soil to cool to room temperature before using it.

Or, sterilize soil in the oven by filling metal pans, clay pots or other oven safe vessels with no more than four inches of soil. Cover with aluminum foil and bake at 180 to 200 degrees for a half hour. Use a meat thermometer to test temperature. Soil should reach 180 degrees, but don't allow temperature to go above 200 degrees because high temperatures could produce plant toxins. After heating, allow soil to cool before using. Note: heated soil may give off an odor.

Never buy peat pots again! Instead

Time to Plan the Garden! HINT KAREN TRAINOR

paper towel and toilet paper rolls, Here's how: Cut them into pieces with scissors (a toilet paper roll should yield two; paper towel rolls, four). Line them up in a tray, touching each other to ensure that they remain upright and to slow the

recycle those cardboard

evaporation of moisture. Fill with potting soil and plant as usual. And when the time comes to replant the seedlings, plant the whole pot, as the cardboard will disintegrate!

The addition of peat moss is necessary to keep window boxes and other container gardens properly watered. But, if you are not wetting down the peat moss before adding it to the soil, you may be doing your garden more harm than good. Peat moss must be moistened before it is used in potting mixes. When dry, the substance actually repels water! Here's how to pretreat it: If you want to wet a full bag of peat moss, poke several holes in the bottom of the bag and open the top. Then pour water slowly into the top of the bag until it seeps out of the bottom holes. Push on the bag and knead it to ensure the peat is getting saturated. To test, scoop out a handful of peat moss and squeeze it. If you can squeeze water out, it is ready to use. If not, keep wetting until you can.

Test Number 2: Here's an easy test to gauge if your garden soil is ready to plant. Simply scoop up a handful of dirt and squeeze it into a ball. If the ball crumbles when you release your fingers, the soil is all set for digging. If the ball sticks together, the soil is still to wet to work.

Storing, and sowing, seeds are not longer a hassle with this tip:

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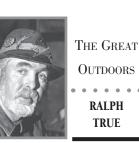


Fishing at some local ponds has been just fantastic, while some streams and brooks are very slow according to a few local anglers. This writer made a call to M.F.W. Central District this past Friday, April 3, and was told that the spring stocking is pretty much complete. The

stocking trucks were running nonstop to ensure that the spring stocking of trout would be completed. As of this date, the Division of Fish & Wildlife is holding on to the trout allocated for the fall stocking. The Covid-19 virus sure has negatively made a big change in our daily living, and will affect our lives for months and years to come.

This week's picture shows Amy with her large brown trout from Ashland Reservoir. this past week, that also had the upper jaw missing as the second picture shows. The heavy rain of the last two weeks, and the cold temperatures have kept trout fishing a bit slow, but the warmer weather of this week has brought the water temperatures up, which has had anglers catching some impressive trout.

Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife, along with some other states, have been feeding the trout at the hatcheries a new diet over the last few years, which has the trout growing very fast, and the end result is a more impressive trout being



stocked. The down side to the new diet that
f trout are being raised on have lost there sweet natural taste at the dinner table.

RALPH
TRUEI am not the only one
that has noticed the dif-
ference in the taste of
trout over the last few
years. Any fish or meat
altered with numerous

brands of seasoning on the market today, but I and many other anglers miss the natural sweet taste of the trout. I guess we cannot have it both ways. Numerous anglers have switched to smoking trout, rather than pan fried.

Tautog fishing season in Massachusetts and Rhode Island is now open, but the water temperature was still a bit cold last week , hovering in the middle 40 degrees. The temperature needs to hit the low 50's for the fishing to improve. A few anglers fishing for tautog last week reported a few small tautog being caught, so it should not be long before the big fish move in. When the dandelions are out, it is time to fish for tautog.

