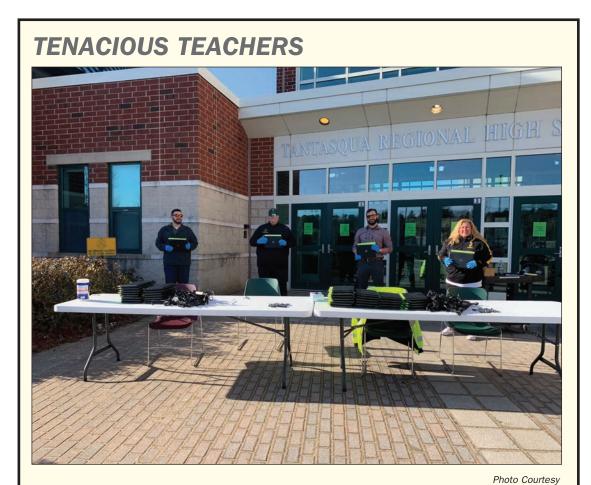


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Friday, April 10, 2020



Staff members hand out Chromebooks to students at Tantasqua Regional High School last month in preparation for distance learning. Photo courtesy of the high school's Twitter feed.

# A Note to Readers

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

As we ride out this temporary interruption of life as usual together, we urge you

to continue supporting the local businesses that advertise in your newspaper. They have always been here for you through good times and bad, and now, more than ever, they need you to be there for them in any way you can.

Amid this temporary absence of local events and municipal meetings, we are also looking to celebrate the many quiet heroes in our communities who have gone above and beyond to make

this situation easier for those most affected by it. Let us know if there is someone in your community who you think should be recognized by e-mailing news@stonebridgepress.news.

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

# Wales **Town Caucus** canceled

WALES — At a meeting held on Friday, March 27, the Board of Selectmen voted, due to the requirements of social distancing and the ban of gatherings of more than 25 people, to cancel the Wales Town Caucus, scheduled for Wednesday, April 15.

Anyone desiring to have their name placed on the ballot for public office at the

Wales Annual Town Election, currently scheduled for May 27 will have to request nomination papers from the Town Clerk and collect the signatures from at least 20 registered voters in Wales.

More information is available on the Web site, www. townofwales.net.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS **SUSPENDED**

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

# Alyssa Kievra of Holland inducted into Psi Chi Honor Society

Alyssa Kievra of Holland have the opportunity to subinducted into Psi Chi Honor mit scholarly articles to the Psi Society WORCESTER

Chi Journal of Psychological Research, apply for research grants, and attend and present at regional and national conferences.

# Southbridge officials continue to monitor outbreak



Photo Gus Steeves

A local homeowner emphasizes "social distancing" with the mannequins in the garden.

#### BY GUS STEEVES CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE - As the Covid pandemic rolls on, Southbridge emergency operations continues apace.

During his weekly update last Thursday, Police Chief Shane Woodson noted there were eight confirmed cases in town.

"It's going to get a little bit harder to track every positive case" going forward, he said.

Some of the positives, he said, "may have recovered," but privacy laws make it hard to determine.

While that's almost certainly true, it's a number that can be hard to come by. While the

Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus Center states 275,832 people have so far recovered worldwide out of 1,324,907 total confirmed cases (both as of 2:30 p.m. Monday), diving down into its interactive map for Massachusetts counties doesn't indicate any recoveries. Nor does the Mass Department of Public Health's daily update page, which shows a total of 13,837 cases statewide with 260 deaths (also Monday)

According to the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, the overall hospitalization rate is just 4.6 per 100,000, and highest in people over age 65 (13.8 per 100.000). "These rates are

similar to what is seen at the beginning of an annual influenza epidemic," the CDC site states. Death rates attributed to pneumonia and influenza combined (which includes Covid-19 and other illnesses) are running at 8.2 percent, with pneumonia itself having "increased sharply since the end of February" while the flu has started declining. During "week 13" of 2020 (i.e. last week), 5 percent of emergency department visits nationwide were due to Covid-19 related symptoms (defined as "fever and cough or shortness of breath or difficulty

Please Read UPDATE, page A3

Assumption's Department of Psychology has announced that Alyssa Kievra, of Holland, has become a member of Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology. Kievra, Class of 2021, was inducted into the honor society during the 2019-20 academic year.

"We are honored to induct some of the top psychology majors and minors at Assumption College into Psi Chi, including Alyssa,' said Assistant Professor of Psychology Leamarie Gordon, Ph.D., who is a co-advisor of the honor society along with Assistant Professor of Psychology Karen Lionello-DeNolf, Ph.D. "An invitation to join Psi Chi signifies that each inductee has not only exceeded academic requirements, but is also committed to the practice of compassionate service in the pursuit of helping others, which are core values shared by both an Assumption education and a career in psychology."

Psi Chi was founded with the purpose of encouraging, stimulating, and maintaining excellence in scholarship, and advancing the science of psychology. Membership is open to graduate and undergraduates, of sophomore, junior, or senior academic standing, who major or minor in psychology. Inductees must have completed nine semester hours of psychology courses, rank in the top 35 percent of their class, and have a minimum grade point average of 3.25. Members of Psi Chi

For more information on Assumption, visit www. assumption.edu.

Founded 1904 in by the Augustinians of the Assumption in Worcester, Assumption College is a Catholic liberal arts institution that offers undergraduate students 33 majors and 49 minors in the liberal arts, sciences, business, and professional studies; as well as master's and continuing education degrees and professional certificate programs-each through an educational experience that is grounded in the rich Catholic intellectual tradition. The curriculum enables students to gain a depth and breadth of knowledge that leads to professional success and personal fulfillment. Students-whether on the Worcester campus or at the College's Rome, Italy, campus-become engaged participants in Assumption's classic liberal arts education, exploring new ideas and making connections across disciplines. To prepare for the workforce, students learn cutting-edge theory and best practices, conduct innovative research, and develop excellent communication and critical-analysis skills. Assumption graduates are also known for their thoughtful citizenship and compassionate service to their community. For more information about Assumption College, please visit www.assumption.edu.



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- Call your local senior center or Tri-Valley Elder Services if you need help with services or obtaining groceries/meals.
- Call your local grocery stores to find elder shopping hours and only shop during that time period.
- Wash your hands frequently with hot soapy water.

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# Second Chance founder publishes new book

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

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

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

Sheryl Blancato, a self-de-scribed "reluctant autobiog-rapher" who is still surprised that anyone would want to read her story, only agreed to publish the book so she could

donate 100 percent of the proceeds to Second Chance to help pets in need.

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

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

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

Photo Courtesy **Co-authors Sheryl Blancato and Joe** Blancato, Sr.

in her early childhood and closes with a chapter entitled "The Journey Continues." In between, readers watch the small shelter grow and follow Shervl on her heartbreaking rescue mission after Hurricane Katrina.

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

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



## Smola announces moratorium on evictions and foreclosures

BOSTON — Rep. Todd M. Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways & Means) is pleased to announce that the House of Representatives has approved a temporary moratorium on evictions and foreclosures in Massachusetts to protect renters and homeowners during the ongoing State of Emergency triggered by the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Representative Smola said House Bill 4615, which was engrossed on April 2, would ban all but "emergency for cause" eviction actions from the time the bill is signed into law until 30 days after the State of Emergency is lifted. Landlords would be able to initiate an eviction action only for allegations of criminal activity or lease violations that are detrimental to the health and safety of others while the moratorium is in effect. The moratorium applies to both residential and commercial prop-

UPDATE

continued from page A1

breathing"), CDC's page states.

