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City Council appoints new assistant city solicitor

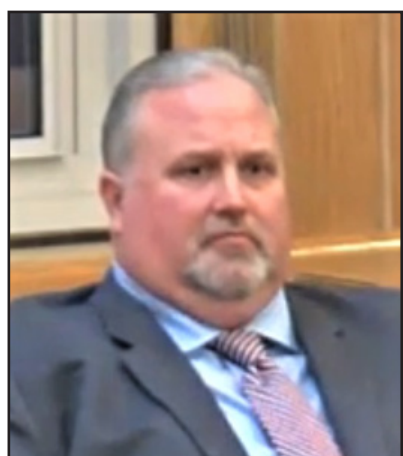
By AMY PORTER
Staff Writer

WESTFIELD – The City Council unanimously appointed John M. Fitzgerald, Esq. of East Longmeadow for a three-year term as assistant city solicitor, labor specialist.

At-large Councilor Cindy C. Harris, chair of the Personnel Action Committee, requested immediate consideration for the appointment.

Harris said that Fitzgerald has significant municipal experience, having served the law departments in Springfield and Chicopee as a labor specialist, and has operated a private law practice since 2003. Harris said he is familiar with the various courts and tribunals and is capable of immediately managing a caseload.

For the last three years, Fitzgerald has served as associate city solicitor for the city of Chicopee, advising the mayor and department heads on



JOHN FITZGERALD

matters including interpretation of collective bargaining agreements, and has represented the city in employment and labor relations, defending the city in complaints, investigations and mediation.

Previously, Fitzgerald served as associate city solicitor in Springfield, where he litigated matters in the superior, district and housing courts, including defending the police department in firearm license appeals, and litigating citizen complaints before the police commission. He also served as chief of staff in the office of the mayor, advising the mayor and representing him at various city functions.

Harris said also of importance, Fitzgerald served as assistant district attorney in the Hampden County District Attorney's office, which included extensive court appearances and research of legal issues.

Fitzgerald is a member of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Bar Association and United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts. Harris said his professional associations include the Hampden County Bar Association,

and of the Hampden County Lawyers for Justice. His volunteer interests include hockey as coach and tournament member, and he is member of the Knights of Columbus.

Harris said that Westfield has ten city unions and 54 personnel service agreements, and seven school district unions and 34 personnel service agreements, and mostly all city employees are in unions.

She said Fitzgerald has the endorsement of City Solicitor Susan Phillips.

"It is extremely important for our Law Department at this particular point in time to have our office fully staffed," Harris said, adding that the items in the court won't wait because of the situation.

During the discussion on the appointment, At-large Councilor Dave Flaherty weighed in via telephone. Six of the councilors participated in the March 19 meeting by

telephone and seven in the chambers.

"I think this gentleman is very qualified and I would like to support him, I think the Law Department needs help; but I am very concerned just like the last time about making a new three-year appointment because we might have a new city solicitor who may want to put his or her own team together. That should be a consideration," Flaherty said.

"I disagree. It is extremely important to have continuity for three years in the Law Department," Harris said, adding that it is not in the city's best interest to hire an attorney for a one-year term.

Phillips, who was present in Council Chambers with Fitzgerald, raised a point of order. She said the city ordinance calls for a three-year term, with no discretion.

A roll call vote was then taken, which passed unanimously.

Southwick Mom starts online 'Parents Homeschool Folder'

By AMY PORTER
Staff Writer

SOUTHWICK — On March 17, working mom Aurelia Simonds started a Facebook group called Parent's Homeschool Folder, partly because she needed help in guiding her two sons, 10 and 8, at home during this unexpected break. In less than two days, the page had 168 members.

Parents across the country are finding themselves in the position of being a "teacher" after schools shut down to help flatten the curve of the coronavirus outbreak. Simonds was at a loss the first day.

"Part of it I think was one of my children really thrives on routine," Simonds said, adding that she quickly realized that she didn't have that much insight on what her children are learning in school, and how they learn.

For example, she was doing a writing project with one of her sons, and he said it needed to be put in the "hamburger" format. "I had no idea what he was talking about," Simonds said.

She looked it up, found an illustrated example online, and posted it in her group.

"Anyone else realizing they have very LITTLE knowledge on how their children learn? The tools and concepts they use on a daily basis that make it fun and easier for them, I'm clearly in the dark. I was schooled by my son how he needs to put things in a hamburger format when writing."

Turns out the hamburger format guides kids to build a composition like you build a hamburger: Top bun – topic sentence; Tomatoes – supporting sentence; Hamburger – supporting sentence; Lettuce under burger – supporting sentence; Bottom bun – conclusion sentence.

See Online Mom, Page 3



North Elm Butcher Block owner Daniel Puza Jr. stands in front of a full meat case in the North Elm Street store March 19, 2020. (HOPE E. TREMBLAY/THE WESTFIELD NEWS)

North Elm Butcher Block aims to stay stocked for the community

Store has new 'Senior Early Bird' shopping hour

By HOPE E. TREMBLAY
Editor

WESTFIELD – North Elm Butcher Block is stocked and staying open for customers.

Owner Daniel Puza Jr. said late last week that he wants to make sure the community has food, whether it's by purchasing it in his store or at a restaurant.

Puza said he regularly works with a few local restaurants to supply them with food each week, but since the coronavirus pandemic and the shut-down of restaurants

other than for takeout, he is helping other establishments in a variety of ways.

"We're all working together and supporting each other," he said.

Puza is making sure, to the best of his ability, that he has plenty of staples on-hand.

"We have eggs and milk, ground beef, boneless chicken – we are trying to keep as much as we can available," said Puza.

Puza's eight employees have been providing service to nearly 1,000 customers each day in the past week, and he said he is proud of them.

"We are taking phone orders, offering curbside pickup if people pay on the phone . . . my staff has really stepped up," he said.

Puza said the health and safety of his staff

and customers are a priority and everyone is working to keep the store clean while keeping up with the demand.

They are also cognizant of social distancing and are keeping the number of customers and staff in the store at one time to 10 people.

Puza said for the North Elm Butcher Block family, it's about being loyal and giving back.

"Our customers have supported my family for four generations, and we want to be there for them," he said.

North Elm Butcher Block is open normal hours, for now, Thursday-Tuesday, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m., with the exception of an additional "Senior Early Bird" hour from 8-9 a.m. for older adults only.

Brown Bag Program assisting those in need

By LORI SZEPELAK
Correspondent

WESTFIELD — Through the combined efforts of the Westfield Council on Aging and the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, close to 200 seniors receive a grocery bag of staples monthly.

"We provide about 200 free bags of groceries per month to those individuals who qualify," said Karen Noblit, senior benefits coordinator,

Westfield Council on Aging.

The Brown Bag Program is conducted on the second Tuesday of each month from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. at the Westfield Senior Center on Noble Street.

Noblit noted that each bag consists of a variety of items, ranging from canned fruits, vegetables, peanut butter and pasta and sauce, to beans, rice, cereal, diced tomatoes or tuna.

"Lately, we have had fresh fruits

such as apples, grapes and oranges or fresh vegetables such as potatoes and onions," said Noblit.

Noblit oversees the program which has approximately 20 volunteers who help with the project.

"The volunteers have jobs that range from unloading the Food Bank truck, assembling bags, and breaking down boxes, to delivering bags to the homebound," she said. "During the school year, we are lucky enough to

have the Westfield Technical Academy allied health students here to help, which is wonderful for us and the participants as well."

Noblit said she has seen an "uptick" in applicants during the past few years and every month she is adding three or four new participants.

Persons seeking to qualify for the Brown Bag Program must complete an application at the senior center or

through the Food Bank.

"The income guidelines are \$1,926/month for a single person and \$2,607 for a couple," said Noblit. "Participants must be at least 55 years of age or have a documented disability for which they are receiving Social Security Disability Income."

For more information on the program, stop by the senior center or call (413) 562-6435.

Volunteers in Westfield, Southwick sought for Earth Day clean-up efforts

By **LORI SZEPELAK**
Correspondent

GREATER WESTFIELD-While many businesses and organizations are being impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, the eighth annual Earth Day Clean-Up in the city is a “go,” according to Meredith Borenstein, wetlands conservation coordinator.

“Residents should come out because it’s important to our community and to our natural environment,” said Borenstein.

Earth Day 2020, now in its 50th year, was first created on April 22, 1970, to protest environmental ignorance and demand a new way forward for the planet. At that time, organizers cited oil spills, smog, and rivers “so polluted they literally caught fire,” according to the official Earth Day website. That first Earth Day is credited with launching the modern environmental movement, and is now recognized as the planet’s largest civic event.

In the city, the Earth Day Clean-Up is planned April 25 from 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m., rain or shine, sponsored by Mayor Donald F. Humason Jr. and the Westfield Earth Day Committee.



