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Friday, March 12, 2021

Bay Path graduate hired by Kent Hospital

CHARLTON — Marina Daniels, RN graduated last December with her Associate of Science in Nursing (ASN) from Quinsigamond Community College. She has worked the last few years as an LPN in LTC, and recently accepted a position at Kent Hospital for step down ICU as an RN. Daniels, originally from Webster, started her nursing career after graduating from Bay Path RVTHS Practical Nursing Academy in 2014. She recently hurred the NCLEX-RN and passed the first try!

"When I took the NCLEX-RN in the morning of March 3rd, I was expecting to wait 48 hours for the results," Daniels said. "Can you believe I received a phone call in the afternoon, a woman from the Department of Health called to congratulate me!" According to the woman, "there's no reason for making you wait and be anxious over the next two days."

Daniels happily shared the wonderful news with her family and then to Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy.

She is looking forward to sharing her journey with current practical nursing students, stating, "I am ready to give a motivational speech!"

Daniels loves throwing positivity and contributing to the future nurses. It is this spirit of nurturing, mentorship, and volunteerism that earned her the Community Service Award for Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy in 2017. Daniels is joyful to have reached her goal and plans to continue working to advance her education.



Marina Daniels

Anti-littering campaign touted as a success

BY JASON BLEAU
 VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — Charlton's Help Keep Charlton Litter Free campaign was a huge success according to Recycling Committee Chair Deborah Marquis who revealed that the campaign launched in late 2020 through a partnership with Keep Massachusetts Beautiful to help inspire a year-round effort by citizens to keep the local community clean especially in the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic that forced community-wide events like Earth Day to halt.

According to Marquis, Charlton stepped up in a big way becoming the most active town according to data collected by Keep Massachusetts Beautiful which hosted a sign-up to allow residents to commit to keeping their specific area of town clean.

"They told us that Charlton had over 60 people, which was either a family or one individual, respond to that and do the pledge, sign up and get the free clean up kit. They said that was more than any other town that had joined the pledge,"

Marquis said. "Charlton had a great response, and now we're trying to gear people up for cleanup efforts in April and our Earth Day events for 2021."

The Recycling Committee pitched in to help offset any costs to those who signed up by supplementing the cost of the kits. As a result, the committee donated \$500 to Keep Massachusetts Beautiful thanks to the overwhelming response from Charlton citizens.

"This effort by all of these 60-plus individuals helped in a year when we weren't able to do a town-wide event. We're really proud of the community for stepping up," Marquis said. "We'd like people to join the effort in April and continue to clean up areas, whether it's their own street or any other area - We wish we could have an Earth Day festival this year because we have a nice one every other year, but we just can't do it so we are doing what we can and hope to see a lot of people join in this effort."

Turn To **CAMPAIGN**, page A3

Marshalls donates goods to United Way



Photo Courtesy

Pictured: Marshalls employees Brittani Vescovi and Paul Sullivan.

STURBRIDGE — Facemasks make a difference, and Marshalls, located in Sturbridge donated more than 2,000 child and adult masks and hand sanitizer to be distributed to non-profits that are affiliated to the United Way of South Central Mass. (UWSCM), along with local food pantries and elementary schools.

Paul Sullivan, Administrative Coordinator. At the Sturbridge Marshalls, contacted the United Way stating TJX Company stores, which Marshalls is one, were removing masks and hand sanitizer from their shelves and they would like them to be donated to local charitable organizations. Mr. Sullivan thought of the United Way of

South Central MA as a perfect recipient since UWSCM has 22 member agencies that assist many children from toddlers to teens and adult programs that could benefit from these donated goods. Mr. Sullivan and Brittani Vescovi, Assistant Manager met Mary O'Coin, Executive Director of UWSCM with 11 boxes of donated supplies outside of the Marshall's in Sturbridge.

Mrs. O'Coin was completely surprised by the number and quality of the masks that were donated.

"The toddlers and young children in the early education centers at the YMCA, WCAC Head Start and Guild of St. Agnes will be thrilled to wear the adorable

themed and sparkling masks," she said.

Both adult and child masks were distributed to CASA of Worcester and the Boys and Girls Club of Webster-Dudley for volunteers, teachers and the children that are in foster care and attending remote learning centers to wear. Many masks were distributed to the Southbridge and Webster-Dudley Food Share for clients picking up from those locations. More youth masks were delivered to Southbridge Elementary schools and Webster Park Ave. Elementary. Tri-Valley Inc received adult masks for their Meals on Wheels drivers and

Turn To **MARSHALLS**, page A2

Increased stipends proposed for elected officials

BY JASON BLEAU
 VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — Charlton's Stipend Advisory Committee has been hard at work updating the salaries that should be earmarked for elected officials in the town with the goal of bringing the compensation in line with other communities to ensure fair pay to those who serve their community.

With the acknowledgement that most elected officials don't join town government to make a living, and that many don't even accept their stipend and instead donate it back to the town, the goal of the committee is to make sure that everyone who serves Charlton is receiving fair compensation, regardless of whether or not they want to be paid. Bill Borowski, who represents the Board of Selectmen on the committee, updated is fellow selectmen during a livestream meeting in late February where he detailed the goals and objectives of the committee's research and why adjustments are being proposed.

"At one point, the stipends for all the appointed members were a little bit higher than what they were, but due to a variety of different reasons, they were cut, and in order to attract or retain candidates, the idea is that we would reassess what the stipends are. Clearly, nobody is getting rich off of this. Many of us either don't take the salary or we donate it back to the town or a charter organization regardless, but the idea being that some of the numbers don't make sense," Borowski said, adding that the algorithm has been deemed outdated and that they want to standardize it. "These are not enormous incremental changes. It's really more of a matter of making sure, for example, the Planning Board would be at parity with let's say the Board

of Health. We're really just looking to make it fair across the board."

Borowski stressed that any adjustments to the stipends would not be immediate but rather incremental. His presentation included a three-year proposed total impact for increasing the stipends of different departments and there were years where there were no financial impacts projected at all for some departments. The proposed total after three years for all department included in the presentation came to a little over \$26,151 which was broken down in an estimated \$11,151 in year one and two more \$7,500 increases in years two and three respectively. The increases were determined using trends from both Charlton itself and from other surrounding towns.

"We took a baseline of what we, as a town, had budgeted this past year, reviewed back to what it was in 2008 and 2009, and also looked at other towns and then we just kind of pyramided it," Borowski said. "The general assumption is that the Board of Selectmen, being the, in a sense, Chief Executive Board of the town, would be at the top of that pyramid, but directly below that, you'd have the Board of Assessors, for example, that have strenuous trainings you have to go through, and then underneath that, anyone who really met on average twice a month, like the Board of Health and Planning Board — things along those lines. We basically took a number we thought was fair for the Board of Selectmen and then cascaded it down from there."

Borowski concluded by stressing a second time that most people serve their town because they love the community and want to be

Turn To **STIPENEDS**, page A3

REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

CHARLTON

\$600,000, 45 Baker Pond Rd, Stenman, Donald R, and Stenman, Michele L, to Zeien, Robert, and Zeien, Melissa.

\$275,000, 151 Carpenter Hill Rd, Hi View Apartments RT, and Caplette, Norman L, to Laplante, Elizabeth.

\$228,900, 28 Southbridge Rd #107, Colt, Holly J, to Beauregard, Roger M.

\$102,500, 35 Northside Rd, Iwenagu, Uchechuku E, to 67 Washington Street NT, and Clarkin, James J.

\$60,000, Stafford St #4, DH Real Estate LLC, to SW Brigham Const Co Inc.

\$48,500, Southbridge Rd #1, Gubb, Martin R, and Gubb, Kyong, to Lamica, Scott D, and Lamica, Barbara H.

\$40,000, Harrington Rd #1, Lamarine RT, and Lamarine, Antonio, to Erickson, Craig.

Cold storage site approved on Route 20

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

STURBRIDGE — On Feb. 23, the Planning Board approved building a large facility on Route 20 for cold storage of food and pharmaceuticals down to -50 degrees.

Proposed by Bryan Hedge, owner of RLS Complete, the plan calls for an 83,035 square foot building on seven acres between the Hobbs Brook mall and Venture Services. He said it'll be his firm's northeastern headquarters, with 11 loading docks that load or unload about three trucks per hour.

The traffic flow in that area was one of the board's major concerns, but they seemed satisfied with the results of Bernie Guerin's traffic study and John Shevlin's peer review. Guerin said he collected data both before and after Covid began (in 2019 and last summer-fall) to predict about 174 daily trips to and from the site, or "one vehicle every six minutes." When projecting traffic growth to 2027, Guerin said it would amount to "less than 1 percent of what's already on Route 20."

Shevlin, who represented the town, determined Guerin's methods were "appropriate" and agreed the additional volume "should not have a significant impact on the roadway." He was, however, somewhat concerned about the risk of trucks queueing long enough to reach the highway.

To that, Hedge noted facilities like his have been changing their procedures to account for Covid in ways that also reduce queueing. Specifically, he said truckers will submit their paperwork online and get a dedicated phone num-

ber to call for check-in, rather than deliver it in person upon arrival. On average, he said, it takes 62 minutes to unload a truck, and the site lacks parking space for trucks, so they'll have to depart once done. If trucks arrive late, he added, he believes they have enough inside space to unload quickly.

Chair Charles Blanchard noted they haven't seen any problems with the existing facility on Picker Road, although Shevlin noted that site was designed to allow for more queueing.

A trucker called in to comment. In his 14 years in the business, he noted "many examples of issues of working with ... some of the cold storage facilities" he'd like to avoid here. Among them, he said, were trucks not arriving on time, often due to weather, previous loads in the way of loading, and site staffing issues because of Covid delaying truckers and pushing them beyond legal hour limits. He said he could also see a potential issue during the holiday season, when deliveries to Hobbs Brook often back up "as far as Burger King" already.

One unusual feature of this facility will be its height. Normally, Sturbridge bylaws cap buildings at 30 feet, but the board unanimously granted RLS permission to go to 57 feet, which Hedge said is "consistent with cold storage industrial design." He said it's necessary to install the fire suppression system they want: an alternative system has had "up to 10" false alarms per year in other sites.

Additionally, Hedge said, a taller, more compact building will "reduce our footprint" by using less concrete and

shorter cooling loops, while minimizing land-clearing and reducing the energy consumption somewhat.

Hedge had several meetings with Venture staff over the construction noise impact on their autistic clients using the outdoor area. He pledged to keep as much vegetation between the two buildings as possible and maintain communications so that, if issues develop, he'll put up a fence as well.

