

Auburn News

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Brimfield feels ripple effects of canceled Antique Show



BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

BRIMFIELD – The eerie quiet in town continues to be deafening in the absence of the Brimfield Antique Show.

Three times annually, the showgrounds flanking a mile-long stretch of Route 20 bustle with thousands of guests from throughout the world. Since 1959, the flea mar-

ket has provided opportunities for the tiny community to shine in an international spotlight, with antiquers of all ages arriving for one of the largest shows in the nation. Dealers always mark their calendars early for the shows – some vendors have attended all three shows for decades – and families have made a tradition of the program for generations.

But in 2020, the show-

grounds have been desolate due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The six-day May leg of the show was scrapped, and organizers

recently announced that the July show will also be canceled. Residents, promoters, dealers, vendors, and local officials

are devastated not only by the loss of revenue, but also the lost memories for families.

“I have never seen anything like this here. We’ve had bad weather for a few days, but entire weeks have never been canceled,” said **Shelton Antique Shows** owner Lois Shelton, who started at her location in 1975. “There’s so many people who are affected by this, from the promoters, to the dealers, to the food vendors, to the supply people. And then you have all the guests.”

Organizers have not announced plans for the September antique show – the final event of the year. Vendors and dealers hope the event can be salvaged if guests wear masks and social distance, but it is unclear how the many food vendors would be affected. Travel conditions at the time would also come into play, as the show relies on attendance from across the country and the world.

Show promoters have been advised by town officials to develop a safety plan and have it ready if the September show gets the green light. Organizers are also keep-

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Charlton Public Library begins reopening process

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – While town buildings remain closed to the public at large as phase one of Charlton’s reopening is underway, the Charlton Library is looking to the future and taking steps to serve patrons once more with the goal of eventually allowing business to return to normal before the end of the year.

Library Director Cheryl Hanson said staff returned to the Charlton

Public Library immediately after Memorial Day and began accepting returns of library materials which she considered phase one of their reopening. Phase two was expected to begin on June 8 allowing rental from the library in the form of curb side pickup.

“What we’re doing is, we’re opening the lower level lobby and people can place holds on items and pick them up in that lobby. We started a soft opening to see how that would go by calling peo-

ple who already had some things on our hold shelf that have been sitting here since March when we closed to see how it would work and it seems to be working so far,” said Hanson.

In order to enter the building, patrons must wear masks and retrieve their items from the lobby in a marked paper bag. Hanson said the regional library system, which allows libraries to share resources and book between them so that patrons can rent

books Charlton may not actually have, remains on hold for now likely to prevent the possibility of cross contamination. The library is planning for a tentative reopening of July 6, where citizens would be allowed into the facility for a short time and numerous resources would be limited to prevent overcrowding and promote social distancing.

“We are not encouraging people to stay and

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Local students earn placement on Assumption College’s Dean’s List

WORCESTER — Assumption has announced those students who have been named to the College’s Dean’s List for the spring 2020 semester. Students must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 for a five-class, 15-credit semester to be included on the prestigious list, which is announced at the completion of the fall and spring semesters. Local students include:

Emma Halloran of Auburn, Class of 2021
Madison Kapulka of Auburn, Class of 2023
Alicia Murphy of Auburn, Class of 2021
Dylan Nguyen of Auburn, Class of 2023
Matthew Pugliese of Auburn, Class of 2020

“This semester, our students faced unprecedented challenges due to the global pandemic,” said Francesco C. Cesareo, Ph.D., president of Assumption College. “Following a rapid transition to remote learning, students adapted to the new form of education delivery amid difficult circumstances. The Assumption community is proud of these students who, despite the distractions of the COVID-19 situation, were able to remain focused and maintain a commitment to their academic programs.”

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

STURBRIDGE — The Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale has canceled its 71st Annual Auction that was originally scheduled for Aug. 8, bringing to an end its proud distinction of being the longest consecutive church auction in the United States.

Citing the many health considerations caused by the Covid-19 pandemic in a recent letter to auction supporters, Auction Chair Tim Bardsley said it has been impossible for the committee to put together the many elements that have made the auction so special for the past seventy years.

“The physical distancing required by this virus cut short our Monday Night furniture refinishing sessions and the craft workshops,” Bardsley said, “and the closure of so many area businesses has limited the donation of items and services for the silent auction. There are no guarantees our local board of health would even permit a food booth.”

being one of the heaviest hit by the pandemic, the committee was also very concerned for the safety of attendees and the health and safety of Church Members and Volunteers who staff the auction according to Bardsley.

“Add to all of that the substantial costs associated with auction services, food, tent rental, etc. and, while sad, we are confident that canceling the auction is the right decision,” he said.

They say every cloud has a silver lining. In this case, the silver lining is that next year, 2021, marks the 100th Anniversary of The Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale’s incorporation, and it

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Courtesy

Chair artisans, Tim Bardsley (left) and Brian Rhea (right) celebrate with successful bidders Beverly Leaman, of Lancaster, Pa. winner of the 2019 Publick House Chair and Karen Schoch, of Henniker, New Hampshire, winner of the 2019 Sturbridge Chair setting a new record for both chairs last year’s auction.

With Massachusetts



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Shepherd Hill grads awarded CMS Chamber scholarships

STURBRIDGE — The Chamber of Central Mass. South is incredibly pleased to announce the winners of the Chamber Scholarships for 2020. This year, scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 will be awarded to two very deserving, local students upon successful completion of their first semester of college with a 3.0 GPA or higher.

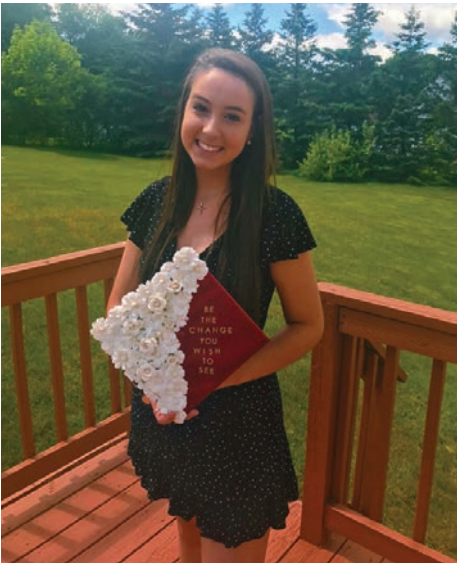
“With the outbreak of the pandemic occurring only days before our application deadline, this was a very unusual year for our selection process,” said Chamber Executive Director Alexandra McNitt. “Our Scholarship Committee scrambled to make it all happen via Zoom. We had many applications from across our catchment. It is incredibly heartening to see so many talented young adults making valuable contributions to our communities. As our process unfolded, two students clearly set themselves apart as leaders with bright, bright futures ahead of them.”

This year’s \$1,000 scholarship recipients are Anya Grondalski and Kendall Mullen, both Class of 2020 graduates of Shepherd Hill Regional High School.

Anya Grondalski, of Charlton, is an exceptional student with a glowing school transcript, and an outstanding young citizen in our community. Anya not only excels in her academics; she is also highly active in many school activities. Anya has held prominent positions such as Shepherd Hill RamTV Producer and Editor, Member of the Shepherd Hill Principal’s Advisory Council, and a



Anya Grondalski



Kendall Mullen

Member of the Dudley-Charlton Regional Superintendent’s Advisory Council. Anya is a talented and award-winning member of the Shepherd Hill Show Choir. She was also chosen as Charlton student delegate at the Massachusetts State Convention. Throughout her high school career, Anya has volunteered her time and efforts to give back to her community by serving on or with 14 organizations including: The Charlton Board of Selectman, The Charlton Library, Capen Hill Nature Sanctuary, The Charlton Old Home Day Committee, and The

Overlook Masonic Health Center. Anya takes her love of hard news with her to college in the fall to pursue her studies in broadcast communications.

Kendall Mullen, also of Charlton, is an excellent student with an innate ability to engage in a supportive way with people of all ages. Kendall has maintained a high GPA while also being active in her school, church and community activities. A member of Student Council through all of her four years of high school, Kendall brings energy and enthusiasm to all of her endeavors.

Her activities include being the captain of Shepherd Hill’s Show Choir, donating countless hours as a volunteer at St. Joseph’s Church in Charlton, and raising funds for and serving at Camp Sunshine, a non-profit organization in Casco, Maine for families of children with life-threatening diseases. Kendall excels at music and is a member of The Tri-M Music Honor Society, the international music honor society for middle and high school students. She is currently employed at Zoinck’s Fun Factory in Oxford. With a true passion for serving those in need, Kendall will pursue her education towards a career in social work.

The Chamber and its members are truly gratified to be able to contribute to the ongoing education and success of these exceptional young scholars and offer them heartfelt congratulations and best wishes as they embark on their journeys into higher education. The Chamber of Central Mass South typically offers \$1,000 scholarships to local students each year. Monies are allocated from the Chamber’s Charities and Scholarship Fund which is supported by the annual ‘Your Chance to Be a Millionaire’ lottery scratch tickets raffle, the Chamber’s Annual Golf Classic and individual contributions from Chamber Members. Scholarship applications can be obtained at local high school guidance offices or online at the Chamber website. The annual deadline to apply is April 1.

YOUR TEETH MATTER

JUNE IS ORAL HEALTH MONTH

Our next Your Teeth Matter is running on August 7 for Dental Health Week. Hope you’ll join us.

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Good dental hygiene is very important to overall good health.