A couple of years ago, both Massachusetts & Rhode Island stopped commercial fishing for tautog in the spring, and gave them a good season in the fall. It was long overdue. Tautog were returning to spawn in the spring, and were being depleted before they had a chance to spawn. It was a no brainer. Rhode Island Marine Fisheries & NOAA has placed another nail in the coffin of the recreational fluke fishing season this year. Raising the Fluke size limit to 19 inches and allowing the commercial anglers to keep 14-inch fish is outrageous. A lot of fish are going to be wasted due to mortality after being released by recreational anglers. Taking home a few fluke fillets for the family this year is going to be tough. Massachusetts has held there legal size limit to 17 inches again this year. It was not that long ago that Rhode island raised the size limit for fluke to 21 inches for recreational anglers.

That was the year I sold my 21 foot boat. I love bottom fishing and we found ourselves coming home with one or two fish if we were lucky. Commercial anglers were fishing on the side of us keeping 14 inch fish!

Seabass are also being saved for the commercial guys, with the season starting June 24 this year for recreational anglers and a bag limit of three fish daily. Striper fishermen are not happy with the slot size on Striped bass. The big problem with the striped bass decline is in Maryland & Delaware, not in Massachusetts & Rhode Island. Massachusetts Marine Fisheries has also dealt a hard blow to the sport fishing boats up and down the coast.

My neighbor erected a blue bird box



in his yard a few years ago, and is being used annually by a pair of them. They sure are nice to see in the back yard as they frequent my bird feeder daily along, with a pair of cardinals. It will not be long before the humming birds return.

Until next week, stay safe! God Bless America.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

Extend your garden season

No matter where you garden, there never seems to be enough time to grow all the fresh vegetables desired. Planting earlier or just providing plants with some added warmth on chilly days and nights can reduce the time from planting to harvest. Southern gardeners will enjoy the

additional time for harvesting heat-sensitive plants before the stifling heat moves in and plants begin to decline.

Prepare the soil as soon as it can be worked. Cover the prepared soil with clear plastic, row covers or high tunnels for several weeks when planting earlier than normal. This warms the soil for planting and helps germinate many of the weed seeds. Lightly cultivate to remove the young weed seedlings without bringing more weed seeds to the surface. You'll be pulling fewer weeds throughout the growing season.

Once the garden is planted, enlist some of these season-extending helpers (gardeners.com). Homemade and commercial cloches, cold frames and row covers can help you plant earlier



fabric with landscape pins, stones, boards, or other heavy items. Leave enough slack in the fabrics for the plants to grow. Lighter weight garden fabrics also protect plants from insect pests like cabbage worms and bean beetles.

Garden covers take this method one step further. These structures fit over plantings in the garden, raised beds or elevated planters. Look for those with durable greenhouse fabric covers that let water in and keep excess heat out. These types of structures protect plants from cold and wind, speeding up your harvest by as much as 25 percent.

Raise the roof on these structures with high tunnels and plant protection tents. These are perfect for growing tall plants like tomatoes. As temperatures rise, the tops can be ventilated or in some cases replaced with a mesh that keeps out insects and critters, while providing plants enough room to reach full size.

Or maybe you just can't wait for that first red ripe tomato and only want to jump start a row of greens. Garden cloches have long been used for this purpose. They capture the sun's

can be recycled from vitamin bottles or

minating seeds, don't spend your hard

earned money on a plant heat mat. A

heating pad can do the job at a fraction

of the cost. Just be sure to cover it in

Flower bulbs are now plentiful at

large garden centers. But, bulbs

sold at such places are a bargain

only if you know how to avoid poor

quality bulbs. Here are some tips:

* Bulbs should feel solid and heavy. If

they are light, they may be dried out.

* Make sure there are no holes or

other signs of insect damage on bulbs.

* Pick over bulbs that have sprouted;

with

moldy

discol-

spots.

Avoid bulbs

ored,

dark or

plastic to prevent any water spill

\$\$\$ Saving Hot Tip: If you're ger-

even shoe boxes.

warmth to protect plants from frosty weather. Gardener's Supply Company's Early Season Row Cloche Set allows you to expand your protection to the desired size. These clear PVC plant protectors have water wells to capture rainwater and gently disperse it to the plants below and vents for managing the temperature.

