Board of Health approves ‘float-in’ concert

**By PETER CURRIER**

Westfield – The Board of Health voted unanimously to give Health Director Tammy Crossen sponsorship to approve a plan to have a ‘float-in’ concert on Congamond Lake in September.

Crossen also scored a run. The Westfield Starfires fin-
ished the season in fifth place, with a record of 17-2. All-in-all, it was another step forward in the second-year team’s progression.

“We are building this brand and about resiliency during Covid,” Putnam said. “We hope that it will be not likely resume our public events until next year, 4, made sense to re-visit the photo con-
test,” Putnam said. “We hope that it will be fun in its own right while helping keep inter-
est and enthusiasm alive for our celebration. Contact submissions must be of Southwick, See Images, Page 3

Middle Pond of Congamond Lake could be the site of a float-in concert in September. (THE WESTFIELD NEWS PHOTO)

**See Concert, Page 3**

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**See Concert, Page 3**

Starfires receive awards as FCBL season comes to an end

**By LORI SZEPELAK**

Westfield — More services are being resumed weekly at the Westfield Athenaeum, according to Director Kate Deviny.

“Currently, Athenaeum is open and offering more services,” said Deviny, adding “This is based on when the plexiglass is now available by appointment.

Athenaeum staffers are working weekdays from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. to answer questions, take orders and schedule appointments over the phone, noted Becky Blackburn, public services librarian.

“Due to social distancing restrictions, computer assistance is very limited,” said Blackburn.

Blackburn noted that tutorials are provided using computers and patrons who require assistance are asked to bring some-
one to their appointment who can work with them.

They need to tell the librarian they are bringing someone when they make their reservation,” said Blackburn.

- Computer appointments are available Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. - noon and Fridays from 1 - 3 p.m. and 4 - 5 p.m.

- Computer appointments are for either one or two hours, said Blackburn, adding there are five computers available at the time.

Patrons are also reminded that in addition to using computers, printing, scanning and faxing services are also offered in the Reference Department.

“Faxes are 25 cents a page to send and we cannot receive faxes for patrons,” said Blackburn, adding, “Printing is 25 cents per page for black and white and 50 cents for color, and scanning is free.”

A unique browsing service for patrons who want to use the computer, but not to print, is the Library-To-Go pro-
gram during the pandemic has been widely used.

See Athenaeum, Page 3

The Westfield Athenaeum’s Reference Department offers computer, printer, scan-
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**See City Hall, Page 3**
POLICE LOGS

Major crime and incident report

Westfield, Mass.

Monday, Aug. 17, 2020

11:09 a.m. – Found property, Avery Street, a landlord reports his tenant stole the keys, debit card and cash from his property.

3:29 p.m. – Identity theft, Pine Street, a caller reports via the Westfield Online Reporting System that a thief stole his identity.

7:38 p.m. – Vandalism, Moseley Avenue, a caller reports a window of her home was damaged apparently by a BB impact.

9:08 p.m. – Unlawfully entering a building, Everett Street, a caller reports her unlocked car was entered overnight and her house keys, debit card and cash were stolen, the case was referred to detectives.

10:08 p.m. – Suspicious person, North Elm Street, a patrol officer reports her car was towed to the owner's home and an incident report was filed, see next call.

10:09 p.m. – Unlawfully entering a building, Pineridge Drive, an officer reported entering a building and finding a vehicle in an open garage with the trunk open, the owner could not be immediately contacted, an officer subsequently reported finding a headlight with scattered contents in Little River Road which had apparently been stolen in the Ridgecrest-Pine Valley area, the evidence was documented and stored, see next call.

9:30 a.m. – Vandalism, Thomas Street, a patrol officer reports a stop sign revoked the event to be unregistered and non-enforceable, the sign was moved to the police impound yard.

12:56 p.m. – Vandalism, Ridgeview Terrace, a caller reports his three parked vehicles were keyed, all four tires had been flattened and a threat to the owner was written on the car, the case was referred to detectives.

2:30 p.m. – Reporting officer reports a man was advised of his reporting rights and had agreed to a formal report.

11:09 a.m. – Reporting officer reports the man was a person, East Main Street, a caller from an East Main Street supermarket reports a woman attempt to purchase a check for a large amount of cash, the woman is pacing on East Main Street, the responding officer reports the woman was a person, and a report was taken.

2:17 p.m. – Suspicious person, 21st Street, a caller reports a young boy was playing in a street with a BB impact but he was not able to find any evidence of how it came about, the responding officer reported it was agreed to a formal report.

