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Friday, April 24, 2020

# Local company goes above and beyond for people with disabilities



The Venture Community Services staff has been working hard to overcome challenges and provide vital services.

Courtesy

pany serves adults with developmental disabilities, in addition to providing community-based supports for people living independently. Moreover, Venture offers several free community programs to children with autism and their families.

For Venture Community Services President and CEO Mike Hyland, it has always been important to hire staff members who are prepared for an array of challenges. Although no one could have predicted a pandemic, Venture employees have stepped up to the challenge and continued to provide vital care.

“The people our employees support need that help to remain safe, particularly now,” Hyland said. “Without agencies like Venture and our dedicated staff, the people in our homes would require institutionalization or hospital care. That is not only a significantly less desirable lifestyle, but one that puts them at far greater risk during any public health crisis.”

Hyland thanks his team for rallying together and embracing the challenge. The tight-knit staffs at each location have developed strong rapport with those they care for.

“Our employees are the lifeline that keeps the individuals safe while also constantly engaging them and supporting their emotional needs every day,” Hyland added.

Turn To **VENTURE** page **A13**

## Cumberland Farms employee tests positive for COVID-19

SOUTHBIDGE — Cumberland Farms has announced that one of its Team Members at our 357 Main St., Southbridge location has tested positive for Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

“We are taking all appropriate steps following guidance from local health officials,” the company reported in a statement. “We closed the store at 12:30 p.m. (EST) on Saturday, April 18 to be cleaned and sanitized by an industrial cleaning crew. The store will re-open in the next few days. We are grateful to all our customers for your patience and understanding during this time.

“All Team Members that work at the store have been contacted and advised to follow CDC-recommended guidelines. We are making every effort to provide the affected Team Member and our broader team with the necessary resources and support.”

## Tri-Valley’s Front Steps project supports home delivered meals



REGION — Friends and families in Webster, Dudley, Oxford, Charlton and Sturbridge hopped on Tri-Valley’s Front Steps Project to show their support and raise money for home delivered meals. It was the perfect chance to pose on the ‘Front Steps’ while a professional photo was taken in exchange for a donation to Meals on Wheels.

Restrictions stemming from COVID-19 have caused a dramatic

increase in the critical need for meals and with the average cost per meal at \$10, program expenses have sky-rocketed. According to Executive Director Lisa Prince, “We were so pleased when professional photographer Brian Stone reached out to us with his idea of a ‘Front Steps’ project. This helped to replace some of the much-needed fund-raising lost from canceled March for Meals events due to the pandemic.”

Tri-Valley is grateful to the following professional photographers who donated their time to the Front Steps Project: Brian Stone of Charlton, Bruce Bishop of Douglas, Melissa Borgeson of Charlton and Susan Bray of Oxford.

As an ‘essential’ service, Tri-Valley continues to provide services to seniors and younger disabled individuals. We are delivering Meals on Wheels, providing Care Management, In-home Services, Protective Services, and our Information & Resource team is fielding calls during this pandemic. If you need assistance, please give us a call at 508-949-6640; if you would like to make a donation, please mail to Tri-Valley, Inc., 10 Mill Street, Dudley, MA 01571 or donate online at [www.trivalleyinc.org](http://www.trivalleyinc.org).

Tri-Valley, Inc. is a private, non-profit agency providing in-home and community-based services in 25 towns located in south central Massachusetts. The Agency receives funding from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through the Executive Office of Elder Affairs and from the Federal government, under the Older American’s Act, processed through the Central Mass Agency on Aging.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

STURBRIDGE – Even at the height of a pandemic, staff members from one local agency are going the extra mile to care for people with developmental disabilities.

Sturbridge-based Venture Community Services runs 44 homes and three offices throughout central and southeast Massachusetts. The com-



Courtesy

A Texas driver is facing several charges stemming from a wreck last week.

## Driver charged in Brimfield rollover


BRIMFIELD – A Texas man is facing several charges following a truck rollover last week.

The April 13 one-vehicle wreck occurred just after 4:30 p.m. on Five Bridge Road. A tree truck went off the road and overturned into shallow water. Both occupants of the truck were uninjured.

Theunlicenseddriver, Daniel Medina, 42, of Arlington, Texas, isfacingthefollowing charges: operating under the influence; failure to stay right of the center of the road; unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle; and operating to endanger lives and safety.

Due to temporary court closures caused by the coronavirus crisis, Medina will be arraigned at a later date in Palmer District Court.





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## How to wear cloth face coverings



In an effort to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where it can be difficult to maintain social distancing measures. That means people are advised to wear cloth face coverings while shopping for groceries or in any other settings where it might be difficult to stay at least six feet away from other people.

In recognition that the notion of wearing face coverings while in public is foreign to many people, the CDC issued instructions on how to wear such coverings to ensure they provide as much protection as possible.

Additional guidelines The CDC says face coverings should be avoided by certain people. Such coverings should not be placed on children under age two. In addition, people who have trouble breathing, those who are incapacitated and people who cannot remove coverings without assistance should not wear them.

The CDC also notes that cloth face coverings does not refer to surgical masks or N-95 respirators. The CDC urges everyone to reserve such supplies for health care workers and other medical first responders.

Cloth face coverings should be routinely washed. A washing machine should be enough to clean these coverings.

When removing cloth face coverings, do so carefully. The CDC urges people to avoid touching their eyes, nose and/or mouth when removing their face coverings. Once the coverings are removed, people should wash their hands immediately.

Cloth face coverings can help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. While wearing such coverings is a simple gesture, it's also one that can save lives. More information is available at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

## Safeguard against COVID-10 when grocery shopping

Safeguard against (447 Supermarkets and other food merchants are allowed to stay open as "essential" retailers amid the mass shut-downs prompted by the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Along with banks, gas stations and takeout restaurants, supermarkets are among the few places that people are allowed to visit to procure the necessities of everyday life.

Even with social distancing and other precautions in place, grocery stores remain high-traffic locations. As a result, many people feel concerned about how to best protect themselves when turning to in-store visits

or grocery delivery services to stay stocked on food and other essentials.

- Maintain a six-foot distance. As with other locations, shoppers should keep a distance of six feet between themselves and other shoppers. Do not hesitate to move back or ask someone to move away if you feel concerned about proximity. Shopping during "off-peak" hours may help thin out crowds and make it easier to maintain social distance.
- Shop small retailers. It can be beneficial to visit independently owned retailers, like local markets, delis and specialty food stores. Crowds at such stores will likely be smaller than the crowds at large chain stores.

- Wipe down products. Data published in The New England Journal of Medicine that tested how long COVID-19 survived on surfaces found the virus was detected up to 72 hours on plastic, 48 hours on stainless steel, 4 hours on copper, and 24 hours on cardboard. While infection from touch may not be as likely as it is from direct inhalation of COVID-19 from an infected individual, it can be helpful to wipe down surfaces, including non-porous packaging, once items are brought



- Wash produce. Consumer Reports suggests washing fruits and vegetables in a mild soap-and-water solution to eliminate any possible live virus and pesticides.
- Avoid direct contact. Whether items are delivered or purchased

home, as well as counters or tables used to unload packages. Wiping down a shopping cart handle also may be helpful.

in-store, avoid personal contact with cashiers or other store employees. Pick up and pack your own groceries. Opt to pay with a credit card or another digital payment option like Apple Pay instead of handing over cash. Use your own pen to sign receipts. Scan your own frequent shopper card or have the cashier use a scan gun, rather than taking your

key ring to hold. Delivery services can place the bags outside of your front door. Tips also can be exchanged electronically for delivery services through an app or online or over the phone.

Some simple shopping strategies can help people prevent the spread of COVID-19.



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**VILLAGER STAFF DIRECTORY**

**EDITOR**  
BRENDAN BERUBE  
(508) 909-4106  
[news@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:news@stonebridgepress.news)

**SPORTS EDITOR**  
NICK ETHIER  
(508) 909-4133  
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PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER  
FRANK G. CHILINSKI  
(508) 909-4101  
[frank@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:frank@stonebridgepress.news)

BUSINESS MANAGER  
RYAN CORNEAU  
(603) 677-9082  
[ryan@salmonpress.news](mailto:ryan@salmonpress.news)

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR  
JIM DINICOLA  
(508) 764-4325

EDITOR  
BRENDAN BERUBE  
(508) 909-4106  
[news@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:news@stonebridgepress.news)

PRODUCTION MANAGER  
JULIE CLARKE  
(508) 909-4105  
[production@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:production@stonebridgepress.news)

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# Wildcat Boys teams show growth in 2020



Courtesy Photos

The 4th Grade Charlton Boy Wildcats



The 5th Grade Charlton Boy Wildcats



The 6th Grade Charlton Boy Wildcats



The 7th Grade Charlton Boy Wildcats

BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON—Although the season was cut short, the young male athletes of the Charlton Wildcats are celebrating a successful 2020 season which saw two teams challenged with new divisions and several competing in playoff action. Despite difficult competition all four teams persevered providing valuable learning and growth opportunities for the young male athletes of the town.

