

Two test positive for COVID at Bay Path

BY JASON BLEAU
 VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – Bay Path Regional Vocational High School has confirmed two positive cases of COVID-19 within the school system.

A press release on Oct. 1 from Superintendent-Director Kyle Brenner confirmed that two unnamed individuals associated with the school received positive tests for the infection. The identities of the individuals were not revealed however the press release did indicate that those with close ties or who were in close contact with the individuals were notified privately of the situation and were recommended to be tested and self-quarantine for ten days regardless of their test results.

"Though we cannot provide specific information about our school community members who tested positive, your child was not a



close contact (defined as being within six feet of the person for at least 15 minutes) of the affected school members," Brenner wrote to parents in the release. "Please continue to monitor your child for symptoms and

keep your child home if he/she/they shows any symptoms or is not feeling well."

The Superintendent-Director further added that Bay Path had build-in planning for this very scenario when they dis-

cussed reopening the school. These responses include sanitation, informing families of students who were at risk of exposure or close contact, and offering support for affected families. The school is also adhering to

protocols established by the Department of Health and the local Boards of Health.

"We are asking those parents whose students are tested for COVID-19 to please report the results to the school

nurse. We are working hard to understand the impact of the virus on our school community and this information is critical piece of that puzzle," said Brenner. "The further prevent transmission of the virus to other staff and students, we have sanitized the school with a focus on those areas frequented by the community member that tested positive."

While the press release did not confirm whether it was a student or staff member who tested positive for COVID-19, if students are forced to quarantine due to positive tests they are provided with remote learning opportunities to help "provide instruction, structure, and an emotional connection to the classroom" during that time.

Any parents or community members with concerns are invited to contact Brenner directly at KBrenner@baypath.net.

Historical Society hosts successful fundraiser

AUBURN — The Auburn Historical Society and Museum had a successful take out spaghetti supper fundraiser on Saturday, Oct. 3 at the Pakachoag Church. Diners were able to not only get a full dinner, they could also partake in the basket and 50/50 drawings.

This fundraiser was made possible by Auburn Historical Society members, who worked diligently to ensure the fundraiser went off without a hitch, and our sponsors, who were generous in their offerings for the basket drawing. Please thank the following AAA Northeast, AMF Bowling Auburn, Bells Lawn & Garden, Colonial Liquors, Farmer's Daughter, Little Diggers Construction, Major League Roast Beef, Midstate Auto, Monde Hair Salon, Ninety Nine Restaurant, Price Chopper, Ronnie's Auburn, Shaw's Market, The Coffee Mug, and Weepin Willies, when next you do business with them, for supporting the Auburn Historical Society and the preservation of Auburn town history.

Halloween is on in Charlton

BY JASON BLEAU
 VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – The Halloween holiday is on in Charlton, as the Board of Selectmen has approved allowing for trick-or-treating to take place on Saturday, Oct. 31.

Joining neighboring communities including Dudley, Charlton will allow trick-or-treaters to visit homes from 5 until 8 p.m. on Halloween night, but with the caveat that anyone participating in the annual holiday event conform to COVID-19 safety guidelines in the process.

"Obviously, this year is much different than any other year," Town Administrator Andrew Golas said during a meeting of the selectmen on Sept. 30. "The Board of Health would like to remind trick-or-treaters to follow recommended CDC guidelines and DPH guidelines by maintaining six feet physical distance from anyone not in your household, avoiding large groups or clustering at door steps, carry hand sanitizer and wash your hand thoroughly before eating anything and do not participate if you are feeling unwell or exhibit any symptom."

Golas said safety is not just in the hands of the participants, but also the homes hosting trick-or-treaters. The town administrator

implores those giving out candy to use safe practices as well.

"For those handing out treats please wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before and after participating or preparing trick-or-treat bags. Consider lining up pre-packaged treat bags for families to take outside while maintaining social distancing and wear a mask and maintain a six-foot physical distance from anyone trick or treating," said Golas.

Originally scheduled for 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., selectmen agreed to a longer Halloween night to allow trick-or-treaters more time to visit homes without rushing through the night and potential creating larger groups. As always, anyone concerned about their health and safety or who simply do not wish to participate in trick-or-treating are invited to erect signs notifying visitors they won't be taking part or follow the annual practice of leaving porch lights off to signal the home will not be part of trick-or-treating in 2020.



United Way holds baby supply drive

SOUTHBRIDGE — The United Way of South Central Massachusetts today partnered with Fundación MAPFRE for a combined Day of Caring and Global Day of Volunteering, by holding a "Stuff a Truck Food and Baby Supply Drive." The event collected 125 boxes of food and diapers and over \$1,000 in cash donations, with the help of 52 event volunteers comprised of MAPFRE employees, United Way Board members, Tantasqua Regional High School National Honors Society students and community members.



Volunteers at Big Bunny in Southbridge.

Mary O'Coin — Courtesy

"Families in need may look different – a single parent without a permanent home; a mother and father who are on a low income; or a grandparent caring for young grandchildren, but they

all need help getting the basic necessities to take care of their families," said Mary O'Coin, Executive Director, United Way of South Central Massachusetts. "We deeply appreciate the public's generosity and support for the families in our community."

With the help of local dealerships, McGee Buick GMC, McGee Toyota and Place Motor Ford, new pickup trucks

and vans were in the parking lots of Big Bunny Market in Southbridge, Park N Shop in Dudley and MAPFRE Insurance on Gore Road in Webster, to collect nonperishable food and baby supplies, such as diapers, jarred food and cereals. The proceeds were distributed to local food banks, Webster-Dudley Food Share, Webster St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank, Charlton Chip-In and Southbridge Food

Share, as well as service organizations, such as Our Bright Future food closets in Webster and Southbridge.

About United Way of South Central Massachusetts

The United Way of South Central MA is a volunteer-driven organization that supports local agencies that provide health, education and financial stability services that profoundly

affect the lives of those who live and work in the communities we serve. For more information, call (508) 765-5491 or visit www.uwscm.org. Follow on Facebook @United Way of South Central MA

About Fundación MAPFRE

Fundación MAPFRE is a nonprofit organization created by MAPFRE in 1975 to promote the well-being of society and citizens across the compa-

ny's footprint. Active in 30 countries, Fundación MAPFRE focuses on five areas: Road Safety and Accident Prevention, including fires, mishaps at home and drownings; Insurance and Social Protection; Culture; Social Action; and Health Promotion. Please visit <https://www.fundacionmapfre.org/fundacionmapfre.org/fundacion/en> for more information about Fundación MAPFRE.

YOUR TEETH MATTER

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No need to fear root canals

Procrastinating in regard to maintaining teeth and gums can prove harmful. Regular dental checkups and cleanings can reduce discomfort and expose conditions before they become especially problematic.

Root canal is one treatment men and women fear when going to the dentist. But root canals are often less painful than the symptoms that require they be performed.

A root canal is an endodontic therapy that can treat and save teeth. The American Association of Endodontists says root canal treats inflammation or infection in the roots of a tooth. This procedure enables dentists to save a tooth rather than extract it.

