The Westfield News

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Additional COVID test sites too costly for city

Rouse cites multiple free test sites

By PETER CURRIER
Staff Writer

WESTFIELD — Health Director Joseph Rouse and the Board of Health do not plan to create additional community COVID-19 testing sites in Westfield.

During the remote Board of Health meeting Jan. 13, Rouse and the three board members agreed that adding free mass testing sites for COVID-19 would carry far too large of a price tag. Rouse said that larger scale testing sites in Westfield would cost upwards of $50,000 each day.

That money would have to come out of the $3.2 million in CARES Act funds received by the city. If all of the funds were dedicated to a mass testing site, it would be depleted in 2 months.

"The communities giving testing for the residents are not doing it for free," said Rouse, "It's free for the residents, but it costs the cities $50,000 per day."

Rouse said he keeps receiving complaints that Westfield isn't offering free resident testing like Chicopee, West Springfield, or Springfield. On top of the price tag, he said that there is already a lot of free testing available in the area, but not run by the City of Westfield.

"I'm sorry if you have to wait for two hours in line. I'm sorry you have to wait two days to schedule a test," said Rouse, "I am not going to advocate for $50,000 a day to be spent."

Rouse and the board members agreed that the money would be better suited to be invested in vaccine distribution locally.

Board member Juanita Carnes said that she thinks a lot of people are trying to get a COVID-19 test for the wrong reasons. She said there are people who are getting tested not because they believe they could be sick, but because they need a negative test result to travel or visit someone.

"There are people who think they were exposed that day so they need a test today to prove you don't have it," said Carnes, adding that the incubation period for COVID-19 makes getting tested on the same day as exposure a waste, as one may not test positive for at least several days after.



A testing site for COVID-19 at 57 Union St. back in April. **(PETER CURRIER PHOTO)**

Public Health Nurse Debra Mulvenna said that she is the person in the Health Department who is telling people that they have been exposed to COVID-19.

"I haven't had a single person report that they have been unable to get tested," said Mulvenna.

Rouse said that people who get tested and

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Skyline Beer Co. expanding patio

By HOPE E. TREMBLAY
Editor

WESTFIELD – The next phase of the Skyline Beer Co. owners' dreams is underway with the expansion of its patio with scenic views of farmland below.

Owners Lisa Lafreniere, Daniel Osella and Dana Bishop purchased the former Fowler Farms property, which they refurbished and opened in the fall of 2019, to bring their vision to life. Skyline offers craft beer made on the premises as well as a menu created using as many locally sourced products as possible. Lafreniere and Bishop head up the brewing while chef Osella creates the food. Pairing food and beer in a relaxed atmosphere was always their goal since first opening as a homebrew shop and café inside the Westfield River Brewing building, then moving to its former downtown location and to its new and likely forever home at 98 Southwick Road.

"It feels awesome to see our vision for the back coming together, it is basically the whole reason we bought the property," Lafreniere said. "We had decorative concrete poured with a really cool design, we added a fourth walk-in cooler for beer storage, and a full outside bar including 12 taps, a bathroom — all covered – and we are also rebuilding the pergola that used to be there."

The property backs up to wetlands and Skyline is enhancing the farm view with the addition of gardens.

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Work on the new patio is underway at Skyline Beer Co, 98 Southwick Road. **(LISA LAFRENIERE PHOTO)**



Gretchen Hohmeyer is the Westfield Athenaeum's digital services librarian. **(ERICA LEFEBVRE PHOTO)**

Athenaeum's digital services sees 'explosive' growth

By LORI SZEPELAK
Correspondent

WESTFIELD — Gretchen Hohmeyer is on a "journey" in a newly created position at the Westfield Athenaeum – and she hopes area residents join her as she continues her exploration of the digital landscape.

"The Digital Services Librarian is a new position for the Westfield Athenaeum, which I assumed over the summer," said Hohmeyer, who previously served as a children's librarian, organizing children and teen programs and purchasing books for the Children's Library.

Her new role is to spearhead digital services for patrons, ranging from the Live Lunchtime Librarian program on Facebook every Monday at 12:30, to creating videos for the Athenaeum's website and social media platforms.

Hohmeyer also films and edits a variety of Athenaeum programs, including story time videos, the History Chats with Dr. Bob Brown series, and the Good Book Hunting discussions.

"I am also responsible for creating and posting almost everything that goes out on our social media,"

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COVID impact rental assistance now available

By AMY PORTER
Staff Writer

WESTFIELD – Community Development Director Peter J. Miller said residents impacted by COVID-19 may now apply for rental assistance through a new program funded by the Community Development Block Grant CARES Act. Miller said Westfield has set aside $205,000 for the program.



WESTFIELD CITY HALL

Valley Opportunity Council is doing intake for the program which is intended for people who are behind on rent for at least 30 days because of a loss of income through reduced hours or loss of employment due to COVID-19. He said the city has a goal of helping 80 households with a maximum of $3,000 in rental assistance

The assistance is subject to the CDBG income standard limits of 80 percent of median income based on size of household. For example, the maximum income for a household of four is $68.300. This income level is based on reduced income as opposed to what it was pre-COVID, Miller said.

Miller called it a "rolling program, first come first served until we spend all the money." He said if there is a demonstrated need for more funding, the city will consider how to meet that need. He said they already have six to eight applications in the first couple of days of the program's start.

Miller said according to a study by the state in October, Westfield at that time had a likelihood in need of up to $400,000 in rental assistance.

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Westfield Little League begins online sign-ups

By CHRIS PUTZ
Staff Writer

WESTFIELD — As the tagline on their web page simply reads: "The tradition continues…"

Sign-ups for the Westfield Little League Baseball and Softball are now open for the 2021 season, and are exclusively online this year.

With the coronavirus still spreading throughout the community, league officials have decided to eliminate live sign-ups for Little League this season, and hold registrations solely online. To register for Westfield Little League, go to westfieldlittleleague.com.



Air Compressor starting pitcher Jack Madsen winds up against Slovak Club in a 2020 Westfield Little League Baseball game at Paper Mill Field. **(THE WESTFIELD NEWS FILE PHOTO/MARC ST. ONGE)**

There are lots of opportunities for kids to play.

Westfield Little League offers several divisions for boys and girls between the ages of five to 16. Children who live in or attend school in Westfield, Southwick, Tolland or Granville are eligible to participate.

Baseball divisions are divided into Rookie (6-8-years-old), Instructional (7-9), Farm (7-9), Wheeler (9-12), Majors (10-12), Intermediate (13), and Senior (13-16). Softball divisions are 8U (6-8), 10U (8-10), 12U (10-12), and 14U (13-14).

Sign up online before Feb. 1 to save $10. Birth certificate and proof of residency will be required at sign-ups.

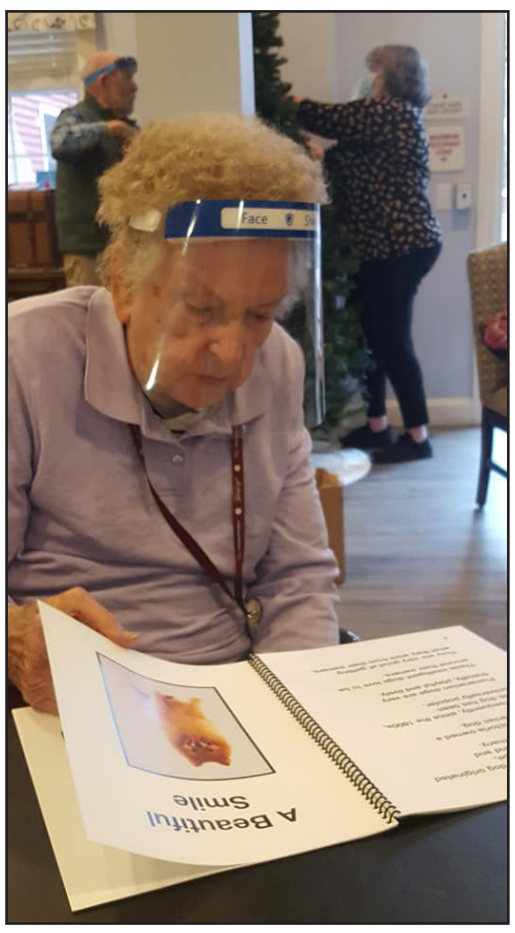
Registrants will receive $50 worth of calendars that they can keep or sell prior to the drawing for this year's calendar raffle as part of this year's fundraiser. Players are encouraged to sell additional calendars.

Families needing assistance with registration fees are also urged to seek monies through the T-Mobile Little League Call Up Grant Program. To apply, visit LittleLeague.org/CallUpGrant.

Last season, the league's annual festivities were cut short when

See Little League, Page 3







Connecting through books

The Armbrook Village Reading2connect program was hosted this week and enables elders to engage in discussion, reminiscing and learning together. **(ARMBROOK VILLAGE PHOTOS)**



Spring 2021 GED/HiSET free prep classes

WESTFIELD - Free GED/HISET preparation classes are being offered starting Jan. 20 at the Church of the Atonement, 36 Court St., or virtually. Call 413-564-8340 to schedule your registration and screening & intake appointment for classes. Seating is limited.V irtual classes are also offered. Masks and social distancing are required in-person.

Strum and have Fun with FREE online Ukulele Lessons

RUSSELL - Free online ukulele lessons for beginners to advanced beginners (ages 8 and older) will be available, via Zoom, taught by teacher and performer Dave Maloof.

Lessons will begin the week of Jan. 18; a limited number of lessons are available. Email Dave at MusicPlusComedy@gmail.com to sign up or to ask any questions about lessons, or about buying a ukulele.

Dave Maloof has presented Mass. Cultural Council-funded ukulele workshops at the Russell Public Library and throughout Massachusetts, and teaches individual lessons. Each lesson will be 30 to 45 minutes and will be adapted to the student's level of playing and musical interests.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Russell Cultural Council, a local agency which is funded by the Mass. Cultural Council, a state agency.

Police Logs

Major crime and incident report
Monday, Jan. 11, 2021
WESTFIELD

9:45 a.m.: accident, Springfield Road, a caller reports that his vehicle was struck while sitting in a parking lot, a second caller reports that a tire fell off a vehicle that was traveling in the area and struck the first caller's vehicle, the responding officer reports that a tow truck was requested to remove the first caller's vehicle from the area;

8:01 p.m.: traffic or motor vehicle complaint, East Mountain Road, a caller reports that he is following a potential intoxicated person operating a motor vehicle, the caller reports that the vehicle is swerving and driving at about 20mph, a second caller reports that a motor vehicle matching the description given by the first caller was stopped in front of his house when the operator exited the vehicle and began running in between neighbor's yards and into the woods, the responding officer reports that the vehicle was parked legally but they could not located the operator in the area.

