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Ambulance debt exclusion to be on November ballot

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – Choosing a new President of the United States won't be the only important decision Dudley residents will have to make this November. When citizens head to the polls, they will also be voting on a debt exclusion question involving the purchase of a new ambulance for the town's fire department and EMS services.

During Dudley's annual town meeting in June, voters approved an article seeking approval to borrow \$260,000 for a new ambulance which would replace an aging vehicle in the fire departments fleet. During a meeting on July 13, the Board of Selectmen made a motion to put the item on the November ballot for voters to decide if the town would pay for the vehicle through a debt exclusion, an action that Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda reminded viewers the town would temporarily add the borrowed money to the tax base, which would then disappear and clear up debt when the ambulance is fully paid off.

"The town meeting approved borrowing the money to replace the ambulance and when we borrow the money the other part of that is we need to pay it back. Now we go back to the people. Do we do that by taking \$260,000 out of the general fund or do we borrow it and having borrowed the money that amount of the loan payment goes on to the tax base until the ambulance is paid off which is generally a few years and then it comes off of the tax base," Ruda said.

The Town Administrator wanted to ensure that those viewing the meeting understood that this is a debt exclusion

question and not a Proposition 2 ½ override which would be a permanent addition to the tax base rather than the temporary status of the debt exclusion. Selectmen were also adamant about stressing that their vote to put the ambulance on the November ballot was not them making a decision for the taxpayers but rather putting the concept of a debt exclusion in the hands of the voters when they go to the polls to direct the town on how to proceed with paying back the loan.

Selectmen did however express support for the purchase with many calling it a real need for the fire department to keep the emergency vehicle fleet fresh and up to date. Selectman Steve Sullivan openly stated his support for buying the ambulance having personally benefitted from the EMS service in recent years due to a personal health situation.

"We're purchasing a vehicle that's a front-line piece of public safety that provides a service. Speaking as someone whose used it probably more than he'd like to admit, the chief has done a great job with his comprehensive plan since he's been here. We're trying to stay on top of the level of service that the town provides," Sullivan said.

Other selectmen also pointed out that the ambulances are both revenue generators with Fire Chief Dean Kochanowski eventually taking the floor and revealing just how much revenue the ambulances create for the town and his department.

"The ambulance is about 70 percent of the fire department's business. Its number one priority is to protect the people and make sure the sick get to the appropriate facility," said the chief.

According to his rough estimates, the EMS services of the fire department brought in \$520,000 in ambulance recipients in 2019. In just the first half of 2020 the service has brought in about \$683,000. With these numbers in mind ambulance receipts provide roughly 60 percent of the fire departments budget which is money the taxpayers do not have to shoulder.

If the ambulance is not purchased and the 11-year-old vehicle currently in service breaks down, Chief Kochanowski said the department will take a big hit in both revenues and their ability to provide the same level of effective response.

"If I go down to one ambulance for any reason and we have to give up second calls you're roughly probably going to lose about \$250,000 or \$300,000 on ambulance receipts potentially," said the chief.

While the money is good, he also noted that safety and service is most important. To drive home his point the chief called the Dudley EMS the "backbone of the fire department." He also acknowledged that due to the ongoing pandemic everyone is dealing with unsure economic times, but that this purchase is just the latest step in his attempts to bring the fire department and its resources up to standards.

"I'm very thankful that the town has been supportive so far, but you've got to keep building your infrastructure or it's just going to end up costing you more down the road," the chief concluded.

Dudley voters will have their say on the debt exclusion question when they head to the polls for the presidential election on Tuesday, Nov 3.



ACCURACY WATCH:

The Webster Times 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 in a timely manner on page A3. We cannot run corrections based upon differences of opinion or unconfirmable facts. We will, however, print letters to the editor from area residents who wish to add their comments to our news coverage. If you find a mistake, please email news@stonebridgepress.com or call (508) 909-4106. During non-business hours, leave a message in the editor's voicemail box.

DUDLEY POLICE LOG

DUDLEY — The Dudley Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of July 17-24.

Robert Larochelle, age 37, of Mossup, Conn. was arrested on July 17 for Speeding at a Rate of Speed Exceeding the Posted Limit, Operating a Motor Vehicle with a Suspended License, and Possession of a Class A Drug.

Julissa Rodriguez, age 45, of Southbridge was arrested on July 18 in connection with an out of agency warrant.

Parth S. Patel, age 19, of Charlton was arrested on July 20 for Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol, Speeding in Violation of a Special Regulation, and Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle.

Scott Nathan Westgate, Jr., age 24, of Mossup, Conn. was arrested on July 21 for Speeding at a Rate of Speed Greater Than Was Reasonable and Proper, Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and Failure to Stop for Police.

Joseph E. Vancelette, age 24, of Dudley was arrested on July 22 in connection with an out of agency warrant.

A 33-year-old male from Dudley was taken into protective custody on July 22.

Daniel F. Miller, age 58, of Dudley was arrested on July 23 for a Marked Lanes Violation, Operating Under the Influence of Drugs, and Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle.

Nichols to provide free COVID-19 testing as part of comprehensive return-to-campus plan

DUDLEY — In careful preparation for its return to campus operations this fall, Nichols College has committed to providing free regular COVID-19 testing for students, faculty, and staff.

The testing is part of a comprehensive plan designed to help ensure the safety of the college community. Other initiatives include the incorporation of personal protection equipment, such as plexiglass shields and other modifications to classrooms and commons areas to promote social distancing, mask distribution, intensified cleaning protocols, and the responsibility for proper safety and hygiene expected of each community member.

Nichols has teamed up with the Broad Institute, a partnership of MIT and Harvard University, to supply test kits and process results. The tests will be self-administered nasal swab conducted in a designated campus testing center under the supervision of Nichols' health personnel. Resident students, student-athletes, and higher-risk individuals will be tested twice a week; commuter students, faculty, staff, and contracted employees will be

tested once a week. Test results are expected within 24-48 hours. Protocols for self-isolation and contact tracing have been put in place.

Nichols is incurring the cost of \$25-\$30 per test for the estimated 350 tests per day.

"The continued health and safety of our college community is our primary concern," said Nichols College President Susan West Engelkemeyer, Ph.D. "Our plan, including a regular testing regime in combination with a range of universal safety practices, and protocols for any positive test results, is the most effective way to protect our community and afford students the educational experience they value and expect."

Since more than 80 percent of Nichols students hail from Massachusetts, Rhode Island, or Connecticut, the college also continues to monitor regional data on positive COVID-19 cases to inform ongoing plans to return to campus on Aug. 26.

WEBSTER POLICE LOG

WEBSTER — The Webster Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of July 19-25.

An adult male whose name has been withheld from publication was arrested on July 19 for Assault & Battery with a Dangerous Weapon, Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member, Assault & Battery causing Serious Bodily Injury, and Assault & Battery on a Police Officer.

An adult male whose name has been withheld from publication was arrested on July 19 for Assault on a Family or Household Member.

David J. Dittmar, age 32, of Webster was arrested on July 20 in connection with a warrant.

Thomas D. Scannell, age 19, of Northbridge was arrested on July 21 for Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol, Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and multiple counts of Leaving the Scene of Property Damage.

An adult male whose name has been withheld from publication was arrested on July 21 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member, Strangulation or Suffocation, Assault with a Dangerous Weapon, two counts of Assault & Battery with a Dangerous Weapon, Home Invasion, Intimidating a Witness, Juror, Police Officer or Court Official, Assault & Battery causing Serious Bodily Injury, Threatening to Commit a Crime, and in connection with a warrant.

Christopher T. Mullins, age 24, of Webster was arrested on July 21 for Trespassing.

Two adult females whose names have been withheld from publication were arrested on July 21 — the first for Assault & Battery with a Dangerous Weapon, and the second for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member and Vandalization of Property.

Kevin J. Brown, age 62, of Worcester was arrested on July 22 in connection with a warrant.

Orlando Rojas, age 48, of Southbridge was arrested on July 23 in connection with a warrant.

Christopher M. Keating, age 40, of Webster was arrested on July 24 in connection with a warrant.

Cassandra B. Boston-Johnson, age 32, of Bakersfield, Calif. was arrested on July 24 in connection with an out of agency warrant.

Adam R. Carbonneau, age 25, of Charlton was arrested on July 25 for a Marked Lanes Violation, Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol, and Speeding at a Rate of Speed Exceeding the Posted Limit.

Jai A. Hylton, age 22, of Webster was arrested on July 25 for Operating a Motor Vehicle with a Suspended License (subsequent offense) and Possession of a Class B Drug.

Larry B. Bradley, age 50, of Worcester was arrested on July 25 in connection with a warrant, and for Giving a False Name to a Police Officer

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Age 13

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Freed for adoption, Markis will need a two-parent family to help balance his needs. This family will need to be comfortable with setting limits and creating structure. His thinking can be very concrete at times, and he will need things presented to him clearly and concisely. Markis loves animals and would thrive in a home with pets. He should be the only child in his new home. Markis has eight siblings, one of which is a twin with whom he visits upon request, as well as another brother in a program whom he visits with as well.

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

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School officials affirm commitment to AP program

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON – School officials in the Dudley Charlton Regional School District are clarifying recent discussions concerning the status of advanced placement courses at Shepherd Hill Regional High School after an earlier meeting revealed parent and student concerns that AP prep work had yet to be assigned for the upcoming school year.