Further boost your tomato harvest with red plastic mulch, red tomato teepees and tomato boosters. University researchers found using red plastic mulch increased the individual fruit size and weight and overall tomato harvest by as much as 20 percent. They found the red plastic mulch reflected certain growth-enhancing wavelengths of light back onto the plants.

With a bit of extra effort and investment you'll be harvesting fresh vegetables long before your friends and neighbors. Then be sure to keep these season-extending devices handy to use again in fall. Protecting plants from those first few fall frosts can keep you eating garden-fresh tomatoes, peppers and greens well into winter.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and the Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio segments. Myers



Photo Courtesy — Gardener's Supply Company Cloches can help you plant earlier and harvest later, extending the growing season.

is a columnist and contributing editor

and harvest later in the season.

Row covers made of spun fabrics let air, light, and water through while keeping the plants warm. Anchor the

TRAINOR

continued from page A8

Simply put seeds in a clean, empty spice, seasoning or Parmesan cheese shaker. If using tiny seeds, add little cornstarch to keep them from clumping together. When it's time to plant, just shake them evenly over the soil.

*Here's an easy way to gauge spacing seeds in large flats: Cut a piece of one-inch chicken mesh wire the size of the flat. Simply lay it on the soil and plant a seed inside each hole for instant one-inch spacing. For two or tree inch spacing, simply skip the correct number of holes.

*Leftover garden seeds will likely sprout next year if you keep them in the refrigerator in a tightly closed jar with a packet of silica gel. The gel packets it is better if they grow roots first. **

Our forefathers took great pains to plant crops at the precise time of year to promote a bountiful crop. Here are some "old farmer's tales" that tell when it is time to plant garden vegetables:

Lilac's Bloom: When the lilacs have their first leaves it is time to plant cool-weather crops such as peas, lettuce, and onions. When the lilac flowers are in full bloom, it s safe to plant tender crops such as tomatoes and corn. Native American's Rule: The American Indians passed this reliable tip on to European colonists, and many farmers still rely on it today. Tender crops should not be planted until the leaves on an oak tree are as big as a squirrels ear (about an inch or so long). Moon Signs: Many for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Gardeners Supply for her expertise to write this article. Her web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

natural gardeners plant successfully by the phases of the moon. Here's how: Between the new moon and the first quarter: sow or transplant leafy plants and those that bear seeds on the outside of the fruit, such as strawberries. Between the first quarter and the full moon: plant crops whose seeds develop inside the fruit, such as tomatoes, peas, beans and squash. From the full moon to the last quarter: plant root vegetables. Never plant from the last quarter to the new moon.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

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

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





Antiquing during this health crisis

Many antique events and auctions have been canceled due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The usual online selling and buying options are still available though, and some new opportunities have even become available.

The biggest local antique news is that the May Brimfield Antique Show has been canceled. Westernmassnews.com quoted the Head of the Brimfield Select Board WAYNE TUISKULA only to comply with who said "I think when

vou get 20,000 people coming from around the world, it'd be disastrous ... I think everybody is sad for it. I don't necessarily apologize for the decision because I think it's the right one." Although this is disappointing to antique dealers and collectors, in my opinion July 2020 will be one of the best shows. Many other shows have also been canceled. Live auctions and estate sales have been put on hold. Antiques and the Arts Weekly has a long "running list" of many of



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES

the canceled events available on their website at antiquesandthearts.com.

Like many other businesses, local antique dealers, auctioneers and estate sale companies have been going online to fill the void. For example, some estate sale companies are running online only sales. Others are selling by appointment distancing social guidelines.

Channel 7 News in Watertown, N.Y. reported that auctioneer Don Peck Auctions has turned to Facebook Live to run his auctions which had been held live in person prior to the pandemic. Peck said that prices have increased as he has found a group of new bidders. Most buyers are from within 50 to 75 miles of his Gouverneur, N.Y. location, but he has reached others from as far away as Florida and Las Vegas.