In other business, the board extended the public hearing for the Fiske Hill mixed-use subdivision to April 13, and the board's deadline to make a decision to June 30, on the applicant's request. Planner Jean Bubon said the Conservation Commission is requiring the developer to conduct a vernal pool study and related wetland work.

"We can make all the revisions [to the plans] sooner than April, but if the wetlands study comes back and makes us revise the plans [again], it's just a waste of time," she said.

Resident Robert Barnes called in to comment on that project. Noting he and his wife Lynn have lived on Fiske Hill since 1983, he said "traffic has gotten worse and worse on our street." They're particularly concerned about the project's impact on the Main/Fiske Hill intersection and want to have the traffic study look at that.

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection held its own online public hearing on the Fiske Hill project Tuesday, after this paper's deadline.

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



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Board of Health seeks to keep homebuyers informed of water issues

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — On Feb. 23, the Charlton Board of Health continued its discussion concerning proper communication with potential buyers of properties on Barry Corner Road and other areas of town with compromised water quality that is not tied into town water lines.

At a prior meeting in January the Board of Health discussed how properties on Barry Corner Road and other roadway could have water contamination from 1,4 dioxane. The Board of Health initially considered adding deed restrictions to the homes but decided instead to consider putting a notation on the Assessor's cards for the properties. A few weeks later, at a Feb. 9 meeting, the board cast a unanimous vote to include a notice on Assessor's cards for these locations informing buyers that Charlton has had contamination in different areas of town and to call the Board of Health to determine any potential contaminants on the property in question. However, it was also acknowledged at that meeting that many people don't look at the Assessor's cards and that the topic would continue to be discussed at future meeting.

The discussion continued on Feb. 23, where discussions turned to how the Board of Health would know when a property will be transferred and how they would try and communicate with them further. Board Chair Kathleen

Walker explained there are options like a new interdepartmental communication program and using notices in the local newspapers to keep track of property transfers and then possibly sending a letter as further communication.

Member Jonathan Sanborn said he feels the whole situation is a work in progress, but these ideas are better than what they've had before.

"I hate like heck to put a burden on town departments, whether it's ours or others. I also dislike having a buyer or seller having to incur any additional cost for this, but if we can at least get the message out there in some format so that the realtors and perspective buyers are aware that there is a potential problem I think that's at least a step in the right direction," Sanborn said.

The third board member Matthew Gagner agreed with Sanborn adding that the board will have a hard time finding someone to make sure that the town is keeping track of the property transfers.

"A lot of times, when people buy a house, if we're chasing them after the fact, they might not have any money left, or they might have spent everything they could so I think at that point the maximum our board is going to be able to do is bring awareness to those residents," Gagner said. "Before the fact, when it's new construction, we have that well permit and we don't have to sign off on that until we have the data that were looking for so we have more teeth for the new construction, but the

after the fact sales we can try to get that letter out but I don't think we're going to have any teeth to be able to enforce it."

Walker added her own comments saying that any communication doesn't have to be a demand and that the goal is simply to better inform the property buyer of what they're taking on with their purchase.

"The wording doesn't say that they have to have their well tested. It has no enforcement. It simply says that there may or may not have been contamination in areas where municipal water was supplied and to call the Board of Health to find out if there was potential contamination in this area. We're just telling them that there's a possibility there's contamination there and they should follow up and contact the Board of Health," said Walker.

Even if property buyers decide to ignore the notice board members agreed that communicating with the buyers could inspire them to do their due diligence and perform tests to ensure their own safety while the town is doing its job to keep them informed properly. Another possibility brought up later in the meeting was to add something to the public access channel to remind everyone, not just newcomers to Charlton, to be diligent in checking their water periodically.

The Board of Health plans to continue to discuss this matter at future meetings making it a standing line items on their meeting warrants.

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visit www.townofcharlton.net or more information.

Individual offices may vary

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Shepherd Hill Regional High School

..... (508) 943-6700

Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School (508) 248-5971 or (508) 987-0326

CHURCH LISTINGS

• **Charlton Federated Church**, 64 Main St., 248-5550, Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. www.fedchurchcharlton.org

• **Charlton Baptist Church**, 50 Hammond Hill Road, 248-4488, www.charltonbaptist.org, Sunday worship 10 a.m.

• **Charlton City United Methodist**, 74 Stafford St. 248-7379, web site: CharltonCityUMC.org Sunday worship and Children's church 10am

• **St. Joseph's Church**, 10 H. Putnam Ext, 248-7862, www.stjosephscharlton.com, Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 p.m., Sunday Mass 8 a.m., Sunday Family Mass 10 a.m., Sunday Life/TEEN Mass 5 p.m., Weekday Mass Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30 a.m.

• **Hope Christian Fellowship**, 6 Haggerty Road, 248-5144

• **Assemblies of God Southern New England District Headquarters**, Route 20, 248-3771, snedag.org, office hours Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

• **Living Word Church of Charlton**, 10 Main Street - Grange building 1st floor, Charlton, Ma 01507, Pastor Craig Bellisario, (508) 233-8349 Sunday Service 10:00am. www.livingwordcharlton.com info@livingwordcharlton.com

• **New Life Fellowship A/G, SNED Chapel**, 307 Sturbridge Road, Rt. 20, Charlton, MA, Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.



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90, Southbridge, MA 01550

CHARLTON VILLAGER

PUBLISHED BY

STONEBRIDGE PRESS

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The Charlton Villager (USPS#024-954) is published weekly by Stonebridge Press, Inc., 25 Elm St., Southbridge, MA 01550. Periodical postage paid at Southbridge, MA 01550. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Charlton Villager, P. O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550.

MARSHALLS

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volunteers who visit senior citizens in South County. Hand sanitizer and wipes were included in packages to various organizations, as well.

Mrs. O'Coin stated, "We are so fortunate to receive this donation from Marshall's and thank them for their generosity. As our communities still see a significant number of Covid-19 cases it is important that everyone continues to wear

face masks, even if vaccinated. Hopefully, having these special masks will encourage all the children and adults to wear them to help stop the spread of the virus."

The United Way of South Central Massachusetts serves the communities of Charlton, Dudley, Southbridge, Sturbridge and Webster and is located at 176 Main St., Suite 400, Southbridge, MA 01550. To learn more about programs and donate, visit www.uwscm.org, follow on Facebook @UWSCM or call (508) 765-5491.

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Lewis Jewel presented to two brothers



Photo Courtesy

Left to right: Wor. Larry Burbridge presented both brothers the Lewis Jewel medals to Bro. Steven Lavergne and Bro. Rick Lavergne with the 24th District Deputy Grand Master, RW. Anselme B. Maxime overseeing this honorable prestigious presentation. Earlier in the evening they were also honored their 50-year Masonic Veterans Medal.

SOUTHBRIDGE — On Monday evening, March 7, 1966, Right Worshipful Elwood C. Lavergne, the presiding and 75th Master of Quinebaug Masonic Lodge in Southbridge was preparing for an immensely proud and exciting event. This was going to be an evening that not very many Lodge Masters have experienced and one he would never forget. On that evening he was about to complete the final degree work on not one, but two of his sons, and welcome them into his beloved Masonic Fraternity.

His 28 year old son Fredrick and 24 year old son Stephen nervously entered

the Lodge to be among their trusted Brethren, led by their dad and Master of the lodge, RW. Elwood. Both Rick and Steve had just completed their 6 year enlistments in the Army National Guard and were looking for something to fill the brotherhood void often felt by men after being discharged from the military. Masonry is a logical choice to fill that void.

On Monday, Feb. 1, 2016, after 50 years of good standing in the fraternity, both Rick and Steve were honored with the 50 year Masonic Veterans Medal presented by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts located in Boston.

Fellow Quinebaug Lodge member, the then 24th District Deputy Grand Master, Christopher M. St. Cyr had the honor and privilege of presenting Rick and Steve with this prestigious medal.

On Monday, March 1, Frederick E. Lavergne and Stephen H. Lavergne as well as their dad, RW. Elwood was again honored by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts and the Brethren of Quinebaug Lodge.

A fraternal visit from the 24th District Deputy Grand Master, RW. Anselme B. Maxime was highlighted with a surprise presentation of the "Lewis Jewel" to both Brothers. This Jewel not only honors both brothers but also honors their father who was a Master Mason when they were initiated to that sublime rank. This Lewis Jewel is a heart-warming day when a young man first shows interest in Freemasonry and asks their father how they may become a Master Mason, and is a proud day when those sons, in the fullness of time, is admitted as a member of his father's Fraternal Masonic Lodge by initiation.

The Lewis Jewel may be worn by a Mason, if at the time of his initiation, his father was a Master Mason in good standing. Fifty-five years later, these two men received this honorable Jewel with their father's name and date of his initiation along with the name of his sons and their initiation date on the Jewel. This is just another tradition carried out by Master Masons and their family members.

Our members of the Quinebaug Lodge are enormously proud and honored to present this Jewel to both brothers. If you would like more information about Freemasonry go to www.massfreemasonry.org and to find a lodge nearest to you.



ACCURACY WATCH

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

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

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

CAMPAIGN

continued from page A1

The Charlton Recycling Committee is also seeking a grant from The Last Green Valley to help fund grabbers and gloves for the April cleanup. Even if the community can't get together physically to continue to keep Charlton litter free, the Recycling Committee is hoping citizens continue to take it upon themselves to keep the town beautiful through 2021 and beyond.

STIPENEDS

continued from page A1

involved and many don't even accept the stipend. The goal is not to add more financial burden, but only to make sure those who do serve and decide to accept their salary are compensated fairly in accordance with their board or commission's contributions to town government.

Selectmen expect the new stipend schedule to be forwarded to the annual town meeting this May for consideration by the general public.

Old Sturbridge Village receives \$5 million bequest

STURBRIDGE — Old Sturbridge Village (OSV) has announced the largest single gift received in the museum's history with a five-million-dollar unrestricted bequest from the estate of Honorary Trustee and long-time friend of the Village, Helen A. (Susie) Titus

of Newport Beach, Calif. Susie passed away in 2020 after a short illness.

This incredible gift comes at a critical time as the museum celebrates the 75th Anniversary of Old Sturbridge Village over the next 18 months. The Village plans to use this gift as the cor-

nerstone of a planned capital campaign. The gift will ensure living history continues at Old Sturbridge Village in the future, and address capital needs on the campus, including the preservation of historic buildings and landscape.

"I am grateful to Susie Titus for her dedication and commitment to Old Sturbridge Village, and for her confidence in our Board and staff to steward such a significant gift in her memory," said Jim Donahue, President and CEO. "Susie was incredibly supportive of the museum over the past twenty years, and we are grateful that she made such a generous provision for the Village in her estate planning. Susie's legacy and impact will live on for generations to come."