Regarding such symptoms, Woodson urged people who call for police or fire service to "please let our dispatcher know you think you might be positive" if they have such symptoms, even if not tested. He noted they will respond to all 911 calls, but "we deal with every case as if the person's positive" to protect officers' safety. Unfortunately, the pandemic has also brought out the criminals. Woodson noted there are several fraudulent call scams related to Covid-19 circulating, including fake charities, people claiming to be seeking money for health care, and people claiming to be from the US government/IRS asking for people's bank account numbers to send them their recently-approved federal stimulus money. While the IRS will be sending such funds, they "will never, ever, ever, ever call you," Woodson said. "... Do not give out your bank account number to anyone who calls you. NPR has reported the IRS will direct deposit the money if they have an account number already on file from prior tax returns. If not, they'll send a paper check to the last address they have on file. The former should happen within a couple weeks, but the latter may take months.

erties.

House Bill 4615 would also prohibit landlords from imposing a late fee or notifying a consumer reporting agency due to non-payment of rent, as long as the tenant provides notice and documentation to the landlord that their inability to pay on time is directly or indirectly related to the virus outbreak or the Governor's State of Emergency declaration. Tenants will have 30 days from the date rent is due to provide this documentation.

Landlords pursuing an emergency for cause eviction action must provide residential and commercial tenants with 10 days' written notice to quit. If the tenant refuses to vacate the premises, the landlord can then proceed with an action for summary process through the court system.

Rep. Smola noted that homeowners are also given protections from fore-

demic-related programs. One involves police officers reading stories online to students from the three elementary schools (which was tentatively to have begun Wednesday). The other involves signing up people interested in volunteering to help the community address pandemic issues. Sign-up forms are on the town's website, under the Human Resources section.

Additionally, the town election is still

closure under House Bill 4615. While the moratorium is in effect, mortgagees and creditors would be prohibited from publishing notice of a foreclosure sale; exercising a power of sale; exercising a right of entry; initiating a judicial or non-judicial foreclosure process; or filing a complaint to determine the military status of a mortgagor under the federal Service members Civil Relief Act

Additional language included in the bill would allow homeowners applying for a reverse mortgage to receive statutorily mandated counseling through video conferencing, rather than faceto-face.

House Bill 4615 now heads to the Senate for further action. For additional information please contact Representative Smola at Todd.Smola@ mahouse.gov or 722-2100.



### ACCURACY WATCH

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

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

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



**Everthing You Need** 

The town has also started two pan-

being held as planned, with the deadline for turning in the 39 nomination signatures still being April 21 at 5 p.m. But the Town Clerk's office will run off enough sheets for potential candidates to get just one signature per page, to avoid having too many people handle them. The available seats are: three on the Town Council for three years; three School Committee for three years and one for two years; one assessor for three eyars; one Redevelopment authority for five years; and two on the Housing Authority for three and five years. People interested in running should call the Clerk's office at 508-764-5408.

Beyond those concerns, Woodson reminded people to largely stay home and gather digitally.

"We can stop the spread. You've got to practice social distancing," he said, noting that he'd forgotten to do so during the first weekly update.

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



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everything you can to stay heathy. Looking forward to seeing you all again soon! ~ Marc, Jessie, Alex, Kyle, and Cormier's Staff Ъ Ь

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# Evangelidis opposes mass release of inmates

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

"Filed by the Committee for Public Counsel Services and the Massachusetts Association

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

housing, medical and programming needs. It is this step-down reentry process, as opposed to mass-release, that protects the public, victims of crimes and the inmates themselves,' Evangelidis continued. "The Sheriffs, along with our District Attorneys, local

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

The Massachusetts Sheriffs are committed to serving the communities they are sworn to protect. This responsibility includes the health and well-being of their justice-involved populations and the dedicated men and women on their teams of corrections professionals. Every sheriff sees it as their duty to ensure that the public safety and public health needs of all who live and work within their facilities are fully met. That responsibility only grows during global emergencies, and the sheriffs are meeting the COVID-19 pandemic head-on. The Massachusetts Sheriffs and their staff are working tirelessly to safely manage their staff and inmate populations and to curb the spread of COVID-19 to their county jails and houses of correction. They provide an exceptional level of care in their facilities, and are prepared for public health scenarios such as this. The sheriffs have implemented proactive and strategic steps to limit the transmission of COVID-19 including:

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

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

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

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

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

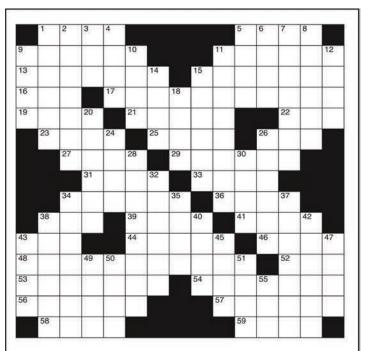
Enhancing screening of \* staff entering the facility.

✤ Temporarily suspending

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

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

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



34. Observed

38. Former OSS

39. Small Eurasian deer

41. Wife of Sparta's king

43. Ballplayer accessory

ply their trade

44. Temporary cessation of breathing

52. Thick cloud of tiny water droplets

46. Where construction workers

48. Arguments that justify a

religious doctrine

56. Period of inactivity

58. Greek war god

57. Tomato and vodka are two

36. Satisfy

53. Widens

54. Detection

59. Urinates

28. Computes

30. Pop singer

37. Building

38. Per \_\_, each 40. Six (Spanish)

43. Scoundrels

42. Makes amends

32. Weds secretly

34. Having two poles

35. Yankee hero Bucky

### **CLUES ACROSS**

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

### **CLUES DOWN**

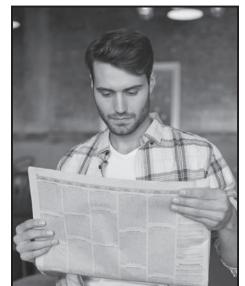
1. Churned 2. Seal bottles

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

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

45. Baseball's best pitchers

- 50. Singer Redding
- 51. Break
- 55. Institute legal proceedings against
- BE A Ε S Ξ d S Э Э n A A S S I LS S SOLUTION อ Ν Ξ Е T ¥ α S N S Ť. Ð 0 0 7 O d E S С L Э 9 Э L С N A ¥ 1 S A Е Ь d A a Э С Э S 0 Я A 1 HE T A ٦ BE S a Ξ Ξ S Ξ ٨ A S Э S 1 ٦ S Я A A Π PUZZLE NO T Я Е A C Я В A D С F ¥ 0 -Ť N 0 Е S N Ξ 3 H d O L S Я 1 8 Н С Э TUO a o w Ь 0 H BD S NO I N O 0 B O O B O В W Э

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like masks, gloves, sanitizers and more. These supplies are immediately donated to hospitals and other medical facilities.

We have contributed \$250,000 toward acquiring these vital items, and we are asking for your help by donating at the register. We will use 100% of your donation to purchase supplies, and we'll use our buying power to get the most for your money.

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### VILLAGER Almanac

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

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

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

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

About Bartholomew & Company

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

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



**Thomas Bartholomew** 

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

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

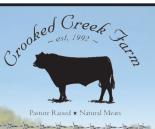
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# LEARNING

# QCC community donates supplies to area healthcare facilities

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

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

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

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

"I have made about 25 masks so far and I plan on making as many as I can. They take about 20-25 minutes to sew each, depending on the template," she said, adding that the masks can either be dropped off at a drop box at the home of the coordinator of Worcester Stitchers for Health, or the coordinator will make arrangements to safely pick them up

They are taken to Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) where they are either autoclaved or UV irradiated, depending on the mask material (anything that contains plastic will melt in an autoclave), packaged in sterile pouches and distributed by MEMA.