During a School Committee meeting in July, member Stephanie Reed revealed communication she received from parents and students that expressed concerns that AP courses may not take place in the fall. That meeting say Superintendent Steven Lamarche and Shepherd Hill Principal William Chaplin both

assure residents that AP courses were not being cut but that summer work was put on a temporary hold as a “pause” in case certain classes did not take place due to any combination of factors including the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on schools.

In the weeks since the district received added comments from a 2020 graduate Ryan Moore, an Oxford native who attended the school through the school choice program. After hearing what he believed was the potential for AP courses to be cut Moore sent a letter to the district supporting the AP program which was read during a meeting on July 22.

“I believe that our AP program is one of the most integral parts to our school district’s success and must always be preserved under any set of circumstances,” Moore wrote in his letter.

He also stated his feelings that the AP courses were big resume boosters and helped prepare students and offer them an academic challenge to prepare them for higher education.

“I am just one of many examples that I believe demonstrates how this program is vital not only for the future success of our students, but also for the financial health of our district,” he added.

Responding to Moore and others who remain concerned about the fate of AP courses for

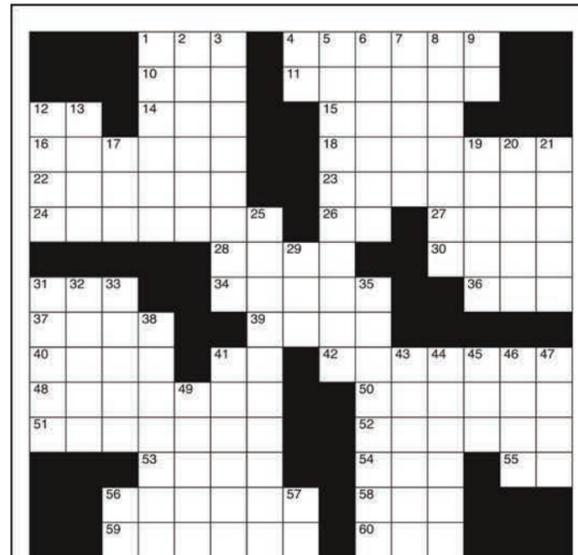
the upcoming school year, Superintendent Lamarche doubled down on statements made earlier in the month that AP courses aren’t going anywhere.

“We have not and would not contemplate cutting the AP program as a program. We wouldn’t. The AP program is invaluable and provides an incredible academic opportunity for our students. Adjustments from year to year may be made due to enrollment in a course or if we are unable to assign a licensed credentialed AP teacher to a course. Everything is up in the air this year. This has been an absolutely crazy year. I think one little pieced was run with, but we would never contemplate cutting the AP program, ever,” Lamarche said.

Principal Chaplin also stood by his statements from earlier in July indicating that any talk of completely doing away with the AP program is pure speculation and misinterpretation.

“I don’t know where the sound bite got off that we were cutting. All we did was pause to get some clarity. Last week I informed all the department heads to go ahead and provide the summer work to all the students,” Chaplin said.

Shepherd Hill’s AP programs benefit close to 300 students a year according to Chaplin with as many as 500 exams taken every spring as many students enroll in multiple courses.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Central processing unit
- 4. Military action
- 10. How electricity gets to train carriages (abbr.)
- 11. Unsafe
- 12. Of (French)
- 14. Autonomic nervous system
- 15. Type of bean
- 16. Accuse formally of a crime
- 18. Promote
- 22. Type of lava
- 23. Meat from a deer
- 24. Herbaceous plants
- 26. Potato state
- 27. Helsinki neighborhood
- 28. Sports officials
- 30. Shout wildly
- 31. Reptile genus
- 34. Frocks
- 36. Born of
- 37. N. Scandinavian indigenous people
- 39. Poultry cage
- 40. Aquatic insect genus
- 41. Of I
- 42. Ad ___: tirelessly repetitive
- 48. Item
- 50. Produce
- 51. Seedless raisin
- 52. Bond in a third party’s control
- 53. Legendary character ___ Finn
- 54. Space station
- 55. Note at the end of a letter
- 56. In a way, contradicted
- 58. Midway between northeast and east
- 59. Bears important traffic
- 60. Brooklyn hoopster

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Presides
- 2. Artist’s tool
- 3. On a higher floor
- 4. Commercial
- 5. Something to watch
- 6. Chased
- 7. Commercial producers
- 8. Keyboard instrument
- 9. Blue grass state
- 12. Phonograph recording
- 13. Unusual
- 17. Popular average
- 19. A native or inhabitant of Asia
- 20. N. Sweden river
- 21. Related on the mother’s side
- 25. Mediator
- 29. Partner of to
- 31. Arm bones
- 32. Korean seafood dish
- 33. Tap of the foot
- 35. Astronauts
- 38. Carolina footballer
- 41. Indiana city
- 43. Of or relating to bears
- 44. Not widely known
- 45. Body part
- 46. At the peak
- 47. High-pitched cries of a cat
- 49. A way to intimidate
- 56. Prosecutor
- 57. Atomic #66

DCRSD reopening plan to be finalized

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON – As the summer of 2020 draws to a close one biggest question on everyone’s mind is whether or not students will be returning to schools in person or if their education will include some form of online learning component to conform to safety measures during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

While parents of Dudley and Charlton students weren’t given many solid answers during a meeting on June 22, they were assured that a plan will be in place well before the school year is set to begin at the end of August. The Dudley Charlton Regional School Committee featured updates from different subgroups within the district’s reopening committee including plans related to social and emotional wellbeing, pathways for instruction, and resources and operations. However, Superintendent Steven Lamarche made a blunt and honest statement to parents that he could not answer specific questions about the plan as the specifics were still being ironed out and he wanted to avoid rumors and misconceptions in the public forum. That doesn’t mean citizens and parents won’t get their chance to speak on the matter as a meeting in the upcoming week will focus primarily on the draft

plan for the upcoming year.

“We know that everyone is desperate to know our plan and to make family decisions. We are getting there. We continue to work on the details and will have a formal presentation to the school committee on Wednesday, Aug. 5. We’ll have opportunities for feedback and continued discussions from here. Know that we all agree that we want our school open and a return to school for all of our students. That is easily said, but it’s not easily done. With the mountains of guidance and expectations from the state and the expectations of our family it is an incredible endeavor,” Superintendent Lamarche said.

He further stated that he understands the way students are educated will change and that the district won’t meet the expectations of every family, but they are trying to formulate the best plan possible to make sure the students are learning effectively while keeping health and safety in mind.

“We accept that this will continue to be our reality, but I want to promise you that we have incredible educators and leaders in the district who will craft a plan that puts health and safety as the number one priority. From there, we agree that social and emotional wellbeing will be integral to teaching, learning and reentry in our schools,” said Lamarche.

The Superintendent described the process as a “reinvention” of

the start of school and indicated that health officials from both Dudley and Charlton have been included in the ongoing discussions. He also noted that a specific format has not been finalized for a fully online approach, a complete return to buildings or a hybrid option are still on the table.

“We have much work to do and this timeline feels aggressive. Unfortunately, this will not answer all of the questions,” Lamarche concluded. “It’s a rolling process right now. We anticipate guidance in the areas of transportation, HVAC, guidance on conducting music classes, physical education classes or any athletics, and we are confident that further guidance on reopening in general will come forward in the next several weeks. We appreciate everyone’s patience and all we ask is for your understanding that we are doing everything to plan for the care and safety of staff and students.”

Parents and citizens are invited to take part in the Zoom meeting on Aug. 5 with details on entering the meeting to be included on the Dudley Charlton Regional School District website. Prior to the meeting teachers, staff and families are expected to receive copies of the preliminary plan for review. The district’s final plan is expected to be sent to staff and families in the week after the meeting.

Outstanding Arts & Sciences students honored at Western New England University

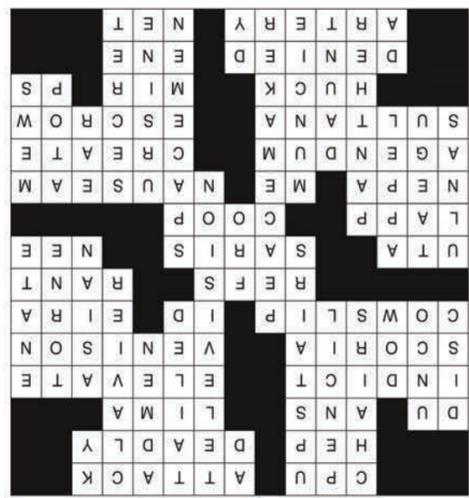
SPRINGFIELD — Western New England University is pleased to announce the 2020 College of Arts & Sciences Senior Awards. Students receiving awards are selected for a significant contribution made to the department.

Ashley K. Granger, of Oxford has been awarded the Actuarial Science Award This award is determined by overall grade-point average and an evaluation by the Actuarial Science faculty, who consider the student’s potential for success as an Actuarial professional, and the student’s service to the department.

Erin E. Granger, of Oxford has been awarded the Allen E. Anderson Award This award is determined by overall grade-point average and an evaluation by the Mathematics Department faculty, who consider the student’s potential for graduate study in Mathematics or a related field, and the student’s service to the department.

Having just celebrated its Centennial, Western New England University is a private, independent, coeducational institution. Located on an attractive 215-acre suburban campus in Springfield, Massachusetts, Western New England serves 3,825 students, including 2,580 full-time undergraduate students. Undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs are offered through Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and the School of Law.