Old Sturbridge Village has seen tre-

mendous growth over the past several years. In 2017 the Village opened Old Sturbridge Academy Charter Public School, which now has over 280 students. These students attend from a wide range of communities throughout central Massachusetts. In January of 2020, Old Sturbridge Village announced a management partnership with Coggeshall Farm Museum in Bristol, Rhode Island. This partnership saw a successful first year in spite of the unprecedented times of COVID 19. As Old Sturbridge Village begins its 75th anniversary year, the Village is positioned to have continued growth and innovative programming that will keep visitors engaged for many years to come.



Photo Courtesy

Helen A. (Susie) Titus and Jim Donahue.

Town of Sturbridge

Building Inspector / Zoning Enforcement Officer
Building Department



The Town of Sturbridge has an immediate full-time opening for a Building Inspector / Zoning Enforcement Officer in the Building Department.

This is a Exempt position and the successful candidate will be responsible for reviewing plans for building construction, alterations, or any designated structures, issuing building permits, calculating/collecting fees, supervising the maintenance of associated records, and inspecting buildings, among other responsibilities. A unrestricted Massachusetts Construction Supervisor's License, certification as a Local Inspector and must be able to obtain certification as a Building Commissioner or Inspector of Buildings within 18 months of hire is required.

This also requires a valid Massachusetts Class D Driver's License. The pay range for the position is between \$67,774 to \$94,884 per year.

For a copy of the complete job description and an application please go to <https://www.sturbridge.gov/your-government/pages/job-opportunities>.

Interested parties should send a letter of interest and completed application to Alex McConnon, 308 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566 or amccnnon@sturbridge.gov. Position open until filled.

The Town of Sturbridge is an EOE.

Friday's Child



Jondreus
Age 13

Hi! My name is Jondreus and I love science!

Jondreus is a caring boy of Caucasian and Hispanic descent who likes to be called Jon. Those who know him say that he is empathetic, committed, and a kind friend. Jon loves video games, science, playing outdoors, and swimming. When asked what he wants to be when he grows up, Jon states he wants to be a scientist, firefighter, or police officer. Jon's teachers describe him as goal-oriented, very bright, kind, caring, and a great student who gets A's and B's in his classes. He gets along well with his peers, foster parents, foster siblings, and all adults both in his school setting and personal life. All of his teachers and his

guidance counselor have great things to say about him. He loves animals and would like to be in a home with pets.

Freed for adoption, Jon has an amazing amount of potential. He would thrive in a family of any constellation with older or no other children in the home. He would benefit from a family that could offer him stability, structure, and love. Jon is especially excited to potentially have a pet in his future home and a swimming pool in his backyard. His new family must be willing to support his relationship with his sister who lives in Western MA. Contact could be in the form of visits and other forms of media contact.

Who Can Adopt?

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

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

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

“Assist” local pets by joining Here Today Adopted Tomorrow’s “Meowch Madness”

BRIMFIELD — Brimfield shelter, Here Today Adopted Tomorrow, is participating in March Madness this year. But don't worry: you won't see cats on the court! Instead, HTAT is offering pre-game meals “to-go,” so that you can enjoy the March 21st game at home and help local pets at the same time. We'll feed you on game night, and your meal purchase will help us feed pets in need.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Here Today Adopted Tomorrow's “Meowch Madness” will take the place of its usual Spay-ghetti Supper. The fundraiser will benefit HTAT's programs that help keep pets and people together, such as their new Pet Food Pantry, their low-cost spay/neuter program, and their free behavioral help program.

Executive Director, Rachael Max, said, “The past year has shown us that pets and families need each other more than ever. Even though we can't gather together to watch the game, we're excited to offer our community a new way to come together in spirit and help local pets at the same time!”

“You can watch March Madness right from home while enjoying some delicious pre-game treats. The food is prepared by long-time Spay-ghetti Supper professional chef, Chef Casey, who is also one of our best volunteers. Chef Casey will serve chili, as well as his world-famous Mac and Cheese, a Spay-ghetti Supper favorite!”

From now until March 17, participants can pre-order their Meowch Madness meal, or donate a meal to a neighbor, by



visiting heretodaysanctuary.org or calling (413) 324-8224. Participants can pick up their meals without contact at the Brimfield Congregational Church on March 21st, from 4 to 6 pm. In order to keep Meowch Madness safe and COVID-friendly for everyone, meals are available by pre-order only. And stay-tuned

for more cat-themed March Madness fun!

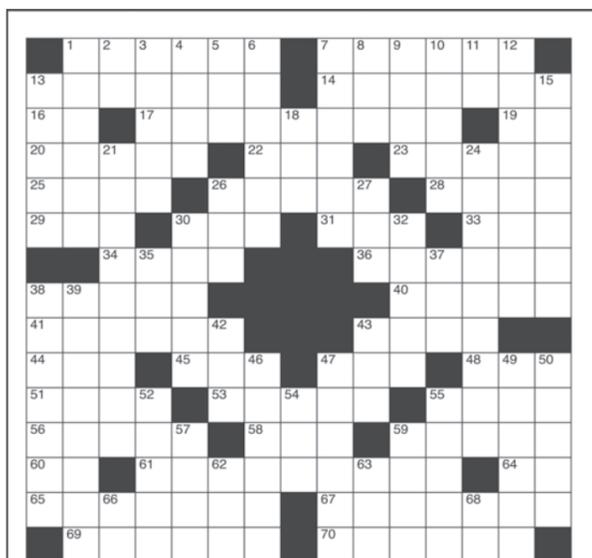
If you need assistance in feeding or caring for your pet, Here Today Adopted Tomorrow can help. Local cat owners can spay or neuter their cats for \$50 or less, and strays and ferals can be fixed for free! In addition, those struggling to

feed their pets can apply to the Pet Food Pantry. Please visit heretodaysanctuary.org or call (413) 324-8224 to learn more about these and more community assistance programs.

About Here Today Adopted Tomorrow Animal Sanctuary

Here Today Adopted Tomorrow, HTAT, was founded by mother-daughter team Barbara Horn and Rachael Max. HTAT is a volunteer driven group focused on reducing the number of homeless animals in our community through prevention and adoption services. In 2012 we opened our no kill, cageless cat adoption center for adult cats and kittens in Brimfield MA. Our ultimate goal is to decrease the number of animals entering the shelter system. It is deeply important to us that every resident's stay at HTAT is comfortable and healthy, making for well-adjusted, happy animals. We have programs to help special needs cats flourish and get adopted, including shy, fearful and senior cats. Shortly after opening, we realized there were more homeless cats than we could handle by adoption alone, so we started programs to spay and neuter local community cats. To date, HTAT has helped more than 2,500 cats. For more information, visit heretodaysanctuary.org.

Visit Here Today Adopted Tomorrow on Facebook at facebook.com/heretodaysanctuary, and follow us on Instagram at @heretodayadoptedtommorrow.

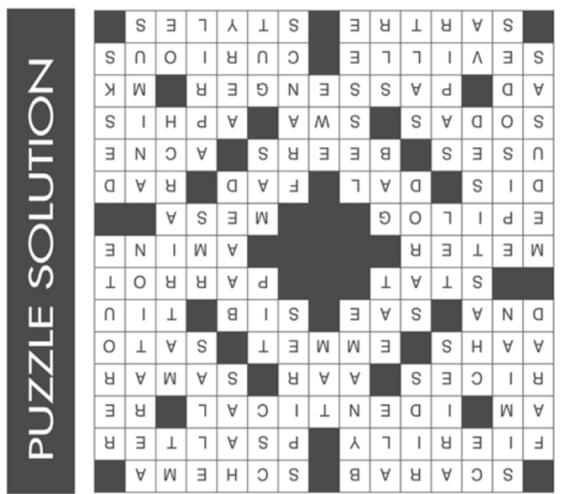


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Large dung beetle
- 7. Representation of a plan
- 13. In a fervid way
- 14. The Book of Psalms
- 16. Morning
- 17. Exactly the same
- 19. About
- 20. Brown and basmati are two
- 22. Swiss river
- 23. Philippine island
- 25. Expressions of surprise
- 26. An ant
- 28. Common Japanese surname
- 29. Deoxyribonucleic acid
- 30. Car mechanics group
- 31. A person's brother or sister
- 33. Ancient pharaoh
- 34. Quantitative fact
- 36. Vividly colored bird
- 38. Your home has one
- 40. Organic compound
- 41. Section at the end of a book
- 43. Flat tableland with steep edges
- 44. Criticize
- 45. Split pulses
- 47. Brief trend
- 48. Cool!
- 51. Purposes
- 53. Brews
- 55. Skin condition
- 56. Pops
- 58. American air travel company
- 59. Minute bug
- 60. Anno Domini (in the year of Our Lord)
- 61. One who rides in your car
- 64. One of the Gospels
- 65. City in southern Spain
- 67. Inquisitive
- 69. Jean Paul __, author
- 70. Pop singer Harry

CLUES DOWN

- 1. An ape or monkey
- 2. Chemical element
- 3. Zodiac sign
- 4. Removes
- 5. Brew
- 6. Nickname
- 7. Architectural structures
- 8. Trigonometric function
- 9. Postmodern architectural building in Vienna
- 10. Henderson and Fitzgerald are two
- 11. Mountain (abbr.)
- 12. Landscaping practice
- 13. Capacitance unit
- 15. Redirect
- 18. Hat for women
- 21. In a way, dressed down
- 24. Granny
- 26. Feed
- 27. Endpoint
- 30. Indian instrument
- 32. Bleated
- 35. Cablegram (abbr.)
- 37. Root mean square (abbr.)
- 38. Jellyfishes
- 39. Individual TV installments
- 42. Talk
- 43. More (Spanish)
- 46. Leaseholder
- 47. Monetary units
- 49. Hostility
- 50. Work stations
- 52. Linguistics giant
- 54. Female sheep
- 55. Calendar month
- 57. Seasoning
- 59. Lofty nest of a bird of prey
- 62. Single Lens Reflex
- 63. A way to remove
- 66. Virginia
- 68. Old English



Local town employees to take part in cybersecurity training

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON – Town employees of both Dudley and Charlton were among the 44,000 employees of 107 government organizations in the commonwealth who will receive training in cybersecurity awareness and detection of cyber threats thanks to a grant program announced by Gov. Charlie Baker in late February.

The Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program is in its second round and seeks to provide education and resources to agencies and organizations to help identify security breaches and cyber attacks which the National Governors Association has deemed the most effective factor in preventing security breaches and data loss. The training provided through the grant will educate both municipal and school employees in how to identify and responds to potential

cyber security threats with the Executive Office of Technology Services and Security managing the program through \$250,000 in funding from the capital IT authorizations from the governor's General Government Bond Bill passed in 2020.