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

not have access to a mask," she said. Classes and labs at QCC's Center for Healthcare and Workforce Development, located at 25 Federal

Street, Worcester have also made donations to: • UMASS Medical School - N95 masks,

gloves, gowns, surgical masks

• Harrington Hospital - Gowns, and surgical masks

• Salmon Healthcare – Gowns, gloves and surgical masks

 Knollwood Nursing Home – Gowns, gloves and surgical masks

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

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

# QCC awarded National Science Foundation grant

WORCESTER Quinsigamond Community College (QCC) was recently awarded a \$298,108 National Science Foundation (NSF) Grant for a new Robotics Technician Certificate program. The program will be designed to offer a curriculum that supports technical communication, teaches problem-solving skills and offers a strong integration of industry-recognized certifications. Underrepresented QCC student populations that participate in QCC's existing robotics community outreach programs will directly benefit from the program. Additionally, other beneficiaries targeted include

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

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

programs.

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

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

One key component to the

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

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

in robotics."

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

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

### **Registry of Motor Vehicles extends renewal deadlines**

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) is continuing to take several important steps following Governor Charlie Baker's declaration of a State of Emergency the week of March 9 and to complement to make an appointment and should delay their visit to a Service Center at this time.

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

Commercial Licenses & Permits, that have expired or are expiring between March 1 and April 30 have had a 60-day extension applied to the current expiration date and do not need to be renewed at this time. This does not apply to

to expire on May 31 must be inspected by June 30. The RMV is also extending the time during which newly registered vehicles must be inspected based on the purchase date.

In addition, the RMV has suspended

the work that has been underway for weeks across state government to keep residents safe and healthy.

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

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

All Driver's Licenses, ID cards, and Learner's Permits, including

customers whose end of stay in the United States is the same as the expiration date on their Driver's License, ID card, or Learner's Permit. CDL Medical Certificates that expire on or after March 1 until April 30 will be extended until June 30th to prevent license downgrades and elective medical visits, as well as alleviate demand on medical providers.

The annual motor vehicle safety and emissions inspection stickers that expire on March 31 and April 30 have been extended 60 days and all motorcycle inspection stickers originally set

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

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

### RIPS

The "Trips Offered" section is for non-profit organizations and will run as space allows. Mail your information to Trips Offered, c/o Brendan Berube, PO Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550; fax to (508) 764-8015 or e-mail to news@stonebridgepress.news.

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> FRANK G. CHILINSKI PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

**BRENDAN BERUBE** Editor

# EDITORIAL Finding a silver lining

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

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

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

Strangers are stopping strangers (at



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR Barnicle and Goodwin deserve your vote for School Committee

#### To the Editor:

I am writing to encourage residents of Sturbridge to vote at our annual town election on April 13 for Patricia Barnicle and "Ted" Goodwin for election to the Tantasqua Regional District School Committee. Without reservation, I believe they have the interests of our students in our five-town regional school district as a priority.

In my 15 years as a member of the Committee, I know how committed Pat has been to the task of insuring that our students in grades 7-12 receive a quality education. She is actively involved in our meetings, frequently attends professional development programs to stay abreast of current education trends and has served as Chair of the Curriculum Subcommittee for several years as well as a member of the Bylaws and Policy Subcommittee. I know that for Pat, the students always come first in her deliberations. As a parent, grandparent and a resident of Sturbridge, she has been an outstanding advocate for educational excellence.

While I have only had the opportunity to work with Ted since he was appointed to the School Committee last summer to fill a vacancy, in the few months he has been a member of the Committee, I have been impressed with how quickly he has become acclimated to his role and how seriously he has approached his responsibilities. Ted's youthful zeal has added a new dimension to our eighteen- member Committee and I believe that his continued membership would be very beneficial to our students and community. As an active resident of Sturbridge and a parent, he has a keen understanding of the expectations we have in our regional school district.

I would appreciate it if you would cast your vote for these two well qualified residents to serve a three-year term on the Tantasqua Regional District School Committee.

> WILLIAM J. HAGGERTY STURBRIDGE

# Finding joy in quarantine

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

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

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

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

antine and put them into action!

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

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

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

And for some of you who have a loved one who is sick, or you are not well, I'm praying for you now and I encourage others to do the same. Want me to pray for you or a friend or loved one by name? Send me an email or snail mail and I will do so. I won't post it here, but my phone number is on my Web page. It's easy to find. If you want me to pray a call. And for those ith you, give me of you who don't believe in the power of prayer, please accept my positive thoughts for you as I pray for you. To pray is a decision I make personally. You don't have to do the same. I had a young student who said, "I don't believe in God or prayer ... so will you pray for me?" I prayed for her until her crisis passed. (Let the contradiction of her question sink in ...)

### **CARES** Act offers help for investors, small businesses



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

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

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

Direct payments - Individuals will receive a one-time payment of up to \$1,200; this amount is reduced for incomes over \$75,000 and eliminated altogether at \$99,000. Joint filers will receive up to \$2,400, which will be reduced for incomes over \$150,000 and eliminated at \$198,000 for joint filers with no children. Plus, taxpayers with children will receive an extra \$500 for each dependent child under the age of 17. If you don't need this money for an immediate need, you might consider putting it into a low-risk, liquid account as part of an emergency fund. No penalty on early withdrawals Typically, you'd have to pay a 10% penalty on early withdrawals from IRAs, 401(k)s and similar retirement accounts. Under the CARES Act, this penalty will be waived for individuals who qualify for COVID-19 relief and/ or in plans that allow COVID-19 distributions. Withdrawals will still be taxable, but the taxes can be spread out over three years. Still, you might want to avoid taking early withdrawals, as you'll want to keep your retirement accounts intact as long as possible. Suspension of required withdrawals Once you turn 72, you'll be required to take withdrawals from your traditional IRA and 401(k). The CARES Act waives these required minimum distributions for 2020. If you're in this age group, but you don't need the money, you can let your retirement accounts continue growing on a tax-deferred basis. Increase of retirement plan loan limit - Retirement plan investors who qualify for COVID-19 relief can now borrow up to \$100,000 from their accounts, up from \$50,000, provided their plan allows loans. We recommend that you explore other options, such as the direct payments, to bridge the gap on current expenses and if you choose to take a plan loan work with your financial adviser to develop strategies to pay back these funds over time to reduce any long-term impact to your retirement goals. Small-business loans – The CARES Act provides \$349 billion to help small businesses - those with fewer than 500 employees – retain workers and avoid closing up shop. A significant part of this small business relief is the Paycheck Protection Program. This initiative provides federally guaranteed loans to small businesses who maintain payroll during this emergency. Significantly, these loans may be forgiven if borrowers use the loans for payroll and other essential business expenses (such as mortgage interest, rent and utilities) and maintain their payroll during the crisis. We'll be in a challenging economic environment for some time, but the CARES Act should give us a positive jolt - and brighten our outlook.

POSITIVELY SPEAKING GARY W. MOORE

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

While passing by a gentleman getting ready to grill his dinner on the back porch, we struck up a conversation about going stir crazy, sharing a few laughs and well wishes, and then we were on our way. People have slowed down enough to lift their heads from their phones, laptops, steering wheels and television sets to open their eves fully to the world around them. There are more smiles and head nods exchanged. People are making more eye contact with one another, almost to say yes, I'm uncertain too, but we will be all right.

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

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

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

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

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

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

What about you?

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

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

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

Make positive decisions during quar-

This too shall pass.

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

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

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

Gary W. Moore is a freelance columnist, speaker and author of three books including the award-winning, critically acclaimed, "Playing with the Enemy." Follow Gary on Twitter @ GaryWMoore721 and at www.garywmoore.com.

> This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Jeff Burdick, your local Edward Jones Advisor in Sturbridge at 508-347-1420 or jeff.burdick@edwardjones.com.

### Time to Plan the Garden!

Visions of a lush backyard garden can brighten these dark days, so why not use this time at home to plan a spectacular summer garden?

As all home growers know, it takes careful planning and many hours of labor to produce a bountiful garden. While

nearly every successful gardener has their own special tricks to ensure a productive crop, the novice planter may need a helping hand to nudge green sprouts from uncooperative soil. If that's the case, the following tips culled



from various "green thumbed" sources may just be all you need to make this upcoming season the most successful gardening year yet.

