

Auburn seniors celebrate at Sheriff's Senior Picnic



Courtesy

Pat Cloutier from Auburn pictured with Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis, and Marion O'Connor and Judy Gentile from Douglas, were among the attendees at the Sheriff's Annual Senior Picnic held recently on Aug. 21 at SAC Park in Shrewsbury.

SHREWSBURY — Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis had the distinct pleasure of hosting more than 1,000 senior citizens in 600 vehicles from throughout Worcester County for the Sheriff's Annual Senior Picnic held on Saturday, Aug. 21 at SAC Park in Shrewsbury. The Sheriff's picnic has become a highly anticipated and beloved annual event for the county's senior community and drew another record crowd.

"As Sheriff, hosting the senior picnic is one of the great days of the year. Unable to do it last year due to Covid, we were determined to put on a safe picnic that would bring everyone together to celebrate. We were able to pull off a first of its kind drive-through picnic. People had such a wonderful time. I am so grateful to our volunteers and all the seniors who came out and made the day so special," said Evangelidis.

The drive through picnic was sponsored by the Worcester County Reserve Deputy Sheriff's Association including donations by many local businesses and featured a BBQ box lunch, raffle prizes, complimentary gift bags, music and entertainment. More than 250 volunteers, including more than 100 members of the Nichols College football team, were also on hand to assist with the high turnout.

"We couldn't have been more pleased with how the day went and we are thrilled that it has become such a beloved annual tradition. We fulfilled our goal of getting seniors out and about in a safe way and it's fantastic to see such a great turnout with everyone having such a great time," said Evangelidis.

Auburn residents to participate in Boston Marathon® Jimmy Fund Walk

AUBURN — Three residents from Auburn will choose their own route on October 3 for the Boston Marathon® Jimmy Fund Walk: Your Way presented by Hyundai. Participants are encouraged to "Walk Your Way" from wherever they are most comfortable—whether that be from their neighborhood, favorite trail, or from a treadmill in their own home.

Jessica Hickson, Maribeth Mcnamara, and Mary Perron, along with thousands of other walkers, will participate in virtual programming during the Walk that aims to recreate the most inspiring elements of Walk day. While the event will not physically bring walkers together along the famed Boston Marathon® course, it will unite the community to raise funds to support all forms of adult and pediatric care and cancer research at the nation's premier cancer center, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The event has raised more than \$150 million for Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in its more than 30 year history.

"While we can't see everyone in person this year, we are excited for the virtual programing which will give participants the opportunity to support breakthroughs in cancer care and research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute," said Zack Blackburn, Director of the Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk. "Together, from a safe distance, we will take critical strides in the journey to defy cancer."

This year's event will have a lower fundraising requirement, \$100 for adults and \$25 for those under 18, with a \$5 registration fee. All registered walkers will receive a bib and medal and the first 5,000 to register will receive a Jimmy Fund Walk T-shirt.

Anyone interested in additional information can reference the Jimmy Fund Walk: Your Way frequently asked questions or can send an email to JimmyFundWalk@DFCI.harvard.edu. Funds raised from the Jimmy Fund Walk support all forms of adult and pediatric patient care and cancer research at the nation's premier cancer center, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The Boston Athletic Association has supported the Jimmy Fund Walk since 1989, and Hyundai has been the presenting sponsor since 2002.

To register to walk (#JimmyFundWalk) or to support a walker visit www.JimmyFundWalk.org or call (866) 531-9255. All Jimmy Fund Walk participants are encouraged to utilize the Charity Miles App to help with training and fundraising, engage with Dana-Farber patient stories and podcasts, and much more!

Fuller Automotive Group announces "The Pit Stop" for express auto services

AUBURN — Fuller Automotive Group of Auburn announces the opening of 'The Pit Stop' at their current location, 505 Washington St. in Auburn.

The Pit Stop offers fast and efficient quick lube services without a franchise affiliation. This allows The Pit Stop to provide the same outstanding service that customers have come to expect from the "Fuller Family Brand" enhanced with a new level of superior convenience.

According to Fuller Automotive Group President Chris Fuller, "We decided to make this change so we could be more efficient both for our customers and as a company."

According to Fuller,

the pandemic forced businesses to review all their processes to determine how to best provide for customer and employee safety and convenience. In doing so, Fuller Automotive determined there were areas where customers could be better served while employees were more efficiently utilized. By being proactive and flexible, Fuller Automotive remained strong throughout the pandemic and is well positioned for the future.

"We look forward to growing the Fuller Automotive brand and continuing to develop and maintain the relationships that have allowed us to thrive for more than 100 years" Fuller added.

About Fuller Automotive Group
Fuller Automotive at 505 Washington St. (Route 20) in Auburn has been a recognized and trusted name in automotive repair for over 100 years. In 1914, Willis Fuller founded the busi-

ness based on horse and buggy repairs. Willis anticipated the rise of the automobile and adapted his business to focus on the new technology.

Following in Willis' footsteps, son Freeman Fuller opened a second location for auto repairs in 1941. Freeman Fuller is responsible for moving the company to its landmark location on Auburn St. in 1951. Freeman's son Richard continued expanding the business, including opening the current Route 20 location.

Today, Richard's sons Chris and Josh are now at the helm, with Richard's continued support and guidance. The Fuller family's reputation for offering motorists continuous, reliable, cost-effective service have been an industry standard and an area benchmark for more than 100 years.

For more information about Fuller Automotive Group, visit www.fullerautomotive.com

Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy welcomes new professor

CHARLTON — Professors and students of the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy gave a warm welcome to Ana Olivar, MSN Ed, RN of Rutland as full-time faculty for the 2021-2022 academic year.

Professor Olivar joined the Practical Nursing Academy as adjunct faculty in 2016. Professor Olivar will be the lead faculty for Medical-Surgical Nursing SIM laboratory with her expertise in high-fidelity and low-fidelity simulators.

Academy Director, Gretheline Bolandrina, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN said, "We welcome Professor Olivar to Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy as full-time faculty. We are happy that Professor Olivar joined the practical nursing department of Bay Path and are excited to work together towards the Academy's nursing accreditation."

Professor Watson obtained her Master of Science in Nursing



Ana Olivar

degree from Walden University in Nursing Education track (2013). Professor Olivar began her nursing career as a Registered Nurse earning her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Cebu City Medical Center College of Nursing (1996) in the Philippines. She is a candidate for Doctor of Education specializing in Nursing Education from the Northcentral University.

Prior to joining Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, Professor

Olivar's professional experience included faculty positions at the Blackstone Valley Technical School, Quinsigamond Community College, and Massachusetts Bay Community College. Her past clinical affiliations include RN manager, nursing supervisor at the Neuro Rehabilitation Center at Worcester, Whittier Rehabilitation Hospital, and West Side House.



Selectmen honor past members

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – Charlton’s current Board of Selectmen took time to honor previous members during an Aug. 10 meeting, with former selectmen John McGrath, Deborah Noble and Karen Spiewak all present to be acknowledged

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by their peers.

Selectman Bill Borowski started the brief ceremony noting that all three selectmen had exited their positions during the pandemic and had not received a “proper goodbye.” McGrath chose not to run for reelection in 2020 after years of service to the town, Noble chose to run for Town Moderator instead of maintaining her selectman seat in 2020 and Spiewak relinquished her seat earlier this year as she planned to move out of town. Borowski and his fellow sitting selectmen saw fit to finally give these three public servants a proper “thank you” for their dedication to the town.

“From the bottom of my heart, I can’t thank all of you enough. When I first came on all three of you took me under your wings to teach me more about what the most important things were for the town. I know we didn’t always get along, but the reality is you were all great mentors,” Borowski said. “You all dedicated a tremendous number of hours to the town, and we are in the better place because of you three. The town owes you a thank you for all your years of service.”

Selectman David Singer, current-



Courtesy
Former selectmen Deborah Noble, John McGrath and Karen Spiewak were recognized by the current Board of Selectmen for their service to Charlton.

ly the longest tenured selectman on the board, who, along with Borowski, served with all three prior selectmen, also took a moment to recognize his former colleagues noting that the job of a selectman is often thankless, but it is an important job nonetheless that all three dedicated themselves too proudly.

“I don’t think the public really knows what you did behind the scenes, the selfless acts and in some cases the abuse

when all you ever did was fight for what you believe is right for this town,” said Singer. “I don’t think we can thank you enough for putting yourselves out there and doing what you did for as long as you did.”

Selectmen capped off the brief ceremony with a break from their meeting to enjoy cake and welcome other present to share in celebrating the work of the three former town leaders.

Local students enroll at College of the Holy Cross

WORCESTER — The College of the Holy Cross congratulates 822 new Crusaders who will be starting at the College in Fall 2021. The following local students will be part of the Class of 2025:

Kali Day of Auburn
Claudia Oliver of Auburn
Sabrina Tang of Auburn

The Class of 2025 includes students from 33 states and 15 nations across the globe. This year’s incoming class is made up of 54 percent women and 46 percent men, with 23 percent of students coming from ethnically diverse backgrounds and 16 percent as proud first-generation college students.

These newly minted Crusaders have dis-

tinguished themselves through community service, leadership roles, and diverse participation in areas like the arts, music and athletics.

The new Crusaders will arrive on campus and move into the residence halls starting at 8:30 a.m., Saturday, August 28th, where they will be welcomed to Mount St. James by an enthusiastic purple crew of current students, staff, faculty and alumni. Fall classes are set to begin Monday, September 6th.

“I am thrilled to welcome Holy Cross’ Class of 2025 - a vibrant and diverse group of exceptional students who are also one of the most academically accomplished classes in the College’s history. I can’t wait to see what you do and how you

will grow ethically, spiritually and intellectually on The Hill,” said Holy Cross President Vincent Rougeau.

About Holy Cross

The College of the Holy Cross, in Worcester, Mass., is among the nation’s leading liberal arts institutions. A highly selective, four-year, exclusively undergraduate college of 3,100 students, Holy Cross is renowned for offering a rigorous, personalized education in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition. Since its founding in 1843, Holy Cross has made a positive impact in society by graduating students who distinguish themselves as thoughtful leaders in business, professional and civic life.

Socially Speaking...

This feature is for churches, senior centers, libraries, or other civic organizations who have events coming up.

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P.E.O. Sisters' Meeting includes Bay Path PN Director

PAXTON — P.E.O. Chapter R met recently at the home of Pamela Thomas-Nielsen. A delicious lunch was provided by the hostess. The P.E.O. sisters shared many interesting facts and explained the many wonderful fundraising activities as well as the equally wonderful scholarship recipients they have worked with in the past. Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN of Douglas, Academy Director for Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy attended along with her daughter Lilly A. Bolandrina of Boston, a sophomore at Boston University, major in economics. The Bolandrinas admired the many accomplishments and philanthropic work of the P.E.O. sisters.