“Cyber threats continue to evolve, making cyber awareness training an essential tool for municipalities and public schools in the Commonwealth to equip their employees with the knowledge on how to avoid the potentially costly missteps of falling prey to cyber attacks,” said Baker in a press release. “We will continue to seek out opportunities to improve the cybersecurity posture of the Commonwealth and its communities.”

The training provided will be in an online format in keeping with social distancing and will include simulations that examine luring techniques by cyber criminals to gain access to IT systems through phishing

attacks, SMS attacks, USB drop attacks and link-based, attachment-based and data-entry based attacks.

Through the grant, 213 employees of the town of Charlton and 30 town employees in Dudley will take part in the training. In recent years both towns have made cybersecurity a priority thanks to an attack on Charlton's computer network in the summer of 2019. Dudley responded by attempting to revamp its own cybersecurity to avoid a situation similar to its neighboring town. Both towns have received grant funds to invest in their networks in the months that followed, and the added training will only continue to build on the progress these communities have made to avoid a cybersecurity risk in an age of ever-increasing dependence on technology. Nichols College located in Dudley has also started a new master's program with an emphasis on cybersecurity.

QCC receives millions to help drive student success

QCC receives millions to help drive student success

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College has received \$2.4 million in federal emergency funds from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II, authorized by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA), to support students. The College has also allocated an additional \$1 million in institutional funds to assist students during the Coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic.

“This unprecedented time in our history requires us to dig deep and support our students in every possible way. This funding will go a long way in helping students realize their dreams of a better life,” said President Luis G. Pedraja, Ph.D. “QCC is the first choice for many students in

our region, from traditional high school students, non-traditional students, and students interested in beginning their education to transfer to a four-year college or university.”

QCC has continued to increase its support services since the onset of the Coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic, recognizing the financial challenges many students are currently facing.

“Students have lost jobs, or had their hours decreased, and are now facing emergency expenses. Yet they continue to persevere in their quest for a better life through higher education. Our goal is to make sure that every student who has a dream for a quality education can obtain one,” Dr. Pedraja said.

The College instituted a Student Emergency Fund for students in significant hardship

at the onset of the pandemic. These funds are also available to students exempt from receiving certain federal aid due to citizenship, residency or enrollment status. Thanks to the Student Emergency Fund, 571 students have received emergency aid to date.

“It is imperative we do everything we can to help our students mitigate the cost of higher education. In today's economy, people are realizing that minimizing debt through affordable college options is a smarter decision that will have positive and far-reaching implications,” Dr. Pedraja said.

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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Applications welcome for Ronald J. Denault Memorial Law Enforcement Scholarship

CHARLTON — A \$1,000 scholarship, honoring the memory of Ronald J. Denault, highly respected police officer at both the state and local levels, will be awarded again this June to a student in the Class of 2021.

To be eligible for consideration for this award, a student must be a Charlton resident who is planning to further his/her education in pursuit of a career in law enforcement or criminal justice.

Applicants may be graduating from a public or private high school or from a home-schooling program which has been approved formally by the School Committee. Ideally, applicants will show evidence of scholarship, leadership, and community service.

Interested persons should complete and submit an application packet no later than April 30. The application packet will include the following: an application

form; a one-page essay summarizing why the applicant is interested in a career in law enforcement; two letters of reference; and documentation of academic scholarship. Details regarding all requirements will be included with the application form. Application forms can be obtained at the public library, at the police station, or through the guidance office at either Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School or Shepherd Hill Regional

High School. To obtain an application via email or to answer any further questions, please contact Dr. Linda Denault, who can be reached at 508-248-7711 or via email at ledenault@aol.com.

Completed application packets should be mailed to the Ronald J. Denault Memorial Law Enforcement Scholarship Committee, c/o P.O. Box 352, Charlton City, MA 01508.

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State moves toward Phase 4 of reopening plan

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – With COVID-19 numbers going down and vaccinations on the rise, the state is progressing with its reopening plan.

On March 1, the state advanced to the second step in Phase 3 of the reopening plan. Over the last month, Massachusetts has seen reductions in average daily COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations.

“With public health metrics continuing to trend in a positive direction – and vaccination rates continuing to increase – the administration is taking steps to continue to reopen the Commonwealth’s economy,” said Gov. Charlie Baker.

The progression to the second step of Phase 3 marks the first time the state has reached that level since the fall of 2020. In response to an increase in new COVID-19 infections and hospitaliza-

tions following the Thanksgiving holiday, the Commonwealth reverted back to a previous level.

But now, with more residents getting vaccinated each day, officials are confident that the reopening plan will be successful this time.

As part of the latest guidance, all indoor performance venues can now reopen at 50 percent capacity, with no more than 500 guests. These include concert halls, theaters, and performance spaces. Indoor recreational activities (laser tag, roller skating, trampolines, obstacle courses) will also be allowed to reopen at 50 percent capacity.

Additionally, restaurants will no longer have a capacity limit and will be permitted to host musical performances. The six-foot social distancing rule, as well as the cap of six people per table, will remain in place.

“Residents must continue to wear masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and are encouraged to avoid contact

outside of their immediate households,” Baker said. “The travel advisory and other public health orders remain in effect.”

If statistics continue to trend positively, the state plans to transition to Phase 4 of reopening on March 22.

“This will open a range of previously closed business sectors under tight capacity restrictions that are expected to be adjusted over time if favorable trends in the public health data continue,” Baker said.

The following Phase 4 industries will be permitted to operate at a 12 percent capacity limit after submitting a plan to the Department of Public Health:

- Indoor and outdoor stadiums
- Arenas
- Ballparks

Also effective on March 22, gathering limits for event venues and public settings will increase to 100 people indoors and 150 people outdoors. Gatherings at private residences and in private back-

yards will remain at a maximum of 25 people, with indoor house gatherings remaining at 10 people.

Additionally, dance floors will be permitted at weddings, and overnight summer camps will be allowed to operate this summer. Exhibition and convention halls may also begin to operate, following gathering limits and event protocols.

The Baker Administration also announced more than \$49 million in grant awards to 1,108 additional small businesses. The funding comes as part of the eighth round of COVID-19 relief grants administered by the Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation (MGCC).

To date, the Baker Administration has awarded more than \$563 million in financial support to 12,320 businesses impacted by the pandemic. More than half of grantees are restaurants, bars, caterers, operators of personal services, and independent retailers.

QCC’s Dental Assisting Program highlighted during Dental Assistant Recognition Week

WORCESTER — During the week of March 7, the American Dental Assistants Association (ADAA) will recognize the invaluable contributions these healthcare workers make to quality dental care through Dental Assistant Recognition Week,™ held each year on the first full week on March.

Quinsigamond Community College’s Dental Assisting Certificate program has become an important part of the education landscape in Massachusetts and dental assistants who graduate from the College are making important contributions to the region.

“We are continually getting calls from dentists in the

area looking for quality assistants,” said Professor of Dental Assisting/Hygiene, Jennifer McKeon. “This demonstrates the value that is placed on graduates from QCC’s program.”

As the only program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation in Worcester, students who come from QCC’s program often have job offers before they graduate, according to Ms. McKeon.

“Our students can take their Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) exam in the last few weeks of the program so they are credentialed with Dental Assisting National Board and are a certified dental assistant when they graduate,” she

added.

The one-year Dental Assisting Certificate program prepares graduates to perform a wide range of patient care duties in the dental office that includes hands-on education in digital radiography, as well as taking part in the College’s state-of-the-art dental materials lab. Lab equipment such as CAD/CAM technology; digital cameras, a milling machine that can make crowns; a high-tech scanner; staining unit and oven, and other cutting-edge dental equipment help students become proficient on equipment they might one day work within a dental office.

Students also have the oppor-

tunity to experience different avenues of dentistry while in the program, by being placed in different offices, such as an oral surgeon’s office and an orthodontist’s office.

Additionally, students who complete the program will be prepared to continue their studies at the Associate’s degree level in such disciplines as allied dental services or dental hygiene.

“We have a bridge program that allows two students every year from the dental assisting program to bridge into the dental hygiene program and bypass the waitlist. Student must have all the admission requirements for the dental

hygiene program to qualify to bypass the waitlist,” Ms. McKeon said.

According to the state’s Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, the number of Massachusetts dental assistant jobs is projected to grow by 12.5 percent over a 10-year period ending in 2022.

To learn more, 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.



BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – March roared in like a lion last week, pummeling the region with damaging winds.

At the height of the March 1 & 2 windstorm, thousands of customers throughout the area were without power. Spencer was especially hard hit, with widespread outages causing schools to be closed and the emergency shelter at Knox Trail Middle School to open on March 2.

Wind gusts topped 60 miles per hour along the Route 9 corridor, combined with temperatures that didn’t exceed the twenties. For many residents, early March felt more like January.

“There were several outages all over town, but especially in the southern part of town,” said Spencer Fire Chief Robert Parsons.

Leicester emergency management

Photo Courtesy

Power lines were down throughout the area during the March 1-2 windstorm, causing thousands of outages.

officials nearly activated their shelter as well, but crews were able to clear most roads in a timely fashion.

“The Highway Department was quick to react to several trees blocking streets, as well as National Grid to shut off power where we had trees on live wires,” said Leicester Police Chief Ken Antanavica. “Once the Highway Department cleared the trees, they restored the power in short order. All in all, the town fared pretty well, except for some tree-related property damage to private homes in the area.”

By the end of the day on March 2, most Spencer and Leicester customers had the lights back on. Other area towns also saw significant wind damage, including downed power lines, damaged vehicles, and minor structural damage to homes.

In Brimfield, Dunhamtown Palmer Road was closed for several hours due to wires strewn across the road. Sturbridge residents contended with the extended closure of Holland Road, and major tree damage was also reported on Woodlawn Drive.

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OPINION

VIEWS AND COMMENTARY FROM CHARLTON, CHARLTON CITY, CHARLTON DEPOT AND BEYOND

Resilience is key to meeting financial goals

You can demonstrate this resilience by answering these questions: What is your specific goal? What obstacle do you face in achieving this goal? How can you overcome this obstacle?

Here are some examples of how this resiliency process works:



FINANCIAL
FOCUS

JEFF
BURDICK

unexpectedly large medical bill or you need to replace your furnace or get a new car? If you don't have the money readily available, you might be forced to dip into your IRA and 401(k), incurring taxes and potential penalties and leaving yourself fewer resources for retirement. You can help avoid this setback by creating an emergency fund containing three to six months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account.

Goal: Having confidence in your strategy To achieve your important financial goals, you need a strategy – and you need to believe in it strongly enough to keep following it during all types of stress on the financial markets. It's not always easy to maintain this conviction – less than half of Americans are confident in their abilities to recover quickly from difficult financial situations, according to a new survey from Edward Jones. One way to help gain this confidence is by working with a financial advisor.