5:12 p.m. – Vandalism, Half Mile Falls Park, North Elm Street, a patrol officer reports her unlocked car was entered overnight and her house keys, debit card and cash were stolen, the case was referred to detectives.

6:05 a.m. – Suspicious activity, Ridgecrest Drive, a caller reports seeing a man party out of a garage and in one of the vehicles and finding a vehicle in an open garage with the trunk open, the owner could not be immediately contacted, an officer subsequently reported finding a headlight with scattered contents in Little River Road which had apparently been stolen in the Ridgecrest-Pine Valley area, the evidence was documented and stored, see next call.

5:30 a.m. – Vandalism, Pineridge Drive, an officer reports his unmarked cruiser was entered by two persons who broke several windows and a report is taken.

2:09 p.m. – Breaking and entering, Western Avenue, a caller reports a burning husk is in a fire, the responding firefighters report the resident was advised of the relevant regulations and the fire was extinguished.

2:39 p.m. – Breaking and entering, Oakcrest Drive, a caller reports her unlocked car was entered overnight and her house keys, debit card and cash were stolen, the case was referred to detectives.

10:11 a.m. – Suspicious person, Two Mile Mountain Road, a caller reports seeing smoke on the mountain, the responding firefighters report the fire was eventually located and a resident found to be burning material complied when advised to extinguish his fire.

10:41 a.m. – Apple Blossom Lane, a caller reports someone is burning and smoke is filling the neighbor hood. A responding officer reports a resident had been cooking dinner and had already extinguished his fire.

9:57 p.m. – Assault and battery, Union Street, a caller reports someone was burning and smoke was filling the neighborhood. A responding officer reports a resident had been cooking dinner and had already extinguished his fire.

Police Search Page 5

COURT LOGS

Westfield District Court

Monday, Aug. 17, 2020

Joshua D. Buschberg, 32, of 15 Shepard Road, Blufford, was found not in loss of consciousness having a pea in his hand. A hearing officer arranged for a charge of a minor offense, a finding. A hearing officer arranged for a charge of a minor offense, a finding.

Edgar C. Luna Garcia, 27, of 217 Laurel Ave, Providence, shifted to Westfield for a charge of a minor offense, a finding. A hearing officer arranged for a charge of a minor offense, a finding.

Edward A. Bianchi, 47, of 60 Silver St., Agawam, was released on his personal recognizance pending a Sept. 18 hearing. The case was referred to Community Court.

Robert S. Colman, 27, of Ridgecrest/Pineridge area, the evidence was documented and stored, see next call.

2:39 p.m. – Breaking and entering, Oakcrest Drive, a caller reports her unlocked car was entered overnight and her house keys, debit card and cash were stolen, the case was referred to detectives.

9:36 a.m. – Suspicious person, East Main Street, a caller reports someone is burning and smoke is filling the neighborhood. A responding officer reports a resident had been cooking dinner and had already extinguished his fire.

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Page 2 - Monday, August 24, 2020 THE WESTFIELD NEWS

Page 1

THE WESTFIELD NEWS

On this day

1690
– The Ottoman Empire under Selim I defeats the Mamluk Sultanate and caps the last remnants of the Crusader states.

1857
– Pope Innocent III issues a bull condemning the heretical doctrine of the movement of the Holy Lance.

– The Treaty of Córdoba is signed in Córdoba, now in Veracruz, Mexico, confirming the expansion of the Spanish Empire.

1931
– Resignation of the United Kingdom’s Home Secretary.

1944
– World War II: Allied troops begin crossing the Rhine.

1954
– 90 passengers die after two airliners collide in mid-air over Vichy, France.

1965
– Tadeusz Mazowiecki is chosen as the first non-communist prime minister in Central and Eastern Europe.

1970
– Nick Adenhart, American baseball player and sportscaster, commits suicide and is succeeded by João Batista de Assis Brasil.

1974
– Arian Foster, American football player and screenwriter.

1977
– Todd Young, American politician.

1981
– Getúlio Vargas, president of Brazil, citizens of Cuba.

1992
– World War I: The Battle of Cambrai.

1994
– Colombian drug barons declare war on the United States.

2006
– The International Astronomical Union (IAU) redefines the term “planet” to include the Kuiper Belt object Eris.

2010
– In San Fernando, Tamok, Nepal, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake is blazed by Loti Zelis and eventually found dead by firefighters.

2011
– 18 September: The decommissioned World Trade Center site is re-launched.

2012
– Brett Gardner, American baseball player.