P.E.O. is a philanthropic organization where women CELEBRATE the advancement of women; EDUCATE women through scholarships, grants, awards, loans, and stewardship of Cottey College and MOTIVATE women to achieve their highest aspirations. The P.E.O. Sisterhood is a U.S.-based international women's organization of about 230,000 members, with a primary focus on providing educational opportunities for female students worldwide. The Sisterhood is headquartered in Des Moines, Iowa, with chapters throughout the United States and Canada (www.peointernational.org).

The sisters in attendance who shared



P.E.O. Chapter R met recently at the home of Pamela Thomas-Nielsen.

their stories include the hostess, Pamela Thomas-Nielsen of Paxton, Jane Flynn, Beverly Kruger and Eleanor Brockway, all of Worcester, Barbara Cotoian and Chris White, both of Shrewsbury, Katy

Todd of North Andover, Joan Clauson and Sheila Ansley, both of Charlton.

For more information about P.E.O., visit www.peointernational.org.

Courtesy

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.

Historical Society announces book sale

AUBURN — The Auburn Historical Society and Museum will be holding a book sale at the Museum, 41 South St., Auburn, on Saturday, Sept. 11 from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Books of all genres will be available, including children's, cooking, mystery and more! If you have books you would like to donate to the sale, please call us at 508-832-6856 or email us at auburnmuseum@verizon.net. Please, no early birds!

Meghan Hines named to Clark University's Dean's List

WORCESTER — Meghan T. Hines, of Auburn, was named to first honors on the Clark University Dean's List. This selection marks outstanding academic achievement during the Spring 2021 semester.

Students must have a GPA of 3.8 or above for first honors or a GPA between 3.50 and 3.79 for second honors.

Founded in 1887, Clark University is a liberal arts-based research university that prepares its students to meet tomorrow's most daunting challenges and embrace its greatest opportunities. Through 33 undergraduate majors, more than 30 advanced degree programs, and nationally recognized community partnerships, Clark fuses rigorous scholarship with authentic world and workplace experiences that empower our students to pursue lives and careers of meaning and consequence.

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Department of Public Works – Highway Division,
5 Millbury Street, Auburn, MA 01501,
Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Applications are also available on the Town of Auburn website
www.auburnguide.com.

Applications must be returned to the DPW by October 1, 2021. The Town of Auburn reserves the right to waive any informalities and accept or reject any or all applications, or portions of such, if thought to be in the best interest of the Town.

Kenneth Fairbanks, Highway Superintendent

State officials reverse course on masking in schools

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION—Less than a month after authorizing local school boards to approve their own mask policies for the upcoming year, state leaders have reversed course and mandated masking in schools.

At a special meeting held on Aug. 24, the state's Board of Elementary and Secondary Education voted 9-1 to give Commissioner Jeffrey Riley the authority to mandate masks in all K-12 public schools through at least Oct. 1.

When students left school in June for the summer break, they assumed they were also leaving mask mandates behind. COVID-19 conditions were rapidly improving at the time, but the highly contagious Delta variant caused a significant reversion over the last month.

Now, as students head back to school, they'll once again have to include masks in their daily preparations.

"In light of the current rise of COVID-19 in Massachusetts, I believe a mask mandate

will be an important additional measure to keep students in school safely at this time," Commissioner Riley said. "Masks remain a simple and effective mitigation measure to prevent the spread of COVID-19. A mandate will also provide more time for students and staff to get vaccinated, as we know vaccination remains the single most important tool in mitigating the impact of COVID-19."

The late changes in policy at the state level frustrated local school officials, parents, and students. Many school committees had already voted on masking guidance for the fall of 2021, only to have state leaders override local policies at the last minute. Governor Charlie Baker had even supported the DESE's previous recommendations that individual school districts determine their own masking regulations.

"Giving the locals the opportunity to own the decisions they make is a big and important issue," Baker said during an Aug. 16 press conference. "If

you look at what has played out in other states where the government has taken away the authority for locals to make their own decisions, that's not the right way to play this game."

Despite the vacillation among state educational leaders, many local school officials and parents are pleased with the eventual change back to mask mandates. Officials had been concerned about how to ensure continued safety in schools without firm policies in place, especially with unvaccinated students, staff members, and visitors returning to school buildings this fall.

The state's latest mask mandate applies to all public school students in grades K-12, as well as staff members. It includes an exemption for individuals who cannot wear a mask for medical or behavioral reasons.

At the end of September, Commissioner Riley will reassess COVID-19 conditions and determine with medical experts whether the mask mandate should be extended. With cases and hospitalizations sharply rising nationwide over the last month, many experts are predicting that conditions will worsen with the return of colder weather.

State officials said all decisions related to masking, however unpopular, are made with the goal of keeping students in class full-time this year. Riley and his team have faced pres-

sure all summer from parents and educators on both sides of the debate.

"At the forefront of my recommendation is the best interest of students and staff as they return safely to full-time, in-person instruction this fall," Riley said. "While we have already put in place significant measures to support schools and districts in this regard, I am recommending this additional measure in light of the increasing case rates, and to further encourage and provide additional time for more students and staff to get vaccinated."

State officials said the mask mandate complements additional safety measures that were implemented jointly by the DESE and the Department of Public Health (DPH). These include guidance for schools on hosting vaccination clinics, establishing plans for COVID-19 testing in schools, and improving health screening for students and staff.

State officials are also utilizing the mask mandate as a tool to incentivize vaccination. In an August 20 memo released by Riley, the Commissioner indicated that, as of Oct. 1, all schools with a vaccination rate of 80 percent or greater for students and staff will be able to lift the mask mandate for vaccinated individuals only.

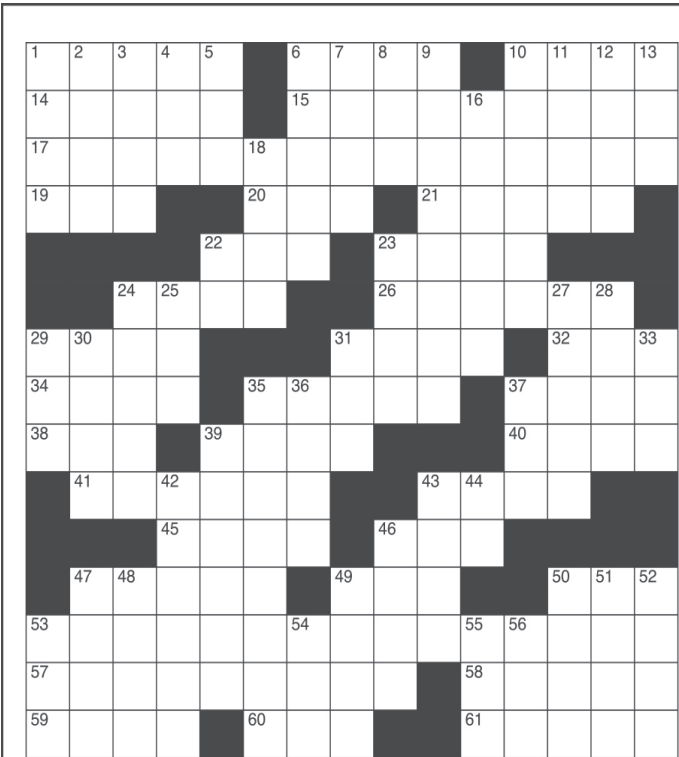
"Schools would be able to submit an attestation form provided by DESE to demonstrate

they have met this threshold," Riley wrote. "Once schools reach the 80 percent threshold and receive approval to lift the mask mandate, vaccinated students and staff may remove their masks. In alignment with statewide guidance, unvaccinated students and staff would be required to continue wearing masks."

The latest mask mandate from DESE aligns with similar orders in schools and workplaces across the country. Now that the Pfizer vaccine has gained full FDA approval, the nationwide push for increased vaccination rates received a major shot in the arm. Last week, several companies and agencies joined the list of employers requiring staff members to be vaccinated.

For Riley and his team, the push for increased vaccinations will continue through the fall. Officials are heavily promoting vaccination clinics as the cold and flu season looms. For now, state leaders are relying on the mask mandate to maintain safety.

"I believe having these measures in place will allow for a strong start of the school year and provide additional safety measures until more students and staff are vaccinated," Riley said. "As always, we will continue to monitor developments, consult with medical experts and public health officials, and adjust requirements as appropriate."



CLUES ACROSS

1. Secret clique

6. Earliest in and out

10. Ancient Egyptian symbol of life

14. Olfactory property

15. Kidnapping

17. Golf prize

19. Helps little firms

20. Cast a spell on

21. Panama is one

22. Dishonorable man

23. Sea eagle

24. Part of the healing process

26. Vin's last name

29. Wings

31. Made older

32. Political device

34. Looks like a rabbit
35. Gurus

37. Philippine Island

38. Not or

39. Hindu model of ideal man

40. Exam

41. Making less difficult

43. Without

45. Dravidian ethnic group

46. A baglike structure

47. Buenos Aires capital La __

49. Dab

50. Singers who perform together

53. Pirates' saying

57. OK to allude to

58. Somaliland diplomat

59. Has to pay back

60. Felix is one

61. Intestinal pouches

CLUES DOWN

1. Harsh cries of a crow

2. Type of horse

3. __ fide: authentic

4. Doctors' group

5. Fugitives are on it

6. Forged

7. Wild goat

8. Influential American president

9. Calls for help

10. Repents

11. Palm tree with creeping roots

12. Black powder used in makeup

13. Happy New Year

16. Stretched out one's neck

18. Whale ship captain

22. Atomic #20

23. Border

24. River that borders India and Nepal

25. After B

27. Fencing swords

28. Where researchers work

29. Expression of satisfaction
30. Broadway actor Nathan

31. Heavy, heat-retaining stove

33. A way to eliminate

35. Type of tree resin

36. Russian river

37. Children's TV network

39. Troublemaker

42. Averts or delays

43. Self-immolation by fire ritual

44. It cools your home

46. Satisfy to the fullest

47. Stinks!

48. Popular board game

49. Attack by hurling

50. A vale

51. Type of acid

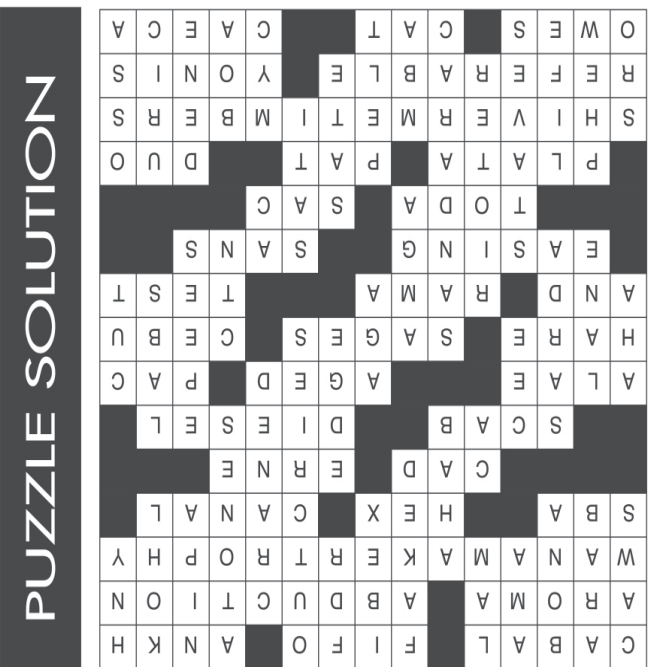
52. Tasmania's highest mountain

53. No seats available

54. Licensed for Wall Street

55. Family of genes

56. Constrictor snake



Local residents named to Simmons University Dean's List

BOSTON — The following local residents were named to the 2021 spring semester dean's list at Simmons University in Boston.