Volunteers are asked to meet at the Masonic Lodge, 72 Broad St. Children participating in the event must be accompanied by an adult.

Borenstein, along with her assistant Colleen Nunez, are spearheading the effort.

“So far we have interest from the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, but I am sure that as we get closer to the date more organizations will be in touch with us,” said Borenstein.

Borenstein added that city workers from the Department of Public Works will be volunteering to pick up the collected trash at the end of the event.

At press time, areas that have trash to be collected are still being accessed.

“We are open to suggestions as long as the sites have safe access points for volunteers,” said Borenstein.

Volunteers should wear comfortable, seasonal clothing, work gloves and waterproof shoes,” said Borenstein, adding, “for volunteers assigned to busier areas, we will provide reflective vests.”

Borenstein is hopeful that city residents will turn out in force for this community project.

“Most roadside litter ends up in our streams,

rivers and wetlands and ultimately to our oceans,” said Borenstein. “Water quality, wildlife habitats and visual aesthetics are compromised by our waste. We have a moral responsibility to keep these shared resources clean and to care for our environment.”

To sign up to participate, or for more information, contact the Conservation office at City Hall, (413) 572-6281 or send an email to Borenstein at meredith.borenstein@cityof-westfield.org.

“We only have one planet and this is a good way to show how much we care about our surrounding landscape,” said Borenstein.

In Southwick, a Trail Clean-Up is also planned for April 25, according to Christy Bannish, chairperson of the Friends of the Southwick Rail Trail.

Volunteers are asked to meet at the Miller Road trail parking area at 9 a.m. and bring gloves and rakes.

“We also have a Trail Beautification Day to help set plantings and mulch at the rail trail kiosks on May 16,” said Bannish.

POLICE LOGS

WESTFIELD Major crime and incident report Monday, March 16, 2020 WESTFIELD

1:31 a.m.: accident, Elm Street, a caller reports a vehicle which did not stop stuck a flower pot and almost struck the caller, the responding officer reports the vehicle was found parked at a Harold Avenue address, **Adam W. Sullivan**, 39, of 151 Franklin St., was arrested for operating a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor, leaving the scene of property damage, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, a number plate violation to conceal identification and a marked lanes violation;

9:00 a.m.: vandalism,

Monroe Street, a resident reports via the on-line reporting operation that a car’s tire was slashed, the complainant suggested a possible suspect, the case was referred to the Community Service Unit for investigation;

9:52 a.m.: counterfeiting, Main Street, a caller from a Main Street store reports \$300 in counterfeit bills were passed the store over the weekend, an incident report was filed;

10:07 a.m.: motor vehicle violation, Meadow Street, a Community Service Unit officer reports a scooter operator is fleeing from him, the officer pursued the scooter to Union Street where it struck the cruiser and the operator fled on foot, the operator was taken into cus-

tody on Colfax Street, he complained of abrasions to his arms resulting from his flight and was transported to Baystate Noble Hospital, the scooter was found to have been stolen in Vernon, Conn., and was transported to the police impound yard, **James Myron Thomas**, 23, of 25 Navaho Road, Springfield, was arrested for failure to stop for police, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, receiving a stolen motor vehicle, operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, possession of a counterfeit note and operating an unregistered motor vehicle;

1:27 p.m.: fire, Knollwood Drive, a caller reports he returned home to find the grass in his yard on fire, the respond-

ing firefighters report the fire had not spread to any structures and was extinguished, the resident said that he had a controlled fire the night before and a family member had moved the ashes into a plastic bucket which melted and apparently ignited the grass;

1:46 p.m.: fraud, St. Dennis Street, a resident reports identity fraud, the responding officer reports that the complainant said that credit accounts have again been opened with his information in other states, an incident report was filed;

9:08 p.m.: fireworks, Prospect Street, a caller reports fireworks in the area, the responding officer reports no fireworks were found.

SOUTHWICK

12:51 a.m.: suspicious activity, College Highway, police discovered the side door to a business was open and found it was secured with a chain, police were unable to connect with anyone to gain entry.

11:24 a.m.: erratic driving, College Highway and Granville Road, a caller reports a vehicle swerving and crossing marked lanes, an officer found the driv-

er to be fine and headed home.

3:29 p.m.: found property, a license found n the Suffield Preserve was returned to its owner.

7 p.m.: a caller from a College Highway fast-food business requested information on when to close in light of the governor’s new orders for businesses, the health director was contacted.

COURT LOGS

**Westfield District Court
Monday, March 16, 2020**

The court was closed due to the COVID-19 emergency.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

MON., MAR. 23, 2020 IS THE 83RD DAY OF THE YEAR. 283 DAYS REMAIN UNTIL THE END OF THE YEAR.

ON THIS DAY

1400 – The Trần dynasty of Vietnam is deposed, after one hundred and seventy-five years of rule, by Hồ Quý Ly, a court official.

1540 – Waltham Abbey is surrendered to King Henry VIII of England; the last religious community to be closed during the Dissolution of the Monasteries.

1568 – The Peace of Longjumeau is signed, ending the second phase of the French Wars of Religion.

1708 – James Francis Edward Stuart lands at the Firth of Forth as part of the planned French invasion of Britain.

1775 – American Revolutionary War: Patrick Henry delivers his speech – “Give me liberty, or give me death!” – at St. John’s Episcopal Church, Richmond, Virginia.

1801 – Tsar Paul I of Russia is struck with a sword, then strangled, and finally trampled to death inside his bedroom at St. Michael’s Castle.

1806 – After traveling through the Louisiana Purchase and reaching the Pacific Ocean, explorers Lewis and Clark and their “Corps of Discovery” begin their arduous journey home.

1821 – Greek War of Independence: Battle and fall of city of Kalamata.

1848 – The ship John Wickliffe arrives at Port Chalmers carrying the first Scottish settlers for Dunedin, New Zealand. Otago province is founded.

1857 – Elisha Otis’s first elevator is installed at 488 Broadway New York City.

1862 – American Civil War – The First Battle of Kernstown, Virginia, marks the start of Stonewall Jackson’s Valley Campaign. Although a Confederate defeat, the engagement distracts Federal efforts to

capture Richmond.

1868 – The University of California is founded in Oakland, California when the Organic Act is signed into law.

1879 – War of the Pacific: The Battle of Topáter, the first battle of the war is fought between Chile and the joint forces of Bolivia and Peru.

1885 – Sino-French War: Chinese victory in the Battle of Phu Lam Tao near Hung Hóa, northern Vietnam.

1888 – In England, The Football League, the world’s oldest professional association football league, meets for the first time.

1889 – The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is established by Mirza Ghulam Ahmad in Qadian, British India.

1901 – Emilio Aguinaldo, only President of the First Philippine Republic, was captured at Palanan, Isabela by the forces of General Frederick Funston.

1905 – Eleftherios Venizelos calls for Crete’s union with Greece, and begins what is to be known as the Theriso revolt.

1909 – Theodore Roosevelt leaves New York for a post-presidency safari in Africa. The trip is sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution and National Geographic Society.

1918 – First World War: On the third day of the German Spring Offensive, the 10th Battalion of the Royal West Kent Regiment is annihilated with many of the men becoming prisoners of war

1919 – In Milan, Italy, Benito Mussolini founds his Fascist political movement.

1931 – Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru and Sukhdev Thapar are hanged for the killing of a deputy superintendent of police during the Indian struggle for independence.

1933 – The Reichstag passes the Enabling Act of 1933, making Adolf Hitler dictator of Germany.

1935 – Signing of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Philippines.

1939 – The Hungarian air force attacks the headquarters of the Slovak air force in Spišská Nová Ves, killing 13 people and beginning the Slovak–Hungarian War.

1940 – The Lahore Resolution (Qarardad-e-Pakistan or Qarardad-e-Lahore) is put forward at the Annual General Convention of the All-India Muslim League.

1956 – Pakistan becomes the first Islamic republic in the world. This date is now celebrated as Republic Day in Pakistan.

1965 – NASA launches Gemini 3, the United States’ first two-man space flight (crew: Gus Grissom and John Young).

1977 – The first of The Nixon Interviews (12 will be recorded over four weeks) is videotaped with British journalist David Frost interviewing former United States President Richard Nixon about the Watergate scandal and the Nixon tapes.

1978 – The first UNIFIL troops arrived in Lebanon for peacekeeping mission along the Blue Line.

1980 – Archbishop Óscar Romero of El Salvador gives his famous speech appealing to men of the El Salvadoran armed forces to stop killing the Salvadorans.

1982 – Guatemala’s government, headed by Fernando Romeo Lucas García is overthrown in a military coup by right-wing General Efraín Ríos Montt.

