

Severe storms trigger flooding across region

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – Severe thunderstorms caused extensive damage throughout the area last weekend, but no injuries were reported.

Flooding was the major concern during the Aug. 23 storms, with several roads made impassable along the Route 9 corridor. In Spencer, a vehicle was stranded in the flooded railroad underpass on South Spencer Road. Police responded to secure the area and prevent further traffic from accessing the road. The stalled vehicle had to be towed away for repairs.

Spencer Police Chief David Darrin said the underpass flooding was partially caused by a clogged drain that has since been addressed by the Highway Department.

Further east, in Worcester, several drivers attempted to venture down flooded roads and wound up becoming trapped. In some locations, the water was over three feet high and swept



An off-duty member of the Auburn Fire Department rescued stranded drivers in Worcester.

Courtesy

vehicles off the road. With help from an off-duty member of the Auburn Fire Department, all drivers were able to make it to safety as their vehicles began to drift and tilt. In some cases, vehicles were on the verge of sinking before the floodwaters receded.

“Auburn Fire Department Deputy Chief Glenn Johnson didn’t hesitate to jump into action at Route 20 and Grafton Street in Worcester, assisting people out of the water and making sure everyone

else was out of their vehicles and safe in waist-deep floodwaters,” read a statement from the fire department. “It is extremely dangerous to walk through the flooded areas due to manhole covers popping off from the pressure of the water in the drainage systems.”

First responders also warn against driving through ponded roadways, even if the water doesn’t seem deep. Vehicles can easily become disabled and begin to float toward more dangerous areas.

The Aug. 23 storm also knocked out power to over 5,000 customers in central Massachusetts. A handful of houses were struck by falling trees, and storm-weary power crews from National Grid were forced to respond only a few weeks after Tropical Storm Isaias.

Frequent lightning also presented problems throughout the area. The Spencer Fire Department responded to a structure fire caused by a lightning strike on R. Jones Road.

Green Gold Group gearing up for adult use sales

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – After nearly a year of serving Charlton customers as a medical marijuana dispensary, the Green Gold Group is preparing for the next step in its growth as it will soon become an adult use sales site pending approval on the state level this fall.

James McMahon, the Corporate Council for the Green Gold Group, said the company was incorporated in 2015 and added a dispensary location in Charlton in November of 2019 which caters to medical use customer only. However, the group holds certificates that allow them to have automatic rights to convert facilities to adult use which will allow them to add new products to Charlton in the coming months.

“We had gotten those provisional certificates for our medical operations prior to the cutoff date that the Cannabis Control Commission (CCC) had set. We actually were qualified to have an automatic right to convert all of our facilities over to adult use. So we’re just following that right of conversion. We’ve gotten phenomenal feedback from our patients. They love our product and we’ve been working on the wholesale market. Adult use customers are purchasing from some of our partners and love our product as well. We’re looking forward to being able to bring our flagship location to Charlton,” McMahon said.

McMahon clarified that no production will be taking place at Green Gold Groups Charlton facility on Worcester Road. The building is dedicated to sales only. While medical marijuana purchases require a recommendation from a doctor, adult use products are limited to only customers over the age of 21 with regulations similar to alcohol sales. Medical patients are also allowed access to higher purchasing and dosage limits while adult use sales are much stricter. The addition of adult use products will also increase the company’s financial contributions to Charlton. Currently Green Gold Group contributes 3 percent of their medical fees to the town. However once adult use sales begin Charlton will receive an addition 3 percent from recreational sales and a 3 percent recreation sales tax.

If all goes well, McMahon predicts Green Gold Group could be selling adult use products as early as September.

“I’d say the process is about 99 percent complete. We’re really just waiting on the CCC to approve us. We’ve had a host community agreement in place for years now. We’ve been a participating member of the Marijuana Advisory Committee for the whole time that we’ve been in town. The town is very much knowledgeable of what we’re doing up there and I think they’re looking forward to it,” McMahon said.

Charlton residents to participate in Boston Marathon® Jimmy Fund Walk

CHARLTON — Two residents from Charlton will choose their own route on October 4th for the annual Boston Marathon® Jimmy Fund Walk presented by Hyundai. Participants are encouraged to walk wherever they choose: around their neighborhood, a local hiking trail, a treadmill, or anywhere else they are comfortable.

Emily Clifford and Jamie Zeveska, along with thousands of other walkers, will participate in virtual programming during the Walk that aims to recreate the most inspiring elements of Walk day. While the event will not physically bring walkers together along the famed Boston Marathon® course, it will unite the community to raise funds to support all forms of adult and pediatric care and cancer research at the nation’s premier cancer center, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The event has raised more than \$145 million for Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in its 30-plus-year history.

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

This year’s event will have a lower fundraising requirement (\$100 for adults and \$25 for those 12 years old and younger) and everyone will pay just a \$5 registration fee. Each walker who registers will receive a bib, and medal and the first 5,000 walkers to register will receive a commemorative Jimmy Fund Walk T-shirt.

Anyone interested in additional information can reference the Jimmy Fund Walk: Your Way frequently asked questions or can send an email to JimmyFundWalk@

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Curaleaf donates for suicide prevention

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON/OXFORD — According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 47,173 Americans killed themselves in 2017, the most recent data on the agency’s website.

To Brake the Silence, that’s 47,173 too many, and last week Curaleaf agreed, to the tune of donating \$8866.20.

Curaleaf Medical Team lead Courtney Thacker said the funds came from customer donations based largely on having “a snippet on our donation jar, a little biography of what you do.”

“Everybody was really personally touched by the foundation,” she added, noting one client kicked in \$500 personally.

Brake the Silence is in its seventh year of advocating for better mental health care and reducing the stigma all-too-often thrown at people who attempt to take their own lives. Normally, the group hosts its major fundraiser in August – a regional motorcycle ride – but that was canceled due to the pandemic this year. But BTS will still be outside the Beagle Club on Bond Road in Charlton this Saturday



Gus Steeves

Kayla Kimball, Courtney Thacker, Darlene Tully and Eric Tully show off Curaleaf’s big donation check last week.

from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. selling clothing and bracelets.

“This is going to help a lot with teaching, educating and supporting families,” said BTS board member Darlene Tully of Charlton, who added that suicide was once “the untalkable thing,” but people have been opening up in recent years.

Tully noted their events usually include a “memory board” on which participants post pictures and comments regarding loved ones they lost.

One person directly affected was Curaleaf’s Brendan Hughes, who said his brother attempted suicide three years ago. He’s still around, largely because of strong support from the community, he said.

BTS was Oxford

Curaleaf’s first local charity, and it drew a huge response. “Everybody knew about it,” he added.

A CDC report published Aug. 14 looked at links between the pandemic’s physical distancing and stay-at-home orders and mental health. It found that “40.9 percent of respondents at least

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SSB Investment Services rebrands as The Capstone Planning Group

WORCESTER — To provide the highest quality service possible, Cornerstone Bank is pleased to announce that SSB Investment Services has been rebranded as The Capstone Planning Group. This rebranding will not in any way affect existing accounts or require customer action.