- * Madison Poshkus, Auburn

* Nicole Canas, Millbury

* Hannah Bishop, Millbury

* Amani Eljadidi, North Oxford

To qualify for dean's list

status, undergraduate students must obtain a grade point average of 3.5 or higher, based on 12 or more credit hours of work in classes using the letter grade system.

About Simmons University Located in the heart of Boston, Simmons is a respected private university offering more than 50 majors and programs for undergraduate women and graduate programs open to all on campus, in blended

formats, or entirely online in nursing and health sciences, liberal arts, business, communications, social work, public health, and library and information science. Founded in 1899, Simmons has established a model of higher education that other colleges and universities are only recently beginning to adapt: the combination of education for leadership in high-demand professional fields with the intellectual founda-

tion of the liberal arts. The result is a Simmons graduate prepared not only to work, but to lead in professional, civic, and personal life - a vision of empowerment that Simmons calls preparation for life's work. Follow Simmons on Twitter at @SimmonsUniv, and on LinkedIn at https://www.linkedin.com/school/simmons-university/.

Local residents named to Simmons University Dean's List

BOSTON — The following local residents were named to the 2021 spring semester dean's list at Simmons University in Boston.

- * Katarina Senckowski, Brimfield

* Alyssa Cameron, Brimfield

* Lindsay Albright, Charlton

* Olivia Panagiotou, Webster

* Victoria

Lavelle, Webster

To qualify for dean's list status, undergraduate students must obtain a grade point average of 3.5 or higher, based on 12 or more credit hours of work in classes using the letter grade system.

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professional fields with the intellectual foundation of the liberal arts. The result is a Simmons graduate prepared not only to work, but to lead in professional, civic, and personal life - a vision of empowerment that Simmons calls preparation for life's work. Follow Simmons on Twitter at @SimmonsUniv, and on LinkedIn at https://www.linkedin.com/school/simmons-university/.

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\$420,000, 18 Gates Ct, Grady, Sean, and James, Jessika, to Cooper, Jessica D, and Angulo-Lara, Christopher.

\$295,000, 40 Hawthorne St, Miller, Joseph A, and Miller, Lianne F, to Genduso, Michael S.

\$248,000, 75 Bryn Mawr Ave, Shea, Raymond W, and Colonero, Maryanne N, to Vartabedian, Sarah.

\$220,000, 37 Wallace Ave, 37-39 Wallace Avenue RT, and Fermin, Israel, to Pickoff Properties LLC.

\$145,000, 53 Harrison Ave #4, Veau, Lisa D, and Veau, Scott B, to Richmond, Daniel J.

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In Print and Online

Study puts focus on voter turnout

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – Over this past summer, the town of Charlton has hosted an intern, Shepherd Hill Class of 2021 graduate Henry Weiland, who has worked on a special project geared towards helping improve voter turnout in the town.

Weiland, who also served as a student representative on the Charlton Board of Selectmen during his senior year, called his project the Charlton Civic Engagement Initiative. Spurred by the curiosity and interest he obtained in town politics from his time working with Charlton's highest elected body Weiland wanted to find ways to help improve voter participation realizing that recent numbers have been an all-time low for the

town even when considering the 2020 pandemic. Weiland presented his finding to selectmen at a meeting in early August. When comparing the turnout for the November 2020 election Weiland found that nearly 79 percent of voters in Charlton took to the polls even under pandemic limitations. In the 2021 local elections, however, only 7.16 percent cast their ballots, and only 1.44 percent of registered voters took part in the 2021 annual town meeting. The data showed 2021 as among the lowest, if not the lowest, turnouts for the local election and town meeting in modern recorded history in Charlton. His research also showed that the numbers had been steadily declining over the past two decades despite certain hot-button issues and highly publicized

elections serving as successful outliers. Overall, Weiland felt the problem wasn't isolated to any one year. Consistent voter participation in Charlton has been falling for some time.

"It's a yearly occurrence, and we have to look at what we do and how we do it to change that and get more voters to turn out," Weiland told selectmen. "A lot has changed in the past 20 years. We didn't have cellphones. It was a completely different society. Sometimes the local government is a little bit slower than the changes in society so it's a little bit of a call for us to do better and that progress exists."

Weiland's research also sought input from the public through a Google forum poll, although that only resulted in 174 participants.

Still, the results provided a consistent perspective. Most of the participants said they partake in local elections or meetings, and just over 60 percent of them felt they were informed of town meetings and elections while 68 percent felt they were informed of the place and time of these events. The survey also sought input on how communication can be improved and increased signage informing of elections and meetings and the use of a push notification system to remind voters of these events were among the most popular options.

"This led me to conclude that there is a large percentage of people who don't know where and when we vote. That should lead us to improve our communication between the town and our citizens and that the town election meet-

ing days can be moved around a bit to increase accessibility to the town," Weiland said.

Some of his recommendations were increasing physical signage around town, especially in heavily trafficked areas like Route 20, and considering using the TurboVote system which allows individuals to register for reminders without risk of their personal information being sold off.

While Weiland felt his report provided some insight into how the community can improve, he acknowledged that the goal isn't to get everyone to the polls. It's simply to make sure people are informed and can be involved if they choose.

"Obviously, you can't get everyone. You're not going to be able to force everyone to vote. Not everyone is going to be interested. It's unre-

alistic. The fact that 80 percent of people participated before in a town election and only 7 percent participated this year shows that there is room for improvement. We're never going to hit a hundred – It's not really about fixing the issue entirely, but improving what we have," said Weiland.

The Board of Selectmen said they will take Weiland's data and recommendations under consideration including examining and investment in TurboVote and considering the possibility of forming a committee to help built off of the foundation Weiland provided in his research. The Board also discussed the possibility of starting informational welcome kits for new citizens to town helping to introduce them to Charlton's governmental processes.

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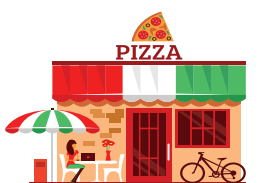
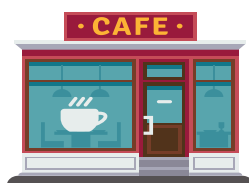
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Expert says forest health needs citizen scientists

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

REGION — Area forests face a wide range of assaults, and the state can't keep track of them all.

To Department of Conservation and Recreation forester Felicia Hubacz, that's a call for citizen scientists to come forward and help.

"By giving everyone else the same knowledge I have, I hope you can take it and run," she told a few dozen participants of her MACC "Lunch and Learn" talk last week.

Hubacz's talk was primarily focused on updating the impact of several insect and other attackers on the Bay State's forest health, but there are countless citizen science opportunities available. One New England-specific website, nature-groupie.org, lists everything from monitoring Maine beaches or New Hampshire water quality to cataloging invasive plants, counting various

kinds of animals, identifying vernal pools, and documenting the effects of climate change. The federal citizenscience.gov website lists 491 operational or planned projects nationwide; some are recruiting volunteers, others are not. Mass.gov specifically has a Web page for "coastal citizen science" seeking people to do a variety of things to "advanc[e] scientific knowledge about the Massachusetts coast."

"Community-based data collection helps fill gaps left by government, private, and nonprofit groups with limited funds to research, explore, and protect vast natural systems," the mass.gov page states.

In Hubacz's case, such assistance would fill gaps in understanding the effects and outbreaks of such things as beech leaf disease, which she said is new in this area but "we're seeing it all over the place." The illness afflicts all kinds of beeches; it's most noticeable

symptom is dark bands on the leaves that later become distorted.

She said it's caused by a nematode, and was first observed two or three years ago. DCR has "no idea how it's being spread," but suspects birds.

A similar relative newcomer is the emerald ash borer, but that has become so common it's "no longer a priority for the DCR," Hubacz said. She showed a map which indicated the insect's first pocket was in the Berkshires in 2012, but "we're just considering it everywhere" today. It's too new in our area for the trees to have developed a resistance, but she noted foresters are seeing resistant trees in Michigan. The agency uses three kinds of parasitic wasp as biocontrol, with five test sites in progress.

By contrast, the gypsy moth — sometimes now termed "LDD" after the abbreviation of its Latin name — has been well-

known for decades, but still strikes in cycles. This year, "almost all gypsy moth damage is in the Berkshires," where it's causing "lots and lots of defoliation," Hubacz said. Trees thus weakened tend to fall prey to various kinds of beetles and other attackers, and the moth's annual range is typically determined by weather.

Temperature also affects the wooly adelgid, a tiny insect that's been particularly harmful to hemlocks. Hubacz said they saw a "heavy dieoff" in the winter of 2017-8, but last winter did not get "enough of a temperature drop to see these guys drop in population."

Ironically, she noted, these insects are almost all asexual female clones because our area doesn't have the spruce species they normally breed in. A few of the species' winged males have been found in Massachusetts, though.

One troublesome insect DCR is "making good progress" against is the

asian longhorned beetle. That has required cutting down a large number of trees, especially in the Worcester area, which was hard hit. Last year DCR found one infested tree on an Auburn golf course, but it did not seem to spread to others nearby. This year, they found one in Worcester, but the damage "looks older." The agency set many ALB traps in the Worcester area, "but we haven't found an ALB in a trap since 2015," she said.

