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Donald Berthiaume

## Berthiaume maintains focus on COVID recovery

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

REGION - There has been very little time this year for State Rep. Donald Berthiaume to reflect on his accomplishments for constituents. With the Fifth Worcester District facing several significant challenges, Berthiaume is eyeing re-election to help residents and businesses recover.

Berthiaume and residents of his district can see the

light at the end of the tunnel, but they know that much work will be needed to get there. This will require a team effort from local leaders, health professionals, first responders, and the business community.

Since March, Berthiaume has supported a wide range of bills to assist families, municipalities, and small businesses during the pandemic. In addition to backing expanded mail-in voting and other options to allow

Turn To **BERTHIUME**, page **A7**

## Volunteers pitch in at Lucy Stone Park

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

WARREN - A team of local volunteers hasn't let the many adversities of the pandemic get in the way of projects at Lucy Stone Park.

Throughout the fall, masked volunteers have descended on the park to complete an array of projects that prepare the grounds for winter. Under the direction of Tim O'Brien, a longtime resident of West Warren, volunteers have been hard at work on the six acres comprising the park.

The volunteer efforts not only improve the park, but they also honor its namesake - a prominent U.S. orator, abolitionist, and suffragist whose dying words, "Make the world better," have inspired the community for nearly 130 years.

Of course, this year's volunteers haven't been alone, adding to the work of past community service contributors.

"So many others have gotten their hands dirty - and backs tired - while volunteering to transform the bramble-ridden park to a place of beauty, contemplation, family, fishing, peace, and fun," read a statement released by park volunteers. "Many hands make light work, and many hands have worked together to make this corner of the world a better place."

Among the most recent volunteer efforts, a local Boy Scout from West Brookfield built the park's volunteer tool shed as part of his Eagle Scout project.

Turn To **PARK**, page **A3**



Photo Courtesy

Volunteers from throughout the area take part in projects at Warren's Lucy Stone Park.

## Gobi touts commitment to fight against COVID-19

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

REGION - Although the majority of struggles related to COVID-19 have been well-documented, countless residents are grappling with largely unseen challenges. Seeking her fourth term, Sen. Anne Gobi is focused on assisting people in all phases of the recovery effort.

Having served the Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire, and Middlesex District since 2015, Gobi currently chairs the Senate Higher Education Committee and the Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture Committee. Additionally, she co-chairs a number of caucuses, enabling her to strongly advocate for badly needed aid.



Photo Courtesy

Sen. Anne Gobi is seeking re-election next month.

"This term, as Co-Chair of the Rural Caucus, I have successfully fought for increases in unrestricted local aid, Chapter 90 money, and funding for numerous programs, which allows our Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development to administer grants to help struggling communities," Gobi said. "This includes over \$100 million to wrap up the last mile of broadband infrastructure to un-served and under-served communities."

Moreover, Gobi worked with the towns of New Braintree and Petersham, as well as Mass Broadband, to provide a cost-effective solution for their broadband needs.

"Our most rural towns are finally getting connected and more attractive to young families looking to settle in the region," Gobi said.

As Co-Chair of the Regional School Caucus, Gobi has helped secure increases in Chapter 70 money, regional school transportation, and funding that assists students with special needs. She plans to continue fighting to secure state money

Turn To **GObI**, page **A7**

## Senior Center celebrates a socially distanced Oktober Fest

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER - The Senior Center family recently said goodbye to indoor group events for a while, but they look forward to eventually emerging from the pandemic and getting back to normal programming.

The Senior Center's last socially distanced community program took place on Oct. 14, with a celebration of Oktober Fest. With the recent spike in COVID-19 cases throughout the area - combined with the return of flu season - several local seniors have decided to shelter at their homes for the winter.

Although Senior Center staff members won't be able

to see many seniors in person for the foreseeable future, they have plans in place to make sure seniors stay connected and receive assistance.

"As we approach the cold season, it has been very difficult for senior centers and seniors to face more isolation than what they already have had to deal with," said Leicester Senior Center Director Rachelle Cloutier.

Local senior centers have adopted several measures to ensure that conditions are safe for limited programs and services. Among other measures, all guests have

Turn To **SENIOR**, page **A7**



Photo Courtesy

Leicester seniors enjoy socially distanced autumn activities at the Senior Center.

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Find the ABC's Fall Scramble inside this issue.

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# North Brookfield Savings Bank announces promotions

NORTH BROOKFIELD — North Brookfield Savings Bank is proud to announce the recent promotion of Bank employees, Meagan Brousseau, Joseph Ribeiro, Jessica Shimansky, Hayley Sprague, and Kyle Leonard, who have continuously displayed their commitment to the customers, communities, and the overall success of the Bank.

"We are so happy to announce these well-deserved promotions and to have Meagan, Joseph, Jessica, Hayley, and Kyle, as a part of the North Brookfield Savings Bank team," said North Brookfield Savings Bank President and CEO Donna Boulanger. "I know that as they continue to grow within the Bank their support and commitment to our communities and values shall continue as well."

Meagan Brousseau, of East Brookfield, has been promoted to Branch Manager and will be based out of the Bank's West Brookfield Branch location at 128 West Main Street. She previously held the role of Assistant Branch Manager with the Bank.

In her new role, Brousseau will be responsible for managing the day to day operations of the branch, overseeing the teller line, scheduling, account openings, and inputting loan applications. She has worked in banking for more than 19 years and brings a wealth of knowledge and dedication to customer service into her new position. Brousseau enjoys volunteering at many community events such as, are the Asparagus Festival in West Brookfield, the Apple Country Fair in Brookfield, and the East Brookfield Fire Department Meat Raffle.

"I am excited to continue building relationships with the wonderful customers that come to the West Brookfield branch," said North Brookfield Savings Bank Branch Manager Meagan Brousseau, "I look forward to being able to continue to provide the best customer service possible for our customers and to continue to offer support to the local communities."

Joseph Ribeiro, of Ludlow, has been promoted to the role of Assistant Branch Manager, IRA Specialist & Bank Security Officer. He will be primarily based out of the Bank's North Brookfield branch at 9 Gilbert St. He previously held the role of Supervisor, IRA Specialist & Bank Security Officer. Where his responsibilities included overseeing all of the Bank's IRA accounts and any transactions processed through them, as well as opening and closing the branch, overseeing tellers and their work, and serving with customers on a day to day basis.

In his new role, Ribeiro will be responsible for all of his previous duties as well as processing account openings and assisting Branch Management. Ribeiro

holds a Fundamentals of Banking Certificate from the New England College of Business and has extensive experience in customer-facing positions that included the handling and processing of monetary transactions in addition to his 3 years with the Bank.

"The biggest thing I am looking forward to is the experience and knowledge I will gain from my new responsibilities. The knowledge and experience will help me grow in my current position as well as any other positions I pursue," said North Brookfield Savings Bank Assistant Branch Manager Joseph Ribeiro, "My main goals for this new position are to work toward becoming a Branch Manager, as well as, continuing to expand my knowledge regarding my IRA Specialist and Bank Security Officer roles."

Jessica Shimansky, of Brookfield, has been promoted to the role of Assistant Branch Manager. She will primarily be based out of the Bank's East Brookfield Branch at 100 West Main Street. She previously held the role of Supervisor where she was responsible for resetting online banking, customer check ordering, opening accounts, and opening or closing the branch.

In her new role, Shimansky will continue to be responsible for all of her previous duties as well as, assisting customers with any issues in banking, managing the branches daily needs, opening consumer and business accounts, reviewing business account folders for proper documentation, loan applications, and producing instant issue debit cards. Shimansky has over a decade of strong experience in customer service and administration in addition to her five years with the Bank.

"I am looking forward to continuing to grow and increase my knowledge of the banking field," said Shimansky, "As I do, I hope to take on more loans that come into the branch and be able to better serve our customers. I am also eager to volunteer more in the community when we are able to do so again."

Hayley Sprague, of Three Rivers, has been promoted to the role of Loan Servicing Representative. She previously held the role of Supervisor where she was responsible for ensuring excellent customer service with all transactions and working with customers to resolve any issues that may have come up in their banking experiences. She was also responsible in conjunction with the branch manager, for daily ATM and Vault balancing, cash ordering, and taking on consumer loans.

In her new role, Sprague will be responsible for the servicing loans in both filing hard copies and maintaining the files electronically, as well as, providing excellent customer service and embodying NBSB's core values.

Sprague holds a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Education from UMASS Amherst.

"I am excited to learn how everything works behind the scenes in the back office after being on the teller lines for the last year and a half as well as gaining a better understanding on the workings of servicing loans," said Sprague. "My new goals for this position are to learn as much as possible through trainings and my loan team members while providing excellent customer service for our customers."

Kyle Leonard, of Spencer, has been promoted to the role of Assistant IT Manager. He previously held the role of IT Security Analyst I where he was responsible for Administering user access changes, security controls, configurations and providing user assistance with any login or password issue. As well as, reviewing daily security reports and findings and providing appropriate documentation on any reported issues or configuration changes.

In his new role, Leonard will be responsible for vulnerability and risk management, vendor management, quarterly access reviews, security awareness training, in addition to all of previous responsibilities. Leonard is currently pursuing a Bachelor's in Information technology with a focus in IT Management and is expecting to graduate in December 2021. He has 5 years of previous experience in IT security and support with the U.S. Army and BJ's Wholesale Club.

"I am looking forward to the new challenges and opportunities I am able to take on, looking for any way I can increase my current responsibilities to better help the IT department and the Bank as a whole," said Leonard. "A continuous goal for myself is to continue to adapt to the constant changes the IT field brings and allow myself to be an channel for those outside the department to help them understand a problem that may require IT's involvement. Another goal of mine is to become an educator of IT. I hope to provide great information in easy terms of understanding that non-IT members comprehend so they can learn from IT issues and help to prevent any issues in the future by being prepared."



## ACCURACY WATCH

The Spencer New Leader is committed to accuracy in all its news reports. Although numerous safeguards are in place to ensure accurate reporting, mistakes can occur.

Confirmed fact errors will be corrected at the top right hand corner of page 3 in a timely manner.

If you find a mistake, call (508) 909-4106 or email [news@stonebridgepress.com](mailto:news@stonebridgepress.com). News during normal business hours. During non-business hours, leave a message in the editor's voice mailbox. The editor will return your phone call or email.

## PARK

continued from page A1

ect. Another Eagle Scout project two years ago saw the construction of a short riverside trail from the parking lot.

The park has also benefited from the efforts of North Brookfield missionaries serving two-year missions for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The missionaries helped prepare the park for the wintertime by adding metal edging sections around new plantings of native vegetation, among other projects.

Two of the missionaries, Elder Reed, of Vancouver, Wash., and Elder Stephens, of Bremerton, Utah, were thrilled to travel across the country to central Massachusetts for service projects at Lucy Stone Park. The volunteer opportunities were especially meaningful during the pandemic, which has caused countless residents to struggle with isolation and limited community gatherings.

"It is wonderful to be able to serve in this beautiful place, working together with other members of the community," Elder Reed said.

Added Elder Stephens, "We are grateful for the opportunity to get our hands dirty and put smiles on our faces."

Additionally, local volunteers spent multiple Saturdays in October planting daffodil bulbs that will blossom in the spring. The bulbs were provided by the Warren Conservation Commission, as well as local donors.

PLACE MOTORS IS PROUD TO SPONSOR

# Friday's Child



**Hi! My name is Isabella and I want to be a part of a family that takes trips together!**

Isabella is a sweet, caring, and bubbly teenage girl who loves animals. She is a great conversationalist and enjoys speaking to and learning about new people. Isabella is always open to trying new activities and is a talented artist. She also likes to play soccer and is currently taking a cooking class once a week after school. Isabella's greatest wish is to have a family of her own where she can have a pet.

Isabella likes going to school and she reports that she has many friends this year that she enjoys spending time with. Her favorite class is chorus

and she does well in school with extra supports.

Isabella really wants to be a part of a family and loves participating in all kinds of family gatherings. Isabella will do best in a patient family that can give her a lot of individualized attention. Her social worker is open to exploring families that consist of a single mother, two mothers, or a mother and a father. She will do best as an only child or with an older sister in the home. Isabella is legally freed for adoption.

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The process to adopt a child from foster care requires training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you, and if so, to help connect you with a child or sibling group that your family will be a good match for.

To learn more about adoption from foster care, call the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) at 617-6273 or visit [www.mareinc.org](http://www.mareinc.org). The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have a permanent place to call home.

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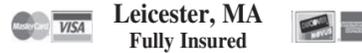
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# Haston Library announces November program

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

**NORTH BROOKFIELD** – Although patrons aren't able to enjoy the normal schedule of programs at Haston Free Public Library, they're still engaging and learning through several experiences this fall.

The November selection for the library's book group is "Still Life" by Louise Penny. The book centers around Quebec-based Chief Inspector Armand Gamache, whose team is tasked with investigating a suspicious death in a

rural village south of Montreal. Jane Neal, a local fixture in the tiny hamlet of Three Pines, just north of the U.S. border, has been found dead in the woods. The locals are certain it's a tragic hunting accident and nothing more, but Gamache suspects foul play.

Copies of the book will be made available at the library after Oct. 26. For more information about the book group, call the library at 508-867-0208.

Officials were also pleased to announce that Haston Public Library has received a donation of children's books and

young adult books that focus on the experience and struggles of Black people.

After seeing a list of children's books and young adult books that have been written to help combat prejudice and racism, North Brookfield's Eunice Jones donated the books to the library to help spread awareness and education.

"Some of the books are recent publications, but others were written more than a decade ago," read a library statement. "Some of the books were already a part of our collection, but most were not. All children will relate to the stories and learn more about what it's like to be Black. The books for younger children feature beautiful illustrations. Thanks to Eunice's generous gift, the library has ordered and cata-

logued the books on the list, as well as other books by Black authors, twenty in all."

A display of the books is located in the children's library on the second floor.

The library is also excited to announce that the first phase of exterior repairs is underway, with roofing work and other projects. The second phase will be conducted by members of Raymond James Restoration, who will replace a tower window, repoint mortar joints of stonework, and install sealant at the capstone joints of both the original building and the addition.

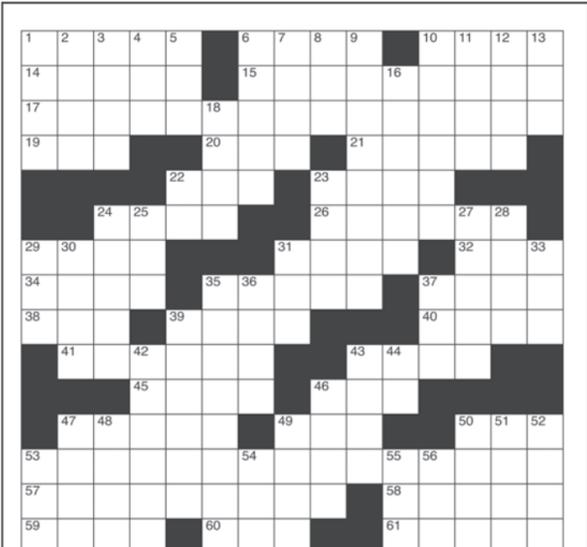
"We are excited that this project is underway at last," read a statement issued by the library.

Library officials are also bringing attention to the

many efforts that have been made throughout the pandemic to keep readers engaged. Among other initiatives, CW MARS made adjustments to the Evergreen catalog to help libraries and patrons feel safe about borrowing and lending materials. Additionally, many libraries canceled fines (Haston Public Library is giving borrowers fine amnesty).

"Even after holds were reinstated, CW MARS kept libraries up-to-date with information on which libraries were still closed or otherwise unable to fill patron requests. We are all slowly returning to normal library service," read the library statement.

For more information about library services, call 508-867-0208.