### Starting Seedlings

You don't have to pay big bucks for packaged sterilized potting

mix, as you can sterilize your backyard soil at home! (For best results the soil should be moist and crumbly, neither soggy nor too dry.) To do: Put

Turn To **TRAINOR** page **A10** 



# Patio Door Special! Window Special!

Special ends on May 2<sup>nd</sup>



### Payments

Monthly

Down

Minimum purchase of four. Interest accrues from the purchase date but is waived if paid in full within 12 months.

Interest

- Our patio doors will continue to slide smoothly for years using Andersen's dual ball-bearing engineering
- Our **5-point locking system** on our patio doors provides top-of-the-line security and peace of mind
- Our composite Fibrex<sup>®</sup> window material is twice as strong as vinyl so our weather-tight seals stay weather-tight
- We handle the entire process—from selling to installation to the warranty—on our windows and patio doors, so if you ever have an issue, you're covered



Call for your FREE Window and Patio Door Diagnosis

00-209-27

The entire experience was great. The installation crew was fantastic. They arrived on time and worked efficiently. They were all master craftsmen who were extremely knowledgeable about the product they were installing and the end-to-end installation process. They were courteous, professional and left our house very clean after each day of work.
— Heather S., Renewal by Andersen customer, Holliston, MA

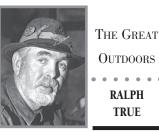
MILITARY DISCOUNT

**YEAR**<sup>1</sup>



The Better Way to a Better Window

<sup>1</sup>DETAILS OF OFFER: Offer expires 5/9/2020. You must set your appointment by 5/2/2020 and purchase by 5/9/2020. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Get 20% off your entire purchase and 12 months \$0 down, 0 monthly payments, 0% interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or patio doors between 4/1/2020 and 5/9/2020. Additional \$250 off your project, minimum purchase of four (4) or more windows or patio doors required, taken after initial discount(s), when you set your appointment by 5/2/2020 and purchase by 5/9/2020. 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 locations are independently owned and operated. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. ©2020 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved.



Fishing at some local ponds has been just fantastic, while some streams and brooks are very slow according to a few local anglers. This writer made a call to M.F.W. Central District this past Friday, April 3, and was told that the spring stocking is pretty much complete. The stocking trucks were running nonstop to ensure that the spring stocking of trout would be completed. As of this date, the Division of Fish & Wildlife is holding on to the trout allocated for the fall stocking. The Covid-19 virus sure has negatively made a big change in our daily living, and will affect our lives for months and vears to come.

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

Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife, along with some other states, have been feeding the trout at the hatcheries a new diet over the last few years, which has

# Stocking for spring

the trout growing very fast, and the end result is a more impressive trout being stocked. The down side to the new diet that trout are being raised on have lost there sweet natural taste at the dinner table.

I am not the only one that has noticed the difference in the taste of trout over the last few years. Any fish or meat taste can be altered with numerous brands of seasoning on the market today, but I and many other anglers miss the natural sweet taste of the trout. I guess we cannot have it both ways. Numerous anglers have switched to smoking trout, rather than pan fried.

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

A couple of years ago, both Massachusetts & Rhode Island stopped commercial fishing for tautog in the spring, and gave them a good season in the fall. It was long overdue. Tautog were returning to spawn in the spring, and were being depleted before they had a chance to spawn. It was a no brainer.

Rhode Island Marine Fisheries & NOAA has placed another nail in the coffin of the recreational fluke fishing season this year. Raising the Fluke size limit to 19 inches and allowing the commercial anglers to keep 14-inch fish is outrageous. A lot of fish are going to be wasted due to mortality after being released by recreational anglers. Taking home a few fluke fillets for the family this year is going to be tough. Massachusetts has held there legal size limit to 17 inches again this year. It was not that long ago that Rhode island raised the size limit for fluke to 21 inches for recreational anglers.

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

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

My neighbor erected a blue bird box



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

Until next week, stay safe! God Bless America.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

Extend your garden season

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

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

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

### TRAINOR

continued from page **A8** 

two pounds of soil in a plastic turkey roasting bag. Do not seal the bag shut, as it could burst open. Place the bag in the microwave on high for two to



the surface. You'll be pulling fewer weeds throughout the growing season.

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

help you plant earlier and harvest later in the season.

Row covers made of spun fabrics let air, light, and water through while keeping the plants warm. Anchor the fabric with landscape pins, stones, boards, or other heavy items. Leave enough slack in the fabrics for the plants to grow. Lighter weight garden fabrics also protect plants from insect pests like cabbage worms and bean beetles.

Garden covers take this method one

comes to replant the seedlings, plant the whole pot, as the cardboard will disintegrate!

The addition of peat moss is necessary to keep window boxes and other container gardens properly watered. But, if you are not wetting down the peat moss before adding it to the soil, you may be doing your garden more harm than good. Peat moss must be moistened before it is used in potting mixes. When dry, the substance actually repels water! Here's how to pretreat it: If you want to wet a full bag of peat moss, poke several holes in the bottom of the bag and open the top. Then pour water slowly into the top of the bag until it seeps out of the bottom holes. Push on the bag and knead it to ensure the peat is getting saturated. To test, scoop out a handful of peat moss and squeeze it. If you can squeeze water out, it is ready to use. If not, keep wetting until you can. step further. These structures fit over plantings in the garden, raised beds or elevated planters. Look for those with durable greenhouse fabric covers that let water in and keep excess heat out. These types of structures protect plants from cold and wind, speeding up your harvest by as much as 25 percent.

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

Or maybe you just can't wait for that first red ripe tomato and only want to jump start a row of greens. Garden cloches have long been used for this purpose. They capture the sun's warmth to protect plants from frosty weather. *Turn To MYERS page A11* 

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

\*Here's an easy way to gauge spacing seeds in large flats: Cut one-inch chicken mesh wire the size of the flat. Simply lay it on the soil and plant a seed inside each hole for instant one-inch spacing. For two or tree inch spacing, simply skip the correct number of holes. \*Leftover garden seeds will likely sprout next year if you keep them in the refrigerator in a tightly closed jar with a packet of silica gel. The gel packets can be recycled from vitamin bottles or even shoe boxes. \$\$\$ Saving Hot Tip: If you're germinating seeds, don't spend your hard earned money on a plant heat mat. A heating pad can do the job at a fraction of the cost. Just be sure to cover it in plastic to prevent any water spill



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

ored, dark or moldy spots. \* Make sure there are no holes or other signs of insect damage on bulbs. \* Pick over bulbs that have sprouted; it is better if they grow roots first.

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

three minutes. Allow the soil to cool to room temperature before using it.

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

Never buy peat pots again! Instead recycle those cardboard paper towel and toilet paper rolls, Here's how: Cut them into pieces with scissors (a toilet paper roll should yield two; paper towel rolls, four). Line them up in a tray, touching each other to ensure that they remain upright and to slow the evaporation of moisture. Fill with potting soil and plant as usual. And when the time

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

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

Flower bulbs are now plentiful at large garden centers. But, bulbs sold at such places are a bargain only if you know how to avoid poor quality bulbs. Here are some tips: \* Bulbs should feel solid and heavy. If they are light, they may be dried out. \* Avoid bulbs with discol-

Lilac's Bloom: When the lilacs have their first leaves it is time to plant cool-weather crops such as peas, lettuce, and onions. When the lilac flowers are in full bloom, it s safe to plant tender crops such as tomatoes and corn. Native American's Rule: The American Indians passed this reliable tip on to European colonists, and many farmers still rely on it today. Tender crops should not be planted until the leaves on an oak tree are as big as a squirrels ear (about an inch or so long). Moon Signs: Many natural gardeners plant successfully by the phases of the moon. Here's how: Between the new moon and the first quarter: sow or transplant leafy plants and those that bear seeds on the outside of the fruit, such as strawberries. Between the first quarter and the full moon: plant crops whose seeds develop inside the fruit, such as tomatoes, peas, beans and squash. From the full moon to the last quarter: plant root vegetables. Never plant from the last quarter to the new moon.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

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

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



# Antiquing during this health crisis

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

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

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



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

# Bill to keep local government running now on governor's desk

BOSTON — Legislation to help municipal government continue to operate and provide essential services to Massachusetts residents during the COVID-19 global pandemic is now on Gov. Charlie Baker's desk awaiting his signature

House Bill 4598, An Act to address challenges faced by municipalities and state authorities resulting from COVID-19, was enacted by the House of Representatives and the Senate on April 2. State Rep. Todd Smola (R-Warren) said the bill provides communities with much-needed flexibility to conduct business and finalize a budget while operating under the difficult constraints imposed by the State of Emergency that took effect on March 10.