2013
– Nick Adenhart, American baseball player.

2015
– Todd Young, American politician.

2020
– Kaki King, American guitarist and composer.

Today’s birthdays

1939 – Reggie Miller, American basketball player and sportscaster.

1949 – Shigeki Fukuji, Japanese-American baseball player.

1969 – Tim Tamashiro, American professional baseball player.


1980 – Brett Gardner, American baseball player.


2016 – Nick Adenhart, American baseball player.

2017 – Chad Michael Murray, American actor and model.

2019 – Brett Gardner, American baseball player.

2003 – Kaki King, American guitarist and composer.

2000 – Bob Redford, American film producer.

Images

**BankESB adds Westfield's Leianne Sullivan to Marketing Department**

**Easthampton**  Leianne Sullivan of Westfield, Massachusetts, has joined the BankESB’s Marketing Department as its social media coordinator. In this role, she will be responsible for maintaining the bank’s social media presence across different platforms as well as those of the non-profit organizations bankESB supports, including the Easthampton Savings Bank Charitable Foundation, as well as through its sponsorship and charitable giving programs, bankESB and the Easthampton Savings Bank Charitable Foundation.

**BankESB, bankHometown, and Abington Bank.** For more information, visit www.westath.org.

**About bankESB**

Founded in 1960 in Easthampton, Massachusetts, bankESB is a community bank that combines the benefits of a small bank with the resources of a large one. Through its sponsoring and charitable giving programs, bankESB supports non-profit organizations and causes throughout Hampden and Hampshire counties. In 2019, the bank and foundation donated over $280,000 to over 250 organizations. Over the last five years, the program has donated more than $1.7 million. For more information, visit www.bankESB.com.

Sullivan graduated with her bachelor’s degree in integrated marketing communications from Ithaca College, and was a participant in their Leadership Academy and a member of the women’s crew team.

**Leianne Sullivan**

**Continued from Page 1**

**Southwick Travelers trips canceled**

**Southwick — In accordance with the provisions of state regulation 605CMR 28.03, Southwick School Department has canceled all its summer travel for this year.**

**They are going to be looking for a new group leader next year.**

**CANCELED: LED ZEPPELIN TRIBU TE BAND**

**Kashmir** Concert Aug. 29 in Westfield

**WES T F I E LD — The Gaslight Entertainment and the City of Westfield present the annual free outdoor concert with Kashmir. The Led Zeppelin tribute band, scheduled to be held drive-in style on August 29th, has been canceled due to COVID-19. The concert was to be a benefit concert for The Boys and Girls Club of Greater Westfield.**

**Jay Pagliuca of Gaslight Entertainment said ‘Due to the Massachusetts COVID-19 situation, we have to cancel events that allow both indoor and outdoor gatherings. We had no option but to cancel this event. We regret this difficult decision and are sorry for any inconvenience.’**

**Send your briefs to The Westfield News**

**Attention: Kristi Street, Editor**

**Send your briefs and photos to press@thewestfieldnews.com.**

**For more information on the range of services offered to area residents, call (413) 568-7833 or visit www.westath.org.**

**Concert**

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Rapid Response Program would deploy to school by COVID-19 clusters

By COLYN A. YOUNG

State House News Service

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) is preparing a rapid response program to support school districts with clusters of COVID-19 cases, according to a memo from DPH Commissioner Dr. Joseph A. Bass used to update chief state school health nurses.

"This will be designed to quickly deliver testing support and personnel to school identified as having a COVID-19 cluster," Bass wrote.

The program will be available to any school district with multiple confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the same educational setting and, if there is evidence of transmission within the building, Bass said. The program will also be available to school districts with multiple confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the same cohort, with the same criteria applied.

"The mobile response team would be deployed if the following apply: At least five non-related adult students and/or non-related staff members test positive within two weeks. Additionally, the same criteria, like having two or more students in the same classroom, will apply," Bass said.

Bass directed chief state school health nurses to prepare for the potential deployment of the rapid response program as a check list and not as an immediate order. He added that the checklist will be provided closer to the potential deployment date.

By HOPE E. TREMBLAY

Editor

It seems hard to believe, but it’s election season again.

The presidential election aide, locally, residents will have the chance this November to choose a U.S. senator and state representative. Current Democratic state Sen. John C. Velis, who won the seat in May, will be challenged once again by Republican John Cain of Southwick.

Currently there are four races for state representative: Republicans Dan Allie and Kelly Pease, Democrat Matt Garlo and independent Eric Fishcher.