**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Battered corners: dog-\_\_
- 6. \_\_ Mater: one's school
- 10. National capital
- 14. Frogs and toads order
- 15. Bathrooms (French)
- 17. Praise
- 19. Witch
- 20. Consume
- 21. Pork and lamb are two types
- 22. Rocky peak
- 23. Women's undergarments
- 24. From end to end
- 26. Bed sheets
- 29. South Sudanese king
- 31. Dislike immensely
- 32. Diving seabird
- 34. Breathe noisily
- 35. Full of roots
- 37. Inside
- 38. Small island in a river
- 39. Tear into pieces
- 40. "CSI" actor George
- 41. Make less dense
- 43. Derogatory term for a country native
- 45. Pike and pickerel genus
- 46. Important in respiration and other biochemical reactions (abbr.)
- 47. Belgian city
- 49. "The Joy Luck Club" author
- 50. Essence of "Aloha"
- 53. Suggestions
- 57. One who overindulges
- 58. Expression
- 59. Maize dough
- 60. Make into leather
- 61. British noblemen

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. One of two or more people or things
- 2. Small, deerlike water buffalo
- 3. Part of a ladder
- 4. Unit of work
- 5. Patriotic women
- 6. Fragrant essential oil
- 7. Aggressive, uncouth man
- 8. One thousandth of an inch
- 9. Brisk and cheerful readiness
- 10. Serving no practical purpose
- 11. Prevent from going forward
- 12. Camera part
- 13. Former CIA
- 16. Colorless, odorless gas
- 18. Long division of time
- 22. Atomic #73
- 23. Make a bleating sound
- 24. The kids love him
- 25. Female condition prior to menstrual period
- 27. Founder of Sikhism
- 28. Sudanese swamp
- 29. Can help with you finances
- 30. Part of the human body
- 31. Mortar trough
- 33. Greek island
- 35. Change pagination
- 36. Queens hip hop group
- 37. Precursor to the EU
- 39. A way to go on
- 42. Slender marine fish
- 43. Georgetown's mascot
- 44. Farm state
- 46. Military leader (abbr.)
- 47. Russian river
- 48. Teams' best pitchers
- 49. In a more positive way
- 50. Long French river
- 51. Reactive structures in organic chemistry
- 52. Distinctive practices
- 53. Male gypsy
- 54. When you hope to get there
- 55. Men's fashion accessory
- 56. Journalist Tarbell

## Spencer Toys for Kids donations as of Oct. 26

- Crestview Farm \$150.00
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- Spencer Agricultural Association \$100.00
- Law Office of Michelle Murray \$100.00
- E.M. Thibault Excavation \$200.00
- Sandra & Wallace Kittredge \$100.00
- Monetary Donations may be

sent to: Spencer Toys for Kids, P.O. Box 186, Spencer, MA 01562. New, unwrapped toys can be dropped off at: Spencer Fire Dept, Spencer Post Office, Cornerstone Bank (Spencer office), ERA Key Realty Services (415B Main St). If you would like to sponsor a child please contact Katie at [katrinah@erakey.com](mailto:katrinah@erakey.com) or call/text 508-419-3659 OR Donna at

[donnaflannery@erakey.com](mailto:donnaflannery@erakey.com) or call 508-885-6336. If you are in need of assistance, applications can be picked up at: Spencer Post Office, Mary Queen of the Rosary Food Pantry or ERA Key Realty Services (outside mailbox). You can see updates on Facebook at Spencer Toys for Kids.

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**JOEL HART, Leicester, MA**

I would like to nominate Joel Hart of Leicester MA. Joel spent many hours of his own time researching information about the proposed school project. It was because of his detailed information we were able to make an informed decision.

– Nominated by Margaret Darling

If you would like to nominate a

PERSON OF THE WEEK, please email your suggestion to [jsima@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:jsima@stonebridgepress.news). Thank you.

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\$425,000, 118 Town Farm Rd, Oxman, Brian D, and Oxman, Sarah J, to Driscoll, Daniel F, and Howe, Samantha A.

\$65,000, 112 Fiskdale Rd, Powers, N Douglas, to Gaudette, Lisa D, and Mann, Danyelle M.

\$65,000, 114 Fiskdale Rd, Powers, N Douglas, to Gaudette, Lisa D, and Mann, Danyelle M.

**EAST BROOKFIELD**

\$175,000, 106 Drake Ln, Townsend, John M, and Townsend, Lourdes S, to Rueli, Dominick.

**LEICESTER**

\$392,000, 11 Denny Pl, Ficarra, Matthew, to Morales, Ibsan H.

\$392,000, 7 Denny Pl, Ficarra, Matthew, to Morales, Ibsan H.

\$392,000, 9 Denny Pl, Ficarra, Matthew, to Morales, Ibsan H.

\$327,000, 51 Willow Hill Rd, Alves, Flavio A, to Abbascia, Joseph D, and Velez, Jessica L.

\$270,000, 6 Maple St, Papadopoulos, Olga, to Renzoni, Jennifer.

\$216,000, 42 Mayflower Rd, Richard, Paul, and Richard, Susan C, to Hart, Melissa.

\$165,000, 171 River St, Shannon David Post 205 Am, to Sipitca, Nicolae, and Sipitca, Grazyna.

\$44,000, 2-4 Dale Ct, Ukleja, Monica T, to Eskay Builders LLC.

**NORTH BROOKFIELD**

\$270,000, 192 N Main St, 007 Ltd, to CCS Realty LLC.

\$232,000, 47 Walnut St, Driscoll, Daniel F, and Colby, Ryan, to Colby, Ryan.

\$212,500, 27 Prospect St, Westbrook Prop Mgmt LLC, to Ake, Byron T.

\$180,000, 206 N Main St, 007

Ltd, to CCS Realty LLC.

\$168,000, 2 Birch Hill Rd, Korzec, Charlene M, to Beland, Matthew.

\$21,000, 8 Union St, Forte Howard D Est, and Varnum, Robert, to Mort, Gary.

**SPENCER**

\$365,000, 12 Blueberry Hill Dr, Chamberland, Ryan R, and Chamberland, Stephanie L, to Odgren, Jonathan, and Odgren, Victoria.

\$335,000, 32 Donnelly Cross Rd, 32 Donnelly Cross Road RT, and Vinyard, Bernadette E, to Nguyen, Thl L, and Moreau, James R.

\$330,000, 9 Marble Rd, Prizio, Pamela S, to Toms, Brian P, and Buckley, Mckenzie.

\$320,000, 21 Cherry St, Vieira, Adam, and Alvarenga, Viviane, to Deluca, Jennifer, and Leblanc, Cassandra.

\$300,000, 52 Hastings Rd, Beauregard, Jeannine M, and Butler, Michael, to McCabe, Timothy, and McCabe, Adrianna M.

\$270,000, 5 Smithville Rd, Hunt, Leah J, and Hunt, Gregory, to Dube, Darren S.

\$268,000, 7 Bemis St, Allaire Wilfred G 3rd Est, and Roberts, Heather, to Marquez, Rubin.

\$260,000, 26 Paxton Rd, Damato Dennis G Est, and Damato, Donald E, to Damato, Anthony A.

\$214,458, 10 Linden St, New Worcester RE LLC, to 10 Linden St RE LLC.

\$200,000, 81 S Spencer Rd, Blanchard, Paula C, to Sepuka, Jared T.

\$178,871, 47 Irving St, FNMA, to JNW Realty LLC.

\$55,542, 2 Linden St, Cornerstone Bank, to 10 Linden St RE LLC.

\$130,000, 82 East St, Coltey, Ronald G, and Coltey, Marilyn, to Harvey, Karen.

\$154,200, 154 Cutler Rd, Brozo, Nancy J, to Smallidge, Ras L, and Peltier, Alicia J.

\$130,000, 27 Prospect St, Westbrook Prop Mgmt LLC, to Ake, Byron T.

\$180,000, 206 N Main St, 007

\$270,000, 499 Cutler Road Ext, Gallagher, Michael S, to Kent, Jered.

\$220,000, 49 Carl St, Carlson, Ben J, and Carlson, Angelique B, to Decelle, Amanda M.

\$217,000, 20 Comins Pond Rd, Begue, Beatriz E, to Galat, Jennifer M.

\$154,200, 154 Cutler Rd, Brozo, Nancy J, to Smallidge, Ras L, and Peltier, Alicia J.

\$130,000, 82 East St, Coltey, Ronald G, and Coltey, Marilyn, to Harvey, Karen.

\$535,000, 1 E Main St, Aspinall, Douglas R, and Aspinall, Denise A, to AQIB Realty LLC.

\$371,000, 58 Pierce Rd, Dahler, John, to Hamm, Jane, and Ronderos, Clara.

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**MANAGING EDITOR**  
BRENDAN BERUBE  
(508) 909-4106  
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**STAFF WRITER**  
KEVIN FLANDERS  
(508) 909-4140  
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**SPORTS EDITOR**  
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**BUSINESS MANAGER**  
RYAN CORNEAU  
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BRENDAN BERUBE  
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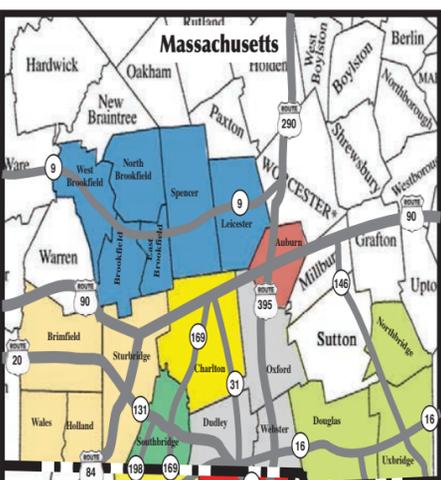
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This section reaches 47,000 households in 7 Massachusetts newspapers.

# Spencer selectmen approve trick-or-treating

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – Selectmen voted last week to hold trick-or-treating for one hour on Halloween, with strict safety measures in place.

Trick-or-treating will take place on Saturday, Oct. 31, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. After a lengthy discussion at the Oct. 19 Select Board meeting, selectmen voted 4-1 to hold trick-or-treating for a one-hour window.

The following guidelines are in place for all door-to-door trick-or-treaters:

Remain six feet apart from anyone not in your household.

Make sure your costume includes a cloth mask that covers your nose and mouth.

Carry hand sanitizer and wash your hands before eating any candies.

Do not participate if you are feeling unwell or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19.

For selectmen, the deliberation over

whether to proceed with trick-or-treating was a challenging process. The recent spike in COVID-19 cases regionally and statewide prompted Leicester, Worcester, and Auburn officials to cancel trick-or-treating.

“A lot of the towns around us are either yellow or red [on the state’s COVID-19 community risk map], and I am afraid of people coming in from other towns where trick-or-treating has been canceled,” said Selectman Gary Woodbury, who voted against holding trick-or-treating this year. “How can you keep everybody safe? We can’t expect the police to be out there checking whether every person is wearing a mask and social distancing. There are just too many risks.”

Spencer officials are urging families to follow all guidelines and not exceed the hour-long session. Also, trick-or-treaters are reminded to keep off properties that are darkened and avoid gathering in groups. Parents and guardians are asked to accompany their children at all times

this year to ensure social distancing, rather than allow them to go trick-or-treating in unmonitored groups of friends.

“If people take personal responsibility and follow the health protocols, we can minimize the risks,” said Selectman Anthony Pepe.

All residents who choose to hand out treats must also wear a mask. Additionally, rather than open the door for trick-or-treaters, please consider leaving individually wrapped goodie bags for families to grab and go. These can be left at the end of your porch, walkway, or driveway to help minimize face-to-face contact.

Moreover, please wash your hands before preparing treat bags. If you don’t wish to participate in the trick-or-treating process this year, simply leave your home dark.

In addition to trick-or-treating, Halloween parties are yet another concern for officials.

“Gatherings at private residences are

limited to 25 people indoors and 50 people outdoors,” read a statement released by selectmen and the Town Administrator’s office. “For indoor/outdoor gatherings of more than 10 people where participants are from different households, all persons over the age of five years must wear a face covering unless they have a medical condition.”

No restrictions are in place preventing trick-or-treaters from surrounding towns from taking part in the Spencer event. Some officials are concerned that this could cause problems with social distancing and traffic management, but it was determined that enforcement of restrictions would be too challenging for the one-hour period.

Spencer’s annual Halloween party at Town Hall was previously canceled.

For more information about trick-or-treating safety protocols, visit [www.spencerma.gov](http://www.spencerma.gov).

## The Write Stuff

SINCE 2001

All Ages Welcome! Open topics.

Please share your creative writing and thoughts with us!

(Limit 300 words)

Welcome to the 19th season of The Write Stuff! I’d like to invite teachers and students, including remote learners, tweens and teens, adults and grandparents to share your thoughts, funny antidotes, poems, short stories and essays. Limit 300 words.

For those of you who prefer suggested topics, here are a few for November

1. Tell us what you’re most thankful for.
2. How is the pandemic affecting how you celebrate the holidays?
3. If you could share your Thanksgiving table with anyone deceased or alive, who would it be and why?
4. Share childhood memories of Thanksgiving.

The Next Write Stuff will be published on Nov. 27th. Please email your submission to [jsima@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:jsima@stonebridgepress.news) by Nov. 18. If sending by mail, please send by Nov. 14 to The Write Stuff, P. O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550.

### Slow and Steady

BY PHILIP LEBEL, BROOKFIELD, MA

Slow and steady you’ll win your race  
Slow and steady you’ll meet your goal  
Slow and steady you’ll find your peace

### TWO HOMES

BY SUE ANGELA HEALY, NORTH BROOKFIELD, MA

As I walk the streets of North Brookfield on a foggy Saturday morn

Missing my days in Worcester where I still every day long

Heading up a hill I can barely see whatever may be in front of me

I’ve seen raccoons, turkeys, and not your everyday bear

Sometimes alone I still live in fear

It’s silence – loneliness – not a soul around

But jewels of the day I have already found

A few steps forward – a stand – a sign saying produce free

For anyone and all it can surely be

Slowly in front the streetlights start shutting down

An eerie stillness not even a sound

Hannaford at 7:00 will soon open its doors

As the community heads out to start their chores

Orange seashells now painted – they were originally white

Gazing up at the Town Hall a magic site

Town benches sit empty – there stands a Christmas tree

During the holiday season the joy it brings to me

One by one – cars – trucks – vans start passing by

As one single seagull soars toward the sky

Leaves changing colors – orange – yellow – red

As memories of yesteryears start you can begin to feel the crispness of fall

A pool still uncovered – toys – chairs and a striped beach ball

Behind a shrub a statue – a girl covering her face

Another a tall lifeless soldier standing in place

Yard signs for politicians – Black Lives Matter and Defund Our Police

It’s important for those individuals their feelings release

Algoos open for your first coffee of the day

A young girl hurrying along – going on her way

In front of me I see a pair of broken glasses lying on the ground

Recalling 911 a pair without even a scratch was somehow found

Statz serving breakfast – the Post Office still closed

Remembering time spent on Shrewsbury Street which now seems so old

The beauty quaintness of North Brookfield touches my heart

But my true home is Worcester

In which I can never let part.

~~~~~

### Now You Can Cry

BY SUE ANGELA HEALY, NORTH BROOKFIELD, MA

When I see a homeless person – I want to cry

When someone has Alzheimer’s – I want to cry

When someone is disfigured – I want to cry

When a loved one is in a nursing home – I want to cry

When a child is ill – I want to cry

When someone is in a wheelchair – I want to cry

When someone has a hearing aid – I want to cry

When someone walks with a cane – I want to cry

When someone has no food – I want to cry

When someone has a walker – I want to cry

When someone has no money – I want to cry

When someone has no money – I want to cry

When someone is in the hospital – I want to cry

When someone is wearing a cast – I want to cry

When someone has on old-worn dirty clothes – I want to cry

When someone can’t pay their bills – I want to cry

When someone is blind – I want to cry

When someone has Down’s Syndrome - I want to cry

When someone can’t speak – I want to cry

When someone doesn’t speak/understand English – I want to cry

When the elderly and very young are forced to work - I want to cry

When someone has MS – MD – Parkinson’s – Lou Gehrig’s disease - I want to cry

When someone has COVID-19 - I want to cry

When someone has scars on their face - I want to cry

When someone has measles or mumps - I want to cry

When someone has lost an arm or leg - I want

to cry

When Vets come home from war - I want to cry

When someone is overweight - I want to cry

When someone is too thin - I want to cry

When someone needs oxygen - I want to cry

When someone is on a ventilator - I want to cry

When someone smokes or does drugs - I want to cry

When someone has passed on - I want to cry

When I see someone who has depression - I want to cry

And if interested to you, do you want to know why?

Because we don’t know how they’re feeling inside

The emptiness – loneliness – they just want to die

It’s a mental illness that people try to hide

Some days at their lowest – other days so high

There are times you feel like talking – this you can’t deny

And other times say leave me alone – I want to say goodbye

So if you look into someone’s sad motionless eye

They’re suffering from depression – “now you can cry.”