Why dental hygiene is essential for overall health



The importance of maintaining clean teeth and healthy gums goes beyond having fresh breath and a white smile. Many people are surprised to discover that oral hygiene plays an integral role in overall health.

Research indicates that oral health mirrors the condition of the body as a whole. Also, regular dental visits can alert dentists about overall health and pinpoint if a person is at a risk for chronic disease. An oral health check-up also may be the first indication of a potential health issue not yet evident to a general medical doctor.

HEART DISEASE

According to the Academy of General Dentistry, there is a distinct relation-

ship between periodontal disease and conditions such as heart disease and stroke. Joint teams at the University of Bristol in the United Kingdom and the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin, Ireland, found that people with bleeding gums from poor dental hygiene could have an increased risk of heart disease. Bacteria from the mouth is able to enter the bloodstream when bleeding gums are present. That bacteria can stick to platelets and subsequently form blood clots. This interrupts the flow of blood to the heart and may trigger a heart attack. Brushing and flossing twice daily and rinsing with mouthwash can remove bacteria and keep gums healthy.

FACIAL PAIN

The Office of the Surgeon General says infections of the gums that support the teeth can lead to facial and oral pain. Gingivitis, which is an early stage of gum disease, as well as advanced gum disease, affects more than 75 percent of the American population.

Dental decay can lead to its own share of pain. Maintaining a healthy mouth can fend off decay and infections, thereby preventing pain.

PANCREATIC CANCER

In 2007, the Harvard School of Public Health reported a link between gum disease and pancreatic cancer. In the ongoing study, 51,000 men were followed and data was collected beginning in 1986. The Harvard researchers found that men with a history of gum disease had a 64 percent increased risk of pancreatic cancer compared with men who had never had gum disease. The greatest risk for pancreatic cancer among this group was in men with recent tooth loss. However, the study was unable to find links between other types of oral health problems, such as tooth decay, and pancreatic cancer.

ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE

Various health ailments, including poor oral health, have been linked to a greater risk of developing Alzheimer’s disease. In 2010, after reviewing 20 years’ worth of data, researchers from New York University concluded that there is a link between gum inflammation and Alzheimer’s disease. Follow-up studies from researchers at the University of Central Lancashire in the United Kingdom compared brain samples from 10 living patients with Alzheimer’s to samples from 10 people who did not have the disease. Data indicated that a bacterium — Porphyromonas gingivalis — was present in the Alzheimer’s brain samples but not in the samples from the brains of people who did not have Alzheimer’s. P. gingivalis is usually associated with chronic gum disease. As a result of the study, experts think that the bacteria can move via nerves in the roots of teeth that connect directly with the brain or through bleeding gums.

These health conditions are just a sampling of the relationship between oral health and overall health. Additional connections also have been made and continue to be studied.

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QCC RELEASES SPRING 2020 SEMESTER DEAN AND MERIT LISTS

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College has released its Spring 2020 semester Dean and Merit Lists. A total of 578 students were named to the College's Dean's List and 1035 students were named to the Merit List.

Students named to the Dean's List must have a Quality Point Average (QPA) of 3.5 or higher and have earned 12 or more credits in a given semester. Students named to the Merit List must have a QPA of 3.5 or higher and have earned 6 or more credits in a given semester, but fewer than 12 credits.

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

Dean's List

Auburn: Brigid Campbell, Gracie Curtis, Corey Duff, Catherine Forde, Dawson Gemme, Jason Henry, Nicholas John, Quinne Masiello, Benjamin Rackett, Haley Rivers, Rheina Viruet
Brimfield: Allyson Chase, Kenneth Farrell, Alexis Fluegel, Madison Miller, Jennifer Polesnak-Custance, Jonathan Rubio
Brookfield: Quintin Aubin, Justin Zielinski
Charlton: Matthew Beals, Elaine Bond, Rebekah Diaz, Lucas Lanier, Paige Leite, Robert Orasz, Jeffrey Pearlstein, Christopher Rapoza, Shannon Ross, Rebekah Ukpog
Cherry Valley: Hunter Guinto, Robert Howard, Alec Iott, Sarah Kacevich, Krissy Lindner

Douglas: Kristina Chacon, Daphne Sevilla
Dudley: Erin Bernard, Gabrielle Boivin, Jessica Clark, Jacqueline Coggans, Joy Goguen, Veronica Helock, Francesca Johnson, Montana Josey, Meghan Krajcik, Conner Meece, Aidan Murray, Mick Sullivan, Meroon Zahrah

East Brookfield: Allison Hingston

East Douglas: Amy Ackerman, Bethany Buller, Dominic Corso, Adam Gaulin, Jenna Glode, Sarah Happy, Jacob Masi
Fiskdale: Carina Holt, Tristan Shaw
Leicester: Grace Ankrah, Tiffany Beer, Sajed Chreim, Anastasia Cichowski, Jillian Dube, Dylan Havey, Kristina Jarobski, Austin Le, Ayla Martinez, Meaghan St. George, Lindsay Tucker

North Brookfield: Skye Guertin, Jay Mason, Michelle Nguyen, David Vincent
North Uxbridge: Sarena Gervais

Northbridge: Joshua Desjardins, Tyler Hewitt, Brian Iarussi, Tyler Novitch, Lauren Springer, Donovan Tames
Oxford: Gabriella Blackwell, Kayla Brodeur, Nathan Hagopian, Luke Knowles, Samantha Lemay, Trenton Lovejoy, Paul Maynard, Abigail Rice, Madeline Tomlin, Felecia Violette

Southbridge: Kevin Brady, Edgardo Camacho, Caiden Ellis, Breanna Filion, Jaime Fuentes, Jessica Harvey, Megan Hufault, Dalizbeth Rivera-Szczypien, Dianis Sanchez, Justin Santiago
Spencer: Chantel Croteau, Joseph Hamel, Nelmarie Irizarry, William Marrier, Morgan Mercadante, Johnny Nguyen, Dustin VanDyke, Savannah Vangel

Uxbridge: Anthony Abate, Gabrielle Casey, Marcus Cruz, Jenna Dagle, Erika Ethier, Mark Jordan, Michaela Randall, Christopher Videto

Wales: Lilyth Bourque
Webster: Carolyn Almanzar, Gutierrez, Destiny Baldwin, Anthony Barnardo, Tom Bednarz, Audrey Ducharme, Maikael Gwargious, Timothy Hansen, Sokkheng Khem, Joshua Kichar, Eric Lefebvre, Antonia Lopez, Orion Walker

West Boylston: Kingsley Duodu, Matthew George, Dylan Hemenway, Sarah Maino, Sophie Mulhearn, Jaycie Opuda, Zackery VanVleck, Brady Weldon
West Brookfield: Robert O'Shea, Marissa Parker, Leah Robillard, William Walker

Whitinsville: Alexandra Clauss, Rachel Freneau, Jameson Murray, Sharon Ridley, Anastasia Robinson, John Roche, Allison Salamack, Braelyn Sessa, Bishop Soliman, Hanna, Marie Soliman, Cody Spencer

Robertson, Laura Ruzzoli, Brian Smith, Dylan Tang, Dien Truong, Jonathon Wambach

Blackstone: Christina Boyan, Alexa Boyt, Eric Lawler, Thomas Saladin, Cassidy Tellstone, Justyne Tellstone, Patricia Wozniak
Brimfield: Amber Beaulieu, Amanda Childs, Steven LaRocco, Noah Pestaina
Brookfield: Shawna O'Day Kida, Angela Palmere
Charlton: Rasa Auskalnyte, Danielle Cadarette, Byron Dean, Gwen Earnest, Chelsie Elliott, April Foskett, Riley French, Victoria Gaspar, Alexander Hayward, Chase Mannila, Amanda McDermott, Ashley Steelman, Jennifer Vezina
Cherry Valley: Tiara Bates, Sarah Gaffney, Alferid Hussin Shifa, Inutu Mwinga, Esther Njeri, Brandi Sagendorph, Nehemiah Wanjiku

Douglas: Kattie Turgeon
Dudley: Celia Bohaboy, Shawn Coltran, Alexandra Cowher, Amanda Cronauer, Michael Cyrek, Gregory Gunsalus, Cassidy Hamilton, Stedroy Hortance, Hannah Lawson, Travis McDonald, Danielle Moore, Elizabeth Naumann, David Njoroge, Abigail Northrop, Jacinda Peters, Tiffany Sousa, Melesia Swanston-Alonzo, Owen West, Ashley Westgate, Eridania Zapata

East Brookfield: Madison Hatt, McKenna Lamothe, Amber Wadden
East Douglas: Amanda Alexion, Carol Benson, Holly Callahan, Samantha Drew, Brendan L'Italien, Nathan Milliken, Emily Muscatell, Earl Parfitt, Michael Purvis

Fiskdale: Brianna Lawrence, Victoria Masse, Jaime Pingree, Phillip Sipe, Rosalyn Sosik, Ryan Zahr, Warren Zelenak
Holland: Edward Fisher, Sean Higgins
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North Brookfield: Meghan Brill, Harold Burroughs, Cassandra Chouinard, Kelsie Fantasia, Melissa Fontaine, Leo Gauthier, Jessica Jesky, Jordan Olson, Stephanie Ranellone
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Oxford: Regan Arraje, Richard Audette, Amber Comptois, Nicole Cosway, Nichole Donahue, Lindsey Donnelly, Tommy Estevez, Aliya Guillotte, Jennifer Gum, Carolyn Hodge, Audrey Hopkins, Jacob Laplante, Justin Mosher, Denise Otano, Nicholas Rawson, Ethan Smith, Olivia Spring, Kathryn Tagg, Heather Wilcox

