



TERRY BURKE DOTSON
 for State Representative
 7th Worcester District
 Auburn, Millbury, Charlton Prec. 4, Oxford Prec. 2, 3

INDEPENDENT
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Auburn Cultural Council seeks funding proposals

AUBURN — The Auburn Cultural Council (ACC) invites organizations, schools, and individuals to apply for grants that support cultural activities in the community. Interested parties are asked to submit proposals for community-oriented arts, humanities, and science program funding for 2021. Applications for funding went live on Thursday, Oct. 1. The submission deadline is Monday, Nov. 16.

Projects can support a variety of artistic projects and activities in Auburn and its surrounding towns – including exhibits, festivals, short-term artist residencies or performances, workshops, and lectures. Recipients are expected to adhere to the COVID guidelines present at the time of their program's completion.

According to ACC Secretary Diane Spanos, 2020 was a record year for the ACC, which awarded more than 25 grants totaling more than \$7,000. Unfortunately, with COVID, some programming was stalled, however, many recipients were able to move to virtual platforms and enriched the community during even these trying times.

The application as well as a list of guidelines and restrictions can be found at mass-culture.org/

Turn To **FUNDING** page **A14**



Courtesy

A WORTHY WALK

Unable to join the annual Out of the Darkness Walk from Institute Park in Worcester, which was canceled this year due to the COVID-19 outbreak, Team JAK-L, formed in honor of captain Laurie Boucher's daughter Julie, decided to hold a walk of its own in Charlton.

Hockey rinks put on ice

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
 STAFF WRITER

REGION – Local hockey players are hanging up the skates for a while, as recent COVID-19 clusters at rinks caused the game to be temporarily put on ice statewide.

Last week, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health issued a new order prohibiting indoor ice rinks and ice skating facilities from operating for two weeks. The order is in effect from Oct. 23 through Nov. 7.

"This order is in response to multiple COVID-19 clusters occurring at rinks throughout the state following games, practices, and tournaments," read a statement released by the state's

Department of Public Health. "Neighboring states, including New Hampshire, have enacted similar temporary restrictions regarding indoor ice hockey."

Statewide, there have been at least 30 clusters of COVID-19 associated with organized ice hockey activities, health officials said. The outbreaks have involved residents from more than 60 communities in Massachusetts. Each of these clusters includes two or more confirmed or probable COVID-19 cases, totaling 108 confirmed cases.

Health officials blame the outbreaks on the close proximity of hockey athletes, not only on the ice during games but also in cramped locker rooms. Mask use and

social distancing are supposed to be taking place at rinks statewide, but these guidelines are nearly impossible to enforce.

In the state's return-to-play framework released over the summer, ice hockey, football, and several other sports were designated as high-risk activities. Amendments to the guidelines allowed for practices and other activities to take place, but officials are worried about future outbreaks.

"This pause will allow for the development of stronger COVID-19 protocols to further protect players, families, coaches, arena staff, and other participants, as well as communities surrounding hockey rinks," read the Department of Public Health statement.

Current protocols include limitations on the number of people allowed in an arena, social distancing measures, locker room regulations, and other precautions. Health officials said additional measures will be needed to minimize the risk of future clusters, but they will only be effective if rink managers, coaches, parents, and athletes abide by them.

The Department of Public Health's current order includes all indoor ice rinks and ice skating facilities in Massachusetts. These rinks and facilities may not operate during this temporary two-week pause.

College and professional hockey programs are exempt from this order.

Elm Hill Water District implements drought restrictions

AUBURN—The Elm Hill Water District of Auburn has been notified by the City of Worcester of Stage 1 Water Restrictions because of drought conditions. These restrictions are in effect immediately. Elm Hill Water District is asking all of our customers to be cautious with their water usage. Please check for leaking faucets in your home and limit all outdoor water usage. Thank you for your consideration and conservation of our water.

Bay Path Director walks at Purgatory Chasm to raise money for AFSP

SUTTON — Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Director, Gretheline Bolandrina MSN Ed, RN, CRRN of Douglas, participated in the 2020 Out of the Darkness Experience, a walk joining

Massachusetts together for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP).

According to Michele Lee, Associate Area Director (MA) and Area Director (RI) for AFSP, "mental health and suicide prevention are now a top priority for many individuals, businesses, organizations, and communities. The AFSP is committed to offering resources, support, messages, and connection to everyone in need."

Bolandrina registered as captain for Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy team and raised \$350, 75 percent more than the initial fundraising goal of \$200. Bolandrina was joined by her children Jessica, Lilly, and Max for the walk at Purgatory Chasm, Oct. 18.

"It was a beautiful day to walk for a great cause," said Bolandrina, who said her main focus is to raise awareness for mental health and suicide prevention, but she added that she also

wants to raise funds for AFSP. "I've been checking in with the alumni and the PN Class of 2021. As much as possible, we share insight, ideas, I hear about some of their challenges and successes, we continue to learn from each other on how we are here for all."

Mental Health Awareness and Mental Health First Aid Training are ongoing advocacies at the practical nursing education community.

"We have not been able to host fundraisers in our communities, we need to abide by state and town guidelines so the reinvented Out of the Darkness Walk into the Out of the Darkness Experience works well," said Bolandrina.

"Together to Fight Suicide" was a special day to experience with family or small groups around local neighborhoods.

About AFSP
 The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention is a voluntary health organization



based in New York City, with a public policy office based in Washington, D.C., and local chapters in all 50 states in the United States. The organization's stated mission is to "save lives and bring hope to those affected by suicide." For more information, visit www.afsp.org.

About Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy: Bay Path Practical Nursing is a 40-week, (10-month), full-time, Monday through Friday, evening program. The program begins mid-August and is completed in late

June. Graduates receive a Practical Nursing Certificate and are eligible to take the NCLEX-PN licensure exam. For more information, visit www.baypath.net.



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Public Safety Building goes back to voters on Election Day

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – While Charlton voters will be a part of deciding who will be the next President of the United States on Election Day Tuesday, Nov. 3, they also have an important decision to make pertaining to their own community specifically as the latest proposal for the Charlton Public Safety Building goes to the polls.

Question 3 on the Charlton ballots will ask if voters want to support a debt exclusion for the amounts required to pay for the bonds issued for the construction and equipping of a new public safety building which were approved at a town meeting in 2019. Voters later decided against the funding mechanism in a ballot vote leading the Public Safety Building Committee to increase its public awareness initiative, reassess the project's costs and details and initiate a capital campaign to offset the projected \$28.5 million price tag. The building would be erected on property on Masonic Home Road and would serve as the new home to both the fire department and police department which are currently housed in aged facilities.

A public forum concerning the project was held on Wednesday, Oct. 21 where citizens had their final opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the project before taking to the polls. As previously reported, although the debt exclusion had previously failed at a ballot vote it was decided to put the item before voters again during the election where a larger sample of the population is expected to turn out. A debt exclusion would mean that the project is removed from the tax levy once the debt is paid off. Such a vote is required to pass to exempt the project from the limitations of Proposition 2 ½. Captain Rob Barton, who sits on the Public Safety Building Committee, broke down the current cost estimate during the forum including its expected impact on the average taxpayer throughout the life of the loan. "The projected cost was \$28.5 million.



A rendering of the exterior of the proposed Charlton Public Safety Building. Courtesy

The total debt exclusion to the taxpayer right now sits at \$26.8 million due to the fundraising committee," Captain Barton said. "The average home value in the town of Charlton is \$281,800. That equates to be the average homeowners tax bill will increase \$225 or a little bit more than \$50 per quarter."

The first increase to taxpayers wouldn't take effect until February of 2023. Assuming the debt exclusion question passes ground would be broken in 2021 and construction completed in 2022.

The capital campaign established to help offset the cost of the project has proven effective bringing in support from within and outside of the Charlton community. Noreen Johnson Smith, a co-chair of the Capital Campaign Steering Committee, detailed the donations that had been collected to date during the forum.

"We have been working really hard – As of today we have raised a total in hand of \$367,175 and a lot more pending as well. I happen to know of several gifts that are on their way in. We have a lot of interest in this, a lot of support from local business, and it doesn't have to just be funded through local businesses. Banks from the region have been contributing," Smith said.

If the project were to fail on Election Day, the donated money would be kept in an account to help cover the cost of any future proposal for the project. In addition, it was clarified during the forum that donations will continue to be accepted to offset the cost of the project meaning that by the time the town goes out to borrow money, which won't be for some time after the vote if it passes, the price tag to the taxpayers may decrease if an influx of financial contributions or even grant funding were to be acquired.

The forum extended for nearly three hours culminating in those close to the project answering questions provided to them prior to and during the meeting by voters and citizens. Charlton voters are encouraged to view the forum on the Town of Charlton Facebook page to learn more about the initiative. Details, floorplans, financial information and more have also been made available at www.charltonpublicsafetybuilding.com.

Auburn News

ACCURACY WATCH

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

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Bay State Savings Bank Charitable Foundation awards grants to local non-profits

WORCESTER — Bay State Savings Bank is proud to announce their recent disbursement of more than \$17,000 to local non-profits. The Bank's Charitable Foundation met on Wednesday, October 7 and awarded grants to local non-profits in need of assistance for general, project, and capital support.

Funded organizations include ArtReach Studio, Inc., Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central

MA and Metro West, Dismas House, Dress for Success Worcester, Inc., Living in Freedom Together, Love Your Labels, McCauley Nazareth Home for Boys, Inc., Project New Hope, Rise Above Foundation, Simon Says Give, VOX New England, Inc., and Worcester Youth Center, Inc.

The next Charitable Foundation Meeting is scheduled for April 7, 2021. Non-profits

interested in applying should visit the Bank's website at baystatesavingsbank.com/bss-charitable-foundation for the application and guidelines.



Courtesy

Pictured, from left to right: Diane Giampa, SVP of Human Resources, Marketing and Retail Banking, Bay State Savings Bank, Bill Moore, Executive Director, Project New Hope, and Peter Alden, President and CEO, Bay State Savings Bank.

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Isabella is a sweet, caring, and bubbly teenage girl who loves animals. She is a great conversationalist and enjoys speaking to and learning about new people. Isabella is always open to trying new activities and is a talented artist. She also likes to play soccer and is currently taking a cooking class once a week after school. Isabella's greatest wish is to have a family of her own where she can have a pet.

Isabella likes going to school and she reports that she has many friends this year that she enjoys spending time with. Her favorite class is chorus and she does well in school with extra supports.

Isabella really wants to be a part of a family and loves participating in all kinds of family gatherings. Isabella will do best in a patient family that can give her a lot of individualized attention. Her social worker is open to exploring families that consist of a single mother, two mothers, or a mother and a father. She will do best as an only child or with an older sister in the home. Isabella is legally freed for adoption.