In addition to giving town moderators the authority to declare a recess or continuance of town meeting for up to 30 days at a time during the State of Emergency, the bill also allows local select boards to extend town meeting business beyond the statutorily-mandated cutoff date of June 30. Communities that are unable to finalize a budget for the next fiscal year by June 30 will be allowed to continue operating using monthly interim budgets funded through free cash and other revenue accounts, with the approval of the director of local accounts at the Department of Revenue.

Rep. Smola said House Bill 4598 extends the state's personal income tax filing deadline from April 15 to July 15, reflecting changes that were recently made to the federal tax filing deadline. The bill also allows bars and restaurants holding liquor licenses to sell beer and wine to customers ordering takeout food to help local businesses recoup some of the sales that have been lost since dining in was temporarily banned last month.

House Bill 4598 also:

authorizes cities, towns and districts that incur a deficit this year to amortize the debt over the next three fiscal years, using guidelines issued by the Commissioner of Revenue;

extends the deadline for municipalities to exercise a right of first refusal option to purchase property until 90 days after the State of Emergency is lifted:

removes the annual cap on hours and earnings for retired employees collecting a pension so they can work during the State of Emergency, provided they did not retire under a general or special disability law:

permits cities and towns to extend the deadlines for property tax payments and applications for tax exemptions to a date no later than June 1;

authorizes cities and towns to waive interest payments and other penalties for late payments of excises and taxes, including water and sewer payments, if payment is made before June 30;

prohibits cities and towns from terminating essential services – including water, trash collection and electricity for non-payment of taxes or fees resulting from loss of employment, serious illness or other financial hardship related to the outbreak of COVID-19;

allows permit-granting authorities to hold meetings and public hearings remotely during the State of Emergency, using the guidelines established in the

Governor's March 12 order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law;

ensures that no permit, variance, special permit, license, amendment, extension, or other approval issued by a permit-granting authority will lapse or be deemed granted, approved or denied until 45 days after the State of Emergency is lifted, or by a date otherwise prescribed by law, whichever is later; and

enables public corporations to conduct meetings remotely for the duration of the State of Emergency, and for 60 davs thereafter.

For additional information, please contact Rep. Smola at Todd.Smola@ mahouse.gov or (617) 722-2100.



# Easter happens despite the pandemic!

STURBRIDGE — The Southbridge/ Sturbridge Community Clergy Group & Friends are disappointed to cancel the very popular Community Sunrise Easter Service at Old Sturbridge Village due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but we are happy to affirm that Jesus will Rise on Easter morning anyway!

The clergy of Holy Trinity Episcopal, First United Methodist of Southbridge, New Hope United Church of Christ,

### MYERS

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

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

Bethlehem Lutheran, Elm Street Congregational United Church of Christ, and St. Anne/St. Patrick Parish continue to hold all of our communities, our nation, and our world in prayer during this difficult time. It is at this time that we can celebrate that we are all one family of God and that evil will ultimately be defeated in our sacrificial love for one another.

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

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



Brianna Age 17

dren, and she has expressed wanting a job working with children when she gets older. She

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

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

#### Who Can Adopt?

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

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

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





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

#### TRIPS

continued from page A6

What's Included: Roundtrip motor coach, 2 nights lodging – Marriott in downtown Montreal, 1 night lodging – Quebec City, four meals (4), 5 meals, guided tours each day and more!

\$849pp Double Occ. - \$1159 pp Single Occ.

For a brochure and complete itinerary please contact

Lori Douthwright 508-248-5971 X1715

#### **CHARLTON SENIOR CENTER**

TRIPS w/Charlton Senior Center 2020

Our new Trip Coordinator is Mary Lou Lepko.

A few things to know:

• Sign up at the center, or call 508-248-2231, or email: charltontrips@yahoo. com

Please put your full name and phone number on sign-up sheets

• Trips are open to the public

• Flyers available at the center or online at www.townofcharlton.net. Click on Government, then Council on Aging/Senior Center

• Mail payments to: Charlton Senior Center Trips, 37 Main St., Charlton, MA 01507 or bring into center and give to Elaine or Katherine. Please be sure to make checks payable to the company stated below.

• You will be notified of pick up time & location

• Bus pick up will usually be at St. Joseph's Church 10 H Putnam Rd. Ext. in Charlton

April 17— FOXWOODS \$34 includes transportation, buffet or \$10 food voucher and \$10 casino slot play. Make checks payable to: Fox Tours (payment due 3/17)

May 19 — CAROLE KING TRIBUTE \$94 includes transportation, Luncheon, meal tax w/gratuity and Show ticket. Driver gratuity not included. Make checks payable to: Best of Times (payment due 4/17)

July 28 — GLOUCESTER HARBOR CRUISE LOBSTERBAKE \$135 includes transportation, Beauport Princess Cruise, Lobsterbake buffet, Entertainment & Dancing. Driver gratuity not included. Make checks payable to: Best of Times (payment due

### 6/25)

September 2 — LAKE WINNIPESAUKEE CRUISE & CASTLE IN THE CLOUDS \$129 includes transportation, Lake Cruise, Luncheon, Visit to Castle in the Clouds. Driver gratuity not included. Make checks payable to: Best of Times (payment due 7/30)

November 17 — YESTERDAY ONCE MORE w/The Carpenters, ABBA, 5th Dimension, The Mamas & The Papas all in one show! \$92 includes transportation, Luncheon, meal tax w/gratuity and Show ticket. Driver gratuity not included. Make checks payable to: Best of Times (payment due 10/15)

Dec 4-7 — A COUNTRY CHRISTMAS IN NASHVILLE, TN. Gaylord Oprey Hotel! 4 days/3 nights. Call for more info

#### **DAUGHTERS OF ISABELLA**

For reservations contact Jan Caouette at (508) 887-2215. Make checks payable to Bernadette Circle #709 and mail to Bernadette Circle #709, PO Box 201, Webster MA 01570. The Daughters of Isabella is a nonprofit and charitable Catholic women's organization

#### **DOUGLAS SUNSHINE CLUB**

Sunny Portugal next April. The Douglas Sunshine Club is planning a trip to sunny Portugal April 21-30, 2020. This trip is with Collette Travel. An informational meeting is planned for Wed. June 12th at the Douglas Senior Center, 331 Main St., Douglas, at 6:30 p.m. If you are interested in the trip, this is a great opportunity to get a description of the travel arrangements and itinerary with a representative from Collette Travel who will also answer any questions you have about the trip. For more info call 508-476-4474.

#### **DUDLEY SENIORS**

Dudley Seniors present a Pigeon Forge and the Smoky Mountains Show Trip. It will be 7 days and 6 nights from Sept. 20, 2020 through Sept. 26, 2020. The price per person/ double occupancy is \$689 and will include motorcoach transportation from Dudley, 6 nights lodging, 10 meals, admission to Titanic: the world's largest museum attraction, 2 dinner shows, 2 evening shows, one morning show, free time in downtown Gatlinburg and a guided tour of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

For more information, please call Evelyn at (508) 764-8254.