The youngest team of the group, the 4th grade boys, were coached by Dave Miller who complimented his team for embracing a challenging but fun year. The year saw the team shift from town play to division travel competition with a 0-11 travel season that Coach Miller said contained some “good” and “bad” losses, but every game saw the boys compete to their full potential.

“We entered the Douglas tournament, and I believed this showed us who we were this past season. Of the seven teams in our pool we finished as the top seed but could not get past the semi-final game. We had a very strong showing in this tournament,” Coach Miller said. “Overall, these boys experienced a lot of learning, improvement and most of all fun. We won and lost as a team

every time. Really looking forward to next season to continue building.”

The 5th grade boys were led by Coach Kelly Morin who said the team started off strong on route to a 7-4 season putting them in second place starting the playoffs. Unfortunately, they lost in the first round to Northbridge, matching their success from last season. Coach Morin said that while the team wasn’t able to progress past the first round the entire squad showed tremendous growth throughout the season.

“All the players made improvements during the season. We had two games where every player contributed points for wins. Our best game this season was when we faced Sutton for the second time in our home gym, Bay Path. We won this with defense, teamwork and distributing our point contribution,” Coach Morin said.

The 6th grade boys moved on from an undefeated Division II CMBYL Championship in 2019 to join Division I in 2020. Coach Brett Kustigian said the team entered the near season with four goals in mind: to seek a championship, maintain attitude, show great teamwork and embrace sportsmanship. Sadly, the team was unable to repeat their undefeated season or make the playoffs in their first Division I season, but Coach Kustigian still say the year as a great

opportunity for growth and learning for his athletes.

“Each time the boys took to the court they consistently showed positive attitudes, promoted the team concept and they displayed sportsmanship and respect for all,” Coach Kustigian said. “I could not be prouder of this team and it has been an honor to work with them for the past three years. A special thanks to all the parents, assistant coaches and our wildcat family.”

Finally, the 7th grade boys, coached by Rich Lucht, had a successful year reaching the playoffs for the first time. Finishing third overall in the regular season with an 8-3 record, Coach Lucht said the boys worked hard in practice to improve and up their game with the highlight win being a victory against Northbridge which was 7-0 at the time.

“There are teams in our league who I’d be embarrassed to coach. I never felt that way about our boys, even for a moment. They handled both big wins and bad losses with class,” said Coach Lucht. “I would like to thank all the parents for sticking with us and never, ever complaining about practice, playing time or coaching decisions - It’s hard to believe there is only one more year left, we will try and make it a memorable one.”

## STURBRIDGE VILLAGER

### ACCURACY WATCH

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

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# Trinity Catholic Academy adapts to distance learning



SOUTHBRIDGE — Trinity Catholic Academy adapted quickly to the unprecedented changes that needed to be made for daily classes. Having initiated the concept of “distance learning” in their school emergency plan just months ago, they got to use it sooner than they expected.

The teachers are really going above and beyond in this unique situation and along with their Principal Josie Citta leading the way. TCA Faculty collaborate weekly so that students can follow their usual lessons plans from their teachers at home attached are some of the students learning from home. The daily school schedule takes family life into consideration for completion of school work

around families working from home and alike. The Facebook page reveals these ideas being carried out <https://www.facebook.com/TCABobcats/>.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of Catholic Education in Southbridge, events planned for this celebration will hopefully begin in the Fall of 2020 through 2021 to properly give attention to all the people and celebrating that will want be part of this great accomplishment.

Trinity Catholic Academy is fully accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) with membership in NCEA and NECACE. They have an association with LemelsonMIT T for STEM activities and invention education. This is truly a hid-

den gem in Southbridge, They do so much with and for their students.

Enrollment for the 2020-21 school year has begun. Questions? Contact Principal - Josie Citta: [josie.citta@tca11.com](mailto:josie.citta@tca11.com)

Trinity Catholic Academy is a private Catholic accredited primary school serving Pre-K to eighth grade in Southbridge and surrounding towns. Trinity Catholic Academy represents more than 150 years of Catholic Education in Southbridge supported over the years solely through tuition and kind Corporate and individual donations small and large.

# Harrington offers telehealth appointments

SOUTHBRIDGE — Harrington HealthCare System is now offering telehealth appointments for select services during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Telehealth appointments allow patients to meet with a doctor from home via videoconference or telephone, helping them to maintain social distancing and minimize the risk of infection with COVID-19.

Both existing and new patients can request a Telehealth appointment for

the following Harrington HealthCare services: Pediatric and Family Medicine; Internal Medicine; Behavioral Health; Cancer Care Genetic Counseling; and all Harrington Physician Specialty services including, Cardiology, Endocrinology, Pain Rehabilitation & Medicine, and so much more.

Those interested in making a Telehealth appointment for any of the above services should simply call the office to make an appointment as

they normally would. Contact information for participating services, as well as additional information about how the Telehealth service works, can be found on the Harrington HealthCare website at [harringtonhospital.org/telehealth](http://harringtonhospital.org/telehealth).

This new service was made possible in part by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, according to Harrington HealthCare President and CEO Ed Moore.

“Three weeks ago, we did not have the capabilities to interact with our patients via teleconferencing. Thanks to support and funding provided by the

state, we’ve been able to launch this valuable new service in just a matter of weeks” Moore said. “The COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to adapt at lightning speed. I’m thankful to DPH and to our team here at Harrington for their contributions in quickly implementing advanced technology and solutions to ensure continuity of care for our patients.”

Harrington HealthCare System is a comprehensive regional healthcare system serving more than 25 communities across south central Massachusetts and northeastern Connecticut. The system includes Harrington Hospital in

Southbridge, Harrington HealthCare at Webster and three additional major medical office buildings: Harrington HealthCare at Charlton, Harrington HealthCare at 169, also in Charlton, and Harrington HealthCare at Spencer; Harrington Physician Services, our primary care and multi-specialty physician group; UrgentCare Express at Harrington in Charlton and Oxford; The Cancer Center at Harrington in Southbridge, and the region’s largest Behavioral Health programs for mental health and substance use.

### CLUES ACROSS

1. Revolutions per minute

4. Hymns

10. Brew

11. Did not acknowledge

12. Atomic #77

14. Partly digested food

15. Not one

16. Lesotho capital

18. Copyreading

22. Living organism that feeds on organic matter

23. One's biological father

24. An aggregate of molecules

26. Equally

27. Khoikhoi people

28. Jump in figure skating

30. Lantern

31. TV network

34. Georges \_\_, French philosopher

36. Sharp, shrill bark

37. Albanian monetary units

39. Launched Apollo

40. One who graduated

41. Exist

42. Passed by

48. Very unpleasant smell

50. Graduates

51. Seedless raisin

52. Self-protection

53. Clue

54. Life-savers

55. Ingest too much

56. Misrepresented

58. Small Eurasian deer

59. Most mocking

60. Soviet Socialist Republic

### CLUES DOWN

1. Flower cluster

2. A form

3. Inner organ regions

4. Local law enforcement

5. A citizen of Senegal

6. Positively charged electrodes

7. Connects granules

8. Business practice

9. The Mount Rushmore State

12. Leader

13. Hindu queen

17. Proofreading mark

19. European country

20. Greek mythological nymph

21. Grandfather

25. Clears

29. Amount of time

31. Mollusks

32. German municipality

33. Body part

35. City of Angels hoopsters

38. Suffocate

41. Pleasing to the eye

43. Poplar trees (Spanish)

44. Ship officer

45. Individual investment account (abbr.)

46. Prefix meaning within

47. Ceased to live

49. Day by day

56. Not color

57. Condition of withdrawal (abbr.)

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Hi! My name is Daniel and I love to be active!

Daniel is a sweet and friendly ten-year-old boy of Caucasian descent. Daniel can be shy at first, however, he opens up as he gets more comfortable. Daniel enjoys being active and thrives in sports. One of his favorite sports to play is basketball. Daniel enjoys wrestling and karate. Daniel is also in a drawing club! During quiet time, Daniel enjoys building things using Legos. He likes dogs but loves cats. Daniel is in the third grade. He is an inquisitive child who loves school and learning. He does well with the additional support he receives.

Daniel is legally freed for adoption. Daniel will benefit from a home that has at least one male father figure. He reports that he would like a 2 parent household, ideally with some children older than he is. He responds well when he has a male to connect with. Daniel will thrive in a home that can keep him active and maintaining a full schedule of extra-curricular activities.

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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.mareinc.org](http://www.mareinc.org). The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have “a permanent place to call HOME.”