Previously branded as SSB Investment Services, The Capstone Planning Group will offer an enhanced service model with two investor strategies: Private Client Services, with comprehensive, in-person financial guidance; and Capstone EDGE, designed for emerging investors.

“We’re very excited about the rebranding initiatives at The Capstone Planning Group,” stated Cornerstone Bank President & Treasurer Todd M. Tallman. “They’ve added new options which will help an even wider range of clients.”

In a separate development, Christopher J. Mallon has been hired as Program Manager at The Capstone Planning Group. A LPL Investment Advisor Representative, with both Series 7 and 65 licenses and registrations held with LPL Financial, Mr. Mallon has over



The Capstone Planning Group Team: Christopher J. Mallon, Program Manager; Jamey A. Mekal, Client Relations Associate; Jason D. Main, SVP/Investment Services; John T. Jawor, VP/Investment Services.

ten years’ experience partnering with financial advisors across the Midwest and Northeast. “I’m looking forward to meeting the clients here so I can understand their unique situations and goals, and help them

pursue successful financial futures,” said Mr. Mallon.

For more information on The Capstone Planning Group, please visit online at <https://thecapstone.group> or call 508-764-0046.

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QCC Foundation fundraiser takes a swing at student need

WORCESTER — The Quinsigamond Community College Foundation, a 501(c)(3), is holding a unique golf fundraising event set to begin on September 1 to support QCC students in need. The goal is to raise up to \$50,000 with all proceeds from the fundraiser going toward the college’s Food Pantry and Resource Center and the Foundation’s Endowed Scholarship Fund.

The “30 Rounds in 30 Days™” golf-inspired fundraiser features 30 individual golf prizes, with a grand prize

of a trip for two to Las Vegas, four night accommodations, and an 18-hole round of golf for two at the world famous Cascata Golf Club. Other prizes include golf trips to Florida, Cape Cod and 27 golf courses and clubs across New England. “By participating in this fundraising event, people are contributing to Central Massachusetts’ recovery and economic development,” said QCC Foundation President Dr. Linda Maykel. “QCC students and alumni are the engine that drives Central Massachusetts.

Like most community colleges, the bulk of QCC graduates stay local. You will find them in every industry sector of the region. When our community needed them at the start of the pandemic, they rose to the challenges before them. It’s now our turn to give back to them in their time of need.”

Each semester an average of 125 scholarship applications are received; however, this Fall semester the college has already received 264 applications, demonstrating the increased needs of students.

During the summer months, the school’s food pantry has regularly served more than 250 students, which helped over 800 family members. It is anticipated that those numbers will only increase during the colder months.

“We want to support our students in their time of need, not just for today, but in the weeks and months ahead,” Dr. Maykel said. “When we help others, we end up helping ourselves.”

Only 1,000 tickets will be sold during this fundraiser,

and no tickets will be sold after August 31 at 4:00 p.m. Each day in September a winner will be chosen, with winning tickets based on the last three digits of the Massachusetts mid-day daily lottery number. To learn more, visit [QCC.edu/30rounds](https://qcc.edu/30rounds)


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

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\$196,828, 6 Commonwealth Ave, Boulanger, Audrey S, and Oneill, Maura, to Carolino, Candido, and Pires, Narcisco.

Trinity looks forward to Sept. 8 reopening



Trinity Catholic Academy's Class of 2020 poses for a photo following their graduation ceremony in June.

File Photo

SOUTHBIDGE — The history of Catholic Education in Southbridge reveals persistence through tough times for more than 150 years. The current pandemic is yet another opportunity to build the strength of Catholic Education in Southbridge for the years to come. Principal Josie Citta of Trinity Catholic Academy has defined the re-opening plan for the private school in accordance with the guidance put forth from the Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Worcester. “Across the Diocese, Catholic school leaders have spent the summer months carefully reviewing Mass. Department of Education (DESE) COVID guidance. In safeguarding the wellbeing of students and staff alike this 2020-2021 academic year. The DESE guidance is based upon statewide data as gathered by the Mass. Department of Public Health (DPH), the Governor’s Office, national public health agencies such as Centers for Disease Control, and the Mass. chapter of American academy of Pediatrics,” said David Perda, Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Worcester. A survey was sent to TCA parents by the school to hear what parents’ concerns and preferences were for this fall’s school year. The survey overwhelmingly indi-

cated a preference for in-person learning. Trinity administration dedicates themselves to the effort of a safe return to the classroom on Tuesday, Sept. 8, not the original start date of Aug. 26. “From the start, the health and safety of students and staff has been paramount. Informed by the American Academy of Pediatrics which advocates for an in-person educational setting, our Catholic Schools have worked towards this goal. Health experts and layperson mutually agree on the holistic benefits of in-person education,” said Perda. Principal, Josie Citta, and her staff are fully cognizant that if public health conditions related to COVID-19 take a downward turn, that the need to switch to remote learning once again may be required. Trinity has been proactive, taking the appropriate steps should such a scenario play out. Improvements built on the already effective learning that was in place this past spring can only increase the learning experience. The additional options for “hybrid” and “remote” learning are situations Trinity is ready for if needed with an adaptive transition built into the plan. TCA Classroom student size has been redefined according to state guidelines. Since TCA was originally built to house high school students, the physical

classroom size can effectively include a student/teacher ratio of 14:1 keeping with the six-foot distance guideline. With opening day just a few weeks away, ordering of supplemental PPE, cleaning supplies, chrome books and more is in place for preparedness, along with professional development programs for staff before they can welcome their students on the first day, Sept. 8. Other details worked out in the ‘re-opening plan’ include staggered arrivals & dismissals, temperature check upon arrival and much more. Trinity Catholic Academy’s full Re-opening plan (25 page) is available on their website for more details. While these may be uncertain times we live in, commitment to your children’s education is not. Trinity Catholic Academy, a Pre-K to Grade 8 school, promotes academic excellence, athletics, and the arts with respect, compassion, and service among our diverse family, inspired by the communion of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit.



ACCURACY WATCH

The Auburn News is committed to accuracy in all its news reports. Although numerous safeguards are in place to ensure accurate reporting, mistakes can occur. Confirmed fact errors will be corrected at the top right hand corner of page 3 in a timely manner. If you find a mistake, call (508) 909-4106 or email news@stonebridgepress.news during normal business hours. During non-business hours, leave a message in the editor’s voice mailbox. The editor will return your phone call.

Massassoit Art Guild issues call for art

REGION — The Massassoit Art Guild Announces its 17th Annual 2020 Art Show and Sale Oct. 17. This year’s show will be held virtually on the website at www.massasoitartguild.com from Oct. 17 through Jan. 1, 2021. There will be an exciting display of artwork exhibited from members in all categories. New artists of any level are always welcome. This year’s judge is Nancy Cooke Bunnell, an award winning artist and teacher. Nancy Cooke Bunnell is a professional artist whose is best known for her pastels. NC Bunnell Studio offers existing paintings, pastels and photography as well as t-shirts, prints and commission paintings in her studio and on the web. As a certified art teacher, she teaches throughout the state. Nancy Cooke Bunnell’s pastels are infused with light, color, and energy. She is an award winning artist and won ‘Best in Show’ at the Connecticut Pastel Society(CPS), 2012, 2nd place in 2011 at CPS and Vernon Art Center in 2013. Her work won first Place at Mansfield Art Show, 2012, and placed honorary mention at the CPS Show, 2013. She won the Great American Art Award at CPS in 2015. Her work can be seen at www.ncbunnellstudio.com.