Southbridge: Andre Beaudet, Karl Benkert, Felicia Boucher, Melissa Boudreau, Jessica Brunell, Audrey Clark, Jacquelinet Conde Arias, Awtumn Courville, Melinda Cruz-Rios, Ashley Deorsey-McNeaney, Tanishia Espino, Kirstianna Ferschke, Kiley Gouin, Maria Hernandez-Santos, Melynda Marcano, Luz Marquez, Javier Melendez, Kyle Morrill, Sean Moynagh, Amy Nadeau, Erik Newton, Krystal Pagan, Brady Parent, Matthew Porra, Mariana Powell, Tanner Renaud, Stephanie Rivera, Christina Ruberti, Sujeidy Sagastibelza, Austin Skarnes, Cassandra Smeltzer, Gabriel Varner, Nmatyarie Villanueva, Tyler Webster

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Wales: Stephen Hughes, Janelle VanHook
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West Brookfield: Jenna Chisholm, Savannah Finney, Karen Laprise, Alexandra Mendenhall, Jasper Roche, Payton Wooldridge
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Quinsigamond Community College to continue remote instruction this fall

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College will continue remote instruction for the Fall 2020 semester. According to QCC President Dr. Luis G. Pedraja, the decision was made to ensure the safety of the College's students, faculty and staff.

"We did not make this decision lightly. The administration felt this was in the best interest of the QCC community with the continued uncertainty of COVID-19," President Pedraja said. "Due to the pandemic, we feel it's most prudent to leverage our experience and expertise with online and remote instruction and unprecedented support. This will allow for little to no disruption of services in the Fall, should the virus spike as predicted later this year. We will continue to monitor the situation, and follow the medical advice of local, state, and national organizations. A limited number of courses, such as labs or clinical experiences that require direct hands-on participation and cannot be delivered remotely, will be offered on campus, as long as we can do so safely." QCC has a long history of online education and has offered hundreds of courses remotely prior to the pandemic. In early March, the College adapted quickly to the changing landscape and transitioned its in-person spring semester courses to remote instruction, in addition to delivering its full array of support services remotely.

Today, college students are facing an uphill battle as many are rethinking their fall college plans and looking for impossible guarantees from four-year schools that dorms will remain open for the academic year. Students looking for the "on campus" experience could find themselves back home and out thousands of dollars in a few short weeks or months, should residential schools find they must move to a remote form of education delivery as they did this Spring.

"This pandemic is one that is transforming how we look at higher education," President Pedraja continued. "Right now, no one knows what the future holds and while we all want to be optimistic, we must be cognizant that our world may be forever changed. Making smart higher education decisions now, will pay off substantially in the future."

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



Congratulations, QVCC Class of 2020

DANIELSON, Conn. — Nearly 150 Quinebaug Valley Community College students will receive degrees and certificates in QVCC's 48th commencement, which will be virtually celebrated on QVCC's Facebook and Instagram pages. Congratulations to the Class of 2020!

Auburn: Kelsey L. Gallo
Dudley: Kerrissa Danielle Cobb

Oxford: Rosanne Marie Wheeler-Flint

Southbridge: Brent Andrew Bohm, Kathryn Elizabeth Bohm, Kristen Anne LaFleche

Webster: Jennifer L. McKinstry

Merit List

Auburn: Michelina Balsavich, Faith Barbieri, Bright Bremang, Caleb Buckley, Elizabeth Burch-Elder, Chantal Champagne, Hannah Chapdelaine, Lyndsey Delorto, Adam Easty, Rebecca Forrett, Danielle Hastings, Desiray Hayes, Thi Thanh Huynh, Anelia Hyland, Tia Leo, Abigail Lloyd, Indra Nagassar, Lolitha Ntonmeu, Messa Tiako, Joseph Paine, Abigail Randall, James

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Charlton voters head to the polls Saturday

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – Voters in Charlton will have some important decisions to make this Saturday, as the town’s annual election will see several seats filled in town leadership including the naming of two new selectmen and a town moderator.

Three candidates are running for open seats on the Board of Selectmen with only two open positions on the board. John McGrath and Deborah Noble have decided not to run for re-election in 2020 leaving both seat 4 and seat 5 open for the taking. Seat 4 on the board has only one candidate for consideration, Stephen George Koronis, who is seeking his first three-year term serving the town. An 18-year resident of Charlton and a member of the local Lions Club, Koronis’s family has a long history serving their communities in the political stage. During a special online candidates’ night on May 18, Koronis introduced himself as a someone with experience and training in negotiation skills and motivating a group to work towards a common goal thank to his professional life as a sales engineer for over 30 years.

“I consider myself a

man of conviction. I rarely budge on a position. However, I do take the time to understand different positions, do the research and fully understand both sides before I make a decision,” Koronis said. “The town has been good (to my family) and I want to serve and give some of it back.”

The second available selectman seat, Seat 5, has two candidates each contending for a single three-year term. Patricia Ann Rydlak and Joshua Saper are both hoping to earn the position bringing a mutual perspective of governing for the people to the position. Patricia Rydlak looks to move over to the Board of Selectmen after 18 years on the Planning Board. A resident of Charlton for more than 30 years with experience in corporate and government auditing and finance, Rydlak believes her background in fraud and efficiency assessment and risk analysis as well as her extensive experience serving the town on her prior board make her worthy of a selectman seat.

“I’ve demonstrated my commitment to this town. I have proven that I stand up for what is right even when it is difficult,” Rydlak said during candidates night. “I believe that my knowledge, experience and proven com-

mitment to this town makes me an excellent candidate for selectman.”

Her competitor Joshua Saper is an eight-year resident of Charlton who has spend most of his career and an entrepreneur. A volunteer in the local little league and with numerous nonprofits Saper is hoping to translate his dedication in public service into a victory for a Board of Selectman seat this Saturday with a primary focus on infrastructure as his main goal.

“I want to do my part to keep Charlton the great community that we all know it is,” Saper said during candidates night. “Most importantly, we need to run a transparent and efficient government that represents all of our residents equally and I look forward to helping make that happen.”

The only other contested seat on the ballot will be for town moderator with outgoing Selectman Deborah Noble and first-time candidate Noreen Smith each looking to lead town meeting for the next three years. Noble, who has lived in Charlton for almost ten years and finished her first three-year term as selectman, said she decided to run for town moder-

ator after an illness in the family prevented her from committing to a new term as a selectman. However, she wanted to continue her longstanding reputation of volunteering and public service by helping lead the town in a new position.

“I still believe in volunteering which is why I’m running for town moderator this time around,” Noble said in her candidates’ night introduction. “Volunteering and speaking in my own community with my neighbors and helping them means more to me than anything else. I would appreciate the opportunity to continue to do so.”

Noreen Smith may be a new name to town politics but she believes her experience in the field of public health and the opportunities that career has given her to learn to manage projects and groups gives her the skills required to lead a town meeting and to help in the democratic process in her hometown of more than 28-years.

“I believe in democracy and in the idea that we don’t always have to agree, but we need to hear from each other, consider all perspectives and make informed decisions together,” Smith

said at candidates night. “The town moderator ensures that the voices of the voters are heard, and town meetings are conducted according to procedures and in a respectable manner and that our finance committee members represent the entire community. I want our town to be well run with a transparent government that serves in the best interest of our community.”

The only other contested election on the ballot is for the Housing Authority. Cathleen Kuehl and Jeanmarie Vincent will each contend for a single two-year term to fill a vacancy on the board.

The rest of the ballot contains uncontested elections, but there are still some new faces to be noted in the mix. Town Clerk Karen LaCroix is one candidate seeking reelection for a new three-year term. Other familiar names are Town Assessor Richard Vaughan, Cemetery Commissioner Donna Neylon, Board of Health member Matthew Gagner, Tree Warden Seth Lamansky, Library Trustees Fiona Bycroft-Ryder and Kathleen Therrien, Southern Worcester Regional

Vocational School District Representative Michael Tiberii, Housing Authority member Michael Sullivan, an Jamie Lynn Terry of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee who are all seeking three-year terms as incumbents unopposed.

Among the new names seeking positions unopposed are Jordan Willow Evans seeking a one-year term on the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee, Sheri Lee Zanca for the Recreation Commission, John Joseph Smith for the Planning Board and Willis Bond, Jr. for the Cemetery Commission.

Charlton’s annual town election will take place at Heritage School on Saturday, June 13 with lines designated for each precinct. Voters are asked to arrive with masks and their own pens and maintain a six-foot distance from each other. Voters should also be prepared for the weather as they may be waiting outside. Umbrellas and sunscreen are recommended. A full election sample ballot and adding details on election day procedures can be found on the Town of Charlton Web site.

Charlton Town Meeting set for June 15

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – Charlton’s spring annual town meeting will look a little different in 2020 thanks to the continued social distancing guidelines imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but the town will persevere as voters are welcomed to the June 15 gathering to decide on a new budget and have their say on other town business items throughout the evening.

With 17 articles on the warrant, the annual town meeting has a lighter agenda that meetings passed with twelve articles being formalities or normal town business items including the proposal for the 2021 Fiscal Year town budget. Town Administrator Andrew Golas explained that the combined spending plan including town funding and projected school district expenses comes to \$30.8 million, a \$700,000 increase over the prior year. That includes \$16 million education spending with \$2.3 million designated for the Bay Path Regional Vocational School District and \$13.6 million designated for the Dudley Charlton Regional School District. Both the town and school budgets have been forced to manage variables and unknowns on the state level due to delays caused by the national health crisis.