SOUTHWICK

3:56 p.m.: general service, Lexington Circle, an officer responding to a complaint of a trailer blocking traffic reports the vehicle was not blocking the view;

4:12 p.m.: assist citizen, Depot Court, police assisted a resident who was locked out of an apartment.

Court Logs

Westfield District Court
Monday, Jan. 11, 2020

Tye Noummano, 22, 760 New Windsor Road, Hinsdale, was released on his personal recognizance pending a March 5 hearing after he was arraigned on charges of speeding at a rate exceeding the posted limit, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, a numberplate violations and a marked lanes violation brought by Russell police.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Mon., Jan. 18, 2021 is the 18th day of the year. 347 days remain until the end of the year

ON THIS DAY

474 – Seven-year-old Leo II succeeds his maternal grandfather Leo I as Byzantine emperor. He dies ten months later.
532 – Nika riots in Constantinople fail.
1126 – Emperor Huizong abdicates the Chinese throne in favour of his son Emperor Qinzong.
1486 – King Henry VII of England marries Elizabeth of York, daughter of Edward IV uniting the House of Lancaster and the House of York.
1562 – Pope Pius IV reopens the Council of Trent for its third and final session.
1591 – King Naresuan of Siam kills Crown Prince Mingyi Swa of Burma in single combat, for which this date is now observed as Royal Thai Armed Forces day.
1670 – Henry Morgan captures Panama.
1701 – Frederick I crowns himself King of Prussia in Königsberg.
1778 – James Cook is the first known European to discover the Hawaiian Islands, which he names the "Sandwich Islands".
1788 – The first elements of the First Fleet carrying 736 convicts from Great Britain to Australia arrive at Botany Bay.
1806 – Jan Willem Janssens surrenders the Dutch Cape Colony to the British.
1866 – Wesley College is established in Melbourne, Australia]
1871 – Wilhelm I of Germany is proclaimed Kaiser Wilhelm in the Hall of Mirrors of the Palace of Versailles (France) towards the end of the Franco-Prussian War. Wilhelm already had the title of German Emperor since the constitution of 1 January 1871, but he had hesitated to accept the title.
1886 – Modern field hockey is born with the formation of The Hockey Association in England.
1896 – An X-ray generating machine is exhibited for the first time by H. L. Smith.
1911 – Eugene B. Ely lands on the deck of the USS Pennsylvania anchored in San Francisco Bay, the first time an aircraft landed on a ship.
1913 – First Balkan War: A Greek flotilla defeats the Ottoman Navy in the Naval Battle of Lemnos, securing the islands of the Northern Aegean Sea for Greece.
1915 – Japan issues the "Twenty-One Demands" to the Republic of China in a bid to increase its power in East Asia.
1919 – World War I: The Paris Peace Conference opens in Versailles, France.
1919 – Ignacy Jan Paderewski becomes Prime Minister of the newly independent Poland.
1941 – World War II: British troops launch a general counteroffensive against Italian East Africa.
1943 – Warsaw Ghetto Uprising: The first uprising of Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto.
1945 – World War II: Liberation of Kraków, Poland by the Red Army.
1958 – Willie O'Ree, the first Black Canadian National Hockey League player, makes his NHL debut with the Boston Bruins.
1960 – Capital Airlines Flight 20 crashes into a farm in Charles City County, Virginia, killing all 50 aboard, the third fatal Capital Airlines crash in as many years.
1967 – Albert DeSalvo, the "Boston Strangler", is convicted of numerous crimes and is sentenced to life imprisonment.
1969 – United Airlines Flight 266 crashes into Santa Monica Bay killing all 32 passengers and six crew members.
1974 – A Disengagement of Forces agreement is signed between the Israeli and Egyptian governments, ending conflict on the Egyptian front of the Yom Kippur War.
1976 – Lebanese Christian militias kill at least 1,000 in Karantina, Beirut.
1977 – Scientists identify a previously unknown bacterium as the cause of the mysterious Legionnaires' disease.
1977 – Australia's worst rail disaster occurs at Granville, Sydney killing 83.
1977 – SFR Yugoslavia's Prime minister, Džemal Bijedić, his wife and six others are killed in a plane crash in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
1978 – The European Court of Human Rights finds the United Kingdom's government guilty of mistreating prisoners in Northern Ireland, but not guilty of torture.
1981 – Phil Smith and Phil Mayfield parachute off a Houston skyscraper, becoming the first two people to BASE jump from objects in all four categories: buildings, antennae, spans (bridges), and earth (cliffs).
1983 – The International Olympic Committee restores Jim Thorpe's Olympic medals to his family.
1990 – Washington, D.C. Mayor M rion Barry is arrested for drug possession in an FBI sting.
1993 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is officially observed for the first time in all 50 US states.
2002 – The Sierra Leone Civil War is declared over.
2003 – A bushfire kills four people and destroys more than 500 homes in Canberra, Australia.
2005 – The Airbus A380, the world's largest commercial jet, is unveiled at a ceremony in Toulouse, France
2007 – The strongest storm in the United Kingdom in 17 years kills 14 people and Germany sees the worst storm since 1999 with 13 deaths. Cyclone Kyrill causes at least 44 deaths across 20 countries in Western Europe.
2008 – The Euphronios Krater is unveiled in Rome after being returned to Italy by the Metropolitan Museum of Art.
2018 – A bus catches fire on the Samara–Shymkent road in Yrgyz District, Aktobe, Kazakhstan. The fire kills 52 passengers, with three passengers and two drivers escaping.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

1949 – Bill Keller, American journalist
1952 – Michael Behe, American biochemist, author, and academic
1952 – R. Stevie Moore, American singer-songwriter and guitarist
1953 – Brett Hudson, American singer-songwriter and producer
1955 – Kevin Costner, American actor, director, and producer
1961 – Bob Hansen, American basketball player and sportscaster
1961 – Jeff Yagher, American actor and sculptor
1963 – Martin O'Malley, American soldier, lawyer, and politician, 61st Governor of Maryland
1964 – Brady Anderson, American baseball player
1964 – Virgil Hill, American boxer
1969 – Dave Bautista, American wrestler, mixed martial artist, and actor
1969 – Jesse L. Martin, American actor and singer
1969 – Jim O'Rourke, American guitarist and producer
1971 – Amy Barger, American astronomer
1971 – Jonathan Davis, American singer-songwriter
1972 – Mike Lieberthal, American baseball player
1973 – Burnie Burns, American actor, director, and producer, co-founded Rooster Teeth Productions
1973 – Benjamin Jealous, American civic leader and activist
1978 – Brian Falkenborg, American baseball player
1979 – Brian Gionta, American ice hockey player
1979 – Kenyatta Jones, American football player (d. 2018)
1980 – Julius Peppers, American football player
1980 – Jason Segel, American actor and screenwriter
1982 – Quinn Allman, American guitarist and producer
1983 – Amir Blumenfeld, Israeli-American comedian, actor, director, and screenwriter
1984 – Kristy Lee Cook, American singer-songwriter
1984 – Michael Kearney, American biochemist and academic
1984 – Benji Schwimmer, American dancer and choreographer
1985 – Mark Briscoe, American wrestler
1986 – Marya Roxx, Estonian-American singer-songwriter
1988 – Ronnie Day, American singer-songwriter
1995 – Bryce Alford, American basketball player

Skyline Beer Co.

Continued from Page 1

"We got permission from the conservation commission to put in rain gardens and plant juniper or other low growing plants that also can feed wildlife at the top portion of the hill and then we plan on installing welded wooden wire fencing around it all to allow a full view below," Lafreniere said. "We are hoping to have it completely ready by April 1 but still have all the details to build and give it that 'Skyline vibe.' We have a couple of different people working on it, but we left this one to the pros."

The Skyline "vibe" is what Lafreniere calls "chill." Rustic touches, such as locally sourced and reclaimed wood, help create the casual atmosphere inside, which she is replicating outside. When COVID first hit, Lafreniere was concerned that Skyline would have to close, but instead it has continued to remain open with help from its beer garden, which was quickly created when outdoor dining was allowed. But even with the beer garden, revenue is down now that it's winter.

"The beer garden was our saving grace through the summer and now as we are facing a capacity of only 25 people inside, take out and beer sales to go have naturally gone up but our profits on canned beer are extremely small compared to selling by the pint," Lafreniere said. "When we wrote our business plan and came up with the model, we never pictured this. The canner we bought was not meant to blast cans out, it is a one-person manual canner and we pay quite a bit in labor and cans and only sell if for less than half the amount as compared to selling by the pint."

Lafreniere said while the pandemic has certainly affected her business, it was a small setback for her expansion.

"The only way that COVID has really affected the expansion is that we would have done it earlier, but our meetings with the city and some other things got pushed back," Lafreniere said. "I believe that adapting for us and the crew was a bit easier for us due to the fact that we are so new and flexible that we are ready to do whatever it takes as far as being creative and innovative."

Lafreniere said she is cautiously optimistic for the coming year.

"We are more than happy that our doors are open, and that we have work for our employees, so I try not to get caught up in anything but that these days," she said. "It's a bit early to get too excited about 2021 but we are trying to be optimistic about it. Being in the industry, one of the things that I personally miss the most is beer festivals. When we bought this place, we pictured having big food and beer parties, music, car shows, beer festivals, that is a huge part of the fun as well as the drive of this industry for me personally. There is nothing better than a good beer fest, and I miss those days and I have no idea when we will see anything like that again."

Lafreniere said when the world is ready, so is Skyline.

"We have our brewing system pretty dialed-in now that we have been brewing for over a year on it. We still get excited for new beers and styles, we have some really fun stuff coming out even in the next couple of months. I wrote a New England IPA recipe for my dogs called 'Vic and Sim' that will be coming out very soon, Dana and I just wrote a Maibock recipe which is a traditional German beer meant for the coming of spring. It has a clean and malty flavor profile and will be around 7% ABV and used all German ingredients and we let it sit in the tanks until it had cleared up.



The sunrise view from the patio at Skyline Beer Co., which is being expanded and slated for opening this spring. **(LISA LAFRENIERE PHOTO)**

"We are also about to release our West Coast DIPA called Shaver of Love which had a great response, so we brewed it a second time almost right away. We have a new kettle sour which will have some darker fruits added like plum, black current and apricot. We will also continue to offer our beer and whiskey dinners and also are offering them "to-go" for people who are trying to stay quarantined but also don't want to miss out."