~~~~~

### Reflections

BY RICHARD TRAU SCHKE

I stood by the now quiet mill;  
and wondered at its demise;  
wheel and pond, now ever still  
is an image that pleases the eye.

The pond now sprouts watercress  
amid stillness in sun and shade;  
showing nature at its very best,  
within autumn’s leafy glade.

Reflections in that tranquil place  
doubles the brilliant scene;  
multiplying the Autumnal lease,  
as each color shows you, twice.

~~~~~

### Autumn Palette

BY RICHARD TRAU SCHKE

The Autumn trees are turning mellow;  
what does nature have in store?  
The Birches are already nearly yellow;  
leaves are carpeting the forest floor.

It’s October, we look up to the sky;  
now azure, crisp, breezy and bright;  
leaves of color swirl up on high  
then restlessly settle down to alight.

The Beeches’ mustard yellow hue,  
while the Oaks are turning a rusty brown,  
Sumac is showing its red-feathers now,  
like Indians crouching, hunkering down.

Maples resembling red fire in the light  
dazzles your eyes as you marvel the scene;  
you catch your breath with the color bright;  
This autumn may be the best ever seen.

~~~~~

### You Are

BY SHER MORSE,  
SPENCER, MA

You are  
the light  
in my darkness.  
You are  
the wind  
in my sails.  
You are  
the water  
to quench  
my thirst.  
You are  
the air