1983 – Strategic Defense Initiative: President Ronald Reagan makes his initial proposal to develop technology to intercept enemy missiles.

1991 – The Revolutionary United Front, with support from the special forces of Charles Taylor’s National Patriotic Front of Liberia, invades Sierra Leone in an attempt to overthrow Joseph Saidu Momoh, sparking the 11-year

Sierra Leone Civil War.

1994 – At an election rally in Tijuana, Mexican presidential candidate Luis Donaldo Colosio is assassinated by Mario Aburto Martínez.

1994 – A United States Air Force (USAF) F-16 aircraft collides with a USAF C-130 at Pope Air Force Base and then crashes, killing 24 United States Army soldiers on the ground. This later became known as the Green Ramp disaster.

1994 – Aeroflot Flight 593 crashed into the Kuznetsk Alatau mountain, Kemerovo Oblast, Russia, killing 75.

1996 – Taiwan holds its first direct elections and chooses Lee Teng-hui as President.

1999 – Gunmen assassinate Paraguay’s Vice President Luis María Argaña.

2001 – The Russian Mir space station is disposed of, breaking up in the atmosphere before falling into the southern Pacific Ocean near Fiji.

2003 – Battle of Nasiriyah, first major conflict during the invasion of Iraq.

2008 – Official opening of Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Hyderabad, India

2009 – FedEx Express Flight 80: A McDonnell Douglas MD-11 flying from Guangzhou, China crashes at Tokyo’s Narita International Airport, killing both the captain and the co-pilot.

2018 – President of Peru Pedro Pablo Kuczynski resigns from the presidency amid a mass corruption scandal before certain impeachment by the opposition-majority Congress of Peru.

2019 – The US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces declared military victory over the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant after four years of fighting, although the group maintains a scattered presence and sleeper cells across Syria and Iraq.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

1953 – Chaka Khan, American singer-songwriter

1954 – Geno Auriemma, Italian-American basketball player and coach

1954 – Kenneth Cole, American fashion designer, founded Kenneth Cole Productions

1955 – Moses Malone, American basketball player and sportscaster (d. 2015)

1957 – Amanda Plummer, American actress

1959 – Catherine Keener, American actress

1961 – Roger Crisp, English philosopher and academic

1964 – Hope Davis, American actress

1965 – Gary Whitehead, American poet and painter

1966 – Lorenzo Daniel, American sprinter

1968 – Mitch Cullin, American author

1971 – Yasmeen Ghauri, Canadian model

1971 – Hiroyoshi Tenzan, Japanese wrestler

1972 – Joe Calzaghe, Welsh boxer

1972 – Judith Godrèche, French actress and author

1973 – Jason Kidd, American basketball player and coach

1974 – Randall Park, American actor, director and screenwriter

1976 – Michelle Monaghan, American actress

1976 – Jeremy Newberry, American football player

1976 – Keri Russell, American actress

1979 – Mark Buehrle, American baseball player

1980 – Russell Howard, English comedian

1981 – Erin Crocker, American race car driver



Aurelia Simonds at home with her sons Max (next to her) and Rex Simonds. (THE WESTFIELD NEWS SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Online Mom

Continued from Page 1

Simonds said that the Southwick=Tolland=Granville Regional School District has online resources and a schedule for children at home, but added, “an at home schedule as if you were in school is very optimistic. A lot of parents don’t know where to begin, and it’s week one!”

In doing in her search, she soon found a wealth of activities going on. “There’s so much out there,” Simonds said.

Some of the favorite resources that she’s found include virtual tours and live videos. For example, the Cincinatti Zoo posts a different lesson every day on a different animal.

Another favorite is Mo Willems’ live videos. Willems, a popular children’s book author and illustrator (“Don’t let the Pigeon drive the bus”), is doing a daily YouTube show called “Lunch Doodles with Mo Willems.”

Simonds said the videos are at a nice, slower pace, and offer a tour of his studio. “They’re enjoyable for my kids,” she said.

Simonds is also enjoying the different simple tips that other parents are sharing.

“I’m hoping it ends up being a huge resource for everybody – what’s working, not working. How they’re dealing with becoming a teacher, nurse and working at home all in one week,” she said.

Simonds was already working from home on her screen printing and embroidery business in Southwick, called 3 Tees. She said people are still looking for jobs to get done, although business has slowed because she does a lot of work with youth sports that would normally be gearing up right now.

One of her hopes is that teachers will

join the group and share tips. She said it would be nice for her kids to see familiar faces.

She’s also had grandmas who are caring for the kids at home reach out to her, she said.

Staying positive, Simonds said she sees a possible silver lining in having the kids at home. “I’m wondering 10 years from now, what will these kids be like. This is a time for kids to find their creativity and passion and follow it.”

She said it’s also an opportunity to teach them how to cook, clean and do their own laundry.

Simonds said she probably spends an hour or two a day building up the Parents Homeschool Folder. “I’m really excited that people are using it. It’s keeping me positively distracted!” she said.

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COMMENT

COLUMN

'Home schooling' is not my expertise

By HOPE E. TREMBLAY
Editor

I have ALWAYS appreciated teachers, but I have even more respect for them as I stumble through this new world with my 9 and 11-year-olds.

First, let me say that my husband is a teacher. He teaches IT at a vocational high school and I appreciate what he does, but middle school age kids? They are tough.

My daughter has asked me several times over the years to homeschool her. It's not that she doesn't like school, she just doesn't want to get up and get dressed and be ready by 7:45 each morning. I don't blame her, but my response has always been a resounding "No Way!"

I have a ton of patience and I worked as a paraprofessional for a while and truly enjoyed it, but I know my limitations.

So this week we started with a schedule, made with my daughter and given the thumbs-up by my son. Day one went well. Day two, well, I was still working in the office and let's just say teaching high school students and trying to teach your own 4th and 5th graders is a different story.

By Thursday, they were rebelling. They were restless and the chilly air and rain begged for a day of lounging. While the adults worked from home, the kids played chess and Monopoly. They dragged their blankets and pillows into the living room and watched movies. They helped set and clear the table and make dinner. They also fought, laughed, fought some more and shared more laughs.

We all needed a day off from trying to keep it "normal" when life is far from normal right now. And it was okay.

And then my daughter's teacher sent her an email just to say hello. Not to give an assignment, not to suggest online resources, just to say she missed her students.

I am so grateful to my children's teachers, principal and the entire staff at Southwick-Tolland-Granville Regional Schools who so obviously care about their students.

That email was a simple check-in, but it's energized us to tackle tomorrow and make these days together count.

To all you newly-dubbed "teachers" muddling through this, I see you. I feel you. I appreciate you. And remember, playing games and making dinner are life lessons, so don't feel bad that you don't have a regimented schedule, that you are not doing science experiments every day or giving yourself a crash course on Common Core math.

To all of you parents who do homeschool every day, you have my complete respect!

To all teachers of the world, THANK YOU for caring, inspiring, motivating and often herding our children.



HOPE E. TREMBLAY



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COLUMN

The little things we take for granted

By CHRIS PUTZ
Sports Editor

One year ago, New Englanders celebrated the Patriots' sixth Super Bowl victory. No matter how many times we high-fived over the years, it never got old.

That Super Bowl Sunday was the last time I high-fived my father.

The little things we take for granted.

Over the course of my 20-year career as the sports guy for The Westfield News, there have been times when I covered a blow-out baseball game featuring two winless teams just begging for it to end. Now, I would give anything to watch a sandlot game in somebody's back yard.

The little things we take for granted.

There were times at the gym that I struggled to get through a workout, counting down the reps of a bench press or the seconds on a treadmill so I could make a quick get-away.

The little things we take for granted.

Holiday get-togethers and family birthday parties. Once again, the little things we take for granted.

This past New Year's Eve, my cousin's 17-year-old son, Aiden, who successfully battles a nervous system disorder, was given the surprise of a lifetime when New England Patriots tight end Rob Gronkowski presented Aiden and his family signed memorabilia and tickets to Super Bowl LIV during the New Year's Eve with Steve Harvey: Live from Times Square special on FOX, all courtesy of the Make-A-Wish-Foundation.

Aiden and his dad, Shawn, attended the NFL Honors Ceremony alongside legendary NFL players past and present



CHRIS PUTZ



Former New England Patriots tight-end Rob Gronkowski is pictured alongside Western Massachusetts area teen, Aiden Clark, who received the surprise of a lifetime, courtesy of the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

like Jerry Rice, Ray Lewis, and Deandre Hopkins, among others; the Super Bowl between Kansas City and San Francisco; and spent time with Super Bowl MVP, Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes in Walt Disney World the next day.

I've experienced some super moments of my own with Aiden.