The pandemic has brought out the best in many. Many public figures have done exceptional things to help those affected by the COVID-19 virus. Former Ohio Buckeyes and Detroit Lions linebacker Chris Spielman is one example. The Detroit Free Press reported that he had previously donated \$100 each to 8 people who were in need for the past two weeks. He is now selling some of his personal memorabilia on eBay to help those in need during this pandemic. His Ohio State Big Ten championship ring is one of his prized possessions that he is auctioning for the greater good. "This hurts to give this up, but where is it going to serve a better purpose?" Spielman said. The ring sold for \$12,000, and Spielman said he will be offering more of his memorabilia.

Our company is practicing physical distancing, along with the rest of the state. If you are handling an estate or just have some items in your home that you think may be valuable and would like some guidance, we can virtually view and evaluate



them. You can contact us by email or phone to schedule an appointment using Facetime, Zoom or Skype.

We are also planning an online auction in Warren, R.I. and an estate sale in Auburn when the situation allows. Our Rutland estate farm auction will go online again as soon as possible. Please see www.centralmassauctions. com for details on these and other events. I hope all of you

continue to stay safe and in good health and we can all be attending antique events together soon.

Contact us at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique Auctions, Estate Sales and Appraisal Services www. centralmassauctions.com (508-612-6111) info@centralmassauctions.com.

Registry of Motor Vehicles extends renewal deadlines

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) is continuing to take several important steps following Governor Charlie Baker's declaration of a State of Emergency the week of March 9 and to complement the work that has been underway for weeks across state government to keep residents safe and healthy.

Effective today, April 1, all of the passenger plate registrations that have expired in March or will be expiring in April have been extended for 60 days. Registrations that expired in March have been extended until May 31 and registrations that expire in April have been extended until June 30th. Registration renewals can continue to be performed online at Mass.Gov/ RMV during this time. Customers seeking to do so in-person will not be able to make an appointment and should delay their visit to a Service Center at this time.

In addition, the RMV recently has implemented key changes to service delivery and organizational protocols as follows:

• Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the RMV has implemented a strict no walk-in policy at a limited number of Service Centers that remain open to the general public. Service for necessary in-person transactions is available by appointment only. Customers should visit Mass.Gov/RMV to make a reservation at an open Service Center or find information on over 40 transactions that can be conducted online, by phone, or by mail.

All Driver's Licenses, ID cards, and Learner's Permits, including Commercial Licenses & Permits, that have expired or are expiring between March 1 and April 30 have had a 60-day extension applied to the current expiration date and do not need to be renewed at this time. This does not apply to customers whose end of stay in the United States is the same as the expiration date on their Driver's License, ID card, or Learner's Permit. CDL Medical Certificates that expire on or after March 1 until April 30 will be extended until June 30th to prevent license downgrades and elective medical visits, as well as alleviate demand on medical providers.

The annual motor vehicle safety and emissions inspection stickers that expire on March 31 and April 30 have been extended 60 days and all motorcycle inspection stickers originally set to expire on May 31 must be inspected by June 30. The RMV is also extending the time during which newly registered vehicles must be inspected based on the purchase date.

In addition, the RMV has suspended all road tests through April 12. Class D and M Learner's Permits knowledge exams have been suspended indefinitely. Commercial Learner's Permit tests are available to be taken at the Milford and Wilmington RMV Service Centers during normal business hours and commercial road tests continue to occur.

For details on all of these extensions and additional information on RMV services and the RMV's response to COVID-19, visithttps://www.mass.gov/ info-details/rmv-covid-19-information.

Katherine Salzberg of Uxbridge named to Emerson College Dean's List



BOSTON — Katherine Salzberg of Uxbridge has been named to the Emerson College Dean's List for the Fall 2019 semester.