For his part, Osella is creating new menu items to pair with the new brews, including putting to use his new smoker that was repurposed from a two-door baker's proof box. Osella is planning Farm Share specials with local produce, increasing its pretzel and flatbread offerings hosting more beer and whiskey dinners and increasing catering and family and individual meal options.

Skyline Beer Co. is currently open 4-8 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday, 3-8 p.m. Friday, 1-8 p.m. Saturday and 1-5 p.m. Sunday.

Digital Services

Continued from Page 1

said Hohmeyer, adding, "If you post a question on a Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter post or message us over those services, it's probably me you reach."

In essence, Hohmeyer manages a large portion of the Athenaeum's digital presence and the translation of the formerly in-person services to a digital platform.

"Even once COVID begins to dissipate, my job will continue to reach out to patrons via the internet to offer services and programs for those who we might not otherwise be able to serve," she said.

Hohmeyer explained that when the COVID-19 pandemic took hold last spring, the Athenaeum team brainstormed ways to offer patrons services and assistance.

"The effort was a total team effort," she said. "As we began to figure out how we would operate without being in the building or being able to let people into the building, it became clear that someone would be needed to moderate the social media consistently and help take a lead in other areas, and I felt incredibly passionate about it."

Having taken the digital reins in other career capacities over the years, Hohmeyer felt comfortable with the shift.

"I also loved the ability to get creative in ways that were entirely new," she said. "I wanted to reach out to our patrons in as many ways as possible, and I am so thankful that the rest of the staff here were just as excited to go along on the journey with me."

Area residents are welcome to call the main library line and ask to be connected with Hohmeyer, however, she said the fastest way to reach her is through her email address – ghohmeyer@westath.org, or through one of the social media platforms.

In the recent past, the Athenaeum's digital services were limited to social media, which mostly shared ongoing events or photos of moments within the library, according to Hohmeyer.

"Our focus on it over the last year has been nothing less than explosive," she said. "For my part, there has been a shift from trying to create as many programs and services as possible to see what people needed to feeling more grounded and connected to our patrons, the community, and everyone's needs."

Hohmeyer noted the programs themselves used to be disconnected from each other, but now are more crafted to build off each other in meaningful ways.

"While, of course, we miss connecting with our patrons in person, I have found so many unique ways to connect across the digital world and I have so enjoyed getting to know folks in this way," she said.

While much of what Athenaeum staff members do involves connecting people to books or other resources, the essence of the Athenaeum is to focus on the community and the idea of creating community.

"The entire staff here is devoted to helping our patrons to get what they need, but also providing spaces in which we can all enjoy each other's company when we might be feeling more disconnected than ever," said Hohmeyer, adding that programs focus on a range of areas from literature, cooking and games to art.

"We also find that, sometimes, people call us up asking for books but end up chatting with us about life," she said. "The Westfield Athenaeum is not just a book hub, but also a community hub."



OMG starting pitcher Lily Clark is all concentration as she pitches against Meyers Brothers in a 2020 Westfield Little League Softball 12U contest at Sadie Knox Field. **(THE WESTFIELD NEWS FILE PHOTO/MARC ST.ONGE)**

Little League

Continued from Page 1

the parade and World Series were canceled due to the pandemic. An abbreviated schedule was still held locally with a small number of local teams battling each other in friendlier, more subdued fashion, although the action at times still had some intense play with fierce competition and spectacular moments.

Rules and guidelines were enforced and maintained to combat the coronavirus, and social distancing procedures were adhered to by players, coaches, umpires, and fans. Despite the odds stacked against them, the season proved to be overwhelming success, furthering what is truly a proud tradition of Westfield Little League.

Test Sites

Continued from Page 1

are awaiting results are supposed to quarantine, whether they believe they are sick or not.

"If you can't do that until you get a negative result, what's the point," said Rouse.

Though Westfield does not have a municipal testing site, there are many testing options available in the area. One can try to make an appointment with a local pharmacy such as CVS, which offers drive-up testing at its drive-thru windows. Appointments may need tobe made several days in advance, but the test is free with most insurances.

There are also mass testing sites such as the Stop the Spread site at the Eastfield Mall and Holyoke Community College, which does not require an appointment and is also free. The line for such a site does vary, and can take several hours during peak times.

Rental Assistance

Continued from Page 1

Miller also said the eviction moratorium expired in December, and evictions have begun to be filed in housing court. He said while they haven't heard of any being executed due to nonpayment, the threat is out there.

"We want to make sure that people continue to stay housed, and landlords continue to be paid so they don't default on their mortgages," Miller said.

To apply for the program, residents may call Saevea Benton at the Valley Opportunity Council at 413-534-2466 ext. 550.

The Westfield Police Department reminds you to Lock It or Lose It!

WESTFIELD — Criminals often target cars that have personal items left in plain view or vehicles left unlocked. There are a few easy steps that will help you from becoming a victim of a vehicle burglary:

• ALWAYS lock your car door; this includes when it is parked in your driveway or in front of your home.

• NEVER leave items of value, such as your purse, wallet, briefcase, laptop or cellphone in plain view. Secure your valuables inside the trunk before arriving at your destination or bring them with you.

• NEVER leave your keys and/or key fob inside the car. Thieves can just press the start button and drive away.

If you see anything suspicious, MAKE A CALL, MAKE A DIFFERENCE at 413-562-5411 or DIAL 911 in case of an emergency.

Annual Penguin Plunge is Feb. 27

WESTFIELD – The annual Penguin Plunge to benefit the Amelia Park Children's Museum is Feb. 27 at Hampton Ponds.

Participants can register online now at ameliaparkmuseum.org or can download the registration form and pledge sheet, fill out the registration form and either email it to plunge@ameliaparkmuseum.org or print it out and mail it back.



COMMENT

Pollack: Big questions loom over future of transportation

By CHRIS LISINSKI
State House News Service

BOSTON - The 15 regional transit authorities in Massachusetts will likely be able to avoid service cuts or fare increases in the near future thanks to an infusion of federal cash, Transportation Secretary Stephanie Pollack said Wednesday, even as long-term questions persist about the future of transportation.

State officials are still parsing details in the latest federal stimulus package, but the MBTA and RTAs are set to share funding from a pool of roughly $344 million.

MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak said Monday that he believes his agency, by far the largest transit network in Massachusetts, will get between $250 million and $300 million.

How much will remain after the T gets its share is unclear but it should be enough to help the state's other regional transit authorities to manage their budgets amid periods of lower ridership, Pollack said.

"We're all very grateful for both the state and federal funding, which should put you all in a position where things like service cuts or fare increases don't need to be on the table at this point in time because we can finish out fiscal year 21 and start fiscal year 22 in a pretty good situation," Pollack said at a Regional Transit Authority Council meeting. That stands in contrast to the T, which will keep most of its planned service cuts in place for at least the next few months despite the injection of federal funding.

Ten months into the new COVID-afflicted world, commuting patterns still look almost nothing like they did before the pandemic. Ridership on public transit remains down dramatically, peak roadway traffic has not fully returned, and predicting their arcs in the coming months is tricky.

The Baker administration has been hesitant to keep the MBTA running at its full pre-pandemic capacity during a stretch of significantly lower demand. Buses and the Blue Line peaked at slightly above 40 percent of February ridership early in the fall and have since trended back downward.

By the end of 2020, system-wide ridership was just more than a quarter of its average before COVID hit.

The MBTA's approach has drawn criticism from lawmakers and activists, who argue the push to realign service models focuses too much on professional and office workers who have flexibility at the expense of essential employees and lower-income residents who, despite the pandemic, have continued to rely on transit to get to jobs, appointments and other needs.

The year ahead will be "transitional," in Pollack's estimation, and she forecast again on Wednesday that the state's transportation landscape might never rebound to what it once was.

"I don't think 2021 is going to look like 2019, and I'm not sure on the transportation side it's ever going to look like 2019," she said. "Things have happened in the past year that will linger, even after the pandemic is over, so part of our job and our challenge is to understand what's changed, what is changing, and how we can continue to provide the service our customers need."

If Massachusetts can keep vaccines flowing on the Baker administration's timeline, the general public would start gaining access to the immunization around April.

But after ten months of living in a new reality, one in which many residents embraced working from home and adjusted to virtual doctor appointments and grocery deliveries, Pollack said MassDOT needs to probe to what degree those habits, which she dubbed "not travel," will stick.

One scenario the department modeled projects that total vehicle miles traveled could reach pre-COVID levels by the third quarter of 2023 if many employees return to physical offices later this year and use telework rarely, about once per week for half of employees.

Changing those variables alters the outlook. In two other scenarios that assume half of Massachusetts workers continue to work from home three days per week after vaccinations, roadway use could remain about 20 percent below pre-COVID levels well into 2023.

The effects could be particularly pronounced on the commuter rail system, where many riders are suburbanites who travel into Boston or other cities for work. Projections do not expect commuter rail to "regain anything like its 2019 ridership for years," Pollack said.

"It's not just us," she said, describing trends in Connecticut, Pennsylvania and New York. "All the rail lines that funnel suburban commuters into big cities in the northeastern United States are way down and worried that their key base has discovered telecommuting and may just not be five-day-a-week rail commuters ever again."

On the whole, Pollack argued that MassDOT and other transportation officials need to consider a paradigm shift: rather than aim to promote mobility as an end goal, focus on helping residents access what they need -- like medical visits -- through transit services that offer mobility, development that places services and people closer together, and building out technology to support connectivity.

"2020 was a giant experiment where people who otherwise never would have teleworked, used telemedicine, learned remotely, made more use of retail and food delivery," she said. "What we don't know, once we don't have to do that stuff because of coronavirus, is to what extent are people going to continue to use access rather than mobility to meet their daily needs because they learned in 2020 that they liked some aspects of it?"



Public defenders offer 10-Point Immigration Policy Plan

Opportunity with presidency changing hands

By CHRIS VAN BUSKIRK
State House News Service

BOSTON, — A coalition of public defenders from across the country is calling on the incoming Biden administration to adopt a 10-point immigration policy plan to reverse what they say are "unjust, harmful, and destructive tactics" used by the Trump administration.

The plan, announced at a virtual press conference Wednesday, includes redirecting funding away from Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency to legalization efforts, ending immigration detention practices, and establishing a federally funded universal representation program. Over 30 public defender organizations from 14 states signed onto the plan, including the Massachusetts Committee for Public Counsel Services, an organization that provides legal representation for those unable to afford an attorney.

With President-elect Joe Biden set to take over the Oval Office on Jan. 20, members of the Public Defenders Coalition for Immigrant Justice have met with transition advisors and received "very positive feedback."