that gives  
me life.  
You are  
the road  
that I follow.  
Quite simply,  
you are  
my everything –  
Today,  
Tomorrow  
and always.  
I love you.

~~~~~

### SLUMBER

BY SHER MORSE,  
SPENCER, MA

As I watch  
you sleeping,  
I see  
peace and content-  
ment  
upon your face.  
No worries  
or pain that  
you valiantly  
cope with  
during the day.  
In your slumber

there are  
no problems.  
It is a respite  
from life.  
I so wish  
your peacefulness  
were all the time,  
but alas,  
it only occurs  
when you sleep.  
Therefore, I will  
not awaken you  
from your rest,  
rather, I will  
happily watch you  
slumber.

Happy Fall to all students, teachers and families facing the challenges of learning, educating, and parenting during this unique time.  
*Stay focused, stay strong, and stay healthy!*



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**GOBI**  
continued from page A1

for rural schools with declining enrollments. Also, as the Chair of the Food System Caucus, Gobi has advocated for increased funding for school meals programs and the Healthy Incentives Program, which allows access to nutritious foods for people who receive SNAP benefits.

Gobi also chaired the Crumbling Foundations Commission, helping to secure critical assistance for affected homeowners.

Despite the significant gains Gobi was able to make for her district this year, the suffering caused by COVID-19 has overshadowed the accomplishments of all legislators in 2020. Gobi and her colleagues have seen the widespread hardships every day, with desperate residents and business owners calling their offices in search of help.

Looking ahead, Gobi knows the urgency that is needed to help save lives and careers.

“COVID-19 has affected lives and livelihoods. We will be feeling the effects of this pandemic for years to come,” Gobi said. “Our state revenue continues to decline, as we are facing some of the highest unemployment numbers we have seen in decades.”

Added Gobi, “The coronavirus has brought with it a great deal of mental distress caused by isolation, food insecurity, housing insecurity, and the anxiety that comes with them. I am proud to have advocated for additional

funding for behavioral and mental health services. We have seen an uptick in depression, suicide, and substance use during this crisis, and our law enforcement officers have had to deal with much of that. They need our support now as much as ever. I continue to stand with them and appreciate the endorsement of the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association.”

Another major concern during the pandemic is unreported child abuse, Gobi said. She and other legislators are worried about kids and families who are suffering in silence. The state-wide shutdown this past spring caused many vital services and personnel to be suspended or reduced, which has led to major problems.

“Reports of child abuse and neglect have decreased over 50 percent during COVID-19, not because abuse has stopped but because of this pandemic. There are thousands of children who have not been in front of a mandated reporter in seven months,” Gobi said. “Now, more than ever, we need to support our teachers and the staffs of our schools, and be sure they have access to much needed behavioral health services and the capacity to assist their most vulnerable students.”

Gobi has also seen the devastation of the virus in the western part of the state. At the Holyoke Soldiers’ Home, 76 veterans lost their lives during the early part of the pandemic. Several probes and reports have indicated that the COVID-19 outbreak at the

facility was caused by major failures in policies and decisions at the leadership level.

Looking ahead, Gobi is committed to getting answers for veterans and their families on what went wrong in Holyoke – and how to better serve our aging veterans’ healthcare needs.

“This pandemic has shown the gaps in our healthcare system and ability to react quickly to crisis,” Gobi said. “As a member of the Special Oversight Committee to investigate the Soldiers’ Home, I will work in the coming days and months to make sure those deaths were not in vain and that every veteran receives the highest level of care possible.”

Gobi has also honed a comprehensive strategy to help the region recover from the pandemic and ensure long-term sustainability. Students, educators, manufacturers, small businesses, and local farmers will form the linchpin of Gobi’s plan.

“In order to move forward, we must make sure our local economy can thrive,” Gobi said. “Our manufacturers need a well-trained workforce, and making sure our vocational schools and community colleges have the resources they need in order to train and retrain workers is a necessity. Our public schools also play an important role to make sure the next generation of students have the skills needed to be viable in a changing economy, and our farmers need continued assistance such as the dairy tax credit that I have been proud to support.”

**SENIOR**  
continued from page A1

been questioned about possible symptoms by the Senior Center’s Nurse Nancy Lamb.

At the Oct. 14 event, guests were treated to a sandwich, chips, and pickles from Subway. Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis, Donna Ostiguy, and others from the Worcester Sheriff’s office brought gift bags of goodies and desserts for seniors. Town Administrator David Genereux and Assistant Town Administrator Kristen Forsberg also attended the event.

Others in attendance included Council on Aging Board members Marilyn Hyland, Ruth Dowgiewicz, Barbara Paszuk, and Pat Faron.

Looking ahead, the Senior Center will launch additional projects to help protect seniors and staff.

“We just received approval from our Town Administrator to install counter guards in our large room,” Cloutier said. “This will provide anti-virus shields for our seniors. It is our hope that with the installation of these, along with making certain that masks and all proper steps are taken – including no-contact forehead digital thermometers – we may

be able to serve meals and play bingo with a limited attendance.”

Senior Center leaders thank town officials for their continued assistance.

“We are very fortunate here in Leicester to have the support of our administration in our efforts to assist our seniors,” Cloutier said.

Although the Senior Center won’t be able to have normal programming for a while, an array of specialized services are still being offered. Seniors are able to stop in and obtain food that is delivered by Bill Moore, of Project New Hope, who visits every Wednesday and Friday. Seniors may enter the building and select foods after they have their temperatures taken.

The Senior Center is also continuing its outdoor exercise programs with Heidi Gambaccini, as well as the Mealson Wheels program with new Nutrition Site Manager Karen Chiaravallotti.

“With the installation of the acrylic guards, which will allow for up to six people to sit at one table, we are hoping to eventually be back to normal,” Cloutier said.

The Senior Center staff is also looking forward to eventually resuming the Leicester Senior Citizens Group, which takes part in such activities as golf, bowling, and trips. The group hasn’t met since March, but Senior Center officials have worked hard to keep them connected.

“I decided to send them our monthly newsletter at no cost,” Cloutier said. “It is my sincere prayer that this devastating virus will soon be done, and the hundreds of seniors who come here can return to us.”

**BERTHUME**  
continued from page A1

residents to safely exercise their right to vote, Berthiaume also supported the Restaurant Relief Act, which would cap third-party delivery fees and give businesses additional time to submit their meals tax payments without being subject to penalties or interest.

“I think the main goal that everyone has in mind as we begin to emerge from the COVID pandemic is safety. We are getting an enormous amount of informa-

tion on a weekly basis to help our state government make decisions that will not only keep our citizens safe, but allow our economy to get back to the incredible numbers we were seeing before the pandemic,” Berthiaume said. “As everyone is aware, there are many companies involved in the process of creating a vaccine, and those vaccines will be headed to consumers soon.”

As the district emerges from the crisis, Berthiaume will ensure that challenges for children and families aren’t overlooked. This past session, he helped pass

a foster parent bill of rights that will have a major impact moving forward.

“Over the past few years, many of my colleagues and I have met with numerous dedicated foster parents to hear their concerns regarding their treatment from the state. We were able to pass a bipartisan bill recognizing that foster parents are the backbone of the Department of Children and Families, and promises better communication from all stakeholders involved,” Berthiaume said.

The Spencer legislator also cast votes on several major pieces of legislation

that were signed into law this session, including Nicky’s Law, which established a statewide “do not hire” registry to track caregivers who abuse clients with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Berthiaume was also appointed to two special committees this session that mean a lot to him personally. He will serve on the special oversight committee tasked with studying the COVID-19 outbreak and deaths of 76 veterans at the Holyoke Soldiers’ Home. The com-

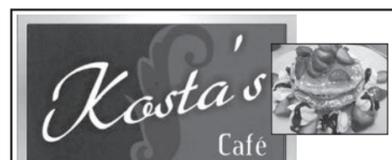
Turn to **BERTHUME** page **A15**

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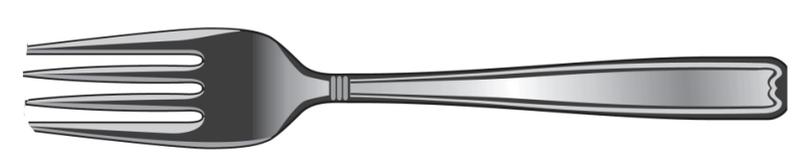
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EDITOR

**EDITORIAL**

*Your voice,  
and your  
vote, matter*

We have heard a good deal of buzz from younger voters recently regarding the upcoming election, and the overwhelming consensus among them is a sense that their votes do not count. While there are exceptions to this rule, we feel it is important to stress to our younger counterparts how important it is to pay attention and to head to the ballot box.

The youth voice is important, whether you are a Republican, Democrat, Independent, Libertarian, or something in between. Important issues in every election directly relate to concerns students and young professionals have, which is even more reason to arm yourself with knowledge. Truth be told, younger voters are needed now more than ever. Issues that concern students are college tuition reform, healthcare and federal job programs to name a few. You may not care now, but you may care a few years from now when choices politicians make, begin to affect your life, and they will.

Young voters make up almost 50 percent of the voting population, giving you a stronger voice than you think, making your votes collectively more influential across the board. An interesting bit of trivia is that youth votes declined by 2 percent from a record of 52 percent in 2008. In 2016, 19 percent of those ages 18-29 voted in the presidential election. Those ages 45-64, however, made up for 49 percent of the vote.

You may not think your vote matters, but the fact is that every vote counts. The climate of the country appears to be so divided that the youth vote matters now more than ever. Oftentimes, politicians will win by a small margin as low as 20 votes, especially in local and state races, proof that your vote does matter. Young people that want to inspire change need to find the candidate who represents their values best, and cast their votes.

With news at our fingertips these days, it's easier now more than ever to educate yourself regarding politics. Sure it may seem boring and often times it is, but educating yourself on current events and the issues will serve you well. One bit of advice is not to believe everything you read or see, and to always fact check your sources. Protect your interests and use your voice, after all this is what democracy is all about.

Do not be discouraged or intimidated to vote — it's easy. You have a right to be at the polls just like every other American. Bring a friend and go grab some lunch or breakfast afterwards, making it a fun occasion.

**LETTERS**

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

We think you're important enough to tell all our readers to turn to the Opinion pages and read your Letters to the Editor.

But first, you have to write us!

Mail your letters to the Spencer New Leader, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550.

Or e-mail your letters to the editor at news@stonebridgepress.com.

You'll need to provide your name and place of residence, along with a phone number, so we can verify the letter is yours.

We don't have a set limit, but if you keep it around 600 words or so, you're going to have a better chance at seeing all your words in print.

If you want to write a bit longer about a particular issue, maybe a guest Your Turn column is your cup of tea. If you do that, try to keep it between 700-800 words.

Remember, libelous remarks and/or personal attacks are a no-no and could lead to your letter not being published.

So, what are you waiting for? Start writing!

# VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**My vote goes to Donald Berthiaume**

To the Editor:  
The 11 towns in the 5th Worcester District will be voting again for our state representative. My vote will be for a conservative, hard working, respectable leader, a United States Navy veteran and a former eight-year member of the Spencer Board of Selectmen; a man who I have confidence in, Rep. Donald Berthiaume. His

performance and attendance record at the State House has been outstanding. If you believe, as I do, that past performance is a good indicator of future endeavors, your vote for Mr. Berthiaume will again benefit the citizens of the 5th Worcester District.

EVA PERRON  
EAST BROOKFIELD

**Trump's successes**

To the Editor:  
As our President, Donald Trump has been very successful. To just name a few of his efforts:  
- he has been successful in hijacking the Republican Party and the Religious Right.  
- successful in exposing white male supremacy and systemic black racism.  
- protecting the super rich while using corruption to support his own wealth.  
- he has made strong efforts in trying to undermine our Constitution.

- throughout his lies, he has unknowingly taught us to seek out other resources to gain truths.  
- he has successfully weakened our economy and most of all our health in not protecting us from the Covid 19 virus.  
He has been successful in letting us know that he is a wannabe dictator, but the great people in this country will never let him become one.

CAROL RIZZO  
SPENCER

**Ode to Joe....Fear Not**

To the Editor:  
Joe will be our shepherd, we shall not want  
He will make us lie down with his new Green Deal  
He will lead us beside the still peaceful protests  
He will guide us in the paths of self righteousness  
Even though we walk in the shadow of Covid, he will sustain us, fear no evil for Joe will prevail

He prepares a table of food stamps with our taxes  
Our cups will run over with government hand outs  
Goodness and mercy will follow as he restores our souls as the Dems occupy the White House forever.

Respectfully submitted,

JOAN SMALL  
NORTH BROOKFIELD

**Operation Undercover — the 30th year**

To the Editor:  
Laura Torti and I will be collecting new men's and women's underwear and delivering to Jeremiah's Inn, Abby's House and the Mass Veteran's Shelter. Due to Covid-19, we will not be wrapping them in Christmas wrap. They have asked us to leave them in the original packaging. From now

until Dec. 13, you can drop off the unwrapped packages in the hamper on the front step at 125 Pleasant St. Thank you for your generous donations. We wish you a happy and healthy holiday season.

BETH MCPHERSON  
SPENCER

**Contrasting approaches**

To the Editor:  
Canada is somewhat of a microcosm of the United States. Most Canadians speak the same language as we do. Their cars, houses, streets and highways (with the exception of speed limit signs) look like ours. My Chrysler 300 was manufactured in Ontario. One could be dropped off in most Canadian neighborhoods and not know they weren't in the United States.

However, one thing is very different. That is the percentage of people who have died from COVID -19. Per-capita, two and a half more persons have died in the United States than in Canada. The reason is the swift action taken by the Trudeau administration to close

their borders and encouraging masks wearing throughout the country. In fact, U.S. citizens are still denied entry into Canada unless they have business that can not be conducted any other way. In contrast, the United States was slow in closing their borders, and still has them open except for Mexico; masks are not encouraged nationwide. Canada also obtained PPE for their provinces, while the United States let its 50 states bid against themselves and their federal government for PPE. I found this to be something to know and think about this time of year.

RALPH E. HICKS, ED. D.  
SPENCER

**The "MAGachusetts Miracle" will soon be upon us!**

To the Editor:  
As of Sept 2020, Massachusetts has 4,666,299 registered voters, from Secretary of the Commonwealth website. Democrat registration is 32 percent, Republican registration is 10 percent, oddball party registration is 1 percent and Unenrolled registration is a whopping 57 percent.

Independent minded folks are policy, platform and performance voters with their purse as their lever.

Nonpoliticians are preferable to entrenched, corrupt, career, bootlicking, brownnosing, Quid Pro Quo,

swamp dwelling parasites!  
Since 1928, Massachusetts electoral votes have been awarded to only two republicans, Eisenhower twice and Reagan twice.

A huge common sense upswell of love of country, freedom, peace, prosperity, energy independence and law & order has ignited the native revolutionary colonists!

Red Tide is in full bloom, and is expected to last four more years!

JEN GAUCHER  
SPENCER

**Don't let Democrats make a fool of you**

To the Editor:  
For those of you who think taxing business and the wealthy is a good idea and are buying into Joe Biden's tax the rich pay, don't be fooled; think it through. If Joe changed the corporate tax, as he has promised, from the existing 21 percent back to the 35 percent in place before the Trump tax cuts, what do you think would happen? Consider corporate taxes on a \$100 profit going from \$21 to \$35. Do you think that corporation would simply accept a \$14 loss per hundred to their profits, or would they make some changes? Let me suggest some changes they might make, and the repercussions of those changes.  
They could raise their prices and maintain their profit. (You would be paying

their higher taxes.)  
They could add some automation and eliminate the cost of some employees. (They would cut their cost, maintain their profit, and the employees that didn't find a new job would no longer pay taxes and end up on welfare.)  
They could reduce the quality in their product and maintain the selling price, thereby maintaining their profit. (You would be paying the same price for a cheaper product and reducing your quality of life.)  
They could move their business to another country. (We would lose all of their federal, state, and local taxes, those jobs and all their associated taxes would be lost, and if those employees can't find

**Vote for a solid investment strategy**

Election Day is little more than a week away. As a citizen, you may feel the results will affect many aspects of life in this country. But as an investor, your situation probably won't change after the votes are counted.

No matter who wins, the financial markets may well show some politically driven volatility, but that often happens around elections, and it typically doesn't last long. But what about the longer term? How might changes in policy and new legislation affect your investment outlook?



FINANCIAL FOCUS  
JEFF BURDICK

To begin, keep in mind that many campaign promises remain just that — promises. And even when some of them are enacted, any ultimate legislation may be quite different from what was proposed on the campaign trail.

Still, sometime in the future, we could see election-related changes that could affect your investment strategy. For example, over the years, we've seen many adjustments in the tax rates of capital gains and stock dividends, and it's likely these rates will change again one day. When that happens, you may need to look at the equities portion of your portfolio to see if you want to make some adjustments.