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Ruth is a playful and fun girl of Hispanic descent. She has a great sense of humor and loves to play games, both indoors and outdoors. She loves to dance and has taken dance lessons in the past. Ruth has also participated in horseback riding, where she was described as being a natural. Ruth is also described by her teachers as being very bright academically.

Legally freed for adoption, Ruth would thrive in a family of any constellation, with or without older children. An ideal family should be open to helping Ruth keep in contact with her older sister, with whom she currently visits monthly.

Who Can Adopt?

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

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

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

Public Safety Building campaign tops \$300,000

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – Support for the Charlton Public Safety Building Capital Campaign continues to grow as the committee organizing the fundraising effort recently announced another \$100,000 pledge to help further offset the cost of the much-discussed initiative going to polls on Election Day.

Noreen Johnson Smith of the Charlton Public Safety Building Capital Campaign Steering Committee shared the news at a Board of Selectmen meeting on Aug. 11 that the Dexter-Russell Foundation has pledged \$100,000 to the initiative pending a positive vote in November. The donation is in addition to the \$100,000 the Hyde/Dexter-Russell Charitable Foundation committed in July bringing the total money raised for the project to \$309,000. That surpasses the \$200,000 goal set by the committee in July when it was announced that the project would going to voters for a second time on the November election ballot.

Voters are being asked whether or not to accept the funding mechanism for the \$28.5 million project that would see a \$26.9 million debt exclusion, \$1.4 million spent from the general fund and the \$200,000 donation goal pay for the building designed to succeed the aging fire department facilities and police department in town. The project previous failed at a ballot vote in the fall of 2019 after voters initially approved the \$28.5 million price tag in May of that year.

Noreen Johnson Smith said that fundraising efforts will continue to try to further offset the cost to the taxpayers. The committee is still seeking volunteers to help in their endeavor. Those interested in volunteering or donating to the cause can visit the town of Charlton website’s Public Safety Building Capital Campaign page for more information. Details about the proposed building project can also be found at www.charltonpublicsafetybuilding.com.

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Finding love and service in pickles and an ironing board

We all have hobbies and passions in life. Some like to do woodworking while others may love to garden. Some activities are common and others unique and unusual. There are more hobbies and passions than I can think of and list on this page, but almost everyone has something. I love to cook for friends and family. When we have company, I'm up early and working in the kitchen. My skills are limited. I have no professional training. I just know what I like and share it with others.

I've often wondered about my cooking obsession and I now realize it is just a way that I enjoy serving others. I love to eat, and I seem to have a creative gene that encourages me to try new recipes. It makes me feel good knowing that cooking for others makes

them happy. It's a positive activity that provides a basic human service for people I care about and love.

Through the years I've developed a few recipes that I'm proud of. I grow pickling cucumbers in my garden and make what I call "Lemony Dill Pickles." I've never canned them because they are eaten as fast as I can make them. It's a citrusy twist to traditional dill pickles by replacing half the vinegar with lemon juice. I thinly slice the cucumbers and put them in a bowl. I never measure anything ... but I put in roughly 40 percent distilled or filtered water, 35 percent white vinegar, 25 percent lemon juice, salt to taste (I like salt), dill, garlic, and black pepper cloves. I let it marinate for twenty-four hours and enjoy. I also thinly slice an onion



POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

GARY W.
MOORE

and put into the mix. I'm sharing this with you as I don't want my recipe lost.

Please let me know if you try this. Play with the mixtures to suit your taste buds. I'd love to know what you think. I also make a killer Barbeque Sauce and a unique recipe of mashed potatoes I'll share later. I love working to please others through my cooking.

When my grandkids were younger, I bought a Mickey Mouse pancake maker that made pancakes in the shape of Mickey. They became known in our family as

"MouseCakes." The most common question from my Facebook friends was "Are they made out of real mice?"

My grandkids enjoyed them, until they didn't. Now, my "MouseCake Maker" sits in a cabinet hoping for another grandchild or six.

Cooking isn't an unusual hobby, but my next passion is. I love to iron my children and now grandchildren's clothes. I don't iron on schedule but only by request. "Dad, I'm running late to school. Can you iron this for me?" My daughter would often say as she tossed her shirt down the stairs. I'd sometimes try to resist, but the joy I found in doing this was surprising. I have ironed for everyone but there is a special "ironing bond" I have with my daughter, Tara Beth. Before school ... later in life, before dates or even

a job interview, I loved hearing her voice ask me to iron.

One of the things I like about ironing is that it is an anonymous activity. No one ever compliments you on your ironing skills. You've never been asked, "Wow, who ironed your pants? They did a great job!" I like the feeling of doing something for no credit nor attention but something that is appreciated by the recipient. Does that make sense? It does to me.

I've shared this in the past, but the most memorable ironing experience was on her wedding day. By this point in life, she realized the satisfaction I received by providing this service for her. The morning of her wedding she walked down the stairs with her wedding dress draped over her arms. All she said was "Dad ..." and I eagerly

took it from her and quickly turned away so she would not see the emotion I felt bubbling up. I took my time, as it was the most complex garment I had ironed, but also the most meaningful. My emotions flowed and dotted her perfectly white dress as I ironed my tears into the fabric. It was both a sad but immensely joyful moment that I'll never forget.

So, now you know a little bit more about me and I'm guessing I'm the first person you've met who finds ironing joyful.

Until next week ... try my pickles! ■

Gary W. Moore is a freelance columnist, speaker, and author of three books including the award-winning, critically acclaimed, "Playing with the Enemy." Follow Gary on Twitter @GaryWMOORE721 and at www.garywmoore.com.

Quinsigamond Community College raises funds for students in need

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College has raised \$109,070 for its Student Emergency Fund and repurposed \$53,000 in grant awards to assist more than 700 students in need. In

a show of strength and solidarity to support its student body, QCC's Foundation and the College banded together to respond to the COVID-19 health crisis by setting up a Student Emergency Fund for students

in significant need and hardship due to the pandemic.