DCR is tracking several tree diseases, particularly white pine needlecast disease and red pine scale, both of which have become more common due to climate change. The agency is also watching a few "possible future threats" that are not yet in our area, but have been reportedly relatively nearby. One is the spotted lanternfly, a southern insect that feeds on tree of heaven (itself an invasive), but also several kinds of fruit

trees or vines. According to a map Hubacz showed, the closest infestation was in southwestern Connecticut as of August 2020, although individual insects have been spotted in Massachusetts. Part of the problem here is that the insect "will lay eggs anywhere" — on trees, on rocks — and its egg masses can be mistaken for lichens in early stages of development.

Similarly, DCR is concerned about the possible arrival of oak wilt infection, a systemic fungal disease that can spread both by a beetle attracted to the spores and by root contact. It's now in New York, and she said, "If it's found in Massachusetts, it's going to be a real pain in the butt."

Despite all these threats, she noted, "We'll always have trees, even if they're maybe not the ones we really want."

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

Cornerstone Bank named among most charitable companies in Massachusetts by Boston Business Journal

W O R C E S T E R — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with 12 locations throughout Central Massachusetts, has been named as an honoree in the Boston Business Journal's 2021 Corporate Citizenship Awards, a recognition of the region's top corporate charitable contributors. The Business Journal annually publishes this list to showcase companies that promote and prioritize giving back to their communities.

"We are honored to have been recognized for our charitable contributions throughout 2020," said Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman. "Our giving efforts last year included nearly \$400,000 in donations to local organizations. This included funds to purchase PPE for Harrington HealthCare System, donations to three local United Way chapters, the Worcester County Food Bank and the Worcester Community Action Council, 16 scholarships to graduating seniors and many more."

This year, only 98 companies qualified for the distinction by reporting at least \$100,000 in contributions to Massachusetts-based charities last year. The honorees this year include companies from

such industry sectors as financial and professional services, health care, technology, retail and professional sports.

"During a year filled with unprecedented events and change, it's incredible to think that so many companies, as represented by those on the Boston Business Journal's Corporate Charitable Contributors list, still gave so generously to charities in Massachusetts," said Boston Business Journal Market President and Publisher Carolyn Jones. "These companies give back at least \$100,000 to the local community, and now we are in a time when giving back and helping one another is more important than ever. The philanthropic companies prioritize the welfare of our communities, and we are excited to be able to honor them."

Cornerstone Bank and other honorees will be celebrated at the Boston Business Journal's 16th Annual Corporate Citizenship Awards on Sept. 9, a commemoration of honorees that will be virtual to ensure everyone's health and safety.

"With the hardships many faced in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was more import-

ant than ever for us to continue to find ways to give back," continued Tallman. "Despite restrictions on gatherings, in-person events and other traditional opportunities for volunteering, we were still able to help better our own backyard, a commitment we will continue to pursue in 2021 and in the future."

About Cornerstone Bank

Cornerstone Bank is an independent, mutual savings bank serving residents, businesses and communities throughout Central Massachusetts. Our customer promise, Built on Trust, is not just a brand, but also a corporate focus. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone Bank rests on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. Deposits are insured in full by a combination of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Depositors Insurance Fund. The Bank is an Equal Opportunity Employer, Equal Housing Lender and SBA Preferred Lender. To learn about Cornerstone Bank's personal and business banking offerings, please visit cornerstonebank.com or call 800-939-9103.

Country Bank announces promotions

REGION — Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving central and western Massachusetts, is pleased to announce recent staff promotions.

Julie Yi has been promoted to Senior Vice President, Controller and Operations. She has extensive experience in finance and operations and serves on Country Bank's senior management team. Yi holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting from the University of Nevada Las Vegas and is a Certified Public Accountant.

Justin Calheno has been promoted to Assistant Vice President, Retail Lending. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management from Westfield State University and is a graduate of The New England School for Financial Studies. Calheno serves as a Board Member for the Ludlow Boys and Girls Club.

Lisa Saletnik has been promoted to Assistant Vice President, Business Systems. She holds an Associate's Degree from Baypath University in Health Science and is a graduate of The New England School for Financial Studies.

Mackenna Hogan has been promoted to Commercial Banking Administration Officer. She holds a Bachelor of

Finance Degree from UMass Amherst.

Antonio Palano has been promoted to Assistant Vice President, Retail Lending. He holds an Associate's Degree in Business Administration from Springfield Technical Community College.

Newly appointed officers include Sam Pursey, Erin Skoczylas, Ashley Swett and Sarah Yurkunas.

Sam Pursey has been promoted to Relationship Management Officer. Pursey holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Finance from UMass Amherst.

Erin Skoczylas has been promoted to Assistant Controller. She holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from Western New England University, an Associate's degree in Business Administration from Springfield Technical Community College, and is a graduate of The New England School for Financial Studies.

Ashley Swett has been promoted to Customer Care Center Officer. She is a graduate of The New England School for Financial Studies.

Sarah Yurkunas has been promoted to Relationship Management Officer. Sarah holds a Bachelor of Science in Business from Baypath University, a certificate

from the Massachusetts Bankers Association in Fundamentals of Credit Analysis: Intro to Commercial Lending, and is currently enrolled in the New England School for Financial Studies Program.

"I am thrilled to congratulate Julie, Justin, Tony, Lisa, Mackenna, Sam, Erin, Ashley and Sarah on their promotions and all of the accomplishments that got them here; they are a key part of our success. We're pleased to provide the opportunities for our people to develop not only within their roles today, but into new opportunities tomorrow. These team members embody our corporate values of iSTEP—Integrity, Service, Teamwork, Excellence and Prosperity," stated Miriam Siegel, First Senior Vice President of Human Resources.

About Country Bank
Country Bank is a full-service mutual community bank serving central and western Massachusetts with 14 offices in Ware, Palmer, West Brookfield, Brimfield, Belchertown, Wilbraham, Ludlow, Leicester, Paxton, Charlton, and Worcester. Country Bank is a member of FDIC, DIF, and the SUM network. Country Bank can be reached at 800-322-8233 or online at countrybank.com.

LEGALS

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Vaughn H. Yenovkian, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Mortgageit, Inc., dated May 14, 2007, and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 41167 at Page 127, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder by assignment from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., to BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP, f/k/a Countrywide Home Loans Servicing LP, dated August 4, 2011, recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 47706, Page 201; by assignment from Bank of America, N.A., successor by merger to BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP, f/k/a Countrywide Home Loans Servicing LP, to Federal National Mortgage Association, dated April 14, 2015, recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 53639, Page 220; by assignment from Federal National Mortgage Association to MTGLQ Investors, L.P., dated June 15, 2016, recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 55617, Page 192; by as-

signment from MTGLQ Investors, L.P., to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee of the Chalet Series III Trust, dated January 8, 2019, recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 60021, Page 204; and by an assignment from U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee of the Chalet Series III Trust to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee of the Lodge Series III Trust, dated March 29, 2019, recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 60257, Page 142, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at 12:00 P.M. on the 28th day of September 28, at 1 a/k/a 4 Greenbriar Lane, Auburn, MA 01501, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, To wit:

The land in Auburn, Worcester County, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, being lot number 38 on a plan labeled "Greenbriar" made by R. B. Oullinan, R.L.S., recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 17, Plan 39, further described as follows: Beginning at the southwesterly corner thereof on Greenbriar Avenue one hundred forty (140) feet northerly from paul Street;

Thence North 8° 2' West one hundred forty (140) feet along said Greenbriar Avenue to a point; Thence North 81° 58' East one hundred (100) feet along Loring Street to a point; Thence South 8° 2' East one hundred forty (140) feet by Lot #36 on said plan to a point; Thence South 81° 58' West one hundred (100) feet to the point of beginning. Containing fourteen thousand (14,000) square feet of land, more or less. Property Address: 4 Greenbriar Lane (aka 1 Greenbriar Lane), Auburn, MA 01501 For title reference see deed recorded in said Registry of Deeds in Book 12699, Page 293. For a more accurate legal description, please see the deed recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 12699, Page 293. Premises to be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances

of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

Terms of sale: A deposit of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Demerle Hoeger LLP, 10 City Square, 4th Floor, Boston, MA 02129 within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. In the event of an error in this publication, the description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee of the Lodge Series III Trust, Present holder of said mortgage, By its Attorneys, Demerle Hoeger LLP 10 City Square, 4th Floor Boston, MA 02129 (617) 337-4444

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OPINION/COMMENTARY

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BRENDAN BERUBE

EDITOR

Get a hobby

Although we typically hear the phrase ‘get a hobby’ as a sarcastic way of putting someone down, there is also some truth to it. It’s important, especially for students to get involved in extracurricular activities.

Even as adults, when looking for work, it’s important to showcase experience as well as other aspects of your life. Most employers are looking for candidates who have a range of skills.

We learn this from a very young age. Striking a balance between work, school and taking time for yourself is key to a happy life. These days however, time seems to be something there is just never enough of. In fact, over the past several years, there has been a decline in civic engagement including neighborhood get togethers and leagues such as bowling, softball etc. Time seems to get eaten by social media or bingeing tv shows. Experts say the term ‘busy’ has been used as a badge of honor to make us feel important, not that we need to be busy, to actually be important.

Hobbies tend to make us more efficient. If we have a meeting to attend, or workout class to go to, we will check things off the list for work, to make time for what we want to do. When we feel like we have more time ahead of us to finish work, with nothing else to do, that time will get eaten up by work.

People tend to be more energized by active leisure, as opposed to watching movies or scrolling through social media. Active engagement allows us to be more present.

Hobbies are great for both students and adults alike in that it creates a chance to make friends and create new connections. We all know that social connections are key to creating happiness. People want to feel like they’re a part of a community.

Further, learning new things gives you more to talk about it, therefore making you more of a unique person. It makes you a more well rounded. Whether you hunt, mountain bike, play music, collect stamps, or Doors memorabilia, you’ll always have an interesting story to tell.

Being involved in other things besides school and work does relieve stress. Experts say to allocate one hour per day or a few hours per week to do something you feel inspired by. If there’s something you’ve always wanted to do, don’t wait for ‘someday’ do it now.

In our office, there are all sorts of conversations that take place because we all have different hobbies. We have history buffs, runners, musicians, hikers, snowboarders, actors, artists, movie buffs, podcasters and so much more.