Many other changes, though, are hard to predict. It's possible that future legislation could affect specific industries, either positively or negatively. Such moves could also influence the way you look at certain investments, but if you have a diversified portfolio that contains a broad mix of stocks, bonds and other securities, any actions affecting one particular industry probably won't cause you to significantly adjust holdings invested in other sectors.

In any case, while it may be a good idea to keep an eye open for things like tax rate changes or how new policies may affect different market segments, your main emphasis, in terms of your investment decisions, should remain on your goals and what you need to do to achieve them.

At least once each year, review your portfolio carefully to make sure your investments are aligned with your goals, whether they are short-term (a new car, a long vacation and so on) or long-term (such as college for your children or a comfortable retirement). Periodically, depending on what's happening in your life and the progress of your investment portfolio, you may need to evaluate your goals to ensure they're prioritized appropriately to help keep you on track toward achieving what's most important to you.

Over time, your goals may change, too. Perhaps you've decided that instead of retiring early and traveling around the world, you now want to turn your hobby into a business. Changing this goal may require a different investment strategy. Or you might change your mind about where you want to live — instead of staying in your home, as originally planned, you might downsize and move to a different area. Your goals may change in many ways, all of which may warrant updating your investment strategies.

Here's the key point: You're the one electing to make these changes. No matter what happens in this or any other election, be sure to "vote" for the strategies that have the potential for a winning outcome.

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Jeff Burdick, your local Edward Jones Advisor in Sturbridge at 508-347-1420 or jeff.burdick@edwardjones.com.*

work they end up on welfare.)  
There are many more scenarios like this, but you would pay for them all. The bottom line is, we pay for it all. The only reason the Democrats want to do this is to impose on us their ideas as to how we should live. They think we don't know what's good for us. They want to manage every aspect of our lives because they think they're smarter than us. I'm sure you and I will make mistakes in our choices, but at least they will be our mistakes. Business creates prosperity, government consumes it. Don't let Democrats make a fool of you!!

LEONARD LINCOLN IVEL  
LEICESTER

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Putin's playbook isn't the one Trump follows

To the Editor:  
I applaud Nancy True for her excellent, eye-opening letter in last week's New Leader for being on the mark about Trump following Putin's playbook.

I also feel he is following Stalin and Hitler's playbooks.

Stalin attacked the press, undermining their veracity to achieve his ends. Without the free press, we have no way of knowing what is really happening in our world. Trump has continually referred to the press as "fake news." He claims that the media has been against him from the beginning of his run for president. Perhaps, the press, having followed him for years knew who he was and how he operated. Maybe, they were trying to warn us of his true nature as sociopath who cares about nothing but himself and gets ahead by whatever means necessary to accomplish that, no matter who gets hurt.

Hitler convinced the Germans that all of their issues could be solved by getting rid of the Jews. Trump warned

that brown and black people trying to gain asylum and a better life were rapists, murderers, and marauders who would attack us in our homes. He set out to put them in "camps." Camps?! That is what Hitler called his facilities for Jews en route to the gas chambers, where parents were separated from their children never to see them again.

We now have 545 children who were separated from their parents at the border in line with Trump's abominable immigration policy. A Trump supporter, concerned about how it looked for Trump, decided to destroy the paperwork identifying the parents of these children, now making finding them almost impossible.

We will never know the length, breadth, and depth of Trump's corruption and the damage done to our country and democracy. It will take generations to repair. Let's start now to return to our country's original ideals.

JUDY ROSE  
EAST BROOKFIELD

## Trump loves, gives to America; let's love him back!

To the Editor:  
Our historically-non-politician 45th President, Donald J. Trump, now squarely leads his fellow Republicans as an unapologetic populist telling the truth about how the ruling political class (of both major U.S. political parties) and other elites will sell out America for globalism and the advancement of especially the brutal Communist Chinese. This sellout is at the expense of the American worker, freedom, privacy, domestic manufacturing base, military and medical security and a whole lot more! We simply cannot allow such a reckless squandering of our precious country and way of life any longer. In the wake of the COVID-19 (Wuhan Virus) outbreak, to realize that the globalist elites and "global market" they love so much oversaw some 80 percent of our medicine production being offshored to mainland China is not just maddening, it's frightening as hell. Yet, the best thing about President Trump's record is not just his talk and promises, but that he is actually delivering by changing the way America does business.

President Trump has already nominated and witnessed two outstanding Constitutionally-faithful appointments seated on the U.S. Supreme Court in his first three years in Office. As of this writing, it appears likely he will add yet another and witness a wonderful, brilliant and imminently-qualified woman in Amy Coney Barrett soon confirmed to the seat left vacant upon the recent death of Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Barrett's confirmation testimony was an embarrassment—to the Democrats who tried to denigrate her impeccable character and intellect!

The extent to which the Trump-Pence Administration has secured a bright domestic-energy-production future cannot be overstated. We are no longer dependent on foreign hostile powers for our domestic energy needs and are, in fact, selling extra production to the world market! America burns fossil fuels—oil, gas and even coal—very cleanly today, compared to just several decades ago. They're remarkable technologies and an important domestic asset, a boon to the advance-

Turn To **REED** page **A12**

## Dark cold winters with Biden

To the Editor:  
Do you remember four years ago, under the Obama/Biden years, the prices of gasoline and oil? I do. Gasoline was \$4 a gallon. You would leave for work in the morning and it was \$3.75. When you left for home, it was at \$4. Today, the cost is at \$2 a gallon average, and it stays relatively constant. If you drive 10,000 miles a year and your car gets 20 miles to a gallon, that means you used 500 gallons. Under Trump, it means you have saved 500 x \$2 = \$1,000. That a thousand dollars that stays in your family budget. Now take-home heating oil. It was \$4.00 a gallon under Obama/Biden. You can buy it now for \$1.60 a gallon. The average home uses 800 gallons a year. Under Trump you have saved 800 x \$2.40 = \$1,920. That's almost another \$2,000 that your family has in their budget to spend on other things. Thank you, Mr. Trump. How did oil get so cheap? It was Trump's removal of Obama/Biden regulations that prevented fracking and oil exploration. For those that don't know what fracking it is as follows. Oil is trapped under ground in fissures in rocks. Fracking involves

opening these seems by fracturing the rock with pressure. It opens these seams and frees the oil. This innovative process championed by Trump has made the US energy independent. In fact, we are able to export oil reducing our deficit.

One other benefit of this is that it has reduced the worldwide price of a barrel of oil from \$120 to around \$40. This has effectively cut off the funds to Iran and other countries to fund terrorist activities against the US. Whereas before, under Obama, those countries were flush with cash and used it to fund terrorism. Now they don't have the excess cash and the can no longer fund it. That's why we are seeing deals with Israel and peace coming to the middle east. You didn't see this under Obama/ Biden. They gave billions to Iran. You didn't see this under Bush. His family was in the oil business and they liked high oil. In Trump you have a genius who knows how markets and prices effect the political situations.

Biden promises you long dark winters ahead if he is elected and he's telling the

Turn To **ROBILLARD** page **A13**

## The last days before the election

To the Editor:  
It looks like we are sure to see the largest monument to hypocrisy in American history unfold this week. In February 2016, Antonin Scalia died and the Republicans held a Supreme Court seat open for a full year by blocking all hearings and votes in the Senate because "it's too close to an election," "the American people should get a say," and "the next president should fill the seat." Fast forward to 2020, and Ruth Bader Ginsburg dies in September and we are about to have a confirmation vote on her replacement literally the week before the election. Not only are we in the throes of an election season, as of last Friday, more than 40 percent of all ballots cast in 2016 had been cast already. The Senate is working over

the weekend to make sure Amy Coney Barrett can be confirmed before the election. The moment they hold their confirmation vote, it is likely more than 50 percent of all ballots will have been cast.

In 2020, the Supreme Court confirmation literally could not have been "closer" to an election. They may as well do it at high noon on Election Day. Why the rush? The likelihood of "Trump v. Biden" in the Supreme Court is high and the Republicans want to make damn sure that Trump's third Supreme Court justice (2 fill vacancies in his term) is seated to hear the case. Three SCOTUS seats in one term is excessive. Barack Obama had two presidential terms and filled two seats. Bush 43 had

Turn To **HAR-YAROK** page **A12**

## Count the cost of following Jesus

To the Editor:  
I start this letter sending a Kudos to Jen Gaucher; yes, "four more years!" and without God and President Trump, we do not have a Democratic Republic. People who oppose President Trump, you had better count the cost, God, Jesus and God Trump is what it will take to salvage this Country USA. Biden and Harris stands for socialism an earthly hell. The choice is yours!

Do not be misled or deceived. Salvation, heaven comes with a cost. Jesus paid the price for our redemp-

tion, salvation. Jesus death on the cross comes with a cost [Matthew 10: 38-39] [Luke 25-27] When we die, we don't all go to heaven. There is a process. "Jesus;" and God makes it very clear in Psalm 15 and other Bible scriptures what God desires of us "and" Jesus teachings are very clear in [Mathew 6: 23'] [Luke 14: 25-34] [John 14: 6, & 19: 30] if we do not remain faithful, submitted, overcomers to "God, Jesus we will not enter heaven.

Turn To **BLAIS** page **A14**

## Just vote

To the Editor:

I have made it no secret that I disagree with many, and quite possibly a majority of this area. I have one ask for you this week: Vote. Please vote. Everybody vote.

If you have a mail-in ballot you haven't returned yet, it's too late to mail-in vote. Vote in person on Nov. 3. If you think you voted by mail please check the MA website to see if your ballot has been received (https://www.sec.state.ma.us/wheredoivotema/track/trackmyballot.aspx). If it has not been received, please vote in person on Nov. 3. President Trump has slowed down the mail so that you will believe you voted when in fact you haven't.

Regardless of who you support, please vote on Nov. 3. Please check your mail-in/early ballot status on the website so you can vote in person if necessary.

I'm a partisan, and I believe politics is a team sport, and I have not made that a secret. I want everybody to vote, even those with whom I disagree. Why you may ask, would I want to encourage all to vote? Simple... The more people vote, the better Democrats do. The more eligible voters register, the better Democrats do. The more registered voters vote, the better Democrats do. The longer the hours to vote in-person are, the better Democrats do. The shorter the lines are to vote in-person, the better the Democrats do. The more

early-voting options there are for busy working people, the better Democrats do. The more mail-in options are available for either busy people or those afraid of catching a virus, the better Democrats do.

A substantial majority of this country identifies with Democratic candidates compared to Republican candidates. The Republican voters tend to be more rabid and more committed. When voting becomes difficult or time consuming, the Republicans power through it where the "silent majority" who would prefer more progressive policies sees a line hours long they say "never mind", or they have to go pick their kid up from daycare, or they have to go to work, etc.

Since the easier it is to vote and the more people that end up voting advantages Democrats, I encourage everybody to go vote. I want to make it super-duper easy for you to cast a vote for Trump, Lovvorn, and O'Conner. The easier it is for you to cast those ballots, the easier it is for the larger population that wants Biden, McGovern, and Markey.

Going forward, Election Day should be a federal holiday and polling places should be open 24 hours. There would never be a GOP led government again...

FRED BAGG  
SPENCER

## The die is cast

To the Editor:

In spite of the President keeping his personal plane, Air Force One, running around the country to rallies, I would like to think that virtually all rational people, have already decided for whom, they will cast their vote. Having watched the final debate, I very much doubt that anyone changed their mind as a result of it. The POTUS has tweeted that he won that debate 89 percent to 11, but one can only assume that the poll was only taken among his family members. Anyone who has not yet made a decision, probably should not vote.

The President has made it clear that being continuously asked questions about Covid is very tedious for him. The new case number I heard yesterday, was over 80,000, and the highest daily total to date. Clearly the president and his team leader, Pence, no longer see any point in doing any-

thing at all, except lining up maskless supporters, shoulder to shoulder, to achieve herd immunity. Death levels matching 9-11 every three days no longer raises even a hint of the outrage.

Because seeing so many promises kept signs at rallies piqued my attention, I just went back and looked at the 2016 promises list. We know Mexico did not pay for a wall, the deficit is not erased, the Korean peninsula is not nuke free, the trade war is not a success, his taxes are not released, we neither built 6 new steel plants or restored the coal industry, and ISIS was not defeated within 30 days. Exactly what promises are those signs referring to?

While I might find Hunter Biden's business interests interesting, I get the impression that he might have used his name recognition to secure millions of dollars in business. Considering secret

Turn To **KIMBALL** page **A12**

## We stand out for a brighter future

To the Editor:

Standing out started with just a few. We are proud of our country and having a heritage and history like none other. We want to see it prosper. We want the freedoms for our children and grandchildren we have known all our lives. We saw what President Trump had started, a booming economy, rekindled a belief in America leading with peace and strength, hope for a better future, not just for America but around the world. Make America Great Again and keep it that way.

Standing out is a way to share our love of country and give hope to others. A few people, patriots with a flag or sign and the response was always far more positive than negative. And as the few stood, more came, and more came to join in and more and more. And we started standing more days in more towns. You can probably find a stand-

out any day of the week if you want to. What started with just a few is now pretty regularly forty to more than one hundred patriots sharing their love of country and hope for the future at any given stand-out and now the response is overwhelming! And when you only see 40, it is because the others are standing out somewhere else. We have so many who love to see us and we can tell would love to be standing with us ...but in a way they are, with their honks, smiles, and waves. If we have done nothing else, we have brought smiles, hope and encouragement to an endless parade of cars going by enjoying our flags, signs, patriotism and our own Mr. President! Oh, how I love seeing faces going by Mr. President giving his classic two thumbs up! Some even stop to get a picture with him! Others stop to find out where to get flags and signs!

Turn To **BUZZELL** page **A12**

## Calling all (real) Catholics

To the Editor:

As if there's not enough to get upset about in this year of upheaval, I now have even more reason to get at least a little discouraged with the way things are going. I am at once both amazed and saddened to read that by very large majorities, American Catholics are lining up to support one of their own, Joseph Robinette Biden, Jr., for President. This news has taken me back 60-plus years to my boyhood growing up in the great-and predominantly Roman Catholic-City of Brockton, when our hero and product of the Catholic Italian community, Rocky Marciano, was winning the World's Heavyweight Boxing Championship.

I remember it as a time when lingering resentments and misapprehensions—at least from the older generations—existed between some members of the Protestant and Catholic communities not only in my

hometown, but across the country. It led, famously, in 1960, to John F. Kennedy saying in a campaign speech in Houston(?) that he hoped no one would vote against him simply because of his Catholic faith, but that it was just as unacceptable to vote for him only because of his religion.

As part of the small minority of Protestant families in the old "Shoe City," I have very clear memories of whatever social and cultural differences existed between the two faith communities in what now seems like prehistoric times. Although I had friends from church and Sunday School, most of my pals in school and on all our different teams were from the majority Catholic neighborhoods. In truth, there wasn't that much to differentiate ourselves from each other. We dressed alike, enjoyed the same foods, liked the

Turn To **MCRAE** page **A13**

## On screeds and reads

To the Editor:

Hmmm. Re: The rants of certain frequent local editorial conservative writers.

Since my name came up in a few of these colorful exercises in creative bombast, I will respond as politely and succinctly as possible to the offenders of verbal editorial civilities.

1. Many have been raised in "better... public schools and quality education of yesteryear", and decent public or private schools of any year, who have been taught to "think critically and independently," including how to do legitimate research on any subject, to verify sources and facts.

2. An actual experience is not an "alleged experience."

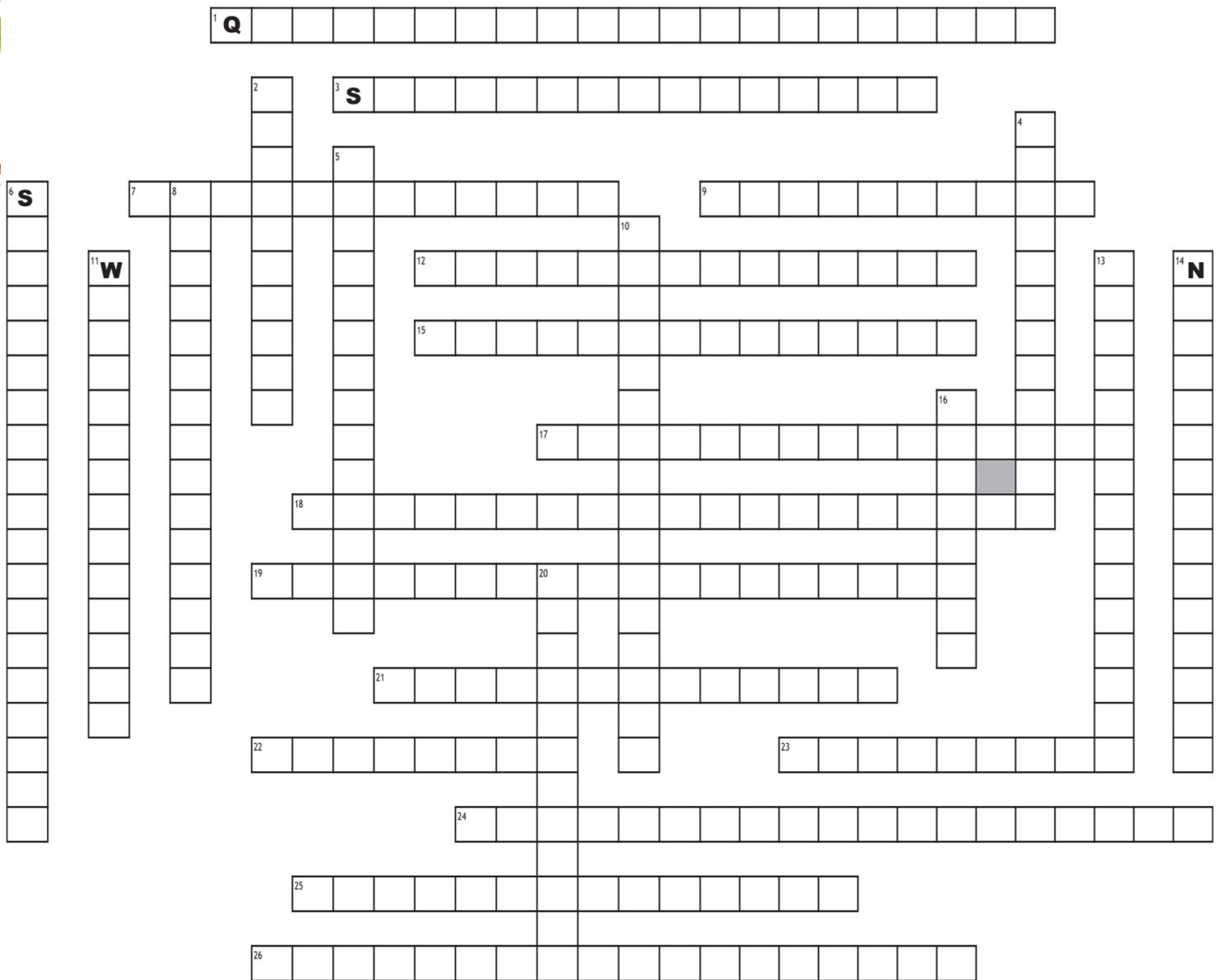
3. While certain descriptions of either my property or person may be someone's biased, uninformed, uneducated, unknown opinion, that does not make their opinion a fact.

4. Adjectives describing my sign as obnoxious are also merely biased opinion, not fact.

5. Allegations of criminality of Hillary Clinton are unfounded and unsubstantiated after years of investigation by conservative legal bloodhounds, therefore, not factual. Many citizens look forward

Turn To **POWELL** page **A14**