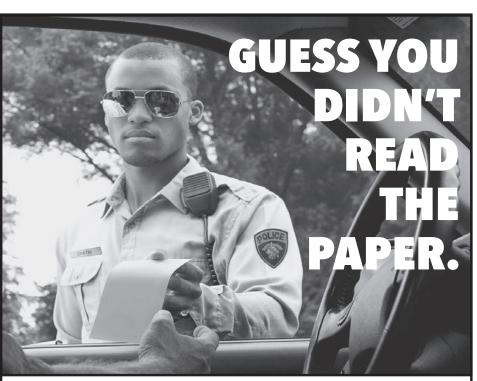
Salzberg is majoring in Journalism and is a member of the class of 2019.

The requirement to make Emerson's Dean's List is a grade point average of 3.7 or higher.

About Emerson College

Based in Boston, opposite the historic Boston Common and in the heart of the city's Theatre District, Emerson College educates individuals who will solve problems and change the world through engaged leadership in communication and the arts, a mission informed by liberal learning. The College has

3,780 undergraduates and 670 graduate students from across the United States and 50 countries. Supported by state-of-the-art facilities and a renowned faculty, students participate in more than 90 student organizations and performance groups. Emerson is known for its experiential learning programs in Los Angeles, Washington, DC, the Netherlands, London, China, and the Czech Republic as well as its new Global Portals, with the first program launching this fall in Paris. The College has an active network of 39,000 alumni who hold leadership positions in communication and the arts. For more information, visit emerson.edu.



When things like speed limits change, we're the first to know. You could be the second **Your Community Paper.** Told ya.



Brianna Age 17

ride a horse!

Brianna is a fun teenage girl of Hispanic descent. Some of Brianna's favorite activities are listening to music and reading. She also loves animals and has recently started to learn how to ride a horse. Brianna does a great job caring for young children, and she has expressed wanting a job working with children when she gets older. She

is currently in the tenth grade where she has made friends and good relationships with many of her teachers.

Brianna is legally freed for adoption and can be placed in a one or two-parent home with or without other children. Brianna has stated she enjoys living in a suburban area versus somewhere that is rural or an inner-city. Interested families should be open to maintain four visits per year with Brianna's siblings. She also has other relatives she would like to maintain contact with once placed.

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.mareinc.org. The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have "a permanent place to call HOME."

in the second



To sponsor Friday's Child call Patricia at 508-909-4135 x321 or email patricia@stonebridgepress.news



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OBITUARIES

Alexander G. 'Glenn' Thibeault, 68

CHARLTON- Alexander G. 'Glenn' Thibeault, 68, passed away April 2, 2020 at Harrington Memorial Hospital in Southbridge.



He leaves behind his wife of 36 years, Corinne E. (Ryder) Thibeault, his mother, Teresa F. (Dubuque) Thibeault of Charlton, 2 sons; Nathan Alex Thibeault and his significant other Michelle of Charlton, and

Joshua Lee Thibeault and his wife Anne Marie of Putnam, CT., a step-daughter, Melissa Vassar of Brookfield, 2 brothers; Wayne N. Thibeault and his significant other Kelly of Southbridge and Dean M. Thibeault and his wife Mary of Oakham, a grand-daughter Marijane, step-grandchildren; Johnathan McGary, Amanda Joy Hurd and her significant other Nolan, Xavier and Zachary and his close companion and furry friend 'Izzy'.

Glenn was born in Southbridge August 18, 1951 son of the late Alexander A. Thibeault who died March 21, 1999, and lived in Charlton most of his life.

He was a graduate of Charlton High

School, was a master electro plater and was a certified plastic welder and several other classified programs for the U.S. Government which he held many certifications.

He worked for LSA Clean Parts as a chemical technician, he also served on the Charlton Sewer Commission for 10 years and was instrumental in the design of the project. Glenn loved music and was an avid collector, and loved to travel to Vermont and Lake Champlain.

Glenn recently became certified as a food server on a food truck venture with his best friend Gabe Rivera of Southbridge.

Due to the current health conditions, mandated by state and federal guidelines, Funeral Services will be Private.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to: The Multiple Myeloma Foundation, P.O. Box 414238. Boston, MA. 02241-4238.

The ROBERT J. MILLER-CHARLTON FUNERAL HOME, 175 Old Worcester Rd. is assisting the family with arrangements.