To sponsor Friday's Child call Mikaela at 508-909-4126 or email [Mikaela@stonebridgeoress.news](mailto:Mikaela@stonebridgeoress.news)



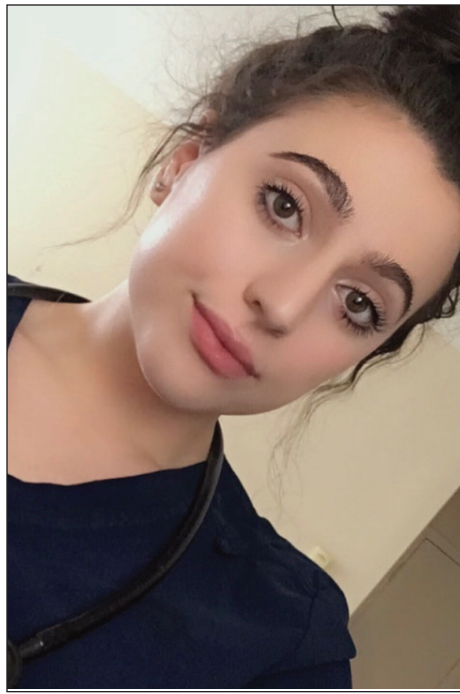
# Bay Path Practical Nursing students nominated for Kindness Awards

CHARLTON — Sure, the COVID-19 virus put a lot of activities on hold but for some Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy students the pandemic does not mean stopping acts of kindness. With the practical nursing curriculum transferred to remote learning, kindness for the three practical nursing students goes a long way!

Rachel Hitchcock of Shrewsbury, Laurent Pellett of Norwich, Connecticut, and Fjolla Shehu of Worcester were recently named nominees for two Kindness Awards namely, the FEED project Kindness Giveaway ([www.feed-projects.com](http://www.feed-projects.com)) and the Yasso Game on Hero ([www.yasso.com](http://www.yasso.com)). The premise for both projects is to honor the thousands of people across the country who are putting the wellbeing of others in front of their own. Hitchcock donated masks; assisted a COVID-19 positive individual with care packages (food, blankets, & bath soaps), and pick-up/delivery of prescription medications from the local pharmacy.

Pellett cares for an 83-year-old client, assists with her grandmother, and together with her mother made fabric masks for a local hospital.

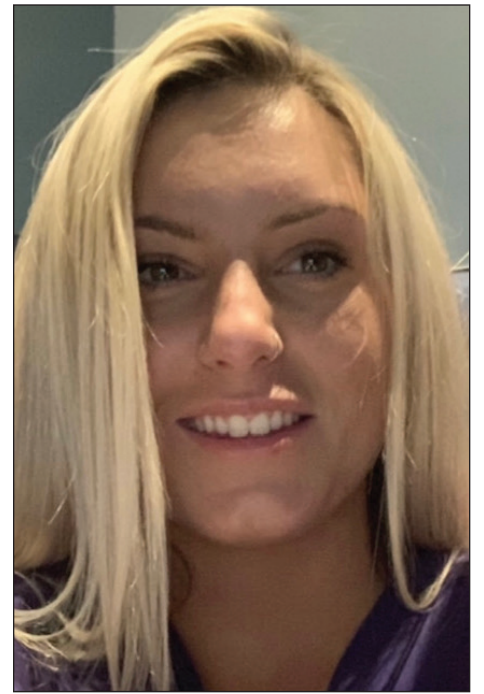
Shehu purchased four liters of hand sanitizer and distributed to those in need. She also volunteered to pick up and deliver groceries for her elderly



Rachel Hitchcock



Laurent Pellett



Fjolla Shehu

neighbors on weekends. All acts of kindness are performed while still maintaining employment (full-time or part-time), attending clinicals (face-to-face or digital) and completing all the

requirements for progression into the final term of practical nursing studies to be ready for NCLEX-PN. In cultivating kindness, the practical nursing student nominees are recognized as

do-gooders, nice neighbors, and kind citizens who are well on their way to a successful nursing career.

## Harrington Physician Services welcomes Joseph Condon

SOUTHBIDGE — Dr. Joseph Condon has joined Harrington Physician Services in Southbridge, providing physical medicine and rehabilitation services.

Board Certified in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R), Dr. Condon will join Dr. Sean Stevenson in Harrington Physician Services Medical Arts Suite 108 in Southbridge. Dr. Condon will provide interventional pain procedures, including spine and joint injections in addition to performing electrodiagnostic studies including Nerve Conduction Studies (NCS) and Electromyography (EMG).

PM&R is a specialty that treats a wide variety of medical conditions affecting the brain, nerves, bones, joints and muscles. The specialty recognizes comprehensive management of chronic musculoskeletal and neurologic conditions, emphasizing improvements in functional status and quality of life.

Patients interested in scheduling an appointment can call (508) 765-2125.

PM&R takes a multidisciplinary approach to a patient's treatment plan. Physiatrists write specific programs that help maintain and increase range of motion, strengthen muscles, improve proprioception (awareness of joint position in space) and muscle relaxation, among other objectives.

Dr. Condon completed his residency at the New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center. He received his medical degree from New York Medical College in Valhalla. Dr. Condon is a well-rounded academic scholar featured in many publications and investigative studies.

Harrington's PM&R office is located in Suite 108 of its Medical Arts building at 100 South St., Southbridge, which also houses Harrington Physician Services' general surgery practice.

Harrington HealthCare System is a comprehensive regional health-care system serving more than 25 communities across south central Massachusetts and northeastern Connecticut. The system includes Harrington Hospital in Southbridge, Harrington

HealthCare at Webster and three additional major medical office buildings: Harrington HealthCare at Charlton, Harrington HealthCare at 169, also in Charlton, and Harrington HealthCare at Spencer; Harrington Physician Services, our primary care and multi-specialty physician group; UrgentCare Express at Harrington in Charlton and Oxford; The Cancer Center at Harrington in Southbridge, and the region's largest Behavioral Health programs for mental health and substance use.

## Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts provides \$371,000 in response to COVID-19 Crisis

WORCESTER — In response to the coronavirus public health crisis, The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts has expedited \$371,000 in supplemental funding to 27 non-profits serving Central Massachusetts.

The following non-profits were awarded funding: Abby's House, Ascendia Care Alliance, Community Legal Aid, Easter Seals of Massachusetts, Fitchburg State University, Friendly House, GAAMHA, Inc., Health Care For All, Health Law Advocates, Jeremiah's Inn, LUK, Inc., Massachusetts

Association for Community Action, Massachusetts Budget & Policy Center, Massachusetts Housing & Shelter Alliance, Massachusetts Public Health Association, Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, Neighbor to Neighbor Massachusetts, Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation, Quinsigamond Community College Foundation, RCAP Solutions, Riverside Community Care, Seven Hills Foundation, South Middlesex Opportunity

Council, Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce, Worcester Regional Food Hub, World Farmers, and YWCA of Central Massachusetts.

"The Board of the Foundation devised a three-pronged strategy for helping area non-profits in response to coronavirus. The top priority to bolster current grantees' projects and to address special circumstances has been accomplished with this distribution of supplemental funding," stated Jan Yost, President of the Foundation.

The Foundation's Activation Fund remains

open, with Letters of Intent due April 30, 2020. Further allocations to address gaps and the long-term impact of coronavirus will be informed by government and private funding and determined in the months ahead, she explained.

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 approximately \$67 million and has awarded grants totaling over \$44 million.

## 2020 Sturbridge Legion baseball signups

STURBRIDGE — Baseball players interested in looking Sturbridge Legion baseball, as it plays like for the time being American Legion Baseball National is moving forward with the 2020 season.

If you are born on Jan. 1, 2001 or later, you are eligible to play. Anyone interested in playing can register with team manager Jim Rosseel by calling 774-230-1784 or emailing: [jimrosseel@hotmail.com](mailto:jimrosseel@hotmail.com) to insure your eligibility for the Sturbridge team. All players that live in Sturbridge and/or attend Tantasqua High School are eligible for the Sturbridge team, also players from other surrounding towns may also be eligible to play for Sturbridge. Team will conduct tryouts in mid May or later, dates and times TBD. For more information, contact Jim Rosseel.

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# Online auctions remain strong during the pandemic

Although auction houses are not able to run live auctions due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the demand to buy and sell at auctions remains high. Many auction houses have turned to online only auctions to meet this demand. Some items have brought strong prices recently and others will soon be sold that are also expected to sell very well.

A hockey stick dating between 1850 and 1870 is currently being auctioned online, according to Bleacher Report. The "Morse stick" was found by Anthony Bean when he purchased his grandmother's Northfield, Vt. house in 1980. The stick was later gifted to Gary and Germaine Morse. The first recorded hockey game took place in 1875. "Hawkey" is reported to have been played in New England as early as 1845. Another hockey stick from the 1850's known as the "Rutherford stick" sold for \$2.2 million in 2018. The Morse Stick has a starting bid of \$100,000 and may set a record. It has a \$3.5 million auction estimate.