# 3rd Annual ABC's of Fall Crossword Puzzle 2020



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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Across</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A rewarding Career Awaits</li> <li>3. Restore harmony and balance</li> <li>7. ....small town charm</li> <li>9. Call us today 508-868-4291</li> <li>12. Need to get it done? Call me!</li> <li>15. Advertisers trust us</li> <li>17. Special discounts on new layaways</li> <li>18. We can save you time and money!</li> <li>19. Company owner since 2000</li> <li>21. Best sales experience!</li> <li>22. Yours could be Next</li> <li>23. Buyer and seller representation</li> <li>24. Order online</li> <li>25. 24 Hr. Roadside Assistance</li> <li>26. Cooper Tires Fall Tire Promotion</li> </ol> | <p><b>Down</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Now taking Thanksgiving pie &amp; bread orders</li> <li>4. I'll beat my competitors' prices</li> <li>5. 6 &amp; 12 months financing available</li> <li>6. All instruments fully sterilized</li> <li>8. Country Toys and great gifts</li> <li>10. We will be happy to assist you</li> <li>11. Rental car or truck can be arranged for you</li> <li>13. Always going the extra mile</li> <li>14. Find our BOGO Coupon on our website</li> <li>16. Reporting for Duty!</li> <li>20. ...services starting at less than \$1.50 a day.</li> </ol> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**3rd Annual ABC'S OF THE SEASONS OCTOBER 30, FALL EDITION**

Hint... answers don't always include fall business name.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle which paper you found this in: *Spencer New Leader, Webster Times, Charlton Villager, Sturbridge Villager, Auburn News, Blackstone Valley Tribune, Southbridge News*

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Please find the answers to this crossword puzzle on page 2. Enter for a chance to win a \$25 gift card to one of these ABC businesses by mailing in your completed crossword to **ABC Crossword Puzzle, Stonebridge Press, P. O. Box 90, 25 Elm Street, Southbridge, MA 01550** OR scan & email or take a picture and email it to [jsima@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:jsima@stonebridgepress.news) by Wednesday, November 18. Random-drawing for winner of all correct entries to be announced in the November 27th issue.

One entry per person.

Please support these ABC's businesses and tell them you saw their ad in your local paper! Good luck!

Thank you for

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**HAR-YAROK**

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two terms and two seats. Clinton had two terms and two seats. We have been averaging 1 SCOTUS seat per presidential term for the past generation and Donald Trump fills three?

Matthew Herholz complained about how the Kavanaugh hearings went. In one sense I agree with him – his drunken sexual exploits 30 years ago are irrelevant. Kavanaugh shouldn't have been confirmed because he is a party hack. He was an Associate Counsel on the Ken Starr team and was the principal author on the Starr Report arguing for impeachment against Bill Clinton. Kavanaugh had encouraged Starr to ask sexually explicit questions. Later, Kavanaugh joined the legal team of George W. Bush to stop the counting of ballots in Florida in 2000. After Bush took office, Kavanaugh worked in the White House for Bush's AG. Later in Bush's presidency he was nominated to the federal judiciary. Democrats were getting back at him for his Ken Starr days but in reality, he was a terrible choice for the court due to his partisan past.

Amy Coney Barrett, by comparison, is a lovely person, although I disagree with how she views the world generally. She also worked on the Bush v. Gore case, arguing for the discontinuation of counting ballots in Florida. She gets

somewhat of a pass though because she was merely a staff attorney at a firm that was hired by Bush. She is a highly religious (Catholic) person and has refused to distance her judicial philosophy intended to guide the laws for all of us from her religious convictions. She is highly qualified although ideologically very different from the woman she is to replace. One of the arguments for holding Scalia's seat open was that he was such a conservative icon and his replacement would shift the court for a generation. Amy Coney Barrett shouldn't be confirmed at this time because we are actually in the throes of an election, she would shift the court for a generation, and we should probably follow the "rule" McConnell invented the last presidential term that we wait until after the election.

To respond to Nancy True... You have to hand it to Vladimir Putin. Who would have thought that a country that had collapsed 30 years ago and today has 43 percent of our population GDP and 8 percent of our GDP could bring us down. There is much we can learn about Putin – i.e.: work smarter not harder. He studied this country, and then rather than fighting it enlisted our own people to break the cracks wide open.

I know it [upsets people], but COVID-19 time! COVID-19 is the single largest disaster in our lifetimes. All politics in 2020 is virus politics.

COVID-19 daily cases are now at all-time highs for the United States and the world. Donald Trump this week said "we are turning the corner" as though COVID was about to go away. He is wrong about it getting better, it is getting worse. He is correct we are turning a corner – a corner upwards... Just yesterday we set a new daily record at 83,734 cases eclipsing the mid-summer southern outbreak and eclipsing the confirmed case peak in April. It's only October...

Cases have been growing every week since Labor Day. We are currently sitting at 8,581,574 confirmed cases with 224,912 deaths. 466,786 new people got sick (new record) and 5,642 NEW deaths occurred in just the last week in the U.S. This is not OK. If you think it is OK or normal in any way you have become desensitized to the scope of this disaster and you need to consider that 9/11 killed 2,977 Americans and the Vietnam War killed 58,220 Americans... COVID-19 is at 224,912, we are at 5,642 new deaths each week, and the new weekly deaths are accelerating. The scope of this is beyond anything in any of our lifetimes.

I know many people (incorrectly) believe most of these people were going to die anyway... We are just putting old people in nursing homes out of their misery... Nothing new here, we're just tracking a virus. They would be wrong. The CDC tracks all deaths in the United

States and in a normal year we see ~2.8 million deaths. Since Jan. 1, 2020 the United States has seen ~340,000 excess deaths – deaths above normal... A higher number than confirmed COVID deaths. These additional deaths could be unreported COVID (southern states aren't necessarily testing corpses) or could be because of impact to the medical system. Many people have avoided physicals, lab work, and even going to the hospital for chest pains due to COVID fears. What caused these 340,000 excess deaths? I'm open to suggestions if not COVID-19...

The U.S. is still #1 for both cases and deaths. The pandemic is accelerating here. Our closest competitors, Russia and Brazil have both been pushing their daily cases down. It looks like the U.S. will retain its crown for the world disaster zone for the foreseeable future.

As much as this is Donald Trump's blunder, Biden can't "fix it." We elect a president to be in charge for when a crisis comes that we haven't yet identified. At this point, the die is cast. This is going to be a long, dark, diseased, and death filled winter.

Vote for Biden not because he can fix COVID-19. Vote for Biden so we have a decent man with reasonable judgement in the Oval office for when the next crisis bears down on us.

OMAR HAR-YAROK  
EAST BROOKFIELD

**REED**

continued from page A9

ment of any country blessed with and producing same. American energy, including that produced via fracking, creates many tens of thousands of jobs, saves lives and lifts people out of poverty and third-world living conditions. We do oil and gas right, Trump knows it and that is to Russia's disadvantage (an energy competitor), so go figure. Still think Trump is Putin's puppet?

So, in the alternative, what do you expect America to reap from a "professional" lying, plagiarizing 47-year-career politician in Joe Biden? He and his crime family are already beholden to the red Chinese; is that not obvious? In 1964, exactly 56 years ago this October, Ronald W. Reagan made his famous "A time for choosing" TV speech

on behalf of an embattled but straight-shooting fellow conservative and Presidential candidate, U.S. Senator Barry M. Goldwater. Though that speech chiefly paved the way for the future conservative President Reagan elected in 1980 (reelected in a landslide in '84), the dire admonition it offered humanity within—descent into 1,000 years of darkness—was never more apropos than it is with the decisions we make as fellow Americans on Tuesday, Nov. 3. The future of America (and the free world) under the continued proven courage and leadership of Trump-Pence is bright. With Kamala-Joe, just say no. They offer only bigger government, less freedom and cheap political blow! With 2020 vision, vote your future—vote Republican, and God Bless America.

DANA GEORGE REED  
SPENCER

**BUZZELL**

continued from page A9

Then there are the ones who aren't sure. They see us, pretending not to see us. They wonder why we would spend our time, 2, 6, even 10 hours a week waving and smiling at them on their journeys to and fro. Those are the ones that after a while come and join us.

There are those that don't agree, don't see it our way. That's OK. We expect it. It's America, and we have this freedom to have an opinion! In their disagreement they display the variety of sour expressions that are almost comical. Gritted teeth, wrinkled noses, rolling eyes with disgust but can still disagree with some decorum. Another group, generally a little younger shake their heads vehemently, thumbs down out the window maybe utter some negative phrase but still not unreasonable. What is really sad are those who aren't even out of school or maybe col-

lege, most likely not old enough to vote. No life experience, but still think they know more than they do expressed with venomous anger, obscenities and hate, barely staying on the road while spewing their unintelligible oratory on us or blaring obscene songs from their radio. The worst are sadly young women, viciously swearing with what my mother taught me is gutter talk. Also concerning are the young women, assuming mothers, doing this with young children strapped in car seats seeing this hateful example of intolerance. Do we no longer teach girls lady like behavior? (Asking for my friends.) The sum total of these groups, are in the minority of the response we get. We call them the unhappy people. I could think of many other descriptions, triggered, nasty, intolerant but unhappy works. So unhappy.

I have to wonder what exactly makes them so unhappy. Is it our happy smiles and waves? Is it the fluttering of the Red,

White and Blue? Is it the families with innocent children who stand among us that deserve the one finger wave and the F bomb? Or the seniors? Or maybe the veterans? Do they not appreciate the flags supporting first responders? Can it be the resounding horns cheering us on? It can't be Mr. President! These unhappy people are the ones I think must write such unhappy letters to the editor about the patriots who love to share high hopes for America. One referenced MAGachusetts calling us maggots. I need to correct his slight spelling error. It's spelled MAGAtts and we gladly accept the label of MAGAtt. We are MAGAtts, happy MAGAtts. Happy to believe in America, preserving our freedoms, in making a difference, and offering hope for a better future.

With all respect due, A Happy MAGAtt

DIANE BUZZELL  
NORTH BROOKFIELD

**KIMBALL**

continued from page A9

squirrel never did release any taxes, we only have the option of looking at information that is in the public domain. Jared and Ivanka reported earnings over 375 million, from their west wing office. The Trump businesses are again or still under scrutiny for tax evasion. At some point, I hope the GBO will release figures on costs for golf trips

and patronization of Trump properties, by both inside and outside interests. Yes, as a citizen, I am offended by partisan use of property on our dime, like Airforce #1 as a rally prop (as well as VP's official plane), Whitehouse as host of partisan events,

I won't even suggest racism as it is my belief that Trump is a royalist. He looks down upon almost all of us not in his economic stratus, with semi-equal distaste. If you have not noticed, he cares more about the stock market and

401Ks, than about whether people had food or housing. He rails against rescue packages that include "Blue" states, where state and local essential people will have to be fired, due to not being able to pay them. While Joe Biden has gained most of his wealth after leaving office, through books and speaking tours, Moscow Mitch and Trump have so much wealth that are unlikely able to relate at all to hardship. They had no problem with putting 2 trillion on our tab for a trickle down scheme

that went 83 percent to millionaires, but now think keeping police, firefighters and DPW workers on payrolls is a bridge too far?

I have said my piece, The Die is Cast. Now it is up to us to speak with our vote and tell who we are, what we care about and believe, and hopefully not botch a free and fair election process that has us hundreds of years.

KEN KIMBALL  
BROOKFIELD



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**MCRAE**  
continued from page A9

same music, lived in small houses, rode in the same types of cars, had fathers who all worked at the same types of jobs, and most of our mothers stayed home and raised us. They had "Friday School" where they learned their Church's doctrines, and we went to Sunday School where our teachers attempted to do the same thing. They gave up things for Lent, and we didn't. They went to Church on Ash Wednesday to get ashes put on their foreheads (which I always sort of secretly admired-it looked kind of cool), but we, again, didn't share that ritual. But, unlike many of our parents, the differences to us, if any, were not worth talking about.

When they came up to bat in a baseball game, they would scratch a cross in the dirt front of the plate with their bat, and I, ever the cynic, would wonder, "Is he asking for a fat pitch?" They also pinned a little medallion to the back of their ball caps which I also thought looked kind of neat, but never understood its significance. On team busses, whenever we passed a Catholic Church, they would make the sign of the cross. Before they dove into the YMCA swimming pool, they would also make that same gesture. The priests wouldn't let us Prods play for the parish basketball team as we weren't parishioners, but the other churches in town had the same policy, so it all evened out. Things have changed just a bit since then, don't you think?

As high school boys with hormones raging almost out of control, we all lived for the Friday night C.Y.O. (Catholic Youth Organization) dances at the French Church (St. Colman's), where they let anyone come in and where we could dance with our impossibly cute French, Irish, Italian, Polish and Lithuanian female classmates. As the night wore on, the priest with a benignant, avuncular smile on his face, would walk amongst the to-close-dancers with a cautionary "Leave some room for the Holy Ghost, please."

That was a long time ago, and except for the drill instructors-who weren't known for delicacy in matters of speech-in boot camp on Sunday mornings growling, "All right, you mackerel snappers, fall in for mass!" before he marched them off to weekly services, I haven't heard or thought of those awkward times since

coming of age and leaving it all behind, and I thought it was all behind us. Now, I'm not so sure.

You might tell me I'm wrong, that those days are gone forever. If so, how do you explain a majority of Catholic voters lining up behind this frail, senile, life-long liar, cheat, and plagiarist-and tool of the radical left-this Biden, this walking gaffe machine who just happens to be... Catholic? A cafeteria Catholic picking and choosing which parts of the faith he will accept and a C.I.N.O. (Catholic In Name Only) to be sure, but a Catholic nonetheless. Are we still in a "Blood is thicker than water" culture where all that matters, in the end, is the tribe to which we belong?

Listen, my Catholic friends, if President Trump has never done anything for you (but, since you're Americans, he's already done a great deal for you) his having selected Amy Barrett as the next Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court has more than simply earned your support; you ought to be deliriously happy and grateful for his nomination of this superlative aspirant that just happens to be a Catholic who takes the teachings of her Church seriously. Has there ever been a more impressive candidate for the highest federal bench than this remarkably intelligent, extraordinarily well-prepared, coolly unflappable (going before the hyenas of the Democrat inquisitors on the Judiciary Committee, and without the crutch of notes to bail her out), and model mother of seven children, a law professor, and of indisputably high character and integrity? I think not.

Mrs. Barrett may have just single-handedly reversed the fortunes and the deteriorating image of the Catholic Church (actually the entire Christian religion) in this country by putting on display a picture of profound jurisprudential competence, wisdom, decency, courage, honor, humility and a whole host of the other virtues not seen in a long time in this bruised and broken culture of ours.

Your Church-like many others-has not had a good press in a long time. Whether scandalous behavior on the part of some, or the current Pope who seems more conversant with the books of Marx rather than the Book of Mark, with the writings of Lenin the mass murderer than with Luke, the Dear and Glorious Physician, and with Castro rather than Catherine (of Sienna), the stature of your

two-thousand year old institution has suffered greatly in the public's eye. Justice Barrett is a public relations firm's dream come true when it would deal with the problem of rehabilitating the tarnished image of your Church.

But for President Trump, you might have never even heard her name. If our country is to survive-and at times like these that seems highly dubious-we need brilliant but good people in such critical positions as being on the USSC. With Mrs. Barrett holding the seat for, I don't know, the next 40 years(?) the odds have increased that the survival of America as we know it is a realistic hope. She may mark the beginning of the turning of the tide.

President Trump and most of the rest of us will be long gone, but he'll be remembered as the wise man who put this one-of-a-kind combination of the courage of Joan of Arc (a Catholic) and the intellect of Abigail Adams (not a Catholic) in a place of crucial importance at such a dire time as the present.

Catholic Democrats...your Party is dead. Roosevelt and the Kennedys are all dead. It and they are not coming back. Don't waste your vote on a radical, death cult, anti-American Party that is certain to wreck whatever hopes you may have for the futures of your children and grandchildren. Wake up, people!! Time

**ROBILLARD**  
continued from page A9

truth. His policies of going after the oil industry will increase the oil prices dramatically. You will lose the added \$3000 dollars in you budget from Trump. You will be back to turning the thermostat down to 55 degrees to conserve oil. You will be back to shutting of all lights. Yes, these will be cold dark winters indeed. With the dwindling of US oil on the world market, the middle east oil prices will be back way up. This will give those countries additional funds for the terrorist. We will be back in the middle east to fight the never-ending wars. Instead of an empty seat at the Thanksgiving table where grandma used to be, there will be an empty plate where your 18-20-year-old kids used to sit. They will be back in Iraq getting killed or made cripples. Any loss of life is tragic, but the loss of a young

grows short. Get on board the Trump train while you can. If you have awoken from your life-long political slumber, get involved with waking up your friends and family. To quote the noble Protestant theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who, along with his Catholic priest friends, was murdered by the Nazis: In the face of evil, "Not to speak, is to speak; not to act, is to act."