"We're very excited at the possibility of what can come in this coalition," said Raha Jorjani, managing attorney of the Immigration Representation Unit, Almeda County Public Defenders in California. "This is a coalition of public defenders, we're going to do what public defenders do best, which is to hold the government accountable for basic human rights principles. And so far, we have received a warm welcome on this agenda."

Wendy Wayne, director of the Immigration Impact Unit for the Massachusetts Committee for Public Counsel Services, said the separation of immigrant families still occurs for parents with minor criminal histories.



Wendy Wayne, director of the Immigration Impact Unit for the Massachusetts Committee for Public Counsel Services, is a member of the national Public Defenders Coalition for Immigrant Justice, which released its 10-point immigration policy plan on Wednesday. **(SCREENSHOT)**

Last year, she said, she helped a father fleeing from another country with his three-year-old son. The son "was literally ripped from his father's arms when he entered the U.S." and the father was held in immigration detention in South Texas while the son was taken to a shelter in upstate New York.

"This separation was based on motor vehicle offenses from 15 years earlier that were irrelevant to the father's ability to be a good parent," she said during the press conference. "The Trump administration use these immigration laws to demonize immigrants with any criminal histories and detain and deport them, regardless of even the most sympathetic mitigating factors."

Immigration reform efforts in Massachusetts authorizing driver's licenses for undocumented immigrants and curtailment of interactions between local law enforcement and ICE again failed during the 2019-2020 session on Beacon Hill. A push to include the driver's license proposal in a wide-ranging economic development bill ultimately failed last summer after Rep. Christine Barber pulled an amendment adding the measure to the legislation.

The Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee reported the so-called Safe Communities Act (H 3573 / S 1401) favorably in mid-July but the legislation stalled out in each branch's respective Ways and Means Committee.

As for the national plan, the coalition asks that the Biden administration establish a one-year moratorium on deportations for all detained immigrants on the first day they take office.

The coalition also advises the administration to cease immigration enforcement during the moratorium period, suspend routine check-ins with ICE, and avoid the initiation of removal proceedings and referral for prosecution of any charges of illegal entry or re-entry.

"[The Trump administration] has stacked the immigration courts with partisan judges, changed regulations beyond what Congress contemplated, and authorized and re-written immigration law," the plan says. "It will take time to ensure basic fairness in our laws, and to undo these devastatingly strict legal changes. Families should not be torn apart while the Biden Administration works to pick up the pieces from these scorched earth policies."

The coalition's proposed federally funded legal representation program would increase spending for public removal defense and provide funds to ensure state and federal criminal defense attorneys have the resources to provide noncitizens with advice regarding immigration consequences, according to the coalition's plan.

Andrea Sáenz, attorney-in-charge at the New York Immigration Family Unity Project, said no one should face a trained prosecutor when the stakes "are literally life and death or permanent family separation."

"We need national leadership on this issue so we don't leave out people who don't live in the right place," Sáenz said. "Doing this work in detention centers, immigration courts, and criminal courts every day has allowed us to meet the real people impacted by this broken system and experience how necessary it is to change, shrink, and defund the system to reinvest in our communities."

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Poll results shows mixed views on tax increases

By MICHAEL P. NORTON
State House News Service

BOSTON - Massachusetts voters support a 4 percent income surtax on household income above $1 million, an idea that could be on the 2022 ballot, but oppose increases in the state income, sales or gas taxes, according to new poll results.

The income surtax, a constitutional amendment that requires a second favorable vote from the Legislature this session to reach the ballot, was favored in the MassINC poll of registered voters by 72 percent of respondents and opposed by 20 percent, with 7 percent unsure.

Raising the 5 percent income tax was opposed by 71 percent of respondents. Seventy-two percent of the poll's more than 1,500 respondents opposed the idea of increasing the 6.25 percent sales tax. Raising the gas tax was opposed by 66 percent, with 28 percent in favor.

The poll shows voters are more divided over the idea of giving cities and regions of the state more power to raise their own taxes, a measure that House and Senate Democrats last week dropped from a transportation bill. Thirty percent of respondents support the idea with 53 percent opposed and 17 percent unsure.

Cutting business tax credits and incentives also drew a more mixed response: 46 percent favored the idea, with 40 percent against.

While 55 percent of respondents said they believed state and local taxes in Massachusetts are higher than in most other states, a solid majority agreed with the importance of seven major spending areas listed in the poll, and 58 percent supported making public buses free to all riders by eliminating fares.

The survey results arrive ahead of budget season on Beacon Hill, a time when the appetite for spending always exceeds the interest in coming up with the revenues requisite to support myriad investment possibilities.

The poll was conducted between Dec. 8 and Dec. 20, and sponsored by The Boston Foundation, The Hyams Foundation, King Boston, Amplify Latinx, BECMA, the Mass Budget and Policy Center, The Bridgewater State University Foundation, the Massachusetts Municipal Association, and individual contributors.

HPC on lookout for health insurance merger impacts

By KATIE LANNAN
State House News Service

BOSTON - The state Health Policy Commission plans to monitor the recent merger of Tufts Health Plan and Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, keeping an eye on what the transaction means for the prices people pay for insurance, overall medical spending and the state of the health care system.

Commission chair Stuart Altman said that while the HPC is not among the agencies that was responsible for reviewing and green-lighting the merger -- a list that included the U.S. Department of Justice, the state Division of Insurance and Attorney General Maura Healey's office -- the combination of two major players in the state's health insurance landscape constitutes an "important change."

"For the commissioners and the staff, I want to make it very clear we are not just going to let this go without continuing to monitor its activities," he said at a Wednesday meeting.

Altman said the commission has the authority to review how the new organization adheres to the state's cost-growth benchmark, and Kate Scarborough Mills, who leads the HPC's market oversight and transparency department, said the commission will monitor the deal as part of its regular duties and "focused research efforts".

"Specifically, many of the potential benefits of the transaction to members and premium payers really turn on the parties truly integrating their operations to achieve efficiencies and provide administrative simplification, but even if those efficiencies are achieved, it will be critical to ensure that they actually translate into savings for ratepayers," Mills said. The health plans' merger took effect on Jan. 1. The companies have said their new organization, to be based in Canton, will serve 2.4 million members, and forecast that $100 million in savings due to "administrative synergies" will be directly applied to mitigate premium increases and member out-of-pocket burdens.

Mills said Tufts and Harvard Pilgrim are not proposing many short-term changes, and that they've said "that any system migration or integration that could impact product offerings or services will be undertaken only after significant and thorough planning to avoid any disruption to constituents."

New state laws have tasked the Health Policy Commission, a state agency created under a 2012 health care cost control law, with conducting a series of studies, and those projects' timelines were outlined during the meeting.

A health care law Gov. Charlie Baker signed on New Year's Day directs the HPC to study the use of telehealth services, including costs and access, and the impact of COVID-19 on the Massachusetts health care system. Both of those studies are to

be done in consultation with another state entity, the Center for Health Information and Analysis.

An interim report on COVID-19 impacts is due April 1, with a final report by January 2022. The law gives the HPC one year for an interim telehealth report and another year after that to produce a final version.

That same law also calls for Health and Human Services Secretary Marylou Sudders, in consultation with the HPC, CHIA and the Division of Insurance, to make recommendations by Sept. 1, 2021 on establishing out-of-network billing rates.

This year's state budget, signed into law on Dec. 11, gives the commission until June 15, 2021 to analyze and make recommendations around potential entry into a multi-state nurse licensure compact, which so far includes 34 states but not Massachusetts.

"I think it's a testament to the work of the HPC that the Legislature keeps asking the HPC to do more and more," commissioner Tim Foley said. He asked if the agency's budget had also been increased.

"This is a lot of work, there is no doubt about it," HPC Executive Director David Seltz replied. "This is an ambitious agenda on top of a health care system that is still very much struggling, a workforce that has been extremely taxed as you know, and our role is increasing."

Seltz said the HPC budget was "approved at the amount we had requested" in January 2020, a level that does not reflect demands of the COVID-19 crisis and new mandates.

The fiscal 2021 budget allocates about $10 million for the HPC, up from roughly $9.8 million in the previous year's budget.

"We're going to have to make this work with what we have," Seltz said, adding that the agency is "well poised" for the new studies because of its previous research.

Virtual Alzheimer's Support Group to meet

WESTFIELD - The Armbrook Village Alzheimer's Association Virtual Support Group will meet Jan. 27 at 6 p.m. Caregivers and family members are invited to share their personal experiences and strategies for communicating with their loved ones. Groups are held on the last Wednesday of every month. To be added to the Zoom invite list, contact Executive Director Beth Cardillo at bcardillo@armbrookvillage.com. Group is offered by Armbrook Village Senior Living and Memory Support Community, 551 North Road, Westfield.



Franchisees feel unfairly frozen out of recovery program

By MATT MURPHY
State House News Service

BOSTON - When Gov. Charlie Baker announced a new $668 million small business recovery program in late December, gyms and fitness centers, along with restaurants and food trucks, were among the small businesses told they would be at the front of the line to qualify for relief.

But the governor didn't mention the fine print.

Owners of franchised businesses do not qualify for the program, which has made grants available to small employers hurt by the pandemic of up to $75,000 or three-months of operating expenses to help pay for salaries, utilities, rent, debt or other expenses.

Forty-one lawmakers are now urging Baker to amend the eligibility criteria to make relief funding available to franchisees who still pay taxes, rent and employ residents of Massachusetts, regardless of their affiliation with a larger chain.

"Indeed, franchisees face the same economic hardship and loss of revenue as any nonfranchised small business. Overwhelmingly, franchises are held by independent owner-operators who live and work in their local communities," the lawmakers wrote in a letter on Tuesday to Baker and Economic Development Secretary Mike Kennealy.

The grant program is being administered by the Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation. After an initial round of funding went out to businesses that had applied to a previous iteration of the program, a new application window opened on Dec. 31 and closes on Friday, Jan. 15.

Businesses that will be prioritized for funding include gyms and fitness centers, nail salons, barber shops, indoor recreation and entertainment facilities like bowling alleys and roller skating rinks and event support companies, like photography studios and florists.

Chains, franchisees, real estate officers, liquor stores, lobbying shops, non-profits and marijuana businesses are ineligible.

"Given the limitations on available resources at the state level, eligibility criteria were developed to ensure resources through MGCC could be focused on Massachusetts-based businesses that are among the sectors most impacted by the pandemic and that have no connection to a corporate network that could be an advocate for individual franchisees," the administration told the News Service, explaining the policy.

Ron Levin, the owner of one Elements Massage franchise in Burlington and an investor in two other locations in Andover and East Longmeadow, called the explanation "clear as mud."