“What we’re looking at is pretty much a 23 percent reduction in unrestricted general government aid. That accounts for a little over a million and a half of the total budget. The state’s portion is not a huge amount and that’s kind of where the biggest amount of uncertainty is. We’re really confident that given the local economic outlook that our local receipts and tax revenue will stay pretty steady. We’re kind of in that unique position where we do have some economic growth that we haven’t seen trail off during this whole pandemic. We’re pretty hopeful that’s going to stay upward,” Golas said. “For years, the town has taken a very conservative approach to local receipts and I think that’s really going to help balance any uncertainty that we do have in the budget.”

Golas added that the town is not adding any new critical positions. They’re approach to the 2021 budget is to make is “lean and mean” and to avoid any major increases to respect the economic uncertainties both the town and taxpayers are facing under the current health crisis.

“There were a lot of requests from department heads for additional staffing and we basically had to cut out every single one of those requests. We’re really trying to be as balanced as possible but recognize that we do have a little bit of flexibility with local receipts. We’re trying to do that so we’re not using layoffs to balance our budget,” said Golas.

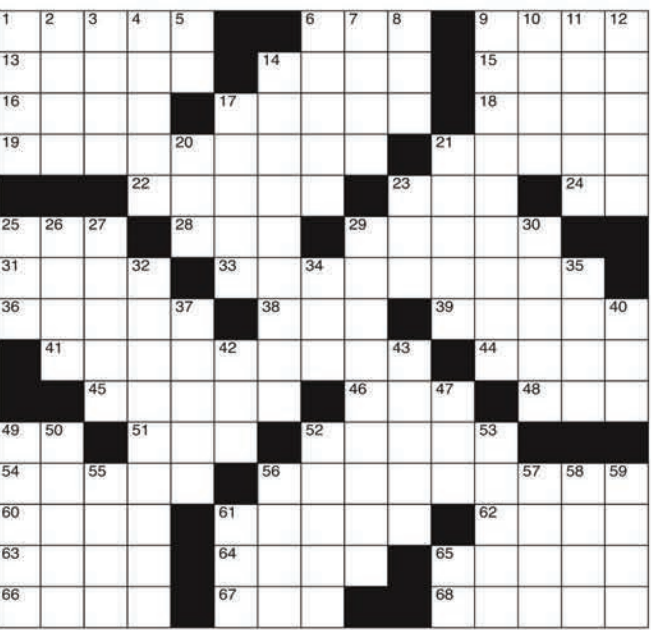
Other items found on the warrant include interdepartmental transfers, town reports, appropriation of funds for unpaid bills, the water and sewer budgets and discussion of capital items which are expected to be moved to the fall annual town meeting. Articles 13 through 17 are all citizen petitions all of which the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen have said they will not support as written. A full warrant for the 2020 Charlton Spring Annual Town Meeting can be found on the Town of Charlton Web site.

The annual town meeting will take place outdoors in the central parking lot bay of the Charlton Middle School on Monday June 15 at 6 p.m., one hour earlier than past meetings, and will see citizens seated spaced six feet apart. In the case of inclement weather, the meeting will be moved to the follow night, Tuesday, June 16. If inclement weather continues the meeting will be moved to Wednesday night and so forth until the meeting can successfully take place outdoors.



Courtesy

A graphic presents the setup for Charlton’s outdoor annual town meeting on June 15



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. American composer
- 6. Very fast aircraft
- 9. Workplaces
- 13. A mount on a surface
- 14. Small freshwater fish
- 15. Double-reed instrument
- 16. Canadian flyers
- 17. Famed astronomer
- 18. Smooth, shiny fabric
- 19. Profited
- 21. Conspiracy
- 22. Infections
- 23. Chum
- 24. Secondary school (abbr.)
- 25. Resistance unit
- 28. Sound unit
- 29. Ancient city of Egypt
- 31. Crease
- 33. Polished
- 36. For goodness __!
- 38. College basketball tournament
- 39. Scorches
- 41. Describe precisely
- 44. Thick piece of something
- 45. Frocks
- 46. Indicates near
- 48. Senior enlisted US Army member
- 49. A note added to a letter
- 51. A nose or snout
- 52. Clumsy
- 54. Satisfied to the fullest
- 56. Display of strong feeling
- 60. Popular awards show
- 61. Cuisine style
- 62. Expresses pleasure
- 63. Monetary unit of the Maldives
- 64. Utah city
- 65. Fight
- 66. Messenger ribonucleic acid
- 67. Body part
- 68. Suspiciously reluctant

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Fruit of the service tree
- 2. At some prior time
- 3. Mongolian city __ Bator
- 4. Strongboxes
- 5. Russian river
- 6. Gurus
- 7. Horse mackerel
- 8. Pearl Jam’s debut album
- 9. Confiner
- 10. First month of Jewish ecclesiastical year
- 11. Famed Idaho politician
- 12. Prevents from seeing
- 14. Indicate time
- 17. Male parents
- 20. Tab on a key ring
- 21. The Great Dog constellation: __ Major
- 23. Frying necessity
- 25. Former CIA
- 26. The leader
- 27. Produces
- 29. London soccer club
- 30. Closes
- 32. Region in the western Pacific Ocean
- 34. Not present
- 35. Small drink of whiskey
- 37. Begat
- 40. Helps little firms
- 42. Pointed end of a pen
- 43. Fencing swords
- 47. Inches per minute (abbr.)
- 49. Hymn
- 50. Philippine island
- 52. Flemish names of Ypres
- 53. A way to inform
- 55. Small lake
- 56. Linear unit
- 57. Central Japanese city
- 58. Partially burn
- 59. Sports award
- 61. Part of your foot
- 65. Atomic #21



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Community shows support for Black Lives Matter

BY ROSE PECCI
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

STURBRIDGE — The Sturbridge Town Common has always been the town’s center of congregation, used to host events such as weekly farmer’s markets and concerts. On Thursday, June 4, it was once again used to bring its citizens together as Sturbridge held its own peaceful protest in support of Black rights.

As the Black Lives Matter movement has re-emerged in response to the recent horrifying deaths of Black Americans such as George Floyd, many cities have held protests to demand justice, denounce police violence towards Black people, and to mourn the Black lives lost. While Sturbridge is a small, rural town rather than a large city, it was not left behind. Although Sturbridge is a predominantly white area, they showed their support to the Black community.

Thursday’s peaceful protest on the Common was organized by teens Brooke Gebo, Parker Paige, and Rosangeline Fleming. They spread word of the event through social media, and received an overwhelming response.

Paige expressed that their goal for the event was “to raise awareness and to mourn all of the hurt that’s been put on people of color and the black community for so long,” and Gebo added that she wants this event to “honor those that have been abused by the system, and just give people something to think about.”

Fleming emphasized that she hopes to “continue fueling the energy for the Black Lives Matter movement...I don’t want this to be the flavor of the week or a trend or something that’s gonna die out...I want people to be able to express that energy in a peaceful setting where we are able to learn and explore ideas that may be jarring and upsetting to a

lot of us who haven’t had to deal with this.”

Some Sturbridge residents expressed concern about the event and the possibility of violence erupting from the protests, but the coordinators of the peaceful protest continued to emphasize the intended peaceful nature of the protest and stressed that “it’s a vigil, not a riot.” In order to ensure the safety of those that were in attendance, the event coordinators worked with the local police.

Earl Dessert, Sturbridge’s Interim Police Chief, stated “I don’t anticipate anything getting out of hand, obviously if anything gets out of hand we’ll be there to make sure peace is restored, but I’m looking at it as a peaceful event that we’re going to be down there standing in solidarity with the cause which is to stop police brutality.”

More than 300 people gathered at the Sturbridge Town Common to support the black community, not just those in this area, but the whole country. Though the event started at 5:30 p.m., many occupied the Common well before then. As people arrived, a few police officers greeted them and helped them park safely. The coordinators stood in the gazebo at the head of the common with a microphone and were playing empowering music as they waited for protestors to gather. Although the event was led by young people, a large variety of citizens showed up; while there were lots of young adults, there were equally as many older citizens and parents with their kids. Despite the variety of protestors, everyone had the same goal: to show their support and stand in solidarity for the black community.

One activist vocalized their motivation for protesting on behalf of the black community, stating “As an LGBT person, I stand with Black Lives Matter because I owe my rights to black lives.”

From the beginning, the mood on the Common was very uplifting and positive. People cheered each other on, those that passed by in cars beeped their support and in return received clapping from the congregation. People continued to show up. As some left, passersby took their places in the crowd. The event organizers encouraged those gathered not to respond to any hate directed towards the movement; only a few dared to jeer at the Common, but those gathered took the advice of their wise young leaders and ignored the negativity.

After the Chief of Police reiterated to the crowd that this was a peaceful event and made it clear that the few police officers were there to provide support and protection to those gathered, Paige, Gebo, and Fleming began the vigil in which black lives that have been lost to police brutality were honored. Every minute for nine minutes, they listed names of those lost and a minute of silence would follow. They effectively concluded this list with the name George Floyd, a name that is recognizable to the whole world right

now.