To leave an on-line condolence or to Share a memory, please visit:RJMillerfunerals.net

Blanche Lucille Richards, 91

CHARLTON- Blanche Lucille (Mongeon) Richards, 91, passed away on Sunday, April 5th, in the Overlook Masonic Healthcare Center, after an illness.

Her husband of

65 years, Armand J. Richards, passed away in 2016. She leaves her 5 children: David A. Richards and wife Denise of Sterling, Mark S. Richards and wife Cail of Sturbridge

Gail of Sturbridge, Paul M. Richards and wife Vicki of Southbridge, Jayne M. Petrelli and husband John of Charlton, and Sally A. Lanctot and husband Roger of Vero Beach, FL; her sister, Annette C. Moeller of Sebastian, FL; 13 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her great-grandson, Jeremy Martin. Lucille was born in Charlton, the daughter of Louis E. and Blanche A. (Reeves) Mongeon.

Lucille worked as a Certified Nurses' Aide at the Masonic Home (now the Overlook Masonic Healthcare Center) for 18 years, retiring in 1993. She previously worked at the American Optical Co. in Southbridge for 10 years. She was a lifelong member of St. Joseph's Church in Charlton and sang in the choir. In recognition of their devotion to St. Joseph's, she and her husband Armand were honored in 2007 as parish Stewards of the Year. Musically talented, she played the piano, organ and guitar. As a young woman she performed country western music in the local area. She was especially well known for her yodeling and gave many performances in community talent shows. Lucille was a member of the Charlton Senior Center, the Golden Age Club, and the Charlton American Legion Auxiliary Post 391. She and her husband enjoyed ballroom and square dancing and were members of the Senior Center's line dance group.

Lucille's family would like to give heartfelt thanks to the staff at Overlook Masonic Healthcare Center for all of the love and support they gave "Grams" during her time there.

Due to the current health restrictions, Lucille's funeral Mass at St. Joseph's Church, Charlton, and burial in West Ridge Cemetery, Charlton, will be private. There are no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Joseph's Church, 10 H. Putnam Rd. Ext., Charlton, MA 01507.

The Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, is directing arrangements.

www.morrillfuneralhome.com

Dorothy M. Jensen, 85

Worcester/Charlton/East Hartford Dorothy M. (Davis) Jensen, 85, passed away March 28, 2020 at the Oasis at Dodge Park in Worcester.



Her husband of 62 years, Richard G. Jensen died July 11,

2017. She leaves behind 3 daughters; Linda C. Gillett of Tampa, FL., Joan M. Morse and her husband Ernie

of Southbridge, and Susan M. Hardies and her husband David of Charlton. 3 grandchildren; Jennifer (Hayes) Baille and husband Grant of Wesley Chapel, FL., Matthew and Steven Hardies of Worcester, and many nieces and nephews.

Dorothy was born August 25, 1934 in Athol, a daughter of the late Howard E. and Hilda B. (Longevin) Davis.

She was predeceased by 2 brothers; James A. Davis and wife Margaret of Tucson, AZ., and Robert E. Davis and wife Beverly of Ft. Pierce, FL.

Dot was a devoted mother and wife. She was a member of the Mother's Club at Burnside Methodist Church in East Hartford, CT., for many years, as well as a Brownie Girl Scout Leader.

She retired from First Federal Savings at the Glastonbury branch in 1994.

After moving to Charlton, she was active at the Charlton Senior Center coordinating day trips and setting up exercise and line-dancing classes as well as secretary of the Golden Age Club.

Dot was a member of the Federated Church of Charlton.

The family would like to thank all the caregivers and management at Oasis at Dodge Park for their exceptional care and support as well as the staff from Brookhaven Hospice.

The Funeral Service will be private, with burial in West Ridge Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to, The Oasis at Dodge Park, Activities Fund, 102 Randolph Rd., Worcester, MA. 01606. The ROBERT J. MILLER –

The ROBERT J. MILLER – CHARLTON FUNERAL HOME, 175 Old Worcester Rd., in Charlton is assisting Dot's family with arrangements.