As Dale Carnegie said, “Make the most of today. Get interested in something. Shake yourself awake. Develop a hobby. Let the winds of enthusiasm sweep through you.”

LETTERS

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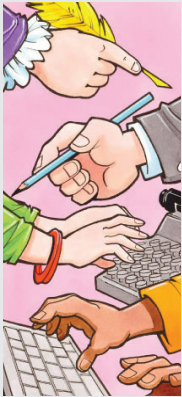
You’ll need to provide your name and place of residence, along with a phone number, so we can verify the letter is yours.

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!



Designing gardens for year-round color and protecting your investment

Create a colorful year-round garden filled with flowers, greenery, colorful fruit, fall color, winter interest and a few surprises. Consider seasonal interest when planning a new garden or landscape. Adding a few key plants to existing gardens can help boost your landscape’s seasonal appeal.

Include a variety of plants with multiple seasons of interest as well as bird and pollinator appeal. You will look forward to the change of seasons as your landscape transforms throughout the year.

Use trees and shrubs to provide the framework and longevity in your landscape. Serviceberries, crabapples, dogwoods, and many others have flowers, fruit, pollinator, and bird appeal and add winter interest with their bark or form. Look for those with colorful exfoliating bark like paperbark maple, heptacodium, and river birch for a beautiful statement in the winter garden.

Include a few summer blooming shrubs like St John’s wort, buttonbush, panicle hydrangeas and Rose of Sharon. They add an unexpected fresh look to your summer landscape.

Perennials combine nicely with trees, shrubs, and annuals, adding seasons of color and texture. Include those that also attract songbirds, bees, and butterflies by creating a beautiful habitat. Blue star (Amsonia), Siberian iris, sedum, Rudbeckia, coneflower, and grasses are just a few that can brighten any garden with several seasons of color, provide homes for beneficial insects and food for the birds.

End the season with fall bloomers like goldenrod, asters, and hardy mums. These provide food for late season pollinators. Leave healthy plants stand, providing homes for many beneficial insects, winter interest in the garden, and food for the songbirds.

Use annuals to fill any voids, add season long color and yearly changes in the landscape. Containers on steps, decks and patios help bring the garden to your front and back door.

Include spring flowering bulbs like tulips, daffodils and hyacinths planted in fall for a colorful welcome to spring. These and many of the earliest bloomers like winter aconites, grape hyacinths, and crocus provide needed nectar for early season pollinators.

Evergreens are always a welcome addition to any landscape. They provide shelter for the birds and year-round greenery. Find new and interesting ways to include them in your landscape.

Use taller evergreens for screening bad views, buffering traffic and other



Melinda Myers

Include shrubs like this Blue Satin Rose of Sharon to add color and interest to the garden.

GARDEN MOMENTS

• • • • •

MELINDA MYERS

noises, or creating privacy. Use evergreens with interesting form and texture to create a focal point in a garden bed or landscape. Combine them with perennials and flowering shrubs for added seasonal interest.

Then keep your landscape looking its best by protecting key plants from hungry critters like deer, rabbits and voles. Skip the fencing and scare tactics by applying a rain resistant, organic repellent like Plantskydd (plantskydd.com) at planting. You will need fewer applications and the odor-based repellent sends animals dining elsewhere before taking a bite out of your plants. Apply repellent before animals start feeding and follow the label directions for best results.

Continue to gather ideas with visits to public gardens and partaking in garden tours. Be sure to take notes and pictures that you can reference later. Creating a year-round landscape is an ongoing process that is part of the fun and adventure of gardening.

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

You are not your past

Many people feel like they can’t have the life they want because of their past limitations or failures.

Maybe your family wasn’t there for you; you didn’t get the proper education, you’ve been fired from multiple jobs, or mistreated in relationships.

Many things aren’t fair and can cause a chain reaction of events that may take us far off course. There are also many bad choices we make, and as a result, we end up missing out on the life we want.

You may have made mistakes, gotten into trouble, fired from a job, lost a relationship, but that doesn’t mean it always has to be that way.

George Washington Carver said, “Where there is no vision, there is no hope.”

I agree with his quote completely. George Washington Carver was a more brilliant man than I will ever be. For today’s column, I would like to modify the selection to say, “Where there is no positive vision of the future, there is no hope.”

It seems most people’s vision of the future is dictated by the failures and limitations of their past, and therefore, they do have a vision, but it’s a negative one.

One trait of a successful person is they don’t

POSITIVELY SPEAKING

TOBY MOORE

allow themselves to be defined by their failures or their present unfavorable circumstances. Instead, they define themselves by a positive vision of their future.

That seems odd when you think about it. They define themselves by something that hasn’t even happened yet.

It’s easy to look at a great person and assume they had everything handed to them or that somehow life was much easier on them than it was you.

I have many fond memories of my parents taking me to Disney World. I’ve been on the rides, seen the movies, and heard about the man who built it all, Walt Disney. I’ve driven past the Disney skyscraper in Burbank, California, hundreds of times; I’ve auditioned at Walt Disney Studios dozens of times. When surrounded by all that accomplishment, it’s hard to imagine that Walt ever faced any hardship.

Most don’t know that Walt Disney was fired from his job at the Kansas City Star after his newspaper editor told him that he didn’t have enough imagination or creativity!

What if Walt Disney allowed himself to be defined by that moment, and for the next 20 years, he wandered from job to job, telling himself, “I’m not creative, I don’t have a good enough imagination...

tion...”

If he would’ve, he never would have created Laugh-O-Gram. Laugh-O-Gram was an animation studio that Walt was contracted to run. The studio was supposed to make twelve cartoons. Although the company started promisingly, it wasn’t long before Walt was living at the office, taking weekly baths at Union Station in Kansas City, and finally bankrupting the studio; what a disaster.

He sold his camera, which gave him enough money for a one-way train ticket to Hollywood, Calif., and the rest is history.

I wonder how many potentially great people never accomplished their vision because they believed in their failures more than their vision of the future. They accepted what their present circumstances were telling them, rather than what their future vision was telling them.

If Walt Disney was one of those people, we’d have missed out on one of the most creative minds of the 20th century. Most obviously, he chose not to allow those negative experiences to define him because he became one of the most influential people of all time.

Like all great people, Walt Disney didn’t allow his future to be dictated by the failures or limitations of his past.

Start thinking about your retirement income plan



FINANCIAL FOCUS

DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

If you’re getting close to retirement, you’re probably thinking about the ways your life will soon be changing. And one key transition involves your income – instead of being able to count on a regular paycheck, as you’ve done for decades, you’ll now need to put together an income stream on your own. How can you get started?

It’s helpful that you begin thinking about retirement income well before you actually retire. Many people don’t – in fact, 61 percent of retirees wish they had done better at planning for the financial aspects of their retirement, according to an Edward Jones/ Age Wave study titled Retirement in the Time of Coronavirus: What a Difference a Year Makes.

Fortunately, there’s much you can do to create and manage your retirement income. Here are a few suggestions:

Consider ways to boost income. As you approach retirement, you’ll want to explore ways of potentially boosting your income. Can you afford to delay taking Social Security so your monthly checks will be bigger? Can you increase your contributions to your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan, including taking advantage of catch-up contributions if you’re age 50 or older? Should you consider adding products that can provide you with an income stream that can potentially last your lifetime?

Calculate your expenses. How much money will you need each year during your retirement? The answer depends somewhat on your goals. For example, if you plan to travel extensively, you may need more income than someone who stays close to home. And no matter how you plan to spend your days in retirement, you’ll need to budget for health care expenses. Many people underestimate what they’ll need, but these costs can easily add up to several thousand dollars a year, even with Medicare.

Review your investment mix. It’s always a good idea to review your investment mix at least once a year to ensure it’s still appropriate for your needs. But it’s especially important to analyze your investments in the years immediately preceding your retirement. At this point, you may need to adjust the mix to lower the risk level. However, you probably won’t want to sell all your growth-oriented investments and replace them with more conservative ones – even during retirement, you’ll likely need some growth potential in your portfolio to help you stay ahead of inflation.

Create a sustainable withdrawal rate. Once you’re retired, you will likely need to start taking money from your IRA and 401(k) or similar plan. But it’s important not to take too much out in your early years as a retiree, since you don’t want to risk outliving your income. A financial professional can help you create a sustainable withdrawal rate based on your age, level of assets, family situation and other factors.

By planning ahead, and making the right moves, you can boost your confidence in your ability to maintain enough income to last throughout your retirement. And with a sense of financial security, you’ll be freer to enjoy an active lifestyle during your years as a retiree.

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.

Fall means trout fishing

As we enter the month of September, many freshwater anglers are thinking about the fall trout fishing season in Massachusetts. As the waters start to cool from the extremely warm temperatures of this summer, anglers need to be aware that Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife will not stock trout until the waters are suitable to sustain the freshly stocked trout. It may be until October before the waters are cool enough to see a trout stocking. It is hard to believe that the Gulf has 90 Degree surface water temperatures this past week, prior to Hurricane Ida!

Saltwater fishing continues to improve on all fronts in both Massachusetts and Rhode Island, with schools of mackerel along the South shore of the Island. Fluke & seabass fishing also remains very good at the Island. Tuna were being caught around the Gully! Albi are showing up in both Mass. & Rhode Island waters. These hard fighting fish provide some great fishing for

anglers using light tackle and fly rods. They do not provide good eating; however, some anglers do take a few home for table fare. Saltwater fishing should explode with action on all fronts in the coming weeks.

Ten local sportsmen left for Maine this past weekend to enjoy a bit of bear hunting that opened up this past Monday statewide. Bear hunters are allowed to set up bait hunting spots prior to hunting season. Hunters are allowed to use crossbows, compound bows, shotgun, etc. to harvest their bear in Maine. It should be a good year for hunting bear in Maine, if the weather cools off. Hunting bear in Massachusetts is open in all zones again this year, and a permit that costs only \$5 is required. Be sure to check all hunting regulations before the season opens on Sept. 7. Second season opens Nov. 1, and the third season opens for shotgun Nov. 29.

Have you checked your status for an antlerless deer permit? Go to the

Mass. Fish Hunt Web site to see if you have won a permit. If you did, you will need to pay a \$5 fee. If you did not win a permit, you can still apply for an antlerless deer permit starting on September. The antlerless surplus deer permits go fast. The permits will be in zones 9, 10, 11, 13 & 14. Zone 11 will go on sale Tuesday, Sept. 28 at 9 a.m. It will be a staggered system. Zone 10 will go on sale Wednesday, Sept. 29 at 9 a.m. Zone 9, including 13 & 14, Tuesday, Sept. 30 at 9 a.m. Number of surplus deer permits available in zone 9, 1,410 - Zone 10 - 9,092 & Zone 11 7,770 Zone 13 2,526 and Zone 14, 2,619.