Many people have been watching shows on live streaming platforms during the pandemic. One of the most popular is "Tiger King" on Netflix. TMZ reported that a pink sequined



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shirt worn by the main Tiger King character, Joe Exotic, was recently auctioned online with a \$650 starting bid. The owner told TMZ that the Greater Wynnewood (G.W. Zoo) Exotic Animal Park had previously sold clothes worn by staff members. He purchased the shirt from the zoo for \$100. The owner had also seen some of Joe Exotic's hats being offered online for \$800. The auction for the shirt ended on April 17. It received 43 bids and sold for \$10,400.

ABC News reports that a "very special" Porsche 911 Speedster that was recently delivered to a California dealership will soon be auctioned. "Typically, we would not auction a car that has historic relevance to us - it would go [to] a special customer or in our museum," according to Klaus Zellmer, president and CEO of Porsche Cars North America. The Speedster is the "last 991 generation 911 that rolled off the Stuttgart-Zuffenhausen production line in December." The two-seater convertible is one of only 1,948 produced. Porsche will donate all proceeds to the United Way Worldwide's COVID-19 Community Response and Recovery Fund. The car has an estimated value of \$312,000.



Movie stars, sports figures, and other celebrities are also helping raise funds for those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic. Opportunities to meet celebrities, buy memorabilia, and for other fan experiences can be found at allinchallenge.com. You can also buy raffle tickets for some of the events for only \$10. As of Sunday, April 19, \$11,646,495 had already been raised.

We have been contacted by several individuals who want to auction their collections online to help them with their financial needs during the pandemic. We can auction larger collections of coins, gold jewelry, diamonds, Sterling silver, 1960's baseball cards, comic books or other valuable items

that are easy to ship. If you have items you'd like to auction, please reach out to us for no-contact options for receiving your items. When the current restrictions are lifted, we will be rescheduling many events. Keep checking www.centralmassauctions.com for details as things progress. In the meantime, I hope everyone is staying healthy and safe.

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

# Take the hassle out of watering container gardens



GARDEN  
MOMENTS  
.....  
MELINDA  
MYERS

Growing flowers and vegetables in containers will allow you to expand planting space, grow plants right outside your door and elevate them for easier access and maintenance. Unlike growing in the ground, the smaller volume of soil in containers is exposed to heat and wind, so requires frequent, often daily, watering.

Don't let this watering schedule discourage you from growing in pots. Enlist one or more of these strategies to eliminate the daily burden of watering while still maintaining beautiful and productive gardens.

Grow plants in large

plastic, glazed or other less breathable material to extend the time between watering. The larger the pot and less breathable the container material, the longer the soil stays moist. Small pots made of breathable materials, like unglazed terra cotta, dry out more quickly.

No matter the size and type container used, monitor and adjust your watering schedule based on weather, number of plants in the pot and size of the plants. The more plants used and the larger the plants grow the more water needed; so, frequency will increase over time.

Use self-watering pots to extend the time between watering. Fill the reservoir in these containers as needed. The water moves from the reservoir to the soil where it is needed. This extends the time between



Photo Melinda Myers

Grow plants in large plastic, glazed or other less breathable material to extend the time between watering.

watering. As your new plantings grow, you will need to fill the reservoir more frequently.

Use a quality potting mix that holds moisture and is well draining to avoid waterlogged soils that can lead to root rot. Most potting mixes contain peat moss, compost or bark to hold moisture.

Vermiculite, perlite or rice hulls are used to provide drainage.

Add a long-lasting sustainable, water saving product, like wool pellets (wildvalleyfarms.com), to your potting mix. This organic product is made from belly wool and tags that cannot be used for clothing. The

pellets promote healthier growth, increase soil aeration and reduce watering frequency by as much as 25 percent.

Mulch the soil surface in newly planted container gardens. This common garden practice is often overlooked when growing in containers. Cover the soil surface with shredded leaves, evergreen needles or other organic material. This helps conserve moisture until plants grow and shade the soil.

Automate watering with one of the many commercial or DIY container irrigation systems. These are designed to provide water to each individual pot with the turn of the faucet. Attach the irrigation system to the faucet, attach a timer and watering becomes a breeze. Regularly check the system to make sure the lines that deliver water to the pot are

intact and the watering frequency is adjusted throughout the growing season as needed.

Enlist one or more of these strategies to make container gardening a manageable growing system. Once you eliminate the inconvenience of daily watering you may just find yourself planting more container gardens each season.

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



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BRENDAN BERUBE  
EDITOR

## The lost class of 2020

When schools across the country moved to remote learning, we weren't sure how long it would last, but many of us suspected that eventually it would last for the remainder of the year.

Many students use school as a respite and several thrive on having a consistent schedule. Younger students are facing many losses, but our hearts truly break for the seniors, particularly athletes who are missing out on their final sports season.

In our own experience, it was track season that would have had the most impact. As a senior, records needed to be broken, goals needed to be reached and rivals needed to be beat. To have that season abruptly "taken" would have been devastating. Thinking back, time spent on a Saturday at a sunny track meet with talented athletes, encouraging coaches and parents with coolers loaded with food are some of, if not the best, memories from high school.

Then there are softball and baseball players. Baseball, in all its various incarnations, is called the 'American pastime' for a very good reason. The adrenaline rush that comes after managing to hit an expertly thrown pitch and sprinting to first base is unforgettable. Making a catch in the outfield, or making the play for that all important out that could decide the game, is gold. Fortunately, many athletes are going on to play ball or run track in college. For those that are not, know that we sympathize with you, and hope that you can continue doing what you love in some sort of league that will hopefully be available to you. No, it won't be the same, but this is when they say you need to "adjust your sails" and remember that what is happening is in order to keep you and your families safe.

Again, we know that all of our students, parents, faculty, healthcare workers, business owners and all community members are going through a loss, all to varying degrees but all just as important. For students, whether it's the last school theatre production or JROTC competition, we feel for you. Have faith that your administration will make up for all of this, as best they can, given the circumstances.

Certainly, our students understand the gravity of the situation. Lives are being lost, families are losing loved ones and people are heart broken. We are in the midst of a global pandemic, but that doesn't mean that the devastation those students are feeling shouldn't matter. We acknowledge your pain. Reading a recent Facebook post by a friend's daughter brought the situation home to us. In an emotional letter to her fellow members of the Class of 2020, she wrote that if she had one wish, it would be to go back to the last day of classes before the governor's office made the decision to close schools, with the knowledge this time that those eight precious hours would be the end of her senior year, and give all of her classmates — many of whom she might never have an opportunity to see together in one place again — one last hug or high-five before saying good bye.

Her words speak for all students across our region, and across the country, who have been denied the opportunity to experience one of the most memorable times in a young person's life, and we invite our readers to join us in recognizing the pain, comforting the sorrow, and above all, saluting the achievements and incredible fortitude of the Class of 2020.

## LETTERS

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

We think you're important enough to tell all our readers to turn to the Opinion pages and read your Letters to the Editor.

But first, you have to write us!

Mail your letters to the Charlton Villager, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550.

Or e-mail your letters to the editor at [news@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:news@stonebridgepress.news)

You'll need to provide your name and place of residence, along with a phone number, so we can verify the letter is yours.

We don't have a set limit, but if you keep it around 600 words or so, you're going to have a better chance at seeing all your words in print.

If you want to write a bit longer about a particular issue, maybe a guest Your Turn column is your cup of tea. If you do that, try to keep it between 700-800 words.

Remember, libelous remarks and/or personal attacks are a no-no and could lead to your letter not being published.

So, what are you waiting for? Start writing!

# OPINION

VIEWS AND COMMENTARY FROM STURBRIDGE, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND AND WALES

## TO THE EDITOR

### Thank you for keeping us informed

To the Editor:

I believe that we can all join in thanking our first responders, health providers, hospital staff members, government workers and those who continue basic services in stores among others for all they do to help us through these difficult times. They all deserve our appreciation and admiration.

Today, I would like to take a moment to thank those who prepare and publish the local newspapers such as our own Sturbridge Villager. In more normal times, the local papers are considered part of the everyday flow of life, providing information and the all-important local advertising so vital to our econo-

my. However, during times of a local, national or global emergency as is this pandemic, your publication is of vital importance. By reading your content and following your advertising, you provide vital information to our community that cannot be readily found anywhere else. All this, I am sure, with limited revenue and other resources.

You are providing a tremendous public service, and deserve some recognition for your efforts.

Respectfully,

DAVID GOODMAN  
STURBRIDGE

## A message to our community

To the Editor:

We would like to provide you an update regarding your loved ones as we continue to strive and provide world class care in these unprecedented times.

We are grateful and pleased to inform you that all the measures we have put in place to mitigate this outbreak alongside with the hard work of all our staff members has kept us safe from the virus. Here is a quick update.

Resident Tested for COVID-19	15
Staff Tested for COVID-19	8
Positive Test for COVID-19	0

We understand the difficulty you and your loved ones are experiencing due to the Federal, State and Local directive on visitation to long term care centers. We will continue to provide opportunity for communication through social media platform and we encourage you to join this virtual visitation effort currently in use on Facebook, Zoom and other platforms.