Allie and Pease will face-off during the Sept. 1 Primary Election as will U.S. Senate candidates Sen. Richard Neal and Holyoke Mayor Alex Morse, both Democrats.

How lucky we are to have so many choices. And honestly, I think they are good ones. Each candidate truly seems to have the needs of Western Mass and Southwick at heart. The Westfield News will help readers learn more about the candidates with profiles of everyone on the ballot prior to the November election, starting with Pease and Allie later this week.

I often hear people complain about the government and its leadership. And while it’s frustrating to have to deal with election season and not just for them. I am not a politician and I do not want to be. Making decisions that would help the best interest of the most people is a difficult job, and we are fortunate to have so many people willing to take on that responsibility. As voters, it’s your job to learn more about which candidates you can trust to do the best job for the communities you call home.

If you want to beat the Sept. 1 primary, early voting is available in both Westfield and Southwick this week. In Southwick, early voting will take place at Town Hall Aug. 24-25 from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and Aug. 27-28 from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. In Westfield, early voting will be at Westfield Middle School Aug. 24-28 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

By CHRIS VAN BUISKIRK

State House News Service

BOSTON – An advocacy group is calling on the state’s top elected official to extend the deadline for voted-by-mail ballots to be accepted by local clerks for the Sept. 1 state primaries.

MA Votes, which pushed for the law that expanded voted-by-mail for 2020 election cycle, argued that allowing ballots to be postmarked as soon as ballots are delivered no later than Sept. 4 would line up deadlines for the general election in November. This comes as the secretary of state’s office has mailed almost 1 million ballots to registered voters in advance of the Sept. 1 state elections, and later the local clerks that returned to local clerks. The current law stipulates local clerks must receive ballots by Sept. 4.

The coalition is calling for the deadline to be extended to no later than Sept. 9.

"The modem has made it possible for voters to request and receive their ballots, and consequently, cast their ballots in a timely manner," said a spokesperson for the secretary of state’s office said the deadline for ballots to be returned to local election officials is set by law and Galvin does not have the authority to extend it.

"Further, any extension of the ballot return deadline would harm voters, particularly those in the military, as it would delay the printing and mailing of November ballots," the spokesperson said.

"Not everybody can afford to shelter-in-place, or they have a serious medical condition, or they have a health commerce that would allow them to do so. That’s why we’re calling for an extension," Magnotta said.

In recent weeks, the United States Postal Service faced increased scrutiny over whether it could deliver ballots on time for the November election. The Postal Service announced new policies last week, including not delivering ballots to homes and her agency has experienced more than a 400 percent increase in calls for rent assistance since the beginning of the coronavirus crisis.

"If voters still have questions about how to vote, they can contact their local election officials directly. Our postal service is always here to help," Magnotta said.

In a statement released Wednesday afternoon, the Postal Service said that its “top priority is delivering ballots on time so they can be counted.” The statement said that the agency is “working with state and local election officials to ensure that every ballot is counted and sent appropriately.”

The statement also said that the Postal Service will continue to monitor the situation and adjust its operations as needed to ensure that every ballot is delivered on time. The statement added that the Postal Service is working closely with state and local election officials to help ensure that voters have access to the information they need to make informed decisions on election day.

"We are doing everything we can to ensure that every ballot is delivered on time and counted," the statement said. "We are committed to providing service that is on par with our past experience and we are working hard to make sure that every vote is counted."
Severe drought recorded in parts of state

BY COLIN A. YOUNG
State News Service News
BOSTON — About a quarter of Massachusetts is now re-

mencing a severe drought that threatens crops, diminishes air quality, makes trees more sus-

ceptible to insects and could lead to widespread water con-

servation measures.

The U.S. Drought Monitor reported Thursday morning that while all of Massachusetts is at least in a drought condition, 25 percent is experi-

encing a moder-

ate drought, another 25 percent — most of Bristol and Norfolk counties — is in a drought, and the southern parts of Norfolk, Worcester and Hampden counties are in a severe drought.