Only a few people were scheduled to speak, and after that anyone was welcome to share their experiences with those gathered, with Black speakers given priority. As each new person came up to speak, more became inspired, and while this made the protest go on longer than planned, everyone stayed and listened to the stories and experiences that were shared. People held signs high over their head during the whole event, and while their arms grew tired, one attendee said they knew this fatigue was nothing compared to the suffering the Black community has faced and continues to face. Each speaker shared new wisdom with the crowd and provided an additional call to action.

Although protesting during this pandemic is controversial to many and could be considered dangerous, one protestor illustrated that “It shows that people are willing to put themselves at some sort of risk to come and show their support for something like this, which is so important.”

Helping Hand Society holding annual yard sale

CHARLTON — The Charlton Helping Hand Society Inc will host their annual Yard Sale on Friday, June 19 and Saturday, June 20 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at The Dodge Chapel, 81 Hammond Hill Rd., Charlton. All proceeds will benefit the group’s charitable commitment to the Charlton Community.

Our always generous members and friends have outdone themselves with donations for this sale. This sale will adhere to the State’s Covid-19 guidelines – masks, distancing, etc. If necessary, there will also be a restriction on the number of shoppers at one time.

Please join us, share the fellowship, bargains and especially to “help us to help others.”

AUCTION

continued from page A1

will be a year of special events marking that celebration, according to executive board president, Leigh Darrin. As part of that anniversary, the Auction Committee is now planning what will be its final Church Auction on Saturday,

Aug. 14, 2021.

Long-time supporters of Sturbridge Federated Church and its annual antique auction, may be wondering, “how may I help?” The auction committee has a few suggestions:

- To help ease the loss of revenue from canceling this year’s auction - funds that the Church depends upon for capital

improvements -- you may send a check in any amount, or visit the church website at <http://sturfed.org/make-a-donation>. Clicking on the “Donate” button will take you to a secure PayPal account where you may designate a donation to the capital improvement fund.

- Perhaps you would consider donating one

item of value from your home for next year’s auction. One item, in excellent condition and ready to put on the auction block, from each person reading this would save us hours of refurbishing time and create a ready inventory for a sensational final auction! (Please contact the Church office at (508) 347-3915 with details and arrangements will be made to pick up your donated item.)

- You can start putting aside a little each month to spend at next year’s event, so you can walk away with one memorable item from this important final auction on Aug. 14, 2021.

- Last, but certainly not least, if you are unable to attend next year’s auction in person, perhaps you would consider helping to underwrite the costs of putting that final auction together

er with a small contribution.

“We are extremely grateful for the generous past support of the Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale and the extraordinary tradition that has been our annual Church auction on the lovely Sturbridge Common,” said Bardsley. “We look forward to seeing everyone in 2021!”

LIBRARY

continued from page A1

linger,” Hanson said. “We have to monitor how many people are in the building. It will be a ‘come in, get what you need and leave’ kind of situation.”

In preparation for the full reopening plexiglass is being installed as a barrier between employees and visitors while both workers and visitors will be required to wear masks at all times while in the building. Public computers will be limited to prevent people from sitting close to each other and upholstered furniture will be temporarily stored away. The children’s room will also be limited to one family at

a time.

While it won’t be a complete return to normal, Hanson said she and the staff are excited by the prospect of welcoming citizens back into the building.

“We are very social. The staff and our patrons are very social with each other. It’s been hard working remotely from home for all this time. We’ve been reaching out to some of our patrons by phone to make sure they are okay,” Hanson said. “In the three months that we were closed, the use of and circulation of our digital items like E-books and digital audio downloads skyrocketed. That may go down when we reopen but I think we’re going to see that

as a trend now that people have been forced to embrace some of those digital resources.”

Hanson commended the town of Charlton and its leaders for their response to the COVID-19 pandemic that required the shutdown of the library and countless other town buildings and businesses. Having been involved in many discussions with town leaders from the start, she said Charlton is “very lucky” to have the leadership it does and that the communication and guidance from selectmen and the town administrator have been vital to the libraries ability to serve patrons and keep them informed even while the doors are closed.

ANTIQUES

continued from page A1

ing a close watch of the latest guidance released by Gov. Charlie Baker. The fate of another massive September event in western Massachusetts – the Big E in West Springfield – will also be at the mercy of conditions in the early fall. Brimfield Antique Show participants and leaders are eagerly awaiting a decision on the Big E, which will be used as a barometer for whether their event can be held.

“We have been meeting and planning as if there is going to be a show,” said *Randy Kolhoff*, the owner of the Black Swan Meadows show field. “If it happens, we have to be prepared for it and make sure we have precautions in place to keep everyone safe.”

Antique specialists are also concerned about the long-term effects from the lost shows this year, not only in Brimfield but nationwide. It will be a struggle for many dealers, promoters, and business owners to sustain their operations over the next year-plus, officials said.

Kolhoff, who enjoyed a strong first year at his Brimfield location in 2019, was fully

booked for 2020 before the COVID-19 crisis struck. He even had a waiting list of dealers for the May show.

“The industry has weathered many storms, but this is a very difficult, unprecedented challenge,” *Kolhoff added.*

The loss of the initial two thirds of the Brimfield event has also been detrimental to local businesses, especially motels and hotels in Sturbridge and surrounding towns. Many guests stay locally for an entire weekend before heading across the country or abroad.

For more information about the antique show, as well as updates on the September event, visit www.BrimfieldAntiqueFleaMarket.com.

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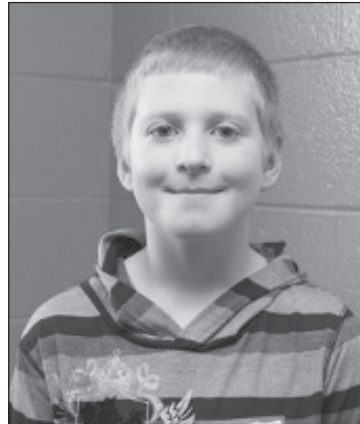
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Friday's Child



David
Age 13

Hi! My name is David and I love board games!

David is a very polite boy of Caucasian descent. He has a great sense of humor and loves to be silly with others. David loves to take on new challenges. He enjoys swimming and has been considering playing sports as well. David loves to play outside and shows his inventive and imaginative skills when doing so. A big interest of David's is playing board games, especially Monopoly, which he explains is his greatest talent. David has expressed his many goals and aspirations, including his interest in being a police officer when he is older.

Legally freed for adoption, David does well with structure, routine and clear and concise expectations. He also would do well with having his own bedroom. He has no preference for family constellation but would like at least one other child in his new home. He currently has contact with his siblings, and it is very important that this is maintained after adoption as well. David would do very well in a family that could supply clear rules, structure, and expectations for him. Ultimately David expresses his wish to be safe and secure in a home and have the ability to still have a relationship with his siblings.

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


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

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OPINION/COMMENTARY



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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

United we stand, divided we fall

In the 6th century B.C., Aesop shared a fable about the Lion and The Four Oxen. The story, if you have not heard it, goes like this....

A lion used to prowl around a field where four oxen dwelled. Several times, he would try to eat them but whenever he approached the four oxen would back their tales up to each other with their bodies pointed outward in different directions. No matter what direction the lion approached, he was met by the horns of one of them and could do nothing. Finally, the oxen began quarreling amongst themselves, and so each went off to a pasture of their own in a separate corner of the field. Then the lion attacked them one by one and soon made an end to all four.

Aesop’s moral to this tale has become one of the most well known sayings of our time, “United we stand, divided we fall.” President Abraham Lincoln parroted the sentiment in his acceptance speech, made in the year 1858: “A house divided against itself cannot stand.”

As of late, it seems the division throughout the country and even in our small communities has grown deeper. What we noticed, however, is that most well minded, kind, compassionate, intelligent people all want the same things. To be happy and successful. The arguments ensue, when people have different ideas on how to reach such a state of success in our government, and even in our own lives. When one person thinks we should reach A by doing X and Y, and another thinks we should reach A by doing Z, tempers flare. We want to remind you, that there is no reason to get heated when talking to a friend or colleague. Getting heated at a stranger is even more inappropriate. It’s ok if someone disagrees with you. Remain calm.

What needs to unfold is the ability to hear each other out with a listening ear. Where one person’s experience ends, another’s begins. Solutions always appear in that middle area, where compromises are made.

To be steadfast in your beliefs is important, but it’s even more important to exercise some flexibility, that is where growth takes place. This is where we can learn from someone who doesn’t think the same way we do. It does not make a person weak, when there is a mind shift. It makes them smart.

We’re seeing a lot of arguing on social media, people publicly going back and forth and the thread never ends with any real change being made. If you want to have a meaningful, productive conversation with someone online, take it to a private message, where the world isn’t watching. In the public eye, we all can be defensive.

Now, there are extremists on both sides of any argument, in those cases, there’s not much you can do. There are people who want to see things through one lens and one lens only. Fine, let them. You will also see ignorance and evil come flying out of the mouths of those you never thought capable, fine let them. Remember that the majority of the people in this country want to unify. It comes down to common sense. United we stand, divided we fall. That statement couldn’t ring truer.

Be strong enough in character, where you are a leader, whether in your own community, at work or in your own family. Unity should always be the end goal. Therefore, if you see someone that disagrees with you, and you want to unify, have a conversation that will do just that.

Sometimes simply saying, “Hey the country is really divided right now, how can we start to unify on a small scale?” That question puts both people in a position to come up with a solution that works for everyone. Then the domino effect takes hold. Then unity happens, then change, then success.