This week's picture shows nine-year-old Payton fishing with her grandfather Charlie this past Saturday on the Meadow Pond in Whitinsville. He takes her fishing as often as he can. She still will not handle the fish, but that will come in time.

Last week's picture of a huge whale cod was caught a number of years ago, prior to the



Courtesy

This week's picture shows nine-year-old Payton fishing with her grandfather Charlie this past Saturday on the Meadow Pond in Whitinsville. He takes her fishing as often as he can. She still will not handle the fish, but that will come in time.

recreational cod fishery being shut down ,causing numerous charter boats to close. Starting Sept. 15, recreational anglers can retain one cod daily with a minimum length of 21 inches. Fifteen haddock can now be caught daily by recreational anglers.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all of our servicemen & women, and with those affected by Hurricane Ida, fires in the West, and floods in

many parts of the country. Take a Kid Fishing & Keep them rods Bending!

Harvest Canning Tips

It's harvest season and Farmer's Markets are selling tomatoes and cukes in bulk, workshops on preserving produce are filling up fast and canning jar manufacturers report double digit hikes in sales. There's no doubt about it, canning continues to make a comeback!

Whether canning in bulk to use up garden vegetables or filling a few jelly jars for holiday gifts, the following information is geared toward helping your preserving efforts pay off in both financial and "feel good" benefits.

Not sure if canning is worth the work? Consider the many "perks" of processing food at home, which include:

- *The ability to control the salt, sugar and additive content of the foods you intend to preserve.
- * Studies show foods canned at peak ripeness offer superior nutrition and flavor despite the typical loss of vitamins during the heating process.
- *Processing foods also allows seasonal fruits and vegetables to be enjoyed throughout the year.
- *Since the canning process doesn't rely on refrigeration for preservation, canned foods are readily available and safe during power outages or appliance shut downs.

One of the joys of canning is the ability to literally put the fruits of your garden labor on the dinner table. For those who don't grow their own foods, a trip to a farmer's market or neighborhood farm stand can reap bushels of freshly picked produce. Don't be afraid to ask for "seconds" and/or discounts on less than perfect but perfectly fine produce. Just be sure to overlook those with obvious bruises or major imperfections.

Common backyard garden vegetables such as tomatoes and cucumbers are popular candidates for canning as they offer a variety of finished products from condiments to side dishes. Best of all, a few old fashioned canning recipes can transform the versatile garden favorites into glistening jars of pantry staples. For example, tomatoes can be prepped to be canned as tomato sauce, tomato soup, tomato juice, salsa, ketchup, and more. Cucumbers transform into sweet gherkins, dill pickles, chow chow and a variety of relishes. Orchard fruits such as apples and peaches can

be processed as jelly, butter, chutney, pie filling, syrups and sauces.

Before choosing a preferred method of processing be sure to study the options, all of which are available in canning "how to" books or online. For safety's sake be sure your resources are up to date, since processing recommendations have changed in the past several years. A new edition of the classic Ball Blue Book is always useful. Online, a reliable and free resource titled "U.S. Department of Agriculture's "Complete Guide to Home Canning," is available and can be accessed by visiting www.uga.edu/nchfp/publications/publications_usda.html.

Here are some simple canning "tips from the pros" worth noting:

- *Never use overripe fruit. A good rule of thumb to remember is that canning can't improve the quality of food, so always begin with top quality fruits, ripe and free of bruises.
- * Don't be tempted to over do the celery, peppers, onions and other low acid ingredient in pickles or other recipes. Stick to the recipe to avoid creating an unsafe product.
- *Never add considerably more spices or seasonings than a recipe calls for. Some spices can be high in bacteria and too much of a good thing can put your safety at risk.
- *Be sure to wash hands and all food prep surfaces and all canning supplies thoroughly before start-



TAKE THE HINT KAREN TRAINOR

ing the canning process,

- *Always wash and examine all foods to be canned. Be sure to cut out any bruises and discard any overripe fruits and vegetables.
- *Never reuse canning jar lids. Be sure to seal jars with a new, clean lid each and every time.
- *Do not store filled jars above 95° F or near hot pipes, a range, a furnace, in a non insulated attic, or in direct sunlight. Under these conditions, food will lose quality in a few weeks or months and may spoil.
- *Don't store jars in damp areas such as a basement. Dampness may corrode metal lids, break seals, and encourage spoilage.

Pepper Jelly

This jelly, which uses up the last of the season's garden peppers, makes a festive holiday gift.

Ingredients: 3 green bell peppers, minced; 2 (4 ounce) cans diced jalapeno peppers

1 1/2 cups distilled white vinegar; 6 1/2 cups white sugar; 1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper; 1 (6 fluid ounce) container liquid pectin; 5 drops green food coloring.

Directions: In a large, stainless steel saucepan, combine peppers, vinegar, sugar, and cayenne pepper. Cook over medium high heat. Stir frequently until mixture begins to boil.

Stir in pectin; boil 5 minutes longer, stirring constantly, and mix in food coloring. Skim off foam, and remove from heat.

Ladle into sterilized jars. Seal and process in a boiling-water canner for 5 minutes.

Apple Chutney

It's apple season in New England and this chutney, made from freshly picked fruit, will be the perfect accompaniment to upcoming holiday feasts.

Ingredients: 2 quarts chopped, cored, pared tart apples (about 10 medium); 1 cup chopped onions; 1 cup chopped sweet red bell peppers (about 2 medium); 2 hot red peppers, seeded and chopped; 1 1/2 pounds seedless raisins; 4 cups brown sugar; 3 tablespoons mustard seed; 2 tablespoons ground ginger; 2 tablespoons ground allspice; 2 teaspoons canning salt; 1 clove garlic, crushed; 1

quart white vinegar (5%).

Directions: Combine all ingredients; simmer until thick, about 1 hour and 15 minutes. As mixture thickens stir frequently to prevent sticking. Pour boiling hot chutney into hot jars, leaving 1/2 inch headspace. Remove air bubbles and adjust headspace if needed. Wipe rims of jars with a dampened clean paper towel; adjust two-piece metal canning lids. Process in boiling water canner according to the altitude recommendations below. Makes about six pint jars.

Recommended process time for Apple Chutney pints in a boiling water canner (altitude chart): 1-1,000 ft, 10 minutes; 1,001-6,000 ft, 15 minutes; above 6,000 ft, 20 minutes.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House - Contest has resumed!

Your tips can win you a great three course dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge!

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

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

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Friday's Child

Hi! My name is Jayven and I like to play board games and football!

Jayven is an inquisitive boy of African-American and Hispanic descent. He loves board games and is always happy to play one, either with his friends or with an adult. Jayven also likes to be outside, and his favorite outdoor activity is playing football, which he is currently doing with Pop Warner Football. Jayven likes playing football so much that when he grows up, he would like to play for the NFL. Just in case he isn't drafted, though, he is also considering careers as a detective or as a piano teacher. Jayven is currently doing well in school.

Legally freed for adoption, Jayven is looking for a loving and patient family of any constellation, with or without other children in the home. Jayven is very close with his younger brother and has expressed a desire to be a role model for him. An ideal family for Jayven will be open to helping him maintain this relationship.

Who Can Adopt?

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

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

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

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STURBRIDGE Big Alum Lake! 243 Big Alum Rd! 6.58 Acres of Privacy! Sub-Dividable! West Expo - Beautiful Sunsets! 3,313' 10+ Rm Cape w/3 - 4 Bdrms & 4 Baths! Features Applianced Granite Kit w/Breakfast Bar & Tile Flr! Frpld Din Area! Din Rm w/3 Walls of Glass & French Dr to the Deck! Cathedral Ceiling Fam Rm w/Hearth & Wood Stove & Wall of Picture Windows! Spacious Liv Rm w/Pine Flr! Office! Full Bath w/ Laundry Closet! 1st Flr Master w/Slider to the Inground Pool, Walk-in Closet, Marble Bathrm w/Separate Tub & Shower & Dble Vanities! 2nd Flr w/2 Spacious Bdrms, Lots of Closet Space & Pine Flrs! Full Hall Bath! Lower Level w/Game Rm, Wine/Root Cellars! Utility & Storage! 2 Car Attached Garage w/Office/In-Law Suite Above! New Driveway Access needs to be Installed! Cosmetic Repairs Needed! **\$679,900.00**

SUTTON - 30 Jones Rd! 9 Room 2,156' Colonial! 5.31 Acres of Privacy! Long Circular Drive! New Granite Kitchen! Dining, Living & Fireplaced Family Rooms w/Hardwood Floors! Year Round Sunroom w/2 Skylights! 3 Bedrooms! 24' Master w/ Master Bath! 2.5 Bathrooms Total! 12x24 3 Season Porch w/3 Skylights! Expandable Attic! Wraparound Deck! 2 Car Garage! Central Air! Super Easy Access to Rte 146! **\$549,900.00**



DUDLEY - 10 Camelot Circle 9 Rm, 4 Bdrm, 2.5 Bath, 2,520' Center Hall Colonial featuring an In-Ground Pool on a 28,131' Lot! Tile Entry Foyer w/ Guest Closet! SS Applianced Granite Kit w/Breakfast Bar, Spacious Dining Area, Tile Flr, Pantry Closet, Recessed & Pendant Lighting! Formal Din Rm w/Hrdwd Flr & Chair Rail! Formal Liv Rm w/Crown Molding! 13.6x27' Fam Rm w/Fireplace w/Wood Pellet Insert, Soaring Cathedral Ceiling, Ceiling Fans & Skylight! Half Bath! 3 Season Porch! 1st Flr Laundry! The 2nd Floor w/4 Bdrms! Spacious Master w/Walk-in Closet & Full Bath w/Dble Granite Vanity! Full Hall Bath w/Dble Vanity! C/Air & Vac! 2 Car Garage! Fire Pit! Many Updates! Original Owner - Pride of Ownership! **\$570,000.00**

WEBSTER LAKE - 62 Bates Point Rd! Middle Pond! Absolute Prime 51' Level Waterfront Lot w/Western Expo! Beautiful Sunsets! Fantastic Panoramic Lake Views! 11 Rooms, 6 Bedrooms, 4 Bathrooms, 3,269' A/C'd Colonial! Custom SS Applianced Granite Kitchen! Formal Dining Rm w/Cherry Hardwoods! Lake Facing Living Rm w/Cathedrals, Cherry Hardwoods! Slider to Waterfront Deck! Spacious 1st Flr Master Bedroom w/Full Bath, Cherry Hardwoods & Walk-in Closet! Fireplaced Lower Level Family Rm! 1st & 2nd Floor Laundries! 2 Car Garage! **\$979,900.00**