WebMD explains that, during a root canal, the nerve and pulp of the tooth

are removed from the inside. If the tooth's nerve or pulp chamber is damaged, it can eventually break down and bacteria can begin to form within. The most common causes of pulp inflammation or infection are a cracked or chipped tooth, a deep cavity or filling, or another serious injury to the tooth. All of these can allow bacteria to enter the pulp. Debris and bacteria can lead to infection or an abscessed tooth. Abscesses can form at the ends of the tooth roots. Swelling, pain, bone loss, and drainage into the gums may occur if a root canal is not performed.

The AAE says that people may avoid root canal treatment because they fear it is too painful. However, with modern technology and anesthetic medications, the pain that results from root canal

is on par with having a cavity filled. Damaged tissues in the tooth and the severe toothache that ensues if root canal is not performed is generally much more severe than anything that occurs during the procedure.

Patients who are worried about discomfort can speak with their dentists about pain management. In addition to anesthetic injections, some dentists specialize in medical sedation that can further calm patients' nerves during procedures.

The American Dental Association says this is what people can expect during a root canal.

- The tooth is numbed for comfort.
- A thin sheet of latex rubber is placed over the tooth to keep it dry, and an opening is made through the crown of the tooth.
- The nerve or pulp is removed. The excavated canal is then cleaned and shaped.
- Medicine may be placed in the pulp chamber to deter bacterial growth.



• The root canal is then filled with a rubber-like material to seal it. A metal or plastic rod or post may be placed in the canal to help retain the filling material so it can properly support the tooth.

• A temporary filling is placed in the tooth. During a subsequent treatment, the temporary filling will be replaced with a permanent crown or filling.

Root canals are nothing to fear. Such procedures are routine and generally produce little to no pain.

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Did you know?

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, dental caries, or tooth decay, is five times more common than asthma and seven times more common than hay fever in children. The American Academy of Pediatrics notes that children with dental caries in their baby teeth are at much greater risk for cavities in their adult teeth. Fluoride is a naturally occurring mineral that can strengthen tooth enamel and make it more resistant to the acids that can contribute to tooth decay. Parents, even those whose children do not yet have any teeth, can discuss fluoride drops or chewable fluoride tablets with their youngsters' pediatricians. The CDC notes that more than 40 percent of children have tooth decay before reaching kindergarten, but dental caries is often preventable. Parents who are diligent about their children's oral care and mindful of potential problems, such as stains on the teeth, can reduce their sons' and daughters' risk of tooth decay.

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Dr. Van's Golf Tournament held with restrictions



Jay Brenner, Jim Waddick, and Phil Pettinelli.

Maddy Ricci, Ed Galonek, Sr., Tom Vangel, and Tony Fesolo.

THOMPSON, Conn. — On Sept. 16, amid the global pandemic, close to 60 avid golfers turned out for the 38th annual Dr. Van's Golf Tournament at the Thompson Raceway Golf Club in Thompson, Conn. The beneficiaries

of this year's tournament are Harrington Hospital's Cardiac Rehab Program and Southbridge Rotary Club's high school scholarship program. The weather was perfect and the golfers, donning face

masks when gathering, had a great round of best ball golf. First place winners were Edward Galonek, Sr., Maddy Ricci, Tom Vangel, and Tony Fesolo. A special thank you to the following sponsors: Platinum Level – Savers Bank, Incom Inc., All-Star Incentive Marketing and Cornerstone Bank, Gold Level – Universal Tag, Silver Level – Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home and Associate

Level - Whitco Sales, Coca-Cola, Calise Bakery, Hyde Group, and A&M Tool & Die. Rotary Club of Southbridge is a community service, non-profit organization that focuses on club, vocational, community, international and new generations service. For more information visit the Rotary Club of Southbridge Facebook page (@SouthbridgeRotaryClub).

Auburn News

ACCURACY WATCH

The Auburn News is committed to accuracy in all its news reports. Although numerous safeguards are in place to ensure accurate reporting, mistakes can occur. Confirmed fact errors will be corrected at the top right hand corner of page 3 in a timely manner. If you find a mistake, call (508) 909-4106 or email news@stonebridgepress.news 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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QCC's early college program gets a boost

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College has been awarded a Commonwealth Dual Enrollment Partnership (CDEP) Grant of \$32,400. The grant provides funding for high school students to take college-level courses that fulfill high school requirements, as well as earn college credit towards their degree. The CDEP helps to ease the transition from high school to college, enabling high school students to get a head start on their college careers. The program offers academic experiences to qualified students who otherwise may not have access to an early college experience. The CDEP's goal is to increase the population of high school graduates who are college ready.

QCC has a strong Early College Program and is a pathway to higher education for those historically underserved. Since 2018, the College has worked with Worcester Public Schools, creating college equity access to more students. Currently, the College has partnered with seven Worcester Public High Schools and 22 Central Massachusetts High Schools. Classes range from general education to business and healthcare.

"The CDEP Grant funding will be used to offer college credit courses to underserved students in the Worcester County Early College Programs,"

said Christina Hebert, director of Educational Partnerships K-12 & Early College Initiatives at QCC. "We are excited that this CDEP Grant will enable us to offer credit courses to students in schools that to date have not had access to this type of program."

Governor Charlie Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito praised QCC's program in a letter to President Dr. Luis Pedraja.

"We want to thank you for your commitment to increasing college participation through dual enrollment activities, particularly for low-income, underrepresented, and first-generation college students. Through this funding and your continued support, we hope to expand access to great educational opportunities for every student in the Commonwealth."

Visit www.qcc.edu/early-college to learn more.

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

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Friday's Child

Aleenah Age 13

Hi! My name is Aleenah and I have a great sense of humor! Aleenah is a fun, outgoing girl with an enormous amount of charisma and great sense of humor. Some of Aleenah's favorite activities include bowling, roller skating, going to the movies, drawing, and singing along to the songs on the radio. Aleenah does especially well with younger children; she is always willing to help out in other classrooms, read to younger kids, and/or mentor them. Aleenah feels important and takes great pride in building these relationships.

Legally free for adoption, Aleenah is in need of a family that can provide a structured, loving home. She would do best with a single mother or a two-parent family with or without other children. Interested families should be comfortable maintaining contact with Aleenah's siblings and her birth mother, who she visits with twice per year.

Who Can Adopt?

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

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

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

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Phantoms & Fire brings spooky fun to Old Sturbridge Village

STURBRIDGE — Phantoms & Fire brings a new twist to the Halloween season at Old Sturbridge Village (OSV), with a series of haunting outdoor performances and seasonal activities for all ages. Replacing the theatrical “Sleepy Hollow Experience,” which has played at the Village since 2016, Phantoms & Fire offers guests a safe take on the Halloween season, following the restrictions set forth by COVID-19.

A cornerstone of the new event is “Nevermore,” a series of six outdoor performances written and directed by P.J. Griffith, specifically for Old Sturbridge Village and partner Coggeshall Farm Museum. “Nevermore” welcomes a professional cast to the Village to bring to life the short stories and poems of author Edgar Allen Poe, told from the perspective of

characters who have just witnessed these terrors occur. The stories will play out simultaneously in six different locations around the Village and tell familiar tales of horror, revenge, obsession and deception. Performances will be repeated throughout the night in pulsating rhythm - just like Poe’s tell-tale, beating heart - ensuring that visitors can see and experience them all.