In the words of author Ken Blanchard, “None of us is as smart, as all of us.”

Summertime Lawn Care Tips

A recent past column touched on a few lawn tending tips. Based on a request from a reader for more basic lawn tips, the following compilation of hints and ideas from past columns is offered:

If the grass is always greener on the other side of the fence - it may be time to review the basics of lawn care.

A beautiful lawn is worth the effort. And properly groomed grass doesn’t offer only aesthetic benefits. An average sized lawn creates enough oxygen to meet the needs of a family of four every day, is a natural provider for our ecosystem, and can boost property value by nearly ten percent! Need another reason invest time and energy into your lawn? Ponder this: The front lawns of a block of eight average houses have the cooling effect of about 70 tons of air conditioning-enough to cool 16 average houses. On a hot summer day, grass can be 10 to 14 degrees cooler than exposed soil and as much as 30 degrees cooler than concrete or asphalt. And it also provides oxygen. A 50’ x 50’ well-maintained grass area will create enough oxygen to meet the needs of a family

Watering Your Way to a Lush Lawn: When and how much you water your lawn can determine lawn success. If you subscribe to the old rule of thumb of watering for a short time each day, you may want to rethink your strategy. Lawn experts claim a healthy lawn with a good root system doesn’t require watering more than one to three times per week. The bottom line? Your lawn needs about an inch of water once every seven to 10 days to grow strong roots.

Still not convinced when it comes to watering less is more? Keep in mind frequent shallow watering leads to shallow root growth because roots only grow where the soil is moist. Shallow root growth can make a lawn more susceptible to heat stress and drought damage. On the other hand, if you water too much and saturate the lawn, you run the risk of suffocating grass roots. In saturated soil, deep roots can’t get air and die. The only roots that survive will be those near the surface.

Your goal in irrigating should be to wet the soil where the grass roots are growing, no more and no less. To achieve this, experts advise wetting the top six inches of the soil thoroughly. To gauge how long you should run your sprinkler to achieve the six inch mark, place a few tin cans around the yard and run the sprinkler for a set amount of time. Then measure the accumulation to figure out how long it will take to equal six inches.

Despite the best intentions, watering a lawn thoroughly enough to wet the soil at least six inches deep is often easier said than done. Most sprinkler systems apply water much faster than the soil can absorb it. As a result the water just runs off, especially if you have a sloped landscape. To control runoff, take periodic pauses in watering by turning off the sprinklers to allow the water to seep in.

Compacted soil is another cause of water runoff. Soil compaction also restricts air, water and nutrient entry and slows root development. Remedy this by aerating the soil. Keep in mind lawns with deep roots can be watered less often than lawns with shallow root systems.

Also, let the weather work for you. Keep a rain gauge to determine how often you will need to water your lawn. For



TAKE THE HINT
KAREN TRAINOR

example, if it rains an inch, you can skip watering until next week!

Water at the Right Time of the Day: Early morning is by far the best time for watering lawns. For optimum efficiency and success, try to water in the wee morning hours. The high humidity and moisture quota, and evaporation of the water is lessened during this time. If you cannot water in the morning, irrigate after sunset. But remember, early morning watering helps to prevent lawn diseases that can be caused by watering at night because it gives your lawn time to dry by night fall.

Mowing Minders: Experts say a common mowing mistake is cutting your grass too short, particular for cool season grasses. Higher heights usually provide for a deeper root system, looks better, and is less likely to have weeds invading, particularly crabgrass.

Lawn pros advise adjusting your blade so that you never remove any more than one third of the grass leaf at any one cutting. By doing so, you can safely leave clippings that will quickly decompose and add valuable nutrients back into the soil.

The direction you mow your lawn is also important. For best results, your lawn in a different direction with each mowing.. Altering the direction gives you an even cut and will prevent your grass growing in a set pattern.

To ensure a good cut, make sure your lawn mower blade is sharp, which may translate into sharpening it at least three times during mowing season.

Want to up your odds of a lush lawn? Try mowing during the moon phases. Here’s how: If you want your lawn to grow, mow it during new or first quarter moon. If you want your lawn to grow more slowly, mow it during a full or last quarter moon.

Lawn Statistics: That patch of backyard grass is much more beneficial than you think. Consider these lawn statistics:

*Healthy, dense lawns absorb rainfall six times more effectively than a wheat field, four times better than a hay field, and prevents runoff and erosion of our precious top soil. It also traps much of the estimated 12 million tons of dust and dirt released into the US atmosphere annually. Lawns also purify water entering into underground aquifers—its root mass and soil microbes act as a filter to capture and breakdown many types of pollutants.

*Increases real estate market value and saleability. A Gallup Survey reported 62% of all US homeowners felt investment in lawns and landscaping was as good or better than other home improvements. The investment recovery rate is 100-200% for landscape improvement, compared to a deck or patio that will recover 40-70% of installation cost. Proper and well maintained landscaping adds 15% to a home’s value according to buyers.

*Recovery rates among hospitalized patients are often quicker when their rooms view a landscaped area compared to patients with non-landscaped views.

*Playing fields covered with dense turf have proven safer, as demonstrated by a simple egg drop test. When a dozen raw eggs were dropped from a height of 11 feet onto a two-inch thick piece of dense turf, none broke; two thirds broke on thin turf from that height, and from just 18 inches, all broke on an all-weather track.

Know risk tolerance at different stages of life



FINANCIAL FOCUS
DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

As an investor, you’ll always need to deal with risk of some kind. But how can you manage the risk that’s been made clear by the recent volatility in the financial markets? The answer to this question may depend on where you are in life.

Let’s look at some different life stages and how you might deal with risk at each of them:

When you’re first starting out ... If you’re early in your career, with perhaps four or even five decades to go until you retire, you can likely afford to invest primarily for growth, which also means you’ll be taking on a higher level of risk, as risk and reward are positively correlated. But, given your age, you have time to overcome the market downturns that are both inevitable and a normal part of investing. Consequently, your risk tolerance may be relatively high. Still, even at this stage, being over-aggressive can be costly.

When you’re in the middle stages ... At this time of your life, you’re well along in your career, and you’re probably working on at least a couple of financial goals, such as saving for retirement and possibly for your children’s college education. So, you still need to be investing for growth, which means you’ll likely need to maintain a relatively high risk tolerance. Nonetheless, it’s a good idea to have some balance in your portfolio, so you’ll want to consider a mix of investments that align with each of your goals.

When you’re a few years from retirement ... Now, you might have already achieved some key goals – perhaps your kids have finished college and you’ve paid off your mortgage. This may mean you have more money available to put away for retirement, but you’ll still have to think carefully about how much risk you’re willing to take. Since you’re going to retire soon, you might consider rebalancing your portfolio to include some more conservative investments, whose value is less susceptible to financial market fluctuations. The reason? In just a few years, when you’re retired, you will need to start taking withdrawals from your investment portfolio – essentially, you’ll be selling investments, so, as much as possible, you’ll want to avoid selling them when their price is down. Nonetheless, having a balanced and diversified portfolio doesn’t fully protect against a loss. However, you can further reduce the future risk of being overly dependent on selling variable investments by devoting a certain percentage of your portfolio to cash and cash equivalents and designating this portion to be used for your daily expenses during the years immediately preceding, and possibly spilling into, your retirement.

When you’re retired ... Once you’re retired, you might think you should take no risks at all. But you could spend two or three decades in retirement, so you may need some growth potential in your portfolio to stay ahead of inflation.

Establishing a withdrawal rate – the amount you take out each year from your investments – that’s appropriate for your lifestyle and projected longevity can reduce the risk of outliving your money. Of course, if there’s an extended market downturn during any time of your retirement, you may want to lower your withdrawal rate temporarily. As you can see, your tolerance for risk, and your methods of dealing with it, can change over time. By being aware of this progression, you can make better-informed investment decisions.

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

AdCare recognizes employees for years of service

WORCESTER — AdCare is pleased to recognize employees for their years of service. Dale Coulter, RN, Nurse Manager, and Celeste Edmundson, RN are celebrating thirty years of service.

“Celeste is a very caring and professional nurse, who is a strong advocate for her patients and peers,” said Kara Levinson, RN, BSN, Director of Nursing at AdCare Hospital.

Dale Coulter, who joined the nursing staff in 1990 and was promoted to Nurse Manager in 1999, “takes great pride in her staff and unit, working diligently to ensure that patients are well cared for and informed about their treatment.”

Daryl Blaney, RN, Infection Control, is celebrating 25 years of service!

“Although AdCare has many shining stars, our Infection Control Nurse, Daryl Blaney, is Sirius, the brightest star in the universe,” reports Jeff Hillis, CEO. “His leadership on CDC regulations and monitoring of staff and patients has been unbelievable.”

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Shaun Kelly, MA, Outpatient Counselor
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Caroline Shepard, LPN
Irene Amevor, LPN
Christopher Griffin, Detox Counselor
Ruth Shawler, Laboratory Manager
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Jenette Scott, Coder
Robert Walsh, Maintenance

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Eliot Bell, RN, Supervisor
Jessica Lynch, Rehab Counselor
Anthony Fulginiti, Jr., Detox Counselor
Robin Landry, Admissions Coordinator
Amy Mosher, Medical Record Tech
Shawn Walton, Utility Worker
Kristi Falamino, Executive Secretary, Community Services

5 years
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Nicole Pepe, RN, Nurse Manager
Terri Johnson, LPN
Lawrence Ampofo-Appiah, RN Supervisor
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About AdCare Hospital
Experience matters. For nearly 45 years, AdCare Hospital, New England’s only level-4 SUD hospital centrally located in Worcester, Massachusetts, with outpatient locations throughout Massachusetts and Rhode Island, has provided individuals and families with life-changing alcohol and drug treatment. In March of 2018, AdCare joined AAC (OTC: AAC), a national treatment provider, operating facilities across the United States. To learn more, please visit americanaddictioncenters.org.