To leave a message of condolence, please visit: RJMillerfunerals.net

Herbert E. "Gene" Thompson, 93

CHARLTON – Herbert E. "Gene" riage that would last for sixty-seven

Mary Sergel, 101

DUDLEY: Mary (Krawiec) Sergel, 101, born April 22,1918 in Dudley, died Sunday, March 15, 2020 at Webster Manor in Webster.

She was the wife of the late Albert H. Sergel who died in 1962.

She is survived by Albert G. Sergel and his wife Marion of Charlton; Paul A. Sergel and his wife Cheri of Webster; Bernard G. Sergel and his wife Lucy of Charlton; Anna Marie Ricci of Dudley, William Sergel of Northampton, James Sergel and his wife Cathy of Webster, MaryAnn Chauvin and her husband George of Dudley. She was predeceased by a son Wayne and a daughter Dolores Kaminski. She also leaves 17 grandchildren and several great grandchildren. Mary was a homemaker and enjoyed

Mary was a homemaker and enjoyed her family for the holidays and any family gathering.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude's Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Pl, Memphis, TN 38105 or online at http://www.stjude.org

Belanger-Bullard funeral Home, 51 Marcy St. Southbridge is directing arrangements.

An online guestbook is available at www.BelangerFuneralHome.com

Due to the current health crisis Mary's funeral was private. Burial was in Mt. Zion Cemetery, Webster.



Thompson, 93, formerly of Sandwich, MA passed away peacefully on April 1, 2020 after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease.



Gene was born to Harry and Grace (Brug) Thompson the small town in Plainville, of MA; he graduated from the Mass Maritime in 1945. WWII Gene was aboard a



the Mass Maritime Academy in 1945. At the end WWII Gene was aboard a gasoline tanker in the Pacific; after the war, he served in the Naval Reserves. Gene worked as a stationary steam engineer, completing his long career at the Canal Electric

plant in Sandwich, MA. On November 15, 1952, Gene and Carolyn Ralston were married, a marwonderful years; together they raised two sons, David and Peter.

Gene enjoyed fixing things, working in his yard, and harvesting shellfish; he loved his family and would always be right there to help.

Gene is survived by his wife Carolyn; two sons: David Thompson and his wife Martha and Peter Thompson and his wife Lorraine; his grandchildren: Marcus, Sarah and her husband Shawn, and William; his great-grandchild Jack, and his nephew Harry Schaller.

Please consider a memorial contribution to the Alzheimer's Association in honor of Gene.

Private funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School Street Webster, MA.

A guest book is available at www. shaw-majercik.com where you may post a message of comfort, share a fond memory, or light a candle in remembrance of Gene.

Lucille Steibel, 96

CHARLTON - Lucille (Bodiford) Steibel, 96, passed away at the Masonic Overlook Health Center on March 28, 2020;

She is survive by her husband William Steibel and her daughter Melanie Levine. Lucille was born in Columbus, Georgia on December 28, 1923, daughter of the late Bennie and Mae Lilly (Purvis) Bodiford; she was a teacher for many years, prior to her retirement.

Private funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School Street Webster, MA.

A guest book is available at www. shaw-majercik.com where you may post a message of comfort, share a fond memory, or light a candle in remembrance of Lucille.

Send all obituary notices to Stonebridge Press, PO Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550, or by e-mail to Obits@stonebridgepress.news 14 •THE CHARLTON VILLAGER• Friday, April 10, 2020

www.StonebridgePress.com





Renovated 4 Rm Townhouse! New Granite New Full Bath! Freshly Painted Throughout! Lower Level w/Laundry & Storage, Able to 1st Flr Bdrm w/Commode Closet! Recent Finish Additional Living Space! 2 Parking Furnace! Recent Roof! \$169,900.00 Baces! \$129.900.00