We are not relenting in our sanitizing efforts thanks to the wonderful staff we have in the housekeeping department, who are working very hard to keep the facility clean and sanitized.

We are blessed by the support of our community, especially the Southbridge Fire Department for Fit Testing our

entire staff for the N-95 Mask.

Also, our friends and family members that have donated home crafted face masks, we thank you. With this kind community support, we are confident that this outbreak shall pass.

Our activity department continues to find innovative ways to engage with your loved ones in our care.

It goes without mention that the entire dietary staff is doing an amazing job in keeping our residents happy with amazing meals, despite the challenges imposed by this outbreak.

We have prepared a unit comprising of 18 beds which will be dedicated to care for any resident that present symptoms of respiratory nature and high temperature. Should there be any resident with a confirmed case we are ready to respond appropriately, if the need arises.

Our Nurses and C.N.A.'S have been phenomenal answering the call to do extra shifts during this time.

We will continue to use this medium to update you.

Thank you for your cooperation

AUGUSTINE AIGUOSATILE  
ADMINISTRATOR, HARRINGTON  
HEALTHCARE  
SOUTHBRIDGE

## In Appreciation of Trees!

Spring has officially sprung and trees, both big and small, are coming alive with long anticipated buds of color. But the promise of lush, green foliage is just one benefit of planting trees. Hot on the cusp of Earth Day and Arbor Day, this column will celebrate the many virtues of trees - from showy shrubs to towering timbers!

\*\*\*

Hedge against fuel costs: The Center for Urban Forest Research proclaimed planting a tree can have a significant impact on lowering energy use. It claims: «If you plant a tree today on the west side of your home, in five years your energy bills should be 3% less. In 15 years the savings will be nearly 12%.”

\*\*\*

Plant and pocket savings: Want trees to trim more of your fuel fees? According to expert landscapers, just three trees, properly placed around a house, can save between \$100 and \$250 annually in cooling and heating costs! That's because shading that blocks summertime sun on the east, south and west sides of a house, but not cool breezes, is an effective way to keep your house cooler. For quickest results, opt for fast growing varieties.

\*\*\*

Proper placement: If you use an air conditioner, plant trees or shrubs specifically to shade air conditioning units, but be sure not to block the airflow. It's common sense that an air conditioning unit operating in the shade uses less electricity than one in the sun.

\*\*\*

Chill out: Need more convincing? Consider this fact: Daytime air temperatures can be three to nine degrees cooler in tree-shaded neighborhoods. In fact, the U.S. Dept of Agriculture estimates the net cooling effect of a young, healthy tree is equivalent to ten room-size air conditioners operating 20 hours a day!

\*\*\*

Tree Timing: Did you know trees can be used to time crop planting? 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 squirrel's ear (about an inch or so long).

TAKE  
THE  
HINT

KAREN  
TRAINOR



\*\*\*  
Hike house value: "In one eye opening study from the Arbor National Mortgage & American Forests, 83% of realtors believe that mature trees have a "strong or moderate impact" on the salability of homes listed for under \$150,000; on homes over \$250,000, this perception increases to 98%!"

\*\*\*  
Recovery Rates: According to Money Magazine, landscaping can bring a recovery value of 100% to 200% at selling time. As a comparison a kitchen remodeling brings a 75% - 125% recovery rate, bathroom remodeling a 20% - 120% recovery rate, and addition of a swimming pool a 20% - 50% recovery rate.

\*\*\*

Tree Rx: Did you know just looking at trees can reap health benefits? According to medical studies, recovery rates among hospitalized patients are often quicker when their rooms view a landscaped area compared to patients with non-landscaped views.

\*\*\*

Breathe easier: Trees absorb harmful pollutants and small particles from the air which could irritate sensitive lungs. Plus, trees give off oxygen. A mature leafy tree can produce as much oxygen in one season as ten people inhale in a year!

\*\*\*

Tree planting tip: It can be difficult to successfully take cuttings from trees or shrubs to root and plant. Here is an option that ups your chances the cutting will take: Take a small potato, make a small hole, and place your shrub cutting inside. Immediately plant, potato and all, either in the ground or in a pot.

\*\*\*

Planting pointers: Waiting until the fall to plant encourages good root development. Nurseries often slash prices on perennials and shrubs at the end of the summer, so planting then will reward you with healthy plants on the cheap!

\*\*\*

Forest Facts:

\*One mighty oak tree may have up to 400 species of plants and animals living on it.

Turn To **TRAINOR** page **A9**

## Earth Day - Time to "Go Green" with your investments?

Over the past several weeks, many of us have been working from home in response to the "social distancing" necessitated by the coronavirus. Nonetheless, we still have opportunities to get outside and enjoy Mother Nature. And now, with the 50th anniversary of Earth Day being celebrated on April 22, it's important to appreciate the need to protect our environment. Of



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course, you can do so in many ways - including the way you invest. Some investors are supporting the environment through "sustainable" investing, which is often called ESG (environmental, social and corporate governance) investing. In general, it refers to investments in businesses whose products and services are considered favorable to the physical environment (such as companies that produce renewable energy or that act to reduce their own carbon footprints) or the social environment (such as firms that follow ethical business practices or pursue important societal goals, such as inclusion and pay equity). ESG investing may also screen out investments in companies that produce products some people find objectionable.

ESG investing has become popular in recent years, and not just with individuals; major institutional investors now pursue sustainability because they think it's profitable - and plenty of facts bear that out. A growing body of academic research has found a positive relationship between corporate financial performance - that is, a company's profitability - and ESG criteria. So, although you might initially be attracted to sustainable investments because they align with your personal values, or because you want to hold companies to higher standards of corporate citizenship, it turns out that you can do well by doing good. Keep in mind, though, that sustainability, like any other criteria, can't guarantee success or prevent losses. In any case, be aware that sustainable investing approaches can vary significantly, so you need to determine how a particular sustainable investment, or class of investments, can align with your values and fit into your overall portfolio. Specifically, how will a sustainable investment meet your needs for diversification? For example, if you desire total control over how your money is invested, you might want to invest in a basket of individual stocks from the companies you wish to support. But if you want to achieve greater diversification, plus receive the benefits of professional management, you might want to invest in sustainable mutual funds. Be aware, though, that even though they may not market themselves as "sustainable," many more mutual funds do incorporate sustainability criteria into their investment processes. You also might consider exchange-traded funds (ETFs), which own a variety of investments, similar to regular mutual funds, but trade like stocks. ETFs often track particular indexes, so an ETF with a sustainable focus might track an index including companies that have been screened for social responsibility. Make sure you understand the fundamentals of any sustainable investment you're considering, as well as whether it can help you work toward your long-term goals. But by "going green" with some of your investments, you can help keep the spirit of Earth Day alive every day of the year.

\*\*\*

*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@edward-jones.com](mailto:jeff.burdick@edward-jones.com).*







THE GREAT  
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RALPH  
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What crazy weather! Last week's snowstorm was no big surprise for New Englanders. Thankfully, it did not stick around long, and melted quickly the next day. It did give turkey hunters the opportunity to check out their favorite turkey hunting spot by following tracks in the snow, before it melted. Wild turkey hunting opens in Massachusetts this coming Monday, April 27, in zones 1-13. This year, turkey hunters can harvest two bearded turkeys in the spring and one of either sex in the fall. A hunter can harvest two birds on the same day this year during the spring hunt.

Hunting wild turkey can provide some great days in the field during the Corona virus outbreak. No problem doing social distancing while engaging in this sport. Although local hunters were not reporting on a lot of turkey's being spotted in local woodlots prior to the season, there are a lot of birds, as tracks in the snow last Saturday revealed.

The Wild Turkey youth hunt is scheduled for this Saturday, April 25, and can provide some great time with your son or daughter.

As mentioned in a previous column, hunting from a ground blind allows a hunter to conceal himself from the sharp eye of the wild turkey, and makes hunting a lot easier as you wait for the turkey to approach your set of decoys. Calling in a



wild turkey for a good shot is extremely exciting. If you do not get that rush of excitement as the bird slowly advances into your set up strutting and gobbling, you probably should find another sport.

Turkey hunters often do very well hunting in pairs. One hunter is set up a short distance from the setup of decoys, and another hunter is back at least fifty to one hundred feet, doing most of the calling. Turkeys can often calculate the distance of were the call of the hen turkey is coming from, and often stop short of the decoys. Hung - up are the word's that turkey hunters often use to describe the situation. Too much calling can often keep a bird from coming into shooting distance. If the bird's spot your set of decoys, they will often

go around and come into view from another direction. They often come in silent, surprising the hunter.

