

Governor Baker launches VaxMillions Giveaway program

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
NEWS STAFF WRITER

REGION – Just in case getting protected against COVID-19 wasn't incentive enough, the Baker-Polito Administration recently added over five million more reasons for residents to schedule their shots.

In a partnership with the Massachusetts State Lottery, Governor Baker and his team announced last month the launch of the VaxMillions Giveaway program. All Massachusetts adults who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are eligible to enter for a chance to win one of five separate \$1 million cash prizes.

Additionally, fully vaccinated residents between 12-17 years of age may enter for the chance to win one of five \$300,000 scholarship grants.

Although Massachusetts ranks third in the nation in vaccine rate, (59.76-percent of the population), state officials are determined to raise that number even higher.

"The VaxMillions Giveaway is one of the many ways our administration is encouraging people to get the vaccine, and we are grateful for the partnership of Treasurer Goldberg and the Mass. State Lottery in developing the program," said Governor Charlie Baker.

Eligible residents will be able to enter the drawing on July 1. Drawings will be held once a week for five weeks, beginning the week of Monday, July 26, and continuing through the week ending Friday, August 27.

"Getting vaccinated is the best way to protect yourself and your loved ones from COVID," said Lt. Governor

Karyn Polito. "We are hopeful that this new initiative will encourage even more residents to get the COVID vaccine and help return our Commonwealth to a new normal."

Added State Treasurer Deborah Goldberg. "The Massachusetts State Lottery is proud to join Governor Charlie Baker and the Department of Public Health to ensure the health, safety, and wellbeing of every person across the Commonwealth. The Lottery has decades of experience and know-how to hold drawings with integrity, and our team is excited to fulfill an essential role in this initiative."

The Commonwealth is launching the VaxMillions Giveaway as one of many strategies to increase awareness of the availability and efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccines. Beginning July 1, Massachusetts residents will be able to enter the VaxMillions Giveaway online. If you do not have access to the internet or require assistance, there will be a call center available. Signup information and call center contact info and hours will be made available prior to July 1.

"We greatly appreciate the trust that Governor Baker, his administration, and Treasurer Goldberg have in the Mass. Lottery to assist in the implementation of this important public health initiative," said Michael Sweeney, Executive Director of the Massachusetts State Lottery. "The Mass. Lottery has worked diligently to build a reputation as one of the most successful lotteries in the country, and it is an honor to be entrusted with this responsibility."

Massachusetts residents 18 years of age and older who have received two doses of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, or one dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, will have a chance to win.

Massachusetts residents between 12-17 years of age who have received two doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine will have a chance to win one of five \$300,000 scholarship grants via a 529 College Savings Plan managed by the Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority (MEFA). Funds in a 529 Plan can be applied to cover tuition, room and board, and related expenses at any college, university, or technical or trade school, or another post-secondary educational institution eligible to participate in a student aid program administered by the U.S. Department of Education. Winners with a qualifying disability may elect instead to receive an equivalent financial contribution to a special needs trust or federally qualified ABLE account to cover qualified expenses.

Only lawful, permanent residents of Massachusetts who are fully vaccinated can apply. Residents must have received their vaccine doses within Massachusetts. Residents must be fully vaccinated prior to submitting their entries.

There are over 900 vaccination locations across the Commonwealth, with appointments and walk-ins widely available. Residents seeking a vaccine can visit www.mass.gov/COVIDVaccine.

For more information on the Mass. VaxMillions Giveaway, visit mass.gov/VaxMillions.



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Rebecca Feeney Named to Dean's List at Ithaca College

ITHACA, NY (06/24/2021)– Ithaca College student Rebecca Feeney of Auburn (01501) was named to the Dean's List for the spring 2021 semester.

About Ithaca College
Founded in 1892, Ithaca College is a residential college dedicated to building knowledge and confidence through a continuous cycle of theory, practice and performance. Home to some 5,000 students, the college offers more than 100 degree programs in its schools of Business, Communications, Humanities and Sciences, Health Sciences and Human Performance, and Music.

Students, faculty and staff at Ithaca College create an active, inclusive community anchored in a keen desire to make a difference in the local community and the broader world. The college is consistently ranked as one of the nation's top producers of Fulbright scholars, one of the most LGBTQ+ friendly schools in the country, and one of the top 10 colleges in the Northeast.

Ribbon Cutting Celebrated at Summit Agency

A ribbon cutting celebration to announce the opening of Summit Health & Wellness Center and Summit Campus for children and young adults with Autism and related diagnoses took place on Thursday, June 17th.

Thursday night's ribbon cutting was a celebration of the addition of the Summit Campus and Health & Wellness Center which was a natural progression of the Summit Agency's mission. Their goal is to support this vulnerable and underserved population in the Worcester community, and the surrounding areas.