FRIENDS OF THE STURBRIDGE SENIORS

The Friends of the Sturbridge Seniors are happy to offer the following 2020 Trips to the General Public. Beginning on Thursday March 12th, join us as we travel by Deluxe Motorcoach on an appproximately 60 minute ride to the Fabulous Venus DeMilo in Swansea, Ma. To see Ireland's Most Exciting Young Tenor, Emmet Cahill. Emmet is the Star of PBS Phenomenon Celtic Thunder. Hear Emmet perform many of the Irish Classics as well as some of your Favorite Broadway Hits. He will be joined by the Emerald String Quartet, who are four young Ladies creating the Sweetest Sounds from their String Instruments. And let's add the All Male Dublin City Dancers who will shake up the Audience with their high stepping dance numbers. For 92.00 everyone will have a Plated Lunch of Corned Beef and Cabbage or Baked Haddock, Venus DeMilo's Famous Minstrone Soup, Vegetables, Breads, Dessert, Coffee and Tea, Bus Transportation and this Fabulous Show.

On Thursday, July 16, come with us for a Lobster Bake at Foster's Clambake in York, Me. For 99.00 enjoy a 1 1/4 Boiled Lobster, Clam Chowder, Steamed Mussels, Fresh Steamed Maine Clams, Corn on the Cob, Potatoes and Onions, Blueberry Cake and a Beverage. Also available is 1/2 Barbecued Chicken in place of the Lobster. Now let us add the Ultimate Jimmy Buffett Tribute Show featuring Jimmy and the Parrots. They are the most requested Jimmy Buffett Tribute Band in the Country and they were also nominated as Band of the Year by Trop Rock Entertainer. Hear them play the favorite songs of Jimmy Buffett as well as songs by The Beach Boys, Paul Simon, Harry Belafonte, Bob Marley and many others. Included is Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation, Lunch and the Show.

On Tuesday August 18 to Friday August 21st, have your Passport ready for a Spectacular 4 Day/3 Night Motor Coach Roundtrip visit to Beautiful Montreal and Quebec Canada. For 849.00 pp Double or 1159.00 pp Single Occupancy. Included are 3 Nights Hotel Lodgings, 4 Meals, touring as described in your travel Brochgure, Best of Times Travel Tour Director and all gratuities except Motorcoach Driver. gratuity are included. In Montreal take in a guided visit of Norte-Dame Basilica, the Botanical Gardens, the Biodome, enjoy time at Montreal Casino plus even more. In Quebec, visit the Basilica of Saint-Anne de Beaupre, Montgomery Falls, guided Tour of the beautiful Citadelle featuring the Changing of the Guard, the Royal Regimemnt Museum plus some Free Time to enjoy Quebec on your own.

On Thursday August 20th, get ready for the 10th Anniversary Tour of The Texas Tenors. These 3 very Handsome, Classically Trained Men have performed over 1300 Concerts with Headliner Shows in Las Vegas, China, the United Kingdom and accumulated 3 EMMY AWARDS. The Texas Tenors will sing many of the Broadway Show Classics as well as many of your favorite Pop Songs. They were honored to be included among the Top 50 Acts in the World. This could be the Best Concert that you will see this year. We are traveling approximately 60 minutes to the Venus DeMilo in Swansea, Ma.. For 99.00 included is Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation, Plated Lunch of either Chicken Parmesan or Baked Scrod, Venus DeMilo's Famous Minnestrone Soup, Vegetables, Breads, Dessert, Coffee and Tea.

Join us on Wednesday, September 2nd on our day trip to Lake Winnipesaukee for a scenic cruise out of Weirs Beach taking in the remarkable scenery of the Western end of this magnificent lake. We will also visit the spectacular Castle in The Clouds a turn-of-the-century sixteen room mansion with its breathtaking mountaintop views overlooking Lake Winnipesaukee. Enjoy a delicious full course luncheon at Harts Turkey Farm in Meredith, NH. Famous and renowned for their turkey dinners you are sure to delight in this bountiful luncheon. All for just \$129.

We had 34 people travel to the

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# **OBITUARIES**

### Ernest E. LaCroix, 95

SOUTHBRIDGE- Ernest E. LaCroix, 95, of Roger St., passed away on Sunday, April 5th, in Harrington Memorial Hospital, Southbridge, after an illness.



His wife and love of his life, Janice A. (Lachapelle) LaCroix, passed away in 2009. His son, Ernest E. LaCroix, Jr., passed away in 2009. He leaves his step daughters, Sharon Rust of Southbridge, Linda Legere and her husband Ron of Sturbridge and Laurie Meehan her husband and Dennis of Southbridge; his step son, Michael Pontbriand and his wife Cindy of Lecanto,

FL; his seven grand-

children, LoriAnne Bernier and her husband Mark of N. Grosvenordale, CT., Jaime Cagle and her husband Michael of Tucson, AZ, Joshua Roy and his wife Rona of Sturbridge, Stephanie Kaferlein and her husband Matthew of Spencer, Dennis Meehan III and his wife Sarah of Southbridge, Christopher Meehan of Sturbridge and Michael Pontbriand, Jr. of Lecanto, FL; 7 great grandchildren; and many nieces

and nephews. He was predeceased by several brothers and sisters. He was born in Southbridge the son of William and Rozilda (Benoit) LaCroix. Ernest was a US Army Veteran of World War II, serving in the 82nd Airborne Division in the European Theatre. He was a recipient of the Purple Heart.

Ernest was a Postal Carrier for the US Postal Service in Southbridge for 30 years, retiring in 1986. He was a member of the Leonide J. Lemire post 6055 of the VFW in Southbridge. He was also a member of the National Association of Letter Carriers. Ernest enjoyed going out to eat, loved Coney Island, and trying different restaurants with his daughters. He loved traveling and enjoying the beach, especially Maine and Florida with his wife. The greatest joy in his life was his wife, their children and grandchildren.

Due to current health restrictions his graveside service in Oak Ridge Cemetery, Southbridge will be private. There are no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, 30 Speen St., Framingham, MA 01701.

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

www.morrillfuneralhome.com

### Sarah C. Hardy celebration of life postponed

STURBRIDGE POSTPONED Sarah C. Hardy's celebration of life that was scheduled for Friday, April 17, has been postponed, due to the current health crisis. A new time will be announced. Please visit http://www.

BelangerFuneralHome.com for further information and a new date will also be published in this paper when time allows. The family wishes for everyone to be safe during this crises.

Send all obituary notices to Stonebridge Press, PO Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550, or by e-mail to Obits@stonebridgepress.news

#### TRIPS

continued from page A12

Pennsylvania Dutch Country 3 Day/2Night Trip this past December and they had such a Great Time that many of them asked to go back again this September 23-25th. We will see the New Show "Queen Esther". One of the very most riveting Bible Stories of the Old Testament that comes to life in the Magnificent Sight and Sound Theater which incorporates Live Animals, Secial Effects and Jaw Opening Stage Sets. Ask anyone who has seen a Show at the Millenium Sight and Sound Theater and they will tell you this is a Must See. in your lifetime. Now let's add a 2nd Show called "Saturday Nigh Fever" at the Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre, a Backcountry Tour of the Dutch County Farmlands, enjoy your luck at the Sands Casino and more. Prices are 499.00 pp Double and 599.00 Single Occupancy and include 2 Nights Lodging, 4 Meals, Tickets to the 2 Shows, Touring as Described and Tour Director Gratutites. Last years Trip sold out early so don't get left behind Have you ever thought about visiting Nashville? Come along on a 4 Day/3 Night Trip December 4th -7th. Included are Roundtrip transportation to Logan Airport, Roundtrip Airfare to Nashville, 3 Nights of Premium Lodging, 7 Meals including a Sunday Brunch, An Exclusive Dinner Show featuring the Oak Ridge Boys, Ticket and Show at the Grand Ole Opry, plus a Tour of the Grand Ole Opry, Admission to Country Music Hall of Fame, a River Cruise aboard the General Jackson Showboat, Tickets for a Holiday Show at the Opry House, Admission to ICE at Gaylord Opryland, a visit to Historic Studio B and a Guilded Tour Of Nashville. WOW!! Prices are 1949 pp Double and 2349 pp Single Occupancy which includes Tour Guides and Bus Drivers Gratuities as well. Contact Sturbridge Recreation Department 508-347-2041, email recreation@sturbridge.gov for more information

famous ice cream. We leave at 9 a.m. Cost is \$109.