In March, the Foundation jumped in to help QCC students and allocated \$25,000 that created the Student Emergency Fund. Knowing there was a much greater student need to be met, the Foundation began an aggressive fundraising campaign with donations coming from QCC's faculty, staff, directors and trustees, alumni, foundations, banks, corporations, private donors and grants. To date, the Fund has assisted 526 QCC students to help with rent, food, medical services, childcare, other basic life and educational necessities. Students typically received anywhere from \$100 to \$250. Additionally, several repurposed grant awards provided 200 students with laptop computers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A survey done by the college found that of those who applied and received aid, 52 percent did not qualify for other aid, 47 percent had lost their jobs, 72 percent had reduced working hours, and 33 percent had out-of-pocket medical expenses. Most students said they used the aid to help with rent, mortgage, groceries, utilities, transportation, credit card bills, student loans, books and healthcare, due to the economic impact of the pandemic. The survey also showed that of those who received assistance, 81 percent were women, 63 percent were minorities, 43 percent were immigrants, 66 percent were parents, and 32% were enrolled in adult learner and workforce programs.

"The Student Emergency Fund solidifies the Foundation's mission of eliminating barriers that prevent student success," QCC Foundation President Dr. Linda Maykel said. "The many generous individuals, corporations and local foundations that recognized the needs of our student body and

stepped up to assist has been overwhelming and heartwarming. However, the need is great and there is much more that must be done to help our most vulnerable students from the hardships incurred by the virus."

To date, 76 percent of the Student Emergency Fund has been used, and while many students noted the difference the financial assistance has made, many others noted the ongoing financial struggles they were incurring.

"When COVID-19 hit us, my technology was not updated enough to be able to continue taking my courses online. Without QCC's help, I would not have been able to purchase a new device to attend my sessions. The cash help I received is destined to buy the materials that I will need for the Fall Semester. I am deeply and truly grateful for this help," said one student aid recipient.

"I lost two jobs. The only one left was four hours a week. It was terrible," said another student aid recipient.

While all colleges and universities nationwide received Federal CARES Act funding, many students were exempt from receiving this aid because of citizenship, residency or enrollment status. QCC President Dr. Luis Pedraja noted the positive repercussions the Fund has had on students, particularly those who otherwise would be ineligible for aid.

"This aid has been crucial for our students' success. The statistics speak for themselves. Of those students who received aid, 74 percent said the aid allowed them to stay in college for the semester; 80 percent said it reduced the stress caused by financial constraints, and 45 percent said that without it they would have had to withdraw from college," he said. "Furthermore, 93 percent who received aid did not withdraw from college and 90 percent did not withdraw from any course. This is a testament to the impact the Student Emergency Fund is having on our students."

As the Fall semester gets underway soon, the Foundation and College will continue with its efforts to help students in need.

"The full impact of the pandemic on the economy and our community remains to be seen. In spite of all of the unknowns and all of the challenges, I am certain of one thing: we will do what needs to be done and we will make sure our students succeed," Dr. Pedraja said.

To learn more about the college's Student Emergency Fund or QCC's enrollment opportunities, visit www.QCC.edu. For more information about QCC, contact Josh Martin, Director of Institutional Communications at 508-854-7513 or jmartin@qcc.mass.edu

CURALEAF

continued from page A1

one adverse mental or behavioral health condition" – mostly anxiety and depression. Among them, 10.7 percent "reported having seriously considered suicide in the 30 days before completing the survey," and that rate peaked in the 18-24 age range at 25.5 percent.

"Community-level intervention and prevention efforts, including health communication strategies, designed to reach these groups could help address various mental health conditions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic," the report stated.

Longer-term CDC data shows that the suicide rate nationwide has been rising since 2000. Then, it was 10.4 incidents per 100,000 people; in 2017, it was 14.0. The latter figure is more than twice as high as the homicide rate, and slightly below the annual death rate from influenza and pneumonia. The suicide rate is far higher among men (22.4) than women (6.1), and is higher in the white community than among other ethnic groups.

For BTS, changing that has been the goal all along. The group is in its second year of funding a scholarship for area high school students. Currently, it's given to kids at Shepherd Hill and Bay Path, but Eric Tully noted it's "catching on," and they'd love to expand to other schools if the funds are available. They also provide brochures to those schools and others on the issues.

"It's been really nice to see the response," he said. "... We're seeing the stigma dropping."

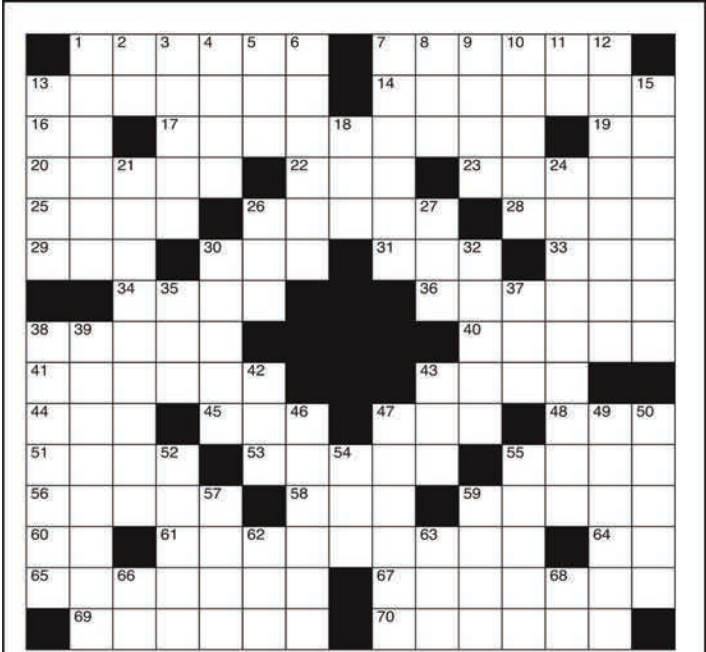
Beyond that, they're collaborating with Worcester's Shine Initiative (www.shineinitiative.org), which has youth suicide prevention efforts in at least 40 regional schools aimed at providing what it calls "youth mental health first aid" and support. It trains people to assess suicide and self-harm risk, listen nonjudgmentally, reassure, and encourage both professional help and self-support.

Kayla Kimball said they teach kids to talk about this issue and recognize "it's OK to feel." That's particularly important because suicides are happening among younger and younger people.

Kimball noted BTS is also running an Educate the Educator project for teacher in-service days that serves a similar purpose of showing them the signs to look for in their students.

"They think it's fantastic because they know there's so much of a need," she said. "Mental health is so poorly funded."