WEBSTER LAKE - 305 Beacon Park! Lake View 1,280' 5 Rm Townhouse - 10 Acres Park Lake Grounds w/Panoramic Lake Views! Yr Round Living or as 2nd Home - Summers on the Lake - Winters in Florida! Move-in Condition! Applianced Kit! Din Rm w/Slider to the Composite Deck! Frplc Liv Rm w/Wall to Wall Carpeting & French Dr to the Deck! Updated Half Bath! Spacious Master w/Wall of Closets & Full Bath w/Recent Sky Light! 2nd Bedroom w/Wall to Wall Carpeting & Full Bath just outside its Door! 2 Bdrms & 2.5 Updated Baths! Garage w/Opener! Lakeside Heated Pool & One of the Best Sandy Beaches on the Lake! Canoe Rack! Rented Boat Dock through 2022, Longer Possible! Great Fireworks Viewing! **\$335,000.00**

WEBSTER LAKE - 504 Treasure Island! 6 Room Townhouse Overlooking the Pool! 1,874 Sq Ft! Stainless Steel Applianced Granite Kitchen! Open Floor Plan! Dining Room - Full Mirrored Wall - Sliders to the Trex Deck! 2 Bedrooms! Master Bath! 2.5 Baths! Fireplaced Family Room! Garage! Central Air! Gas Heat! C/Vac! 2 BOAT SLIPS! Sandy Beach! Complex Recent Siding & Roof! **\$400,000.00**



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Featured Listings!



DUDLEY - 10 MILL ROAD

Beautiful family home! 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, newer widows & heating system. Mini split system. Hardwoods. Lg eat-in kitchen /Corian counters & Island! Warming fireplace with handsome mantel. Generous dining room, spacious enough for your family gatherings. lower level fireplace family room, Harmon pellet insert! 2 car garage. **\$354,900.**

WATERFRONT THOMPSON - BECOLA RD



SORRY, SOLD!

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

WEBSTER - 23 EMERALD AVE.



Extraordinary Find! Beautiful 2 Family! Owner occupied with pride and it shows. Grand Front Entry! 3,012 SF +/- living area. 12 rooms, 6 bedrooms, 2 updated Baths. 2nd Flr - Granite Countertops! High ceilings & Hardwood Floors, Modern Kitchens. Manicured 13,525 SF Lot with a Hip roof 3 car garage! **\$439,900**

WEBSTER - 135 LAKE STREET



SORRY SOLD!

A RARE FIND! A TRULY ABOVE AVERAGE-TOP NOTCH-HIGH QUALITY-TWO FAMILY! SPACIOUS, CLEAN, UPDATED! Apt# 2 - 1,536 SF +/- & 3 BRs, 2nd Flr. Apt# 1 - 1,290 SF +/- & 2 BRs - 1st floor. Oil & Natural Gas Heat. Hardwood flrs! granite tops. Enjoy the L-Shaped Covered Farmers Porch! Level Lot! **\$399,900.**

PUTNAM CT - 89 PERRY ST UNIT# 250



ON DEPOSIT

Heritage Pines Condo Town House - Everything one would expect and then more! 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, all Hardwood floors, granite, stainless steel appliances. central air, 2 decks, 2800 sq ft +/- of finished living area., and so much more! **\$319,900.**

WOODSTOCK CT - 110 JOY RD



ON DEPOSIT

WELCOME TO MIDNIGHT FARM! 1876 Antique Colonial. Included separate Building - Studio/Store both situated on 2.5 Acres Professionally Landscaped! 5 Bedroom, Lg Living room, Fireplaced Dining room, Library, Master Bdrm, Renovated Kitchen! 3 Stall Garages! Picturesque Location! **\$455,000.**

Featured Island Listing! Webster Lake - 22 Long Island



ON DEPOSIT

Once in a lifetime opportunity to own a Webster Lake Waterfront Cottage on Long Island! Properly named the "Grand View". Sandy beach, boat house! Antique Cottage w/5 Rms, 3 BRs, a stone fireplaced w/pellet stove, eat-in kitchen w/modern appliances, full bath! washer/dryer. Screened porches. Included, 25% ownership share in a main land waterfront lot at 38 Point Pleasant Rd, in sheltered Mumford Cove! land provides boat slip & winter storage. A FAR AWAY PLACE NEAR BY! **\$389,900.**

WEBSTER • 22 EASTERN AVE



ON DEPOSIT

LOOKING FOR AN AFFORDABLE, HUMBLE ABODE, THAT WON'T BREAK THE BANK? Convenient Location, corner lot! 1288 SF +/-, 4 BRs w/1st Flr Mstr BR, Half Bath! Eat-In Kitchen, Dining/Living Room Combination! 3-Season Porch, 2nd Flr - 3 BRs. Resingled Roof, Replacement Windows, Updated Electric, Buderus Boiler. Part finished walk-out bsmt! Garage! **\$215,000**

LAND WEBSTER/OXFORD/DUDLEY/DOUGLAS

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

SORRY SOLD! \$200,000

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

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

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

WEBSTER • 233 - 235 NORTH MAIN STREET



SORRY, SOLD!

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

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg



ON DEPOSIT



Webster Lake - 300 Killdeer Island

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS! A WEBSTER LAKE waterfront property on Killdeer Circle, you won't want to miss! Offers a prime waterfront location! 64' of water frontage and a gently sloping landscape to waters edge. Crystal clear, sandy bottomed shoreline. Everyday is a new day at the Lake! Nicely arranged floor plan. 5 rooms 2 bedrooms, 2 baths! Walk out lowerlevel to nice size patio! Garage. **\$650,000.**

WEBSTER - 401 TREASURE ISLAND CONDO



SORRY, SOLD!

Deck & Slider to the Patio! Natural gas heat! 2 Boat Slips! Heated Pool! Natural Sandy Beach! **\$439,000.**

TOWN ORDERED AUCTION
CHARLTON
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 at 12:00 P.M.

10 PROPERTIES
DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES!
TO BE HELD AT DEXTER HALL, CHARLTON PUBLIC LIBRARY, 40 MAIN ST.

This live public auction will feature a water view home on Nugget Dr., a residential building lot on Timber Valley Rd., land parcels on Turner Rd., Oak Ridge Dr., Brackett Hill Rd. and other parcels throughout town. Town Says Sell!

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CHARLTON: Waterfront, Great 2nd home, Log home design, Easy highway access
199 Sunset Dr ~ **\$329,000**

HOLLAND: Waterfront Lot, Hamilton reservoir, Build or use as an escape to the lake
Candlewood Dr ~ **\$169,000**

OAKHAM: 8.5 acres, 600' ft. road frontage
N. Brookfield Rd ~ **\$115,000**

ATHOL: Island Waterfront, 4 rooms, 2.6 acres, own your own Paradise Island, Pontoon Boat
54 Island #2 Lake Ellis ~ **\$424,900**

PAXTON: 1900 sq. ft., 3 bedroom, 1.5 baths, Worcester/ Paxton Line, Fireplace, 2 car detached garage
4 Boynton Pkwy ~ **\$449,000**

WEBSTER: 6 units, 50 year roof, sided, off street parking
227 School St ~ **\$599,900**

Grant to fund upgrades to Bay Path veterinary program

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School is among 47 educational organizations receiving grants through the Skills Capital Grant Program.

Gov. Charlie Baker, Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito, Labor and Workforce Development Secretary Rosalin Acosta and Education Secretary James Peyser announced the awards on Aug. 16, revealing that \$9.7 million was being split among the different schools across the commonwealth to update equipment and expand student enrollment in career education programs. The grants bring the total funding through the program to \$102 million since 2015.

“The Skills Capital Grants

have helped give thousands of young people opportunities in high-demand jobs, and the grants have had a tremendous impact on students, schools and local businesses,” said Baker during the presentation at Peabody Veterans Memorial High School who were among the award recipients. “These significant investments made over the past six years in this program with our partners in the Legislature will help train students to adapt to the changing needs of our economy.”

“As we continue to address economic disparities across the Commonwealth and provide solutions to employment gaps in high-demand industries, the Skills Capital Grants play a significant role in training students of all ages for successful long-lasting careers,”

added Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development Secretary Rosalin Acosta. “The impact of these grant funds on students, educational institutions, and local business partners is incredibly positive and moves us toward a more equitable economy.”

Bay Path will receive a \$250,000 grant, which will help update equipment in the school’s veterinary technology program. The school will renovate the veterinary hospital where students train and work alongside industry professionals in the fully operational veterinary hospital. The money will further help Bay Path develop after school and evening programs for adult learners to earn a veterinary assisting certification.

Local students enroll at College of the Holy Cross

WORCESTER — The College of the Holy Cross congratulates 822 new Crusaders who will be starting at the College in Fall 2021. The following local students will be part of the Class of 2025:

Kali Day of Auburn

Claudia Oliver of Auburn

Sabrina Tang of Auburn

The Class of 2025 includes students from 33 states and 15 nations across the globe. This year’s incoming class is made up of 54 percent women and 46 percent men, with 23 percent of students coming from ethnically diverse backgrounds and 16 percent as proud first-generation college students.

These newly minted Crusaders have distinguished themselves through community service, leadership roles, and diverse participation in areas like the arts, music and athletics.

The new Crusaders will arrive on campus and move into the residence halls starting at 8:30 a.m., Saturday, August 28th, where they will be welcomed to Mount St. James by an enthusiastic purple crew of current students, staff, faculty

and alumni. Fall classes are set to begin Monday, September 6th.

“I am thrilled to welcome Holy Cross’ Class of 2025 - a vibrant and diverse group of exceptional students who are also one of the most academically accomplished classes in the College’s history. I can’t wait to see what you do and how you will grow ethically, spiritually and intellectually on The Hill,” said Holy Cross President Vincent Rougeau.

About Holy Cross

The College of the Holy Cross, in Worcester, Mass., is among the nation’s leading liberal arts institutions. A highly selective, four-year, exclusively undergraduate college of 3,100 students, Holy Cross is renowned for offering a rigorous, personalized education in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition. Since its founding in 1843, Holy Cross has made a positive impact in society by graduating students who distinguish themselves as thoughtful leaders in business, professional and civic life.