Younger guests will delight in a new 2020 version of Trick-or-Treat at the Village, called “Clues & Candy.” Making their way throughout the commons, families can collect clues and stamps that can be turned in for a big bag of goodies at the end of their visit! Participation in “Clues & Candy” is open to all ages. Costumes are encouraged at the event, but COVID-safe facemasks must still be worn in following state and local guidelines.

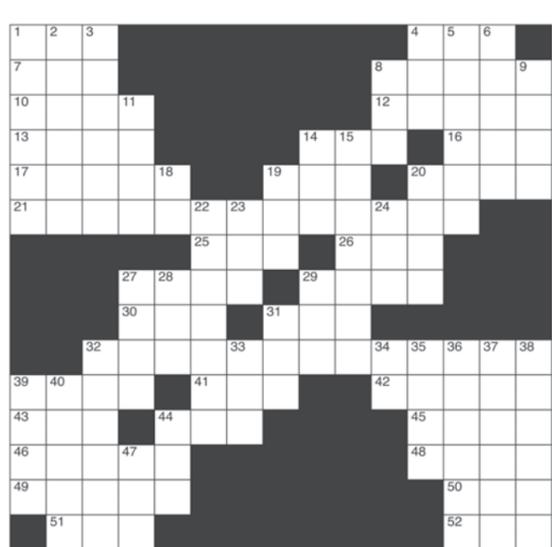
Guests can enjoy live music during Phantoms & Fire with the “Mysterious Melodies of Lawrence Trailer,” a haunting take on the acoustical stylings of local Singer/Songwriter Lawrence Trailer. Food and beverages will be available for purchase during the event at the ghoulishly transformed “Prospero’s Tavern.” Also a feature of the evening, The Headless Horseman will ride again, making appearances throughout the Village.

Tickets for Phantoms & Fire are on sale now for \$16 per adult and \$12 for youth ages 4-17. Children under 4 are free to the Village during this event. Phantoms & Fire will take place Wednesdays through Saturdays, Oct. 21-31,



with three times for arrival at 5, 6, and 6:30 p.m. Once in the Village, guests are welcome to stay until the event concludes each night at 8:00p.m. Pre-registration is required, with tickets available at: <https://www.osv.org/event/phantoms-and-fire/>. Phantoms & Fire is presented by Country Bank.

Phantoms & Fire is also coming to Coggeshall Farm Museum located in Bristol, R.I. on Sunday, Oct. 25 and Sunday, Nov. 1. More details on the Coggeshall event can be found at: <https://www.coggeshallfarm.org/event/phantoms-and-fire/>.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. They look out for kids
- 4. Play
- 7. Water (French)
- 8. Prayer leader
- 10. Small constellation
- 12. ___ Carta: influential royal charter
- 13. Pressure unit
- 14. Extrasensory perception
- 16. A symbol of “Aloha”
- 17. Portion of the small intestine
- 19. Psychedelic amphetamine
- 20. Very long period of time
- 21. British overseas territory
- 25. Cereal grain
- 26. Car mechanics group
- 27. Wish harm upon
- 29. At a specific prior time
- 30. Peyton’s younger brother
- 31. UK firefighters’ union
- 32. Carroll O’Connor’s screen partner
- 39. Popular show honoring musicians
- 41. Basics
- 42. Honk
- 43. Trent Reznor’s band
- 44. Patti Hearst’s captors
- 45. Long-legged wading bird
- 46. Specialized biological grouping
- 48. A coin goes in it
- 49. Of the wind
- 50. One-time measure of length
- 51. A very large body of water
- 52. River in NE Scotland

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Boston hoopster
- 2. A type of bribe
- 3. SE England county
- 4. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- 5. “Hotel California” rockers
- 6. Italian province
- 8. Mischievous child
- 9. Popular street name
- 11. Boxing promoter Bob
- 14. Snakelike fish
- 15. Break into pieces
- 18. The Bay State
- 19. Time zone
- 20. Port city in Yemen
- 22. In name only
- 23. 007’s creator
- 24. No (Scottish)
- 27. Baseball’s Gordon and rock’s Snider are two
- 28. Pie ___ mode
- 29. Don’t know when yet
- 31. Supervises interstate commerce
- 32. Make a ringing metallic sound
- 33. Helps little firms
- 34. Pound
- 35. Lilly and Manning are two
- 36. Put on the back burner
- 37. Baltimore ballplayer
- 38. Cuddle
- 39. Poker stake
- 40. Drinks to celebrate a birth (Spanish)
- 44. Pouch
- 47. Not around



Old Sturbridge Village receives new addition to historical collection

STURBRIDGE — Old Sturbridge Village (OSV) has acquired a cherry and white pine chest of drawers attributed to cabinetmaker Nathan Lumbard. This piece of history was donated by James Ciaschini, a furniture restorer and woodworker based in Agawam, Massachusetts who purchased the chest at auction in 2014.

Nathan Lumbard (1777-1847) was a cabinetmaker who worked in Sutton, Massachusetts, but was trained in Sturbridge. He is arguably most well-known as a master of inlay, which he used to embellish much of his furniture. The four-drawer chest represents the plainest version of Lumbard’s chest forms. The chest has four graduated and thumb molded drawers and rests on a molded base with bracket feet. The two-board top has chevron-inlaid edges, and a strip of quarter-round beading at the back. This strip is a feature found on all of the chests known to have been made by Lumbard.

Brock Jobe, co-author of “Crafting Excellence: The Furniture of Nathan Lumbard and His Circle” (2018) feels that the chest can be attributed with considerable certainty to Lumbard. While not depicted in Crafting Excellence, the chest is referenced as one of only three known straight-front chests made by Lumbard.

Jobe, who chairs the Collections Committee and serves on the Board of Trustees for Old Sturbridge Village, said



“I’m thrilled to see this chest of drawers enter the Old Sturbridge Village collection. Its maker, Nathan Lumbard, probably learned his trade from Oliver Wight of Sturbridge and may well have built the chest in the cabinet shop that once stood behind the Village’s Oliver Wight House.”

“Plain pieces of furniture, like this one, were made in large numbers but are rarely documented. To link this one to Lumbard elevates it above many of its counterparts,” said Caitlin Avenia, Curatorial Director.

“The Old Sturbridge Village

Museum Collection already contains three pieces produced by Lumbard: a drop-leaf table, a tilt-top stand and a bow front chest of drawers. This acquisition further strengthens the Village’s collection of documented Worcester County furniture, and its collection of pieces made by rural cabinetmakers,” said Caitlin, Director of Curation

“We are extremely grateful to Mr. Ciaschini, for his generous donation and we welcome this fine piece of history to our ever growing collection of over 40,000 artifacts,” said Jim Donahue, President and CEO.