Turkey decoys are a bit expensive, but will last for many years to come. Each year that I harvest a tom turkey, I save the beard and wings of the bird. The wings are given to some local fly tiers, and the tail is spread out to dry on a piece of cardboard. Apply small amount of Twenty Mule Team Borax to the fleshy part of the tail, and store in a cool part of your garage or shed. The tail is attached to a stake and used during the next years hunt, which I use in back of an old turkey decoy. It sure works for me. This week's picture shows my brother Ken with a wild turkey he harvested a few years ago.



Tautog fishing is picking up fast in both Massachusetts and Rhode Island waters. Green crabs are the number one bait using a number three circle hook for these hard fighting fish. They make excellent table fare when poached in a pot of boiling water and two tablespoons of white vinegar. It is unlikely that you will find this delicious eating fish in local markets, but you can find it at fish markets along the coast. This week's picture shows the late Steve Mercure with a monster tautog taken a few years ago while fishing with this writer on the Westport River. Steve is missed by his family and friends. He was my fishing partner for many years, and we had a lot of great times fishing together.

Massachusetts has had the recreational bluefish limit cut to three fish daily from the regular 10 fish per angler daily limit. There has been a dramatic decrease in bluefish popula-

tions over the last 10 years. I have not received any notification on reduced bluefish limits from Rhode Island Marine Fisheries but would suspect that they too will have their limits cut.

A bright spot from this pandemic is the adoption of many dogs and cats from animal shelters. Some shelters have had every dog and cat adopted. Hopefully, they are all in good homes, and that they will keep their newly adopted family member long after the country gets back to some form of normality.

Trout fishing should improve when the waters start to warm. Hopefully, it will be soon. Water temperatures are still cold.

Until next week, stay safe and healthy. God Bless!

*Take a Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!*

# Quarantine is what we make of it

For years to come, pundits and historians will write about the wisdom, impact and results of this quarantine. Was it necessary? Was the result worth the devastation to the economy? Did it save lives? Of course, for the next few years, the discussion will be strictly partisan. If you support the President or your governor, you'll praise him/her. If you are not a fan, none of the decisions were correct. However, as time passes, a clarity of events will set in, and the true impact of quarantine will be measured.

A television journalist I deeply respect (and there's not many left) said last week, "When the decision is made to end quarantine and how the economy is restarted, will determine if the President is re-elected or not." He didn't say so, but I think the same decisions will apply to our governors.

If they end quarantine too soon, the virus could explode again. As we lead up to the election, the death rate will climb. If quarantine remains too long, irreparable damage can be done to the world economy. We are truly in uncharted territory and the decisions made by our government leaders will

impact our nation and world for decades to come.

For those of us who believe in the power of prayer, we should all be praying for wisdom to be granted to our governmental leaders as well as their advisors and influencers. For those who are not, positive thoughts and statements are always helpful.

What is totally useless, and damaging is negative partisanship. I've heard more than one political pundit wishing a recession or worse, only to damage the Presidents chances for re-election. Think about the negative impact of a recession or depression. Really? There are people who hate the President enough to wish damage to the world economy, unemployment, loss of homes and even suicide? Regardless of your political leanings, there is something deeply wrong in that type of hatred that some would wish this kind of damage and destruction.

I'm still old school. I pray for and support the President and governmental leaders whether I voted for them or not. To pray for the success of our President, whether he's your choice or not, is to pray for the success of the nation.

To pray that he fails, is to pray for our failure.

How about praying for the health, happiness and prosperity of all regardless of political leanings?

As for quarantine ... how's it going? I'm an extrovert, so I am deeply missing my friends and basic social connections. I can whine about it, but what will that accomplish? Giving into it and complaining solves nothing and can potentially move me from missing other people into depression. Don't give in!

Count your quarantine blessings!

I work full-time as a writer. I love what I do and feel blessed to have a career that I truly love and adore. Quarantine, in many ways has been perfect for me. A major publisher is looking at my new book, "Fragrance of Lilacs," and claims to love it, but asked for a rewrite of an antagonist's storyline. If not for quarantine, it may have taken months to accomplish, and in the process, given the publisher time to move on. Instead, quarantine has given me the time to complete the rewrite in ten days.

Quarantine has caused my family to be more deliberate in contact and communication.

We are talking and Facetimeing daily. I am loving the connection and I'm determined to continue the deliberateness of talking and expressing our love daily, face to face.

Quarantine has helped me be of service. I truly cannot keep up with the positive email I'm receiving from readers wishing to talk about a column and express their opinion. I think positive content in this, and all newspapers, has never been more important than now. To remain optimistic during a pandemic will help us all weather the storm, survive and once again thrive as it passes. And believe me, this too shall pass.

My prayer for us all is that we remain positive and optimistic during the worst of times. In doing so we'll usher back into our world, and our lives, the best of times.

I hope and pray that we all use this time to accomplish the things we previously wished we'd have had the time to accomplish and enjoy.

Do not squander this precious opportunity with partisan bickering and complaining. Never in my lifetime of over six decades, has it been more important to reach across the



POSITIVELY  
SPEAKING

GARY W.  
MOORE

political aisle and work in unison to save lives and recover quickly from the impact of this terrible disease. Partisanship in this time of turmoil only guarantees prolonged misery and suffering.

Optimism is a powerful choice in times when being optimistic is most difficult.

Purposefully looking for positive ways to be encouraging during times of mass discouragement is not just helpful but is an honorable calling.

Choose optimism. Act positively in thought, word and deed. Make the best of a bad situation and we may look back at this time in history and say we virtually held hands and together, we positively weathered the storm. And when the dark clouds break and the sun once again rushes in, our attitude in the worst of times will make us better people. ■

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 @GaryWMoore721 and at www.garywmoore.com.

## TRAINOR

continued from page A8

\* Trees provide us with thousands of products that go way beyond wood and paper: Items derived from trees include: toothpaste, chewing gum, suntan lotion, paint, film, crayons, perfumes, soap, paper, shatterproof glass, cork, dyes, drugs, syrup, and more.

\*It takes approximately 17 to 24 trees to make one ton of paper.

\*\*\*

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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.*

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**OXFORD** – 377 Main St! 9 Rm Center Hall Colonial! .59 Acre Corner Lot! Charm of Yesteryear! Eat-In Frplcd Granite Kit w/Updated Cabinets, Frplcd Din Rm w/Built-in China Cabinet & Butler Closet! Gracious Foyer! Spacious Frplcd Liv Rm! Breezeway to a Home Office or an Unfinished Cathedral Ceiling Fam Rm or Craft Rm! Sit on the Front Porch and Enjoy Morning Coffee or Evening Tea! Huge 2-Car Garage w/Loft-Storage Area! Mature Tree Studded Yard! **\$349,000.00**

**WEBSTER LAKE** – 9 Pebble Beach Rd! Middle Pond – Winter Cove! Private Peninsula Protected from the Storm – Safe Harbor! Custom 3,179' 8 Rm Contemp Ready for Your Immediate Enjoyment! Grand Entry Foyer! Ideal Open Flr Plan w/Sky Lighted Cathedral Ceilings, Tall Windows & Hrdwd Flrs! Beautiful Applianced Custom Granite Kit w/Center Isl! Formal Din, Fireplace Liv Rm w/Water/Estuary Views! 1st Flr Laundry! Second Floor Master Suite, Ideal Full Bath, Huge Walk-in Closet! 3 Bdrms Total! 2 Full & 2 Half Baths! Walk-out Lower Level Fireplace Fam Rm! Buderus Oil Heat! C/Air! Oversized 2 Car Garage! **\$779,900.00**



**OXFORD** – 10 Huguenot Rd! 8 Rm Colonial! 1.36 Acres! Country Setting! Country Kitchen w/Bay Window Overlooking Back Yard, Front to Back Living/Dining Rm w/French Doors to Deck! Office! Side Entry Breezeway! 3 Bdrms Plus a Study/Craft Rm on the 2nd Floor! 1 Car Detached Garage w/Workshop! Easy Access to Shopping and Highways! **\$179,000.00**

**DUDLEY** – 38 Pine St! 5 Rm Ranch! Original Owner! Quaint Eat-In Kit! Formal Din Rm! Spacious Liv Rm w/New Picture Window! Fam Rm w/Views to Private Back Yard! Mudrm! Huge Deck! Buderus Oil Heat! 2 Car Garage! New Septic! Vinyl Sided! Newer Windows! Solar Panels! **\$239,000.00**

**DUDLEY** – 9 Nellies Way! TOBIN FARM ESTATES! 10 Rm Colonial Set on 1.2 Acres! Applianced Dine-in Granite Kit! 3 Season Sun Rm off Kit! Din Rm, 2 Story Fam Rm w/Pellet Stove, Bdrm, Full Bath w/Laundry & Gleaming Hrdws Round Out 1st Flr! 2nd Flr Features an Open Balcony to the Liv Rm! Plenty of Space for an Office, Playroom or Reading Area, Use Your Imagination! Master w/Tray Ceiling & 3 Closets! Master Bath w/Dual Sinks, Shower, Whirlpool Tub & Makeup Counter! 2 Additional Bdrms & Full Bath! Huge Finished Walk-out Lower Level Perfect for Entertaining! Wet Bar w/Wine Cooler & Fridge! Half Bath w/Tile Flr! Irrigation! Shed! JD Riding Mower! Don't Miss Out! **\$469,900.00**