"I'm sure there are multi-unit franchisees who are based out of state, but most of us of course are legally based right here in Mass., where the owners and staff members primarily reside. Our franchisors are effectively suppliers to us. They are certainly not in any way the owners of our businesses," he said.

Levin added, "Segregating recipients based along industry lines makes complete sense, but this explanation of how franchisees are excluded still doesn't pass the basic logic test as far as I can understand it."

Elements Massage is a national chain operating massage studios in 33 states and British Columbia. The company has 27 locations in Massachusetts.

Levin said his Burlington studio employs about 20 full- and part-time staff, and 90 percent of the staff at the three locations he is involved with are women.

Levin said his studios were forced to close between March and June for COVID, and business has been down 20 percent to 30 percent since reopening with some clients choosing not to return yet due to the ongoing pandemic.

"We are operating at break-even or cash flow negative due to depressed demand," Levin said.

The letter from lawmakers to the administration and MGCC included testimonials from some business owners, mostly gym owners, and legislators who have heard from constituents shut out of the program because they own and operate a franchised business.

Rep. Jeffrey Roy, of Franklin, and Rep. Brian Murray, of Milford, were the first two names on the letter, which was signed by a bipartisan group that included 32 House members and nine senators from all parts of the state.

A constituent of Roy and Murray's who operates an OrangeTherapy Gym in Medway said in a testimonial shared with the letter that the $581,528 in revenue his business saw in 2020 was down 52 percent from the prior year.

"I may fall under the franchisee category, but I can tell you that my corporate franchise has done nothing to help my individual business; in fact, they have continued to take the full 7% royalties the entire time, excluding the months I was actual closed and not generating any revenue," the owner said.

Levin, who also offered a testimonial, said he's lucky because he works as a full-time venture capital investor in addition to operating Elements Massage studios, but he said most other Elements owners make that their full-time occupation.

"We and our staff need just as much relief as any other small business that has been hard hit," he said.

Baker promoted the grant program during an event Thursday at a Boston restaurant where he said $195 million in direct support had been dispensed to employers to help them pay rent and meet payroll.

CSF Westfield Dollars for Scholars elects officers

WESTFIELD - The Board of Directors of CSF Westfield Dollars for Scholars held an election of officers during a Zoom meeting. The following members were voted into positions: Cynthia Neary, president; Nan Pease and Kathryn Milligan, vice presidents; Michael Rockwal, treasurer Laurie Millikan, recording secretary; Laurie Lombardini, corresponding secretary; Christine Swords, assistant corresponding secretary; Betsy Ogonis, selection chair; Diane Chambers, assistant selection chair; Laurie Lombardini, publicity chair; Valerie Tettemer, website coordinator and Board Directors as follows: Tori Denton, Joanne Fouche, Richard Holcomb, Amy Jacobson, Kate Wailgum, and Samantha Whalen.

Tune in for 'The Power of Music'

WESTFIELD - Do certain songs make you tap your feet, sing along, or want to dance? Researchers tell us that listening to music can induce relaxation, promote healing, and even enhance mental functioning. Music can be a powerful tool for those caring for someone with dementia, and we can actually use music therapeutically on ourselves.

In the next segment of our monthly cable television series, 'Westfield Council On Aging Presents,' COA Director Tina Gorman discusses 'The Power of Music in Our Everyday Lives.' She'll explain the therapeutic value of certain types of music, how music can be connected to actions and emotions, and techniques that can be incorporated in order to lighten the load of caregivers.

Tune in to Channel 15 at 2:45 p.m. on any or all of the following dates for 'The Power of Music in Our Everyday Lives': Tuesdays, Jan. 19, 26. If you don't get cable Channel 15, but you have internet service, simply go to www.cityofwestfield.org and under 'Community,' click on Community Access TV, CH 15 Live Stream.





BUSINESS FINANCIAL



COLIN M. D'AMOUR



CHRISTIAN P. D'AMOUR

3rd generation D'Amour family appointments at Big Y

SPRINGFIELD – The Board of Directors of Big Y Foods, Inc. has announced the promotion of the following 3rd generation D'Amour family members. Colin M. D'Amour has been named senior director of Big Y Express Gas & Convenience Stores division, and Christian P. D'Amour is director of e-commerce.

Both appointments represent new and expanding divisions within the company. Both D'Amours report to Richard D. Bossie, senior vice president of operations and customer experience. Colin's responsibilities include oversight of store operations, sight selection, sight acquisition and day to day responsibility for product procurement including fuel for this division. Currently, there are 12 Big Y Express locations with four more planned for the coming year. Previously, he served as senior manager of procurement within Big Y's Real Estate and Development Team as well as a member of the Real Estate Committee where he remains involved in evaluating viable expansion opportunities across all operating formats including Big Y World Class Markets, Big Y Express Gas and Convenience Stores, Fresh Acres Specialty Foods, and Table & Vine Fine Wines & Spirits. In addition, he oversees multiple programs and initiatives with Topco Associates, a Chicago based member owned cooperative that provides aggregation, innovation and knowledge management solutions for its food industry member owners. Colin began working as a service clerk at Big Y Supermarkets in 1998 at the age of 14. From there, he held several positions including produce clerk, warehouse selector, construction/remodel store projects coordinator and completed Big Y's Supermarket 101 training program. In 2007, he accepted a commission with the United States Marine Corps as Second Lieutenant where he served with distinction, ultimately earning the rank of Captain.

In 2010, he was deployed to Helmand, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. While serving in the United Stated Marine Corps, he was both a purchasing officer and a construction manager in support of the Afghan National Security Forces throughout his area of operations. He was actively involved with project prioritization, scope identification, project bidding and evaluation. In 2014, he left active duty in the Marines and returned to Big Y by entering into their store director training program. One year later, he was appointed assistant store director in their Great Barrington, MA market. By 2016, he was promoted to store director in Pittsfield and later Lee, MA before being selected as a corporate center store sales manager until 2019. A graduate of Boston College, he holds personal decorations from his military service including both the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation and Achievement Medals. He and his wife, Sharee have 4 children.

Christian is responsible for Big Y's e-Commerce platform. This platform currently includes relationships with Instacart for grocery home deliveries and DoorDash for prepared meal home deliveries. In addition to these services, he will be launching Big Y's MyPicks Online ordering. With MyPicks, customers will be able to order their groceries online for easy curbside pickup at the store of their choice or for home delivery. MyPicks will utilize a fully automated grocery fulfillment center attached to the Chicopee, MA Big Y World Class Market. Using state-of-the-art robotics, this 12,000 square foot center can quickly and safely select up to 7,000 online orders a day for delivery to customers. Like his brother, Colin, Christian began his career at Big Y at the age of 14 as a service clerk. After college, he was a sales and marketing representative for an insurance company based in Providence, RI. He re-joined Big Y as a store director trainee in 2014. One year later, he was appointed assistant store director in their Wilbraham, MA World Class Market. In 2016, he was promoted to store director in Southampton. He next went on to manage their Wilbraham market before being tapped as store manager at Table & Vine's flagship location in West Springfield, MA. In 2019, Christian was appointed a district sales and merchandising mentor for Big Y's supermarket 15 store district within Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin and Berkshire Counties of Massachusetts. In this role, he was responsible for all sales, merchandising and store team development across all departments. He also continued to oversee the operations of the company's Table & Vine flagship. Christian holds a BA from St. Michael's college in Vermont and spent a semester studying at The National University of Ireland at Galway. He and his wife, Olivia, have 3 children. Colin and Christian represent two of six 3rd generation D'Amour family who are actively involved in the company. They are grandsons of Big Y co-founder, Gerald E. D'Amour and sons of president and CEO, Charles L. D'Amour.

Patrick M. Daggett promoted at Westfield Bank



PATRICK M. DAGGETT

WESTFIELD — Westfield Bank is pleased to announce that Patrick M. Daggett has been promoted to Assistant Vice President, Digital Banking & Innovation Manager. Following a very successful internship, Daggett officially began his Westfield Bank career in 2017 as a management trainee and was later promoted to digital marketing & sales administration Specialist. In his new role as Digital Banking & Innovations Manager, he will be responsible for managing the bank's digital channels, enhancing the customer experience with digital banking products and services, expanding usage and capabilities of existing technologies, and serving as project manager for future technologies.

Daggett is a graduate of Westfield State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Management and has received several certifications including a Certificate in New and Emerging Fintech from Harvard University and Certifications in Google Ads and Google Analytics. He is currently studying for his final exam for the Certified Associate in Project Management (CAPM) designation. In the community, Daggett has been generous in sharing his knowledge and experience to assist youth. He has instructed classroom programs related to financial literacy and career development at West Springfield High School, the Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative, and Westfield State University. He also serves as an Assistant Coach for the West Springfield High School Varsity Soccer Team. Daggett resides in West Springfield, MA.

Animal lovers can send animal plush pals to children at Square One

SPRINGFIELD– Dakin Humane Society, located at 171 Union Street in Springfield, is offering Plush Pals, stuffed dogs and cats, as a way of leveraging the strength of its animal loving community to help children during these difficult times when contact and hugs have been minimized due to COVID-19.

Individuals can request their own Plush Pal, but more importantly, can select a "Get One, Give One" option while donating online, which includes a Plush Pal for themselves and another to be sent to a child at Square One. The Springfield-based non-profit organization provides support services and family-friendly education for infants, toddlers, preschoolers and school-age children throughout the region.

The Plush Pals stand eight inches high and are mailed out with a Hug Certificate as well as a photo of a special animal who was cared for at Dakin Humane Society. They can be requested when donating online at http://bit.ly/PlushPals.



Plush Pals cat (left) and dog were delivered to two children at Square One in Springfield in December 2020.

"We began offering Plush Pals during the holiday season, and they are still available," explained Dakin's Director of Development and Marketing Stacey Price. "Many people, including children, are hurting right now. They can't be with their friends, some do not have animals at home, and we want them to be able to connect with a loved one, in this case, a Plush Pal, and let them know that someone is thinking about them. This effort gives individuals the option to provide a Plush Pal to the children at Square One. Some of us have our pets to keep us company throughout the pandemic, but we wanted to do something for those who want that kind of companionship. Plush Pals give them something to cuddle and love."

Square One was chosen as the recipient of this effort because of its longstanding commitment to helping children in the Pioneer Valley, according to Price. "Their dedication to families, especially in the face of this pandemic, is remarkable, and given Dakin's mission to help animals and the people who love them, we thought this would be a opportunity to bring joy to children by giving them a special pet of their own."