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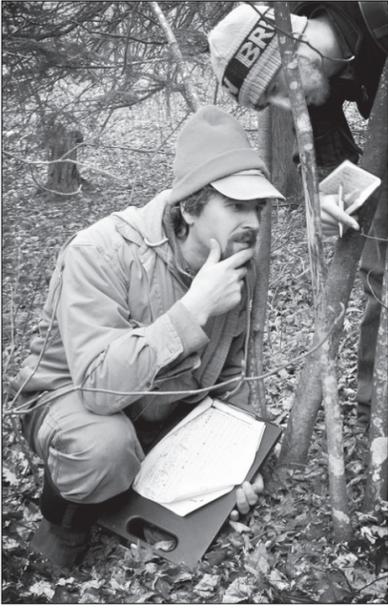
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Tracking teaches new way to look at nature



Courtesy

George Leoniak, in upper right corner, discusses the differences among skunk, opossum and raccoon tracks.

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

REGION – For many, winter is a time of skiing. But it's also a great time to learn a far older skill – tracking.

To “cybertracker” George Leoniak, who recently presented what he termed some “cool mysteries of tracking” online for Mass Society of Conservation Professionals, anyone can do it with some dedication. Going around the “room,” he started by asking how much experience participants had, and most had very little.

“Kindergarten or fourth-grade expertise? That’s great,” he said. “I love going into the field with kindergartners and fourth-graders. ... They get into the stories and want to give back.”

There are three key aspects to tracking – learning the terms, understanding how to measure, and watching the dynamics of motion that make the tracks we see. It’s more than just footprints, though; good trackers learn a lot from scat, nests, feeding signs, scratches on trees, and a whole host of other marks of life.

Interpreting them well often depends on “starting at the right spot and the

right time.” Frequently, the same species’ track can seem to be that of a different species depending on a host of factors, including the fact “different animals [have] different personalities out there,” Leoniak said. For example, raccoon tracks can mimic otter or fisher, small rodent tracks can seem to be those of birds or even frogs, and it can be challenging to identify which canine or feline track you’re seeing.

That takes experience – “building up a slow process of seeing tracks over and over again,” sketching their details, taking pictures, measuring them and comparing them to field guides. “You can put all that together and you’re playing with this visual language,” he noted. “... Come up with your best analysis of what you see there even before you get to what you think it is.”

In essence, what’s critical is figuring out what the animal is doing. As always, he notes, be careful of your assumptions, because they can make it hard to see what’s actually happening. One important, but often overlooked aspect of any track series is what he defined as “negative space” – which occurs both within the track itself and between the tracks of a sequence. In the former, it can help identify what species it is – particularly distinguishing between canines, who tend to have an X-like space between their pads, and felines, who don’t. In the latter, it helps determine “the behavior the gait says to us.”

As an example, he showed a hunting carnivore stalking a mouse – it took a couple of hops, pounced and broke through the snow crust, and trotted away with its lunch. “That’s what I love about gaits – the stories they tell,” he said.

Most species have three main types of gait – trot, walk and gallop – and those express themselves differently depending on what kind of limbs the animals have – plantigrade (includes humans), digitigrade (includes canines and felines), or unguligrade (includes deer and horses). The latter is “pretty obvious,” but several other species’ tracks can look like either of the first two depending on conditions and what they’re doing.

There are also a “lot of variations” on the three types that “gives you an indication if the animal’s going faster or slower,” but they all have the same pattern. Trots show show the opposite

front and hind feet on the ground at once, alternating; walks show three feet on the ground at once in a pattern of shifting weight back and forth between left and right sides. Gallops are a bit more complex, showing both fronts, both hinds, none, then all together.

Leoniak pointed people to animation videos at www.vanat.cvm.umn.edu as “a neat site to really burn this movement into your mind.” He noted he hopes to get people to “visualize the animal making this movement as you look at the track,” and also has people in the field try to duplicate it.

“If you get that into your body ... it really teaches you a lot about walk dynamics,” he added.

Once Leoniak got to the individual species’ tracks, he ran through a couple dozen of the more common New England mammals. The key is seeing the difference in foot shape, not always size, since “sometimes scale gets wonky out there.” That’s particularly true in wet conditions or snow, where melting can distort the tracks.

Her spent a lot of time analyzing canine vs feline tracks and distinguishing within those two groups. For example, he noted grey and red fox both have semi-retractable claws that you might not see, but “hairy” centers that sort of fuzz out the track, while coyote tracks are “arrowhead” like with claws.

Among felines, the key feature is their asymmetrical toe shape and the fact their weight is more toward the heel. (To make things a bit more challenging, Leoniak noted grey fox tracks are easily confused with small feline tracks, while black bear can be confused with cougar.)

Some tracks look almost like small human hands. Raccoon feet have “fingery toes like our fingers,” while opossums have an obvious opposing thumb and unique tracks that “look like a lot of toes going in every direction” because two feet land together. Among smaller rodents, a common pattern is five toes in front, and four behind.

“Tracking is a lot of things,” he said. If you’re out with a skilled person, “you’ll get the chance to look at things in a new way.” He noted that’s even true when you’ve got experience; another tracker pointed out the subtle signs of a hare browsing on greenery that he’d never previously noticed.

A Marlboro, VT, resident, Leoniak has run The Mindful Tracker (www.mindfultracker.com) for more than 20 years, training trackers all over the world.

Gus Steeves can be reached at gus.steeves2@gmail.com.

Expo Management postpones all shows until 2022

WORCESTER — Expo Management Group, producers of the Worcester RV & Camping Show, Worcester Home Show and the Worcester Boat Show announced the postponement of all events until 2022 due to uncertainties about COVID-19 protocols.

Currently, the state of MA is in “Phase 3” which does not allow large public events to be held. Phase 4 (which would allow public events and bars to open) is on indefinite hold until there is a viable and widely distributed vaccine in effect. The CDC predicts that this won’t happen until at least the end of the 3rd quarter of 2021.

According to Jeffrey Davis, Managing Partner of Expo Management Group, “In the almost 75 years that we’ve been producing shows, we’ve always strived to produce the best events to justify the money our exhibitors spend with us. Consumer shows rely on face-to-face marketing where people can see, touch, and experience the product or service an exhibitor is promoting. Given the current situation, it is impossible to do this. We had to lay off our entire staff since March and have not been able to put together a plan that makes sense. It takes nearly a year to put together our shows, but with social distancing and additional safety protocols, we simply cannot in good conscience ask our valued exhibitors to pay for space without knowing whether or not the show will actually happen. We just hope that everyone stays safe as we try to adapt to a new normal.”

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OPINION/COMMENTARY



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BRENDAN BERUBE
 EDITOR

The need to unplug

Oftentimes, our ideas for editorials arise when something close to us personally surfaces that hits home, or when we hear a significant amount of chatter about a specific topic. This week, the chatter has been about national news overload.

We love the news — after all, it's what we do. Sharing information with our readers on the local level is both an honor and a necessity. This week, however, we have heard many people say they just can't listen to the national news anymore. They feel bombarded, often times leaving them feeling depressed and overwhelmed. News junkies watch the news every morning and night, check their Twitter feeds, listen to talk radio on their commutes and are constantly in the know. It's important and responsible to be aware of what's happening around you, however finding a balance is key, even for those of us in the businesses.