I remember covering a high school baseball game one day a few years ago at Ware's Memorial Field, a contest pitting one of our local teams against the Indians. When I arrived at the ballpark, Aiden emerged from the stands and gave me a hug, making me feel like a local celebrity. But there is another memory that will last forever.

In the days immediately following my father's sudden death, Aiden literally gave me the shirt off his back, handing me a Patriots Super Bowl Championship shirt, which his father bought for him. Amidst my grief, I put it in my drawer with the rest of my T-shirts.

The little things we take for granted.

One month ago, Boston Red Sox All-Star outfielder Mookie Betts was shipped to the west coast and became a Dodger. A few days ago, the unthinkable happened when Tom Brady announced his plans to leave New England in a heartfelt letter to fans via twitter. A day later he was the quarterback of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Then, on Friday, Red Sox ace pitcher Chris Sale announced plans to undergo Tommy John surgery, ending the southpaw's 2020 season and likely a portion of 2021 too.

The little things we take for granted.

Life as we know it has come to a halt as the world attempts to battle the coronavirus, or COVID-19. Nearly every sporting event from the youth and high school level to college to the pros has been halted in an attempt to slow the spread of the virus. Many schools are closed indefinitely. A major portion of our country's workforce is confined to their homes. Emergency responders and health care workers continue to risk their own health and well-being to treat the public. Churches, restaurants, shops, malls and bars are shut down. (As of press time, many area restaurants were still open for takeout or delivery service.)

The little things we take for granted.

When life finally does return to normal – and it will – I will cherish the smack of the baseball bat every time one of our local ball players gets a hit ... the roar of the crowd when every one of our football players scores a touchdown ... every "Happy Birthday" song ... every kiss and hug of a family member ... and every handshake and fist bump shared among friends.

I urge you to do the same.

Hoteliers say pandemic has cost 17,000 Mass. jobs so far

By Chris Lisinski
State House News Service

BOSTON - Citing more than 17,000 job losses since the coronavirus pandemic hit, Massachusetts hoteliers warned that "the bleeding isn't stopping" and that they need government help to stave off further damage to their businesses.

In Massachusetts alone, where the first COVID-19 case was announced on Feb. 1 and the number of total cases has rapidly increased since then, 17,847 direct hotel-related jobs and 66,799 jobs that support hotels have been cut due to the outbreak, according to the Massachusetts Lodging Association.

The association compiled first-hand accounts from nine hotel owners in the state to submit to Congress urging aid for an industry facing significant strain. Most said they worry about paying bills and have seen business evaporate in recent weeks.

Doug Koenig, a manager at the Hilton Boston Back Bay, said occupancy rates at his hotel have dropped to as low as 5 percent in remarks circulated by the association. Lexington hotel owner Dominique Marty said she had to cut worker hours by almost 90 percent. Kristin Scott, a North Chelmsford area sales manager for Remington Hotels, warned that the financial ramifications "will be devastating for many families and individuals."

"We are losing business FAST," Sturbridge hotelier Jaimin Patel wrote in his commentary. "We need (government) relief soon. The bleeding isn't stopping. Please help us, so we can retain our staff. Times are hard."

Hotel CEOs met with Vice President Mike Pence on Tuesday to seek federal assistance, after which the American Hotel and Lodging Association estimated 4 million total jobs nationwide have been or are on the verge of being cut, a "catastrophic" toll.

On Wednesday, Gov. Charlie Baker announced that small restaurant and hospitality businesses in Massachusetts — defined as those that paid less than \$150,000 in sales plus meals taxes or sales plus room occupancy taxes in 2019 — would not have to pay March, April and May taxes until June as a short-term relief.



The Westfield News Sports Editor Chris Putz (left) and Aiden Clark (right).

The Westfield News

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Advocates: Virus fight must account for needs of homeless

By CHRIS VAN BUSKIRK
State House News Service

BOSTON - A slow trickle of people on Wednesday morning made their way out of the St. Francis House, a Boston shelter providing housing to adults experiencing homelessness and poverty.

Opening themselves up to the elements, the few individuals who started to walk on Tremont Street represent some of the thousands experiencing homelessness in the state while COVID-19 continues to spread across the nation. Advocates, legislators, and shelter operators are concerned that the virus, should it spread among homeless populations, could inflict serious damage and accelerate the larger rate of spread.

In Massachusetts, the number of confirmed coronavirus cases jumped to 218 on Tuesday, an increase of 21 from Monday, according to the Department of Public Health. Over 179,112 cases have been reported worldwide as of Tuesday with 7,426 deaths, according to the World Health Organization.

"We're concerned at every level of government, wanting to make sure that people experiencing homelessness, and their unique needs, become a focal point," Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless Associate Director Kelly Turley said in an interview. "We know that just because there hasn't been a lot of public talking, we know that some of the conversations are happening at the state level."

Ron Willoughby runs Springfield Rescue Mission, a 43-bed emergency shelter in downtown Springfield that also serves over 450,000 meals a year. He said he has directed staff to follow state suggestions and disinfect everything from tables to doorknobs.

Willoughby said he is looking for more information from the governor and mayor of Springfield on how they would tend to people experiencing homelessness. Supplies such as thermometers and hand sanitizer might run out of stock if the outbreak worsens, he said.

"I was listening to the messages by the mayor and also the governor and I didn't hear anything about the homeless population being cared for," he told the News Service Tuesday. "If they do not they are missing a grand point."

Turley said most shelters are going to need an infusion of funds and support to take the measures that are needed to be able to create distance between people. Additionally, she said, proposals such as keeping open seasonal shelters open and providing easy access to hygiene would benefit the homeless population.

"People are in very tight quarters already and there's not an opportunity for social distancing," she said.

The state Department of Housing and Community Development is working with agencies to identify additional capacity to support homeless individuals and families who may need quarantine or isolation due to COVID-19.

DHCD hosted several calls in an attempt to address the outbreak as it relates to individuals experiencing homelessness. The department hosted a March 12 call between Department of Public Health Commissioner Monica Bharel, the state's epidemiologist, and local shelters and housing authorities. A second phone call occurred on Tuesday for family and individual shelters.

While Massachusetts does not have the highest population of people experiencing homelessness in the nation, it does clock in at 18,471, according to a U.S. Department for Housing and Urban Development report released in January 2020. The report, compiled on a single night in January 2019, found that 567,715 people in the United States were experiencing homelessness. Just under two-thirds of those people were staying in sheltered locations while over a third were found in unsheltered locations.

Turley said Massachusetts' number does not include people living in double-up scenarios and is limited in counting people staying in places like cars and campgrounds.

Boston Mayor Martin Walsh on Tuesday night said the city will continue to serve those experiencing homelessness despite the unique challenges COVID-19 presents.

"Bostonians are coming together in thousands of ways to take care of our most vulnerable neighbors," he said in a televised address. "City agencies and nonprofits who serve

See Advocates, Page 6



Public Health Commissioner Dr. Monica Bharel, pictured on March 18 in the governor's press room, has participated in Gov. Charlie Baker's daily briefings on the status of COVID-19 in Massachusetts. (SAM DORAN/SHNS)

Bharel's roots grounded in Mass. Health Care landscape

Commissioner:
'I had a calling to help others

By KATIE LANNAN
State House News Service
BOSTON — Dr. Monica Bharel stepped into her role as the state's chief physician during the winter of 2015, when a very different set of circumstances -- a series of snowstorms that walloped New England -- was straining the local economy and keeping Bay Staters at home.

Five years later, Bharel, the commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, is a fixture in televised press briefings, providing updates on testing capacity, case numbers, social distancing tips and other aspects of the state's response to the coronavirus pandemic.

"Many of you might know that I spent a good deal of my career in the health care system as a general internal medicine physician in academic hospitals, community health centers, VAs, city hospitals and other settings," Bharel said at a Tuesday press conference. "I had a call this morning with hospitals and community health centers across the state to discuss the current updates. I understand the need of our health care providers, and I appreciate the urgent needs of our patients and health care professionals."

Before joining the nascent Baker administration in 2015, Bharel served as the chief medical officer for the Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program. When Governor-elect Charlie Baker's transi-

tion committee announced her appointment in 2014, future Health and Human Services Secretary Marylou Sudders said Bharel "has an impressive background as a physician serving the homeless, some of the most vulnerable citizens of the commonwealth."

Bharel earned her undergraduate and medical degrees at Boston University and completed her residency at Boston City Hospital/Boston Medical Center. She received a master's in public health in 2012 through the Commonwealth Fund/Harvard University Fellowship in Minority Health Policy.

While she was a student at Harvard's School of Public Health, Bharel said in a 2012 video that she came to the field "with a long interest in how to care for populations and how to prevent disease."

She said there wasn't a single "aha moment" that drove her to study public health, but that in the past eight years working for Boston Health Care for the Homeless, she had seen the "profound effects" that poverty can have on a person's health and wanted to learn more about how to best care for a population she cares deeply about.