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Maxfield Parrish prints

Antique oil paintings by listed artists can sell for thousands or even millions of dollars. A 2011 Ezine article said a listed artist “means that an artist has attained a certain level of recognition in the art world.” Auction results for listed artists can be found in “Davenport’s Art Reference and Price Guide” and in art databases on the web. On the other hand, prints by listed artists can be produced by the thousands and don’t bring as much as paintings. Some can still sell for hundreds or thousands though.

Maxfield Parrish is an artist whose prints appeal to many current collectors. He was born Frederick Maxfield Parrish on July 25, 1870 in Philadelphia, Pa. Britannica’s biography describes him as an “American illustrator and painter who was perhaps the most popular commercial artist in the United States in the first half of the 20th century.” After attending Haverford College, Parrish studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and the Drexel Institute of Art.

The National Museum of American



ANTIQUES,
COLLECTIBLES
& ESTATES

WAYNE TUISKULA

Illustration in Newport, RI’s website notes that Maxfield Parrish used a shade of blue similar to the color of Lapis lazuli in many of his works. They state, “his signature use of this color was so powerful that a certain cobalt blue became known as ‘Parrish Blue.’” They consider Parrish “the most successful and best-known American illustrator of the early part of the twentieth century.” Parrish’s art was incorporated into magazine ads, calendars, and posters, along with lithographed prints that were produced to be framed and displayed. In 1925, 25 percent of American households had a Maxfield Parrish print on their walls. According to the National Museum of American Illustration, Victor Vasarely, Andy Warhol and Norman Rockwell were influenced by Parrish. Rockwell even said that Parrish was his idol.

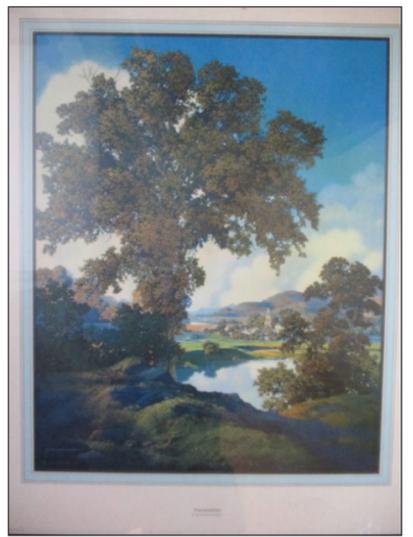
With so many Parrish prints printed throughout his career, collectors can find some that are quite affordable. A Maxfield Parrish “Daybreak” print sold for \$60 at a Pennsylvania auction house in June. His “Circes Palace” print was

sold at a New Hampshire auction for \$50.

Some Parrish prints are harder to find though and can bring much higher prices. An 1896 poster depicting three golfers for Harper’s Weekly magazine sold for \$1,600 in 2016. A 1934 Mazda Edison 1934 calendar with a Maxfield Parrish “Moonlight” print and a 1922 calendar with an “Egypt” print each brought \$1,600 in 2013. A Ferry’s Seed advertising print with Parrish’s depiction of “Mary, Mary Quite Contrary” went for \$2,000 in 2013. Larger advertising pieces can bring significantly more. A GE Edison Mazda store display sold for \$5,000 earlier this year. A rare Fisk Tires poster fared even better, selling for \$5,500 in 2012.

When Parrish’s original paintings turn up at auction, prices can go through the roof. His “Autumn Woods” panel on wood went for \$300,000 in 2016. “The Knave” oil on board sold for \$600,000 in 2017. An oil on canvas of “Jason and His Teacher” brought \$850,000 in 2015. After selling that “Parrish blue” painting, the consignor could have painted the town red.

We will be auctioning the largest collection of Maxfield Parrish prints that we have ever handled



in our upcoming Warren, RI online estate auction. We are also planning other sales during the summer and fall. Please keep checking www.centralmassauctions.com for updates.

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

Matthew Papalionakis named to the Champlain College Dean’s List

BURLINGTON, Vt. — Matthew Papalionakis of Webster has been named to the Champlain College Dean’s List for the Spring 2020 semester.

Students on the Dean’s List have achieved a grade point average of 3.5 or higher during the semester.

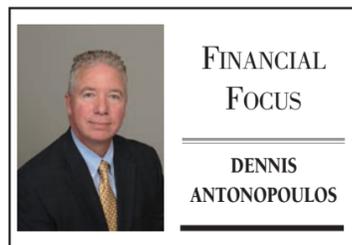
Making the Dean’s List is a tremendous achievement in any year, and the global pandemic added unprecedented challenges for all of our students who often juggle academics with many other responsibilities. We congratulate our students on this great accomplishment and honor.

About Champlain College

Founded in 1878, Champlain College is a small, not-for-profit, private college in Burlington, Vermont, with additional campuses in Montreal, Canada, and Dublin, Ireland. Champlain offers a traditional undergraduate experience from its beautiful campus overlooking Lake Champlain, and more than 90 residential undergraduate and online undergraduate and graduate degree programs and certificates. Champlain’s distinctive career-driven approach to higher education embodies the notion that true learning occurs when information and experience come together to create knowledge. Champlain College is included in the

Princeton Review’s The Best 385 Colleges: 2020 Edition. It was named a “Most Innovative School” (for the fifth year in a row), ranked among the top 100 Regional Universities in the North, and is featured as “One of the Best Undergraduate Teaching Programs” and a “Best Value School” by U.S. News & World Report. The Fiske Guide to Colleges for 2020 calls Champlain one of the “Best and Most Interesting Schools” in the United States, Canada and Great Britain. Champlain is also a 2020 College of Distinction. For more information, visit: www.champlain.edu.

Create strategies to help achieve your financial goals



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in that strategy to help ensure you’re making progress. If it seems that you’re lagging, you may need to explore ways to get back on track.

To manage these tasks successfully, you may want to work with a financial professional – someone who can look at your situation objectively, help you identify and quantify your goals, and

suggest strategies designed to help you forward.

Trying to achieve multiple financial goals can seem like a daunting task, but by saving and investing consistently through your working years, following a clear strategy, being willing to prioritize and accept trade-offs and getting the help you need, you can help yourself move

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

Like most people, you probably have many financial goals: a comfortable retirement, long vacations, college for your children or grandchildren, the ability to leave something behind for the next generation, and so on. To achieve these various goals, you may have to follow different investment strategies – and you might have to make some tradeoffs along the way.

To pursue this multi-goal/multi-strategy approach, try to follow a clear course of action, including these steps:

Define your goals – and invest appropriately. You will need to identify each goal and ask some questions: How much time will you have to achieve this goal? How much return will you need from your investments and how much risk are you willing to take? With a longer-term goal, such as retirement, you may be able to invest more heavily in growth-oriented vehicles with higher expected returns. Keep in mind, though, that the value of these investments will fluctuate, and they carry more risk than more conservative investments. However, your long-term horizon allows time to recover from short-term dips. But for a shorter-term goal, such as an upcoming vacation, your investments don’t have the same time to bounce back from large drops in value, so you might follow a more conservative strategy by investing in instruments that preserve principal, even though growth may be minimal.

Know what you’ve invested for each goal. Once you know what type of strategy you should follow to achieve each of your goals, you’ll need to enact that strategy. How? By matching specific investment accounts with the appropriate goals. You should know why you own all your investments. Ask yourself these questions: What goal will this investment help me achieve? How much do I have allocated toward a specific goal? If I have an IRA, a 401(k) and another account devoted to achieving the same goal, are they all working together effectively? The connections between your different investment accounts and your goals should be consistently clear to you.

Understand trade-offs. Your various investment goals may be distinct, but they don’t exist in isolation. In fact, your strategy for achieving one goal may affect your ability to work toward another. For example, would significant investments in your child’s education change your funding for retirement? If you decide to buy a vacation home when you retire, will that alter the legacy you’ll be able to leave to your family? Given limited financial resources, you may have to prioritize some goals and make some trade-offs in your investment moves.

Track your progress. Each of your strategies is designed to achieve a particular goal, so you need to monitor the performance of the investments with-



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Luca Ricardi can't wait to show Mom his diploma.



Always a cool dude, Logan Pinto makes his fashion statement at graduation.



Dr. Dan and Leigh Sjogren wait with son Tyler for the festivities to begin.



Emma Raymond trying to stay cool as she receives her diploma.



Kevin and Laura Morrow with twins, Cody and Hunter.



Thomas Lehman's Dad and sister on hand to witness his big night.



Olivia Jackson's family shares her excitement.



Brayden Sousa brings the family to share in his special evening.

Daniella Damasio of Webster completes first year at Lasell University

NEWTON — Daniella Damasio of Webster completed their first year at Lasell University in Newton. Damasio joined the Lasell community for the 2019-2020 academic year. The University looks forward to their continued success!
For more information contact: Samantha Mocle, assistant director of communications at smocle@lasell.edu or at 617-243-2386.