It seems as though the national news cycle has been nothing but chaos over the past several years, especially with regard to the current presidential election. Relentless statistics about the COVID-19 pandemic and negative commentary trying to pass itself off as analysis of the candidates and their platforms seems to ping our phones almost on the minute. This can be exhausting.

As a way to catch your breath, pick one day of the week as a 'no news' day, sort of like a news siesta. Get outside, unplug, read a book, listen to some vinyl or watch Cobra Kai (we do recommend for a splash of nostalgia). Attempt to shut off the little magic box we all stare at way too much on the daily. Could landlines actually still serve a purpose?

If you feel like you can't make a difference, realize that you can. First, it goes without saying, get out and vote. Second, do something every day to make the world a better place, even if that means your own little world. Such actions result in the domino effect.

Take some time to count the blessings in your life. Positivity still surrounds us in bulk if you look for it. Family, friends, dogs, crisp fall leaves, apple crisp, bacon, a friendly wave from a neighbor, morning coffee, a cold drink, a beautiful hike or walk, a good novel and a nice music blasting session are just a few things we can lean on to always lift us back up.

LETTERS

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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!



Unexpected twists and turns

Life is rarely as we plan it. What we expect often turns out differently and we are reluctantly forced to adjust accordingly. Riding the waves of life is what we make of it. It can be waves of frustration or we can allow those same waves to take us on a fascinating journey.



POSITIVELY SPEAKING
 GARY W. MOORE

I didn't plan on spending the last few days in the hospital, yet here I am. So, I'm writing this column on my phone rather than my laptop. I'm doing so, the old-fashioned way, without the use of my usual editing program. I'm horrified how this may be received by your newspaper but hopefully we can take it all in stride.

If you are a regular reader of my column, you know I'm fighting Stage 4 Stomach Cancer. It's not what I expected. This isn't what I planned. Lying in this hospital bed using one finger to type my column on a phone certainly isn't what I anticipated happening ... but it did.

So, what do you do when life unexpectedly changes your plans? You can react to the problem or you can respond. You can react with anger, sadness, frustration, or depression, or you can respond with courage to overcome the adversity. You can use your intuition to guide you. You can harness thoughtful and logical creativity and act to overcome the unexpected obstacle.

I've written about this before. There is a difference between reacting and responding. Reacting is usually a knee-jerk reaction that usually compounds the problem and makes it worse. Always try not to react.

Responding is different. When we respond, it's usually with calmness and courage to face the situation. Face the issue and always respond.

It also makes a difference in how we label things. We can call them problems or situations. Problems are nasty, headache causing circumstances that usually cause a reaction. A situation insinuates a circumstance that you can resolve. Label all your obstacle and unexpired circum-

stance as situations and not problems.

So, I'm choosing tonight to respond to the situation of being in the hospital rather than reacting to a problem that's out of my control. I can make this a problem or situation. I choose it to be the latter.

either one true. This newspaper may fire me over this problem if I can't resolve it. I instead choose to overcome this situation with courage, careful thought and logic and not disappoint the newspaper that relays on me.

Think about interchanging these words ... react vs respond and problem vs situation. We can look at the same event and react to a problem or respond to a situation. How we label it determines what we think I, and what we think determines how we view the obstacle. And again, how we view it determines if we react or respond.

I'll admit. The fact I'm being contained in a hospital without my computer caused me to momentarily react and become frustrated, but I took a breath and said out loud, this is a situation to be solved and not a problem. Once I thought about my options, my phone was it, and I resolved my situation and began typing.

As I began this column saying, life is never perfect. There will always be unexpected events that change destroy our carefully laid plans. The only choice you have in those moments is to label it as a situation rather than a problem and respond rather than react.

I always choose to respond.

Will you join me?

P.S.: I'm going to be fine. I had a bowel obstruction which is resolving itself. I hope to be released today.

Gary W. Moore is a freelance columnist, speaker, and author of three books including the award-winning, critically acclaimed, "Playing with the Enemy." Follow Gary on Twitter @GaryW Moore721 and at www.garywmoore.com.

Lessons from experienced investors



FINANCIAL FOCUS
 DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

Those who have lived a long time have done a lot, seen a lot — and can teach us a lot. And that's certainly true when it comes to investing.

Consider some of the lessons you might learn from experienced investors:

Regulate your emotions. In the investment world, there's always something coming at us that could sound scary: political flashpoints, economic news, and even those once-in-a-generation occurrences, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. But older people may take these events in stride; in fact, baby boomers and members of the Silent Generation (born between 1925 and 1945) are coping better emotionally with the impacts of COVID-19 than younger age cohorts, according to the 2020 Edward Jones/Age Wave Four Pillars of the New Retirement study. And by keeping control of your emotions, you may be less likely to make moves such as selling quality investments with good fundamentals just because their prices have fallen in the midst of an overall market decline.

Learn from experience. By definition, the older we get, the more experiences we will have. And most people do indeed learn from experience. Investors, too, benefit from having seen and done things before. Did you chase a "hot" stock only to have found it cooled off before you bought it? Did you buy too many of the same type of investments, only to see your portfolio take a bigger hit during a downturn than it would have if you had diversified? In the investment arena, as in most walks of life, patterns emerge, and once you learn to recognize them, you can learn from past mistakes.

Know yourself. When we reach a certain age, most of us know ourselves pretty well. But you don't have to wait decades to gain this knowledge — at least not when it comes to investing. For example, you should quickly gain a good sense of your ability to withstand risk. How? Just consider how you react when the market declines sharply. If you find yourself losing sleep over your losses — even if they're just on paper — you might be taking on too much risk for your own comfort level. Conversely, if market downturns don't bother you as much as lack of growth in your portfolio, you might be investing too conservatively for your own risk tolerance.

Take a longer-term perspective. When we're young, we sometimes are more inclined to desire instant gratification — we want results now. Translated into the investment world, this could mean we want to see big returns in a short period. However, despite the popular mythology, it's quite hard to turn enormous profits on investments overnight — or even over weeks or months. But as the years pass, we learn the value of thinking long-term — how investments we made years ago, and have added to steadily, are now yielding results that can help build the resources we need to reach our objectives.

Don't go it alone. Some of us, when we're young, have a tendency to think we have all the answers and don't need much help in our endeavors. But age gives us the wisdom to recognize that, although we may have acquired much knowledge over the years, we can still use some help in specialized areas, such as creating a long-term investment strategy.

These suggestions are appropriate for anyone — and they can help you on your journey toward your goals.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Dennis Antonopoulos, your local Edward Jones Advisor at 5 Albert St., Auburn, MA 01501 Tel: 508-832-5385 or dennis.antonopoulos@edwardjones.com.

Adjusting to the times: Get your antique and collectibles appraised without leaving home



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES
 WAYNE TUISKULA

The pandemic has affected all of us in some way, and non-profits are no exception. The Worcester Historical Museum recently reopened with social distancing guidelines in place. The Worcester Art Museum is scheduled to reopen this week. Cancelled events due to COVID-19 decreased revenue at these larger non-profits. Smaller non-profits typically have fewer grants and have likely suffered larger setbacks due to

COVID-19. With the inability conduct in-person meetings, members of smaller non-profits have not been able to share the camaraderie with those who hold similar interests.