**DUDLEY** – 7 – 9 West Street! Brick 4 Family plus a 2 Family! Side by Side! All with 5 Rooms and 2 Bedrooms! Gas Heat! All Separate Utilities! 2 Car Detached Garage! The 4 Family with Beautiful Natural Woodwork! All Apartments are Empty and Work is Needed in Several Apartments! Excellent Potential! Will be a Good Investment for the Right One! **\$399,900.00**



**WEBSTER** – 9 Lake Parkway! Extremely Conveniently Located just off Exit 1 of 395! Loads of Potential! 6 Rm Cape! Applianced Kit! Din & Liv Rms w/Wall to Wall over Hrdws! 3 Bdrms w/Hrdws! 1st Flr Bdrm w/Commode Closet! Recent Furnace! Recent Roof! **\$169,900.00**

**WOODSTOCK** – 9 Fawn Ridge! Renovated 4 Rm Townhouse! New Granite Kit w/SS Appliances! Kit & Liv Rm w/Hrdws! 2 Comfortable Bdrms w/New Wall to Wall! New Full Bath! Freshly Painted Throughout! Lower Level w/Laundry & Storage, Able to Finish Additional Living Space! 2 Parking Spaces! **\$129,900.00**



**DUDLEY** – 132 Southbridge Rd! 5 Rm Bungalow! 2.21 Acres! Enjoy Nature and Kayak right from your Backyard! Eat-in Kit w/Pantry! Frplcd Liv Rm w/Hrdws & Bay Window! Din Rm or Fam Rm w/Hrdws & Ceiling Fan! Full Tile Bath w/Tub/Shower Combo! Master Bdrm w/Walk 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 Hrdws! Lake Facing Liv Rm w/Cathedrals, Cherry Hrdws! Slider to Waterfront Deck! Spacious 1st Flr Master Bdrm w/Full Bath, Cherry Hrdws & Walk-in Closet! Frplcd Lower Level Fam Rm! 1st & 2nd Flr Laundries! 2 Car Garage! **\$1,199,900.00**



**WEBSTER** – 60 East Main St! Established Local Bakery & Delicatessen Specializing in Polish Foods being Sold with Building! Turn Key Business! Equipment to be Included with Sale! High Traffic Count! Ample Parking! Easy Access to Rear for Deliveries! Building also consists of a One and Two Bedroom Apartment! The Owner presently uses two rooms for his office and storage which could easily be added to the One bedroom Apartment! Building was Totally Renovated in 2010! **\$599,900.00**



**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**



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### Featured New Listing!

#### DUDLEY - 25 MARSHALL TER.



Custom Hip Roof Ranch! 1,480+/- Sq. Ft. One Level Living! Spacious Open Floor Plan. Combination Kitchen/Dining w/Breakfast Bar, Cooktop Range & Built-in Oven, 3 Large Bedrooms w/Large Double Door BR Closets, Walk-in Linen Closet, 1st Floor Laundry Room, Hardwood Floors, Ceramic Tile Bath w/Separate Bath Tub & Shower. Forced Hot Water Heat by Oil w/High End Cast Iron Baseboard! Recently Shingled Roof, 8' X 10' Screened Porch – Overlooks Attractive, Level Landscaping – Provides an Abundance of Privacy. **\$274,900.**

#### DOUGLAS - 14 MOUNT DANIELS WAY



**NEW TO MARKET – MOUNT DANIELS ESTATES!** 4 Bedroom Hip Roof Colonial 2+ Private Acres! Beautiful Hardwood Floors + Lg Cabinet Packed Kitchen! 1st Flr 1/2 Bath & Laundry. Grand Living Room. Stone Fireplace! French Doors Welcome you to a 3 Season 14x18 Sun Room. 16 x 18 Deck, Cape Cod Shower! 4 Bedrooms – Master w/Hardwood Floors. "Spa Like" Bathroom! 3 baths total. New High Efficiency Boiler & Hot Water Tank! Central Air **\$409,000**

#### WEBSTER - 8 MAPLE ST



**SORRY,  
SOLD!**

2 Family - **1st Floor** 6 Rooms, 3 bedrooms, 1 Full Bath, open Kitchen. Fully Applianced. New Carpeting, Hardwood Floors. **2nd Floor** - Open Kitchen with Gorgeous Kitchen Cabinets - 6 Rooms, 3 Bed, 1 Full Bath Hardwood Floors. New carpeting. Each Apartment has 1,200+ sq ft plus. Oil Heat. Off street parking. Town Water & Sewer, 3rd Story Unfinished. **\$237,500.**

#### WEBSTER/OXFORD/DUDLEY/DOUGLAS

**Dudley** - Marshall Terrace 12,000 +/- Sq. Ft. Possible potential for a 2 family to be built! Town Water, Sewer, City Gas! Nice level lot. **\$70,000**  
**Douglas-Mount Daniels Lot #2** 2.5 Acres of flat land that abuts Douglas State Forest **\$132,900**  
**Webster - Potential 6 Buildable Lots!** Water/Sewer Access **\$129,400.**  
**Webster** - 85 Upper Gore! View of the Lake. 1+ acre, artesian well, Septic Design, Etc. **\$130,000**  
**Oxford** - 4 Leicester St. approx. 8.47 acres! River frontage! Highly possible to be subdivided. **\$99,900**

#### WOODSTOCK, CT - 64 LYON HILL RD



**SORRY,  
SOLD!**

Estate like long paved driveway! 3158 Sq Ft. Colonial! Geothermal built. Open floor plan, ash flooring throughout! Granite and s/s applianced kitchen! Large master bedroom, coffered ceiling, master bath, W/Jetted tub! Walk in closets. Two car garage. Radiused catwalk on upper level! A walk up attic. Walk out lower level! The third garage is accessed from the lower level. Generator hookup. One beautiful property! assisted sale **\$499,900.**

#### WEBSTER LAND - COOPER RD



**2 BUILDABLE  
LOTS**

Potential from 10,000+ sq. ft. Lot. Need to be divided. Town Water/Sewer. Zoned Lake Res. **\$24,500. Each = Total \$49,000**

*On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg*

#### NEW PRICE



#### WEBSTER - 28 BLACK POINT RD

2019 CUSTOM BUILT WEBSTER LAKE (WATERFRONT ACCESSIBLE) CONTEMPORARY CAPE! Sunrise (E) & Sunset (W) Exposure! 2,600+/- SF, 11 Rms, 3 BRS, Loft, & 2 Full Baths. Open Flr 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 Flr 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. **\$684,000.**



#### WEBSTER LAKE – 32 JACKSON RD

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





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SZYMCZK SELLS	SZYMCZK SELLS	SZYMCZK SELLS	SZYMCZK SELLS
<p><b>SOLD</b> Dudley: 3 BR, private yard, town services. Represented Seller 7 Daniels St</p>	<p><b>SOLD</b> Webster: Immaculate Cape, 3 BR, Sided. Represented Seller School St</p>	<p><b>SOLD</b> Webster: 3 BR, 1.5 baths, fireplace, Family Rm., Represented Seller 30 Stoughton Ave</p>	<p><b>SOLD</b> Webster Lake: 3 BR, 130' waterfront, 3.5 BA, 2-C-G. Represented Seller 16 Pattison Rd</p>
SZYMCZK SELLS	SZYMCZK SELLS	<b>REAL ESTATE MARKET CONTINUES</b> BUYERS, SELLERS OR INVESTORS WE ARE JUST A PHONE CALL OR E-MAIL AWAY — CONTACT DIANE, JO-ANN, OR MARIA FOR YOUR REAL ESTATE NEEDS	
<p><b>SOLD</b> Webster: Condo, 2 BR, Hdwd Floors, Garage, Represented Seller 17 Cutler St #1</p>	<p><b>SOLD</b> Webster: Condo, 3 BR, 2.5 bath, Garage, Represented Seller 21 Third St, #C</p>		

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– Heather S., Renewal by Andersen customer, Holliston, MA



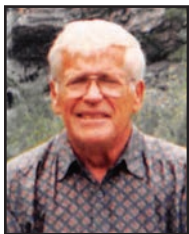
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# OBITUARIES

## Carl N. Lofgren, 89



**F I S K D A L E /** STURBRIDGE Carl N. Lofgren, 89, of 7 Crescent Way, Sturbridge, MA, died, Tuesday April 14 at UMASS Hospital in Worcester.

He leaves his Wife of 69 years, Rita (Martel) Lofgren, 3 daughters, Karen Lofgren of West Dennis, MA, Leslie Lofgren of Worcester, MA and Kim Lofgren of Sturbridge, 2 grandchildren, Heather and her husband Evan Harrison and Carl's new great grandchild, Louie from Salem, MA and Leah Mojer of Nantucket.