In fact, 36 percent of those surveyed began working with a financial advisor in 2020 for help navigating the past year. The importance of receiving good advice became apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic, which brought about a variety of financial worries, such as job loss, retirement considerations, caregiving for elderly parents or providing financial support to adult children.

You will face some challenges on your journey toward achieving your financial objectives. But by being resilient, you can stay on the right road.

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

Easter Service



BEYOND
THE PEWS

REV. JOHN H.D.
LUCY

Trying to open our churches for Easter worship this year is a realistic goal. Some churches already have been open for worship with strict precautions, others less so, while still others are considering a re-opening plan for or around Easter Sunday on April 4. Perhaps those plans involve opening only for those doubly vaccinated but it would still be a victory for those who have been patient.

Either way, whether your church is open for in-person worship or not, this year will again be a Holy Week and Easter distinctly abnormal. We can lambast government overreach, the policies and restrictions, etc. if we want to, or we can choose to still make Easter as meaningful as possible.

To that end, let me remind you that the reason we call what we do on Sunday mornings a worship "service" is because we are doing God and neighbor a service by worshipping. Giving God glory is one way we respond to and return the love God has shown us and encourage the spiritual growth of any brother or sister who does not yet know God's infinite mercies. If your church's Easter worship services are not in-person or are otherwise disappointing contrasted to normal, perhaps it would be worthwhile considering how else we could do God and neighbor a service. How else can we respond to and return to God the love He has shown us?

This year, the young adults of Charlton City UMC have decided to start collecting items to put together care packages for persons who are homeless. We already minister to those without shelter but, since we would normally offer greater support if we were pandemic-free, our young adults have hit upon a creative way to still serve God and neighbor.

I don't mean to pat ourselves on the back (well, okay, maybe I do a little bit) but rather to suggest that we can easily channel our frustrations over worship services during the pandemic towards other, equally valuable services to God. Indeed, some may argue that channeling our services to God into ministries for those who are struggling—"the least of these," as Jesus might say—is more valuable than fighting tooth and nail merely to re-open a sanctuary. I don't mean to downplay our concern over re-opening for worship services, either, but merely offer this as an Easter suggestion:

How might we use the time, energy, and frustration we'd otherwise put into an in-person worship service to instead serve God through a new ministry project, so that all of us, including those without a church home, those who are struggling or out on the street, might experience the resurrection together?

Here comes the sun, and we say it's all right

After a long (but, we think, mild) winter, warmer, longer days are finally here. As the official first day of spring nears on March 20, we're noticing people have more of a pep in their step. A refreshing sight given the year 2020 delivered.

While each season has its own perks, there is something about spring that seems to surprise us each year. We re-acquaint ourselves with our yards as they slowly reveal themselves as the snowbanks melt away. Muddy grass has never been a kinder sight.

Over the past few weeks, the common chatter has been about baseball, spring-time fitness goals, gardening, hiking, you know the usual. This week we reminisced about old April Fool's Day pranks in the office. Tacks on seats, the soda bottle filled with water sitting on top of a door waiting to be opened in order to drench an unsuspecting individual, saran wrapped cars, fake lottery winnings, fake wedding proposals and lost wedding rings, to name a few. Stunts to make Larry, Moe and Curly proud.

With spring comes "spring fever." In modern times this is a semi-positive term, however back in colonial times, "spring fever" referred to the poor quality of health everyone was in, after sustaining a winter without fresh vegetables and proper diet. Today's "spring fever" will have children restless, new romances transpire and people attacking their homes with dust cloths and Windex.

Experts say the changes that a person goes through during the springtime are due to hormonal changes in the body. During the winter months, the body secretes a large amount of melatonin, (the sleep hormone). The presence of more sunlight in spring sends the body a message to stop producing as much melatonin. This causes folks to be more awake. Add this to the uptick in your serotonin levels due to the sunlight and you will not only be awake but enthusiastic.

Interesting to note is that during the springtime the body becomes more susceptible to illnesses. Way back when, scurvy outbreaks always occurred during this time of year as did rubella and measles. Doctors note that in spring, gout, a condition that affects joints, peaks in individuals. Because there are more allergens in the air, you will see more cases of rosacea and other skin irritations on the rise.

We encourage everyone to spend as much time outdoors this spring, including the days leading up to its official start. Get back to basics, back to nature, keep things simple and pick up an old hobby you have abandoned but have been meaning to reconnect with, life is meant to be fun.

Goal: Building sufficient retirement funds To build sufficient retirement income, you need to invest in the financial markets through your 401(k), IRA and other accounts. But how should you respond when these markets go through periods of volatility? Your best defense is to remain invested. If you were to jump out of the market every time it dropped, you'd probably miss out on the rebounds that followed. Also, over a period of decades, the effects of short-term market fluctuations tend to diminish, so while the results of any particular day or week may not look good on your investment statement, the importance of these results may diminish in 10 or 20 years.

Goal: Maintaining steady cash flow Keeping a steady cash flow is essential to meeting your daily and monthly expenses. So, it's obviously important that you maintain sufficient earned income. But what happens if you encounter a serious illness or injury that keeps you from work for an extended period? Depending on the length of time you're not working, you could feel a real financial pinch, so you may want to consider some type of disability insurance. Your employer may offer a short-term policy as an employee benefit, but it might not be sufficient, so you may need to look at private coverage.

Goal: Keeping retirement accounts intact Ideally, you'd like to leave your IRA, 401(k) and other accounts intact until you need to start tapping into them when you retire. But what if you face an

LETTERS

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We don't have a set limit, but if you keep it around 600 words or so, you're going to have a better chance at seeing all your words in print.

If you want to write a bit longer about a particular issue, maybe a guest Your Turn column is your cup of tea. If you do that, try to keep it between 700-800 words.

Remember, libelous remarks and/or personal attacks are a no-no and could lead to your letter not being published.

So, what are you waiting for? Start writing!

Disappointment? Join the club

So, I get an email last night from a reader of this column ...

"You always write about optimism, now that you have cancer, what do you think?"

What do I think?

Let me begin with this ... If you want to avoid disappointment, don't do anything. Do not try to live your dreams. Stop reaching for the stars. Never build a business or try to compete. Don't apply for the promotion. Refuse to take a risk. Don't try to beat cancer. And above all ... never fall in love. If you want to avoid disappointment, it's easy, just be the anti-Nike and Just 'Don't' Do It.' Problem solved, right? Not hardly ...

The best of life is available for those who go for it.

The rewards of life go to those who risk, and when you risk, you will often be disappointed. I've suffered more emotionally crushing moments in my life than I can recount. It's all part of the game. You win some, you lose some and some are rained out. Some disappointments are minor, and you move on quickly, while some stay with you for an exceptionally long time. So yes, I've suffered great disappointment, while also enjoying great success. You can't have one without the other.

By coincidence, previously, on a day where I got the call from another read-

er about disappointment, I personally suffered a major disappointment.

About an hour before the call, I suffered a business setback that was stunning. It was something I didn't expect, and the disappointment lingered for an exceptionally long time. I was pursuing an opportunity that I was convinced was a sure thing, and had been working on it for months. I felt assured by the client that they were eager to take advantage of my proposal. It was a great program, and there was every reason that the group I was courting should have said yes. When I was told no, it was like a punch to my gut. I was given no reason for the refusal other than "we just think we'll pass at this time." When I came home from the meeting with my tail between my legs, my wife consoled me for a few minutes then said, "Get on the tractor and mow the grass" ... and I did.

The grass doesn't stop growing because I'm disappointed.

Life goes on. I had to pick myself up off the floor, get on the tractor and get cutting, and for me, the tractor is a great place to plan (or plant) my next move.

So, you are disappointed? Join the



POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

GARY W.
MOORE

club. You are not alone. You were laid off from your company or your spouse left you. Your team didn't win the big game and your diet isn't working as fast as you'd like. Your son or daughter was cut from the team or didn't get into the college you'd hoped. There

are different levels of disappointments and different people feel them to different degrees. But the fact is that we all suffer disappointment, but here's the key ...

It's not important that you were knocked down. All that matters is that you get back up again.

It is all a matter of personal resilience. As my dad always said to me, "You gotta keep on keepin' on." So, I was deeply disappointed that morning. At 11:20 a.m., I felt like I was punched hard by a friend, but by 3 p.m. the same day, I was planning my next move. The pain of the morning was eclipsed by the optimism of the afternoon. I was still hurt and disappointed, but I made a choice to leave my unfulfilled dream of the morning behind and embrace the future of my next idea. I made the choice to move on.

Always fish with more than one pole. The more baited hooks you have in

the water at one time, the more chances you have of landing the big fish. Be creative. Have more than one idea, project, or proposal. Pursue more than one job. Apply to multiple schools. Never rely on a single outcome and never allow the disappointment of one day, stop you from taking a chance on the next. Keep going. Keep trying and never give up.

There are only two things you can control in life ...

So back to the reader question. Having cancer has not changed my attitude or optimism. I'm focused on living a happy and optimistic life. I believe I can beat this cancer and am working to do so.

You can't control the weather ... or how others feel about you ... or the decisions others make that influence your future. You can control your attitude and your attitude will drive how you respond to the inevitable disappointments ... and you can also control your effort. Be optimistic and work hard. Next time you won't be disappointed.

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.

Memories of fishing with Mel



THE GREAT
OUTDOORS

RALPH
TRUE

The month of March will hopefully bring us some continued warm weather like we are experiencing this week. Mass. Fish & Wildlife will be stocking more than 500,000 trout in waters throughout the state starting any day now. More than 75 percent will be over 12 inches long. Ice conditions will become extremely dangerous in the days and weeks ahead, until total ice out. Most ponds and lakes rarely receive an allotment of trout before ice out, but if the waters are suitable for stocking, and the PH is correct, they could still receive trout.

This week's two pictures of largemouth bass caught in local waters last week are a good indicator that there are plenty of big bass out there for this year's fishing, by diehard bass anglers. Catching largemouth bass and smallmouth bass in New England, provide some exciting fishing for anglers with bass boats during derbies, or just fishing with friends and family. Although I am not a big freshwater bass fishing angler like I was in my younger years, I still

enjoy the excitement of landing a large bass on a flyrod, or other light fishing tackle. I have been told by numerous anglers that freshwater bass fish, that the colder New England waters provide a longer fight from the bass, than in the warmer waters of Florida and other Southern states.