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Charter boat Captain Mark Pettitt of “Firehouse Charters” in Plymouth volunteers his services every year to servicemen & women that love fishing. Pettitt is part of a group called the Veteran Anglers Association. The Veteran Anglers organization have five boat Captains that offer their services to the program with two boats in Connecticut, one in Rhode Island and one boat in Maine and Massachusetts! The organization is funded by donations, and by numerous functions that are held each year. If you would like to donate to this worthy program or find out more about the group, contact Mark Pettitt at 1-508-326-3185. This week’s picture shows a veteran angler with a cod he caught on one of the recent trips aboard Captain Pettitt’s boat.

This past week, this writer

fished the Providence River hoping to catch a legal-size fish to take home for the dinner table, but that did not happen. There were thousands of (porgies) in the river and snagging a few to fish with was easy, but there were very few bass in the area feeding on them. Many reports still say that the stripers are late, and by the time you read this column things could be totally different. We did manage to lose a few live porgies to bluefish in the area as this week’s picture shows. It is amazing how the bluefish could steal half of the porgy without getting hooked. I also tried placing the hook a bit farther back, but the bluefish managed to miss the hook by less than one half inch. Because of a new law, we are required to use circle hooks when using live bait or chunk baits this year and many anglers dislike them already. Love or hate circle hooks they are here to stay for a while.

Freshwater anglers are still catching some nice fish in local lakes and ponds, but finding live bait to fish with is becoming a lot harder to purchase. Local Bait & Tackle shops have reported a shortage of shiners, which is a favorite bait to



fish with for many freshwater anglers.

Back in the day mummy chubs were caught in the salt-water tributaries of the state & were used to fill the shortage of bait back then. Chubs were a lot cheaper to buy back then, and were a lot more active even after having a hook stuck through them. They were a favorite bait for ice fishermen also.

They were easy to keep for the next day of fishing by simply placing them in some seaweed and kept in an old refrigerator or cooler. Catching your own live bait is not as easy



as it was 20 or 30 years ago. Many rivers and small ponds still have a small population of redbfin shiners, but you need to know where to go. Purchasing a minnow trap at your local tackle shop and doing a bit of research could have you locating some live bait. No special license is needed. My brother Ken and his son Mark trolled some streamer fly’s at Webster Lake and had a great day catching Browns, Rainbow trout, along with a couple of small mouth bass last week.

In the last 20 years or so, a large decrease in the bullfrog

population was noticed by this writer. Living on the banks of the West River in Uxbridge I could always listen to the frogs from my front porch during early morning and evening hours. I was excited to hear the croak of the bull frogs again this spring, and hope that their populations have started to rebound, at least in my area.

I know that the snake population has increased over the past years and are more than likely responsible for the decline. At one time, Fish & Wildlife was requiring a license to harvest frogs, but realized it was not that popular, and dropped the frog license. Frog legs are a delicacy, but are rarely eaten by today’s residents.

This past week, a good friend and fellow sportsmen Roy Underwood of North Uxbridge passed away in a local rest home after a lengthy illness. Roy loved the outdoors and enjoyed Pheasant hunting and goose hunting with his good friend Bob Brooks. He was a life member of the Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club. Our deepest sympathy goes out to his family, and many friends.

Take a Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

Manage mosquitoes for a safer and more enjoyable summer

Don’t let the buzz of mosquitoes keep you indoors. Most mosquitoes are a nuisance, causing rashes and itching but some species can transmit diseases that can make you sick. Understanding how they breed and spread disease can help you gain the upper hand in the battle against these pesky insects.

Mosquitoes serve as a carrier (vector) in the spread of certain diseases. It starts when they feed on an animal infected with heartworms or an animal or person with West Nile, Saint Louis Encephalitis, Zika or other mosquito-vectored disease. The young heartworm or virus is taken in with the mosquito’s blood meal. The heartworm larvae or virus is then transmitted to other organisms when the mosquito feeds on them.

Always take precautions when traveling to other regions. Find out about the health risks of the area and come prepared. Consult with your doctor and be sure to pack repellent and the appropriate clothing.

At home, start by eliminating mosquito breeding grounds. These insects



GARDEN MOMENTS

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MYERS

need standing water to reproduce. The larvae hatch and feed on tiny organisms in the water. Once they morph into adults, they leave the water and look for animals and people to dine upon.

Get rid of any standing water to eliminate breeding grounds in your landscape. Clean clogged gutters where water can collect and mosquitoes can breed. Empty water that collects in any items left outside. Change the water in your birdbath at least once a week or anytime you water your container gardens.

Toss an organic mosquito control, like Mosquito Dunks and Mosquito Bits (SummitResponsibleSolutions.com), into your rain barrel, pond or other water feature. Mosquito Bits quickly knock down the mosquito larval population, while Mosquito Dunks provide 30 days of mosquito control. The active ingredient is *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*, a naturally occurring soil bacterium that kills the mosquito larvae but is safe for children, fish, pets, beneficial insects and wildlife.

Invite the songbirds into your backyard with birdhouses, birdbaths and feeders. Most of them feed on insects,



Photo Courtesy

Mosquitoes serve as a carrier in the spread of certain diseases, including West Nile, Saint Louis Encephalitis, Zika and other mosquito-vectored diseases.

including mosquitoes and garden pests, while adding color, motion and beauty to your landscape.

Keep the garden weeded. Mosquitoes rest in shrubs, trees and weeds during the day. Removing weeds and managing neglected garden spaces will make your landscape less inviting to these pests.

Further protect yourself by wearing light colored clothing, long sleeves and long pants when enjoying the outdoors. Apply EPA-approved repellents as

directed on the label.

Use a fan when sitting on the porch or even working in the garden. The gentle breeze helps keep the weak-flying mosquitoes away.

Then add a bit of ambience to your next party by lighting a few citronella candles. Citronella oil and the scented candles do have some mosquito-repelling properties. Scatter lots of candles throughout the party and within a few feet of your guests for some short-term relief.

And be sure to keep mosquitoes out of your house. Repair windows and screens that may be providing easy access into your home.

Taking a few precautions will help you manage these pests so you can enjoy the outdoor summer activities you love.

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

I’m optimistic that common sense will prevail

What a mess ...

The tragic and unjustified death of George Floyd has shaken the soul of our nation and broken our collective hearts. It is compounded by the realization that he was murdered by someone we should have been able to trust. It wasn’t just murder but preceded by eight agonizing minutes of torture. There is no excuse for what happened. There is no justification possible. I grieve for the Floyd family. I believe we all do.

As usual, a tragedy, that should spur positive change, has been hijacked, not for George Floyd or his family, but for a political ideology. The conversations are now all being directed by the extremists and it’s turned into violence and more death.

What about the “Common-Sense Majority?” I’ll coin the phrase here. I think it’s a great descriptive label for most Americans.

What does the “common-sense majority” want? They want to be safe. They want to be left alone to raise their families, build their careers, and start small businesses. They want the opportunity to own their home and pursue the American Dream.

There is no color attached to the common-sense majority. I believe most black, brown, and white parents want the same. They want to build a happy and successful family and safe life. Above all, they want to know when their kids leave home, they’ll safely return.

Yes, black lives matter. I have no problem saying it. I believe it. It doesn’t mean that all lives don’t matter, it just means that the average black person in America is at greater risk. Unfortunately, the idea that black lives matter has been hijacked to become a political hashtag and the common-sense majority see it. Most are just afraid to say it because if you disagree with any part of the narrative, you risk being verbally assaulted.

Looting, burning, and destroying property is not a form of legitimate protest. Those politicians and political leaders defending these actions are only perpetuating the problem to gain favor with those committing violence.

We all know the name George Floyd

and should ... but does the name Miosotis Familia ring a bell? Probably not. She’s not given much attention at all and there is a reason.

ABC reported, “An on-duty New York City police officer was killed early Wednesday after a gunman walked up to a police vehicle and fired one round through a window, authorities said. Officer Miosotis Familia, a 12-year veteran assigned to the New York City Police Department’s 46th Precinct’s anti-crime unit, was taken to St. Barnabas Hospital in the Bronx, where she was pronounced dead at 3:37 a.m. ET. She was 48 years old, according to police sources.”

What the above statement didn’t say, is she was black. Much was made of George Floyd’s color but not Miosotis Familia. Did her black life not matter? The truth is that her story didn’t fit the narrative, so her life didn’t matter to this movement. Her death didn’t advance their agenda, so there will be no protests on her behalf. Do you see the disconnect? Don’t all black lives matter?

So, this column is entitled “Positively Speaking!” What’s positive about any of this?

I believe cooler heads will prevail.

I believe in the American spirit. While many of our political leaders are bowing down to the political agenda and threatening the defunding of police departments, or disbanding them completely, I don’t believe the majority of common-sense Americans, left or right, of any color, race or religion will allow that to happen. To believe if we didn’t have police, anyone’s life would be safer is nonsensical to the common-sense majority.