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Question 1 has ‘a number of risks and uncertainties’

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

Besides the well-known and very expensive political races on this year's ballot, Massachusetts voters are also being asked to decide two key ballot questions. Question 1

is a fairly technical one regarding whether smaller car repair shops will be able to access the “telematics” that are now only available to garages owned by the car companies. Question 2 would change the way we conduct

most elections from the present system to a “ranked choice” system. (For Question 2, see related story.)

According to Ballotpedia.org, Question 1 is the sixth most costly ballot question campaign in the country this year, collecting \$50.9 million – \$24.4 million for yes, \$26.5 million for no. About 75 percent of the no side's funding came from five major car manufacturers, while about half of the yes side's money comes from four major auto parts dealers. It seeks to expand on a ballot question the voters approved in 2012.

The two sides briefly summarized their points of view last Saturday on WATD 95.9 FM in separate interviews posted at <https://959watd.com/blog/2020/10/ma-interviews-with-representatives-of-both-sides-of-ballot-question-1-debate/>. But there does not seem to have been a publicly-available debate on the subject.

Pro-1 spokesman Tommy Hickey said the goal is to “update” a law passed by the voters in 2012 to give car owners “direct access” to certain kinds of information that’s “necessary to diagnose, maintain and repair the car. That is not GPS information; it’s not personal information.” To him,

it closes a “carve-out in that law for wireless communications systems,” which are now common but were not then. Those wireless systems diagnose car issues from the car’s sensors, and such information would go to the owners if they have a certain smartphone app; they could then take it to any mechanic.

Anti-1 spokesman Conor Yunitz, however, said the existing right to repair law already covers such “telematics” data. If the manufacturers chose to make all data wireless, they’d still have to provide it to independent shops, he said. Instead, he sees this as “an enormous cybersecurity risk” because it “creates a wireless entry point” into a car that could be hacked. To him, problems mechanics face “should be addressed under the existing law. They won’t be solved by Question 1.”

“This is a national fight over data” between big parts companies and big car manufacturers, Yunitz said. “It’s not about right to repair.”

Earlier this month, the Tufts University Center for State Policy Analysis released a report by Evan Horowitz looking at the issues surrounding Question 1. It’s available at https://tischcollege.tufts.edu/sites/default/files/cSPA_right_to_repair.pdf.

In it, Horowitz essentially echoed Yunitz’s last statement and the Ballotpedia data, noting, “[T]he large amount of spending and political advocacy surrounding this ballot question suggests there’s more to it than just a codification of existing rights. Over 100 automobile repair shops

have joined the campaign in support of Question 1, indicating this is an issue they believe matters significantly to their business. And hefty spending from the “yes” and “no” campaigns suggests both sides see real stakes.”

One well-publicized issue is that telematics access has been portrayed by some anti-1 ads as increasing the risk of stalking and other dangers. That, Horowitz found, is unlikely.

“So long as GPS and other privacy-related information is excluded — as it seems to be — concerns about data misuse are greatly diminished. Some risks remain, however, including potential exploitation of the system for remotely updating your car,” he wrote. “... Unauthorized access to tire pressure or airbag deployment details wouldn’t expose the same kind of personal details as unauthorized access to your GPS-tracked movements. Moreover, telematics data already involves a real risk of misuse, with or without this ballot question. Automakers are collecting large quantities of telematics data — including about your location — with little transparency or formal oversight, only a voluntary code of conduct.”

The variety and secrecy of such data could make it difficult for mechanics to know if they’re actually getting what they need, and the remedies to enforce sharing are weak, he noted. If the law passes, he found, “Should you decide to use an independent shop, you can grant them access to your repair-relevant telematics data via the mobile app — not indefinitely

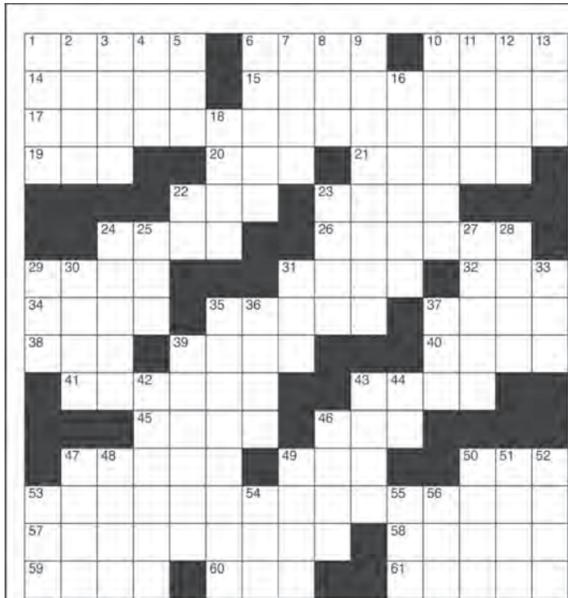
but for a timeframe you determine.” That could include the ability to see how you drive in real time and advise on maintenance needs, among other things. Some of those could be done remotely, and already can be.

“It might have made sense for the ballot question to require some kind of express sign-off from drivers before updates take place. But the more general issue is that allowing independent mechanics to access telematics data requires changes to automobile security systems that could introduce new vulnerabilities, especially given the narrow timeframe,” Horowitz found. “...Note, however, that malicious and negligent manipulation of your vehicle would still be illegal under other laws. And the hacking issue transcends this ballot question; it is already a threat and will persist so long as new cars are designed to accept remote commands.”

In conclusion, Horowitz states, “There remain a number of risks and uncertainties associated with this ballot question, which could be mitigated with timely legislative action.” Such action could include extending the timeframe for compliance, which is now the 2022 model year.

Early voting runs through this Friday. Election Day itself is Tuesday, Nov. 3 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mailed or dropped-off ballots must be in the town clerk’s hands by the close of polls on Tuesday.

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



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Battered corners: dog-__
- 6. __ Mater: one’s school
- 10. National capital
- 14. Frogs and toads order
- 15. Bathrooms (French)
- 17. Praise
- 19. Witch
- 20. Consume
- 21. Pork and lamb are two types
- 22. Rocky peak
- 23. Women’s undergarments
- 24. From end to end
- 26. Bed sheets
- 29. South Sudanese king
- 31. Dislike immensely
- 32. Diving seabird
- 34. Breathe noisily
- 35. Full of roots
- 37. Inside
- 38. Small island in a river
- 39. Tear into pieces
- 40. “CSI” actor George
- 41. Make less dense
- 43. Derogatory term for a country native
- 45. Pike and pickerel genus
- 46. Important in respiration and other biochemical reactions (abbr.)
- 47. Belgian city
- 49. “The Joy Luck Club” author
- 50. Essence of “Aloha”
- 53. Suggestions
- 57. One who overindulges
- 58. Expression
- 59. Maize dough
- 60. Make into leather
- 61. British noblemen

CLUES DOWN

- 1. One of two or more people or things
- 2. Small, deerlike water buffalo
- 3. Part of a ladder
- 4. Unit of work
- 5. Patriotic women
- 6. Fragrant essential oil
- 7. Aggressive, uncouth man
- 8. One thousandth of an inch
- 9. Brisk and cheerful readiness
- 10. Serving no practical purpose
- 11. Prevent from going forward
- 12. Camera part
- 13. Former CIA
- 16. Colorless, odorless gas
- 18. Long division of time
- 22. Atomic #73
- 23. Make a bleating sound
- 24. The kids love him
- 25. Female condition prior to menstrual period
- 27. Founder of Sikhism
- 28. Sudanese swamp
- 29. Can help with you finances
- 30. Part of the human body
- 31. Mortar trough
- 33. Greek island
- 35. Change pagination
- 36. Queens hip hop group
- 37. Precursor to the EU
- 39. A way to go on
- 42. Slender marine fish
- 43. Georgetown’s mascot
- 44. Farm state
- 46. Military leader (abbr.)
- 47. Russian river
- 48. Teams’ best pitchers
- 49. In a more positive way
- 50. Long French river
- 51. Reactive structures in organic chemistry
- 52. Distinctive practices
- 53. Male gypsy
- 54. When you hope to get there
- 55. Men’s fashion accessory
- 56. Journalist Tarbell



Question 2 changes how elections work

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

REGION — Question 2 has seen by far the greatest difference in spending of the two questions. According to Ballotpedia.org, the pro-2 side has collected about \$9.7 million in donations, while the anti-2 side has just \$3576.77. Voters need to turn their ballots over to vote on this one; it’s on the back.

In September, the Edward M Kennedy Institute for the US Senate hosted a debate between pro-2 spokesman Evan Falchuk and anti-2 spokesman Lee Goodman. Falchuk is chair of the Yes on 2 board and ran for governor in 2016, while Goodman was a Federal Elections Commissioner 2013-18 and a key attorney in the failed effort to overturn Maine’s Ranked Choice Voting law in 2019. The event is still available at <https://www.emkinstitute.org/explore-the-institute/public-events-programs/public-ranked-choice-voting>.

In general, both sides agree ranked choice voting (RCV), also termed instant runoff voting, has existed for “well over 100 years” and is used in several American city elections plus several foreign systems. It works this way: Instead of picking just one candidate in a multiple-candidate race, the voter ranks them however they wish. They can choose just one, or they can rank them all (some states set a limit on the number of choices voters can rank). If nobody gets a majority of votes in the first round, the candidate with the lowest total is eliminated and the voters who ranked him/her first get their ballots counted for their second choice instead. This rolling process goes on until someone has a majority and wins the race.

“If you can rank your donuts ... as so many do, you can do ranked choice voting,” Falchuk said. Later he summarized the need this way: “Voters have to be able to vote for the person they really like, versus worrying about voting for someone that might cause someone else to win.”

To him, the voters have repeatedly said they “want more choices” and RCV will push candidates to reach beyond their core voters to “ask them what we agree on.” At the same time, it will allow third parties a better chance to be heard.

Goodman saw that as a problem, claiming it will increase polarization as mainstream candidates try to court supporters of single-issue and other “fringe”

candidates. He claimed RCV requires voters to try to “predict” who will make it to second and subsequent rounds, that studies have shown Latino and African-American voters “tend to misrank their ballots at statistically-significantly higher rates than [those from] more affluent communities,” that it favors more educated voters, and that it’s not needed in Massachusetts, where most elections are “won by over 60 percent” even with third-party candidates. To him, two alternatives are better than RCV: having actual runoffs on a separate date or giving the voters on one date multiple ballots that would show them the choices in “conjunctural runoff rounds.”