And all good people, Catholic and otherwise, are urged and invited to join us at the last stand for President Trump on Friday, Oct. 30, from 4 to 6 p.m. in Oxford Center. You will not believe the excitement and enthusiasm you'll witness from the flag-and-sign wavers as well as the passing traffic. This is a "don't miss" event if you love Trump and his vision for America. See you there!

Please note: I implore Catholics and others who wish to hear an incredibly brave and fine priest (Fr. Edward Meeks, Christ the King parish, Towson, Md.) explain in his homily of Oct. 11 the five fundamental reasons why Catholics cannot in good conscience vote for the Catholic candidate Biden, please go to <https://anticatholicticket.com/archives/1510>. You will be amazed by what this good and brave man has to say.

JOHN MCRAE  
EAST BROOKFIELD

person who never got the chance is a thousand times more tragic to me than a 70 or 80-year-old person. I am 60 years old myself, and I would trade my life in an instant if I knew a young person would be spared. I am sure many of the elderly who have lived a good life feel the same.

So, this is the choice you have in this election. Go for prosperity, optimism, hope, and an end to the wars by voting Trump. A vote for Biden will mean continued lockdowns, loss of jobs, higher energy costs to destroy home budgets, and continued US involvement in Mideast wars. I am looking forward to bright sunny days and warm winters with the family. I want to keep that \$3,000 in my pocket. I'm voting for Trump, and I hope you do too.

MARK ROBILLARD  
SPENCER

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# OBITUARIES

## Jon W. Perry, 90



SPENCER -Jon Wolfenden Perry 80, beloved husband of 60 years to Linda (Dwinell) Perry passed away on October 25, 2020; surrounded by his loving family. Jon was born in Spencer on February 29, 1940, son of the late

Harold and Alice (Wolfenden) Perry and lived in Spencer for most of his life. He served his country honorably in the United States Army, during the Vietnam Era; having been stationed in Thailand. Jon retired from Jamesbury Valve Co., in Worcester; having previously been the manager of the Welding Department at Smith Valve Co., also Worcester. He was a longtime member of the First Congregational

Church, Spencer. In addition to his wife, Jon is survived by his four children, Christopher Perry and his friend Nancy Lilla, of Ware, Wayne Perry and his wife Jean, of Hardwick, David Perry of Leicester, Rebecca Barthelmes and her husband Greg, of Rutland; two sisters, Patricia Ensom of Oxford, Alice Mulvey of Woodstock, CT; 11 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren and extended family. Presently, no fune-



al services are being planned. Pillsbury Funeral Home, Spencer is entrusted with arrangements. pillsburyfuneral-home.com

### BLAIS

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What is our cross? It is to daily humble ourself in obedience, submissive to God, Jesus and to be overcomers against what the world is offering and to die to self in obedience and commitment to God, Jesus

Spiritual wisdom should be very important to us, it is the capacity to be able to see clearly what God desires and wants us to developed into, the image of Jesus on earth, earth is a temporary home preparing us, teaching us how we need to live so that we can live eternally with God in Heaven.

Who are God's people? Those who receive, accept Jesus in their hearts. God's people are those who are morally upright because God is holy. God has standards, we need to maintain proper conduct, keep our oath, promises, control our emotions, remain committed and overcomers to Jesus, and we can only accomplish this from the Holy Spirit through Jesus. [Psalm 15]

Do we want to rid our self of this virus? The choice is yours, all we need to do is do as [2 Chronicle 7: 14] [Psalm 67] [2 Corinthians 11: 14-15 instructs you, us, we must as individuals and a nation acknowledge, praise confess and repent before God, Jesus and we need to be very careful of Satan, he is very deceitful, he is the prince of darkness, he is able to disguise himself as an angel of light claiming to represent Jesus Christ as a servant of righteousness.

Spiritual wisdom is very important it is our capacity to be able to see clearly what God desires, wants us to do "and" to see the world from God's eyes, heart. Unfortunately spiritual insight can be easily clouded, deceived by the worlds temptation, tempting our self-serving desires, physical pleasures, the flesh. Unless we make an inward decision, choice, commitment to serve God, Jesus we will be deceived, deception can lead to spiritual ruin, spiritual death.

### POWELL

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to the outcomes of several other criminal investigations now in process by legal authorities, to see if the same conclusion will be reached about Trump, the ignoble, contemptible, corrupt, current POTUS.

My "display of defiance" was put up to support our candidate of choice in 2016. It did attract much attention, positive and negative, the positive being very polite, and the negative... Well! It seems local conservative descriptive outbursts about opposing vulgar and political loudmouths applies here, because, from the time that sign went up, we were targeted each and every single day by Trump supporters, in their obnoxious, speeding, loudly revved vehicles, screaming out their windows, either to us, working in our beautiful yard, or into the wind, if we happened to be trying to be relax peacefully in our own home. Every. Single. Day. Empty booze bottles, cans, trash, thrown onto our property, often, right into our driveway; nasty letters, un-postmarked, therefore, illegally placed into our mailbox, both before and after the election; insults and chants, so often heard at Trump rallies, shouted our way. even if my sweet, white haired, 90 year old mother was exercising with her walker in our driveway. Because of the abuse and the nasty letters, we decided that win or lose, that sign was staying up, in protest and defiance of the low caliber and character of the Republican candidate and the low caliber and character of so many of his followers. "A basket of deplorables", is, I believe, an apt description for those harassing us and a few of those frequent writers to this local paper, who seem to spend an awful lot of time attacking the opposing political demonstrators and writers personhood, with caustic descriptive language, based on their own nasty misogynistic, racist or political biases, rather than keeping to a diligent and factual debate on issues.

So, Mr. Reed: To clarify this incident: In addition to the last four long years of harassment by rude Trump supporters, our mailbox was indeed smashed, on Thursday, September 24th. Police were notified by my husband on Friday, Sept. 25. Sunday, Sept. 27, a neighbor knocked on our door to inform us that his daughter witnessed two men, running through their yard in the dark of night, with a huge McGovern sign, yanked off our fence, which the vandals dropped, for fear of being caught, and probably because of it's size, not easy to carry off. Other signs, all of which were very securely tied, were damaged or removed, including that COVID deaths sign, keeping sad count of the toll of American lives lost because of the lack of leadership from our cur-

Serving God, Jesus is the only way and it starts within our heart. The choice to fix our eyes, heart on God, Jesus that is our responsibility. [Matthew 6: 23]

Jesus is teaching and warning us not to try and test, manipulate God, Jesus, God is holy; God's Word is truth, final. [Matthew 4: 7]

Jesus said, warn us in [Matt. 7: 13] narrow is the gate. This means there are many who are deceived and will not enter heaven.

Jesus is also teaching us that when we acknowledge Jesus He will acknowledge us before God, however, if we reject Jesus, Jesus will disown us before God. What Jesus is teaching us is apart from Jesus we will not go to heaven. [Matthew 10: 32]

Jesus is teaching us that to take up our cross is to follow the examples of Jesus and to willingly, publicly identify our self with Jesus and to commit, submit to Jesus at all cost Matthew [10: 38]

We need to daily count the cost of being a follower, disciple of Jesus [Luke 14:25-34] and the following scriptures are warning us if we do not remain faithful, submitted to God, Jesus we can lose our salvation.

God so loves the world, us, His creation. God gave, sent His Son Jesus yesterday to teach us how to live, "and" today as it was yesterday God is still reaching out to us encouraging and warning us to accepted Jesus. Jesus is the only redeemer who can save us from our sins and give us a new life. This new life is a choice we must make, the cost is a willingness to humble our self, to die to self and accept, submit to God's standards, values and principles through the teaching and examples of Jesus. Your choice! [John 3: 16] To be continued!

Roland Blais  
Brookfield  
Count the cost of following Jesus Part 2

Jesus is very clear, explicit in John 14: 6, I [Jesus] am the way, the truth, and the life, "no one come to the Father"

rent POTUS. So: Mr. McRae, that COVID deaths sign, absolutely is to draw attention to and honor those lives lost in this nightmare. Each one of those lives has left deep grief in the lives of those who loved them. Unnecessary deaths, people torn from their families, both victims and loved ones terrified of the diagnoses, the final trip to the hospital, the inability to comfort a loved one, during horrible days of illness and tragic deaths. One of those lives lost very early on, because of, in my opinion, the lack of public notice of the dangers of COVID, by a President who apparently damned well knew of the imminent danger to American citizens, was a beloved family member, who traveled not knowing the dangers, came back ill, carried out of his lifelong home by his only son, a local firefighter dressed in hazmat protection, to the ambulance, a terrified look in his eyes, unable to breathe, hospitalized and ventilated immediately, never to see or hold his loved ones again, and who suffered a very unnecessary early death from COVID complications, just one month before his first grandchild was born, leaving a devastated family, life partner and hole in the hearts of all who knew him as a loving father, valued employee, business owner, community member, firefighter and very well known, upstanding member of society. So. Yeah! It is more than personal! BYDON 2020! That death count has gone up from 204,000, to 223,000 since some inconsiderate person smashed our sign on Sept. 27. Families of those COVID victims are still grieving. So, unless you have gone through this experience, shush your mocking opinion of what our sign stands for.

Flimsy theories mentioned by a certain sound off, sound as bent as his other diatribes. Our fellow democratic citizens, (in my opinion and experience), do not possess your deviant thought processes and did not sneak up to our property to destroy an expensive sign that promotes their causes. Since we are over retirement age, spent A LOT of time setting up our sign display, and were sound asleep all night, we certainly did not destroy our hard work, or invent this upset. We have much more productive ways to spend our weekend time, such as tending to our yard, family, economic survival, and volunteering for election efforts.

As far as someone doing this for "kicks, thrills, or by persons who dislike Ms. Powell or other members of her family," I cannot imagine that scenario, since we live a very quiet life, and have positive interactions with all those we know. So, I will tell you, Mr. Reed, I take offense and umbrage at your aspersions to us as fellow residents, or to the veracity of the incidents themselves. They were clearly infringements on property rights, tres-

[God] except through me [Jesus]

Jesus said I have overcome the world, and so can we through Jesus. [John 16: 33]

To whoever is reading this article, God is a Holy God and sin separates us from God, and, God sent His Son Jesus to be our sacrifice for our sins. Jesus is the only and final and ultimate sacrifice for our sins. Apart from Jesus there is no salvation, Jesus is the only way to God, heaven. [John 14: 6] [John 19: 30]

God uses many approaches to send, give His message to the people. In the Old Testament God used many different people called prophets and today the New Covenant Bible it is Jesus the Son of the living God the exact representation of God, God Himself through Jesus who teaches us what we need to do, how we need to live. [Hebrew 1: 2-3]

Have you ever wondered what eternity with God would be or will be like, what you should be considering, what earthly choices you need to be making? God or Satan, eternity in heaven or hell. I am sharing my convictions, there are absolutely no questions or doubts in my heart, God, Jesus is my hearts desire. Just thing about it for a moment no more death, pain, sorrow, that is a promise from God, Jesus verse 4. There is no question in my mind, heart. We only have 2 choices heaven or hell, choose wisely, you know what you need to do confess and repent [2 Chronicle 7: 14] asking God, Jesus to forgive us. That is the cost of our cross humility and self-denial. Jesus did the hard part, suffered and died for us; our redemption and now we need to do our part [Luke 14: 28] [Revelation 21: 3-4]

God's Word makes it very clear, explicit, just as God finished the work creation [Genesis 2: 1-3] Jesus finished the work of redemption [John 19: 30] and the Holy Spirit does the guiding and instructions, it is the work of the Triune God, [trinity] Father, Son, Holy Spirit that will finish the plan of salvation "and" you, me, us need to make that choice, eternal life with God, Jesus

passing, vandalism and destruction or theft of personal property is wrong, no matter who does it. As far as proper media coverage, this is an issue that is worthy of addressing and was reported responsibly, with journalistic accuracy, instead of through the vile subjective billows of hot air and convoluted "logic" of certain verbose editorial letter writers, who use our local editorial page as their pulpit for misinformation, disinformation, and dissemination of unsubstantiated republican propaganda, colored darkly with their own personal religious, societal, and political ideologies.

As to the rest of Mr. McRae's rant: Russian collusion is proven. Trump was impeached. Even if Republicans failed in their duty to carry through. Stormy Daniels case was proven. Trump had an affair with her and another woman while his wife was pregnant. Trump is a philanderer, Trump is a liar, a cheat, on his wives, his family, his taxes, in his business dealings. Trump insulted John McCain for being a prisoner of war, in doing so, he insults my uncle, who saw and suffered atrocities in a Japanese prison camp. Trump has derided Gold Star families, military senior staff, and personnel. Trump, in the opinions of many much more educated and important persons than me or you, has failed miserably, as Commander in Chief of our honorable military men and women, including one family member serving our Navy proudly in Guam.

We are proud occupants of our lovingly tended home and yard. We voted for Clinton, who, despite your frequent claims, and in spite of decades of attempted criminal prosecution by political enemies, is absolutely NOT guilty of any crimes against individuals, entities, or our country, which she served so long and so well. Unlike your corrupt, self-serving current idol. Yes! I have had that "HATE HAS NO HOME HERE" sign in my yard. I carried BLM signs at peaceful protests. I marched in the incredible Women's March in Washington, the day after the inauguration in 2016, a march to behold, such HUGE crowds, barely room to move, but perfectly peaceful, from start to finish. (BTW: Meandering all through the streets around the Capitol on inauguration day...there were empty bleachers up and down the street, no big crowds, front amusing to see!) I have stood in front of city hall with a FAMILIES BELONG TOGETHER sign, in support of DACA and fair, humane immigration policy. I have gone to the Statehouse in support of Planned Parenthood. I carry signs supporting Women's Equality, Women's Reproductive Rights, Women's right to control their own body and indeed, their own destiny. My CLINTON KAINE sign

or with Satan alias

Lucifer. [Revelation 21: 6-8]

Let me give you a little history of Satan, [alias Lucifer] what he is capable of without Jesus, apart from God, Jesus. Do not be deceived Lucifer [Satan] was also created by God, however, Lucifer and other angels were not created in the image of God as we humans are [Genesis 1: 27] Lucifer was very beautiful and almost a perfect angel, unfortunately pride caused him to believe he was equal to God and because of his pride Lucifer was cast from heaven and today he is bitter and belter known as Satan [the prince of evil] Satan masquerades himself as an angel of light making every effort to tempt and deceive us from following God, Jesus with his alluring invitations of immoral physical pleasures. Satan's anger towards God is directed at us to deceived and tempt us to live immoral lives that will cause us to sin and be separated from God, Jesus, and heaven. 2 Corinthians 11: 14-15 is teaching and reminding us that if we follow Satan we will be alienated from heaven. The choice is, yours, be deceived by Satan or cry out to God, Jesus in prayer and repentance [2 Chronicle 7: 14] asking God to forgive and bless you, us, this Nation. Do not let pride, self indulgence be the cost of your salvation. [Luke 14: 28]

Jesus accepted the cost for our redemption, the cross, Jesus paid for our redemption, our salvation. What are we willing to sacrifice [cost] are you willing to submit, follow Jesus for your salvation? Do you want to be physically and spiritually blessed; the choice is simple, live by God's moral laws, it is that simple. Draw near to God, Jesus and Jesus will draw near to you. [James 4: 8]

What is your earthly and eternal life worth to you? God bless President Trump and America!

ROLAND BLAIS  
BROOKFIELD MA.  
508 867 6124

was not a "Finger in the face" to anyone, but rather, a political protest against an administration hell bent on setting back health care access and affordability, women's rights, civil rights, voting rights, public education improvements, immigration rights, and yes, I support our law abiding police organizations and all those that serve in the public sector with integrity and honor. Last, but certainly not least, I have stood on the sidewalks of our little town, quietly, respectfully and peaceably holding my VOTE DEMOCRATIC signs, while black smoke spewing Trump supporters gun their engines as they drive by, shouting their vulgarities, insults, and sordid, untrue, ridiculous Biden allegations out of their vehicles. So, spare me the whining about overzealous "liberals" perhaps doing the same to your supporters at your very loud, obnoxious Trump gatherings. In closing, regarding your juvenile silly name calling, which seems to be part of your writing style, but truly sir, it only serves to underline your lack of intellectual ability to stick to a subject and defend your position in a cognizant fashion, with facts, instead of colorful and insulting language towards your political opponents. I suppose we are suburban liberals, we all are born somewhere, including you, and as such, have certain characteristics of a geographical and demographic nature. But suburban citizens may have various life experiences that affect their political leanings. Your life experience seems to have made you intolerant, close minded, nasty, and vile in your approach to political discussion and disagreement, leading you to verbally attack the personhood of anyone that disagrees with your political ideology. I am proud, that in spite of my humble, ordinary blue collar, catholic beginnings, raised in a somewhat less economically advantaged family of nine, weaned on democratic principles, a love of learning of history and literature, that my long life experience and that of my husband and offspring, has given many opportunities to learn and be open minded towards the world outside our suburban borders and to the vulnerabilities and difficulties in life that many others endure. I believe most Americans also have that wider, more inclusive, more democratic view and I hope that this election will show that clearly to all. Then, perhaps, with calmer leadership, this destructive rhetoric will simmer down and our country can set to work repairing the vast damages caused by what many in this country and the world, consider the absolute worst POTUS in history.