In my younger years, I fished Meadow Pond and Arcade Pond in Whitinsville for many species of freshwater fish. Our dad often took my brother Mel & me fishing on Meadow pond in a 12-foot rowboat at least once a week. The boat was kept in a portion of the pond called Kanes Cove. The Kane family lived right on the water just off of Border Street, and was accessible to anyone that wanted to go fishing. The boat was moored out from the shoreline approximately 150 feet, and our dad kept a throwline and a block of wood to retrieve the boat when we wanted to go fishing.

My brother Mel and I sat in the back of the boat trolling a double spinner and worm combination, as our dad slowly rowed the boat. I can remember my brother Mel shouting to my dad to stop the boat, as he was stuck on the bottom! Suddenly, a huge bass broke the water, and the fight was on. Back then a steel rod and a level wind reel loaded with a Dacron fishing line, was all that we had for fishing



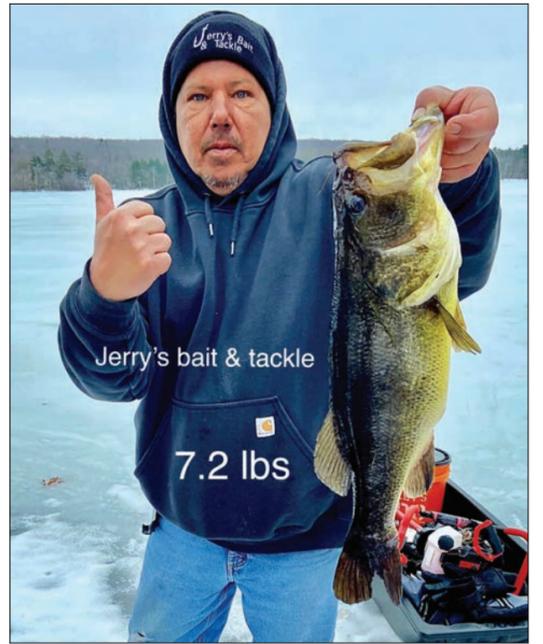
Mike Daniels with a six-pound largemouth bass caught last Saturday in local waters. Nice fish!

gear. Landing the fish took some time, but he did manage to land the fish. That was the start of my brother's fascination with fishing, and he became hooked on fishing big time, even more so through his adult life.

Meadow Pond and the Arcade Pond also offered some great Calico Bass (crappie) fishing, using a fly rod and a Micky Finn streamer fly. A bridge on the Meadow Pond Road (Main Street) was removed a number of

years ago, but was a great place to fish for crappie. The water was crystal clear back in the day, and you could watch the crappie chasing the fly as it was retrieved just under the surface of the water. I can remember bringing home a stringer of them for my dad to clean & make a great fish chowder. Oftentimes, we caught yellow perch and bluegills to add to the pot. I sure do miss his fish chowder!

This past weekend, this writer was informed



Jim Nickelson with a huge seven pound, two ounce largemouth bass, also caught last weekend while ice fishing local waters.

by a local sportsman, about a deer that had fallen through the ice in the West River. He was drawn to the deer carcass by a large Bald Eagle that was feeding on the deer. Sightings of Bald Eagles are at an all-time high throughout the state, and in the valley area. The informant tried to get a picture of the Eagle, but it left the area before he got ready to snap the photo. I am sure he will be back to dine on the deer carcass in the coming days and weeks. Maybe he will get

another chance to snap a photo!

March is the month for the Saltwater Fishing Show in Providence, R.I., but because of Covid, this year's show has been canceled, as were most other Fishing & Sportsmen's shows. Looking over the latest in fishing equipment, meeting old friends, and telling big lies about all of our fish we caught last year has been put on hold. Just wait until next year!

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

Antique reproductions and fakes



ANTIQUES,
COLLECTIBLES
& ESTATES

WAYNE TUISKULA

Antiques have been copied for years. For example, in 1876, the Centennial Exposition took place in Philadelphia. Americans were interested in their history and cabinet makers produced many quality reproductions of pieces from the previous century. Often, the goal with reproductions is to create copies of furniture or other antiques for people who couldn't afford to pay what

an original would cost. Other times though, the goal is to deceive an unsuspecting buyer.

When I started selling antiques over 30 years ago, a friend informed me that he was running a golf auction. I was new at the antique business and bought some cast iron doorstops of a man and woman golfer that I thought would be a good fit. My friend who was running the auction informed me that the doorstops were reproductions. Someone had artificially aged them by exposing them to weather and hitting them with chains. Even when accurately described as reproductions in his golf auction catalog, the pair sold for well over \$200 and I was able to make a small profit, despite my mistake.

Around 15 years ago, I was helping a friend set up his booth at the Brimfield Antique Show. We finished early that night and walked around to see what other dealers were offering for sale. My friend specialized in antique furniture and saw a barrister's bookcase that was reasonably priced. Barrister's (or stacking) bookcases are rectangular sections that fit on top of each other. The glass fronts lift upward and slide inward at the top. When my friend examined the bookcase more closely, he found a "Made in Malaysia" sticker in the back.

Around the same time, we auctioned a great collection of Tiffany Studios desk accessories for a client who had collected them for many years. Fortunately, the collector sold the collection when they did. Many copies have been made in Asia since we sold the collection. The flood of reproductions has caused the price of originals to drop considerably.

There are so many reproductions that it may be easier to list antiques that haven't been reproduced than things that have. A search of Wayfair's Web site of antique reproductions lists: telephones, tea sets, telescopes, bottle openers, scrimshaw boxes, toilet paper holders, statues, and furniture. There are hundreds more. I should point out that they are doing nothing illegal or unethical by selling these. They are merely offering decorative pieces to people who want them.



On the other hand, U.S. Customs seized 36 fake guitars that were shipped from China, according to a February NBC Washington report. Many of the guitars were Gibson Les Paul copies. A Gibson Ace Frehley had a suggested retail value of \$9,000. The total suggested retail value for all the guitars was \$158,692. Guitar.com reported that the bogus guitars were en route to buyers in 21 states and Australia.

If you are a collector, here are some things that you can do to make sure you are buying legitimate pieces. Buy from a reputable dealer. Learn as much

about the items you collect. Before I became a full-time auctioneer, I spent a lot of free time in local antique shops. If I saw the same item in multiple shops I looked closely and found it was typically either a reproduction or a recent warehouse find. Sometimes, it can be obvious that what you are looking at is a reproduction. If you see "copy of," reproduction," or a modern "Made in China" label on a piece, you don't have to look any further.

We will soon auction another group of antique, vintage, and contemporary model trains, die-cast cars, and other

toys online. We also picked up a large collection of sports and non-sports cards that will be sold by online auction. We are also still accepting quality consignments of valuable items like jewelry, coins, art, and better collectibles for our May multi-estate auction. See our website for details: <https://centralmassauctions.com>

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Spring has (Almost) Sprung: Ode to the Botanical Signs of Spring

New Englanders have long searched for signs of spring after a long, cold winter, and few promises of warm weather are more welcome than the annual arrival of early spring buds. From fuzzy pussy willows to blazing golden forsythia, nature ushers in the season with an abundance of color, texture and beauty that has inspired artist and poets for centuries. Such common “backyard blooms” are simple pleasures that evoke sentiment from both novice and experienced gardeners. Plentiful and easy to grow, these nostalgic perennials are gaining a new appreciation for the simple beauty the early spring blooms bring to the landscape.

Forsythia: As March arrives, so does Forsythia. Bursts of yellow blooms along country roads and splashes of gold color in New England yards bring a welcome change to the dreary winter landscape. Forsythia bushes are a mainstay of the Northeast, and these beloved flowers never cease to impress. While Forsythia is in bloom for only about two weeks, its early presence is so appreciated that it remains a popular plant, with its leafy shrub providing privacy throughout the rest of the growing season.

Arguably, the Forsythia signals the arrival of spring more than any other botanical cue. Named after the English horticulturist William Forsythe (1737-1804), the flowering plant is hailed for its hardiness and fast growth. The yellow bloomer, which is a member of the olive family, is native to China and Southeastern Europe.

Forsythia Folklore: Since it's not uncommon for snow to fly after the Forsythia has bloomed, it's not surprising the early spring plant has earned its way into American garden folklore.

“Three snows after the Forsythia blooms” was an oft repeated phrase by farmers of yore. The old weather forecasting method reminds us that although the blazing yellow Forsythia may be in full bloom, the New England

winter is not yet over. Forsythia, with its bright golden flowers and ability to thrive (and survive) harsh weather conditions, has been hailed and celebrated throughout the years. The Forsythia boasts several namesake festivals and celebrations held annually throughout the country; the most prominent Forsythia Festival held each year the second weekend in March in Forsyth Georgia.

Rooting Forsythia: Forsythia is easy to propagate. In fact, many gardeners report good results by simply cutting a branch on a slant and inserting the fresh cut end into a few inches of prepared soil.

Another option is to place fresh cutting into water to root. Leave in a cool, dark area until roots form. Once roots grow, plant outside in well watered soil.

Pussy Willows: Native to the Northeast, the tiny, furry grey buds of the pussy willow plant have long served as a welcome sign of spring. Long stalks of branches bearing “kitten toes” spring up in wetlands across New England, to be plucked and displayed in vases as a reminder warmer weather is on its way. A childhood favorite, the velvety grey buds are a sentimental reminder of a simpler time, when the sprigs of willows discovered in the woods, or along a pond's edge proved an unexpected, yet delightful find. The simple form of the pussy willow continues to amaze today, as artists both past and present have replicated the lofty twigs in oils and ink, and naturalists gather the catkins to create long lasting bouquets.

Pussy willows do more than decorate a dismal wintry landscape, as they are very beneficial to wildlife. Wild birds, particularly cardinals and finches, consume the flower buds, and densely growing pussy willow shrubs offer nest-



TAKE THE HINT
KAREN TRAINOR

ing and shelter for a variety of native birds. Bees rely on the early season blooms of the pussy willow for pollen, and some species of butterfly larvae feed on the pussy willow's leaves.

Deer, beaver, grouse and squirrels all include willow in their diets, and the leaves of the pussy willow provide much needed vitamins and nutrients including hefty doses of Vitamin C and zinc.

Pussy Willow Folklore: As adorable as it is unusual, it's not surprising the fuzzy pussy willow has a place in folklore. According to an old Polish tale, a litter of kittens had been chasing butterflies at the river's edge and one by one fell into the moving waters. The mother cat, unable to save her kittens began crying out. The willow trees, located on the banks of the river swept their long branches into the water - to which the kittens clung on tightly and were rescued. Legend has it that is why each spring the willow branches sprout grey furry buds - a reminder of where the little kitten's paws grasped onto the twigs.

Another Polish legend isn't quite so “warm and fuzzy” but nonetheless has earned pussy willows a place in Ukraine tradition. It is said just before Easter, families go into the woods to pick pussy willows with the intention of beating out the long cold winter. Reciting a childhood rhyme family members playfully strike each other with the long, pussy willow branches, an act which symbolizes the strength to break away from the winter season to welcome spring and new beginnings.