“Is it because we’re going back to schools that are going back? And the question there is is 17 increasing with positivity, and the question that’s really the most public schools sent kids in infection transmission per-

sency the question that’s really the most of them a day a week only after 5 p.m. or before 9 a.m. for all offers, the form of payment must be by credit card or electronic charge to your checking or savings account, and all of the company’s credit history is required and termination fee applies. Certain packages require approved landline phone. Local permit fees

bylaw violation, Point Grove Road, a resident

lower infection rates, for cer-

she said. “Kids have had

sity the question that’s really

10 degrees above normal

According to the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI), the Northeast Climate Region experienced its warmest

July on record, according to

for all of its pharmacies. Customers will also be

Flu shots now available at Stop & Shop Pharmacies

Additional vaccines secured in anticipation of higher demand due to COVID-19

QUINCY — With the CDC urging everyone 6 months and older to get a flu shot, the conclusion of the flu season, Stop & Shop today announced that flu shots are now available at its pharmacies. Store managers are taking extensive safety and precautionary measures at the pharmacies and most of the flu vaccine should be available to meet the increased demand as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Stop & Shop has enhanced its health and safety protocols for the flu shot, which includes offering flu shot services by appointment. Customers will also be required to wear face covering, and pharmacists will be wearing face masks and gloves.

The flu shot program area will have strict disinfecting and sanitization measures in place between each patient. For all offers, the form of payment must be by credit card or electronic charge to your checking or savings account, and all of the company’s credit history is required and termination fee applies. Certain packages require approved landline phone. Local permit fees

The governor on Thursday also said that his administration will extend its Stop & Shop flu shot testing initiative “in several of the states with the highest rate of COVID through the end of September” to make access to testing as teachers and other school officials return to class-

Clusters

between the age of zero and

in the western mountainous
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Flu shots now available at Stop & Shop Pharmacies

Additional vaccines secured in anticipation of higher demand due to COVID-19

QUINCY — With the CDC urging everyone 6 months and older to get a flu shot, the conclusion of the flu season, Stop & Shop today announced that flu shots are now available at its pharmacies. Store managers are taking extensive safety and precautionary measures at the pharmacies and most of the flu vaccine should be available to meet the increased demand as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Stop & Shop has enhanced its health and safety protocols for the flu shot, which includes offering flu shot services by appointment. Customers will also be required to wear face covering, and pharmacists will be wearing face masks and gloves.

The flu shot program area will have strict disinfecting and sanitization measures in place between each patient. For all offers, the form of payment must be by credit card or electronic charge to your checking or savings account, and all of the company’s credit history is required and termination fee applies. Certain packages require approved landline phone. Local permit fees

The governor on Thursday also said that his administration will extend its Stop & Shop flu shot testing initiative “in several of the states with the highest rate of COVID through the end of September” to make access to testing as teachers and other school officials return to class-

Stop & Shop is ready to take care of its communities this flu season,” shares Katie Thomlison, director of pharmacy at Stop & Shop. “We are well-stocked and offer immunizations without appointments. While prices associated with vaccina-

tions are dependent on customers’ insurance plans, most must end up being low or no-cost. Stop & Shop aims to make it easy for everyone to get the care they need for free.

Stop & Shop offers several types of flu vaccines and its licensed, trained and trusted pharmacists can help each patient select the type that is best for them to address any concerns about allergies, preservatives, or potential adverse effects.

School & Shop pharmacies also have an ample supply of shingles and pneumonia vaccines available, and customers should consult their local Stop & Shop & Shop pharmacist on all other medications that may be available and valuable to them and their families.

Police Logs

Continued from Page 2

a large number of persons at a church are not wearing masks, the responding officer reports the worshippers were masked.

SOUTHWICK — 6:56 a.m. accident, College Highway, a motorist reports a vehicle attack their car then the scene; 11:18 a.m., Irony, South Loosian Street, a resident reports his vehicle may have been stolen, according to police, the vehicle was located in a parking lot where the owner left it the night before and was given a ride home, the resident did not recall receiving a ride home; 11:49 a.m., weapons complaint, Westfield Circle, a resi-

dent reports shots fired in the woods, officers checked the area and could not locate anyone and determined the shooting was in Westfield and the shooters were not in violation of weapons laws

12:08 p.m. animal complaint, Congamond Road, a caller reports being bitten by a dog while jogging on the Rail Trail, the victim received local attention; 12:35 p.m. boat assistance, Middle Pond, a boater request-

safety; boat assistance, Middle Pond, a boater request-

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Westfield Starfires’ ballyhooed ball player, Reggie Crawford (University of Connecticut) was named the co-Top Pro Pitching Prospect of the Year in the Futures League. Crawford had three saves while racking up 10 strikeouts over 6.1 innings.

Crossen was the Adam Keenan award winner, bestowed upon the player who exemplifies the outstanding attitude, character and sportsmanship that is synonymous with Adam Keenan’s legacy.