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



CLUES ACROSS

1. Slopes

7. Attacks

13. One who has left prison

14. Goes against

16. Atomic #37

17. Home of The Beatles

19. Mac alternative

20. A common boundary with

22. Fluid in a plant

23. Genus that includes scads

25. Longer of the forearm bones

26. Gradually disappears

28. AI risk assessor

29. Type of whale

30. Jaws of a voracious animal

31. Patriotic women (abbr.)

33. Ancient Egyptian God

34. Obsessed with one's appearance

36. Erase

38. A type of smartie
40. Nostrils

41. Influential French thinker

43. Popular K-pop singer

44. One point south of due east

45. Payroll company

47. Moved quickly on foot

48. Bar bill

51. An idiot

53. Indicates silence

55. Protein-rich liquids

56. Rhythmic patterns

58. Scatter

59. Belongs to bottom layer

60. Impulsive part of the mind

61. Carousel

64. Type of degree

65. Ornamental molding

67. Locks in again

69. Sounds the same

70. Come into view

CLUES DOWN

1. Speak rapidly

2. Trauma center

3. River in W. Africa

4. Ancient Greek district

5. Bulgaria's monetary unit

6. Children's ride

7. Absorbed liquid

8. Markets term

9. Retail term recording sales

10. Automaton

11. Spanish form of "be"

12. Divide

13. Malaysian sailing boat

15. Writers

18. Cool!

21. Popular tourist attraction studio

24. Sets free

26. An enthusiastic devotee of sports

27. Unhappy

30. Alternate term for Holy Scripture

32. Influential French scholar
35. What thespians do

37. Local area network

38. Free from contamination

39. Coastal region of Canada

42. Sun up in New York

43. High schoolers' exam

46. Fathers

47. Call it a career

49. Suitable for growing crops

50. Rose-red variety of spinel

52. Orange-brown in color

54. Lowest point of a ridge between two peaks

55. Late TNT sportscaster

57. A way to wedge

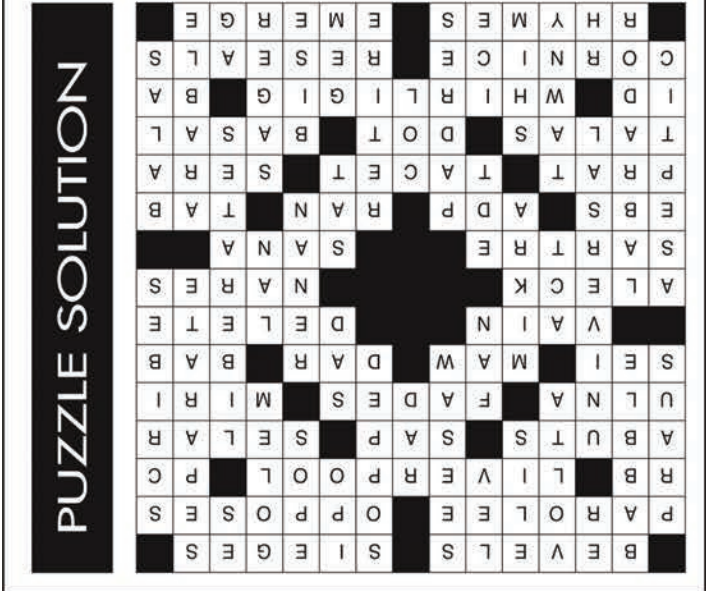
59. Cold, dry Swiss wind

62. Hockey players need it

63. Something highly prized

66. Atomic #45

68. Top lawyer



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ANSWER: LIGHTNING


What's the Difference?

There are four things different between Picture A and Picture B. Can you find them all?

A




B



Answers: 1. Polka dots missing 2. Extra paw print 3. Left umbrella handle missing 4. Jeans leg pulled down

THIS DAY IN... HISTORY



- **1609:** GALILEO GALILEI DEMONSTRATES HIS FIRST TELESCOPE TO LAWMAKERS IN VENICE.
- **1875:** MATTHEW WEBB BECOMES THE FIRST PERSON TO SWIM ACROSS THE ENGLISH CHANNEL.
- **1950:** PRESIDENT HARRY TRUMAN ORDERS THE SEIZURE OF U.S. RAILROADS TO AVERT A STRIKE.

New Word

CURRENT

a flow of electricity

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Storm

SPANISH: Tormenta

ITALIAN: Tempesta

FRENCH: Orage


GERMAN: Gewitter

Did You Know?

LAKE MARACAIBO IN VENEZUELA IS RECEIVES MORE LIGHTNING STRIKES THAN ANY PLACE ON EARTH. THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS OF STRIKES CAN OCCUR IN ONE NIGHT.



GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: LIGHTNING STRIKE

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to water quality. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 1 = T)

A.

1 22 20 15 23

Clue: Poison

B.

9 2 25 16 15 1 12

Clue: Standard of something

C.

1 6 18 1 15 23 21

Clue: Measures performance

D.

26 25 14 1 15 8 2 16 25 1 6

Clue: Minute separate particles

Answers: A. toxin B. quality C. testing D. particulate

SUDOKU

		4	8	9	6	1		
							9	
		1				5		4
	5			1		6		
			3		5		7	
			7					9
	4	8					6	
3	9	2			1			8

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

8	5	7	1	6	4	2	9	3
1	3	6	9	5	2	8	4	7
9	4	2	3	8	7	5	1	6
2	7	9	5	4	3	8	6	1
5	1	8	2	6	9	7	3	4
3	6	4	8	1	9	5	7	2
4	8	6	3	7	2	1	9	5
7	2	5	9	3	6	4	8	1
6	9	3	1	5	4	2	7	8

ANSWER:

Now may be the time to sell gold and silver

An article in the July issue of Forbes was titled “Gold And Silver Are Just Getting Started.” With gold recently rising above \$2,000 per ounce for the first time in history and silver nearing the \$30 per ounce mark, we have been receiving many emails and calls to auction precious metals.

All silver has been selling well, but older pieces typically command the strongest prices. Coins are one example. Silver coins are popular with both collectors and investors. Silver coins may have numismatic value (value to coin collectors) above the silver’s worth. The age, condition, and rarity of the coin can make coin values soar. Dimes, quarters, half dollars, and dollar coins from 1964 or earlier were made with 90 percent silver and are worth at least the silver bullion value. Rare ones bring much more. A 1795 three leaves flowing hair silver dollar in fair condition sold for \$4,500. An 1893-S (San Francisco mint) Morgan silver dollar in extra fine condition went for \$6,900.

Along with coins, many people are looking to sell their sterling silver flatware and hollowware services, especially with fewer people holding formal dinners than in the past. The good news is that there are still plenty of buyers for sterling. A Georg Jensen sterling ornamental mustard pot with liner and acorn design spoon sold for \$1,000. A vintage Stieff floral repousse



ANTIQUES,
COLLECTIBLES
& ESTATES

WAYNE TUISKULA

(hammered into relief from the reverse side) rose pattern sterling silver coffee pot went for over \$1,000. A Wendt sterling silver Medallion pattern flatware 79-piece service dinner sold for \$13,500. A Tiffany Co. Japanese pattern sterling silver flatware 57-piece service picturing Audubon birds brought \$36,500.

As you might imagine, gold coins are also selling very well. For investors, even modern coins like American Gold Eagle or American Gold Buffalo coins are desirable. A 2019 MarketWatch article wrote “gold and other precious coins are the easiest collectible item to trade, whether you are investing in bullion coins as a hedge against inflated stock and bond prices or if you’re interested in building a special collection of rarities.” If you have older gold coins, they may have numismatic value well above what the gold is worth. For example, an 1827 Capped Bust Gold Quarter Eagle \$2.50 coin sold for \$7,700 and a 1907 St. Gaudens gold coin went for over \$15,000 at auction recently. The condition and rarity of the coins made them sell for much more than just the value of the gold.