In June 2019, Bharel spoke to the graduating class of Boston University's Sargent College, telling them she clearly remembered being in their shoes, "wondering where my path would lead me and how I would have the greatest impact on people."

"I did know that I had a calling to help others," she said.

She told the new graduates that three ideas guide her

work as commissioner. The first is that health is a right, not a privilege. The second is the importance of data and evidence, and the third is the power of relationships, which she called "the single most important and rewarding aspect of any profession in health care."

On data, Bharel said she often talks "about pursuing what I call precision public health," a model that uses data and evidence to target a particular population's specific needs with "laser focus."

"I believe that the future of health will be about taking a sizable leap forward in how we collect, analyze and share data and turn that data into useful information on both a personal and population scale," she said.

The need for data has become a significant issue amid the coronavirus pandemic, with statistics around the number of tests conducted and number of confirmed COVID-19 cases serving as important indicators of the degree to which the highly contagious virus is present in Massachusetts.

As of Wednesday, 256 cases were reported in Massachusetts, including 27 involving a hospitalization, and the state public health laboratory had conducted 1,743 tests.

Department of Public Health officials have said they'll release updated case numbers daily by 4 p.m., but in some instances have ended up posting the figures slightly later than that.

Bharel seemed to address the occasional lag on Tuesday, referring to a 4 p.m. posting as the department's "goal."

"Our absolute priority is

sharing data that is correct, factual and updated," she said.

Before the new coronavirus arrived in Massachusetts -- the state's first case was announced on Feb. 1 -- Bharel was often at the forefront of other major health news in the state.

She's been involved in efforts to combat the opioid crisis, including Baker's opioid task force and the rollout of a new prescription monitoring program, and signed the September 2019 order that put into place Baker's controversial ban on vaping product sales during an outbreak of lung illnesses.

The Department of Public Health celebrated its 150th anniversary last year, counting from the September 1869 establishment of the Massachusetts State Board of Health by Dr. Henry Bowditch. Before that, an act of the Massachusetts Legislature created America's first Board of Health in Boston in 1799, with Paul Revere as its president.

"That's pretty cool, right, to follow in the footsteps of Paul Revere?" Bharel said in her 2019 commencement speech. "I'm not sure he would have expected me to follow him, but here I am."

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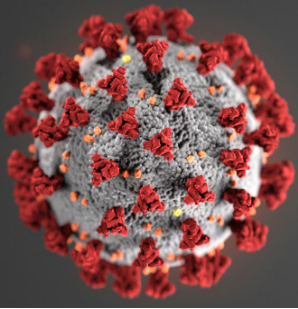


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COVID-19

NATIONAL • STATE • LOCAL UPDATES

Virus Risk Assessment

WASHINGTON (CDC) — Risk depends on characteristics of the virus, including how well it spreads between people; the severity of resulting illness; and the medical or other measures available to control the impact of the virus (for example, vaccines or medications that can treat the illness) and the relative success of these. In the absence of vaccine or treatment medications, nonpharmaceutical interventions become the most important response strategy. These are community interventions that can reduce the impact of disease.



This is a picture of CDC's laboratory test kit for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2).

nity spread of the virus that causes COVID-19 has been reported are at elevated risk of exposure, with the level of risk dependent on the location.

- **Healthcare workers** caring for patients with COVID-19 are at elevated risk of exposure.
- **Close contacts** of persons with COVID-19 also are at elevated risk of exposure.

RISK OF EXPOSURE:

- The immediate risk of being exposed to this virus is still low for most Americans, but as the outbreak expands, that risk will increase. Cases of COVID-19 and instances of community spread are being reported in a growing number of states.
- **People in places where ongoing commu-**

Does the new coronavirus affect older people, or are younger people also susceptible?



People of all ages can be infected by the new coronavirus (nCoV-2019). Older people, and people with pre-existing medical conditions (such as asthma, diabetes, heart disease) appear to be more vulnerable to becoming severely ill with the virus. WHO advise people of all age to take steps to protect themselves from the virus, for example by following good hand hygiene and good respiratory hygiene.



#Coronavirus

- Travelers returning from affected international locations where community spread is occurring also are at elevated risk of exposure, with level of risk dependent on where they traveled.

RISK OF SEVERE ILLNESS:

Early information out of China, where COVID-19 first started, shows that some people are at higher risk of getting very sick

from this illness. This includes:

- Older adults, with risk increasing by age.
- People who have serious chronic medical conditions like:

- Heart disease
- Diabetes
- Lung disease

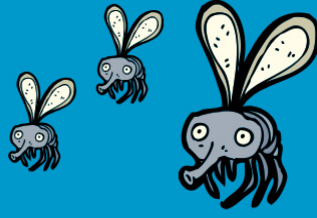
CDC has developed guidance to help in the risk assessment and management of people with potential exposures to COVID-19.

To date there has been no information nor evidence to suggest that the new coronavirus could be transmitted by mosquitoes.

The new coronavirus is a respiratory virus which spreads primarily through droplets generated when an infected person coughs or sneezes, or through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose.

To protect yourself, clean your hands frequently with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water. Also, avoid close contact with anyone who is coughing and sneezing.

FACT:
The new coronavirus CANNOT be transmitted through mosquito bites



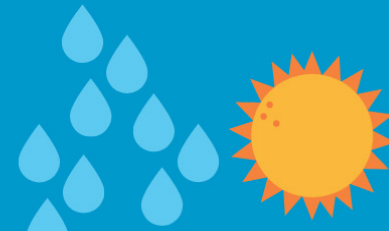
World Health Organization #Coronavirus #COVID19

From the evidence so far, the new coronavirus can be transmitted in ALL AREAS, including areas with hot and humid weather.

Regardless of climate, adopt protective measures if you live in, or travel to an area reporting COVID-19.

The best way to protect yourself against COVID-19 is by frequently cleaning your hands. Eliminate viruses that may be on your hands and avoid infection that could occur by then touching your eyes, mouth, and nose.

FACT:
The new coronavirus can be transmitted in areas with hot and humid climates



World Health Organization #Coronavirus #COVID19

9 March 2020

Advocates

Continued from Page 5

homeless are implementing plans to prevent the virus from spreading in shelters. And we have identified safe sites where we can test and treat people who have the symptoms."

In the western part of the state, Rep. Tricia Farley-Bouvier (D-Pittsfield) said a shelter in her city exemplifies the issues surrounding people experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 outbreak. The shelter, which is run by a non-profit and receives state funding, is overcrowded as officials urge people to practice social distancing and employees attempt to keep the facility clean.

Farley-Bouvier said it is in the best interest of the public to address the homeless population not only for their wellbeing but for the public's general health.

"In this crisis, I believe it's a time bomb. So you have people with a lot

of health needs, a lot of underlying health conditions, living in very close quarters," she said in an interview. "I just think it's inevitable that it's going to spread throughout that population, who will then get very ill because they have all those high-risk factors and then that group will swamp the hospital."

When a state of emergency is declared the governor gains broad authority including the potential to take over a building as necessary. Farley-Bouvier said that might be one solution for local populations.

"I mean, in Berkshire County, we need a Berkshire solution. We need help from the state to fund it, but we need a solution that's going to work for Berkshire County and each community, they got to aggressively find a solution to that."

While governmental departments and agencies attempt to help those

already experiencing homelessness, over 35 legislators signed onto a bill that would place a hold on evictions and foreclosures during the state of emergency. Advocates say the bill protects low-income families who might be at risk of homelessness.

Turley of MCH said many people experiencing homelessness are doing so in "doubled-up situations" where they might be staying with family or friends.

"Often, those family members and friends are also in precarious housing situations," she said. "So wanting to make sure that people in their network and other low-income households don't lose their housing."

Rep. Kevin Honan (D-Boston), one of the sponsors of the bill, said it is important that people have a place to stay during a time when social distancing and fewer in-person interactions are becoming the norm.

"I would also add that the public health crisis disproportionately impacts lower-income residents and it's an important measure for our collective health and well being," he said. "We want to protect people's tenancies."

President Donald Trump announced Wednesday that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will suspend foreclosures and evictions through April.

Rep. Lindsay Sabadosa (D-Northampton) sent a letter on Tuesday to Gov. Charlie Baker asking his administration to immediately implement emergency shelters to mitigate the "negative consequences on some of our most vulnerable." In her letter, Sabadosa pointed out that most shelters do not have the capacity for the number of people experiencing homelessness on any given day.

On Wednesday, Sabadosa filed legislation with Rep. Paul Mark (D-Peru) that would allocate money for the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency to fund all seasonal shelters for families and individuals beyond their normal months of operation, equip them with bathrooms and showers, and install quarantine shelters.