Dakin Humane Society delivers effective, innovative services that improve the lives of animals in need and the people who care about them. The organization shelters, treats and fosters more than 20,000 animals each year and has performed more than 98,000 spay/neuter surgeries since 2009, making it New England's largest spay/neuter provider. Dakin is a local non-profit organization that relies solely on contributions from individuals and businesses that care about animals to bring its services to the community. For more information, visit www.dakinhumane.org.

ESE President and CEO, Eugene J. Cassidy, Elected Chairman of the International Association of Fairs and Expositions

WEST SPRINGFIELD — Eugene J. Cassidy, president and CEO of Eastern States Exposition, was elected Chairman of the International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE) during the organization's annual business meeting, conducted virtually Dec. 8, 2020.

Cassidy said, "I am excited to be leading our trade association during this crucial, unprecedented time. We have recently embarked on the first year of a new decade, and with it, we will have new approaches to our business. We will find creative new ways to conduct our business and we will struggle through the end-days of this pandemic, carrying on with our missions intact, and the public gratified for how we support the most wholesome way of life on earth."

He added, "We are all engaged in making our industry, the events we produce, the propagation of agriculture and our missions better."

Cassidy will serve in this international leadership role for 2021, spearheading the direction of the international group of fairs forward – from our corner of the world in West Springfield, Mass., to places such as The Calgary Stampede in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, to the Sydney Royal Easter Show in Australia, fairs in Alaska, Hawaii and England, and the hundreds of fairs all across North America. The IAFE currently has 911 member fairs and affiliated organizations worldwide.

The theme for IAFE 2021 is "Grow Fair Strong," with a focus on "growing" as in all things agriculture; the importance of growth in fairs and the economies they impact in the wake of the pandemic is consequential. Cassidy stated that the economic horsepower fairs bring to their communities, regions, states and countries is immeasurable.

Cassidy joined ESE as Director of Finance in 1993 and was named Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer in March, 2011. He assumed the position of President and CEO



EUGENE J. CASSIDY
President and CEO of Eastern States Exposition

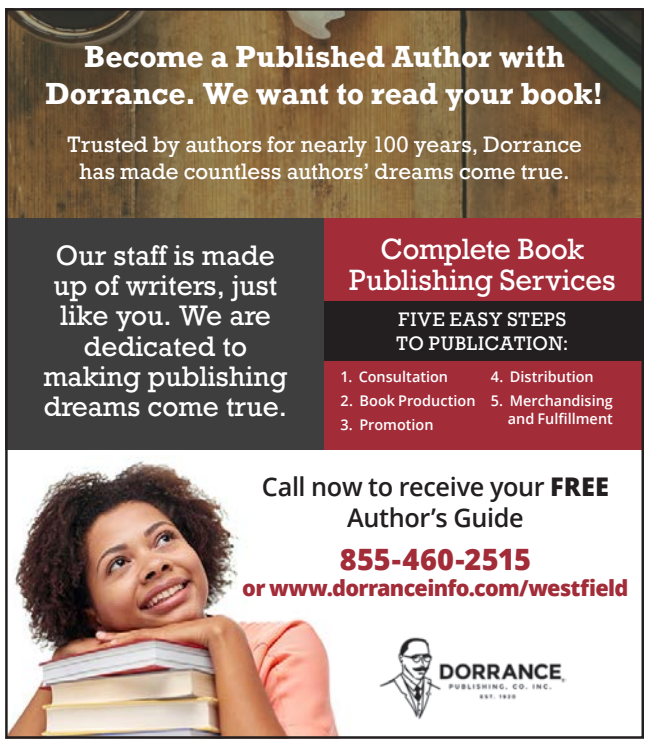
June 27, 2012 and is the Exposition's seventh CEO in its 105-year history. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and Accounting from Western New England University.

He serves as Vice Chairman of the Greater Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau, Treasurer of the Western Massachusetts Chapter of Legatus, Treasurer and Board member of MassHire Hampden County, is a member of the Springfield Technical Community College Foundation Board as well as the Finance Board of St. Mary's Parish and the St. Thomas the Apostle School Board.

He is also accredited as a Certified Fair Executive by the IAFE and has served the organization as Treasurer, second Vice President and first Vice President before assuming his role as Chairman. He is also actively involved as a member of the Budget and Finance, and Program committees, is a frequent presenter at IAFE meetings on a national level and served as Program Chair of the organization's International Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada, in 2010.

"The entire staff is looking forward to working with our 2021 Chair Gene Cassidy and his leadership team from the various committees for an exciting Convention in San Antonio, November 28 to December 1," Marla Calico, IAFE President and CEO, said.

IAFE is a voluntary, not-for-profit Corporation, serving state, provincial, regional, and county agricultural fairs, shows, exhibitions, and expositions. Its associate members include state and provincial associations of fairs, non-agricultural expositions and festivals, associations, corporations, and individuals engaged in providing products and services to its members, all of whom are interested in the improvement of fairs and allied fields.



COMICS

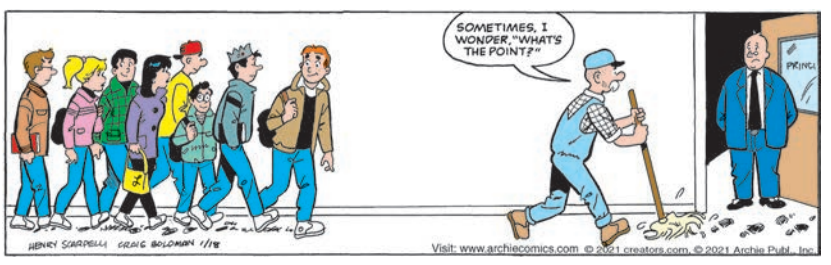
SPEED BUMP **Dave Coverly**



AGNES **Tony Cochran**



ARCHIE **Fernando Ruiz and Craig Boldman**



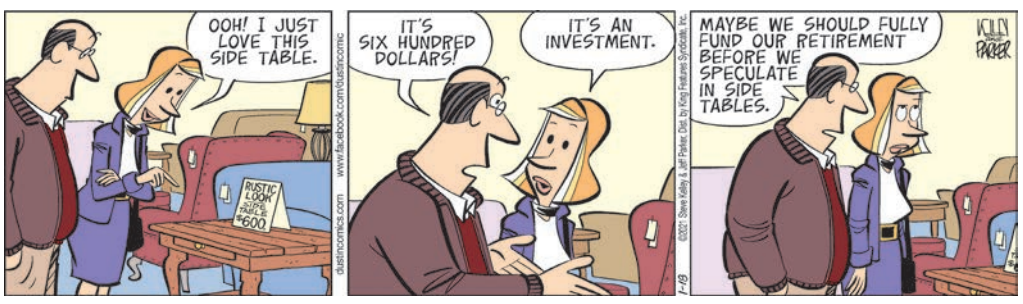
RUBES **Leigh Rubin**



DADDY'S HOME **Tony Rubino and Gary Markstein**



DUSTIN **By Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker**



SCARY GARY **Mark Buford**



DOGS of C-KENNEL **Mick and Mason Mastroianni**



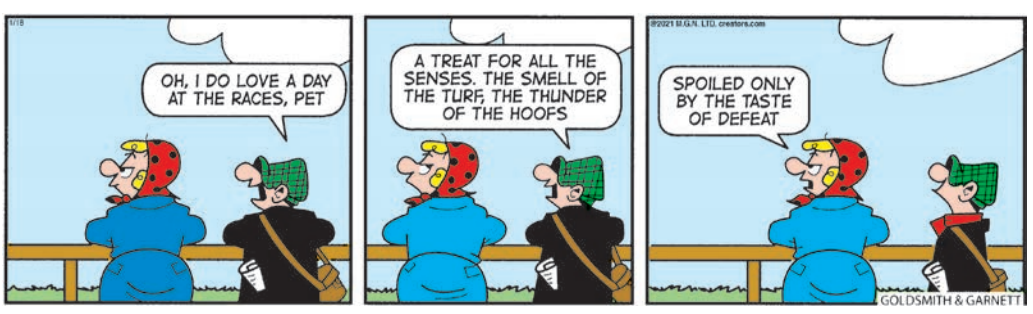
B.C. **Mastroianni and Hart**



ONE BIG HAPPY **Rick Detorie**



ANDY CAPP **Mahoney, Goldsmith and Garnett**



ZACK HILL **John Deering and John Newcombe**



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

YOUR HOROSCOPE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, Jan. 18, 2021:

Unique, imaginative and playful, you like to keep life light but demand a heavy dose of excitement and adventure to keep you stimulated. This year, you dream up a project that proves very successful. If single, you attract many and have fun but don't seriously commit this year. If attached, there is trust and sharing with your partner as you live out your dreams. CAPRICORN keeps you grounded and secure.

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)

★★★★★ It's easy to express yourself today. Commitments made now will stick, so be cautious if considering a promise that could entangle. Focus on image improvement. Celebrate with some new wardrobe items. You'll be able to accurately assess situations. Tonight: Your very own fashion show.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Imagery and affirmations bring contentment. During a meditation session a solution to a problem arrives. Reach out to others. Love and friendship are there if you're receptive. It's a great day for creative projects. Tonight: Early bedtime and lots of rest.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Your success will be directly affected by the effort you expend today. Double-check contracts and communications related to your work. Friends and partners will make plans for you and offer advice. Tonight: Join that club you never thought would want you as a member.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Today is very promising for recognition, a promotion or an opportunity for added income. It also favors group projects and community service. This could involve you in politics. You deal with old conflicts and frustrations with aplomb. Tonight: Online networking.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Take a break. Accept invitations. A visit to a childhood friend or family member who has been out of touch can set the scene for a magical respite. You touch the hearts of others with your eloquent writing and speaking. Tonight: Feeling relief.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Your mind is working overtime. An old love or dream may be discarded suddenly. Read between the lines. There is much to be learned through listening and observing. The status quo regarding romance and friendship could be upset. Tonight: Analyzing it all.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Today creates a stabilizing support system. The good people in your life bring special blessings. Longtime friendships and old loves generate a comforting warmth during these chilly days of winter. A spouse or partner is about to become more successful. Tonight: Attempt a date night.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ It is a good time to get organized. Complete projects that have been in progress for too long. Memories of a childhood animal companion can be especially poignant today. Tonight: A charitable donation to animal charities would be a great way to acknowledge this.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Your personality opens new doors today. Express your creativity. Problems can be solved and decisions made. Instinctively you will say and do all of the right things to increase trust and bonding with children. Tonight: Dance and listen to your favorite music.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Today heightens your devotion to relatives or your extended family and illuminates the important roles they play in your life. Family dynamics will be especially upbeat. Take time off to care for your home and enjoy family life. Tonight: Relaxing with loved ones.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ Vehicles can be unreliable or directions lost. Try to stay in familiar surroundings. Use care in communication, for messages can be lost or misconstrued. Carrying a talisman of citrine for clarity can be most helpful. Tonight: The mental cobwebs will be swept away.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Earning enough to pay for new treasures will absorb your attention today. Enthusiasm to add to your income is at an all-time peak. However, be careful not to overwork. Tonight: Enjoy all that you have, rather than lamenting that which eludes.