Antique gold “estate jewelry” also has been bringing strong results at auction. An Edwardian (Edwardian period was 1901 to 1910) sapphire and diamond ring set in gold and platinum



recently fetched over \$8,400. A Black Opal Engagement 14K Yellow Gold ring described as either Art Nouveau (Art Nouveau period was 1890 to 1910) or Art Deco (1920’s and 30’s) recently sold for \$8,000. An antique openwork (metal work with holes, typically in aesthetic patterns) pearl cuff bracelet 18-karat yellow gold reached \$6,050. Pieces with quality diamonds or gemstones increase value. A recent BusinessWire article titled “Reduced Diamond Supply Lifts Polished Prices” said that diamond prices are also on the rise. In this current market, silver, gold, and diamonds are all shining.

Our Oct. 29, multi-estate online auc-

tion will include a large amount of sterling silver and gold. We are now accepting bids for our Warren, R.I. online estate auction. There will be a preview on September 12th in Warren with bidding ending on Sept. 16. Please keep checking www.centralmassauctions.com for information on upcoming events.

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WALK

continued from page A1

DFCI.Harvard.edu. Funds raised from the Jimmy Fund Walk support all forms of adult and pediatric patient care and cancer research at the nation’s premier cancer center, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The Boston Athletic Association has supported the Jimmy Fund Walk since 1989, and Hyundai has been the presenting sponsor since 2002.

To register to walk (#JimmyFundWalk) or to support a walker visit www.JimmyFundWalk.org or call (866) 531-9255. You can also download The Jimmy Fund Walk App in Charity Miles. The app will allow you to track the miles you walk leading up to, and on Walk day, create a team and walk with your friends, family, and teammates, share your miles and activities via social media to boost fundraising, and see important Walk day

news, content, training and fundraising challenges. Download the app here.

About the Jimmy Fund
The Jimmy Fund, established in Boston in 1948, is comprised of community-based fundraising events and other programs that, solely and directly, benefit Dana-Farber Cancer Institute’s lifesaving mission to provide compassionate patient care and groundbreaking cancer research for children and adults. The Jimmy Fund is an official charity of the Boston Red Sox, the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, the Pan-Mass Challenge, and the Variety Children’s Charity of New England. Since 1948, the generosity of millions of people has helped the Jimmy Fund save countless lives and reduce the burden of cancer for patients and families worldwide. Follow the Jimmy Fund on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram: @TheJimmyFund.

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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

A hard-fought right

Women acquired the right to vote on Aug. 18, 1920. It's amazing to think that there are individuals born during that time are still with us today, bringing into light that it wasn't long ago that women were given the right to take part in the democratic process.

The 19th Amendment stated that citizens could not be denied the right to vote based on sex. Because of loopholes, many African American men and women were not permitted to vote pending literacy tests and the inability to pay poll taxes leaving the group disenfranchised. That same year some states, such as Georgia, had a law requiring people to register to vote six months in advance, which meant that many were turned away from the polls. In states such as California, New York and Illinois, women were permitted to vote before the 19th Amendment was ratified.

In 1915, a group of 25,000 women marched in New York City, demanding the right to vote. During that time, the New York Times printed an article against the women's cause, stating, "If women vote, they will play havoc for themselves and society and that if granted suffrage they would demand all the rights that implies. It is not possible to think of women as soldiers and sailors, police patrolmen or firemen, heavens think of the chaos!" The National Women's Party began to picket the White House in 1917, for the entire year despite weather. Some women were arrested and sent to work camps as punishment.

This month, National Women's Suffrage Month, commemorates the turning point in American history as well as the founding of the League of Women Voters. Women began requesting the right to vote in the 1600's. Second lady Abigail Adams wrote to her husband in 1776, "Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the Husbands. Remember, all Men would be tyrants if they could. If particular care and attention is not paid to the Ladies, we are determined to foment a Rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any Laws in which we have no voice or Representation." Adams would never cast a ballot.

In 1848, the cause picked up, after a women's rights convention in New York with Elizabeth Stanton, Susan B. Anthony and Lucy Stone spearheading the group of 300 women. Supporting Stanton, was abolitionist Frederick Douglas. After 70 years, with the last 20 packing a powerful punch, public sentiment changed and women were eventually heard and supported.

This year, when at the polls, let us remember the women who were imprisoned, marched in treacherous weather, went on hunger strikes and dedicated their lives so that the women of the future could have a voice.

Congress designated August 26 'Women's Equality Day' in 1973.

Changed

BY SUSAN JANE SHEPERD
AUBURN

We're calling for You Lord,
in the middle of the night.

Life has changed for everyone,
it's time to do what's right.

We're lost and we don't know
exactly what to do,

Desperate for some answers
we're crying out to you,

You love the ones who love you,
You love the ones who don't.

Each one has a chance to choose You,
some will - but some just won't.

Time is of the essence,
it's beginning to unwind.

We don't want to be lost here,
it's You we need to find.

A kind & loving Father
is who You really are.

Are you near to us, dear Lord,
or are you very far?

No longer standing up,
we are now down on our knees.

Have mercy on us, forgive us,
it's You we want to please.

We've sinned against You,
but we want a fresh, new start.

We say 'Jesus is our Lord,
please come into our heart.'

I chose the title for this poem, for two reasons. One, life has changed for everyone since the Corona Virus outbreak. And two, when we choose to invite Jesus into our lives, we are changed forever.

SJ Sheperd

OPINION/COMMENTARY

Saltwater fishing beats up

Saltwater fishing is heating up for numerous species of fish. Yellow fin tuna in the 50 to 60-pound class were reported by anglers fishing out to the canyon. This writer was heading out to do a bit of fluke fishing in Galilee Rhode Island when I spotted a group of three anglers rushing to get there 25-foot boat in the water. The rods on board were positively identified as tuna rods. The two 200 hp outboard motors on the back of their boat, are what is needed to travel to the canyon. Reports of numerous shark species on their last trip to the canyon was also good news for the group of anglers.

Fluke fishing remained strong again last week in the waters around Carpenters Beach and the Breachway. Many fish were just shy of the 19-inch size limit, but we managed a few 20-inch fish & a few nice seabass. Catching our own mummies and Silversides also helped this writer & my boat captain Matt to catch our targeted fish. The silversides were a few inches long which were affixed to our hook. Threading the silversides on the hook like you would a nightcrawler worked very well, and stopped the short misses.

Anglers were spotted chasing a few small schools of Bonito and False Albacore last week around Point Judith light.

Upstate New York anglers fishing Lake Ontario are catching numerous King Salmon on the lake but River fishing is still slow. Lack of water flow in the river, and warm temperatures have played a huge role in this year's late migration of King Salmon. Fat Nancy's Bait & Tackle shop in Pulaski New York ,reported the slow fishing in the river which is expected to blow wide open in the next week or two.

Local bear hunters are excited about the bear hunting in Maine which is slated to open on Aug. 31. Hunting over baits is allowed during the Black Bear season in Maine. Numerous local hunters travel to Maine every year to hunt bear, and the reports of numerous large bears hitting the baits prior to the season is good news. If bear hunting in Maine over

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baits was not allowed, very few bears would be harvested annually causing a bear population explosion.