One local non-profit group is learning how to adapt during these unprecedented times. The Townsend Historical Society recently approached me about appraising items virtually. I had appraised items at a live appraisal event for them in Townsend in 2017. I enjoy the interaction with the public at these events and look forward to having that interaction soon, even if it's through a screen.

The event will take place via Zoom during the Townsend Historical Society's "Virtually Vintage: A Live, Online Antique Appraisal Event" on Oct. 10 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. You can buy tickets to get your items appraised on their website: townsendhistoricalsociety.org. Appraisals are \$10 each or 3 items for \$25. After you purchase your ticket(s), you can either send photos of your items and any history that you have or bring them in person to Townsend on the day of the event. Ticket holders will be able to watch the entire event or just sign in when it is time to have their items appraised.

I have been working closely with Taber Morrell, the Site Administrator for the Townsend Historical Society, to prepare for the event. In an email interview, he said that the Site Administrator is responsible for the "Reed Homestead where [they] do most of [their] tours and programs, and where [their] records and artifact collections are stored." Morrell also said: "the position extends to other historic buildings we care for as well, a 19th century grist mill, cooperage, church, and some monuments throughout town."

Mr. Morrell provided me with some additional information on the organization and event. The group has close to 300 members who are "really active with the Historical Society and its programs."



He informed me that the "appraisal held in 2017 along with our Arts and Crafts Fair are absolutely the most talked about events." Unfortunately, the fair had to be canceled this year, but the organization has been working hard to make many other events accessible virtually. Mr. Morrell said that the Townsend Historical Society has run a "virtual open house, an online presentation about the history of tourism in New England, and [they are] even working on a web-based cemetery tour for October." He informed me that "members have been craving another edition of the antique appraisal [held with me] in 2017" and they hoped to "create a virtual version we could make a lot of people really happy." I look forward to utilizing modern technology to help online attendees learn more about their historical artifacts. I hope to see some regular readers of this column through my screen.

In addition to the virtual appraisal with the Townsend Historical Society, we also have other exciting events coming up this month. We will be holding an estate sale in Stoneham, Mass. on Oct. 17, following COVID-19 safety guidelines. Bidding will end on October 28th for our online coin auction. We are still accepting quality consignments for our multi-estate online antiques and collectibles auction ending on Nov. 11.

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.

Fishing with a friend



Courtesy

Matt Fontain with a few of the seabass and tautog we caught last week.

This past Friday, Matt Fontain and this writer decided to make a trip to Galilee, R.I. to do some fishing for seabass and tautog. After stopping at Quaker Lane Bait and Tackle shop to pick up some green crabs for bait, we headed for the boat ramp at Galilee. Upon arriving just after daybreak, we found ourselves in line at the ramp. "Fishing must be good, Matt" were the first words out of my mouth. After finally launching the boat, we managed to catch a few mummies for bait, but they were extremely scarce.

Matt went to park the car and trailer, which gave me some time to talk to a few anglers that had recently returned from Block Island. They had been fishing most of the night, and all managed to retain a keeper striper. I mentioned about all of the trailers in the parking lot and wondered if

they were mostly fishing for stripers. "Heck, no," one guy replied, "they are out chasing Bonito or False Albacore." Matt was returning from parking the car and trailer, so it was time to go fishing.

We headed out through the East Breaker Wall, and planned to fish in front of the light house at Point Judith. We spotted a group of boats fishing in front of Scarborough Beach area, so I mentioned that they more than likely were catching tautog, as it is always a hot spot in the fall. As we arrived in the area, we soon realized that they were all chasing Bonito. After observing numerous bonito busting the water around us, I decided to give it a try. After a few minutes of fishing Matt suggested that we go back to the area around the Lighthouse. "I just don't feel it," he stated, meaning that he felt we

were in the wrong spot.



THE GREAT OUTDOORS
.....
RALPH TRUE

"Let's go," I stated. Arriving at a spot a mile off of the lighthouse I lowered my rig bated with green crab. "Wow, I got a fish on!" The rig had barely hit the bottom and I was hooked up to a good fish.

As the fish was reeled up to the surface, we realized I had a large seabass. It was lock and load action for the rest of the morning, catching seabass and tautog using crabs as bait. We left a bit early because of a squall with heavy winds coming into the area, but it calmed down as fast as it came in. We were already



A few of the club members ready to hunt pheasant this past weekend.

half way back to the launch area, so we called it a day. We are heading back this week for some more action. Tautog fishing is heating up fast, so give it a try.

Two local youngsters harvested a deer this past Saturday in the valley area. It was an opportunity for them to hunt deer during the special one-day youth hunt that is an annual event. Because of the deadline of this column, I was not able to acquire the names of the two young hunters. Hopefully, there will be more information on the two successful hunters.

This past Saturday, the Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club had their first Pheasant hunt under their Preserve hunting license. It sure was nice to get the dogs out hunting for the first time. Numerous breeds of bird dogs did there

thing of pointing and flushing birds. Labrador Retrievers, Pointers, Springers, Brittney's, and a Griffon were some of the dogs hunting this past weekend. The smell of spent gun powder in the crisp morning air after downing our first pheasant of the year was a sure sign that fall was here. Dog owners that took the time to train their dogs during the off season were rewarded with some great dog work in the field. There is nothing more enjoyable than hunting over a well-trained dog. This week's picture shows a few hunters ready to enjoy a day in the field hunting pheasant, at the Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club.

Duck & Goose hunting opens on the 13th of October this year, in the Central District. Because of the low water in most ponds and rivers hunting ducks may be a lot

different than previous years. Locating areas of water along small streams, needs to be done prior to opening day. A good retrieving dog will save you a lot of otherwise lost birds. The wood duck population is high this year, as the birds had a good nesting season, as did the resident goose population.

Trout stocking by the Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife has started and most ponds and lakes that normally receive a fall stocking should be completed by the end of this week. The recent cool nights helped cool the water, but we still need a few inches of rain. Hopefully, we will get a good soaking soon.

Stay safe and wear a mask when out in the public!

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

Grow garlic this fall for flavorful meals and health benefits



GARDEN MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA MYERS

Add a bit of flavor and health benefits to your main course with some home-grown garlic. This vegetable has been used for thousands of years as both food and medicine. Today it is credited with fighting heart disease, lowering blood pressure and cholesterol, and boosting

the immune system while fighting cancer. Grow garlic in a well-drained soil and full sun. Plant cloves in fall about six weeks before the ground freezes in cold climates and early winter in warmer regions. Garlic needs 6 to 8 weeks of cool temperatures below 40 degrees for the shoot and bulb to develop. The leaves will form during cool, short days then slows as bulb growth begins when the days are warmer and longer.

Plant individual cloves with the pointed side up and the base of the clove 2 to 3 inches below the soil surface. Space cloves 6 inches apart in rows 12 to 14 inches apart or more depending on the variety.