Goodman noted that about 90 percent of RCV elections are actually won by the first round’s top vote-getter, but about 10 percent see someone else end up on top. He noted that one aspect of RCV is that voters who do not rank enough candidates can see their ballots drop out as the number of rounds gets higher.

Falchuk, on the other hand, argued Goodman was making it much more complicated than it is and that his arguments “have been rejected over and over again,” particularly by the courts in Maine. One issue that came up there, he added, was a claim that older voters had trouble with RCV, but the judge “destroyed the expert for cooking the books. ... It’s not true.” He also rejected the idea that “black and Latino voters aren’t as smart as other voters,” noting many RCV proponents are black and Latino.

Goodman argued he was “merely reflecting what the studies say” and sees such things as “practical and documented concerns” that should be considered. Both men agreed that educating voters on how to mark their ballot and how it’s counted are important to make it work well. Falchuk said he thinks the Secretary of State and municipal clerks can do that. Goodman agreed they can, saying, “I think this has been templated enough that your state can do it,” but it will require some funding for new software and maybe more voting machines. Falchuk agreed, but pointed to Maine, where early predictions said it’d cost \$1 million more, but it actually cost just \$100,000 more to run the first RCV election. What needs to be determined is whether towns will handle the second and later counting rounds, or if those will go to the state. Maine communities didn’t have the capacity to do that, but Goodman noted it is possible to program the voting machines to do it locally.

Falchuk said RCV would prevent what happened in the recent 4th Congressional District primary, where the winner only received 22 percent of the vote – “78 percent of voters voted for someone else,” and all of the candidates have endorsed RCV.

Regarding constitutionality, the Maine case and Massachusetts have different language. Maine’s Supreme Court initially ruled it unconstitutional because the document specifically calls for “plurality” elections, Goodman said. (Maine voters subsequently changed that.) In Massachusetts, though, the language doesn’t use that word, just calls for the winner to be the one who gets the most votes. Falchuk noted the state constitution doesn’t say how that’s calculated, and this ballot question will define that if it passes.

RCV would first be used for the state and federal elections of 2022, but will not apply to future presidential races. A local option would allow towns to adopt it for local elections.

Early voting runs through this Friday. Election Day itself is Tuesday, Nov. 3 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mailed or dropped-off ballots must be in the town clerk’s hands by the close of polls on Tuesday.

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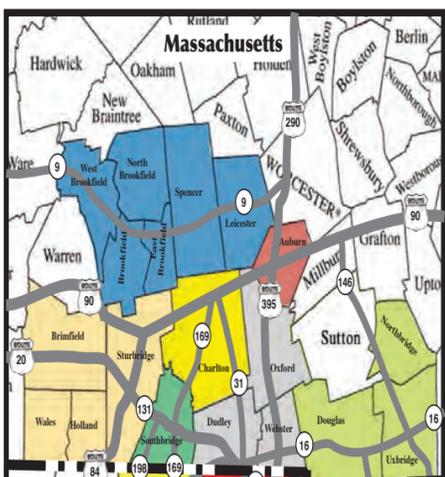
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Respiratory Care Week recognized at Quinsigamond Community College

WORCESTER — Honoring those who are vital to our health and safety is the premise behind Respiratory Care Week, held this year from Oct. 25-31. No one knows this better than the Respiratory Care students at Quinsigamond Community College.

As the oldest Respiratory Care Program in the state of Massachusetts, QCC's program has been leading the way in the region. This was never more evident than during the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, when the College received approval from the program's accrediting agency to allow QCC respiratory care students to simul-

taneously work on their student licenses and earn credits. This added a dozen students to the workforce, increased the Respiratory Therapists in Worcester by 10 percent and brought much needed medical resources to an extremely stressed healthcare system.

"From the moment QCC went remote, the program and the students worked diligently to explore new and effective avenues to complete educational requirements. Their team spirit and professionalism demonstrated that they had indeed transformed from lay persons to the professionals that they had aspired to become," said Amy Hogan, assistant

professor of the College's Respiratory Care program. "All sophomores graduated on time, achieved Registered Respiratory Therapist credentials, and secured Respiratory Therapist positions post-graduation."

This fall, there are 10 full-time students in the program, four second-year students and six first-year students. The second-year students are working on their clinicals at St. Vincent Hospital, Worcester and first-year students are at UMass Memorial Campus, Worcester. While the students do not directly caring for COVID-19 patients, they are administering aerosolized med-

ications, evaluating, and titrating oxygen therapy, caring for patients on mechanical ventilation, and providing various other therapies to optimize the lung health of their patients.

"COVID-19 has brought Respiratory Therapists to the forefront of the healthcare profession. Respiratory Therapists are the only medical specialists specifically trained in the cardiopulmonary system. As such, they are uniquely qualified to manage not only patients with COVID-19, but also any patient who has breathing issues," said QCC's Respiratory Care Program Coordinator, Keith Hirst.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the 2019 median salary for Respiratory Therapists was \$61,330 and employment projections of 26 percent are anticipated in the next several years, due to an aging population that will lead to increased cases of respiratory issues.

"In Worcester County, with a population of approximately 830,839, approximately 97,500 (12 percent) of adults have some form of chronic lung disease. Now, with the COVID-19 virus, even more people are in need of these types of professionals. This is why Respiratory Care programs such as QCC's are so essential," Mr. Hirst

said.

Respiratory Care Week was established by President Ronald Regan in Sept 1983, due to the care that he received by respiratory therapists when he was shot, as well as to acknowledge the impact that chronic lung disease has on the population.

To learn more at QCC Respiratory Care program, visit www.QCC.edu/respiratory-care.

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

Junior League of Worcester moves wreath fundraiser online

WORCESTER — The Junior League of Worcester (JLW) announced that its fourth annual Wreath Workshop Fundraiser will take place on Saturday,

Nov. 28 at 7 p.m. Teaming with Sparkle on Park, the JLW curated five do-it-yourself packages complete with a fresh wreath, ribbon and decorations to create from the comfort of your own home.

This year's event will use a virtual format, with a live stream, as well as a recorded video if the start-time is incompatible with one's schedule. Tickets can be purchased through the League's eventbrite at bit.ly/wreath2020.

"The Junior League of Worcester is celebrating its 95th year of serving the Worcester community," explained JLW President Lauren Evens. "2020 has been unlike any other but we are happy to be able to still deliver the workshop and

provide people with a fun night in," she said.

Wreaths and decor will be available for pick up in Worcester on the afternoon of Friday, Nov. 27, and the morning of November 28. A variety of raffle items will also be on display during pickup hours.

"The funds raised will help support our league's mission to develop the potential of women and create positive change for our community. Our initiatives are focused on bringing awareness to and ending human trafficking and period poverty in our local community," said Evens.

About the Junior League of Worcester Celebrating its 95th year of supporting Worcester County, the Junior League of Worcester is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. The JLW was founded in 1925 and is affiliated with the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI), which oversees 291 chapters in four countries – the US, Canada, Mexico, and the UK – with 155,000 volunteers. To learn more about the Junior League of Worcester or to join our new member class, please visit www.jlwma.org.

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\$365,000, 117 Wallace Ave, Astrella, Joseph J, and Astrella, Elaine A, to Baniukiewicz, Nicholas J, and Baniukiewicz, Loryn M.

\$360,000, 8 Goulding Dr, Robichaud, Steven J, and Robichaud, Mary E, to Shaw, Heather J.

\$275,000, 3 Lady Slipper Ln #3, Pellegrino, Anthony W, and Pellegrino, Patricia A, to Perron, William, and Perron, Nancy.

\$250,000, 10 Carroll St, Deschenes, John, and Krasowsky, Ann, to Dellostritto, Ariana N.

\$245,000, 19 Oakwood Ave, Gow Brian R Est, and Gow, James, to Comoli, Nicoletta.

\$235,000, 20 Tinkerhill Rd, Walsh RT, and Walsh, James O, to Isufaj, Ermal.

\$155,000, 155 Central St, Swan Barbara M Est, and Swan, Michael W, to Bertnell Realty Inc.

\$147,500, 15 Sunrise Ave, Bonneville, Raymond G, to Quality Construction LLC.

\$132,000, 23 Brook St, Homes By Emerson LLC, to Mohammed, Azam.

\$90,000, 11 Sword St #2R, Kobel, Keith A, to Thiyagarajan, Arun P, and Dhanabalu, Brindha.

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The Charlton Lions are selling raffle tickets for a Kenmore six burner gas grill. Chances are one for \$5 or three for \$10. The raffle is being drawn on December 13th. You need not be present to win. Please contact Lion Carole at 508-341-4992 to get your chances. And as always...The Charlton Lions thank you for your continued support!



Courtesy





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GOOD NEWS



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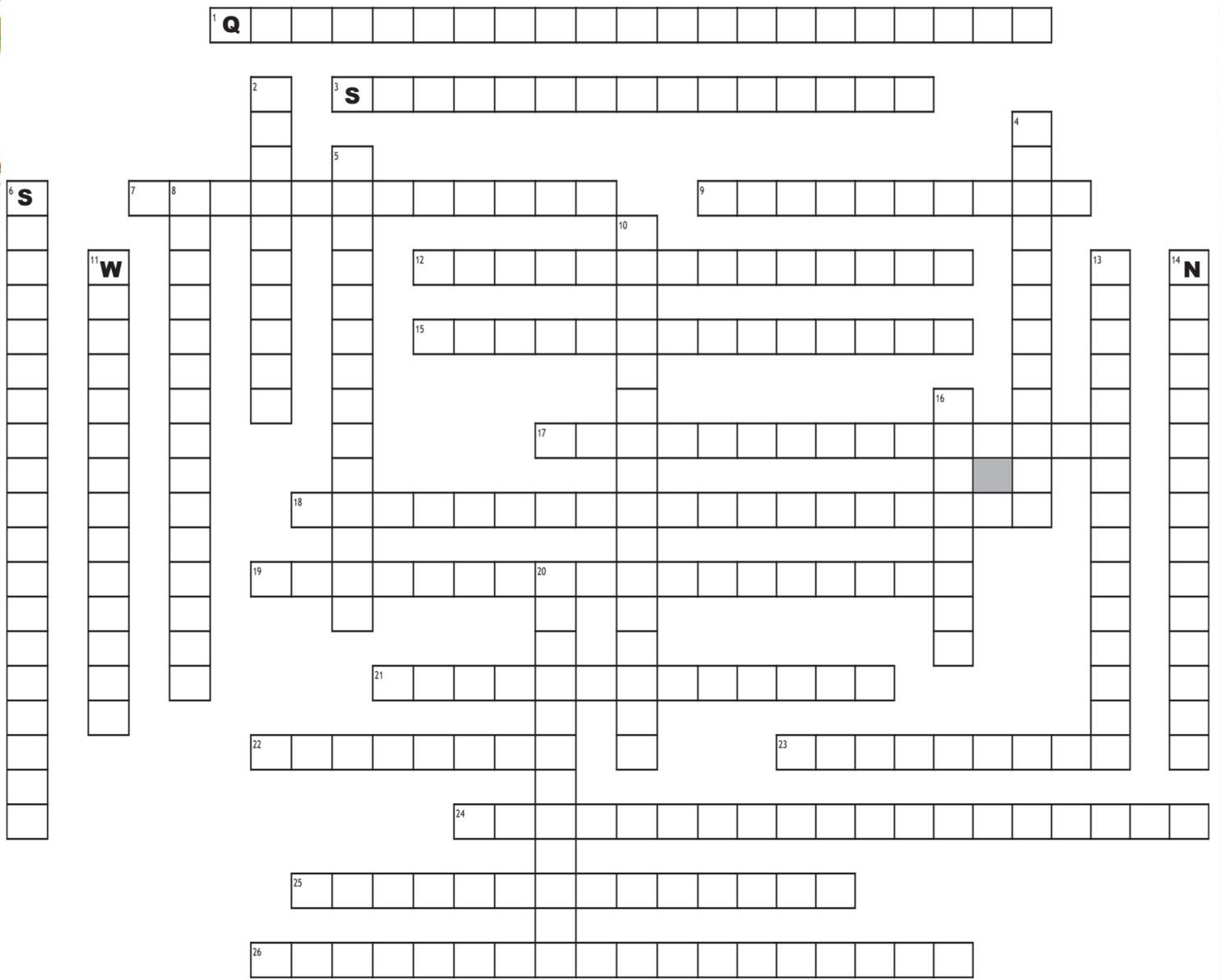
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3rd Annual ABC's of Fall Crossword Puzzle 2020