Thursday, July 16: The Lakes Region Summer Music Theatre's "The King and I" and Hart's Turkey Farm luncheon. We leave at 9 a.m. Cost is \$99.

Wednesday, Aug. 12: Casblanca By the Sea in Portland, Maine. Lunch at the Bull & Claw, then a cruise in Portland Harbor. Viewing war forts,

### Blanche Lucille Richards, 91

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



Denise of Sterling, Mark S. Richards and wife Gail of Sturbridge, Paul M. Richards and wife Vicki of Southbridge. Jayne M. Petrelli and husband John of Charlton, and Sally A. Lanctot and husband Roger of Vero Beach, FL; her sister, Annette C. Moeller of Sebastian, FL; 13 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her great-grandson, Jeremy Martin. Lucille was born in

Blanche A. (Reeves) Mongeon. Lucille worked as a Certified Nurses Aide at the Masonic Home (now the Overlook Masonic Healthcare Center) for 18 years, retiring in 1993. She previously worked at the American Optical Co. in Southbridge for 10 years. She was a lifelong member of St. Joseph's Church in Charlton and sang in the

Charlton, the daughter of Louis E. and

choir. In recognition of their devotion to St. Joseph's, she and her husband Armand were honored in 2007 as parish Stewards of the Year. Musically talented, she played the piano, organ and guitar. As a young woman she performed country western music in the local area. She was especially well known for her yodeling and gave many performances in community talent shows. Lucille was a member of the Charlton Senior Center, the Golden Age Club, and the Charlton American Legion Auxiliary Post 391. She and her husband enjoyed ballroom and square dancing and were members of the Senior Center's line dance group.

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

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

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

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

www.morrillfuneralhome.com

### Versie Mildred "Millie" Edelmann, 82

BRIMFIELD: Versie Mildred "Millie" (Ray) Edelmann, 82 of Old East Brimfield Road died March 21, 2020 at St. Vincent Hospital.

Versie was predeceased by her first husband Richard A. Hebert in 1992 and by Karl W. Edelmann in 1999.

She leaves her 3 sons David Learning of Spencer, Lionel and Rose Learning

of Holbrook and Harold Patrick and Pamela Learning of Brimfield; her 2 daughters; Nequetta and David Proulx of Southbridge and Georgia Learning of Brimfield. 17 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.

She was predeceased by two sons Russell A. Ray and James W. Learning and a granddaughter Christine D. Leaming.

Verise was born in Yeager, KY. The daughter of William and Eliza Jane

This one is for the bingo players and

all others that want to go. You will have

a deluxe motor coach ride to the casino.

You will have 5 hours at the casino to

gamble and shop. The bus will leave

September 15, 2020 – Tuesdav

Mohegan Sun \$30 - 10 - AM bus.

You will receive \$10 for gaming and a

Foxwoods at 2 PM.

buffet meal voucher.

(Newsome) Ray.

She was longtime member of the Friendship Baptist Church where she joyfully served on the hostess committee as well as the choir. She worked at the American Optical and the former Liberty House Nursing Home for several years. Her favorite job and the one that had her heart was working many years as a nanny as well as the running the gate at Yogi Bears Jellystone Park

She enjoyed sewing and cooking her wonderful southern recipes as well as her special companion her chihuahua Daisy.

Due to the current health crisis her funeral services were private. Burial was in Brimfield Cemetery attended by her children and grandchildren.

An online guestbook and a video tribute are available at available at www. BelangerFuneralHome.com

Belanger-Bullard Funeral Home, 51 Marcy St. Southbridge directed arrangements.

amount can be used by the recipient to any event at face value. For information or reservations contact Ted at (508) 764-7909.

#### **UXBRIDGE SENIOR CENTER**

All trips leave from the Whitinsville Walmart and the Stop & Shop at 32 Lyman St, Westboro. Make sure to include entree choice, phone # (esp. cell) and an emergency *#* when sending payment. "Like" us on FacebookThe Silver Club and The Uxbridge Senior Center. Please call Sue at (508) 476-5820 for more information.



For additional information on these Wonderful Trips, please contact Linda Fortier at 508 347 1452 or by email at bestoftimes2020@aol.com

#### LEICESTER SENIOR CENTER.

For trip information and reservations, please call Joan Wall at (508) 892-3967.

Thursday, May 14: Twin River Casino & Wright's Chicken Farm. \$10 slot cash and \$7 food credit at the Casino. Then we depart for Wright's Farm for a family style dinner. Cost is \$64. We leave at 9 a.m.

Wednesday, June 17: The Glouchester Lobster Cruise with lobster clam bake and chicken buffet. On the way home, we stop at Kimball's Farm for their

seals, lighthouses. We leave at 8:30 a.m. The cost is \$99.

Sept. 1-3: Trip to Bar Harbor, Maine. Many sights to see. Cost is in the low \$400's. More information coming.

Wednesday, Oct. 14: New Hampshire Turkey Train. Scenic foliage train traveling around beautiful Lake Winnipesaukee. Hart's Turkey Farm brings a full turkey luncheon on board. Then more sightseeing and foliage viewing. We leave at 9 a.m. Cost is \$89.

Thursday, Nov. 11: Newport Playhouse & Cabaret Restaurant presents "Ghost of a Chance," a buffet full with everything. The play, then back to your seats for the Cabaret. Two shoes for the price of one. We leave at 9 a.m. The cost is \$99.

Saturday, Dec. 12: The fabulous Reagle Players Christmas Spectacular and Dinner at the Chateau Restaurant. The entertainment is wonderful. The food is great! We leave at 10 a.m. The cost is \$119.

#### MARY QUEEN OF THE ROSARY PARISH

SPENCER — Mary Queen of the Rosary Parish, 60 Maple St., Spencer, is offering the following trips. For more information, call Bernard Dube at (508) 885-3098.

\*USA: Wonders of Northern California Redwoods, Oregon & Washington: August 3-15, 2020

\*Spain & Portugal: Sept.9-23, 2020

\*Galapagos Islands: Jan 4-13, 2021 \*Galapagos with extension to Peru (Machu Picchu): Jan 4-19, 2021

\*Botswana, Zimbabwe and Victoria Falls: May 5-16, 2021

\*Alaska (land and cruise): early August, 2021

#### **PAXTON SENIORS**

Bob Wilby, 508-792-4662 or rwilby@ charter.net

#### SOUTHBRIDGE SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Contact Jim Julian at the Casaubon Senior Center Monday, Wednesday, or Friday 9-10 a.m. or call (774) 922-4049 or e-mail jimtrips@yahoo.com.

Trips are open to the public! Make checks payable to the Southbridge Senior Citizens Association, payment due at sign up:

SOUTHBRIDGE SENIOR CITIZENS TRIP SCHEDULE FOR 2020

May 19, 2020 - Tuesday - Foxwoods \$30 - 8 - AM bus.

ride to the casino. You will have 5 hours at the casino to gamble and shop. The bus will leave Mohegan Sun at 4 PM.

You will have a deluxe motor coach

You will receive \$10 for gaming and a buffet meal voucher.