The COVID-19 outbreak, Sabadosa said, has forced most public facilities with restrooms or showers to close, leaving those experiencing homelessness with few options. Sabadosa said she filed the legislation to help out smaller cities and towns that may not have the resources to support large populations of homeless.

"This epidemic is highlighting every crack in our system," she told the News Service.

COVID-19 What you need to know about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

What is coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)?

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. The virus that causes COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus that was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China.

Can people in the U.S. get COVID-19?

Yes. COVID-19 is spreading from person to person in parts of the United States. Risk of infection with COVID-19 is higher for people who are close contacts of someone known to have COVID-19, for example healthcare workers, or household members. Other people at higher risk for infection are those who live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19. Learn more about places with ongoing spread at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html#geographic>.

Have there been cases of COVID-19 in the U.S.?

Yes. The first case of COVID-19 in the United States was reported on January 21, 2020. The current count of cases of COVID-19 in the United States is available on CDC's webpage at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html>.

How does COVID-19 spread?

The virus that causes COVID-19 probably emerged from an animal source, but is now spreading from person to person. The virus is thought to spread mainly between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet) through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It also may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads. Learn what is known about the spread of newly emerged coronaviruses at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html>.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

Patients with COVID-19 have had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of

- fever
- cough
- shortness of breath

What are severe complications from this virus?

Some patients have pneumonia in both lungs, multi-organ failure and in some cases death.

How can I help protect myself?

People can help protect themselves from respiratory illness with everyday preventive actions.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.

If you are sick, to keep from spreading respiratory illness to others, you should

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

What should I do if I recently traveled from an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19?

If you have traveled from an affected area, there may be restrictions on your movements for up to 2 weeks. If you develop symptoms during that period (fever, cough, trouble breathing), seek medical advice. Call the office of your health care provider before you go, and tell them about your travel and your symptoms. They will give you instructions on how to get care without exposing other people to your illness. While sick, avoid contact with people, don't go out and delay any travel to reduce the possibility of spreading illness to others.

Is there a vaccine?

There is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19. The best way to prevent infection is to take everyday preventive actions, like avoiding close contact with people who are sick and washing your hands often.

Is there a treatment?

There is no specific antiviral treatment for COVID-19. People with COVID-19 can seek medical care to help relieve symptoms.

Stop the Spread of Germs

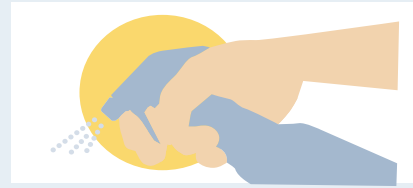
Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like the flu and COVID-19:



Wash your hands often with soap and warm water, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.



Clean things that are frequently touched (like doorknobs and countertops) with household cleaning spray or wipes.



Cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze. Use a tissue or your inner elbow, not your hands.



Stay home if you are sick and avoid close contact with others.



Think ahead about how to take care of yourself and your loved ones. Visit mass.gov/KnowPlanPrepare for preparedness tips.



For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19

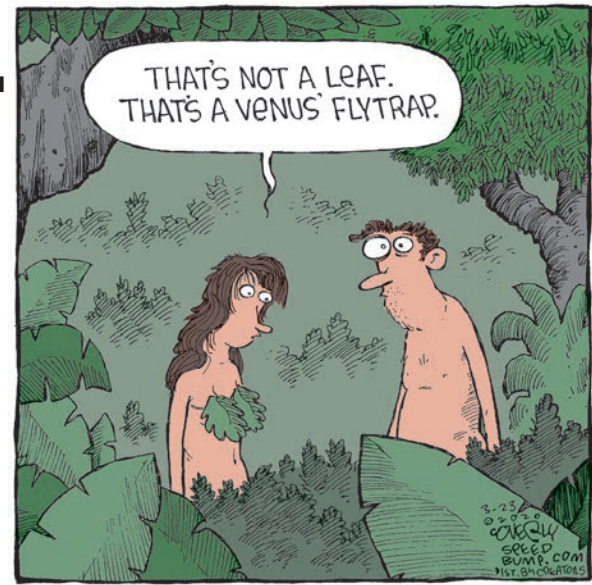
For more, visit: www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

3/8/2020

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SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



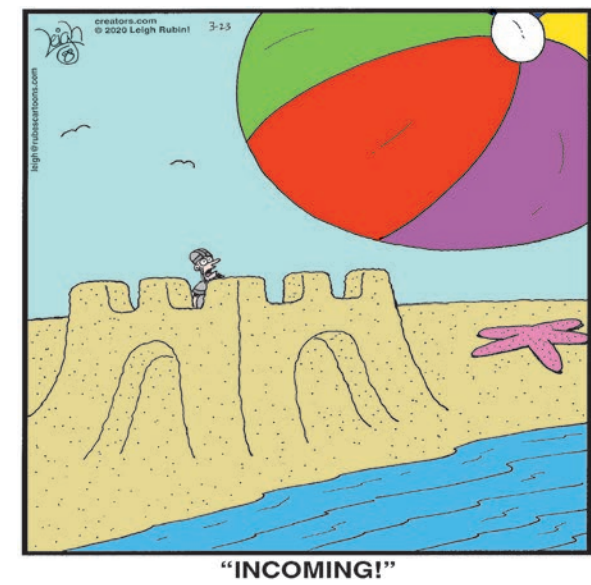
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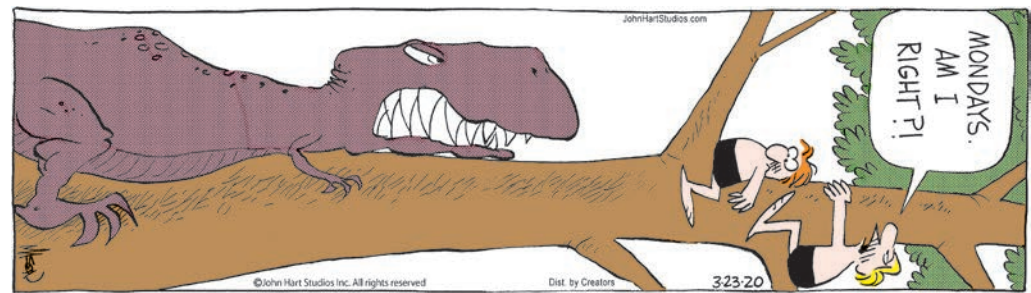
SCARY GARY Mark Buford



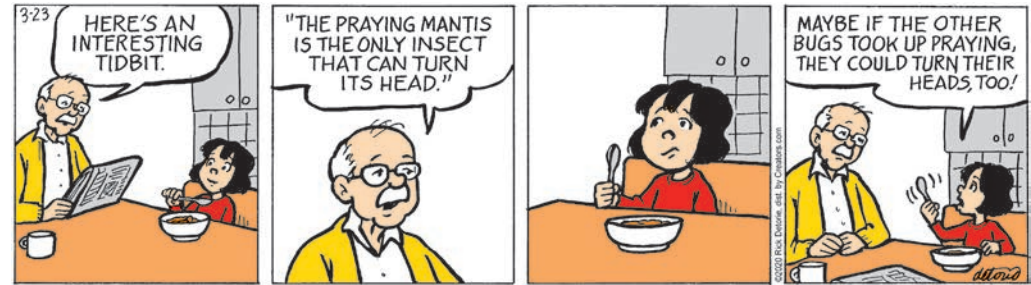
DOGS OF C-KENNEL Mick and Mason Mastroianni



B.C. Mastroianni and Hart



ONE BIG HAPPY Rick Detorie



ANDY CAPP Mahoney, Goldsmith and Garnett



ZACK HILL John Deering and John Newcombe



YOUR HOROSCOPE

By Jaqueline Bigar

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, March 23, 2020:

This is a year in which you are curious about everything, as events happen unexpectedly and well-laid plans will be set aside. An important domestic adjustment will take place in July relating to where you live. If single, you will refuse to be taken for granted and will have more dates as a result. If attached, obstacles will be removed and there will be smooth sailing. SAGITTARIUS individuals play major roles.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★ Tonight is going to be stellar, but you've got to wait all day. It's an impatient feeling day. It's not your fault, whatever anyone says. Surprisingly, you get a lot of things done. Tonight: You feel glad to be alive.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Friends and colleagues ask you for advice today. Give it generously. As for the funds problem, you have the power today to manifest more money. Tonight: Have a quiet, slow meditation night.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Today is an important career day. You should connect with higher-ups and voice your opinions. Excellent day to have a meeting. You will receive a form of recognition. Tonight: Go out with friends.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ All sorts of discussion and day-dreaming happen today. As evening approaches, your ambitions return. You turn to more serious discussions of work. A child voices concerns. Tonight: Draft an important email.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Discussions about mutual resources between you and a partner turn from serious to playful. A brief respite and break. You've had so much work to do lately that you haven't had time to play. Tonight: Go somewhere new.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ A partnership could turn serious today. Examine every angle. Take no chances. You have a lot to do today, and you accomplish it masterfully. Maintain your poise amongst colleagues. Tonight: Avoid intrigue.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Don't underrate yourself today. You are better than you think at a certain task you may consider mundane. Trust to luck and choose to be happy. Shift to a new pattern in your health regimen. Use care with spending at the moment. Tonight: No online shopping.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Focus on displays of affection today. If single, you could encounter your future mate while outside doing an errand. Future plans highlight children, travel and variety. Gemini plays a top role in discussions. Tonight: You could win a contest.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Your popularity is on the rise. There will be a solid offer received in connection with a sale or purchase of property. Expand your horizons. You might want to change gears and have a long-overdue chat. Tonight: Catch up with old friends.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan 19)
★★★ This is your makeover day. Sometimes you have to tear down in order to rebuild. Rewrite, review and wear your clothes in a different style. Be ready for a change of itinerary. An individual giving orders could be replaced. Tonight: Take the night off.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You will start the day on your own, and this will be favorable. Your attention revolves around home, important visitors and sharp-tuned intuitive intellect. You will be at the right place at a special moment effortlessly. Tonight: Celebrate with a family member.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ See people and relationships as they exist. An aura of deception could cloud your agenda. Make sure you define terms and get promises in writing. Gemini figures prominently. Finish what you start, and look beyond the immediate. Tonight: Return old calls first.

BORN TODAY
Psychologist *Erich Fromm* (1900), actress *Joan Crawford* (1905), businessman *Rex Tillerson* (1952)

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CONTRACT BRIDGE

Famous Hand

East dealer. Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ K 7 6 5
♥ 3
♦ A J 10 5
♣ K J 8 5
WEST
♠ J 9
♥ 9 7 4
♦ Q 6
♣ A 9 6 4 3 2
EAST
♠ 10 8 4 2
♥ A K J 6 5 2
♦ 9 8 4
♣ —
SOUTH
♠ A Q 3
♥ Q 10 8
♦ K 7 3 2
♣ Q 10 7

The bidding:
East Pass 1 NT Pass 2 ♠
South 5 ♣ Pass 3 ♠
West Pass 3 ♠
North 2 ♠ 4 ♠

Opening lead — jack of spades.

Bridge is not played perfectly by anyone, including experts, and the best proof of this can sometimes be found at the annual world championship. Consider the present deal from the match between Italy and the United States in 1975.

At the first table, the Italian pair — Benito Garozzo and Giorgio Belladonna — got to five diamonds on the sequence shown. Probably West should have reasoned from the bidding that East had either one or no clubs and, on that basis, should have led the ace of clubs. But West led the jack of spades instead.

Belladonna won the ace and guessed the trump finesse correctly when he played a low diamond to the ten at trick two. Had he now drawn the remaining trumps, he would have made the contract easily.

But Belladonna thought the trumps might be divided 4-1, and, to protect against this possibility, he led a low club from dummy at trick three! This was certainly not the best play on the actual layout, as he found out when East, Eddie Kantar, trumped the club.

Kantar didn't know that his partner had the ace of clubs and that all he had to do was to cash his heart trick at this point. Instead, acting on the assumption that South had the ace of clubs, and hoping that West had the queen of hearts, Kantar led the deuce of hearts at trick four in a desperate attempt to reach West and obtain another club ruff.

Kantar's low-heart return would have been sensationally successful had the cards been located as he hoped they were. As it was though, Belladonna put up the queen, drew the outstanding trumps and easily made the contract, losing only the club ace and a club ruff.

Tomorrow we'll see what happened at the second table when the U.S. held the North-South cards.

Tomorrow: Famous Hand Part Two.
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CROSSWORDS

- ACROSS**
1 Netting
5 Upscale auto
8 Junk email
12 Jazzy Fitzgerald
13 Peyton's brother
14 — Major
15 Caesar's "vidi"
16 Some hosiery
18 Fix
20 Volkswagen model
21 Egyptian deity
23 "— -haw!" (oater cry)
24 Kitchen storage areas
28 Nest setting
31 Web address
32 Govt. security
34 Actor Kilmer
35 Honey bunch?
37 Some police tactics
- 39 R-V link**
41 Thus
42 Soak up
45 1935 Astaire/Rogers film
49 Rifle attachments
51 "Somebody's Gotta Do It" host Mike
52 Online journal
53 Capote nickname
54 Slender woodwind
55 Together, in music
56 Trendy
57 Brazen
- DOWN**
1 Isral's Gola
2 Differently
3 High-five sound
4 Aloha State
5 Get close to
6 Roman 1051
7 Trace
8 Twilight time
9 Keep from spoiling
10 Nick and Nora's pet
11 Sail support
- 17 Dinner for Dobbin
19 "— It Romantic?"
22 Emporium
24 Young lion
25 "— you serious?"
26 "Gesundheit!"
27 Begins
29 "Mangia!"
30 Overhead trains
33 Waffle brand
36 Fall guy
38 "Piece of cake!"
40 Ornate vase
42 "Waterloo" group
43 Hardly hirsute
44 "Little Women" sister
46 Vagrant
47 Military no-show
48 Ticked (off)
50 Prefix with athlete

Solution time: 21 mins.

G	L	O	S	S	P	E	T	I	T	E		
B	O	B	O	E	X	I	T	E	D			
E	N	D	A	L	L	T	A	M	A	L		
T	E	E	M	S	C	A	M	L	E	N		
			A	S	T	A	S	C	I			
S	U	M	A	I	N	T	O	A	F	S		
P	A	U	L	M	C	C	A	R	T	N	E	Y
A	R	L	O	E	E	K	S	S	E	R		
	B	A	A	L	E	T	S					
A	P	E	M	A	S	T	O	G	L	E		
C	U	R	T	I	S	H	I	R	E	E	S	
A	P	R	O	N	S	A	D	O	N	I	S	
D	A	Y	T	O	N	T	E	S	T	S		

Saturday's answer 3-23

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13			14				
15				16			17				
18				19			20				
			21				22				
24	25	26					27		28	29	30
31				32			33		34		
35				36			37		38		
			39				40		41		
42	43			44			45		46	47	48
49							50		51		
52				53					54		
55				56					57		

CRYPTOQUIP

A C B K J Z U E B A C B I Z K
K L B O B K I D O V L M G D X Z D I
K M U G Z G I G N B O E D N R M P
G I Z K J R, K L D V R K B U X R :
I B P P R X C K J.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: RESPONSE FROM A FORMER U.S. PRESIDENT ACCUSED OF MAKING REALLY COSTLY MEALS: "I'M NOT A COOK."
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals Q

Dear Annie

By ANNIE LANE



Stay the Supportive Course

Dear Annie: My cousin has had anger issues for years, especially toward our grandmother. A few years ago, her parents got divorced, and her dad immediately started dating another woman, with whom he now shares a house. My cousin has announced that she is cutting herself off from all family ties, and, when she turns 18 next year, she is planning on changing her last name.

She is consistently rude to our grandmother, who is just trying to show her love and affection during this hard time in her life. She also recklessly got a tattoo a few weeks ago. I'm worried that she is turning down a dangerous path in her life.

Is there anything I can do to keep my family together and help her through this trying time without having her turn on me, too? -- *Concerned Cousin*

Dear Concerned Cousin: It is understandable that your cousin has anger issues. Her parents just got divorced, and now she is dealing with her father dating and living with another woman. She feels that she has no control over the situation so she wants to control something. That is why she is talking about changing her name, getting a tattoo and removing herself from the family.

The whole situation might be just too painful for her to deal with right now. As for being disrespectful to Grandma, well, that is because she is a safe space for your cousin's fury. Your cousin is deflecting her anger from her father onto her grandma because she knows that grandma will always be there, loving her.

My advice is to encourage you to be a friend. Be as kind, loving and supportive as you possibly can

while she is going through this. If she "turns on you," know that it is temporary. If you continue to show her love and compassion, she will come around.

Dear Annie: In support of the woman who had only gained 29 pounds in 49 years, I, too, have a fitness story. Recently, I lost 25 pounds at age 66 by swimming a mile almost every day. It helped that we retired to Florida, where I have access to a pool year-round.

I have not changed my diet, but I do not overeat to make up for the extra exercise. Swimming is just part of my day, and I try not to miss a day.

When we went on a long cruise, I was concerned that I might gain the weight back, but I did not. I tried to exercise every day so I can only assume that I have increased my metabolism.