Members of the common-sense majority are often silent but consistently vote. They direct their dollars into causes they believe in. I know most protestors are peaceful and well-meaning, law-abiding citizens who are saddened and hurt. Unfortunately, the criminal element arrives, and the legitimate protestors go home as their protest is hijacked by an angry mob with a violent



POSITIVELY SPEAKING

GARY W.
MOORE

and destructive purpose.

The common-sense majority will not violently protest, loot, or burn buildings. They deeply care but will not hurt others or destroy property to make their point. They support common sense politicians and vote out, for example, those who believe a nation without police would not devolve into chaos and mob rule.

The common-sense majority of all race, religion or political leanings must stand up and be counted. I believe they will. We cannot let our nation devolve into a lawless society run by those manipulating emotion and causing harm for their political gain. Yes, I said we. I am a member of the common-sense majority.

We as a nation are better than this.

I continue to grieve and pray for the family of George Floyd. We must demand justice, but I also grieve for the family of Officer Miosotis Familia. Does her family not deserve justice also?

I’m optimistic. Common sense will prevail. ■

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.

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\$375,000



REAL ESTATE

Dyer hired as Human Resources Director

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – A familiar name will be taking a permanent seat, as Human Resource Director in Charlton. Lynn Dyer, who had served as the Administrative Assistant and has operated the Human Resources office as its interim director, will officially move over the post after selectmen voted in May to appoint Dyer following a months-long hiring process.

Charlton posted the position in February and received qualified applications by March 9. The COVID-19 pandemic struck soon after delaying consideration for candidates, however once officials got the emergency situation under control they revisited the applications with the finance team and Town Administrator choosing the candidate they saw fit. Town Administrator Andrew Golas read his recommendations to the board of selectmen in a livestreamed meeting in May.

“It is the recommendation of the finance team and myself that interim Human Resource Director Lynn Dyer be promoted to the permanent human resource director position,” Golas said. “Over the past seven months, Ms. Dyer has done an incredible job keeping the department’s demands on track while transitioning through a change of management and handling employee needs that have come through during the pandemic.”

Selectmen called Dyer an “excellent choice” who has done and “awesome job” in her interim position. Her promotion received unanimous approval from the board with no opposition to the hire.

Spring 2020 graduates announced at UA

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — The University of Alabama awarded some 6,326 degrees this spring. Among the graduates was Lily White of Auburn, who received a Bachelor of Science in Human Environmental Sciences.

The recent change to remote learning during this unprecedented time affected the University’s plans for traditional commencement activities. However, commencement is a milestone, and the University wants graduates to have the opportunity to walk across the stage in celebration of their success. Although any plans are contingent on how the summer outlook progresses, all spring graduates are invited to participate in the summer commencement events scheduled for Friday, July 31, and Saturday, Aug. 1.

“We will also be recognizing the achievements of our spring 2020 graduating class through online and social media outlets to highlight our shared pride in them,” said UA President Stuart Bell. “I look forward to congratulating each student on stage very soon.”

With dozens of challenging academic programs, expert and world-renowned faculty and numerous opportunities for service and growth, The University of Alabama is the place where legends are made. UA offers its students a premier educational, cultural and social experience with more than 200 undergraduate, graduate and professional programs and gives students the opportunity to partner with faculty performing cutting-edge research.

The University of Alabama, the state’s oldest and largest public institution of higher education, is a student-centered research university that draws the best and brightest to an academic community committed to providing a premier undergraduate and graduate education. UA is dedicated to achieving excellence in scholarship, collaboration and intellectual engagement; providing public outreach and service to the state of Alabama and the nation; and nurturing a campus environment that fosters collegiality, respect and inclusivity.



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- Five (5) years of progressively responsible experience in business, financial management, municipal financial or accounting environment; experience in

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For complete job description visit www.brimfieldma.org. Board of Selectmen under job opportunities. Application deadline is June 17, 2020 or until position is filled. The Town of Brimfield is an equal opportunity employer.
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OBITUARIES

Matthew E. Smith



Matthew E. Smith, patriarch of a large and loving family, died at home Friday, May 29th of natural causes. Born in Grafton, Massachusetts, in 1923, he was the son of Albert and Bessie Smith. He received

his Bachelor's Degree from Harvard University and Master's Degree from Boston College.

Matt married the love of his life, Adele Guinee, in 1945 and settled to Auburn in 1955 where they raised their family. They moved to Charlton in 2008. Matt was an actuary at John Hancock for several years before following his life's passion of teaching. His teaching career began in Warren, MA and was followed by 35 years of teaching mathematics at Auburn High School.

After growing up in Grafton during the depression, he left for Harvard University. His years in college were interrupted when he entered the Army Air Corp, serving as a lead navigator and radar bombardier in the South Pacific Theater.

Matt was predeceased by his wife, Adele, in 2016. They were married for 71 years and raised seven children together. He is survived by his sons Daniel and his wife Nancy of Auburn, Stephen and his wife Joan of Milton, FL, and daughters Carolyn Smith of Little Hocking, OH, Melinda Hannan and her husband Kenneth of Charlton, MA, Susan Smith-Scott and her husband Gene Scott of Charlton, Judith Maruca and her husband Francis of Charlton, MA and daughter-in-law Wanda Whitted-Smith of Philadelphia, PA. He is predeceased by his son David Smith, and his brothers Jeremy, Stephen and Christopher.

He was adored by his grandchildren, Courtney, Sage, Luke, Chloe, Timothy, Allison, Christopher, Michael, Jacob, Lindsey and Tyler and great grandchildren Jesse, Joseph, Declan, Adele, Dalila, Connor, Camille, Joni and Esme. Matt was a great lover of people and treasured his relationships with his running community, his former students, his Marco Island friends, his many friends in the Auburn and Charlton communities and especially the Wednesday morning breakfast club. He also served his Auburn community as a member of the Conservation Committee and town member representative.

Matt began running after he turned 40, and ran over 60 marathons, two dozen when he was between the ages of 60 and 80. When his running career ended, he took up long distance cycling, covering miles of terrain between

Auburn and northern Connecticut. Adele was secretly relieved when his bicycle disappeared from the garage in 2010.

In his own words, "I shall depart this earth envying no one in this world."

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Matt's memory to Pernet Family Health Services Inc. at 237 Millbury Street, Worcester, MA 01610.

In alignment with current guidelines, there was a graveside service with social distancing at Hillside Cemetery in Auburn, MA on Wednesday June 3, 2020 at 11:00 AM, where military honors will be rendered. Funeral arrangements are being made by Britton Funeral Homes, Auburn, MA.



Sturbridge resident recognized for exceptional trail advocacy



Courtesy

Left and Right, Richard Paradise, and David Barnicle present the Pinnacle Award to Tom Chamberland, center, at the recent Friends of Sturbridge Trails meeting.

STURBRIDGE — With National Trails Day set for this June 6, The Friends of Sturbridge Trails (FrOST) who recently held their sixth annual meeting Hosted by at the Public House would like to announce their Pinnacle Award winner, Tom Chamberland.

A special presentation of the Pinnacle Award, FrOST's highest volunteer award for trail advocacy, promotion and involvement, was bestowed upon Tom Chamberland, presented by FrOST President David Barnicle & Secretary Richard Paradise.

In presenting this award, David Barnicle said, "We are recognizing a true trail volunteer. Tom's leadership on volunteer days, and his experience in trail design and construction has made the Town of Sturbridge a recognized leader as a trail destination."

Paradise continued, "I have worked alongside of Tom on many volunteer trail days, his understanding of how to work with volunteers and ability to insure every volunteer is engaged and enthusiastic in the work accomplished is terrific."

Upon receipt of this award, Cumberland said "I am surprised and humbled by this recognition. In the six years of the Friends as an organization, this is only the second time it has been awarded so to be recognized as one of those few individuals who have gone above and beyond in support of the Sturbridge Trails is very special. A very deep felt thank you for this special recognition."

Cumberland has been active in Sturbridge trail development as far back as 2000, while working for the U S Army Corps of Engineers, as a Park Ranger, starting on the Westville Lake section of

the Grand Trunk Trail, to being appointed as a Sturbridge Representative to the Regional Grand Trunk Trail Committee, to an associate member of the Sturbridge Trail Committee for some 10 years, and in 2017 appointed to the Massachusetts Recreational Trail Advisory Board to DCR, where he currently serves as their Chairperson.

The Friends of Sturbridge trails was formed in 2013 to help the Sturbridge Trail Committee in building, maintaining, and promoting the Town's open spaces and trails. To find out more on FrOST events, to volunteer your time, and to become a member of FrOST to receive their newsletter send an email to David at dmbarnicle8141@gmail.com or "like us" on Face Book at Friends of Sturbridge Trails.

Each year, on the first Saturday of June, the American Hiking Society and the trails community invite individuals of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds to unite on #NationalTrailsDay. A nationwide program to celebrate trails. This year, we will not be meeting in person on June 6, but we will still celebrate and preserve trails and promote access to quality green spaces. Join the American Hiking Society, and the Town of Sturbridge in this nationwide movement by taking the #NationalTrailsDay Pledge. bit.ly/trails-day

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the deadline is Friday noon for the following week.

(Memoriams will run on the Obituary pages)

Ad prices are \$15 for a 2x3 (actual size 2.4" x 3") or \$25 for a 3x4 (3.7" X 4") or 4x3 (5" x 3"). You can add a photo at no additional cost.

To send by mail, please mail or drop off to June Simakauskas, P. O. Box 90, 25 Elm St., Southbridge, MA 01550.

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