Westfield Starfires’ Chase Jeter (Sacred Heart University) was named the “KFC Strikeout Leader” and an “A Plus HVAC Pitcher of the Year.” Eric Callahan (Millersville University) was presented with the “OMG Co-Defensive Player of the Year” awards from Head Coach Tony Backster and Director of Baseball Operations Evan Moorhouse.

Jeff Taylor (Millersville) was the “Westfield Bank MVP.” Drew DeMartino (University of Hartford) received the “Westfield Gas & Electric and Whip City Fiber Silver Slugger Award.” The “Bay State Health Rookie of the Year Award” went to Cregg Scherrer (University of Albany).

“2020 was a special season and our players deserve a lot of credit for grinding this out with so many restrictions,” Thompson said. “We had a competitive season and our fans will have a chance to follow this year’s Starfires team beyond their college careers.”
**Contract Bridge**

**Famous Hand**

But not all that started out as a simple, fun evening, turned out to be as they expected. The table eventually evolved into a serious and intense game of bridge.

**Scary Gary**

Gary is a very intense and aggressive player. He is known for his loud and aggressive play style.

**Speed Bump**

Dustin is a very aggressive player. He is known for his loud and aggressive play style.

**Contract Bridge**

**Croswords**

**Cryptquip**

DIZZY: E Y Ü Z E D L H D W P K U P

**Cryptquip**

Today's Cryptquip Clue: M equals Y.
Online Dating Mystifies Parents

Dear Annie:

I am a 27-year-old man who needs help. Recently, I met a guy via the internet. We hit it off and have a lot in common. In addition, he lives in the same state that I do. I've seen pictures of him, so I know what he looks like. He gave me his phone number. I want to call him so we can stay in contact.

The problem is that I'm on the same phone plan as my parents, and they are the type of people who prefer face-to-face meetings and are wary of meeting people over the internet. How do I get them to understand that not all people you meet on the internet are bad people?--Different Generation

Dear Different Generation: You are not going to get your parents to change their minds about the internet; and, to be quite honest, their fears have some merit. There are some really bad people online. At the same time, there are plenty of wonderful individuals who have met their future spouses online. Don't worry about convincing your parents. Just live your life and be smart and safe, and consider paying for your own phone plan.

Dear Grateful: Congratulations on your weight loss. Thank you for your letter, for sharing your success. You never know the positive mark you can make. Hello?

Dear Annie:

I am hoping that “Healthy and Happy” will read this. And, yes, that was my and my wife’s sign. Thank you for all of my readers who are willing to share their lives--the good, the bad, and the ugly. We are happy.

Best wishes,

Lindsey and Victor

Dear Annie:

I was not able to see our very elderly mother for more than two months. When her birthday came around in May, we created “Happy and Healthy” signs and taped them to our cars. We then proceeded to do a drive-by parade, while keeping our homes and focusing on how we can protect each other. I have been a huge advocate for the elderly to sign up for a Facebook group to meet other people.

Sincerely,

Michael

Dear Happy with a Parade: Thank you for your letter! What a great idea to develop a social network for your mom. You can also do this for those children's birthdays, parties, graduations or really any special occasion that you want to enjoy company while celebrating safely.

“Let’s Talk: An Evening of Advice From Dear Annie” is now on sale! Order a copy at Dearannie@creators.com for more information. Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.

HINTS FROM HEOLOISE

Today's Sound Off is about bad drivers: Dear Annie: Are students still required to take driver’s education classes in high school? I wonder how many drivers get the basics rules and signals, don’t arrive at a complete stop at a stop sign and how many show courtesy on the road. We’ve all seen careless drivers and people who are just plain rude behind the wheel, but it seems that more and more drivers are ignoring the basics rules of the road. Last week as a police car was heading in my direction with lights flashing and sirens going off, I pulled over out of their way, but most of the other drivers didn’t.

Traffic is a mode of transportation, but it can turn into a lethal weapon when people ignore the rules of the day and common courtesy. -- Anna in Oklahoma

SEND A GREAT HINT TO: Hefloise, P.O. Box 700501 San Antonio, TX 78276-5001 Fax: 1-210-HELOISE Email: Hefloise@creators.com

TOO MANY CALLS

Dear Hefloise: Car insurance rates have gone up in the past few years. This has caused me to look online for less expensive rates. Be prepared, if you search online, to be inundated with calls from companies trying to get your business. They will come out of the phone book and call all the time and start to turn my phone off. -- Sharon in Michigan

FAST FACT

To items that can be used as a natural exfoliator for your skin:

- Oatmeal
- Sugar

Rules of the road

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Do not hallucinate.