Mulch the soil with weed-free straw

after the ground freezes in regions with cold winters. This provides added insulation and helps prevent frost heaving that occurs when temperatures fluctuate, causing soil to alternately freeze, thaw and shift throughout the winter.

Water thoroughly and often enough to keep the soil evenly moist during active growth. Inconsistent moisture during the growing season results in misshapen bulbs. Mulch the soil with shredded leaves, evergreen needles, or other organic matter to conserve moisture, suppress weeds, and improve the soil as it decomposes.

Double your garlic harvest by using the curly Q stems, called scapes, in cooking and flower arrangements. Watch for these curled stems about a month after the spring leaves appear.

Remove the scape soon after the swollen part appears at the tip of the stem. Cut or break the scape off just below the swollen area. All parts are edible and can be used fresh or cooked just like garlic. You will not only enjoy the mild flavor but removing the scapes helps increase the size of the garlic bulbs.

Harvest garlic when about one third, but less than one half of the leaves turn brown. Start by digging one plant and checking the garlic for maturity. Cloves should be plump and fill the skin. Immature garlic does not store well while over-mature bulbs are subject to disease.

Cure garlic for 3 to 4 weeks in a warm, well-ventilated location. Once dried, remove the tops and store in a cool, moderately humid location with good air circulation and out of direct sunlight. Properly harvested and cured garlic will last for up to 8 months.

So, plant some garlic this fall and add flavor and health benefits to your meals.

Gardening expert Melinda Myers has 30 years of horticulture experience and

written over 20 gardening books, including *Small Space Gardening*. Myers is the host of *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* DVD series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio segments*. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Myers' website is www.melindamyers.com.

LEGALS

(SEAL)

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
Docket Number: 20 SM 001552
ORDER OF NOTICE

TO:

Keith Jacobson a/k/a Keith G. Jacobson and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq) PennyMac Loan Services, LLC claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Auburn, numbered 5 Water Street, given by Keith Jacobson to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Mortgage Network, Inc., dated June 28, 2018, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 59018, Page 240 and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before NOV 09 2020 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act. Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on SEP 23, 2020
Attest :Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
17790
October 9, 2020



Photo Melinda Myers

Plant garlic cloves in fall about six weeks before the ground freezes in cold climates and early winter in warmer regions.

Sage Camosse of Auburn graduates from Hofstra University

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — Sage Camosse of Auburn graduated from Hofstra University in spring 2020, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism.

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This section reaches 47,000 households in 7 Massachusetts newspapers.

Tips to Carve a Full Fall Display

No traditional New England harvest display would be complete without a parade of fat pumpkins and a sprinkling of assorted gourds. The simple pumpkin, rich in both nutrition and heritage, has long served as an object of intrigue and even today, generations of Native Americans hail the pumpkin's healing seeds as a medicinal sedative. Add in the mystique of the annual Halloween Jack-O-Lantern, and its no wonder both pumpkins and gourds remain an autumn wonder, touted for both their culinary and decorative virtues. Here are some tips to "carve out" a fun fall display! ***

For carving, choose pumpkins with a sturdy stem, as this is the sign of a healthy pumpkin. Never lift a pumpkin by its stem, not only do you risk it breaking off, a stemless pumpkin ages faster. ***

If you are tracing a design to carve from a pumpkin or gourd, use a chopstick or nut spear to

press into the gourd for a foolproof guideline. ***

To cut out a top lid that won't fall inside the pumpkin, carve a hexagon shape to keep it sitting pretty throughout the night. ***

Better yet, cut off the bottom of the pumpkin instead of the top. Place the carved pumpkin over a candle safely set on a plate, or for optimum safety, simply use a flashlight. ***

If you plan to place a pillar candle inside your Jack-Lantern, first cut a hole in the bottom of the pumpkin the same size as your candle to stabilize it. ***

For a festive twist on traditional Jack-O-Lantern lights or candles, stuff a string of small white Christmas lights inside the carved pumpkin. Make a hole out the back to feed plug through. ***

Carving a gourd? Here's a hint to halt the hassle. Simply place a towel inside a large bowl to hold the gourd steady. Place



TAKE THE HINT
KAREN TRAINOR

the gourd in the padded bowl to keep it from moving while you trace or cut. ***

Did you know? The Japanese considered the gourd a lucky token and believed a set of six gourds had the power to improve health and spiritual power. Plus they believed the set of gourds could produce six fortunes! ***

Want your Jack-O-Lantern or gourd sculpture to last longer? A spray of Lysol or other disinfectant will prolong life of pumpkins and gourds. ***

For long term storage, put a thin amount of petroleum jelly on the exposed, sawed edges. This prevents water from getting out. If water gets out, your pumpkin will shrivel.

*** Stretch the longevity of a Jack-O-Lantern by giving it a bath. Let the pumpkin float for a few hours, or even overnight, allowing the insides fill with water. Put a little bleach in the water if you wish to prevent mold. The pumpkin absorbs the water and become very firm. Anytime your pumpkin shrivels, soak it in a bath of cold water for one to eight hours to rejuvenate it. **

*** Another way to extend a lighted Jack-O-Lantern's life is to poke a vent hole or two in the top of the pumpkin to vent the heat and slow the rotting process. ***

Jack-O-Lantern Lore Legend has it the Jack-O-Lantern evolved from an Irish tale involving a drunkard named Jack. According to the longtime yarn, Jack was a trickster who playfully deceived family members. His fate was sealed the day he attempted to trick the devil into climbing an apple tree. Once Jack con-

vinced the devil to climb the tree, he placed crosses around the tree trunk, trapping the devil. With the devil cornered, Jack refused let him down until he promised not to take Jack's soul when he died. The story goes that many years later when Jack died, he couldn't get into heaven, yet he was turned out of hell too, because of the devil's long ago promise. Jack found himself with nowhere to go. He asked the devil how to leave the gates of hell as there was no light to guide him. According to the tale, the devil threw him an ember from the flames of hell to help him light his way. Jack put the burning ember inside a hollowed out pumpkin. From that day on, it is said that Jack wandered the earth without a resting place, lighting his way with his lantern, thus the legend of the "Jack-O-Lantern," was born. ***