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3rd Annual ABC'S OF THE SEASONS OCTOBER 30, FALL EDITION

Hint... answers don't always include fall business name.

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Circle which paper you found this in: *Spencer New Leader, Webster Times, Charlton Villager, Sturbridge Villager, Auburn News, Blackstone Valley Tribune, Southbridge News*

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Please find the answers to this crossword puzzle on page 2. Enter for a chance to win a \$25 gift card to one of these ABC businesses by mailing in your completed crossword to **ABC Crossword Puzzle, Stonebridge Press, P. O. Box 90, 25 Elm Street, Southbridge, MA 01550** OR scan & email or take a picture and email it to jsima@stonebridgepress.news by Wednesday, November 18. Random-drawing for winner of all correct entries to be announced in the November 27th issue.

One entry per person.

Please support these ABC's businesses and tell them you saw their ad in your local paper! Good luck!

OPINION/COMMENTARY



A STONEBRIDGE PRESS WEEKLY NEWSPAPER
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STONEBRIDGE PRESS PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Your voice, and your vote, matter

We have heard a good deal of buzz from younger voters recently regarding the upcoming election, and the overwhelming consensus among them is a sense that their votes do not count. While there are exceptions to this rule, we feel it is important to stress to our younger counterparts how important it is to pay attention and to head to the ballot box.

The youth voice is important, whether you are a Republican, Democrat, Independent, Libertarian, or something in between. Important issues in every election directly relate to concerns students and young professionals have, which is even more reason to arm yourself with knowledge. Truth be told, younger voters are needed now more than ever. Issues that concern students are college tuition reform, healthcare and federal job programs to name a few. You may not care now, but you may care a few years from now when choices politicians make, begin to affect your life, and they will.

Young voters make up almost 50 percent of the voting population, giving you a stronger voice than you think, making your votes collectively more influential across the board. An interesting bit of trivia is that youth votes declined by 2 percent from a record of 52 percent in 2008. In 2016, 19 percent of those ages 18-29 voted in the presidential election. Those ages 45-64, however, made up for 49 percent of the vote.

You may not think your vote matters, but the fact is that every vote counts. The climate of the country appears to be so divided that the youth vote matters now more than ever. Oftentimes, politicians will win by a small margin as low as 20 votes, especially in local and state races, proof that your vote does matter. Young people that want to inspire change need to find the candidate who represents their values best, and cast their votes.

With news at our fingertips these days, it's easier now more than ever to educate yourself regarding politics. Sure it may seem boring and often times it is, but educating yourself on current events and the issues will serve you well. One bit of advice is not to believe everything you read or see, and to always fact check your sources. Protect your interests and use your voice, after all this is what democracy is all about.

Do not be discouraged or intimidated to vote — it's easy. You have a right to be at the polls just like every other American. Bring a friend and go grab some lunch or breakfast afterwards, making it a fun occasion.

LETTERS

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

We think you're important enough to tell all our readers to turn to the Opinion pages and read your Letters to the Editor.

But first, you have to write us!

Mail your letters to the Auburn News, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550.

Or e-mail your letters to the editor at news@stonebridgepress.news.

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

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

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

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

So, what are you waiting for? Start writing!



Stand up for decency and democracy

BY BOB DATZ
CORRESPONDENT

As our spirit pants through what we hope is the last lap of the presidential election race, headlines have begun popping up around the country about voter intimidation. There are fears but also realities, from a mail ballot drop box set afire in Boston to supporters of a president prone to badmouthing shouting at people outside an early polling place in California.

This is a type of election security breach that is being documented. Attempts to establish voter fraud as a significant security problem have been rejected by pretty much all credible investigators. And by the time you read this the mail-in ballot deadline will be passed, leaving us only Election Day to look forward to and look beyond.

Should you feel intimidated this Tuesday? Voting is a hard-won right. You certainly have less to fear than the Founding Fathers when they put their lives on the line to sign the Declaration of Independence, or the people of Syria who stepped into the streets to demand democracy more recently and were cut down by their own government. We are more fortunate, but good, decent people can feel intimidated by shouting and such.

Let's stand together and not be turned around. People have fought and died for the rights we have, voting included.

Your vote on Nov. 3 is secured by a historically reliable electoral system in the Commonwealth. In our communities, clerks are confident they will see that election and harassment laws will be enforced if necessary. They have worked hard to put extraordinary systems in place to certify each ballot received by any means, and to assure sanitation and social distancing for all who vote and work at the polls during a pandemic. And towns like Brimfield are welcoming the public to observe the "great care our staff will apply to the processing of ballots."

We can do our part to ensure the integrity of the process by following the advice commonly given to the public about any threat of terrorism: "If you see something, say something." 9-1-1 makes that easy enough. And make no mistake: Voter intimidation is terrorism.

Election officials can call on officers to enforce bans on politicking and voter intimidation within 150 feet of polling places. Police officers are at the polls but may need public help seeing something occurring outside that distance. If called,

police departments can enforce other laws dealing with unruly behavior and harassment on the public streets. Don't hesitate to be their eyes and ears.

"I think that we have everything pretty secure," Barre's Town Clerk Ellen Glidden told me. She acknowledged the media and public discussions have heightened election security awareness in 2020 beyond the norm. If anyone sees anything suspicious or disruptive, she said "they should definitely contact the police or election officials."

Clerks I interviewed reported no issues have surfaced in their Western Worcester County towns during early voting. "We have police officers at the polls to keep order. We think there's going to be plenty of police on duty that day (November 3)," Southbridge Town Clerk Madaline I. Bonadies said. Spencer Town Clerk Lisa J. Johnson offered a similar assessment, adding, "I don't anticipate anything" in the way of intimidation in her town.

The clerks said that state advisories weren't giving voter intimidation as much emphasis as working out the mechanics of 2020's unprecedented heavy mail-in and early voting season and COVID safety.

As for police chiefs, Chief David Darrin of Spencer said. "I think generally there's more concern with disorder after the process, what's going to happen if there's not a winner and how people are going to behave." He alluded to the prospect of court battles prolonging the process around the country, but he was confident there will be order in these parts. "I don't think that sort of thing would happen in Spencer," he said, "or in the state of Massachusetts."

And as common as the phrase "we'll deal with it" seems to be coming from local officials, it would be hard to deny the tone of this election year can be uglier than we're used to. Here's how we can "deal with it":

Don't be intimidated. Vote for decency and democracy by showing up on Nov. 3 if you haven't voted already. Be civic and civil, and don't let those who won't be get away with a single step. If democracy is to be tested, we're ultimately the ones who determine whether it passes or fails.

Bob Datz is a retired journalist and volunteers with Grassroots Central Mass., an area organization that addresses issues of fairness, justice, democracy, health and the environment. More information on GCM is available at grassrootscentral-mass.com and on Facebook.

Protect your family from long-term care costs



FINANCIAL FOCUS

DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

Like everyone, you want to remain physically and financially independent throughout your life. But if you lose some of this freedom, the last thing you'd want is to become a burden on your family. How can you keep this from happening?

First of all, you need to be aware of the risk. Someone turning 65 today has almost a 70 percent chance of eventually needing some type of long-term care, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Of course, this doesn't necessarily mean that you face that 70 percent likelihood. In reality, you have either a zero percent chance of requiring long-term care (you'll never need it) or a 100 percent chance (you'll definitely need it).

Nonetheless, if you think you've got that zero percent chance, you're taking a gamble — and it could be a big one, because long-term care is expensive. The median annual cost for a private room in a nursing home is over \$102,000, according to Genworth, an insurance company. Other long-term care services, such as those provided by a home health care aide, also don't come cheaply.

Furthermore, you can't count on Medicare paying all these costs — in fact, it would probably only cover a small portion of a nursing home stay and provide limited assistance for home health care. So, if you were financially unprepared for the expense of long-term care, the burden might fall on your loved ones. This could be a big financial challenge, in two ways.

First, if a family member had to become your caregiver, this individual might have to abandon a career, or at least substantially reduce their working hours. Not only would this result in a loss of income, but it could also lower the amounts that could be contributed to a 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan.

Second, if your family members couldn't leave their jobs or cut back on their hours, or they were simply unable to provide the type of long-term care you need, they might be forced to pay for a nursing home stay or home health care worker out of pocket.

To avoid these outcomes, you have a couple of options:

Self-insure — You could conceivably "self-insure" against the costs of long-term care by devoting a portion of your investment portfolio specifically to this purpose. However, if at some point you require admission to a nursing home, it may require a significant commitment of your resources.

Purchase protection — Over the past decade or so, there's been an increase in the types of long-term care protection vehicles available. These instruments vary widely in cost and in what they cover, but by choosing a protection option, you may greatly lower the financial risk you might face. By consulting with a financial professional, you should be able to find an arrangement that's appropriate for your situation.

Preserving your financial independence and helping protect that of your family should be a key financial goal. And you can make progress toward accomplishing this by recognizing the potential cost of long-term care and taking steps to deal with it.