LEGALS

NOTICE OF MEETING

THIS NOTICE TO BE FIELD IN DUPLICATE WITH THE TOWN CLERK AT LEAST 48 HOURS PRIOR TO MEETING AS REQUIRED BY CHAPTER 303 OF THE ACTS OF 1975
THE Z.B.A. WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING FOR Thomas & Tina Smith of 7 Lakeview Ave Dudley MA in **Room 321A on Thursday August 6th 2020 at 7:00 PM**
TO HEAR THE APPLICANT'S REQUEST FOR
Special Permit/Variance for a minimum side setback from 30ft to 15 ft looking for a 15ft special permit/ variance for placement of a swimming pool.
Due to restrictions from COVID-19 please see the complete Public Hearing at www.dudleyma.gov or at the Town Hall for additional information.
July 24, 2020
July 31, 2020

WRTA announces new shuttle service connecting Southbridge, Dudley, and Webster

WORCESTER — The Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA) is pleased to announce effective Monday, Aug. 3, a new route serving Southbridge, Dudley and Webster will begin. This new service was made possible by MassDOT's Workforce Transportation Grant Program. Funding through this grant will allow the WRTA to initiate, maintain, strengthen, and expand service to the workforce population.

WRTA Administrator Dennis Lipka said, "We are excited to have the opportunity to expand service to multiple businesses and destinations. It is important to give our riders access to

as many destinations as possible. This new service will give riders access to a variety of potential job opportunities, educational opportunities, hospitals, and other amenities they might not normally be able to visit regularly. Riders will also have a direct connection to Worcester and the surrounding communities via WRTA Routes 29 and 42."

The new Southbridge, Dudley, and Webster shuttle will serve:
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MassHire Career Center
Big Y Plaza
Dudley District Court
Dudley Housing Authority
Dudley Municipal Complex
Webster Town Hall & Senior Center
Harrington HealthCare at Webster

The shuttle will begin as a free service for the month of August 2020. The route will connect with WRTA Route 29 (Southbridge), and Route 42 (Webster) that provides connections to the Auburn Mall, Worcester, and the WRTA Hub at Union Station.



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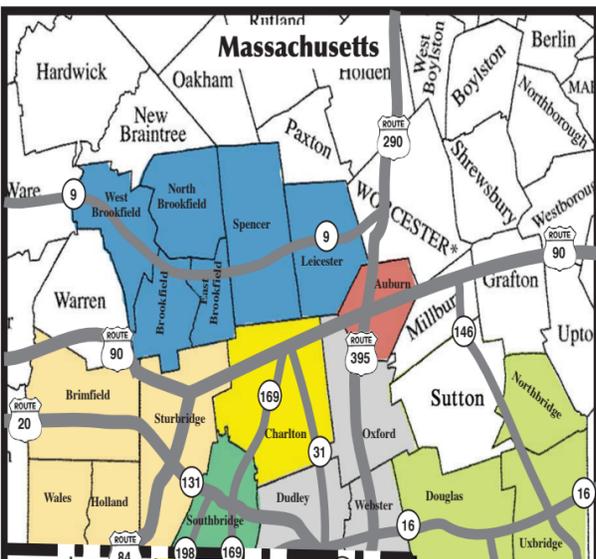
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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
STONEBRIDGE PRESS PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

The darker the night, the brighter the stars

When we look up into the night sky, many of us are overcome with awe and wonder. It really does put into perspective just how small we are, as cliché as that sounds. Looking up, we have to wonder why all of humanity can't simply realize that what we are experiencing in life can happen just as well without violence and greed taking place all over the world, but alas here we are. A download of the app 'Star Chart' led us down a rabbit hole into astrology, with the focus being on the currently visible comet, Neowise. As a point of fact, Neowise was named after NASA's Near Earth Object Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer.

First, a comet for those that don't know exactly what it is, is described often as a 'dirty snowball'. There are billions of them in our solar system, however it's a rare occurrence when one passes by the Earth, close enough to see it. A comet is an icy, small solar system body that warms when passing the sun. When this happens, it begins to release gases. This produces a visible atmosphere and sometimes includes a tail. Neowise, became closest to the Earth on July 22, just 64 million miles away. According to NASA, once it's gone, the comet will not be visible to the Earth for another 6,800 years.

The comet was discovered by astronomers in March, when it was noticed 160 million miles from Earth. The comet is a three-mile-wide chunk of ice and dust, apparently on a 6,000-year loop around the solar system. Many astronomers are relaying that it is the most impressive looking comet since Hale-Bopp, that appeared in 1997. That comet, is on a 2,500 year loop.

It was expected that Neowise would be visible until earlier this week; however, it may linger. When looking up to try to see the comet, look for the tail that has been described as 12 moons side by side. It is most visible at 10 p.m. according to the experts and binoculars will help for certain. The comet is located northwest, below the bottom left corner of the Big Dipper.

Perhaps the best discovery is to retrieve the benefits of stargazing. Since the beginning of time, mankind has gazed up at the stars. Before science revealed what exactly was going on, yet still unknowing, the night sky offered those who looked upon it a sense of calm, and a chance to de-stress. In our current climate, stargazing could be just one more way to reduce anxiety. To note, the telescope was invented in 1608. It has been proven, that soaking up the night sky, and staring at thousands of stars can help clear the mind.

Our ancestors once thought the moon was a God. Early art proves that man was just as intrigued by outer space as we are today. As we all know, mythology was born from space with the most famous gods being Chandra, Artemis, Thoth and Apollo. Thoth has been attributed to the invention of the 365-day calendar and was known as a 'wise counselor who solved disputes.' The Hindus said that an eclipse was the result of Rahu the snake, who swallowed the orbs, causing them to go dark. A full moon was used to explain those who acted out in insanity.

Astrology is always fun if you believe in it. This pseudoscience goes back to the second millennium BCE, and was used to predict information based on the movement of what was going on in the solar system.

The most famous astronomer, Galileo Galilei (born in 1564), once said, "It vexes me when they would constrain science by the authority of the Scriptures, and yet do not consider themselves bound to answer reason and experiment."

Another one to remember, courtesy of author Richelle E. Goodrich, is "Sometimes while gazing at the night's sky, I imagine stars looking down making wishes on the brightest of us."

VIEWPOINT

THE DEADLINE to submit letters to the editor and commentaries for next week's newspaper is Friday at noon. SEND ALL ITEMS to Editor Brendan Berube at THE WEBSTER TIMES — news@stonebridgepress.news

Hope, patience, and prayer

"Rejoice in hope; be patient in tribulation; continue steadfast in prayer." (Romans 12:12)

This advice from St. Paul to the Christians in Rome during some very challenging times in the first century offers a great model for our own Christian life of today. Never give up! Persevere and struggle on! Trust in God and know that He is with you. And every day talk to Him in prayer!

Let's take a closer look at these three disciplines we are called to cultivate in our lives – hope; patience; prayer.

First, followers of Jesus Christ are always people of hope. No matter what the grim circumstances around us, no matter how dark the world appears, no matter how it may seem that evil prevails, we are people of hope. And we will daily "rejoice in the hope" that God instills in us.

Why do we have hope? Because we know that God is with us; that God knows our situation; that God is not a distant God who stays absent from our world, but He is the One who entered this world precisely to experience our human existence and to conquer the evil and darkness and sin that surrounds us. He is the God who came to live among us, and to show us the path of peace, the path that leads back to Him. So we always have hope, no matter what the circumstance and no matter how the world around us may look.

Don't get discouraged by the politics of the day! Don't get overwhelmed by the illnesses we hear about every day! Don't despair about the violence and uncertainty in our world! These may all present great challenges, and the future may seem grim, but we have a God that is greater than any challenge and danger we face, and thus, we live in hope. "If God is with us," the Apostle Paul proclaims, "then who can be against us!"

We always have reason to HOPE; as followers of Jesus Christ, we are people of hope, and we share our contagious, joyous HOPE with all those around us!

"Rejoice in hope; be

BEYOND
THE PEWS
.....
BY FR. LUKE A. VERONIS
SAINTS CONSTANTINE AND
HELEN GREEK ORTHODOX
CHURCH, WEBSTER

patient in tribulation; continue steadfast in prayer."

Along with hope, followers of Jesus Christ are called to always persevere with patience in the midst of any and every tribulation we may face. Whatever challenges life may bring, whatever struggles we may face, whatever sudden tragedies may overwhelm us, we stay steadfast and patient in the midst of them.

Remember, God never promises that we will face no tragedies or struggles or great tribulation in our lives. NO. Instead, He promises us something better – that in the midst of everything life brings, "I will be with you always." He promised that in the midst of our great struggle, He will give us His lasting and eternal peace. He is with us and He promised, "In Me, you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation, but do not be afraid, for I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

Thus, we patiently wait. As we read church history, and learn about the lives of countless saints, we quickly realize that the saints, the most faithful followers of Jesus, did not have easy lives. In fact, quite the opposite; many suffered as martyrs and died at young ages. Yet they never despaired and they never gave up. Their patience helped them stay faithful until the end. Patience is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, and the Spirit of God fills us with patience.

Our patience comes from the fact that we know God is ultimately in control of world history. Nothing can happen outside of His will. And we know that the safest place to be is in the will of God. Therefore, we patiently wait. Saint James tells us to "Count it all joy when you face various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience."

Patience is waiting on the Lord, waiting for God and knowing that He will have the final word. The final victory is ultimately His, so we wait patiently, trusting in Him!

"Rejoice in hope; be patient in tribulation; continue steadfast in prayer."

Of course, we don't patiently wait without doing anything. In our patience, we "continue steadfast in prayer." To pray means to constantly communicate with God and to keep our connection with Him alive. Prayer is our lifeline to the source of ultimate living. In Christ is our hope, our faith, our life and very being. He is the source of all that is good and pure and holy and right and eternal. As we stay connected to Him, we cannot but stay hopeful, positive, and filled with joy and light.