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

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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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<p>ON DEPOSIT</p> <p>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' AC'd Colonial! Custom SS Appliance 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! \$949,900.00</p>	<p>ON DEPOSIT</p> <p>WEBSTER LAKE – 11 Bay View Rd! One of the Lake's Premier Properties! 9,822' of Nice! .68 Acres of Park Like Grounds! 297' Waterfront! \$4 Million Spent, Nothing Spared! 17 Rms! 5 Water View Bdrms, 5.5 Baths! Brazilian Cherry Hrdwd Flrs, Grand & Spiral Stairways! Elevator, Ground Flr to Master Suite! In-door Resistance Swimming Pool, Hot Tub & Bthrm w/Steam Shower off Exercise Rm! Billiard Rm! Media Rm! Center Isl Granite Kit w/Viking Gas Range, Sub-Zero Frig, Pantry & Breakfast Bar! Open Flr Plan! Din Area, Fam Rm w/Entertainment Center w/Wet Bar! Formal Din Rm, Frplcd Liv Rm & Atrium! Library w/Deck! Waterfront Master Suite w/Office, Bdrm w/Triple Glass Dr to Private Deck w/Lake Views, 3 Walk-in Closets, Bathrm w/Multi-Head Shower, Whirlpool, Dble Vanity, Separate Commode/Bidet/Sink Area! 16 2" of Updated Geothermal Heat/A/C! Recessed Lights & Fire Sprinklers Through Out! 3 Car Garage! Generator! Slate Roof! Reward Yourself! \$2,499,900.00</p>
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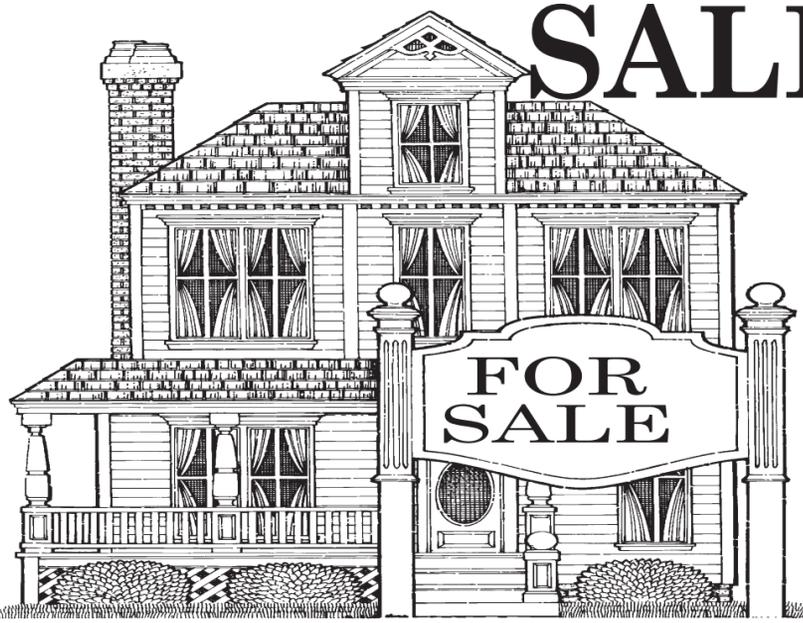
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QCC sophomore fights COVID one note at a time

WORCESTER — One Quinsigamond Community College student has put her own spin on how to deal with today's national health crisis — through song. Sophomore music major Mason Wheaton sang her way into the hearts of many, with her self-written and self-recorded video song, "We Can Fight the Virus," sung to the tune of Bill Joel's 1989 hit, "We Didn't Start the Fire." Her rallying cry celebrated the start of school at QCC, and offered a brief insight into what students, faculty and staff are doing to push forward during these unprecedented times.

"Mason is an example of the incredible talent that we see in so many of

our students. This was a fun and effective way to demonstrate what we can and should be doing to fight the virus. Mason's song will resonate with many in the days and weeks to come," QCC President Dr. Luis G. Pedraja said.

Ms. Wheaton is a first generation college student, and her journey to higher education is similar to many community college students.

"I started college later in life at age 22. I didn't know what I wanted to do, so I hesitated because I didn't want a lot of debt, but I was worried about my future and didn't want to keep working in low level jobs," she said.

After a bit of self-reck-

oning she enrolled at QCC to, as she put it, "save money and have a better life." She registered for classes in 2019, taking a full course load and becoming an active member of the college community. She became a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society; a student peer mentor; a tutor in the college's Writing Center and a member of the college's Music Club.

When Music Professor José Castillo was asked to find a student to perform a parody song to motivate the college during the pandemic, he immediately thought of Ms. Wheaton.

"My responsibility was to choose the perfect performer for the song.

Someone who would not only have a beautiful voice and musical talent, but also someone who would make the lyrics come to life and add a special charisma to the overall project," said Music Professor José Castillo. "I have worked with Mason for the past year, as she is part of the music option degree program. Mason has always been eager to take on new challenges in and out of the classroom, which is an excellent quality to have."

Ms. Wheaton said the lyrics she wrote were inspired by information she found on the college's website. Due to COVID-19 and in-person restrictions, she recorded the song at home on her phone in her closet,

after Mr. Castillo suggested the clothing in the closet would help absorb the echoing sound often heard when recording in a room. Mr. Castillo assisted with the background music and put the production together. Not only has the song become a hit with the college, it has also earned additional attention through the college's social media platforms.

"I am hearing from everyone how they loved the song," she said.

Ms. Wheaton plans to graduate in spring 2021 with her associate degree in music, and hopes to transfer to UMass Amherst to major in vocal performance/ vocal pedagogy and become a vocal teacher. She said

she is grateful to have begun her higher education at QCC.

"There is no shame in going to a community college. It's the smarter way to go to school especially if you don't have a lot of money, and then you can easily transfer to a four-year school," she said. "I want to help students become interested in being a part of the college community and follow their dreams."

To listen to part of Ms. Wheaton's song, visit www.QCC.edu/fight-the-virus. For more information about QCC, contact Josh Martin, Director of Institutional Communications at 508-854-7513 or jmartin@qcc.mass.edu.

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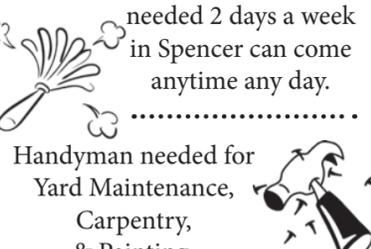
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Special Town Meeting to discuss capital purchases

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – Nine warrant articles will be up for discussion during the town of Charlton's special town meeting on Oct. 13, which will be held in neighboring Dudley.

Of the nine articles on the warrant, several are housekeeping measures. Article 1 will ask voters to allow the town to pay bills invoiced to the town prior to June 30, 2020 while Article 2 involves amendments to the Fiscal Year 2021 budget to correct projected shortfalls identified after the spring annual town meeting. Article 3 will also seek an amendment to the 2021 Fiscal Year budget concerning a shortfall in the Prindle Dam receipts.

Article 4 on the warrant involves miscellaneous capital items mostly involving the town's Capital Improvement Plan. This article is being split into nine separate motions concerning conservation, town cemeteries, the town library, an update to the master plan, technology upgrades, the purchase of a replacement cruiser and ambulance for the police and fire departments respectively, a town wide radio replacement project, the replacement of a John Deere loader, and new pickup trucks for the water and sewer departments with money being requested from a variety of sources depending on the item. A full breakdown of Article 4 has been made available along with details on other articles on the warrant on the Town of Charlton Web site.

Article 5 on the warrant will seek to transfer funds from the town's stabilization account. Articles 6 and 7 will involve

a pair of proposed zoning map amendments while Article 8 will seek to amend the regulations for building heights in the town's Industrial General Business Enterprise Park zoning districts. The amendment would increase the allowed height of such buildings from the current 36-foot limit to 50 feet. Finally, Article 9 will seek a further zoning amendment to parking zoning regulations for manufacturing and warehousing uses.

The special town meeting will take place at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 13 at Shepherd Hill Regional High School in Dudley which serves as the main public high school for both towns.



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