This comes at a good time as the prevalence of ASD (Autism Spectrum Diagnosis) and related diagnoses are on the rise. According to the CDC 1 in 54 children are diagnosed with ASD. In the US alone there are roughly 550,000 children with ASD who will be transitioning into adulthood over the next decade, and it is expected that approximately 45 percent of these emerging adults will enroll in a university, college, or technical/vocational school in the coming years. Springer's Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders. (January 2018)

The Summit Health & Wellness Center and Summit Campus ribbon cutting took place on Thursday June 17th, 2021 from 5pm - 7pm outdoors at the corner of Fruit

Street and William Street in Worcester. The Summit Health and Wellness Center will be opening July 1st, appointments can be made now by visiting the website: www.summitagencyma.com or by calling 774-701-0670.

Guests at the ribbon cutting included: Senator Michael Moore, Worcester Councilor-at-Large, Kathleen Toomey, Worcester District 2 Councilor, Candy Mero-Carlson, and Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce President, Tim Murray. Summit Agency was recognized by the State of Massachusetts with an Official Citation.

"Think back to 20-30 years ago and the services that were available for young adults who had intellectual or developmental disabilities, we were just learning, we were just providing services in K-12, we were beginning inclusive enrollment legislation to provide more services for this demographic in colleges and universities; so I think it is great that we've been able, through your advocacy, and grassroots efforts and getting the attention of legislators and other policy officials to tell us what your children need to be successful and have a good quality of life." stated Senator Michael Moore.

There were over 70 guests, and the celebration included a tour of the facilities,

refreshments and hor d'oeuvres, along with raffles for a Worcester Railers Gift Basket and gift cards to Wings Over Worcester, Smoke Stack Urban BBQ, 'Olo Pizza and Meze Estiatorio.

The Summit Health & Wellness Center will offer the following clinical modalities that include: psychiatric services, behavioral services, counseling services, and general health & wellness practices with Dr. Oliver Joseph, as the Agency's Chief Medical Officer. Many are excited to begin making appointments. It will serve both the Summit Campus residential students and the Worcester ASD community.

Summit Campus, which is accepting applications for the 2021-22 school year, is a residential program providing a dormitory experience for college students with autism. Summit Campus was created to provide critical support to students attending any of the consortium colleges and universities in Worcester.x



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QCC is a Vaccine Champion College

WORCESTER, MA— June 23, 2021—Quinsigamond Community College has joined President Biden's COVID-19 College Vaccination Challenge. Colleges across the country are being asked to commit to taking actions that will engage their college communities and encourage everyone to get vaccinated. Statistics show that a significant portion of the older population have been vaccinated; however, the younger generation is lagging behind. Colleges and universities offer a significant opportunity to reach that younger generation.

"We are committed to keeping our college community, our city, and the Commonwealth safe. The best way to do this is by getting vaccinated," said QCC President Luis G. Pedraja, Ph.D. "This is a challenge I hope all colleges and universities will stand behind so that we can put an end to this global health crisis."

QCC has taken a visible role in COVID-19 community outreach. The College developed a comprehensive, COVID-19 vaccination webpage offering vaccination information through public service videos in multiple languages, along with fact sheets in multiple languages, a link to vaccination locations and a link to the Massachusetts COVID-19 information website.

QCC has already hosted two Moderna Vaccine Clinics on its campus (670 West Boylston, Street, Worcester) for the QCC community, as well as faculty, staff and students from Assumption University, Anna Maria College and Becker College. Approximately 90 people were vaccinated at each clinic.

"Spreading the word about the importance of getting vaccinated has been a priority at QCC. Offering information that is easily accessible, in multiple languages, enables us to reach more in our community," President Pedraja said. "By hosting vaccine clinics, we are providing easier access for our students, their families, as well as QCC employees, which enables more in our community to be vaccinated."

President's Biden's goal is to have 160 million Americans being fully vaccinated by July 4.

For more information about QCC, contact Josh Martin, Director of Institutional Communications at 508.854.7513 or jmartin@qcc.mass.edu

Quinsigamond Community College provides the community with high quality, affordable higher education in Worcester County. As a regional leader in education and workforce development, QCC serves the diverse educational needs of Central Massachusetts by providing affordable, accessible, and high quality programming leading to transfer, career, and life-long learning.



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PET of the WEEK




Meet Haley! This sweet girl is ready to meet her new family. Haley is new to Baypath, so we are still getting to know her. She is extremely playful with toys and loves to walk. While Haley can have dog friends, she is looking to be the only dog in her home. We are not sure how she would be with cats. Haley is happiest when she is with her people. We think she would do best in a home with adults or kids over 13. If you think Haley could be for you, please email adopt@baypathhumane.org today!

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