QCC at Southbridge offers broad support services

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College at Southbridge is gearing up for a new fall semester with a comprehensive set of classes and support services at its new Southbridge location.

“Students can obtain all the services they need right in their community. This is vital to our students who may not have the ability to easily get to Worcester,” said Southbridge Site Leader, Geraldo Maldonado.

Students will have access to support services that include:

- Advising
- Admissions
- Accessibility services

- Financial aid
- Testing

“Offering a full array of support services to complement our programming at the Southbridge location is just one of the ways we are working to remove barriers that prevent students from attaining a higher education,” said QCC President Luis G. Pedraja, Ph.D. “QCC’s dedication to Southbridge and the surrounding communities, coupled with our unwavering commitment to 100 percent student success is paramount.”

QCC at Southbridge is located at 132 Torrey Road (Southbridge High School), enabling easier

access to higher education for high school students through early college programs. The well-known location makes it possible for people in Southbridge and the South County region to take college classes for credit, non-credit, or workforce development classes for job retraining or reskilling.

To learn more visit www.QCC.edu/southbridge.

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

bankHometown to host three free shred days

REGION — bankHometown invites customers and members of the community to three free Shred Days at local offices. Events will be held on the following dates and at the following locations. No appointment is necessary.

Sept. 11: 8:30 a.m. to Noon, Lancaster office, 131 Main St.
Sept. 25: 9 a.m. to Noon, Auburn office, 569 Southbridge St.
Sept. 25: 8 to 10 a.m., Putnam, Conn., office, 182 Main St.

Local residents can reduce their risk of identity theft by bringing old mail, receipts, statements or bills, cancelled checks, pay stubs, medical records, or any other unwanted paper documents containing personal or confidential information and shredding them safely and securely for free. A professional document destruction company will be on site in the bank’s parking lot and can accept up to two boxes of documents per person.

About bankHometown

Founded in 1889, bankHometown is headquartered in Oxford, Massachusetts, and has \$1.3 billion in assets and 16 branches located throughout central Massachusetts and northeastern Connecticut. Through its sponsorship and charitable giving program, bankHometown and the Hometown Bank Community Foundation support non-profit organizations and causes throughout Worcester and Windham Counties. In 2020, the bank and foundation donated more than \$346,000 and over the last five years donated more than \$1.4 million. For more information, visit bankhometown.com.



REAL ESTATE

TOWN ORDERED AUCTION WEBSTER
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 at 3:00 P.M.



SINGLE FAMILY HOME

21 CRYSTAL STREET

This ranch style home sits on ±.25 acres in a nice neighborhood. The house has ±1,404 sq. ft. of living area and features 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, front porch and a single car attached garage. Ideal rehab project for end-user or investor. Auction to be held on site. Town Says Sell! Visit website for details.

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Terms: \$10K deposit in certified funds, additional \$10K deposit in 24 hrs. 30 day closing.



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Spencer - Nottingham Circle - Vacation at home! Stunning, waterfront home situated on 1 acre of land on Thompson Pond. With 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths and 4,700 square ft, this home is a fantastic set up for sharing with extended family or out of town guests. Private beach, huge deck overlooking the lake, and a 3 car garage! **\$1,100,000**

Spencer - Smithville Road - Quick Occupancy- Incredible 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom antique farmhouse on the market for the first time! Home offers lots of rustic charm with chestnut beams and wide plank pine flooring. Features a detached 2 car garage and plenty of space with 10 rooms. Situated in a beautiful, quiet setting, just a minute away from shopping, parks, walking trails and only 15 minutes from the Mass Pike. **\$349,900**

East Brookfield - Howe Street - Lovely 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath farmhouse styled home tucked away on over 24 acres! This peaceful, quiet area is just 10 minutes to major highways, shopping, parks, and Lake Lashaway beach. This home features a wraparound farmer's porch, high ceilings, wood floors throughout, and a large country kitchen with butcherblock countertops and a gas range. **\$570,000**

Spencer - Grant Street - Quick Occupancy - Affordable 2 bedroom, 1 bath home with lots of potential! Features new vinyl flooring, fresh paint, and new bathroom with laundry attached. Second floor room offers space for a third bedroom or an office. This home is located in a great neighborhood with quick access to walking trails, shopping, restaurants, and the MA Pike. **\$234,900**



Tax-Free Sales Event on windows!

★ We're celebrating our Tax-Free Sales Event all month long! ★

Through September 4th only, **save \$330 on every window** and **save \$725 on every patio and entry door**, and **get 6.25% off your entire project** with **\$0 down, 0 monthly payments and 0% interest for one year!**¹

- From last year we know that these appointments fill up quickly, so call today
- You must call by September 4th

Save on every window!

Save on every door!

Must call by September 4th, 2021

1 SAVE \$330 on every window¹

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Minimum purchase of four.

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Minimum purchase of four.

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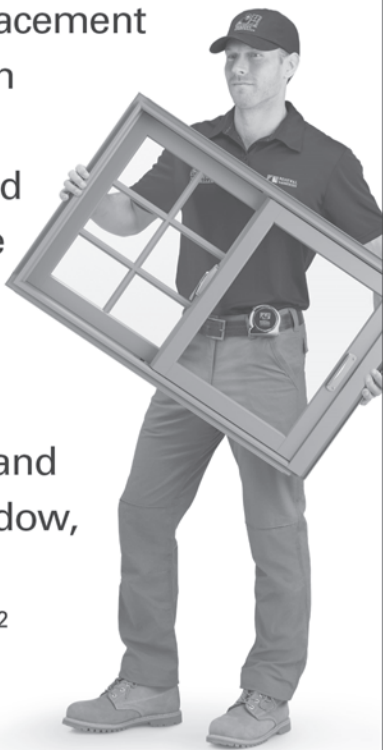
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¹DETAILS OF OFFER: Offer expires 9/18/2021. You must set your appointment by 9/4/2021 and purchase by 9/18/2021. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Get \$330 off each window and \$725 off each entry/patio door and 12 months \$0 down, 0 monthly payments, 0% interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry/patio doors between 8/1/2021 and 9/18/2021. Get 6.25% off your entire purchase, taken after initial discount(s), when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry/patio doors between 8/1/2021 and 9/18/2021. Military discount applies to all active duty, veterans and retired military personnel. Military discount equals \$300 off your entire purchase and applies after all other discounts, no minimum purchase required. Subject to credit approval. Interest is billed during the promotional period, but all interest is waived if the purchase amount is paid before the expiration of the promotional period. Financing for GreenSky® consumer loan programs is provided by federally insured, federal and state chartered financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender or familial status. Savings comparison based on purchase of a single unit at list price. Available at participating locations and offer applies throughout the service area. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. License number available upon request. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. "ENERGY STAR" is a registered trademark of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of Andersen Corporation. ©2021 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. ©2021 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved. ²See limited warranty for details.

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Applications are also available on the Town of Auburn website
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Applications must be returned to the DPW by October 1, 2021.
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QCC and MWCC collaborate on new program partnerships

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College (QCC) President Luis G. Pedraja, Ph.D. and Mount Wachusett Community College (MWCC) President James L. Vander Hooven, Ed.D. have forged a new transfer agreement between the two Central Massachusetts community colleges, strengthening an already strong partnership.

The agreement will enable QCC students to seamlessly transfer to MWCC after they have completed their general education courses, in order to earn an Associate Degree in either Physical Therapist Assisting or Veterinary

Technology. MWCC students will have a similar reciprocal transfer opportunity with QCC. MWCC students interested in an Associate Degree in Radiologic Technology or Respiratory Care can transfer into QCC's programs once their general education courses are completed.

"We serve the community and our communities are not defined by rigid boundaries; they blend into one another," President Pedraja said. "I think it is critical to create partnerships such as this one that will allow us to provide services to a greater number of students."

"One of the areas in Massachusetts that all community colleges are looking for are ways to partner with one another so that we are not duplicating all of the services we offer. I think the proximity of QCC and MWCC offers us an opportunity for unique partnerships and this is a perfect example of how we can do that," said President Vander Hooven.

Both presidents see these types of agreements only increasing in the future to meet the needs of a diverse student population that community colleges such as MWCC and QCC histori-

cally serve.

"It can't be about competing against one another. We're all part of the Commonwealth and we are all working to help our students to ensure they are successful," said President Pedraja.

Visit QCC or MWCC to learn more about these new program partnerships. 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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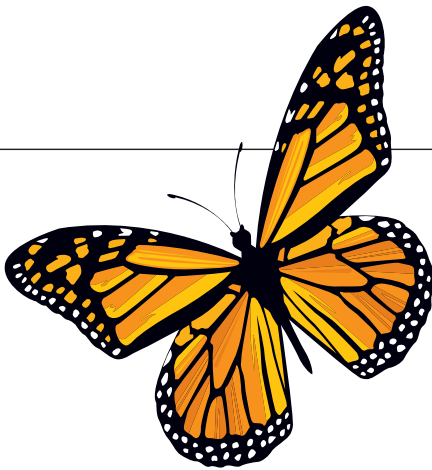
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10-4pm Farmer's Market at Agricultural Center
3pm Lawn & Garden Tractor Pull (Pulling Area)
6:30pm Chicken Flop/Poop Bingo (Agricultural Center)
7pm JM Motorsports Productions, Inc. (Grandstand)"Worlds Largest Demolition Derby"
MAIN STAGE
NOON National Anthem
1-4 Brookfield Rythm
5:30-7 Kevin Herchen
8pm Rose Porter & The Neon Moons

SAT., SEPT. 4TH

ON THE GROUNDS
7:30am Tractor Pull on Concrete (Pulling Area)
10-4pm Farmer's Market at Agricultural Center
10am Beef Cattle Show (Cattle Show Tent)
1pm Open Poultry Show (Agricultural Center)
6pm Tractor Pull (Grandstand)
MAIN STAGE
NOON National Anthem
1-3 Holdin' Back Band
8pm Vyntyge Skynyrd

SUN., SEPT. 5TH

ON THE GROUNDS
10am Draft Horse Pull (Pulling Area)
10am Dairy Cattle Show (Cattle Show Tent)
10-4pm Farmer's Market at Agricultural Center
1pm Youth Poultry Showmanship (Agricultural Center)
1pm Youth Rabbit Showmanship (Agricultural Center)
5pm Demolition Derby (Grandstand)
6:30pm Chicken Flop/Poop Bingo (Agricultural Center)
MAIN STAGE
NOON National Anthem
3-4 April Cushman
5-8pm Crossing Kelley
8pm Alya Brown & Rob Riley

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