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

Extend your enjoyment of nutritious pumpkins



GARDEN MOMENTS

MELINDA MYERS



Courtesy

This Orange Smoothie variety is a great pumpkin for carving, painting, and its meat is sweet for homemade pumpkin pie.

or blankets when frost is in the forecast. Protecting plants from the first few frosty nights can keep them growing until the remaining frost-free days of the season are back in the forecast.

Only store pumpkins free of soft spots, cuts and other damage that can lead to decay. Cleaning them before storing can help extend their shelf life. Wipe them down with a dilute solution of one tablespoon of bleach per gallon of water. Allow them to dry thoroughly before placing them in storage. Washing the fruit removes bacteria and fungal spores that can contribute to decay.

Store pumpkins in a dark, dry, cool location between 50 and 60 degrees for storage. Place them in a single layer on cardboard, crates or wooden shelves. Avoid storing them directly

Pumpkin is not just for dessert. Consider using this low calorie, flavorful vegetable, botanically classified as a fruit, in any of the courses of your fall or holiday meals.

The beta carotene that gives pumpkin its orange color is an important antioxidant. Increasing the beta carotenes in your diet can reduce the risk of developing some cancers and provide protection against heart disease.

And do not throw the seeds in the compost pile, roast them instead and enjoy the anti-inflammatory benefits of this snack. Remove the pulp by rinsing the seeds in cold water. Spread the seeds in a single layer on a baking sheet treated with a non-stick cooking oil. Lightly salt. Bake at 325 degrees for 25 minutes. Stir the seeds after 10 minutes. Allow to cool and store any leftovers, if there are any, in an airtight container.

Harvest pumpkins when the fruit is fully colored and the rind has lost its shine and is hard. The curly tendrils near the pumpkin will turn brown and die when the fruit is fully ripe. Use a pruning shear to cut the stem and avoid damage to the plant and your harvest. Leaving several inches of the pumpkin's stem intact increases their storage life. And look for blemish-free fruit with intact stems when buying pumpkins from the grocery store or farmers' market.

Always harvest pumpkins before the first frost. Or cover plantings with floating row covers, old sheets

on a concrete floor that can lead to rot.

Check pumpkins regularly for rot and soft spots. Remove any that show signs of rot and add them to the compost pile. Pumpkins that are stored properly can last for several months.

Remember to take time this season to enjoy the harvest and flavor as you cook up some tasty, nutritious pumpkin dishes this fall.

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

My favorite time of year



The month of October is my favorite time of year. Hunting and fishing provides us with a lot of opportunities to get out and enjoy all Mother Nature has to offer, before we head into the cold weather, and more than likely a few snow storms before all is said and done. As we grow older, time seems to go a lot faster. I do not want to wish my life away, but because of Covid-19, I will be happy to see spring. That is when a vaccine will more than likely



THE GREAT OUTDOORS
RALPH TRUE

be available to the general public, and we can get back to some form of normality. Until then, we will need to take life a bit slower and refraining from social gatherings. It is only six months away. Hoping everyone stays safe until then.

People that love the outdoors and do hunting and fishing should have no problem social distancing while still enjoying life. Deer hunters are often perched up in a tree observing wildlife and waiting for that big buck to walk into shooting range. If he does not come, harvesting a smaller deer will still give him some venison for the cold months ahead.

Bird hunters also should have no problem with social distancing, walking through the woods with a couple of buddies, and their dog. With the state stocking birds once a week at two local hunting areas, bird hunting should provide some great hunting opportunities through the Thanksgiving holiday. After hunting a local stocked area for pheasant last week, I noticed a few ticks on my Labrador retriever when

I brought her home. After removing as many as I could locate, I ran a flea comb through her hair the best that I could. Next came a bath with a flea & Tick shampoo. I keep her on Nexguard which is a once a month pill to keep her from contracting Lyme disease.

This past weekend, I decided to bake one of the pheasant that I retained from a hunt in open covers. The Ringneck pheasant was at least a couple of pounds after cleaning. I located an electric roaster oven that my wife always used to bake our Thanksgiving turkey. After she passed a couple of years ago, I had to take up cooking my own meals. I always liked to cook, but she would never let me into her kitchen. I can remember her words «You like to cook but you never clean up when you are done.» That was not exactly true. It was just that she was a very, very fussy person, and cleaning was something she practiced daily.

Anyway, I went on to YouTube and found a receipt for baking a chicken and figured it should apply to any bird. I quickly cleaned the baking oven three times, splashing soapy water all over the kitchen sink, and onto the floor. If my wife could see me now! After a good cleaning I washed the bird a couple of times and patted it dry per instructions. Salt and pepper and a full stick of butter was added to the bird along with a liberal amount of celery and onion. Placing the bird into the pan after heating it to 350 degrees, and it was time for the one hour or more cooking time. My



two dogs Twig and Molly seemed to be entertained by my actions.

Finally, it was time to taste the results of my first baked bird. Allowing the bird to cool a few minutes I pulled a leg from the bird's body and took a good bite into the meat. It was a bit chewy and did not have much flavor. After a few bites, I looked at the two dogs that seemed to be drooling, hoping for a bite. I took another bite and soon realized I had screwed it up. I lifted the remaining bird from the pan allowed it to cool, cut off some of the bird for the dogs, and threw the rest in the trash.

My next bird will come from the supermarket, and I still had the mess to clean up that I had made while preparing it. The two dogs will eat almost anything that looks like food, so I could not tell if even they really liked it!

My wife often said that I only married her because of her great cooking. It was one of the reasons, but staying married for 62 years there had to

be a lot more than just her cooking. Rest in peace, babe!

With many people out enjoying the outdoors this year, they need to be very careful with their children becom-

ing infected with Lyme disease. Daily checkups by parents should be made of all family members at the end of the day. A Thorough examination of the body, looking for a tick requires a few minutes to spot the extremely small deer tick. It could save one of your family a serious tick infection, that can turn into a life-threatening disease. There is a spray for your clothes called Permethrin that works very well to ward off ticks, but it should never be used on the skin. It is for clothing only, and can last up to a couple of weeks or more. Be sure to read all of the instructions before applying the spray.

This week's picture shows Andrea Henchey and her husband Curis shooting clay birds at the Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club this past Sunday. The trap range is open every Sunday weather permitting. It is open to the general public, so give it a try. You cannot find a nicer group of trap shooters, and they will be happy to help improve your shooting skills.

Do not forget to vote!
Take a Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

Paint a Room – Change Your Mood

Perhaps nothing provides the “wow” effect as fast (or as cheaply) as redoing the walls of a room. After all, paint offers an easy and inexpensive means of transforming a living space - but that's not all. While paint can make a significant difference in a room's appearance, it can also make a difference in the mood of the people within those four walls. Case in point: In the 1950s color experts shared their groundbreaking data that revealed that rooms painted certain shades of blues and green not only served to calm, but could have a sedative effect! A decade or so later, prison officials discovered cell walls painted a bubble gum pink color calmed violent prisoners.

Alexander Schauss, Ph.D., director of the American Institute for Biosocial Research in Washington, who was the first to research and report on the “pink effect”, stated: “Even if a person tries to be angry or aggressive in the presence of pink, he can't. The heart muscles can't race fast enough. It's a tranquilizing color that saps your energy. Even the color-blind are tranquilized by pink rooms.” For all those painting this season, here's a rundown on the psychology of paint.

Creative Color: Want to foster your creativity? Try painting an office or work space light blue. Light blue also promotes imagination, inner security and confidence! Need to be more organized? Try pairing light blue with yellow, to stimulate the mind and help with organizational skills.

Deep Sleep: Dark blue, however, tends to encourage deep and peaceful sleep, which makes the dramatic color ideal for a bedroom.

Diet Aid: According to the Paint Quality Institute, medium blue

is an appetite suppressant, so you



TAKE THE HINT
KAREN TRAINOR

might want to avoid using it in the kitchen or dining room, unless you're on a diet. In that case, a blue plate might just do the trick.

Bright and Brighter: The color yellow is not only bright, it inspires mental brightness too! Yellow is associated with intelligence and expressive thoughts. Yellow is even credited with improving memory. If that's not enough to sell you on the color, yellow is a mood booster too!

But with yellow a little goes a long way, and too much bright yellow can over stimulate the nervous system.

Hunger Pangs: It's no secret red inspires hunger, and many restaurants use the color psychology to whet a diners appetite. Red also increases the heart rate, energy and passion. But don't run off to buy a gallon of red yet. Studies show too much of some intense reds can cause irritability and anger. If you're using red in your room, try a darker shade of red, or try painting one wall to avoid becoming overwhelmed by the energetic color.

Spa Shade: Green is considered a healthy color, fostering comfort, relaxation and a sense of wellness. Green is a good

choice for a bathroom, sun porch or reading nook. On the other hand, lighter shades of green such as mint green, can refresh and invigorate the mind. Darker greens, however, add a sense of calm to the decor and are another favorite bedroom color.

Bust the Blues: Depressed? Try painting your walls orange, or at least a workable shade of orange, such as peach or terra cotta. Orange is the top mood booster, according to experts. Orange fights depression and cultivates good humor. The powerful energy of orange even promotes the capacity to forgive!

Win Dinner for Two
Your tips can win you a fabulous 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 publications? Send questions and/or hints to: Take the Hint!, c/o Stonebridge Press, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550. Or e-mail kdr@ao.com. Hints are entered into a drawing for a three course dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn!

Take heart — the madness of 2020 is coming to an end!

A friend texted me a few days ago and said, “You're going to need to issue a retraction.”

I responded with a very articulate and intelligent, “Huh?”

She then texted a picture of my first column of the year, entitled, “2020 Promises to be Awesome!” Maybe awesome wasn't the correct word.

Another friend posted on Facebook, “Dear Mom, you once threatened to slap me into next year. Does that offer still stand?”

Although a funny statement, I think most of us would endure that slap if it truly delivered the desired result.

I'll admit, 2020 wasn't exactly what I expected and hoped for. We were handed a virus. (I believe history will show it came from China, but does it really matter?) that we didn't and maybe still don't understand. One side is saying, “We left you a plan! All you had to do was follow it,” while the other side is claiming that early closing of the borders saved lives. I really don't care who was in office, this is a virus no one understood and it's impossible to prepare for something you don't understand. Those screaming that the current administration has blood on their hands are making irresponsible claims to gain votes.

However, it's election season and irresponsible and ridiculous claims are being sprayed like machine gun fire from both sides. As we talked about a few weeks ago, it would seem that civility is dead.

The best news of the year is that the election will soon be over and “hopefully” the heat of



POSITIVELY SPEAKING
GARY W. MOORE

the national discourse will cool.