BORN TODAY

Writer A.A. Milne (1882), comedian Danny Kaye (1911), actor Cary Grant (1904)

CONTRACT BRIDGE

Famous Hand

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 5
♥ A J 7 3 2
♦ A 7 4 3
♣ Q 4 3

WEST
♠ Q 8
♥ K Q 10 5
♦ Q 10 8 6
♣ A 7 5

EAST
♠ 9 6 3
♥ 9 8 6 4
♦ 5
♣ J 10 9 8 6

SOUTH
♠ A K J 10 7 4 2
♥ —
♦ K J 9 2
♣ K 2

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	3 NT	Pass
4 ♠			

Opening lead — six of diamonds.

Once upon a time — and this is no fairy tale — Easley Blackwood, inventor of the Blackwood Convention, was playing in a pair championship when two awestruck and nervous novices came to his table and played this deal against him.

Blackwood got to four spades, and the player on his left led a diamond (the king of hearts would have been a more inspired lead). Blackwood won the diamond with the nine and returned the club deuce. West followed low, and dummy's queen won the trick. South then discarded the king of clubs on the ace of hearts and returned a trump.

Ordinarily, declarer would finesse in this situation, but Blackwood reasoned that, having already "stolen" two tricks in the play, it was wiser to cash the A-K to avert a possible diamond ruff. This turned out exceptionally well when he caught West's queen to pick up yet another trick.

Still not satisfied, Blackwood played four more rounds of trump, producing this position:

North
♥ J 7
♦ A 7

West
♥ K
♦ Q 10 8

East
♣ J 10 9 8

South
♠ 4
♦ K J 2

Blackwood now led his last trump, and poor West, who could not spare the king of hearts, discarded a diamond. Blackwood thereupon discarded a heart from dummy and cashed the A-K-J of diamonds to finish with all 13 tricks.

As the two newcomers were leaving the table, West turned to his partner and said, "You see, Charlie, it's just like I told you. Even the experts don't bid all their slams."

Tomorrow: Inspired defense.

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CROSSWORDS

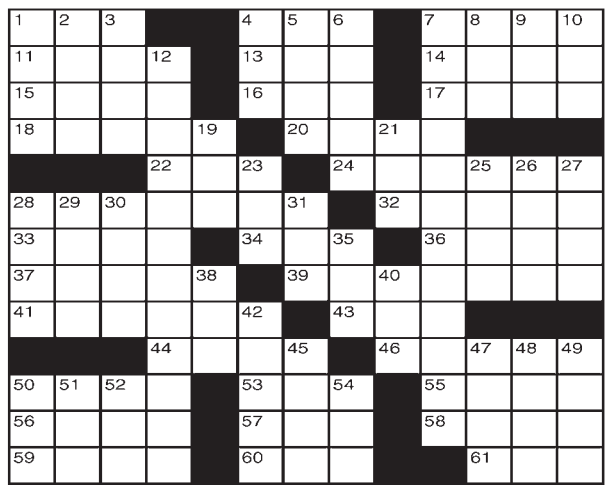
ACROSS
1 Nine-digit ID
4 GI entertainers
7 Capital on a fjord
11 Slightly
13 Dorm VIPs
14 Twosome
15 Opera set in Egypt
16 Nest egg acronym
17 Scepters
18 "Well done!"
20 Furniture brand
22 — -de-France
24 Goddess of wisdom
28 Elate
32 Anticipate
33 Nevada city
34 Table support
36 "— It Romantic?"
37 Lawyers (Abbr.)
39 "— Abbey"
41 Takes the helm
43 Dict. info
44 Indy circuits
46 Ambition
50 Mexican entree
53 "Eureka!"
55 "Frozen" snow queen
56 Cabbage salad
57 Convent dweller
58 Tibetan herd
59 Regarding
60 Perch
61 D.C. baseballer

DOWN
1 Swedish auto
2 Commotion
3 Zilch
4 Mentalist Geller
5 Rani's dress
6 Japanese seaport
7 "Beloved" actress who played Annie Lee Cooper in "Selma"
8 — Paulo, Brazil
9 Cover
10 Hosp. areas
12 "Interstellar" actor who played Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in "Selma"
19 Vintage
21 Greek H
23 Long, skinny fish
25 Sunrise direction
26 Boy, in Barcelona
27 Envelope abbr.
28 Mardi —
29 Riga native
30 Initial chip
31 Homer's neighbor
35 Deity
38 Madrid Mrs.
40 Marry
42 Bridges
45 Feng — 47 Flair
48 "May I — favor?"
49 Sail support
50 Airport screening org.
51 Gore and Pacino
52 Garfield, for one
54 Hill dweller

Solution time: 21 mins.

	C	S	P	A	N	■	G	L	O	S	S	■
S	A	T	I	R	E	■	O	O	D	L	E	S
C	R	A	N	I	A	■	B	O	D	I	C	E
R	O	T	■	A	P	R	E	S	■	C	O	E
A	L	U	M	■	S	A	L	■	M	E	N	D
M	E	S	A	S	■	G	O	D	A	D	D	Y
■	■	■	C	O	G	■	W	I	G	■	■	■
G	O	T	O	P	O	T	■	S	N	A	G	S
O	M	A	N	■	R	R	S	■	A	C	R	E
L	E	N	■	G	O	Y	A	S	■	C	A	M
E	G	G	N	O	G	■	Y	E	M	E	N	I
M	A	L	I	B	U	■	H	E	I	S	T	S
■	S	E	N	S	E	■	I	P	A	S	S	■

Saturday's answer 1-18



CRYPTOQUIP

XHKK-MAJXA NJLEN RNBJZ XVJ RKXRDY KEMHY BJ OJZBZRD LRS OVDYENEYBY JA-YNZHHA: RBJL YRASKHZ.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: WEIRD FANTASY MOVIE CONCERNING A GIRL'S RELATIVE WHO TURNS INTO A MERMAID: "MY COUSIN FINNY."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals Y

Dear Annie

By ANNIE LANE



Boyfriend Delaying Marriage

Dear Annie: I have been dating this man for a little over four years, and I feel like he will never fully truly commit to me. There's a six-year age gap; I'm 28, and he is 34. I've always known in life that I wanted to get married and start a family; hence why I dated an older man. My thoughts were that he would be more on track to those goals rather than someone who was closer to my age (more so around the time we met).

With that being said, I feel like marriage will never happen. Any time we talk about marriage it's a rushed conversation and it just seems like excuse after excuse as to why we haven't taken any more steps in that direction. (We already live together.) First he said that I was too young, then he said he's looking at rings and he needs to do his research on them, then COVID-19 hit, so it hasn't felt like the right time. He's a great guy and all and we have fun together, but I just feel like he will never pop the question and I'm losing my patience.

We got into a fight about our relationship this past June (but these arguments aren't new, we've had a few before the most recent one), and I almost walked away for good. But, he assured me it was coming and said, "It was my plan to have a ring on your finger by the end of the year." It's officially 2021 and there is still no ring.

Am I wasting my time? Is he just leading me on? Am I being crazy for feeling this way? I just don't understand why he won't commit to me if he claims to want the same things in life. -- *Crunched for Commitment*

Dear Crunched for Commitment: No, you're not crazy, but keep up this waiting game much longer and you will be. I suggest popping the question yourself. No matter how he answers, you'll be better off than you are now. (And if he says anything like "maybe," take it as a no.)

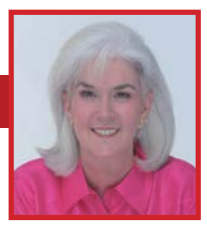
Dear Annie: "Don't Shoot the Mockingbird's" dilemma about absorbing accents struck a chord with me. I've mirrored accents unintentionally my whole life (I'm 68 now), and I just can't seem to stop. If I watch a British TV program for an hour, then I gain the accent and it may not go away for a few more hours. If I travel and spend a couple of days immersed in another accent, then it sometimes stays with me for weeks! I've noticed I actually think with the accent with my mind's voice.

The problem seems to annoy me more than it does the people I'm mimicking, as I've never had anyone say, "Are you mocking me?" I think most people realize I'm absorbing their accent, not making fun of it or them. I think "Mockingbird" and others with the same "affliction" should simply ignore it and be themselves, and the people to whom they're speaking will realize it's not being done in jest. At least, that's how it's worked out for me. -- Voice of the People (All of Them) in Ohio

Dear Voice of the People: Thanks for speaking as the voice of wisdom, in addition to the rest. May your letter bring comfort to any other accidental mockingbirds.

"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



Shopping for disabled persons

Today's Sound Off is about helping the handicapped shop.

Dear Heloise: Today I had to get some gym shoes, but I walk with a cane and shopping is very difficult for me. I called around to see if some of these stores had motorized shopping carts for the handicapped, and after five calls to various large stores, I found only one that had what I needed. While I was in that store I bought several other items besides the shoes. I know brick-and-mortar stores are trying to lure customers in, despite COVID-19, but making it impossible for the handicapped to shop at their stores decreases the walk-in traffic. If more stores had motorized shopping carts for the handicapped, they might find it very profitable. -- Joan M., Tampa, Fla.

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, expired credit cards:

-- Use to scrape ice and snow from car windows.

-- Use to cut hard cheeses.

--Use a couple as a shim under a wobbly table.

-- Use as a garden marker. Paint first, then write the name of seeds planted in that row.

PLASTIC CARD SCAM

Dear Heloise: There is a new scam going around on the phone, whether you answer or not. They leave a message saying that if you recently used your card to make a purchase to just say "yes, I authorize that purchase," or words to that affect. This is just a blatant way to cheat honest people. If you didn't make a purchase, they tell you to call a certain number, which you should not do. Just hang up on this recording, no matter what is said. Most of us have used a debit or credit card recently, which is why they say a "plastic card." Don't let these scammers cheat you! Hang up on them. -- Harrison G., Detroit

HAND SANITIZER FOR CATS?