October 13th - 20th 2020 - ALL INCLUSIVE ARUBA Happily Full - I am taking names for standby on this trip. This is an all-inclusive trip – all flights, transfers, meals plus snacks, nightly entertainment, and alcohol included.

November 12, 2020 - Thursday -Foxwoods \$30 - 10 - AM bus.

You will have a deluxe motor coach ride to the casino. You will have 5 hours at the casino to gamble and shop. The bus will leave Foxwoods at 4 PM.

You will receive \$10 for gaming and a buffet meal voucher.

PAYMENTS DUE AT SIGN UP

Trips are open to the public! Make checks payable to the Citizens Senior Southbridge Association.

Contact Jim Julian at the Casaubon senior center Monday, Wednesday or Friday mornings from 9:00 to 10:00 AM or call 774 922 4049, or e-mail me jimtrips@yahoo.com

#### **STURBRIDGE RECREATION**

NYC Spring Bus Trip

Saturday, April 25

Shopping & Sight Seeing Cost: \$50 Per Person, \*Driver Gratuity

Included

Depart: 7:00 AM from Burgess Elementary School parking lot on your Lizak charter. A rest stop to be made along the way.

Arrive: Approx 10:30 AM for a day to do as you please in the wonderful Big Apple! Ice skating, shows, shopping, light displays, and more! Drop off will be as close to Rockefeller Center as possible.

Depart NYC: At 6:30 PM return to your Lizak Charter and enjoy a peaceful ride home. Arrive to Sturbridge by 10:00 PM.

#### **UNION SAINT-JEAN-BAPTISTE CHAPTER 12**

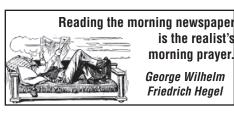
Union Saint-Jean-Baptiste, Chapter #12, Southbridge, is sponsoring a variety of excursions for all to enjoy in 2019. We are a non-profit family oriented Franco-American fraternal society since 1900. As always, you do not have to be a member to participate in any of the scheduled events. All are welcome. Gift certificates purchased in any

The Silver Club BUS TRIPS for 2020 Please call Sue at 508-476-5820 for more information.

The Uxbridge Senior Center is offering the following bus trips for 2020.

April 16, 2020 - Magic Wings Butterfly Gardens and Yankee Candle with lunch at the Golden Corral w/Fox Tours - \$71. April 27-29 Penn Dutch w/the new show Queen Esther at Sight and Sound -- (trip is full, sign up for the waiting list)- \$459. May 4 -- Granite State Chocolate and Wine Tour with lunch at Warren's Lobster House - Fox Tours - \$91. May 9 - Albany Tulip Festival w/Conway Tours ·\$115. June 1 - Plymouth cruise on Pilgrim Belle with sightseeing tour and lunch at Hearth and Kettle - Fox Tours - \$91 June 26 - July 3 -- Atlantic Canada w/Conway Tours -- International Tattoo, ferry crossing, Hopewell Rocks, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, St. John, New Brunswick - 3 seats left - \$1899. Aug. 30 - 31 - Saratoga Racetrack w/Conway Tours - enjoy a race at Saratoga, a tour of the town, a tour of Haven Oaks Horse Farm, and drive up Prospect Mountain - \$329. Sept.  $1\overline{6}$  -18 - The Hamptons w/ Conway. Three day trip w/4 meals, guided tour of the "Rich and Famous," winery, ferry crossing, Old Westbury Estate & Gardens, Montauk Point Lighthouse, Sag harbor, etc. - \$579. Green Mt. Railroad Oct. 6 --Tours w/Fox \$101. Nov. 19 --Newport Playhouse Tours w/Fox \$101. Dec. 7 & 8 -- Equinox Resort and Hildene, VT w/Conway Tours. Two day trip with elegant dinner & piano entertainment, breakfast, tour of Hildene, chocolate tasting, etc. \$379.

Please call Sue at 508-476-5820 for more information or to be put on the emailing list.









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



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



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





Conveniently Located just off Exit 1 of Wall over Hrdwds! 3 Bdrms w/Hrdwds! 1st Flr Bdrm w/Commode Closet! Recent Furnace! Recent Roof! \$169,900.00

Renovated 4 Rm Townhouse! New Granite 395! Loads of Potential! 6 Rm Cape! Kit w/SS Appliances! Kit & Liv Rm w/Hrdwds! Applianced Kit! Din & Liv Rms w/Wall to 2 Comfortable Bdrms w/New Wall to Wall! New Full Bath! Freshly Painted Throughout! Lower Level w/Laundry & Storage, Able to Finish Additional Living Space! 2 Parking Spaces! **\$129,900.00** 

**DUDLEY** – 38 Pine St! 5 Rm Ranch! Original Owner! Quaint Eat-in Kit! Formal Din Rm! Spacious Liv Rm w/ New Picture Window! Fam Rm w Views to Private Back Yard! Mudrm! Huge Deck! Buderus Oil Heat! 2 Car Garage! New Septic! Vinyl Sided! Newer Windows! Solar Panels! \$239.000.00

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

DUDLEY - 7 - 9 West Street! Brick 4 Family plus a 2 Family! Side by Side! All with 5 Rooms and 2 Bedrooms! Gas Heat! All Separate Utilities 2 Car Detached Garage! The 4 Family with Beautiful Natural Woodwork! All Apartments are Empty and Work is Needed in Several Apartments! Excellent Potential! Will be a Good Investment for the Right One! \$399.900.00

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











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

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





### WEBSTER - 28 BLACK POINT RD

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



### WEBSTER LAKE – 32 JACKSON RD

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



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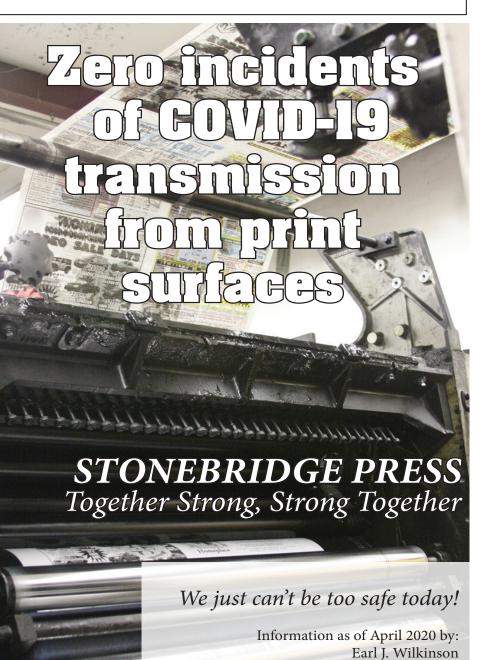


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FOR SALE

2003 Toyota Tundra with extra cap. 2 wheel drive. 185k. asking \$4,000 **Call 774-262-9085**  F150 118k miles. 4x4 single cab stepside capt. chairs Loaded Red with Cap \$4,000. 2002 Chevy Silverado 2500 HD black long bedloaded with plow. Low millige. 67 thousand. \$7500. Would consider partial trade. Call Mike 508-752-7474.

### 740 MOTORCYCLES

2014 Victory Vision Tour Loaded with options Only 2,000 miles, not even broken in Paid \$20,000. Asking \$13,500. Call 774-200-6387 email moehagerty@msn.com (low rider). Accessories added: windshield, crash bar, saddle bags. 5300 babied miles and care. Silver metallic. Recorded 100% mechanically sound by Sheldon's of Auburn. Bike is truly new condition. Call 508-414-9134 for showing. Firm \$12,000 as bike is MINT!

custom 1981 with windshilec
 and engine guard.
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### 1961

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### 1965

Our company moved to its current location on Plimpton Street and began to do more business involving large excavation.

## 1986

• Underground Utilities

• Driveways & Parking Lots

Bud Soper made a name for himself by taking a chance to be the primary excavation contractor building 3 new schools.

- Home & Multi-unit Construction
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