Is that wishful thinking? I keep making the same point, but it's important.

I trust the will of the American people. If your candidate doesn't win, it's not the end of life on earth as we know it. There is another election in four years and the beauty of our system is that we have checks and balances to keep us from driving off the rails until then. The worse thing that can happen is if a single party takes control of all three branches of government. Trust me, neither party is always right or always wrong. A little gridlock slows things down and forces negotiation.

I've never seen both sides so frantic. The screams from both left and right claim that if the other party ends, the nation will be irreversibly changed for the worse.

Irreversibly?

I don't think so. So please lower the volume, take a breath, and relax. The sun will rise on November fourth and life will go on.

As for COVID-19 ... it's become so politicized that it's hard to know what's true. And shame on both parties for using a national life and death circumstance as a tool to gain votes.

But that is how 2020 began. It doesn't mean that it must end this way. I am not naive'. I understand there's nothing that's going to change

until after the election. If we are going to save our nation, we must accept the will of the people, regardless of who wins, then move forward together.

Sounds simple ... but it's not easy.

First, watch a few movies and skip the evening news channels. Prime time is where the barking opinion heads work hard to hijack your head and heart. Watch a movie, read a book, take a walk ... do anything but expose yourself to the evening vitriol.

While in your car, listen to music and again, avoid the shrill political voices coming out of your radio. Please understand ... these voices are rarely there to inform. They are there to manipulate your hearts and mind to come over to their side.

Relax. Take a breath. Turn off the noise. We are better than this and from Nov. 4 to Dec. 31, don't let the results of this election determine your happiness. Let's work on taking our year back and ending on a happier note.

American optimism is what has made the United States of America a beacon of hope, peace, and prosperity. Be hopeful. Find your peace. Let's all prosper together, regardless of outcome.

I choose optimism over despair.

Vote, then move on.

Will you join me?

Gary W. Moore is a freelance columnist, speaker, and author of three books including the award-winning, critically acclaimed, “Playing with the Enemy.” Follow Gary on Twitter @ GaryWMOore721 and at www.garywmoore.com.

QCC's virtual legislative town hall demonstrates positive impact of community college

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College student Tabitha Leber defined the past six months during the COVID-19 pandemic as a time of resiliency. Ms. Leber was one of a group of current and former students and college administrators who took to the virtual airways recently for a Legislative Town Hall to discuss the pandemic, remote learning and what it means to be a student at QCC. Ms. Leber said she and her fellow classmates have learned to be prepared and resilient, thanks to the skills they were taught at the college.

Attending the event were Senator Michael Moore, Senator Anne Gobi, Representative James O'Day; Representative Natalie Higgins, Representative Hannah Kane; Melissa Olesen, regional director of Central & Western Massachusetts for Senator Edward Markey; Yael Langer, legislative director for Senator Anne Gobi; and Emily Johnson, on behalf of Representative Paul Frost.

Moderating the event was Mason Wheaton, a first-generation college student who kicked off

the event with her inspirational parody song, "We Can Fight the Virus." Ms. Wheaton described her time at QCC as transformative.

"I am so grateful to have come here. Every day I have more experiences than I could have ever imagined. Without QCC I would have never attended college and life would have looked a lot different," she said. "So many students like me came here to have a better life."

The college recently announced it was going remote for its spring semester, and the students who participated in the event gave praise to the proactive way in which the college has supported its students.

Ms. Leber presented statistics on the needs of QCC students during the pandemic and told of the positive impact the QCC Foundation's Student Emergency Fund has made on their immediate, basic life needs.

"All QCC students qualified for the Student Emergency Fund: associate degree seeking students, certificate and workforce development students, adult students' programs, undocumented,

international, part-time, full-time," Ms. Leber said, noting that the CARES Act Fund stipulations excluded many students.

The Student Emergency Fund has currently assisted 526 students. In a study of those who received this aid, 81 percent were women, 66 percent were parents or had other dependents, 63 percent were students of color and 43% were foreign born.

"I myself, as a single mother and a full-time student, am represented in this data," Ms. Leber said, telling of her own experiences coming to QCC as a single mother after a catastrophic injury.

Today she is a dual major and working on a third degree in the current remote learning environment, while also helping her daughter with her own remote schooling.

She went on to explain that the emergency aid was critical for students to stay in college and complete the spring 2020 semester (93 percent of those who received aid did not withdraw during the spring semester). However, with a minimum aid award of \$100, and a maximum of \$250,

the aid was not enough. "It's heartbreaking how many of our students have been impacted by the pandemic," President Pedraja said. "Many of the students we serve are living on the margins and the pandemic has put them in survival mode. You cannot think about education when you are in survival mode. My fear is this population, which benefits greatly from education, is being affected the most by the pandemic and further increasing the equity gap."

"We need to continue to raise funds to provide emergency aid to our students during the COVID-19 pandemic. QCC is trying to make our lives and the lives of our families better," Ms. Leber said.

Board Chair Sue Mailman reminded legislators that community colleges receive only 25 percent of the state's education funding, while UMass universities receive 50% of funding and state universities receive the other 25 percent of the state funding.

"If there was ever a time to rethink that formula it's now," Ms. Mailman said. "This school matters in this region for our stu-

dents and for employers." Recent 2020 graduate Jorgo Gushi, an electrical and computer engineering student at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, addressed QCC's continued commitment to its students and their success, in addition to its strong community engagement, such as in its recent census and voting campaigns.

"I was recently elected as a member of the QCC's College Foundation's Board of Directors. I am also serving as the Chair of the Student Advisory Council to the Board of Higher Education and sitting on this board in a non-voting advisory capacity. Some of you might be surprised by the level of engagement I have in student leadership, advocacy and community service; however, this is common for QCC students," he said. "We enter QCC with a goal, a dream, and along the way we acquire skills needed to be successful in the workforce, and in life. We are taught confidence, communication, teamwork, humanity and awareness of our community."

QCC student Veronica Morson and alumnae Nelly Medina are also

active in the college community and beyond. They both introduced their voting campaign videos and discussed the importance of voting, as well as being engaged members of the community.

"QCC is not a college in Worcester; QCC is Worcester's college. QCC is our community's college and it strives day after day to make it better for its students and the community's residents," Mr. Gushi said.

"QCC supports all of their students because we are a community," Ms. Leber added.

Representative Kane, whose district includes Shrewsbury and Westborough, commended the work the college has done transitioning to remote learning.

"I really like the Worcester college comment," she said during the event. "I certainly believe QCC is our community college as well and take great pride in all that you are doing."

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

Senate races, Public Safety Building on Charlton ballot

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — The 2020 Presidential Election is quickly approaching on Tuesday, Nov. 3 but there will be more than just the presidential race on the ballot for the town of Charlton.

While voters will be asked to play a part in determining who will be the next President of the United States, incumbent Republican Donald Trump or Democratic challenger and former Vice President Joe Biden, six other races and three questions will also be presented on the ballot as voters will also determine the new Register of Probate, Senator, Representative, Councilor and State Senator and Representative that will represent Charlton for the next several years.

Just below the presidential race on the ballot, which also included Green-Rainbow Party nominee Howie Hawkins

and Libertarian candidate Jo Jorgensen in addition to Trump and Biden, voters will have two choices for Senator in Congress with incumbent Democratic Senator Ed Markey being challenged by Republican Kevin O'Connor. Markey lost the town of Charlton to opponent Joe Kennedy, III during the Democratic primary in September and lost Charlton during the 2013 to his Republican challenger Gabriel Gomez. O'Connor easily defeated Shiva Ayyadurai in Charlton during the Republican primary. Unlike the Senate race, the Representative in Congress race is pretty cut and dry with only Democratic incumbent Richard E. Neal on the ballot.

The races for State Senator and State Representative both contested in 2020 with the Senate race consisting of incumbent Democrat Anne Gobi and Republican chal-

lenger Steven Hall. The State Representative race sees a familiar battle as Republican Paul Frost seeks to maintain the position he has held for 23 years while Independent Terry Burke Dotson will seek to usurp Frost as the new State Representative. Dotson has previously lost to Frost in 2014, 2016 and 2018 all as a member of the Democratic Party. Democrat Paul DePalo is seeking election for Councilor for the Seventh District unopposed and rounding out the ballot is the race for Register of Probate where Republican incumbent Stephanie Fattman hopes to stave off a challenge from Democrat John Dolan, III.

In addition to the races, three questions will be found on page two of voters' ballots, two state questions and one local issue seeking public input. Question 1 is a statewide ballot question asking voters if they support a proposed law that

would require manufacturers of motor vehicles sold in Massachusetts to equip vehicles from model year 2022 and on with telematics systems that collect and wirelessly transmit mechanical data to a remote server with a standardized open access data platform. The proposed law as written on the ballot states that that with vehicle owner authorization independent repair facilities not affiliated with a manufacturer and independent dealerships would be able to retrieve mechanical data from, and send commands to, the vehicle for repair, maintenance, and diagnostic testing. A yes vote would provide motor vehicle owners and independent repair facilities with expanded access to wirelessly transmitted mechanical data related to their vehicles' maintenance and repair while a no vote would make no change to current regulations and laws.

Question 2 would

implement "ranked-choice voting" where voters rank one or more candidates by order of preference in primary and general elections for all Massachusetts statewide offices, state legislative offices, federal congressional offices, and certain other offices beginning in 2022. Ranked-choice voting would not be used in elections for president, county commissioner, or regional district school committee members. This would effectively turn voting into a series of "rounds" and would be limited to single-winner races rather than positions with more than one winner. A yes vote would support the change and a no vote would keep the election format the same.

Question 3 is a Charlton-specific question for voters involving a debt exclusion from Proposition 2 ½ the amounts required to pay for the bonds issued for the construction and equipping of a new public safety building. A debt exclusion is not the same as an override. The exclusion means the cost of the building would be removed from the tax levy once the facility is paid off. A town meeting previously approved \$28.5 million for the project however a previous debt exclusion question did not pass. The question is going before the voters again with adjusted figures with the hopes that the Presidential Election will bring a larger sample of the town population to the voting booth to have their say on the funding mechanism for the project. Details on the public safety building project can be found at www.charltonpublicsafetybuilding.com.

The 2020 Presidential Election will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 3. Voting details and a copy of the election ballot have been made available on the Town of Dudley Web site

lic safety building. A debt exclusion is not the same as an override. The exclusion means the cost of the building would be removed from the tax levy once the facility is paid off. A town meeting previously approved \$28.5 million for the project however a previous debt exclusion question did not pass. The question is going before the voters again with adjusted figures with the hopes that the Presidential Election will bring a larger sample of the town population to the voting booth to have their say on the funding mechanism for the project. Details on the public safety building project can be found at www.charltonpublicsafetybuilding.com.