He was born in Southbridge the son of Edwin and Examala (Malinoski) Lofgren and lived in the area most of his life, with a 13 year (1964-77) break in New York.

He graduated from Mary E Wells High School in Southbridge, MA in 1948. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force where he proudly served his nation for 4 years as a jet mechanic in the Korean War.

He worked as Executive Chef for Treadway Inns (which is now The

Publick House, Sturbridge, MA) from 1953 to 1964. When he moved to New York, he worked for General Electric Management Co as Executive Chef for one of their retreat properties. After leaving there he worked for Skitch Henderson of the Tonight Show, at the Bird and Bottle Restaurant in Garrison, NY. Coming back to Massachusetts in 1977, he took over the Concession at Cohasse Country Club in Southbridge, MA and ran that before opening with his wife, Rita, the very successful restaurant The Whistling Swan and The Ugly Duckling in 1982 until selling it in 2002.

Carl enjoyed traveling throughout Europe and the USA. Favorite pastimes included fishing, golfing, Football and spending time with his grandchildren.

Due to the Covid-19 crisis his services will be private.

Memorial contributions may be made to The Second Chance Animal Shelter, 373 N Main St. North Brookfield, MA 01535

An online guestbook and video tribute are available at [www.BelangerFuneralHome.com](http://www.BelangerFuneralHome.com)

## Doryann Garnett, 60



Doryann Garnett, 60, of Brimfield died suddenly Saturday April 11 at her home. She was born in Palmer to the late Richard+Marlene (Gurski) Garnett. She leaves behind her husband Paul Skomro of 30 yrs, her daughter Jennifer Tenczar and spouse Jonathan Checka of Charlton, her 2 brothers John Garnett and Richard Garnett both of Palmer, her grandson Dylan Checka, and her beloved dogs Gumber and Frankie.

Doryann had a huge and warm heart. She loved nothing more than her family. She enjoyed a good cup of coffee and sitting around the kitchen table sharing a good story. One of her favorite pastimes was tagsaling, she always loved a bargain. She enjoyed taking care of "her" lake and planting and replanting her shrubs.

Funeral services will be private and held at a later date with family. The Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School St., Webster, MA has been entrusted with her arrangements. A guest book is available at [www.shaw-majercik.com](http://www.shaw-majercik.com) where you can post a condolence or light a candle.

## Yvonne Mary Bauman, 72



Yvonne Mary (Fitzback) Bauman, 72 of Brimfield, passed away on Thursday, March 12, 2020 after a long and courageous battle with cancer. She was born in Webster, MA, daughter of Victoria and Leo J. Fitzback. She graduated from Bartlett High School and was employed as a postal worker for over 25 years at the Post Office in Fiskdale MA.

Yvonne was a lovely, tender-hearted woman who brought grace and beauty to everything she touched. She loved to travel and spend time with her grand children. She leaves her son, Daniel Bauman and her daughter Jennifer Porter, six grandchildren; Jordan and Jayce Porter, Shelby, Riley, and Justin Bauman and Victoria Stendrup, her

three brothers, Theodore Wood and his wife Prudy, Leo J. Fitzback and his wife Michelle, and Kenneth Groh. She will be especially missed by her nephews John and Michael Fitzback who shared a special bond with her, as well as many other nieces and nephews. Everyone who knew Yvonne liked her and she will be missed by many, but none more than her dear friend, traveling companion and "sister", Carol Staniford. Her daughter, Melissa St. Martin and her husband, Wilfred L. Bauman, predecease her.

Funeral arrangements are with Belanger - Bullard Funeral Home of Southbridge, MA. A private service will be held for the immediate family. Donations in Yvonne's name can be made to Stavros Center for Independent Living, 210 Old Farm Road, Amherst, MA 01002.

Send all obituary notices to  
Stonebridge Press, PO Box 90,  
Southbridge, MA 01550, or by e-mail  
to [obits@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:obits@stonebridgepress.news)

### VENTURE

continued from page A1

Long before the coronavirus paralyzed the nation, it was a challenge for agencies across the country to secure experienced, dedicated employees eager to care for people with developmental disabilities. Venture is grateful for the experience and commitment of its team.

Like medical professionals nationwide, several members of the Venture team have made significant sacrifices over the last month to care for those they serve.

"This industry has, for a very long time, faced a critical staffing shortage, and the people we have are truly amazing," Hyland said. "In the vast majority of our homes, we currently have a shel-

ter-in-place model where staff have opted to remain in the home around the clock for 14 days to eliminate the risk of people coming and going."

Additionally, the agency built a quarantine center in one of its temporarily closed day program locations. The center is designed to house people who have tested positive for the virus in a comfortable isolated space, but

thus far it has not been needed. Employees have already expressed willingness to staff the center if the need arises.

In addition to the logistical challenges presented by the outbreak, Venture has also dealt with financial implications.

"The financial challenges are daunting, as is the difficulty we face in finding personal protec-

tive equipment," Hyland said. "Perhaps the greatest challenge lies in getting the world in general to understand just how essential this industry is and how critical it is to support it – and that includes our politicians in Washington."

Added Hyland, "Venture is fortunate to employ an incredibly dedicated team of professionals in each of our homes,

and what they are doing throughout this crisis is truly heroic. I very much hope that when this is over, they all get the recognition that they have always deserved."

For more information about the agency, visit [www.venturecs.org](http://www.venturecs.org).

## Please help your postal workers stay safe

To the Editor:

During these challenging times, postal employees are working hard to ensure residents stay connected with their world through the mail. Whether it's medications, a package, a paycheck, benefits or pension check, a bill or letter from a family member, postal workers understand that every piece of mail is important. While service like this is nothing new to us, we need our communities' help with social distancing.

For everyone's safety, our employees are following the social distancing precautions recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

(CDC) and local health officials. We are asking people to not approach our carriers to accept delivery. Let the carrier leave the mailbox before collecting the mail. With schools not in session, children should also be encouraged to not approach a postal vehicle or carrier.

If a delivery requires a signature, carriers will knock on the door rather than touching the bell. They will maintain a safe distance, and instead of asking for a signature on their mobile device, they'll ask for the resident's name. The carrier will leave the mail or package in a safe place for retrieval.

We are proud of the role all our employees play in processing, transporting, and delivering mail and packages for the American public. The CDC, World Health Organization, as well as the Surgeon General indicate there is currently no evidence that COVID-19 is being spread through the mail.

With social distancing, we can keep the mail moving while keeping our employees, and the public, safe.

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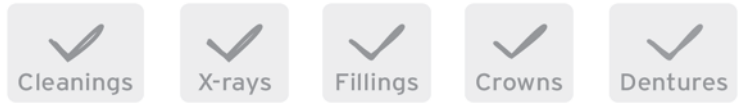
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# Quinebaug Lodge thinks outside the box during COVID-19 crisis



BY BRO. VINCENZO JIMMY FALZONE

SOUTHBRIDGE — With Gov. Baker's stay at home advisory and mandatory social distancing in effect, no groups larger than 10 can meet through May 4. Some Freemasons in Massachusetts are choosing to work at home, to be with family and playing it safe. But most of all, listening to our Governor, who is doing an incredibly awesome job during this crisis to save people's lives.

The Grand Masonic Lodge of Massachusetts, located in Boston, is

allowing lodges to gather online so as not to do any official business. The meetings are by invitations only to members and hosted by certain officers of the Lodge. Quinebaug Lodge is taking advantage of the different types of technology on the web to choose from and has chosen Zoom Meeting to do our video and audio-conferencing services from the safety of their homes. Some members with computer savvy skills have accepted the invitation by our Master Wor. Chris Kanz. The members are sent an e-mail with a link for the

Zoom meeting schedule. The instructions put forth the Meeting I.D. # provided by the host and the password to gain access to the meeting. The host recognizes the attendee and allows this person into the meeting.

This type of new technology adopted by our lodge demonstrates the forward-thinking progress needed to allow members to stay in touch and gather as friends in a safe environment in these difficult times.

## Mother's Day Honors

**Publish Date:**

**May 8, 2020**

**Deadline date:**

**Friday, May 1 @ 5 pm**

We would like to honor all Mothers and Grandmothers in the May 8th issue. The deadline for honors is Friday, May 4 at 5 pm.

Cost is just \$20 per 2.4"x 2" B&W block.  
In the Spencer New Leader,  
Auburn News or Sturbridge/Charlton Villager

**SAMPLE: EXACT SIZE**



Mom, Of all the moms in all the world, nothing brings me more happiness than to know you're ours.

*With love from  
John, Mary, and  
Jennifer*

Please email a photo and a special message or an In Loving Remembrance message if deceased to [jsima@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:jsima@stonebridgepress.news); OR mail or drop off to June Simakauskas Stonebridge Press 25 Elm Street, P. O. Box 90 Southbridge, MA 01550.

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