I feel great and am now back to my weight from high school. I never thought I would see those numbers on the scale again. -- *Still Slender 50 Years Later*

Dear Still Slender: Congratulations on creating a healthy lifestyle, which has contributed to a healthy weight. Swimming is a wonderful sport and is great for your joints. Thank you for sharing your positive habits.

"Ask Me Anything: A Year of Advice From Dear Annie" is out now! Annie Lane's debut book -- featuring favorite columns on love, friendship, family and etiquette -- is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit <http://www.creatorspublishing.com> for more information. Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.

HINTS FROM HELOISE



Where's the appreciation?

Today's Sound Off is about a lack of appreciation:

Dear Heloise: Would you remind people that Christmas bonuses are one day's pay or one week's pay?

For years now I have cleaned homes; did over and above what is expected; never called in sick or was late. And at the end of the year I get at most \$20 and no "thanks, you did a wonderful job." One woman gave me a 50-cent pair of stretch gloves. Why is it that an electrician can come, spend half an hour, charge \$250 and think nothing of it?

We are the most unappreciated people on earth. I pray that people who have housekeepers read this and understand how valuable we really are. -- *Sad in Ohio*

Dear Sad, anyone who likes a clean house should show appreciation to the one who cleans it. No one is required to give a bonus to their housekeeper or cleaning lady, although I agree that a bonus should be given, but the amount is strictly up to the person giving that bonus.

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:
Heloise
P.O. Box 795001
San Antonio, TX 78279-5001

Fax: 1-210-HELOISE
Email: Heloise@Heloise.com

- FAST FACTS**
- New uses for old fish bowls:
 - * Fill with dirt three-quarters of the way and use small plants to create an indoor garden -- a great kid's project.
 - * Use as an ant farm -- another interesting project for kids.
 - * Store marbles or other small toys in them.
 - * Use for crayon storage.
 - * Fill with soaps for the guest bath.

FEAR FACTOR

Dear Heloise: Many scammers rely on fear to force people into complying with their demands. One of the most common scams, using fear as a motivator, is telling you that your Social Security number has been used in fraudulent schemes and that you will be arrested if you don't do what the caller requests. Other popular scams center around a warrant for your arrest due to unpaid taxes, missing jury duty or that your utilities are about to be cut off for non-payment. Don't let fear make you a victim of this kind of fraud. Whenever someone tries to scare you or uses high-pressure tactics to make you do anything, hang up immediately. -- *Norman in New York*

tics to make you do anything, hang up immediately. -- *Norman in New York*

DON'T FORGET THEM

Dear Readers: When you make out your will, make sure you include instructions for the care of your pets after you're gone. Please don't assume someone will take charge of them and provide for their needs. They are beloved family members, so include them in your final wishes. -- *Heloise*

SMALL CART

Dear Heloise: When I go grocery shopping, I grab one of those smaller carts instead of the regular size ones. I've found that I don't buy unnecessary groceries because the smaller carts don't have as much room. This saves money and stops me from buying snacks that aren't on my diet. -- *Michelle in Montana*

MANGOS

Dear Heloise: Here in Hawaii we love our mangos! I've discovered that it's easier to peel them with a potato peeler rather than using a knife to remove the outer skin. -- *Malia in Hawaii*

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LEGAL NOTICES

March 9, 16, 23, 2020

MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by Kelly L. McDaid and Michael P. Germain to National City Mortgage a division of National City Bank, dated February 25, 2009 and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 17661, Page 81 as affected by a Loan Modification recorded on November 23, 2011 in Said Registry of Deeds at Book 19009, Page 424 as affected by a Loan Modification recorded on August 30, 2018 in Said Registry of Deeds at Book 22337, Page 60, subsequently assigned to PNC Bank, National Association by PNC Bank, National Association, successor by merger to National City Mortgage a division of National City Bank by assignment recorded in said Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 22922, Page 353 for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at 10:00 AM on March 30, 2020 at 285 Valley View Drive, Westfield, MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit:

The land in Westfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at an iron pin set in the northerly line of Valley View Road, at the northwest corner of the premises herein conveyed; thence NORTH 61 degrees 54 minutes EAST, along Valley View Road, 97.28 feet to an iron pipe set at the point of a curve of 158.15 foot radius; thence continuing along said Valley View Road, along said curve deflecting to the right, a distance of 80.06 feet to an iron pipe set at point of tangent; thence continuing along said Valley View Road SOUTH 89 degrees 04 minutes EAST 128.02 feet to an iron pipe at the land of one Liberty; thence SOUTH 49 degrees 48 minutes WEST along land of said Liberty 243.64 feet to an iron pipe set on the northerly line of said Valley View Road; thence NORTH 47, degrees 50 minutes WEST 141.37 feet, along said Valley View Road, to the place of beginning. Being known and designated as Lot #11 on an unrecorded Plan of Lots belonging to David Heggie, made by A.F. Reynolds, C.E., dated July, 1948. Together with rights of way, in common with others, over said Valley View Road.

The premises are to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, encroachments, building and zoning laws, liens, unpaid taxes, tax titles, water bills, municipal liens and assessments, rights of tenants and parties in possession, and attorney's fees and costs.

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS (\$5,000.00) in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or money order will be required to be delivered at or before the time the bid is offered. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Foreclosure Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid within thirty (30) days from the sale date in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee's attorney. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

PNC Bank, National Association
Present Holder of said Mortgage,
By Its Attorneys,
ORLANDS PC
PO Box 540540
Waltham, MA 02454
Phone: (781) 790-7800

19-008605

March 23, 2020

PUBLIC NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

PROJECT: Big Y Express

LOCATION: 330 East Main Street, Westfield

PROPOSER: Big Y Foods

The undersigned is submitting an Environmental Notification Form ("ENF") to the Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs on or before March 23, 2020.

This will initiate review of the above project pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act ("MEPA", M.G.L. c. 30, s.s. 61-62I). Copies of the ENF may be obtained from:

Larry Webster,
120 Hebron Avenue,
Glastonbury, CT 06033
Phone: 860.803.5763 Email: lwebster@bens-esch.com

Copies of the ENF are also being sent to the Conservation Commission and Planning Board of The City of Westfield (Municipality) where they may be inspected.

The Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs will publish notice of the ENF in the Environmental Monitor, will receive public comments on the project for 20 days, and will then decide, within ten days, if an environmental Impact Report is needed. A site visit and consultation session on the project may also be scheduled. All persons wishing to comment on the project, or to be notified of a site visit or consultation session, should write to the Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs, 100 Cambridge St., Suite 900, Boston, Massachusetts 02114, Attention: MEPA Office, referencing the above project.

By Tony Coppola,
Big Y Foods (Proponent)

LEGAL NOTICES

March 9, 16, 23, 2020

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by James A. Hebda, Susan M. Hebda to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Countrywide Bank, N.A., dated January 11, 2007 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 16450, Page 428, as modified by a certain modification agreement dated April 4, 2016, and recorded with said Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 21218, Page 574 of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:

Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. to Bank of America, N.A., successor by merger to BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP FKA Countrywide Home Loans Servicing, LP, recorded on April 5, 2012, in Book No. 19198, at Page 376

Bank of America, N.A. to Federal National Mortgage Association, recorded on October 16, 2012, in Book No. 19499, at Page 35

Bank of America, N.A., successor by merger to BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP FKA Countrywide Home Loans Servicing, LP to Federal National Mortgage Association, recorded on November 7, 2012, in Book No. 19534, at Page 596

Federal National Mortgage Association to U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as trustee for the NRZ Pass-Through Trust II, recorded on March 18, 2019, in Book No. 22590, at Page 156

U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as trustee for the NRZ Pass-Through Trust II to U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Trustee of NRZ Pass-Through Trust X, recorded on November 19, 2019, in Book No. 22959, at Page 244

for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 1:00 PM on April 6, 2020, on the mortgaged premises located at 6 Sherman Street, Westfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT:

Certain real estate situate in Westfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows: NORTHERLY by Sherman Street, about sixty-six (66) feet; EASTERLY by land lately of McHugh, now or formerly of Fuller; land lately of Horwood, now or formerly of Weymouth; and land now or formerly of Krzieski, about ninety-nine (99) feet; SOUTHERLY by land now or formerly of said Krzieski, about sixty-six (66) feet; and WESTERLY by land formerly of Douglas, now or lately of Rutherford, about ninety-nine (99) feet. BEING the same premises conveyed to the mortgagors herein by deed of ROBERT A. ROBIENCZAK and AGNES K. ROBIENCZAK dated June 1, 1992 and recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 8065, Page 134.

For mortgagor(s)' title see deed recorded with Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 8065, Page 133.

These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE OF NRZ PASS-THROUGH TRUST X
Present holder of said mortgage

By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.
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Newton, MA 02458
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UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

Complete the grid so every row, column and 3 x 3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

Previous puzzle solution

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

3/23

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

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3/21

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