To pray in a disciplined manner, however, doesn't come easy. There are so many distractions all around us, clamoring for our attention and time. We wake up and immediately turn to our phones and start filling our minds with the news of the day. We go throughout the day busy, running from one thing to another. We fill every moment of the day with our self-centered pursuits, and push God to the side, often forgetting about Him for the entire day. And then by the end of the day, we are exhausted and fall right into bed without turning to Him and ending the day in dialogue with our Lord. It isn't easy to develop a serious discipline of prayer, and to stay in communion with God. Yet, that is our call. That is our lifeline to all that is truly good. When we stay steadfast in prayer, we will be filled with hope and we will discover patience.

"Rejoice in hope; be patient in tribulation; continue steadfast in prayer."

Here is the model that the Apostle Paul offers to all of us today. Let each of us strive to live by it – with hope, patience, and prayer, each and every day!

Street safety

The topic of using local streets for recreation was brought up to me recently. During these stay at home times, it is understandable for people, especially children, to seek recreational activities closer to home. That said, there are rules to using streets, and all activities must be done safely. I was asked to inform people of the laws regarding this activity, and to remind them of the dangers associated with this.

Streets are designed for use by motor vehicles. Pedestrians, bicycles, skateboards, and other means of travel are generally restricted to the roadsides, sidewalks, and/or other authorized areas. Using the streets as a playground can be very dangerous and accidents can result. Dudley By-law Article 8 Section 5 prohibits various forms of game playing on Town streets. It states in part, "No person or persons shall in any of the public ways of the town throw stones, snowballs, sticks or other missiles, or kick a football or play at any game in which a ball is used, or engage in any other game or exercise, interfering with free, safe and convenient use of said street or highway by any persons traveling or passing along the same." Based on this, any game or act which disrupts traffic flow is not allowed.

The use of streets as a "playground" should be prohibited, especially by the parent or guardians of the children involved. This can be an issue on dead end or lesser traveled streets, where some people may let their guard down and assume nothing will happen. This certainly is not the case. Vehicles may appear from anywhere. People in the streets may not be seen and items, such as skateboards, balls, bicycles, scooters, etc. in the road can be a hazard for drivers. Accidents or injuries can occur at any time when there is this unsafe mix of people and cars. Please make every effort to prevent these from occurring by engaging in activities in a safe manner.

In addition to the Corona Virus Pandemic, there is a great deal of turmoil taking place in our state and around the country. We continue to serve the people of Dudley and work with the community to improve the quality of life for everyone. With so much discussion around police reform taking place, there are several documents posted on our Facebook page which can serve as a source of information for people. I continue to thank the men and women from my department for their continued dedicated service to the Town of Dudley during these trying times. Thanks also go out to the many Police Officers, Fire and Emergency Services members, public works, government and all other "essential" personnel for their continued hard work and service. We greatly appreciate the support we receive from our community.

Thanks again for your questions and comments. Please send them to me at the Dudley Police Department 71 West Main St., Dudley, MA 01571 or email at swojnar@dudleypolice.com. Opinions expressed in this weekly column are those of Chief Wojnar only and unless clearly noted, do not reflect the ideas or opinions of any other organization or citizen.



CHIEF'S
CORNER
STEVE
WOJNAR

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Alex Morse is a breath of fresh air

To the Editor:
Son of a working class family, current mayor of Holyoke, and progressive champion for issues we in the Democratic Party hold dear, Alex Morse is the breath of fresh air we need in the US Congress.

Unlike his opponent, Richard Neal, who has the dubious distinction of accepting the most Corporate and Political Action Campaign or PAC

money in all of Congress, Alex Morse's campaign is financed entirely by private donors. Alex's position on the issues facing our country are thoughtful, well-informed and rooted in his life experiences. To learn more: <https://alexmorseforcongress.com/issues/>.

Join us on Sept. 1 and vote for Alex Morse to represent Dudley and the rest of the First Massachusetts

Congressional District.

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GERARD FRANK
MARJORIE GUERIN
MARYELLEN HUCK
MONICA FREUND KAUFMAN
CHARLE MARLBOROUGH
LIZA MORAN
MICHAEL MORAN
DUDLEY

Absentee voting registration is easy!

To the Editor:
Voting is one of the most revered rights we all have as citizens of the United States. When you don't vote, you might as well tell everyone you don't care how your town, state, or Federal government is run. If you choose to make a difference, and voting surely does, then you will exercise your best and most absolute voice in the government, your government!

Because of the current health environment, you may choose to conduct your vote by Absentee Ballot which is also your constitutional right and the following is provided for your information:

- Once someone registers to vote in the city/town they live in, it is unnecessary to register again.

- To register for Absentee Voting, please visit your City/Town Clerk's office to complete an Absentee Voting Application and be sure to check the box indicating "All Elections This Year." By checking this box, you will ensure that an Absentee Ballot is mailed to you for every election in the calendar year. Please note: Absentee Ballot Apps must be completed every year as most applications expire every

December 31.

- You may also download and complete an Absentee Ballot Application from the Town of Webster Web site: www.webster-ma.gov or from the website of the city/town of your residence. In the site's search bar, enter: Absentee Ballot Application.

- Absentee Ballot Apps should be completed and returned as early as possible before the next election to ensure that your voting ballot is mailed to you in a timely manner. You may call ahead to your City/Town Clerk's office to arrange for an in-person drop off or, in Webster's case, there is a mail drop-box to the right side of Town Hall. Postal mail is also acceptable. If you have any questions, please contact your City/Town Clerk's office. The phone number for Webster's Town Clerk is (508) 949-3800.

Now, get voting! It's your right!

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
JANET STOICA
WEBSTER DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE

A Mixed Bag of Tips

Sometimes I end up with "stray hints" that have nowhere to go. There wasn't space enough for them in a column; perhaps they don't fit into a topic; or maybe they are old hints I think bear repeating. Every once in a while enough have accumulated to make up a column. With this in mind the following "mixed bag" of tips are offered. Read on for some common sense ideas that really do help reduce some of the little everyday hassles in life!



TAKE THE HINT
KAREN TRAINOR

start pulling!

Want to duplicate the fluffy omelets you find in the best restaurants? Simply add a pinch of powdered sugar or cornstarch to the egg mix before cooking.

To grate mozzarella and other soft cheeses without making a melted mess, just pop the cheese in the freezer for 20 minutes before grating to firm it up.

If your cookie recipe calls for raisins, you can plump them up (and boost the flavor) by rinsing them in a colander. Then hold them over boiling water for about five minutes.

You have a recipe for cake flour, but you only have all purpose flour on hand? Take your all purpose flour and sift it f about five times - now you have cake flour!

Here's a believe it or not cocktail tip: If your alcoholic drink is too strong and there's no room in the glass for any more mixer, you can float one or two thin slices of cucumber on the surface. The cucumber will help to absorb some of the harsh taste. Floating long slivers of cucumber in a punch bowl will mellow punch in the same way.

To keep the crazy glue top from gluing itself forever shut, put a liberal coating of petroleum jelly on the threads of the screw cap.

Or, if you have a refrigerator door gasket that doesn't quite seal, a coat of petroleum jelly can often coax it to shut tight.

And, coat those stubborn vacuum cleaner wand attachments with petroleum jelly for quick and easy removal.

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 news-

papers? 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.

Learning to say goodbye

Arlene and I built our dream home twenty-six years ago. We put every bit of emotion and money into our dream. We even gave it a name, FoxMoore Farm. We finished raising our kids and enjoyed twenty-five Thanksgiving's and Christmas's in this home that is way too big and sits on forty acres. Our youthful enthusiasm took over. Back in my entrepreneur/CEO days, I definitely lived by the saying, "Go big or go home!" Yeah ... we over did it.

It's been for sale for over five years and we were surprised to get an offer yesterday. Our home has been sold and we have fifty-five days to figure out what to do. Selling a home this large wasn't easy, and quite frankly, the investment was a financial disaster, but we enjoyed every minute of the time we lived here.

It's an odd and unsettling feeling. This is the longest I've ever lived in one place. Our kids are now adults. They are grown and gone. I'm fighting a life-threatening illness. The vastness of the acreage has become a burden, so this is the best news we could have received ... yet there is also a sadness hovering over us. The home we dreamt of, designed, and built will be home to someone new. I realize that a building is only a home when filled with the love and joy of a family. Our family has moved on, so it's time we do the same.

Like I said, our kids are grown, and my grandkids are in California. There was no reason for Arlene and me to hold on to this building with all the expense and work that accompanies it. Common sense is clear. It's time to move on, but the emotion blurs the vision. Our home will soon belong to others we don't know. Strangers will walk the halls and enjoy the rooms we built. There is a sadness I am unable to shake. Time stands still for none of us. Life changes and we must adjust with optimism.

Moving on is part of life. We are saying farewell to this beautiful place. I'm

optimistic about our future and know it's in our best interest to downsize ... but saying goodbye is never easy.

Optimism will carry us through this transition.



POSITIVELY SPEAKING
GARY W. MOORE

So, we are off on a journey. The next phase of our lives is before us and I'm positively anticipating happiness and joy. To look forward to anything else is a waste of time. Instead, we choose to look at it as a new adventure ... an opportunity

for exciting change and exploring new ways to live and how to reinvent our lives. The anticipation is a fun-filled life with less pressure.

Sure, as I said, the sadness of leaving a place where our kids were raised and our grandchildren love to visit is hard ... it's natural. We can dwell on that and be sad or we can focus on the stimulating opportunity ahead and find happiness and joy. Like almost everything in life, it is a choice. We choose the optimism of opportunity.

