

Morris Street once again ready to greet yardsalers

SOUTHBRIDGE — Summertime weather has arrived, and that means more people are holding yard sales, including some of us at the top of Morris Street. Because of the Covid-19 Pandemic that struck the country during 2020, we did not hold our annual Multi-Family Yard Sale, so it has been two years since we have seen most of you. You've been missed.

Several of the regulars have decided to hold a yard sale this year. The fun usually begins at 330 Morris St., where Loretta Gendron, her brother, Roger Labonte and his son, Eric, will probably be set up. Then you can stop by and check out what is at 366 Morris St.

The fun continues all the way up the hill onto Brentwood Drive.

Keep your eyes open as you wander around and you may find some on the area's neighbors who live on Maria Avenue and the nearby cul-de-sacs on Bristol Lane, Apollo Drive and Arland Drive may also be set up.

Some of us will have our yards full with family members and friends, waiting patiently to greet you. Some of us will have lots of stuff, some not so much. Either way, there will be plenty of stuff for you to look at and choose from. As the old saying goes, "There will be something for everyone." That usually holds true in our neighborhood. You never know what you will find unless to stop and look. Also, the prices are usually very "reasonable" (pronounced "cheap"). Looking for furniture, books,

clothing, household goods, toys, games, you are likely to find something.

Our neighborhood tour continues at 375 Morris St., where we find the Hwalek clan.

Buddy Hwalek says, "I've been doing this almost every year except for maybe two when I had to work." Scan over his tables and you will find mechanics tools, machinists tools and much more.

Back again at 385 Morris St., are cousins Calle Merchant and Ryan Lockhart. Calle will be offering cold water along with the usual yard sale stuff. Ryan has opted to sell toys and other child related items. Dave Tremblay has reconditioned lawnmowers at low prices. Check them out. Also on hand will be Tracy

Merchant and Tammy Lockhart who can't wait for their old friends to show up.

Hopefully, Becky Hulyk; her mom, Ann Borgerson and friends will be set up next door, at 395 Morris St. They always have cool stuff for sale.

Further up the street, Linda Plouffe says she will have a yard full of family and friends.

While most of us are fully vaccinated at this point in time, please take any safety precautions that you deem necessary, such as, wearing a mask if you choose and practicing social distancing.

Your mission, should you choose to accept, is to enjoy this day of fun by visiting with friends you haven't seen since the last yard sale two years ago. Make sure to arrive early, wear comfortable clothes and walking shoes because you will be covering quite a big distance.

We are all praying for a nice day. I'm pretty sure all of the other people who have planned a yard sale for today are expressing the same prayer.

Just a friendly reminder, because of heavy foot traffic, only one-side parking will be allowed again this year.

The families at the top of Morris Street anxiously await your arrival. See you on Saturday, June 26.

QCC invests in community by eliminating student debt

WORCESTER — Today, Quinsigamond Community College announced it will use more than \$2.5 million of the institutional portion of the Federal Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds it received in May to erase college-held debt for students. The debt relief program is exclusively for those students who were enrolled in credit degree or certificate programming during the start of the pandemic (March 13, 2020) through the end of the current Spring 2021 semester.

"Our goal with this initiative is to remove the financial barrier of institutional debt that keeps many students from completing their education and achieving their goals in life. The under-privileged and under-served in our community were hit hard by the pandemic. These students are often unable to continue their education due to the debt they are carrying. By choosing to invest in our students by removing this barrier, we are investing in our community and strengthening

our workforce," said QCC President Dr. Luis G. Pedraja, Ph.D. "We are leveling the playing field for our students so that they can succeed. This enables our students to realize a better future for themselves and their families, and in doing so, increases our community's economic prosperity."

The College is taking this unprecedented approach to eliminate the number one barrier in students' achieving their goals for a higher education. This program will help put skilled workers into the workforce, assisting companies that are struggling to find qualified employees. The funding will assist 1,687 students, with an average amount of \$1,525 of institutional debt forgiveness per student. Furthermore, this program is helping those affected the most by the COVID-19 pandemic. Students eligible for debt forgiveness through this initiative represent 52 percent students of color, 58 percent are female, and 48 percent are Worcester residents.

"We know education is the greatest equalizer, lifting people out of poverty and making lasting and positive change to our communities and our nation. By eliminating this debt, we are taking an equitable approach to higher education. We find that students with debt are less likely to enroll or stay in college. This eliminates that barrier," President Pedraja said, adding, "As we recover from the pandemic, we want to give our students in need a fresh start to a better life and a way to enter the workforce with the skills and knowledge they need, and our businesses need, in today's new world."

QCC will be notifying students on their debt relief eligibility and is asking that students not reach out to the College directly.

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



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BROOKFIELD: Rani Erickson

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DUDELEY: Dominic Beauchesne, Nathaniel Beauchesne, Nicholas Courtemanche,

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EAST BROOKFIELD: Gavin Yiaski

NORTH BROOKFIELD: Austin Foyle, Austin MacMillan, Owen Ostromecki, Gabriel Roberts, Patrick Ryan, Elijah Thacker

OAKHAM: Nicholas Moulton

OXFORD: Emma Abbascia, Caleb Adams, Dylan Barrette, Cameron Blake, Dani Borci, Samantha Burdett, Ariana Carrier, Leigha Clifford, Christian Consiglio, Nicholas Conway, Matthew Crossman, Hayden Dube, Jordan Emond, Tyler Gillespie, Parken Glispin, Isabella Gonyea, Abigail Graham, Ryan Grampetto, Riley House, Lian Kalil-Johnson, Elin Kaufman, Meghan Kelley, Jodie Kendall, Susanna Krantz, Rhianna Labay, Samantha Labelle, Dimitrios Mironidis, Douglas Poirier, Abby Rock, Ryan Steiner, Brady Thebeau, Jared Torosian, Isabella Varney, Katie Wroblewski

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