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DUDLEY - 132 Southbridge Rd! 5 Rm Bungalow! 2.21Acres! Enjoy Nature and Kayak right from your Backyard! Eat-in Kit w/Pantry! Frplcd Liv Rm w/Hrdwds & Bay Window! Din Rm or Fam Rm w/Hrdwds & Ceiling Fan! Full Tile Bath w/ Tub/Shower Combo! Master Bdrm w/Wall to Wall Carpet! Second Bdrm w/ Wall to Wall & Ceiling Fan! Walk-up Attic w/Potential for Additional Living Space! 3 Season Porch w/Natural Woodwork! Recent Roof! Recent Oil Steam Heat! New Septic & being Well Installed! Plenty of Parking! \$179,900.00 WEBSTER LAKE - 62 Bates Point Rd! Middle Pond! Absolute Prime 51' Level Waterfront Lot w/Western Expo! Beautiful Sunsets! Fantastic Panoramic Lake Views! 11 Rms, 6 Bdrms, 4 Bathrooms, 3,269' A/C'd Colonial! Custom SS Applianced Granite Kit! Formal Din Rm w/Cherry Hrdwds! Lake Facing Liv Rm w/Cathedrals, Cherry Hrdwds! Slider to Waterfront Deck! Spacious 1st Flr Master Bdrm w/Full Bath, Cherry Hrdwds & Walk-in Closet! Frplcd Lower Level Fam Rm! 1st & 2nd Flr Laundries! 2 Car Garage! \$1.199.900.00

WEBSTER - 14 Summit Street! Conveniently Located 8 Room, 4 Bedroom Cape Featuring Newly Remodeled Stainless Steel Applianced Granite Eat-in Kitchen w Custom Cabinetry & Luxury Vinyl Plank Flooring! Formal Dining w/Hardwoods! Spacious Living Rm w/Hardwoods! 2 1st Floor Bedrooms w/Hardwoods! Newly Remodeled Full Tile Bath! 2nd Floor w/2 Bedrooms w/Hardwoods Plenty of Closet & Storage Space! Updated Second Full Bath! Recently Oil Heat, Cast Iron Baseboard! Detached Garage! Corner Lot! \$279.900.00





WEBSTER - 28 BLACK POINT RD

2019 CUSTOM BUILT WEBSTER LAKE (WATERFRONT ACCESSIBLE) CONTEM-PORARY CAPE! Sunrise (E) & Sunset (W) Exposure! 2,600+- SF, 11 Rms, 3 BRS, Loft, & 2 Full Baths. Open FIr Plan, Cathedral Ceilings, Stone-faced Fireplace, Upscale Gourmet Kitchen w/Huge Island, Sunny Breakfast Nook w/Built Ins, Formal Dining, Office, Laundry Rm, Mudroom & Coat Closet, 2 Main Level BRs & Full Bath. 2nd FIr Private Master BR Suite w/Private Bath & Walk-in Closet! Central Air! Cavernous 1,500 SF+ Unfinished LL plumbed for a Bath, Oversized 2-3 Car Att'd Garage! Corner Lot, 12,599 SF (.29 Acre), of Land plus BOAT DOCK. \$699,900.



WEBSTER LAKE – 32 JACKSON RD

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EMPLOYEE

continued from page A1

tact with a health nurse that serves both towns.

"Both towns will follow essential protocols of contact tracing and next steps. We continue to stress the need for physical distancing, washing of your hands, and if you do not feel well to reach out to your doctor via telephone and follow their guidance. Please continue to follow the Governor's Stay at Home advisory," the joint press released stated. "Both towns agree and will continue to take the appropriate steps to notify those with any potential exposure though contact tracing and stand ready to provide assistance to those in need. We appreciate the steps taken by the DCRSD Administration to mitigate this situation and will continue to work with them and the Town of Dudley towards keeping our communities safe during this public health threat.'

As of April 3, Dudley and Charlton have each reported nine confirmed cases of COVID-19 respectively, 18 in total. Around 915 cases of the virus have been recorded in Worcester County as of this writing.

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Information as of April 2020 by: Earl J. Wilkinson Executive Director and CEO International News Media Association

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