LEGALS

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS Town of Auburn OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR OF TAXES

The owners or occupants of the following described parcels of land situated in the Town of Auburn in the County of Worcester and Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the public are hereby notified that the taxes thereon severally assessed for the year hereinafter specified, according to the list committed to me as Collector of Taxes for the Town of Auburn, by the Board of Assessors of said Auburn, remain unpaid, and that said parcels of land will be taken for the said Town of Auburn, on Monday, November 16, 2020 at 9:00 A.M. for the non-payment of said taxes, fees and interest, if any, unless the same shall be previously discharged.

Franklin R. & Denise A. Adams. Land in said Auburn, with the buildings thereon, at 20 Paul St., shown as Lot 28 on Assessor's Map 56, described in Worc. Dist. Deeds, B.31841, P.279 2019 tax (bal) \$465.38.

Donna Berg Trustee Kenneth Berg Irrevocable Trust. Land in said Auburn, with the buildings thereon, at 8 Inwood Rd., shown as Lot 161 on Assessor's Map 32, described in Worc. Dist. Deeds, B.52474, P.390. 2019 tax (bal) \$3,746.63.

Bertil E.R. & Florence Bergman. Land in said Auburn, at 234 Bryn Mawr Ave., near 238, shown as Lot 39 on Assessor's Map 39, described in Worc. Dist. Deeds, B.4053, P.151. 2019 tax (bal) \$302.09.

Bertil E.R. & Florence Bergman. Land in said Auburn, at Bryn Mawr Ave., near 234, shown as Lot 40 on

Assessor's Map 39, described in Worc. Dist. Deeds, B.3772, P.191. 2019 tax (bal) \$314.98.

Kelly Bergman. Land in said Auburn, with the buildings thereon, at 234 Bryn Mawr Ave., shown as Lot 41 on Assessor's Map 39, described in Worc. Dist. Deeds, B.39999, P.226. 2019 tax (bal) \$897.15.

Penny L. Berry. Land in said Auburn, with the buildings thereon, at 35 Field St., shown as Lot 196 on Assessor's Map 6, described in Worc. Dist. Deeds, B.51022, P.20. 2019 tax (bal) \$456.66.

Archie L. Blais, Jr. Life Estate. Land in said Auburn, with the buildings thereon, at 37 Wallace Ave., shown as Lot 2 on Assessor's Map 16, described in Worc. Dist. Deeds, B.52698, P.201. 2019 tax (bal) \$4,234.95

James Callahan. Land in said Auburn, with the buildings thereon, at 3 Arrowhead Dr. shown as Lot 123 on Assessor's Map 49, described in Worc. Dist. Deeds, B.37836, P.72. 2019 tax (bal) \$308.88

Jennifer L. Camara. Building in said Auburn, at 2002 Forest Park Dr., Unit 44, shown as Lot 1-44 on Assessor's Map 18, described in Worc. Dist. Deeds, B.57262, P.327. 2019 tax (bal) \$1,497.19.

Stephen Church. Land in said Auburn, with buildings thereon, at 25 Rock Ave., shown as Lot 112 on Assessor's Map 24, described in Worc. Dist. Deeds, B.54069 P.288. Supposed subsequent owners: Daniel C. & Samantha Church. 2019 tax (bal) \$116.72.

Arthur B. & Kenneth M. Clements.

Land in said Auburn, with the buildings thereon, at 46 Appleton Rd., shown as Lot 31 on Assessor's Map 66, described in Worc. Dist. Deeds, B.49294 P.26. 2019 tax (bal) \$4,977.93.

Neal M. & Andrew Donovan. Land in said Auburn, at Auburn Terrace., shown as Lot 58 on Assessor's Map 9, described in Worc. Dist. Deeds, B.11109, P.281. 2019 tax (bal) \$16.58.

Ann M. Hehir. Building in said Auburn at 2003 Forest Park Dr., Unit 45, shown as Lot 1-45 on Assessor's Map 18, described in Worc. Dist. Deeds, B.54978, P.24. 2019 tax (bal) \$1,890.78.

Mark William & Catherine Shugrue Legasey. Land in said Auburn, with buildings thereon, at 26 Church St., shown as Lot 46 on Assessor's Map 48, described in Worc. Dist. Deeds, B.11114, P.133. 2019 tax (bal) \$672.68.

M. R. Real Estate, Inc. Land in said Auburn, at Rydberg Terr. Ext, shown as Lot 26 on Assessor's Map 20, described in Worc. Dist. Deeds, B.33632 P.288. 2019 tax (bal) \$1.84. 2018 tax (bal) \$1.84. 2017 tax (bal) \$1.83.

James D. Morang & Ellen L. LeBouef. Land in said Auburn, with buildings thereon, at 4 Warren Rd., shown as Lot 34 on Assessor's Map 60, described in Worc. Dist. Deeds, B.6597, P.346. 2019 tax (bal) \$2,847.73.

Keith M. Paquette. Land in said Auburn, with buildings thereon, at 8 Hillside St., shown as Lot 17 on Assessor's Map 6, described in Worc. Dist. Deeds,

B.51806, P.298. 2019 tax (bal) \$238.01.

Verner & Catherine I. Richardson. Land in said Auburn, at Linda Ave., shown as Lot 23 on Assessor's Map 47, described in Worc. Dist. Deeds, B.3286, P.3. 2019 tax (bal) \$71.84. 2018 tax (bal) \$17.63.

Southwest Holdings, LLC. Land in said Auburn, at Leicester St., shown as Lot 3 on Assessor's Map 8, described in Worc. Dist. Deeds, B.28790, P.86. 2019 tax (bal) \$3,116.66. Supposed subsequent owner: Stafford Street Properties, LLC

Charles Steinmetz. Land in said Auburn, with buildings thereon, at 49 Sumner St., shown as Lot 205 on Assessor's Map 5, described in Worc. Dist. Deeds, B.55992, P.162. 2019 tax (bal) \$823.21.

TJE Realty, LLC. Land in said Auburn, at 143 Malvern Rd., shown as Lot 50 on Assessor's Map 1, described in Worc. Dist. Deeds, B.38141, P.167. 2019 tax (bal) \$564.54.

Suzanne M. Wade. Land in said Auburn, with buildings thereon, at 25 Oak St., shown as Lot 142 on Assessor's Map 24, described in Worc. District Deeds, B.39142, P.228. 2019 tax (bal) \$233.41.

Frank J. & B. June Herberg. Land in said Auburn, with buildings thereon, at 25 Adella St., shown as Lot 240 on Assessor's Map 5, described in Worc. Dist. Deeds, B.5274, P.114. Supposed subsequent owner: Eric Dale Carpenter & Talisa M. Contes & Lisa A. Woodford 2019 tax (bal) \$1,065.50. October 30, 2020

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CHARLTON – 64 Bond Rd! Gorgeous 2,800' 8 Rm, 3 Bdrm, 2.5 Bath Contemporary Ranch set on a Professionally Landscaped 1.49 Acres w/Natural Stone Walls! Quality Craftsmanship Throughout! Featuring a Spacious Granite Kitchen w/Cherry Cabinets & Hrdwd Flrs! Formal Dining Rm! Spacious Frplc Family Rm w/Cathedral Ceilings, Built-in Bookcases, an Open Fr Plan for All Your Entertaining Needs! Capacious Master Bdrm Suite w/Master Bath & Huge Office! Mostly Finished Walk-out Lower Level Featuring a Large Exercise Rm, Bar Area, Plenty of Storage & 3rd Garage! Unfinished Bonus Rm Over the 2 Car Attached Garage! Private Back Yard for Entertaining w/Multi Level Decks and New Patio! Listed by Another, SOLD by C21 Lake Realty! **\$535,000.00**

DUDLEY – 26 River St! 6 Room Colonial! Granite Kitchen w/Cherry Cabinets, SS Appliances, Cathedral Ceiling w/Ceiling Fan & Hardwood Floor! Dining Area & Living Rm w/Hardwoods! 3 Bdrms w/Hrdwds! 2 Granite Vanity Bathrooms! 3 Seasons Porch! Deck! Listed by Another, SOLD by C21 Lake Realty! **\$313,000.00**

DOUGLAS – 102 SE Main St! Start Packing! Spacious 9 Rm Colonial! 2.23 Acres! Center Island Granite Kit w/Soft Close Cabs, SS Appliances! Slider to 24' Deck! Open Floor Plan! Hickory Wood Floors throughout the Kit, Din & Liv Rms, all w/Recessed Lighting! 1st Flr Office or Possible 4th Bdrm w/Oak Hrdwd Flr! Full Bath in the Hall! 2nd Flr w/Full Dble Vanity Bthrm & 3 Comfortable Bdrms, all w/Beautiful Wood Laminate Flrs! Master w/Cathedral Ceiling, Skylight, Ceiling Fan, Bay Window overlooking the Back Yard and a Master Bath! Lower Level w/2 Finished Rms, Utility Rm w/Laundry and Half Bath! 3.5 Baths Total! Recent C/Air, Heat & Roof! 24x26 2 Car Detached Garage! Huge Shed! Nearby Nature Trails & Wallum Lake Beach! **\$379,900.00**



WEBSTER LAKE – 112 Gore Rd! NORTH POND! Sucker Brook Cove! 8 Rm, 3 Bdrm, 1.5 Bath Ranch is Ready for You! Southwestern Exposure! Gorgeous Sunsets! Unique Waterfront! An Open Floor Plan! Lake Views from Nearly All Rooms! 2x6 Construction! Energy Efficient Blinds in Every Room! 4 Oil Tanks - Fill Up Once a Year! C/Air! Gas Fireplace! Whole House Fan! Meticulously Cared For! Large workshop! 3 Car Garage! Carport! 2 Sheds w/Electric! Back Yard is Perfect for Family Gatherings! Plenty of Off Street Parking! Summer is Here! **\$539,900.00**

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WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT – 3 Lakeview Rd! Middle Pond – Reid Smith Cove! Ideal Summer or Yr Round 6 Rm Ranch! Western Expo – Beautiful Sunsets! Near All the Excitement that "Indian Ranch" provides, Dining, Concerts & the Indian Princess! An Arched Bridge to Your Own Private Island, a Great Place to Enjoy the Lake from! Open Fr Plan! Being Sold Fully Furnished! Recent Kit w/Quartz Counters, Breakfast Bar, SS Appliances, Tile Flr & Recessed Lighting! Liv Rm w/Hrdwd Flr, 6x14 Lake Facing Picture Window & Stone Frplc! 3 Remodeled Bdrms w/Ceiling Fans & Hrdwd Flrs! Master w/Bath & Laundry Closet! Screen Porch w/Lake Views! Dock! Carport! Shed! Still Time for this Summer! **\$579,900.00**