Dear Heloise: I've considered hand sanitizer for my two cats' paws to keep them safe from COVID-19. My husband says no, that it's dangerous for them. Is it really dangerous if they lick it off? -- *Lana V., Fresno, Calif.*

Lana, do not use hand sanitizer on your furry feline friends. If they ingest it, they could get very sick. Your kitties will be fine if they are kept indoors, as cats should be, and fed a healthy diet -- and use a clean potty pan. -- Heloise

TIGHT LIDS

Dear Heloise: No doubt many people have a hard time opening lids on bottles and jars. This is especially true of medicine bottles, which could be very dangerous for a senior like me. What can we do? -- *Ginnie R., Dumas, Texas*

Ginnie, tell your pharmacist that you want bottles for your medicine that are NOT child proof. You want the easiest bottle to open available. For other things, there are bottle openers on the market that are designed to open bottles and jars of various sizes. You can usually get one at a grocery store or a home store. Sometimes hardware stores carry them. They're usually not expensive. -- Heloise

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UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

1/18

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Previous puzzle solution

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

1/16

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LEGAL NOTICES

(January 4, 11, 18, 2021)

LEGAL NOTICE

MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Ruth M. Malanowski to Option One Mortgage Corporation, dated October 5, 2004 and recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 14543, Page 157 (the "Mortgage"), as affected by an Order dated March 10, 2020, and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 23368, Page 351 of which mortgage Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., as Trustee for Option One Mortgage Loan Trust 2005-1, Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2005-1 is the present holder by Assignment from Sand Canyon Corporation f/k/a Option One Mortgage Corporation to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., as Trustee for Option One Mortgage Loan Trust 2005-1, Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2005-1 dated October 15, 2012 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 19586, Page 128, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 116 Sackett Road a/k/a 116 Sacket Road, Westfield, MA 01085 will be sold at a Public Auction at 2:00 PM on January 25, 2021, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

A certain real estate situate in Westfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts, being designated as Lots 1 (one) and 11 (eleven) both as shown on the plan entitled "Plan of Land of Arthur C. & Emily C. Arterton & Jane E Biggins" as recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book of Plans 165, Page 33, said real estate being bounded and described in one parcel as follows:

NORTHERLY by Sackett Road, as shown on said plan, three hundred seventy two and 73/100 (372.73) feet;

NORTHEASTERLY, by land now or formerly of Zyon Zyskowski et ux, four hundred eight and 74/100 (408.74) feet;

SOUTHEASTERLY by land now or formerly of Misischia Construction Co Inc., five hundred eighty four and 20/100 (584.20) feet;

SOUTHWESTERLY by land now or lately of R. & C. Fowler, one hundred fifty three and 39/100 (153.39) feet and by land now or formerly of Joseph Mihlek et ux being Lot 2 (two) as shown on said plan by and irregular line, two hundred three and 84/100 (203.84) feet;

NORTHERLY by last named land, two hundred sixteen and 27/100 (216.27) feet; and

WESTERLY by last named land, two hundred forty nine and 01/100 (249.01) feet.

Subject to drainage easement reserved in instrument dated July 22, 1966 and recorded as aforesaid in Book 3203, Page 381. Together with and subject to notice of variance recorded as aforesaid in Book 4287, Page 234.

For mortgagor's title see deed recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 5328, Page 120.

The property will be sold subject to the redemption rights in favor of the Internal Revenue Service by virtue of the tax lien(s) recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 19168, Page 444 and Book 20632, Page 589.

The premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and other municipal assessments and liens, and subject to prior liens or other enforceable encumbrances of record entitled to precedence over this mortgage, and subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, reservations and conditions of record and subject to all tenancies and/or rights of parties in possession.

Terms of the Sale: Cashier's or certified check in the sum of $5,000.00 as a deposit must be shown at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify as a bidder (the mortgage holder and its designee(s) are exempt from this requirement); high bidder to sign written Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid; balance of purchase price payable by certified check in thirty (30) days from the date of the sale at the offices of mortgagee's attorney, Korde & Associates, P.C., 900 Chelmsford Street, Suite 3102, Lowell, MA 01851 or such other time as may be designated by mortgagee. The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., as Trustee for Option One Mortgage Loan Trust 2005-1, Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2005-1

Korde & Associates, P.C.
900 Chelmsford Street
Suite 3102
Lowell, MA 01851
(978) 256-1500

Malanowski, Ruth A., 14-019690

LEGAL NOTICES

(January 11, 18, 25, 2021)

LEGAL NOTICE

MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by William Brian Phelon to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Flagstar Bank, FSB, dated October 20, 2009 and recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 18048, Page 197 (the "Mortgage") of which mortgage MidFirst Bank is the present holder by Assignment from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Flagstar Bank, FSB, its successors and assigns to Bank of America, N.A. dated March 16, 2015 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 20630, Page 191, and Assignment from Bank of America, N.A. to Nationstar Mortgage LLC dated May 14, 2015 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 20705, Page 544, and Assignment from Nationstar Mortgage LLC to MidFirst Bank dated November 11, 2019 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 22946, Page 239, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 1460 Main Road a/k/a 1442 Main Road, Granville, MA 01034 will be sold at a Public Auction at 12:00 PM on February 1, 2021, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

All that certain parcel of land situate in the City of Granville, County of Hampden, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, being known and designated as:

Lot I on division of Property Granville, Massachusetts for Owner Ernest W. Sattler dated July 28, 2003 prepared by D.L. Bean, Inc. and recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book of Plans 329, Page 121, to which plan reference is made for a more particular description.

Containing 9.21 acres

More commonly known as: 1460 Main Road, Granville, MA 01034

Tax ID: 12-31-0

For mortgagor's title see deed recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 13470, Page 75.

The premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and other municipal assessments and liens, and subject to prior liens or other enforceable encumbrances of record entitled to precedence over this mortgage, and subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, reservations and conditions of record and subject to all tenancies and/or rights of parties in possession.

Terms of the Sale: Cashier's or certified check in the sum of $5,000.00 as a deposit must be shown at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify as a bidder (the mortgage holder and its designee(s) are exempt from this requirement); high bidder to sign written Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid; balance of purchase price payable by certified check in thirty (30) days from the date of the sale at the offices of mortgagee's attorney, Korde & Associates, P.C., 900 Chelmsford Street, Suite 3102, Lowell, MA 01851 or such other time as may be designated by mortgagee. The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

MidFirst Bank
Korde & Associates, P.C.
900 Chelmsford Street
Suite 3102
Lowell, MA 01851
(978) 256-1500

Phelon, William Brian, 19-036211

(January 11, 18, 2021)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

To be held remotely January 27, 2021, at 7:15PM by the Westfield Zoning Board of Appeals for Air Compressor Engineering Co. for variance relief from 3-110.4(3) to allow a garage building replaced within the side yard setback at 13 Meadow St./parcel 6-7 zoned Business A (subject within "17 Meadow St." campus incl. parcels 6-8, 11, 25, 29); see details at www.cityofwestfield.org/applications.

The hearing can be viewed on local cable Ch. 15 or online at westfieldtv.org, with public comment by teleconference: Call 646-558-8656 with Meeting ID# 840 0881 8447 & Passcode# 15823094

(January 11, 18, 2021)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

To be held remotely January 27, 2021, at 7:15PM by the Westfield Zoning Board of Appeals for Lambson Square Properties LLC for a special permit/site plan per 3-100.3(5) & 6-10 to allow conversion to residential use & variance relief from 3-100.4(1) for lot coverage at 89 Elm St., zoned CORE; see details at www.cityofwestfield.org/applications.

The hearing can be viewed on local cable Ch. 15 or online at westfieldtv.org, with public comment by teleconference: Call 646-558-8656 with Meeting ID# 840 0881 8447 & Passcode# 15823094

Advertising Deadline is 2 Days Before

community classifieds

email roxanne@thewestfieldnewsgroup.com

LEGAL NOTICES

(January 4, 11, 18, 2021)

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 1136 Huntington Road, Russell, MA 01071

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Jeremy Strait, Valerie N. Strait, and Jose A. Santiago III to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for America's Wholesale Lender, and now held by **The Bank of New York Mellon fka The Bank of New York as Trustee for the Certificateholders of the CWABS, Inc., Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2005-9**, said mortgage dated August 31, 2005 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 15299, Page 48, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. to The Bank of New York Mellon fka The Bank of New York as Trustee for the Certificateholders of the CWABS, Inc., Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2005-9 by assignment dated September 17, 2012 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 19451, Page 18; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction on** February 2, 2021 at 02:00 PM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

Certain real estate situate in Russell, Hampden County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a Massachusetts Highway bound on the easterly side of the State Highway running from Russell to Huntington known as the River Road, at the southerly end of a curve of six hundred thirty (630) feet radius, as shown on the State Highway Plan of the 1929 alteration of said River Road and running thence S. 25° 20° 31" W. along the easterly side of said River Road, One Hundred Thirty-six (136) feet to an iron pin which is the beginning of the boundaries of the parcel hereinafter described; thence from the point of beginning

S. 25° 20' 31" W. along the easterly side of said River Road, One Hundred Fourteen (114) feet to an iron pin; thence

S. 30° E. One Hundred Forty-five (145) feet to an iron pin; thence

N. 47° 56' 51"E. One Hundred Twenty-two (122) feet to an iron pin; thence

N. 30° W. Two Hundred Five (205) feet to an iron pin, the point of beginning.

Subject to reservations and easements set forth in Deed to Edwin H. Pratt and Loretta W. Pratt dated May 1, 1946 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 1823, page 43.

Being the same premises granted to Keith C. Kellogg by deed dated 15 December 1997 of Helen T. Ferriera, a/k/a Helen S. Ferriera, recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 10103, Page 263.

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated August 22, 2005 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 15299, Page 46.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

FIVE THOUSAND ($5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC
1080 Main Street, Suite 200
Pawtucket, RI 02860
Attorney for The Bank of New York Mellon fka The Bank of New York as Trustee for the Certificateholders of the CWABS, Inc., Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2005-9
Present Holder of the Mortgage
401-217-8701

APPLIANCE REPAIR

ALLEN ST. JEAN APPLIANCE

Repairing all major brands of appliances.

Senior discounts available.
413-562-5082

ARTICLES FOR SALE

AGAWAM, 1094 Suffield St. We're moving and everything must go! Office furniture, home furnishings, large and small appliances, pallet jacks, forklifts, storage racking, printing equipment, folding tables, stacking chairs and much more. Thursday, 1/21, 12pm–5pm. Friday, 1/22, 8am–5pm. Saturday, 1/23, 8am –5pm. Sunday, 1/24 9am–3pm. Cash only!

Mott's Commercial Refrigerator (Metal), 4-5 Shelves. Runs well. $500 Call 413-888-8068.

AUTO FOR SALE

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