Propagating Pussy Willows: Pussy willows are moisture loving plants can be found wild along wetlands. The plant is a favorite remedy to remedy poor drainage areas and are useful for controlling soil erosion. Their tall branches are also used for privacy or borders,

but most people enjoy the pleasures of pussy willow in bloom simply to display as a centerpiece.

Propagating pussy willows is not difficult and usually results in success. An easy way to plant pussy willows in the spring season is simply to cut a foot long branch of new growth and insert it into moist soil. Sink it into the ground at least three inches and allow a few nodes to remain above ground. With luck, roots will form within a couple of weeks. The trick is to make sure the cutting is from a male pussy willow (males change color and are often larger; female branches remain dull and grey). Keep in mind that roots are aggressive so be sure to plant them away from anything you do not want them to invade such as sewer systems, etc.

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 renowned restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I'm in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I'm counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

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

TCA, St. John Paul II Parish hosting virtual auction

SOUTHBIDGE – Trinity Catholic Academy and St. John Paul II Parish have joined together for a “Virtual Auction of Faith, Trust and Pixie Dust” that will run through bidding closure on March 13 at 8 p.m.

All items are available for viewing and bidding from the comfort and safety of your home at biddingowl.com. Auction items include many beautifully created themed baskets, each of different contents and value, a Lottery Tree, gift cards

from local businesses, and a special item — a “Magical Memories” trip valued at \$1,200. For additional details, call Melissa Cournoyer, Co-Chairperson of the virtual auction, at 1-508-365-8209 or FaithTrustDust21@gmail.com.

Pick up for winners of the auction will be between 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on March 20 and 21 by the driveway ramp entrance of the La Salle Reception Center, 444 Main St., Southbridge.

URI students named to Dean's List

KINGSTON, R.I. — The University of Rhode Island is pleased to announce the Fall 2020 Dean's List. The students represent nearly all of Rhode Island's cities and towns, all six New England states, New York and New Jersey, and many other states and countries. The following students were named to Dean's List:

- Julia Cierpich of Charlton
- Charlotte Doubleday of Uxbridge
- Elena Franzosa of Uxbridge
- Jenny Frick of Uxbridge
- Emma Kraich of Uxbridge
- Alex Matkowski of Uxbridge
- Rachel McGee of Uxbridge
- Sarah McGee of Uxbridge
- Taylor Perry of Uxbridge
- Mina Roufail of Charlton
- Julia Vanelli of Uxbridge
- Eric Vario of Uxbridge

To be included on the Dean's List, full-time students must have completed 12 or more credits for letter grades during a semester and achieved at least a 3.30 quality point average. Part-

time students qualify with the accumulation of 12 or more credits for letter grades earning at least a 3.30 quality point average.

As a public Land Grant University in a highly competitive region in the United States, URI carefully monitors and manages its tuition and fee rates to remain one of the most affordable universities in the Northeast for both in-state and out-of-state students. An estimated 90% of undergraduate students receive annual financial aid and institutional support

The University's total fall 2020 enrollment of 17,649 students comprises 15,393 full- and part-time undergraduate students, including 748 pharmacy six-year professional practice, and 2,256 full- and part-time graduate students. About 52% of the total student body is from Rhode Island and 48% are from out of state or foreign countries. The student body includes students from 48 U.S. states and territories, and 67 nations.

The University of Rhode Island's pioneering research in ocean, environmental and health sciences extends the University's influence well beyond its coastal borders, while its interdisciplinary courses provide students with unique opportunities and experiences.

Over the last ten years, the University has completed more than \$710 million in capital projects, including new construction, and renovation and rehabilitation of existing buildings across its four campuses. The University's campus locations, include the main campus, located on 1,248 acres in rural Kingston, the Graduate School of Oceanography, located on 165 acres on Narragansett Bay, the W. Alton Jones Campus in West Greenwich, a 1,200-acre nature preserve, the Alan Shawn Feinstein College of Education and Professional Studies and the Rhode Island Nursing Education Center, both in the capital city of Providence, R.I.

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WEBSTER – 31 Park Street! 3 Family! 6/6/6 Rooms! 3/3/3 Bedrooms! 1/1/1 Bathrooms! Each Unit is nearly 1,300' Featuring Spacious Kitchens, Living Rooms & Frplcd Liv Rm, 1.5 Baths! 2nd Flr w/3 Good Size Bedrooms! Remodeled 10 Yrs Ago! Updated Electric! Tile Flrs Throughout! LPGas Heat & Hot Electric Heat! **\$284,900.00**

WEBSTER – 44 Sunny Ave! Sought After Neighborhood! 7 Room 1,632' Colonial! 1st Flr Features Open Flr Plan, Kit w/IsL, Din Area, Fam Rm, Frplcd Liv Rm, 1.5 Baths! 2nd Flr w/3 Bedrooms & Bathrm! 2.5 Baths Total! Tile Flrs Throughout! LPGas Heat & Hot Water! Town Services! **\$289,900.00**



WEBSTER – 69 Minebrook Rd! Conveniently Located 7 Rm Split Entry! 1.04 Acre Lot! House set well off the Road for added Privacy! Open Floor Plan! Eat-in Applianced Kit w/Island & Seating, Tile Flr, Tile Backsplash & Ceiling Fan! Din Rm w/Hrwd Flrs & Slider to the Deck Overlooking the Private Backyard! Frplcd Liv Rm w/Hrwd Flrs! Ideal for Entertaining! Down the Hrwd Hall find a Full Bath w/Tile Flr & 3 Bdrms w/ Wall to Wall Carpeting! Master Bdrn w/2 Dble Closets, Ceiling Fan & Master Bath w/ Marble Tile Flr & Shower Surround! Hrwd Stairs, the Finished Lower Level Fam Rm w/Recessed Lighting, Stone & Tile Hearth w/Woodstove, 1/2 Bath w/Tile Flr, Laundry Rm w/Sink & Tile Flr, Utility Rm w/Storage! 2 Car Garage w/Electric Openers & Door to Backyard! Oil Heat! Steel "T" Beam Construction! Shed! Won't Last!! **\$349,900.00**

WEBSTER LAKE – 11 Henry Road! Bates Point - Middle Pond & Panoramic Views + Western Exposure = Beautiful Sunsets! Never 2 the Same! 3,184' 9 Room Fully Furnished Colonial Built from the Ground Up as a New Home in 2005! This Home Features 4 Bedrooms, 2 of which are Master Suites, 1 of which Overlooks the Lake, 4.5 Bathrooms, 2 of which have Separate Showers & Whirlpool Tubs, 3 of which have Double Granite Vanities, 2 Complete Granite/Stainless Kitchens! The First Floor Open Floor Plan with Hardwood Floors Features an Eat-in Kitchen with LP Gas Jenn-Air Range, Double Drawer Dishwasher & Trash Compactor! Spacious Formal Dining Room with Crown Moldings & Chair Rails! Lake Facing Great Room/Living Room with Gas Fireplace, Wet Bar with Bottle Cooler, Surround Sound & Slider to Composite Deck! Half Bath with Laundry Closet! The Second Floor with 4 Bedrooms! Comfortable Front 16x16 and Back 17x17 Masters with Tray Ceilings, Recessed Lighting, Ceiling Fans, Surround Sound & Full Tile/Granite Bathrooms! Full Hall Bath for the other 2 Bedrooms! Fully Finished Walk-out Lower Level with Full Summer Kitchen, Family Room with Gas Fireplace, Surround Sound, Slider to Paver Patio & Full Bath! Buderus 3 Zone Oil Heat! 3 Zone Air Conditioning! Central Vac! Security! 2 Car Heated Garage! Boat Dock! **\$1,099,900.00**

CHARLTON – 74 Daniels Road! Completely Renovated 9 Rm, 4 Bdrn, 2.5 Bath Gambrel w/Attached In-Law Apt! Picturesque 3.39 Acres! Deeded Water Rights to South Charlton Reservoir! Extensive Updates! House w/New Roof, Siding, Kit, Bthrms, Windows, Int Doors, Electrical, Flooring, R60 Insulation in Attic, Water Heater, Well Pump & More! In-Law w/Open Flr Plan, Kit, Bdrn w/Walk-in Closet, Full Bath w/Laundry! Both Fully Applianced! 2 New Driveways, Irrigation, AG Pool! Shed! Security! Generator Hookup! **\$489,900.00**



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Oxford - 4 Leicester St - Approx. 8.47 ACRES! River Frontage Possible to be Subdivided!
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WOODSTOCK - 33 DEER MEADOW LANE

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Beautiful 2,422 Sq Ft Colonial! 4 Bedroom! 3 Bath! Fireplace, 2 Car garage! So much more!
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DUDLEY - 22 ROBERTS ROAD

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WEBSTER - 20 KINGSBURY

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WEBSTER - 52 CUDWORTH ROAD

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Webster Lake - 100 Lakeside Ave

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WEBSTER LAKE! PANORAMIC VIEWS! BEAUTIFUL SUNSETS! Extraordinary Waterfront Contemporary! Architect designed with Lake Living in mind. Custom Built with Attention to High Quality & Detail. Outstanding open concept, water view from almost every room. Nicely situated on a .25 acre level peninsula, 180'+- prime lake frontage! Enhanced by a all natural shoreline! All you need to live is located on the 1st floor. Grand 2 story foyer, cozy fireplace living room, gourmet kitchen, lake facing dining / formal dining room, media room & spacious 1st floor guest BR Suite w/ private bath. Incredible 2nd floor fireplace lake-facing corner master suite w/luxurious private bath, 3 more 2nd floor BRs & full bath! Something Special! **Remember, Timing is Everything!**
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Lake Shirley - 647 Reservoir Rd

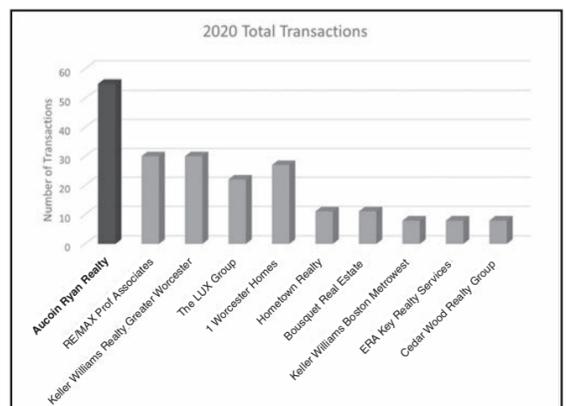
SORRY, SOLD!