GRAFTON – 168 Brigham Hill Rd! 8 Rm Garrison Colonial set on 1.3 Acres! 4 Comfortable Bdrms & 2 Full Bthrms! Freshly Painted, Floors Recently Refinished! Spacious Kit w/Lunch Counter! SS Appliances w/Gas Cook-Top! Grand Dining Rm for Family Gatherings! 19x26 Living Rm w/Pellet Stove! Master Bdrm w/Dble Closets & Hot Tub! Bright & Airy Mudroom out to the 2 Car Garage! Furnace & Hot Water Tank 5 Years Young! Radon tested at 2.5! Newer Roof on Garage & Breezeway! New Well Water Tank Installed! Title V in-hand! Property Abuts Grafton Land Trust - Hiking Trails Right Out Your Back Door! Convenient to Routes 90, 9 & 20! Immediate Occupancy! **\$449,900.00**



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WEBSTER - 21 3RD STREET UNIT: B

Condominium - Living leisurely! 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath (including master suite) home. Freshly painted! Recessed lighting, gas fireplace, and sliding doors, to beautiful balcony. Walkout basement! built-in outdoor grilling spot. Easy access to I395. **\$224,900**

THOMPSON - 452 FABYAN ROAD

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Impressive Gambel Colonial! 2,343 SF, 3 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, 1st Flr Master BR Suite! Master bath w/whirlpool tub & shower. Country Home on 2.41+/- PRIVATE ACRES! Cathedral wood ceilings! Granite counter-tops, stainless appliances, & ceramic tile floors! 2nd Flr - 2 bed rooms & full bath, lot/great room w/balcony! Over-sized 3 car, detached garage, w/2nd story room! TRULY A FAR-AWAY PLACE NEARBY! **\$398,500.**

DANIELSON CT- 52 TAFT STREET

SORRY, SOLD!

Spacious Ranch, 1520+/- Sq Ft 8 room 3 Bedroom, 2 Full Baths. Hardwood Floors throughout. Fireplace family room. FHW/OIL Heat. - New Furnace, Windows, Also, recent Asphalt Driveway! Over sized Garage! 1/2 Acre Lot. Dead end road. Close to I-395! **\$255,500.**

WEBSTER - 195-199 THOMPSON RD

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WOODSTOCK CT - 110 JOY RD

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

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OXFORD - 4 SPICEBUSH LANE

ON DEPOSIT

One level living with added 35 x 18 finished walk-out lower level. Cathedral ceilings, skylight dining, hard-wood flooring and central air. Stainless appliances w/large double oven. Over-sized 30 x 14 deck. quiet cul-de-sac! **New Price \$314,900.**

OXFORD - 115 CHARLTON ROAD

SORRY, SOLD!

Beautiful home set back off road providing privacy and oversized yard. Kitchen w/granite counters & abundance of cabinets. Cathedral ceilings kitchen, dining and living room. Open floor plan large deck with large backyard through sliders in dining room. Hardwood floors! Tile baths. Master bedroom/master bath! Finished walkout lower level w/bar! 2 car garage. Extras: above ground pool! **\$369,900.**

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1				
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Massasoit Art Guild show live through Dec. 31

REGION — Due to COVID-19, this year's show is being exhibited virtually on The Guild's website at massasoitartguild.com. It was a difficult decision for us to make, but in light of the pandemic, we chose to hold our show online for the safety of the public and our artists.

The exhibit showcases 151 pieces of art by our talented artists and photographers. In keeping with the tradition of The Guild's mission to support the growth and development of local artists, our show has always doubled as an art sale. This year is no different as the virtual gallery has prices and contact information listed for the exhibiting artists.

The Guild wishes to thank this year's judge, Nancy Cooke Bunnell, an award winning pastel artist and teacher. Her work can be seen at ncbunnellstudio.com.

Please be sure visit the virtual gallery. Your purchases of art make unique gifts for the holiday season and support your local community of artists.

The Massasoit Art Guild is excited to announce this year's winners.

Best In Show: Traditional Photography~ Morning Light by Donna Cobb

First Place Winners in all Categories
 Acrylic: Irena Russell
 Drawing & Printing: Marilyn Kulesa
 Oil: Linda Spencer
 Pastel: Judy Doyle
 Watercolor: Maggie Hart
 Photography: Peter Spencer
 Digitally Enhanced Photo: Jonathan Dosick

Other Media: Karen Langlie
Presidents Award: Nancy McBride
Our Second and Third Place, Memorial Awards, and Honorable Mentions are as follows:

Norman Cabana: 2nd Place Acrylic and Honorable Mention
Susan Kennedy Scott: Emile Gaucher Memorial Award and Honorable Mention

Irena Russell: 3rd Place Acrylic, 2nd Place Other Media, 2nd Place Watercolor
 Marilyn Kulesa: 3rd Place Drawing & Printing
 Linda Spencer: 2nd Place Drawing & Printing, 3rd Place Watercolor
 Michele Loftus-Trzcinski: 2nd Place Digitally Enhanced Photo, 3rd Place Traditional Photography
 Donald Beal: 3rd Place Digitally Enhanced Photo
 Clifton Hunt: 2nd Place Oil
 Loretta Medeiros: 3rd Place Oil

Sue Wiseheart: 3rd Place Other Media
 Judy Doyle: Honorable Mention Pastel
 Carole Bentley: 3rd Place Pastel
 Veronica Furst: 2nd Place Pastel
 Wendy Truchean: 2nd Place Traditional Photography
 Maggie Hart: Vernon Graham Memorial Award, Mildred Terry Memorial Award
 Sandy DeCoff: Gayle Magwood Memorial Award
 Lauri Caswell: Doreen Sequin Memorial Award

FUNDING

continued from page A1

Auburn. Questions about these reimbursement-based grants can be sent to auburnculturalcouncil@gmail.com. The ACC is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth.

The LCC Program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, sciences and humanities every year. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community.

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 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.

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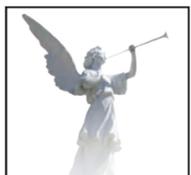
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PRAYER TO THE ANGELS
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 On the 9th day publish the prayer and your wish will be answered even though you may not believe it.
 As promised.
 N.F.L.



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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.

Thanksgiving Prayer to St. Jude
 Dearest St. Jude, thank you for your prayer and intercession on my behalf to the Lord, you have always answered my prayer but still I will never be able to thank you enough. Please forgive me on occasion that I may have forgotten or overlooked in thanking you for the favours granted. I promise you St. Jude to be ever grateful and always be, devoted to be you as my patron saint. For by the good Lord's grace has got me to this point in life, and there is still a very long road for me to traverse. Therefore, St. Jude, I will always need you by my side and please continue to guide and help me with God's grace. I ask you St. Jude to not leave any prayers unanswered whether it is one of mine or from others who have invoked your aid. Look upon us the hopeless and desperate for the Lord's help in our life. I will always be in need of your help and you always hear my prayers, otherwise my life will be very difficult to lead.
 AMEN.
 N.F.L.

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What's the Difference?

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



Answers: 1. Spider on pumpkin 2. Jack-o'-lantern in back missing face 3. Girl has black nail polish 4. Missing face paint by eye

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1864: NEVADA BECOMES THE 36TH STATE.
- 1941: WORK ON THE MOUNT RUSHMORE MONUMENT IS COMPLETED.
- 1999: JESSE MARTIN RETURNS TO AUSTRALIA AFTER SPENDING THE PREVIOUS 11 MONTHS CIRCUMNAVIGATING THE WORLD ON HIS YACHT.

New Word

FRIGHT

sudden intense feeling of fear

CMS Chamber announces 'Shop Local for the Holidays and Win!' Contest

STURBRIDGE — The Chamber of Central Mass South, the leading advocate for local business, is incredibly pleased to announce a new contest designed to incentivize holiday shoppers to keep it local this season. Shop at Member businesses of the Chamber of Central Mass South between Nov. 1 and Dec. 15 and earn chances to win cash and valuable prizes, including a grand prize of \$500!

"It is more important than ever that we spend our dollars where they will do the most good, at neighborhood businesses in our local towns," said Chamber Executive Director Alexandra McNitt. "With the 'Shop Local for the Holidays and Win' contest, we've created a fun and engaging way to keep it local this holiday season."

Keep it local and keep it simple are the themes of the contest. Here's how to get involved and earn your chance at some extra holiday goodness. Visit www.cmschamber.org and click on the Shop Local for the Holidays banner to read the official rules, download the entry form, and view more than 70 participating businesses. Bring the entry form with you as you shop and note all the businesses from which you made a purchase along with the amount spent. Then, take at least one selfie of you and/or your crew shopping at one of these fine establishments. Once you have made purchases from six of the participating businesses and taken your selfie, mail, email or drop off your completed entry form and photo at the Chamber office at 46 Hall Road in Sturbridge by noon on Dec. 16. You can enter more than once as long as you are making 6 different and original purchases per entry. The winners will be drawn and announced on Thursday, Dec. 17.

The participating businesses include shops, dining establishments, service providers, as well as attractions and experiences located throughout the 12 towns served by the Chamber of Central Mass South. The Chamber is extremely grateful to the 'Shop Local for The Holidays and Win' contest sponsor, Cornerstone Bank, for their generous support of this effort.

Seeking promotion or advocacy for your business? If it is time for you to grow your business and join a dedicated and passionate business community, visit the Chamber of Central Mass South online at cmschamber.org or reach the office at 508-347-2761.

PEOPLE FACT:

THIS POPULAR VIDEO GAME WAS THE INSPIRATION FOR MANY HALLOWEEN COSTUMES IN 2019.

ANSWERS: FORTNITE

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Scary
SPANISH: Escalofriante
ITALIAN: Pauroso
FRENCH: Effrayant
GERMAN: Angsteinflößend

Did you know?

BLACK CATS HAVE BEEN OBJECTS OF SUPERSTITION FOR SOME TIME. THEY WERE THOUGHT TO BE ANIMALS THAT BROUGHT BAD LUCK AND CURSES. THEY ALSO WERE ASSOCIATED WITH WITCHCRAFT.

GET THE PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: JACK-O-LANTERN

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to books. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 10 = A)

A. 3 4 1 8 17 10 17 5
Clue: Having to do with books

B. 22 10 9 8 14
Clue: Sheets of paper

C. 11 15 10 22 1 8 17
Clue: Division of a book

D. 16 18 18 23 19 10 17 23
Clue: Marks a spot

Answers: A. literary B. pages C. chapter D. bookmark

SUDOKU

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

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

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

ANSWER:

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

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