When change comes into your life, and it will, how will you choose to respond? Will you resist? Will you be angry or sad? Will you let the change negatively dominate your life, or will you choose the optimism of the opportunity and look at it as an exciting new journey? An optimistic life is a life filled with hope and happiness. The optimist always believes the best is yet to come. With that belief, the optimistic mind goes to work to make it so.

We are enthusiastically embarking on our journey! It's a choice we make, and we will always choose optimism.

Will you join us? ■

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





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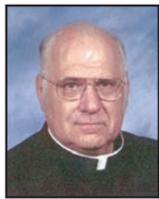
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OBITUARIES

Charles E. J. Borowski, 79



WEBSTER – Reverend Charles E. J. Borowski, 79, died Wednesday, July 22, 2020 at Harrington Healthcare at Hubbard after being stricken ill while driving his automobile.

He leaves a sister, Dolores M. "Dolly" Hebert of Worcester; his godchild, Kathleen A. Kender of Shrewsbury; 2 nephews, Stephen B. Hebert of Shrewsbury and William Borowski of Millbury; a niece, Michelle Borowski of Dudley; and a sister-in-law, Edwina of Dudley; and many friends. He was preceded in death by his brothers, Edward and William Borowski.

He was born in Webster on March 5, 1941, the son of Edward F. and Della E. (Nowakowska) Borowski and graduated from Bartlett High School in 1958. He studied philosophy at St. Mary Seminary and theology at Saints Cyril & Methodius Seminary, both in Orchard Lake, MI and was ordained to the priesthood on May 19, 1966, by Bishop Bernard J. Flanagan.

He first was an assistant pastor at Our Lady of Czestochowa Church in Worcester for 3 years. In 1969, he became a member of the faculty at Saints Cyril & Methodius Seminary, teaching there until 1974. He was assigned as assistant pastor at Blessed Sacrament Church, St. Peter Church, St. John Church, St. Catherine of Sweden Church and St. Stephen Church, all in Worcester, from 1974 to 1987. He then became associate pastor at St. Andrew Bobola Church in Dudley. He was appointed chaplain at the Providence House Nursing

Homes in Worcester, Millbury and Southbridge from 1987 to 1991. Father Borowski became the pastor of Saint Joseph Church in Gardner on July 12, 1991 and then the administrator of St. Paul/St. Thomas parish in Warren for one year before being named pastor of St. Stanislaus Church in West Warren on February 11, 1994. He served as the pastor of St. Hedwig Church in Southbridge for 12 years, retiring in 2011. In retirement, he helped at Saint Joseph Basilica until the present time.

"Father Charley," as he was affectionately known, brought the sacraments to many shut-ins in the area during his retirement. For over 2 decades, he organized a weekly "Hour of Prayer for Vocations" which was held in a different parish of the diocese every week. Fluent in Polish, he offered classes in that language at his different parishes.

His funeral was held Tuesday, July 28, at 10:00 AM in Saint Joseph Basilica, 53 Whitcomb Street, with the Most Reverend Robert J. McManus, Bishop of Worcester, as the main celebrant. Burial will be in Saint Joseph Garden of Peace. He laid in state on Monday, July 27, from 4:00 to 7:00 PM in the church, where a vigil service will be conducted at 7:00 PM with the Reverend William F. Sanders, Dean of Deanery VII, presiding. Current guidelines will be in place and all are asked to wear a mask. Donations in his name may be made to the Clergy Benefit Plan of the Diocese of Worcester, 49 Elm Street, Worcester, MA 01609. Arrangements are under the direction of Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, Webster.

www.websterfunerals.com

Dorothy A. Clifford, 74



WEBSTER – Dorothy A. (Dembinski) Clifford, 74, died Friday, July 17, 2020 after a period of declining health.

She leaves her husband of 28 years, Raymond L. Clifford; a daughter, Melissa L. Baca of Webster; 2 sons, Michael J. Larini and his wife Mary of Manchester, CT and Daniel J. Larini of Webster; 5 grandchildren, twins Olivia and Sophia Baca, Sean Baca, Grace Mae Larini and Elijah James Larini; and cousins.

She was born on June 2, 1946 in Webster, the daughter of John F. and Helen V. (Miller) Dembinski and lived there most of her life. She graduated from Bartlett High School in 1964.

Mrs. Clifford was an administrative

assistant at Anglo Fabrics Company. She was a receptionist first at B & W Footwear Company and then at Commerce Group Insurance, now Mapfre, for over 20 years, retiring in 2001.

She was a communicant of Saint Louis Church and sang in the church choir at various times. She loved acrylic painting and enjoyed decorating holiday ornaments for her family. She liked playing card games, especially rummy. Dorothy had a wonderful sense of humor. She was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother.

Services will be held privately at the convenience of the family. There are no calling hours. Arrangements are under the direction of Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School St., Webster.

www.websterfunerals.com

Dorothy "Dotty" Halloran



Dorothy passed away peacefully after a long battle with kidney disease on May 30, 2020. Her family was with her.

Dotty was a lifelong resident of Webster. She loved her family, her dogs, her friends and her home on Webster Lake. She loved to garden and entertain and she loved QVC.

Dotty was a server and a host for years at Deary Bros, The Lodge, The Vernon Styles Inn and the Royale Lounge before earning her degree in real estate.

She then went on to being responsible for putting together planning and fighting for the subdivision at Lakeside that is Sunny Shores Estates.

Dorothy continued to manage the office at Leo Construction for several years until her retirement.

She remained on the lake until last year when she moved with her daughter and son in law to Sebastian Florida.

Again, she loved her home on the San Sebastian River, she loved her family, was already making friends and still loved QVC.

She was a bird enthusiast for many

years and loved having all the wild-life around her. As her health failed she could see them all in her own garden. She loved the new birds she was seeing. The Ibis and Herring that drank from the pool every morning to the Sandhill Cranes that came to the door, and the tortoises and peacocks that lived in the neighborhood. On her way to dialysis she liked to dolphin spot which she wasn't very good at but kept with it.

Dotty was an extraordinary strong loving woman and she was our hero and will be profoundly missed. She was married to Richard R. Pechie Sr. and leaves behind 2 daughters from that marriage. Tina-Marie and husband John Fontaine of Danielson Ct, Diana and husband Michael Webber of Sebastian Fl

Grandson: David LeCour and wife Rebecca of Palm Bay Fl

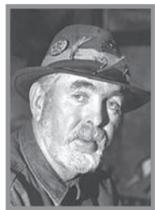
4 Granddaughters and their husbands: Jennifer and James Blake, Samantha and James Holly, Kimberly and Jon Daignault, Stephanie and Tim Kuuttila as well as 20 Great-Grandchildren

The family is grateful to all who loved and cared for her and will be having a service at a later date.

Send all obituary notices to
Stonebridge Press, PO Box 90,
Southbridge, MA 01550, or by e-mail
to obits@stonebridgepress.news
Deadline for obituaries
is Monday at noon



On the doorstep of deer season



THE GREAT
OUTDOORS
.....
RALPH
TRUE

Aug. 1 is the start of the antlerless deer permit lottery in Massachusetts for 2020! You must have applied for the zone of your choice prior to July 16, to be eligible to participate in the drawing. The sale of surplus antlerless deer permits in numerous zones, will be held at a date to be announced. The deer herd in Mass. is huge and continues to grow despite hunter's efforts to harvest them in many zones. Every year, the annual harvest of deer grows, with archers surpassing the shotgun harvest last year. Unfortunately, there are no legislators willing to step up to support the crossbow bill, which is long overdue. Many states now allow any hunter to use a crossbow for hunting.

Fishing last week outside of the West wall at Galilee RI. Provided a lot of action on seabass and fluke but there were many shorts of both species. We did manage to catch some keeper fluke and seabass because we took the time to catch some fresh bait prior to launching the boat. I purchased a 12-foot sein (Net) many years ago from Cabela's, and it has held up very good over the years. The net had allowed this writer to catch Mummies, sand-eels and silversides for live

bait. Unfortunately, bait shops cannot sell the above-mentioned baits, even though they have a license to sell shiners.

The live bait is placed in my live well on the boat, which keeps the bait lively and fresh. Placing a mummy on the hook of a fluke rig with a spinner can prove to be deadly when trying to catch bottom fish like fluke and seabass! This past week, I tried jiggging with a six-ounce jig with a single hook. The hook normally has some red or green bucktail attached to it, but was not attached to this particular jig. Placing a piece of squid and a live mummy on the hook, and dropping it to the bottom was the right combination last week for catching fish.

Keeping you fresh bait in a cooler away from the hot sun needs to be practiced on any fishing trip. Too often, I have watched anglers cut up bait and leave it in the hot sun. You would not do it to your steak, so why would you do it to the bait that you are fishing with. Another mistake many anglers do while fishing is to fish with the same piece of bait for an hour or two. Bait gets washed out, and although it may look good to you, it does not look good to the fish, and has very little scent. Fishing more than five minutes without a bite should have the angler reeling in to change the bait.

This week's picture shows a 450-pound bluefin tuna taken aboard the charter boat Firescape Charters out of Plymouth last week. The fish is nor-

mally sold to the Japanese for good money, but tuna prices are down, so the Captain cut it up for his customers. The Charter boats normally sell the fish, and give the clients a free fishing trip.

The Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club will hold a double event this Sunday, Aug. 2 at their club grounds off of West Street. A 3-D archery shoot will start at 7 a.m. It is a fun shoot and the public is invited to attend. A small fee will be charged for participation in the archery shoot. Come and enjoy the great outdoors. The club owns more than 100 acres of open space that will be open for the one-day event. The archery shoot will have a state-of-the-art course set up using life size targets of deer, moose, elk, rabbits, turkeys, etc.! The archery course is rated as one of the best in the state.

The Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club will also hold an old fashion Chicken BBQ this Sunday, Aug. 2, with serving scheduled to start at 2 p.m. at the club grounds off of West Street. The chickens will be barbecued over hot coals and seasoned & cooked to perfection by members of the club. Tickets are \$10 each. There is a limited amount of tickets available at the club, the day of the event. Social distancing and wearing of masks are recommended.



The Pavilion has been washed and sanitized for the event. Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending! Come and enjoy the day with friends and family. BYOB!

Cornerstone Bank contributes to Worcester Together Fund

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank's Charitable Donations Committee is pleased to announce its recent donation of \$2,500 to the Worcester Together Fund. Once again, the Bank has provided support to assist those in our community impacted by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The Worcester Together Fund is a partnership between the United Way of Central Massachusetts, the Greater Worcester Community Foundation, and the City of Worcester. The fund was created to address urgent needs resulting from the impact of the coronavirus public health crisis and will address immediate and long-term needs of the local community.

To date, the Worcester Together Fund has provided over \$3 million in grants, focusing on areas of food and shelter, health, economic security, child nutrition, mental health, arts and culture, and enhancing operations to local non-profit organizations.

"The Worcester Together Fund has provided vital support to our local community during such an uncertain time," stated Cornerstone

Bank President & Treasurer and Chairman of the Bank's Charitable Donations Committee Todd M. Tallman. "We are pleased to give back to our community at a time when it's needed most."

For more information or to contribute to the Worcester Together Fund, please visit www.unitedwaycm.org or www.greaterworcester.org, or by texting [worcestercovid19](tel:508243725) to 243725.

About Cornerstone Bank
Cornerstone Bank is an independent, mutual savings bank serving the residents, businesses, and communities throughout Central Massachusetts from offices in Charlton, Holden, Leicester, Rutland, Southbridge, Spencer, Sturbridge, Warren, Webster, and Worcester along with a Loan Center in Westborough. Deposits are insured in full by a combination of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Depositors Insurance Fund. The Bank is an Equal Opportunity Employer, Equal Housing Lender, and SBA Preferred Lender. For more information, visit online at cornerstone-bank.com, on Facebook, or call 800-939-9103.

GRADUATION

continued from page A1

within socially distanced markers. Beginning with words from the director and Fr. Michael, the ceremony got underway with all attendees rising for the National Anthem and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, as the children did in school.

"This graduation may not have been the traditional Jack and Jill end of the year send off," said director Carla Morano, "but the staff and I were determined that we would find a way to give the children a happy memory to put closure to, what was for them, an otherwise confusing year. I will never forget the gracious welcome that was extended to us by Fr. Michael of St. Ann's. He was the example of helping your neighbor."

Complete with face masks, caps and gowns, diplomas and red roses, the children were able to graduate and to see their teachers and classmates for the first time in months. They also learned and were able to follow the new social guidelines; thumbs up, air hugs, blowing kisses and I love you's waved in sign language. Against all odds, all's well that ends well.

OXFORD

continued from page A1

students daily.

Nash, and several committee members, negatively compared the concept of a full-reopening to the state's generally successful (so far) phased reopening, which she praised as "very thoughtful."

"The thought that we could just flip the switch and bring all students back in is, to me, extremely frightening," Nash said. "...[It] doesn't fit any manner, shape or form of what the state of Massachusetts has done."

David Cornacchioli agreed, noting he sees risks for students and "some of our more veteran teachers" from mov-

ing too quickly.

Among other things, Nash noted Oxford will have to hire quite a few new staff members – especially hall and bus monitors to ensure social distancing, but potentially some teachers – rejigger bus routes for double runs, redeploy and retrain staff, and buy new supplies, equipment and furniture. Hiring 22 hall monitors alone (part-time at minimum wage) will cost around \$180,000, and she noted "that's a must" because the teachers won't be able to supervise kids getting on/off buses or moving between rooms, for example. In the past, the bus company has hired the bus monitors (10 at about \$27,000 a year each).

Although the district has received extra

CARES funding and she's still finalizing total cost estimates, "we will easily spend all of our resources," Nash added.

Chair Dan Coonan noted there's "no guarantee" they'd be able to fill the monitor jobs even if they find the money to do so.

The overall plan, she told last week's meeting, is to run the hybrid for the first semester, then assess things. But she said Oxford could see a "yo-yo effect" in which Covid cases cause the schools to shut down, bouncing back and forth from hybrid (or partly-in-school) to all-remote operations. To help minimize that risk, she's telling all staff and students to stay home if they feel sick, although many have "dragged themselves in"

in the past.

To member Palmira Griffin, the whole issue raises many concerns that need addressing. She said she's "uncomfortable" with the idea of having some kids (the remote academy) being taught outside the district, noted state recommendations to leave windows and doors open will boost the heating bills, and urged Nash to look into a different online platform for presenting classes. Additionally, she predicted problems for AP and elective classes – "How do you say no to some kids and yes to others, because we're probably not going to be able to have all those offerings?"

Referring to a recent survey circulated to staff and families, Griffin noted that while only

three staff said they would not return to a full opening, others might opt not to work if it actually happens.

Nash said that survey found that 82 percent of families are willing to send their kids back to school in person. 54 percent preferred in-person school meeting the various safety guidelines, 24 percent want hybrid and 17 percent want remote. Regarding hybrid options, 53 percent preferred alternating weeks in and out of the building, while 35 percent preferred alternating days.

Griffin recommended drafting a resolution to circulate to other districts saying that "it's not safe to bring our students back without a phased-in approach." The committee opted not to do

that, but Nash noted she expects the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to get a very similar message when it sees all of the districts' reopening plans.

Despite the feasibility study showing the schools do have the space, Nash said she feels a full reopening is the equivalent of "trying to build something I can't build right now. It isn't going to work."

She will bring the full plan back to the committee's next meeting (Aug. 3) for approval.

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

Healthy plants, but no tomatoes?



GARDEN MOMENTS

MELINDA MYERS

ing. Night temperatures below the optimum of 59 to 68 degrees reduce the amount and viability of pollen the plant produces.

The simplest solution is to wait for the temperatures and humidity levels to return to those tomatoes need for pollination and fruit formation to occur. Once this happens, the plants will begin producing fruit.

When hot weather arrives, make sure the plants receive ample moisture. Mulch the soil with shredded leaves, evergreen needles or other organic matter to keep roots cool and moist. Consider providing a bit of cool afternoon shade during hot spells.

Some gardeners enlist the help of blossom set hormone spray when conditions are not favorable for pollination and fruit formation. These hormones won't increase productivity but may help plants set fruit when temperatures are not ideal. These products are most effective when temperatures drop below 60 degrees Fahrenheit. They are less effective at initiating fruit set when temperatures rise over 80 degrees.

Don't let cooler summer temperatures greatly reduce your tomato harvest. Consider pinching off the growing tips of indeterminate tomatoes a month before the first killing frost. This redirects the plant's energy into ripening the existing fruit instead of producing more flowers and tomatoes that won't have time to mature.

When frost is in the forecast, harvest green tomatoes to finish ripening indoors.

Pick any tomatoes that are starting to show color before the killing frost and finish ripening them indoors. Harvest tomatoes when the blossom end turns a greenish white or starts to color up. Store the tomatoes in a cool 60- to 65-degree location to extend their storage life. And don't let those green tomatoes go to waste. Fry them or use them in salsa and relish. You'll find lots of delicious green tomato recipes online or from friends.

Extend the growing and harvesting season with the help of floating row covers or other season extending strategies. These products protect plants from

cold temperatures, allowing you to harvest weeks after the first fall frost.

If poor fruiting is a yearly problem in your garden, look for tomato varieties better suited to your growing conditions. Next season look for recommendations from your local University extension service. They can help you select the best heat or cold tolerant varieties and those that best fit your gardening style and cooking needs.

With the proper selection and care you will enjoy an abundant harvest in spite of less-than-ideal weather conditions.

Melinda Myers is the author of more than 20 gardening books, including Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and the nationally-syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

No fruit on your tomato plants is likely due to the weather. Tomatoes thrive in warm, sunny conditions, but temperature extremes can prevent otherwise healthy plants from setting fruit.

When daytime temperatures rise above 90 degrees and night temperatures remain above 70 degrees, blossom drop, and poor fruit development can occur. Combine this with low humidity and the pollen is not viable. In hot and humid conditions, the pollen is too sticky and doesn't move from the male to the female part of the flower. Without pollination the flowers won't be fertilized and fruit will not develop.

Cool weather can also hinder fruit-



Welcome to our 2nd Annual Summer Scramble!

We've decided to change it up for Summer and instead of a crossword puzzle, we've created a scramble. We hope you'll enjoy this challenging puzzle!

Please find the answers (business names) on the ABC's of SUMMER page in this week's issue. We will unscramble for you and announce a winner of a \$25 Gift Card to an ABC Business in the August 21st issue.

Please mail to ABC's of Summer Scramble, P. O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550 or take a pic and email to jsima@stonebridgepress.news by August 14.