Lakefront! Lake Shirley! Modern Flare on a Lakefront Colonial! 1st level Formal large entry foyer, living room, gas fireplace, chef kitchen, Impala black granite, center island, 3 season porch, overlooking the lake. 1st FL bedroom suite w/ shower and jacuzzi tub. 2nd floor Master Suite! Lower level Summer kitchen, full bath, game room. Crown moulding & hardwood floors throughout, wired sound system, radiant floors. oversize 2 car garage. Additional Guest House!
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	February 2020	February 2021	Trend
Median Price	\$217,000	\$322,250	▲
Market Volume	\$1,447,500	\$3,281,653	▲
# of Homes Sold	6	10	▲
Avg Days on Market	42	29	▼
Month Supply Inv.	.86	.34	▼

WEBSTER			
	February 2020	February 2021	Trend
Median Price	\$238,950	\$249,500	▲
Market Volume	\$2,025,300	\$3,598,500	▲
# of Homes Sold	8	11	▲
Avg Days on Market	57	34	▼
Month Supply Inv.	1.26	.39	▼

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Cornerstone Bank announces new Vice President, Mortgage Loan Officer

SOUTHBRIDGE—Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with 12 locations throughout central Massachusetts, has recently hired Jeffrey Moynihan for the position of Vice President, Mortgage Loan Officer. Moynihan has over 14 years of banking and mortgage experience and will help lead the team responsible for helping customers finance their homes.

“Jeffrey’s vast experience in the world of banking is what drew us to him,” said Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman. “He has experience in every area of retail banking, including as a teller and manager, before exclusively focusing on mortgages. This strong foundation will assist him in helping

our customers make their dreams of home ownership a reality.”

Moynihan, a resident of Norton, has a Bachelor’s degree in finance and economics from Southern New Hampshire University. Prior to joining Cornerstone Bank, he held positions as a Vice President of Mortgage Lending at a lending firm in Boston and a Sales Manager in the home loan department for a bank in Quincy.

“I am excited to begin the next chapter of my career,” said Moynihan. “My family values giving back to the community and so does Cornerstone Bank, making it a perfect fit. Life is not fulfilled if we cannot touch the lives of others in a positive way, and I hope

to do that through mortgage lending and charitable opportunities with the bank.”

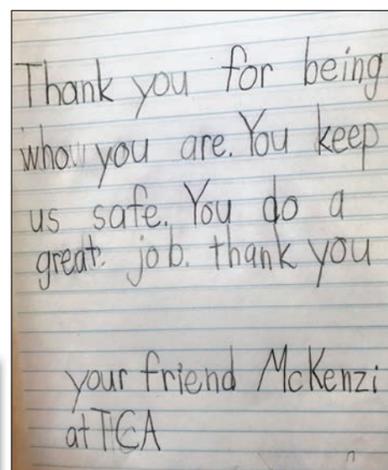
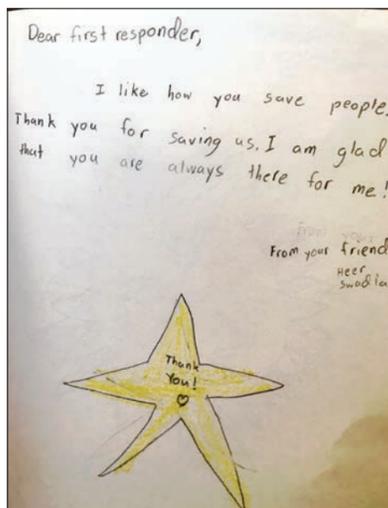
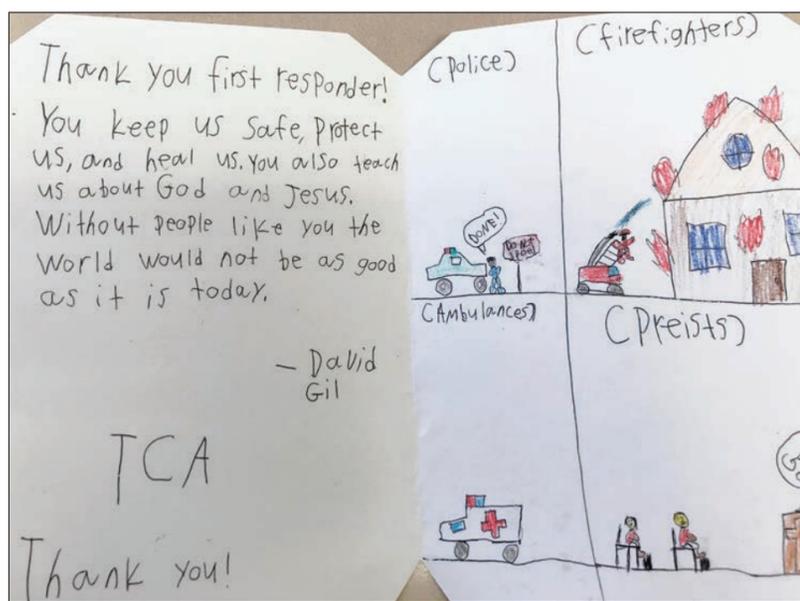
About Cornerstone Bank
Cornerstone Bank is an independent, mutual savings bank serving residents, businesses and communities throughout Central Massachusetts. Our customer promise, Built on Trust, is not just a brand, but also a corporate focus. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone Bank rests on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. Deposits are insured in full by a combination of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Depositors Insurance Fund. The Bank is an Equal Opportunity Employer, Equal



Jeffrey Moynihan

Housing Lender and SBA Preferred Lender. To learn about Cornerstone Bank’s personal and business banking offerings, please visit cornerstonebank.com or call 800-939-9103.

TCA STUDENTS SALUTE FIRST RESPONDERS



Photos Courtesy

TCA students have a place in their hearts for their community and those that protect them. Here are a few of the first responder thank you notes written by TCA students this past month, written by Heer Swadia, Grade 3; David Gil, Grade 4; Sofia Henao, Grade 4; and McKenzi Hamilton, Grade 2.

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Prayer to the Blessed Virgin
Most holy Virgin Immaculate, my Mother Mary, to thee who art the Mother of my Lord, the queen of the universe, the advocate, the hope, the refuge of sinners, I who am the most miserable of all sinners, have recourse this day. I venerate thee, great queen, and I thank thee for the many graces thou has bestowed upon me even unto this day; in particular for having delivered me from the hell which I have so often deserved by my sins. I love thee, most dear Lady; and for the love I bear thee, I promise to serve thee willingly forever and to do what I can to make thee loved by others also. I place in thee all my hopes for salvation; accept me as thy servant and shelter me under thy mantle, thou who art the Mother of mercy. And since thou art so powerful with God, deliver me from all temptations, or at least obtain for me the strength to overcome them until death. From thee I implore a true love for Jesus Christ. Through thee I hope to die a holy death. My dear Mother, by the love thou bearest to Almighty God, I pray thee to assist me always, but most of all at the last moment of my life. Forsake me not then, until thou shalt see me safe in heaven, there to bless thee and sing of thy mercies through all eternity. Such is my hope. Amen. N.F.L.

St. Jude's Novena
May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved, throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, help of the hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer 9 times a day. By the 8th day your prayer will be answered. Say it for 9 days. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank you St. Jude. N.F.L.

PRAYER TO THE ANGELS
Pray 9 Hail Mary's for 9 days, ask for 3 wishes, 1 involving business and 2 involving the impossible. On the 9th day publish the prayer and your wish will be answered even though you may not believe it. As promised. N.F.L.

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Designing a wildlife-friendly landscape



GARDEN
MOMENTS

MELINDA
MYERS

We love watching the bunnies hopping across the lawn or ground squirrels scurrying away with a cheek full of seeds. That is, until they dine on our favorite shrub or take just one bite out of each red ripe tomato in the garden. Finding a way to coexist is critical for wildlife struggling to survive and our enjoyment of nature and our landscapes.

As gardeners, we know that digging in the soil and tending a garden is good for our mind, body, and spirit. Researchers discovered the same is true when we take time to observe wildlife. Our need for a relationship with nature is also important to our wellbeing. It helps us feel more content and function more effectively.

But we love our gardens too. Implementing some design and management strategies can help us support and enjoy wildlife, care for our landscapes, and improve our quality of life.

By reducing the amount of edge habitat, where one type of habitat meets another, can allow us to support wildlife while reducing the risk of damage.

Create circular or square garden beds that have more interior space and less border space. Long linear beds with more edges and less interior space allows easier access for animals to dine.

Work with neighbors and your community to create large blocks and corridors of habitat. Providing them spaces, other than your gardens, with needed food and shelter can help you and the wildlife to coexist.

Protect key gardens and plants. Fencing is an option. Make sure your fence is high enough, tight to the ground, and the gates secure.

Repellents are a less obtrusive option. Select a product labeled for the animals and rodents you are trying to manage. For best results, apply repellents before the animals start feeding. Then reapply as recommended on the label. Look for one, like organic, bird- and pollinator-friendly Plantskydd(plantskydd.com), that is rain and snow resistant, requiring fewer repeat applications.

Work with nature to maintain a balance in your landscape. Invite hawks, owls, and fox to your backyard. Grow tall grasses and plants that provide cover for foxes. Include trees with good perches or install perch poles to attract and support raptors.

And like any landscape endeavor, start with a plan. Make a sketch of your existing landscape. Identify existing plants and wildlife-friendly habitats. Make note of both the natural habitats and any supplemental food, water, and shelter you provide. Review and



Photo Melinda Myers

Include habitat features in your garden and landscape that are needed to attract and sustain the wildlife you are trying to attract.

note various features in your landscape throughout the year.

Now decide what you want to accomplish in your landscape. What wildlife do you want to attract and have the space to support? Perhaps you want to attract more songbirds to your gardens or animals, like toads, that help manage pests in the garden.

Make sure your landscape provides the habitat features needed to attract and sustain these welcome residents. You will find lots of helpful resources on National Wildlife Federation, Audubon, Natural Resources Conservation Services, Department of Natural Resources, and University Extension websites.

Be patient and wait for a year to evaluate the results of your efforts. Then begin making any needed changes to

meet your goals.

Developing a landscape for you to enjoy and one that supports wildlife takes time, but as a gardener this is not only part of the process but an exciting adventure.

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



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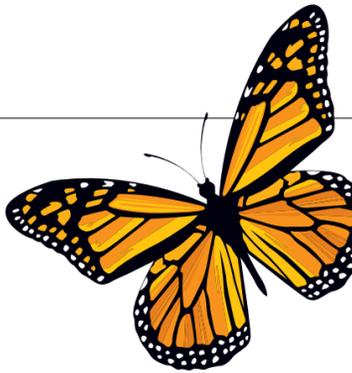
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