Most Field days at Rod & Gun Clubs this year have been canceled because of the Covid-19 Pandemic. Whitinsville Fish & Game Club recently canceled their Field Day after reconsidering their options. The first priority is keeping everyone safe until the virus is brought under control!

A few local saltwater anglers fished areas around Block Island for stripers this past Friday and were rewarded with a few monster stripers. Unfortunately, they could not be retained and were quickly released. This week's picture shows Jim Lavallee with a 40-pound striper! Some of the stripers were caught using tube & worm and others were caught using live eels. Hopefully, the slot limit placed on stripers this year in Massachusetts & Rhode Island will not carry over to next year's fishing. One group of striper anglers reported seeing a monster striper floating by their boat. It was still alive, but was surely a recently released fish. Just one of the many released stripers that succumbed to the new slot limit regulations. What a waste.

NOAA Fisheries enacted Final interim Rule in Mass. extending Recreational Gulf of Maine Cod and Haddock seasons. The bag limits however have not hanged. The one cod daily limit remains the same, as well as the daily bag limit of haddock. A complete listing on the new ruling can be found on the NOAA Web site.

Fishing at the canal this past week was extremely slow according to reports of local anglers. That could change quickly by the time you read this column.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!



Give your landscape a late summer facelift

Whether it is the hot weather, the age of your landscape or simply the need for change; a late summer makeover can help you increase your landscape's beauty. Put the "wow" back into your garden with a few new plantings, garden art, or other simple improvements.

Many established landscapes have a few or many overgrown plants. Sometimes the plants you purchase perform better than expected or oftentimes we try to squeeze too many plants into a garden or too large of plants into small spaces.

Remove overcrowded plants that have outgrown the space or lost their ornamental appeal. Replace these and other unsightly plants with those more suited to the growing conditions, your landscape design, and available space. Now is a good time to plan and fall is a great time to plant trees, shrubs and perennials. The soil is warm and air cool, making it less stressful on new plantings.

Phase in removals and replacements over time. This is easier on your budget, back, and will keep your landscape looking robust. And be sure to properly space plants to avoid overcrowding in the future. Check plant tags for the plant's mature size and plant accordingly.

Fill in the voids between new plantings with annuals and perennials. As your shrubs increase in size, you will need fewer annuals each year. Move perennial flowers and grasses to a new garden as your shrubs reach full size. Perennials are much easier to move than an overgrown shrub.

A bit of pruning may be all that is needed to bring back the beauty and reduce the size of overgrown plants. Make a note on your calendar to do a bit of pruning at the right time. Prune spring flowering shrubs right after they bloom. They have already set their flower buds for next spring and pruning now will eliminate the spring floral display. You can prune summer flowering shrubs during their dormant season from fall through spring. Prune evergreens in colder climates in late winter or early spring once the worst winter weather has passed. Fall pruning where winters are brutal can lead to an increase in winter damage.

GARDEN
MOMENTS
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Replace tired annuals in the garden and containers with fresh plants suited to the upcoming fall season. Don't be afraid to add dried materials to existing planters for added color and texture. Or create new container gardens to set by the front door and welcome guests.

These also make great fillers in the garden. Just place the container in a spot where an existing plant has failed. You will benefit from the instant color and extra time you gain to plan for a permanent replacement.

Garden art is another option for filling those late summer voids in the garden. Or use it to create a focal point, drawing attention to areas that are looking their best.

Adding a few new cushions on your outdoor furniture can further enhance your landscape's appeal. It is an easy way to change things up with minimal investment of time and money.


Big or small, a few changes can make a big difference. Tackle a few of the easier ones or those with the biggest impact first. Once you get started, you will not want to quit.

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.



Photo Courtesy
Garden art can fill in late summer voids or create a focal point in the garden.

Can you afford the years beyond your healthspan?



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We're all interested in the topic of lifespan. What's the average lifespan of men and women? What factors influence lifespan? What can I expect for my own lifespan? Yet, you may also want to think about your healthspan – that is, how long you will live in generally good health. How should you factor in your potential healthspan when creating your financial strategies?

To begin with, you'll want to be aware of the gap between lifespan and healthspan. Consider this: The average healthy life expectancy in the U.S. is only 68.5 years, according to World Bank data cited in the 2020 Edward Jones/ Age Wave Four Pillars of the New Retirement study. This means that, on average, Americans can expect to spend about 10 years in poor health, which, unfortunately, is more than in most other developed countries.

Of course, everyone's situation is unique, and many variables are involved in the lifespan/healthspan comparison: differences in projected longevity between women and men, family health histories, environmental factors, and so on. And there are certainly plenty of people whose healthspans essentially match their lifespans – that is, they enjoy healthy, busy lives right up until the end. Yet, even the possibility that you could face a decade or more of less-than-ideal health in your retirement years should be cause for concern. The health issue, by itself, is already worrisome, but the accompanying threat to financial independence is also on people's minds. In fact, 72 percent of retirees say one of their biggest fears is becoming a burden on their families, according to the Four Pillars study.

So, given these concerns, here are a few moves to consider, possibly with the help of a financial professional:

Investigate long-term care protection. The costs of an extended nursing home stay can be exorbitant, and the services of a home health care aide are far from inexpensive, too. And retirees know it: Their greatest financial worry is paying for health care costs, including the cost of long-term care, again according to the Four Pillars study. Consequently, you may want to explore some type of long-term care protection – and the younger you are when you purchase this protection, the more affordable it tends to be.

Evaluate your investment mix. Even with Medicare and Medicare supplement plans, you will likely face significant out-of-pocket health care costs during your retirement years. To help pay these bills, you will need sufficient liquidity in your financial accounts. So, you may need to evaluate, and possibly adjust, your investment mix to make sure you've got adequate funds in liquid, low-risk vehicles. These types of securities won't offer much in terms of growth potential, but they do provide more stability of principal. You won't want to abandon all growth-oriented vehicles, though – even in retirement, you need to stay ahead of inflation.

Create a sustainable withdrawal rate. To help address your healthspan funding concerns, you'll also need to ensure you're not taking out too much money from your investment portfolio each year, especially during your first few years of retirement.

If you could see into the future, you'd know exactly where your lifespan intersected with your healthspan. But since this certainty is unattainable, you'll want to be prepared for whatever comes your way.