Good luck!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email (optional) _____

Newspaper you saw this in, circle one: Spencer New Leader, Auburn News, Southbridge News, Charlton Villager, Sturbridge Villager, Webster Times, Blackstone Valley Tribune

We love your feedback comments: _____

ABC'S OF SUMMER SCRAMBLE

(These are not in alphabetical order)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. NSHASEE SALNO _____ | 14. AOGAUBQ LEIAITAINHOBR _____ |
| 2. UROY CDB EORST _____ | 15. IYOTCVR SERTGOA _____ |
| 3. INHIGSG EERYNG RVNEALTTIEA _____ | 16. DGBUXREI OEHIDOPCTSR _____ |
| 4. WHIRDCKA MSRAREF _____ | 17. DTVICNEAHRZ ALRE STEETA _____ |
| 5. KIAEAML ADN NJUE _____ | 18. GRYSA TRETSUG _____ |
| 6. EMRIROC EELSWJER _____ | 19. LCLIHA ETRI NDA AUTO _____ |
| 7. EBNS KALETC HKSCA _____ | 20. SODOYW TUAO YDOB _____ |
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| 9. LOXAMUERU DROF _____ | 22. IFVE VLAEOS _____ |
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10. Act responsibly, When neighbors have good boundaries, are respectful and considerate, and offer assistance to one another, it creates a lot of good will and trust and long-term, close relationships can grow,

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WEBSTER

continued from page A1

very different” from what Webster did in the spring, noting it will be “a very structured day of learning.” But it will include “brain and movement breaks,” among other things. Details are being sent out to families and have been posted on the district website.

To a couple committee members, mental health issues are just as important as academics. Sheila Blythe, for example, said she'd like to see in-person classes happen quickly because “it's important to get the children back into school [for] their mental health. I have seen children regressing, not just with their education, but their anxiety.”

Chair Kelly Seddiki agreed, noting parents are also anxious. So is the district itself, in part because it is still awaiting important information from DESE on how to handle such issues as transportation and athletics.

“I don't want us to be the guinea pigs,” Goguen added, saying she'd prefer to see what happens with other districts that start in-person school earlier. “... I think we're going to have a roller-coaster ride,” and the staff needs to know what's happening “so they can guide the students.”

One of the online meeting's more than 50 attendees noted her 12 year old daughter dislikes remote classes and misses school. But she's a teacher and has no idea how to juggle childcare for her younger daughter if that girl is in a remote class while she is teaching one from the school herself.

Ellen Jeffers agreed, noting teachers are anxious, too, and that is “going to show through their teaching.”

While Blythe and Nick Adamopoulos said parents have told them they'd prefer a hybrid model, the committee agreed they didn't feel the district was ready for that yet. It was one of the other plans Goguen's team

designed, though.

If Webster does implement a hybrid, it would break each school into three student groups, A, B and C. Group A would go in person Monday and Tuesday, and remotely Wednesday and Thursday. Group B goes in person Wednesday and Thursday, and remotely Monday and Tuesday. Group C, the special ed and high-risk students, goes in-person all four days. All groups have remote classes a half-day on Friday, and school staff will thoroughly clean the buildings Tuesday after school to prepare for the switch-over.

Goguen said they're planning it so all kids in a family are on the same schedule, but that's harder at the high school because kids have many of their own classes, while lower grades tend to stay together. Park Avenue will have about 415 kids in the building at any one time, while the middle school will have about 300 and Bartlett about 200.

The key issue that nixed the district's ability to open with full-in-person school was space. Although Goguen said they were able to make the three-foot distance requirements work in classrooms, they couldn't do it for lunches, when the students aren't masked and therefore require at least six feet separation. Doing that would require adding modular space, especially at Park Avenue, which is already overcrowded. It was built for 700, but has 830 students, her plan notes.

The district submitted its plan to DESE this week, and awaits approval. Goguen noted all three plans will require money for additional staff and various kinds of equipment (cameras, protective gear, etc.). But the state still has not approved a budget, never mind allocated funds to help districts address Covid-related issues.

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

BILLS

continued from page A1

the bill was “far from a collaborative effort” and outlined many concerns he had with the legislation. A full copy of the letter has been made available to the public on the Charlton Police Department Facebook Page. The Senate approved the bill in a 30-7 decision on June 14 and ten days later, on June 24, the House of Representatives passed their own sweeping legislation by a much more divided 93-66 decision.

The Webster Times spoke with Chief Wojnar following the passing of both bills where he offered some more insight into his position on the legislation. Chief Wojnar said one of his biggest issues was the time frame. While there are several parts of the bills that police do agree with, Chief Wojnar echoes the feelings expressed by numerous law enforcement leaders in the state that the bills were fast tracked and not given ample time for debate or discussion before approval.

“Things need time to be worked out. We're all in favor of the Peace Officer Standardized Training. We've been in favor of that for a long time. I think the biggest thing with this is the whole process was rushed and there's a lot of mistakes that are going to be made and things that are going to need clarification. They're going to result in very bad law if it all goes through the way it did. This totally went beyond the normal legislative process. Normally a bill is submitted, there's committee hearings, things are reviewed, people get to offer testimony on both sides

of it and then the bill is recommended out in a certain way. The House Bill for example though was done in a week,” Chief Wojnar said.

Dudley's police chief added that he feels the bills are too vague and that they don't take into consideration the wide variety of policing structures in the commonwealth which range from big cities like Boston to small towns with part time departments to communities like Dudley which falls somewhere in between. Chief Wojnar said police officials aren't above working with the state to make things better, they just want it done right.

“You have all kinds of variations, so you have to find a system that works for everybody. We're totally willing to do that and we want to be part of that discussion. That too will lead to certification and decertification and lead to weeding out the ‘bad apples’ as they say. Those are things we've been totally in favor of,” said the chief. “One of the big issues on the House side is, as with most states, when you look at the epicenter in Minnesota where these issues sprung up in recent months they passed something that's reasonable and they're going to look at other things in the future. Massachusetts decided to do it all in one shot and there are a lot of things they added in that are vague. There's a lot of things we don't have explanations on that will need determining.”

Talking about the ongoing protests and outcries against police nationwide in the wake of the George Floyd incident, Chief Wojnar said he thinks it unfair to lump all law enforcement in one category as

racist murderers. He, along with many chiefs and police officers, feels what happened to Floyd was wrong and uncalled for but he also feels that it has given many the wrong impression of police officers as a whole.

“It's frustrating. Two months ago, we were going to be honored almost with parades because of all our work with the other emergency services for the COVID-19 response. Now, because of one incident that we all denounce as a horrific incident that should never have happened hundreds of miles from here we're all painted with a broad brush and we're almost perceived as racist murderers and that's not the case,” Chief Wojnar said. “The statistics do not back that up that this is a wide-spread case that has to be dealt with, especially in Massachusetts. No one has really given us a solid explanation for why such a drastic action is being taken now in Massachusetts. Certainly, there are issues and there are problems and we have to look at different instances as they occur taking them on a case by case basis, but there are so many misconceptions being put on people and we're all being painted with a broad brush.”

Chief Wojnar added that he feels the Dudley Police are well respected and have done a good job engaging and working with their community with a supportive Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator and community behind them. However, the chief has heard people call him “one of the good ones,” implying that he and his officers are outliers in their profession for their good deeds. While a

flattering compliment, Wojnar feels that implying only some officers are good is disheartening.

The chief also made a point to explain that police are merely the upholders of the law. Their job is to enforce legislation, good or bad, which has been their responsibility from the start. He believes that if changes need to be made society as a whole needs to take a long, hard look at itself and not lean on the police as a scapegoat for their problems.

“Police have always been the face of enforcing some bad laws – it reflects negatively on us as a profession. However, the laws have been put in place by local, state and federal governments. They put the laws in effect and they ask the police to enforce them. Even with the mask orders right now, a lot of police departments are being told to go out and enforce mask orders. Some people agree, some disagree but we are the face of enforcing those orders. That's what law enforcement does,” said Wojnar. “The flip side is, you cannot make the police a scapegoat for society's problems, and that, I think, is what's happening here. If society has issues you have to deal with them, but don't just single out the police and say this is the main cause.”

Moving forward, Chief Wojnar said he and his department will continue to serve Dudley to the best of their abilities and strive for the same high standards of policing that they've embraced all along. He hopes to see law enforcement and lawmakers work together to perfect the bills that were recently passed.

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Town of Spencer seeks applicants to fill the Light Equipment Operator position in the Highway Department. This position is responsible for the operation of light equipment, snowplows, motorized and non-motorized hand tools. The work involves repair and maintenance of highway infrastructure including but not limited to roads, sidewalks, stormwater systems and street signs, vegetation control, snow plowing and sanding, maintenance of parks, cemeteries, and grounds. This highly responsible position is subject to emergency call-ins to respond to emergencies. High School diploma or GED plus a Mass CDL Class B are required, additional license and certifications beneficial. The willingness to be trained and increase skills and licensing is required to succeed in this position. Pay for this position ranges from \$20.95/hr. to \$25.03/hr. and includes a generous benefits package including clothing allowance, continuing education, and license cost reimbursement.

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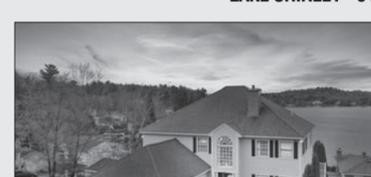
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