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. Edward Jones Member SPIC



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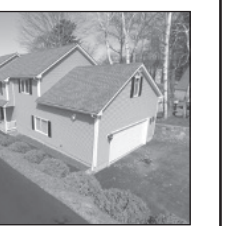
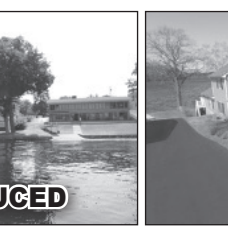
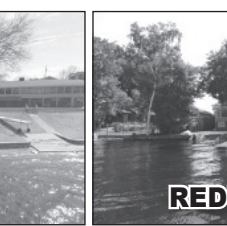
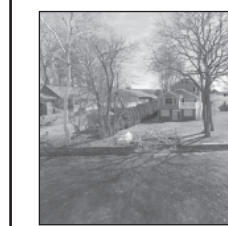
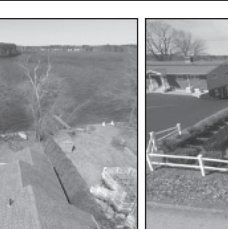
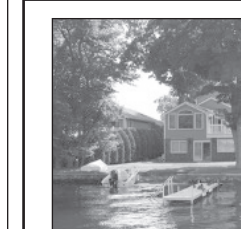
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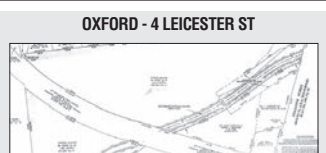


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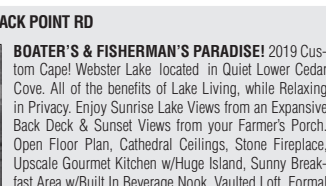


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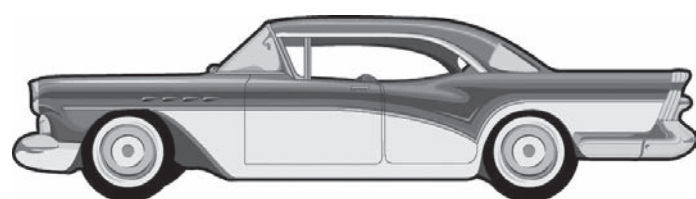
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a long New England winter, few signs of spring are more welcome than the first sprouts of green popping up in a barren garden. The promise of a season of beautiful blooms, the tiny shoots are the gardeners reward of a past autumn spent preparing and planting. Experts agree fall offers ideal conditions to plant perennials. In fact, autumn is the preferred time to plant spring blooming bulbs. The following is a beginner's guide to preparing, planning and planting bulbs now for a flourish of flowers come spring.

Choosing Choice Bulbs
If you are selecting bulbs in bulk, such as loose bulbs offered at discount garden centers, it's important to follow a few rules of thumb. Typically, big bulbs produce the largest blooms and may yield more flowers, therefore, it may be worth the cost to pay a bit more for good sized, healthy bulbs. However, if you are on a budget and have the time to wait, smaller bulbs will eventually increase in size and bloom each year. When choosing a bulb, look for those that are firm and plump. Hold them in your palm and select bulbs that feel heavy for their size. Avoid bulbs with bruises, spots or signs of mold. And steer clear of soft, mushy and lightweight bulbs. Sprouting bulbs may indicate a bulb that has been in storage for a long time.

Planning a Flower Garden
A little thought and preparation go a long way in reaping the benefits of a successful spring and summer flower garden. The planning you take time for in the fall will be apparent when the flower garden plantings burst with color and texture next year. Know your flowers before you plan to plant. While most bulbs require an area where there is full sun, other varieties such as the iris and crocus enjoy some shade after blooming. For best results select a location in full sun or sun with morning shade only. Well drained soil is a requisite for flower bulbs. If you

have poor soil, raised flower beds may be an effective alternative.

For best results, design your garden with pen and paper first, mapping out the size of the beds and the flowers to scale. Keep in mind color, texture and fragrance are all important factors when deciding on a particular flower garden plan. Plotting a garden plan is an exciting chore, and there are some basic rules that ensure a pleasant mix of color for a showy display. Notice how a clump of daffodils and tulips are much more charming than a tidy row of the springtime flowers. The eye is drawn toward the burst of color when these flowers are situated in generous groups of plantings. Be sure to take an accurate bulb count of such large splashes of plantings. Your layout plan should also include using flower bulbs as accents in perennial beds, or to fill in rock gardens or as an interesting border to greenery. Be sure to plan for extra bulbs to fill in areas or to add as landscape accents.

For an interesting mix, merge short plants with tall specimens to give variety and depth as well as differing textures. And don't underestimate the power of fragrance. Nothing is more delightful than a pathway of floral scents welcoming visitors to your door! You should also decide if you want to plan out every aspect of planting a semi formal garden, or if you choose instead to toss convention and bulbs to the wind, planting bulbs the natural way, thus creating a natural sprinkling of blooms. Scaling plants to the bed is another important factor when plotting your plan. A simple rule to follow is to keep in mind the tallest plant in an island flower bed should have a mature height that is equal to about half the width of the bed. Place these plants in the center, so they can be viewed from all sides. Also remember to take into account plants that grow and expand quickly.

Color is another major consideration when planting your bulbs. If you want your garden to be a showcase all season, select a variety of bulbs that flower during early, middle and late spring and summer for a continuous burst of color. Just as in the home, in the

garden bed cool colors seem to recede and warm colors appear to come forward. To make a small garden area appear larger and more spacious, plant flowers in cool, light colors. As a general rule white goes a long way in a garden bed, but if you use a lot of white flowers in an area, consider adding a dramatic splash of bright red or bright pink or purple for visual contrast. And, remember, if you are growing flowers to cut and bring the blooms indoors, choose colors that will go with the decor of your home, as well as harmonize with one another in the garden. Gardens, in fact, are often planned around color. The ambiance of your outdoor living space is determined by color and your choices decide whether your garden flowers contrast or complement each other which can result in either a subtle hue of color or a spectacular show of brilliant blooms. The former, which relies on soft pastels to make a statement in the flower garden, is often achieved through monochromatic planning. Choosing flowers of all the same color family may offer a soothing garden setting. Interest is accomplished by providing varying textures and flower heights in monochromatic pastel gardens. For a more showy garden, eye catching bright reds, yellows, purples and whites take center stage in a flower bed. Such contrasting colors can be often be achieved with little effort simply by matching up opposite colors on the standard color wheel.

Planting Prep: Planting time varies depending on location, but here in the Northeast it ranges from September until as long as the soil can be worked, usually around the end of October. Prepare your bed by making sure soil is properly fertilized. Be sure to dig out the soil to the proper depth. Loosen the soil and if you choose, add a bulb booster to the soil. Bulbs should be planted with pointed side up. Place them firmly, yet gently, into the ground. Cover the bulbs loosely with soil, water lightly and add a layer of mulch. Typically, bulbs should be planted three times as deep as the bulb is wide. In sandy soils, you can plant a little deeper, and in heavy soils you can dig a slightly shallower hole. Bulbs should be

spaced approximately a width twice the diameter of the bulb. Note: Tulips should be planted one inch deeper than indicated if the soil is not too heavy and their location is permanent as deep rooting can prolong the effective life of the tulip bulb.

Forcing bulbs
Forcing bulbs indoors allows the impatient gardener to enjoy springtime blooms during the winter season. Certain bulbs, such as the narcissus and hyacinth lend themselves to forced budding.

To do: Drop a bulb into a glass jar and fill with water and small pebbles until the water level reaches the base of the bulb. Position the jar in a sunny window. Water must remain at the same level, so add moisture as needed. To prevent mold, change the water periodically.

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