Sincerely,

LINETTE POWELL  
SPENCER

# LEGALS

## Notice of Public Hearing

**Spencer Zoning Board of Appeals**  
At the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting to be held on Tuesday, November 10, 2020, the hearing will be conducted remotely to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 and will be broadcast live on Spencer Cable Access channels and at SCATV.org on the following items starting at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard:  
**Special Permit – Applicant/Owner: Donald Bonder; Location: 32 Lamoureux Lane, Spencer Assessor's Map U25-29. The applicant is requesting a Special Permit under Section 4.4.1.B (Private Garage) of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw to build a 2-car garage, with carport, and 2nd floor storage. The property is located within the Lake Residential zoning district.**

**Variance – Applicants/Owners: Ethan & Diana O'Brien as members of Island View LLC; Location: 111 Wilson Ave, Spencer Assessor's Map U28-27. The applicant is requesting a variance under Section 5.2 (Table of Height & Bulk Requirements, Maximum Building Coverage) and 7.3 (Variance) of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw in order to remove and replace an existing seasonal camp and build a year-round single-family dwelling. The property is located within the lake residential zoning district.**

October 23, 2020  
October 30, 2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Worcester Division**  
**Docket No. WO20P2740EA**  
**Estate of:**  
**Ann L Dick**  
**Date Of Death: July 24, 2020**  
**INFORMAL PROBATE**  
**PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Cathy Dick of Warren MA** Petitioner Annmarie Kilborn of North Brookfield MA a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

**Cathy Dick of Warren MA**  
**Annmarie Kilborn of North Brookfield MA**

has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.  
October 30, 2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Worcester Probate and Family Court**  
**225 Main Street**  
**Worcester, MA 01608**  
**(508) 831-2200**  
**Docket No. WO20P2783EA**  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
**Estate of:**  
**Wayne P. Frantum**  
**Date of Death: 07/24/2020**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Susan L. Frantum of New Braintree MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.  
The Petitioner requests that **Susan L. Frantum of New Braintree MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **an unsupervised** administration.  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

## BERTHIUME

continued from page A7

mittee has begun to hear testimony and will soon report to the legislature and veterans' families, providing answers on what went wrong and how policies can be improved.

Additionally, Berthiaume was appointed to the Rural School Funding Special Committee to study the unique financial challenges facing rural school districts.

For the past four years, Berthiaume has served on the Ways and Means

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/10/2020.** This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**  
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.  
**WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.**

Date: October 08, 2020

Stephanie K. Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
October 30, 2020

## Notice of Public Hearing

### Planning Board

The Spencer Planning Board will be holding a Public Hearing on **Tuesday November 17, 2020** in McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall and the hearing will be conducted remotely to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 and will be broadcast live on Spencer Cable Access channels and at SCATV.org on the following items starting at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard.

**Special Permit – Applicant/ Owner: John Kennedy, 50 E. Charlton Road; Location: East Charlton Road; Spencer Assessor's Map R14-53-1, R14-53-3, R14-53-5. The applicant is requesting a Special Permit under 5.3.10 (Rear lot subdivision) of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw in order to create a rear lot subdivision. The property is located within the Rural Residential zoning district.**  
**Special Permit – Applicant/ Owner: Adam German; Location: 71 East Charlton Road; Spencer Assessor's Map R14-29-2 and R-14- 29-3. The applicant is requesting a Special Permit under 5.3.10 (Rear lot subdivision) of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw in order to create a rear lot subdivision. The property is located within the Rural Residential zoning district.**

October 30, 2020

November 6, 2020

## Notice of Public Hearing

### Planning Board

The Spencer Planning Board will be holding a Public Hearing on **Tuesday November 17, 2020** in McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall and the hearing will be conducted remotely to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 and will be broadcast live on Spencer Cable Access channels and at SCATV.org on the following items starting at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard.

**Special Permit - Applicant: Catalyze, LLC; Owner: ATV Realty Trust, Location: 51 Borkum Road; Spencer Assessor's Map R05-01. The applicant is a Special Permit under Section 4.3.25 (Construction Trades - outside area used for storage of equipment) of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw to use 2 acres for the storage of shipping containers filled with solar panels. The property is located within the Rural Residential zoning district.**  
**Definitive Subdivision Plan - Applicant: Colin Derhammer; Owner: Spencer Solar II LLC c/o Melink Solar Development, Location: Charlton Road (Bacon Hill Road); Spencer Assessor's Map R08-10. The applicant is requesting a definitive subdivision approval under Article 2.3 (Definitive Subdivision Plans) of the Spencer Subdivision Regulations. The property is located within the Rural Residential zoning district.**

October 30, 2020

November 6, 2020

## TAX CLASSIFICATION HEARING

### TOWN OF BROOKFIELD

Committee and several other committees.

"As a Navy veteran, I am honored to serve on the Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs," Berthiaume said. "I am also the ranking member serving on the Committee on Elder Affairs."

This campaign season, Berthiaume has traveled to every corner of his district to hear from business owners, municipal leaders, seniors, students, and first responders. He thanks the community for its continued support throughout his last several years in public service.

In accordance with Chapter 369 of the Acts of 1982, the Brookfield Board of Selectmen will hold a Classification Hearing on Tuesday, November 3, 2020, at 6:45 PM, to determine the residential factor for the Town of Brookfield to be used in setting the tax rate for Fiscal Year 2021. This will be a remote access meeting at which time any persons having an interest may call in to participate. Meeting contact information can be found at: [www.mytowngovernment.org/01506](http://www.mytowngovernment.org/01506)

Clarence M. Snyder III, Chair  
Beth L. Coughlin, Vice-Chair  
Linda M. Lincoln, Clerk  
Brookfield Board of Selectmen  
October 30, 2020

## Commonwealth of Massachusetts

### The Trial Court

### Probate and Family Court

### Worcester Probate and Family Court

### 225 Main Street

### Worcester, MA 01608

### (508) 831-2200

### Docket No. WO20C0339CA

### CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

### In the matter of: Errin Lee Roberts

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Errin Lee Roberts of Brookfield MA**

requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: **Errin Lee Metcalf**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

**Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/10/2020. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.**

**WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.**

Date: October 15, 2020

Stephanie K. Fattman  
Register of Probate  
October 30, 2020

## Commonwealth of Massachusetts

### The Trial Court

### Probate and Family Court

### Worcester Probate and Family Court

### 225 Main Street

### Worcester, MA 01608

### (508) 831-2200

### Docket No. WO20P277 4EA

### CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

### Estate of:

### Paul R. Sagendorph

### Date of Death: 03/10/2020

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Joan D. Sagendorph of East Brookfield MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that **Joan D. Sagendorph of East Brookfield MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **an unsupervised** administration.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/03/2020.** This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**  
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.  
**WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.**

Date: October 07, 2020

Stephanie K. Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
October 30, 2020

## Commonwealth of Massachusetts

### The Trial Court

### Probate and Family Court

### Worcester Probate and Family Court

### 225 Main Street

### Worcester, MA 01608

### (508) 831-2200

### Docket No. WO20P2409EA

### CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

### Estate of:

### Pauline Swedis

### Date of Death: 10/12/2018

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **S/A - Informal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Heather M Benham of Spencer MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that **Heather M Benham of Spencer MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **an unsupervised** administration.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/17/2020.** This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**  
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.  
**WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.**

Date: October 14, 2020

Stephanie K. Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
October 30, 2020

## Zoning Board of Appeals

### Town of North Brookfield

### 215 North Main Street

### North Brookfield, MA 01535

### October 23, 2020

The North Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing & meeting on Thursday, November 12, 2020 at 6:30pm in the North Brookfield Police Department Training Room, 55 School St on the application of Richard Dwelly & Raeann Caron for a Special Permit to Zoning Bylaw, VI.B.4: to construct an apartment addition and change structure to a 2-family. A copy of the application is available at the Town Clerk's Office at 215 North Main St.

Respectfully,  
Tara M Hayes, Clerk  
October 30, 2020

## Notice of Public Hearing

### Town of Spencer

### Tax Classification

The Board of Selectmen will be hold a Public Hearing on November 23, 2020 at 6:00 pm to discuss the percentage of the tax levy to be borne by each class of real and personal property for Fiscal Year 2021, pursuant to Chapter 369 of the Acts of the Massachusetts General Laws relating to classification and taxation of property according to use. Due to the Coronavirus, the hearing will be held remotely. Taxpayers may present their views by dialing into the hearing at: 1-877-309-2073 and enter Access Code: 137-513-109, or in writing in advance to the Board of Selectmen, Memorial Town Hall 157 Main St., Spencer, MA.

Ralph E. Hicks Chairman

October 30, 2020

in all communities. They have always appreciated Berthiaume's dedication to every issue; besides missing a single day to attend his father's funeral, Berthiaume has not missed a vote in his tenure as State Representative. Additionally, he was recently congratulated for maintaining a perfect voting record for the 2019-2020 legislative session, participating in all 267 roll call votes recorded in the House of Representatives between Jan. 30, 2019 and July 31, 2020.

The election will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 3.



# REAL ESTATE



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**WEBSTER** – 20 Kunkel Ave! SUNNY SHORES! First Time Offered! 8 Rooms, 4 Bedrooms, 2.5 Bath Colonial! Featuring an Appliance Eat-in Cabinet Packed Kitchen! Formal Dining Room! 1st Floor Family Room w/Hardwood Floor! 1st Floor Half Bath w/Laundry! Gleaming Hardwood Staircase to the 2nd Floor w/4 Bedrooms! Master w/ Master Bath & Walk-in Closet! Many Recent Updates including Roof, Central Air, Hot Water Heater, Dishwasher & Refrigerator! Back Deck Overlooks Large Fenced Yard! 7 Zone Irrigation System! Farmer's Porch! Shed! 2 Car Garage w/Openers! This Home has Everything You Need and Then Some! Expandable Basement! Desirable Neighborhood w/Webster Lake Beach & Boat Ramp Access Nearby! Convenient to Route 395! **\$369,900.00**

**CHARLTON** – 64 Bond Rd! Gorgeous 2,800' 8 Rm, 3 Bdrm, 2.5 Bath Contemporary Ranch set on a Professionally Landscaped 1.49 Acres w/Natural Stone Walls! Quality Craftsmanship Throughout! Featuring a Spacious Granite Kitchen w/Cherry Cabinets & Hrdwd Flrs! Formal Dining Rm! Spacious Frplc Family Rm w/Cathedral Ceilings, Built-in Bookcases, an Open Flr Plan for All Your Entertaining Needs! Capacious Master Bdrm Suite w/Master Bath & Huge Office! Mostly Finished Walk-out Lower Level Featuring a Large Exercise Rm, Bar Area, Plenty of Storage & 3rd Garage! Unfinished Bonus Rm Over the 2 Car Attached Garage! Private Back Yard for Entertaining w/Multi Level Decks and New Patio! Listed by Another, SOLD by C21 Lake Realty! **\$535,000.00**

**DUDLEY** – 26 River St! 6 Room Colonial! Granite Kitchen w/Cherry Cabinets, SS Appliances, Cathedral Ceiling w/Ceiling Fan & Hardwood Floor! Dining Area & Living Rm w/Hardwoods! 3 Bdrms w/Hrdwds! 2 Granite Vanity Bathrooms! 3 Seasons Porch! Deck! Listed by Another, SOLD by C21 Lake Realty! **\$313,000.00**

**DOUGLAS** – 102 SE Main St! Start Packing! Spacious 9 Rm Colonial! 2.23 Acres! Center Island Granite Kit w/Soft Close Cabs, SS Appliances! Slider to 24' Deck! Open Floor Plan! Hickory Wood Floors throughout the Kit, Din & Liv Rms, all w/Recessed Lighting! 1st Flr Office or Possible 4th Bdrm w/Oak Hrdwd Flr! Full Bath in the Hall! 2nd Flr w/Full Dble Vanity Bthrm & 3 Comfortable Bdrms, all w/Beautiful Wood Laminate Flrs! Master w/Cathedral Ceiling, Skylight, Ceiling Fan, Bay Window overlooking the Back Yard and a Master Bath! Lower Level w/2 Finished Rms, Utility Rm w/Laundry and Half Bath! 3.5 Baths Total! Recent C/Air, Heat & Roof! 24x26 2 Car Detached Garage! Huge Shed! Nearby Nature Trails & Wallum Lake Beach! **\$379,900.00**

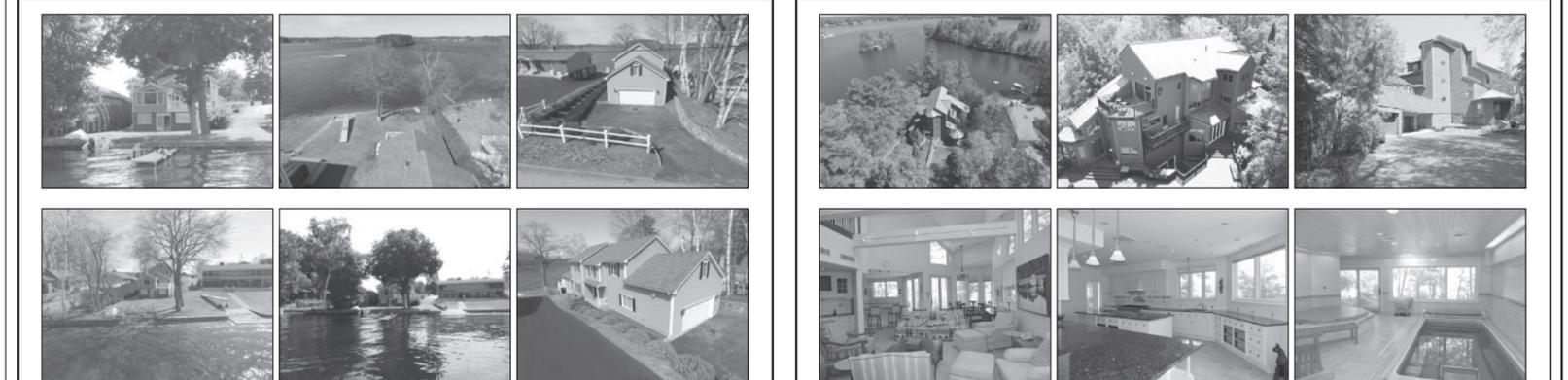


**WEBSTER LAKE** – 112 Gore Rd! NORTH POND! Sucker Brook Cove! 8 Rm, 3 Bdrm, 1.5 Bath Ranch is Ready for You! Southwestern Exposure! Gorgeous Sunsets! Unique Waterfront! An Open Floor Plan! Lake Views from Nearly All Rooms! 2x6 Construction! Energy Efficient Blinds in Every Room! 4 Oil Tanks - Fill Up Once a Year! C/Air! Gas Fireplace! Whole House Fan! Meticulously Cared For! Large workshop! 3 Car Garage! Carport! 2 Sheds w/Electric! Back Yard is Perfect for Family Gatherings! Plenty of Off Street Parking! Summer is Here! **\$539,900.00**

**HOLDEN** – 315 Holden St! 6 Rm Ranch! Meticulously Maintained! 2 Spacious Bdrms, Full Tiled Bath & 1 Car Garage! Move In Ready! Granite Oak Cabinet Kit w/Tiled Back Splash & JennAir Stove! Frplc Liv Rm! Fam Rm! Gleaming Hrdwds! Perfect Yard w/Major Landscaping this Year! New Roof 2019! **\$344,900.00**

**WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT** – 3 Lakeview Rd! Middle Pond – Reid Smith Cove! Ideal Summer or Yr Round 6 Rm Ranch! Western Expo – Beautiful Sunsets! Near All the Excitement that "Indian Ranch" provides, Dining, Concerts & the Indian Princess! An Arched Bridge to Your Own Private Island, a Great Place to Enjoy the Lake from! Open Flr Plan! Being Sold Fully Furnished! Recent Kit w/Quartz Counters, Breakfast Bar, SS Appliances, Tile Flr & Recessed Lighting! Liv Rm w/Hrdwd Flr, 6x14 Lake Facing Picture Window & Stone Frplc! 3 Remodeled Bdrms w/Ceiling Fans & Hrdwd Flrs! Master w/Bath & Laundry Closet! Screen Porch w/Lake Views! Dock! Carport! Shed! Still Time for this Summer! **\$579,900.00**

**GRAFTON** – 168 Brigham Hill Rd! 8 Rm Garrison Colonial set on 1.3 Acres! 4 Comfortable Bdrms & 2 Full Bthrms! Freshly Painted, Floors Recently Refinished! Spacious Kit w/Lunch Counter! SS Appliances w/Gas Cook-Top! Grand Dining Rm for Family Gatherings! 19x26 Living Rm w/Pellet Stove! Master Bdrm w/Dble Closets & Hot Tub! Bright & Airy Mudroom out to the 2 Car Garage! Furnace & Hot Water Tank 5 Years Young! Radon tested at 2.5! Newer Roof on Garage & Breezeway! New Well Water Tank Installed! Title V in-hand! Property Abuts Grafton Land Trust - Hiking Trails Right Out Your Back Door! Convenient to Routes 90, 9 & 20! Immediate Occupancy! **\$449,900.00**



**WEBSTER LAKE** – 62 Bates Point Rd! Middle Pond! Absolute Prime 51' Level Waterfront Lot w/Western Expo! Beautiful Sunsets! Fantastic Panoramic Lake Views! 11 Rms, 6 Bdrms, 4 Bathrooms, 3,269' AC'd Colonial! Custom SS Appliance Granite Kit! Formal Din Rm w/Cherry Hrdwds! Lake Facing Liv Rm w/Cathedrals, Cherry Hrdwds! Slider to Waterfront Deck! Spacious 1st Flr Master Bdrm w/Full Bath, Cherry Hrdwds & Walk-in Closet! Frplcd Lower Level Fam Rm! 1st & 2nd Flr Laundries! 2 Car Garage! **\$949,900.00**

**WEBSTER LAKE** – 11 Bay View Rd! One of the Lake's Premier Properties! 9,822' of Nice! .68 Acres of Park Like Grounds! 297' Waterfront! \$4 Million Spent, Nothing Spared! 17 Rms! 5 Water View Bdrms, 5.5 Bathrms! Brazilian Cherry Hrdwd Flrs, Grand & Spiral Stairways! Elevator, Ground Flr to Master Suite! In-door Resistance Swimming Pool, Hot Tub & Bthrm w/Steam Shower off Exercise Rm! Billiard Rm! Media Rm! Center Isl Granite Kit w/Viking Gas Range, Sub-Zero Frig, Pantry & Breakfast Bar! Open Flr Plan! Din Area, Fam Rm w/Entertainment Center w/Wet Bar! Formal Din Rm, Frplc Liv Rm & Atrium! Library w/Deck! Waterfront Master Suite w/Office, Bdrm w/Triple Glass Dr to Private Deck w/Lake Views, 3 Walk-in Closets, Bathrm w/Multi-Head Shower, Whirlpool, Dble Vanity, Separate Commode/Bidet/Sink Area! 16 2's of Updated Geothermal Heat/A/C! Recessed Lights & Fire Sprinklers Through Out! 3 Car Garage! Generator! Slate Roof! Reward Yourself! **\$2,499,900.00**



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**WEBSTER - 103 UPPER GORE RD**  
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**WEBSTER - 21 3RD STREET UNIT: B**  
Condominium - Living leisurely! 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath (including master suite) home. Freshly painted! Recessed lighting, gas fireplace, and sliding doors, beautiful balcony. Walkout basement! built-in outdoor grilling spot. Easy access to I395. **\$224,900**

**THOMPSON - 452 FABYAN ROAD**  
**SORRY, SOLD!**  
Impressive Gambel Colonial! 2,343 SF, 3 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, 1st Flr Master BR Suite! Master bath w/whirlpool tub & shower. Country Home on 2.41+- PRIVATE ACRES! Cathedral wood ceilings! Granite counter-tops, stainless appliances, & ceramic tile floors! 2nd Flr - 2 bed rooms & full bath, lot/great room w/balcony! Over-sized 3 car, detached garage, w/2nd story room! TRULY A FAR-AWAY PLACE NEARBY! **\$398,500.**

**DANIELSON CT- 52 TAFT STREET**  
**SORRY, SOLD!**  
Spacious Ranch, 1520+- Sq Ft 8 room 3 Bedroom, 2 Full Baths, Hardwood Floors throughout, Fireplace family room, FHW/OIL Heat - New Furnace, Windows, Also, recent Asphalt Driveway! Over sized Garage! 1/2 Acre Lot. Dead end road. Close to I-395! **\$255,500.**

**WEBSTER - 195-199 THOMPSON RD**  
3 ACRE COMMERCIAL SITE! APPROX. 550 FT ROAD FRONTAGE ON STATE HIGHWAY RTE 193 A/K/A THOMPSON ROAD. STRATEGICALLY NESTLED BETWEEN TWO (2) I-395 (NORTH & SOUTH) ON-RAMPS & TWO (2) I-395 (NORTH & SOUTH) OFF-RAMPS! PROPERTY DIRECTLY ADJUTS I-395! 48'X80' CONCRETE BLOCK BUILDING, 7,680 SF TOTAL FULL LOWER LEVEL USE & DRIVE IN GARAGE DOOR! HIGH TRAFFIC - HIGH EXPOSURE! WHAT DO YOU HAVE PLANNED?! **\$600,000.**

**WOODSTOCK CT - 110 JOY RD**  
Quintessential Woodstock Farmhouse w/Spectacular views of Pond, Detached Studio Building! 2.5 Acres. Prof. Landscaped, 5 Bedrooms, Fireplaced Dining, library/Music room, Master Bedroom, 2 Full Baths! Renovated Kitchen, Upstairs, 4 Bedrooms w/Full Bath. **\$425,000.**

**LAND WEBSTER/OXFORD/DUDLEY/DOUGLAS**  
Oxford - 4 Leicester St - Approx. 8.47 ACRES! River Frontage Possible to be Subdivided! **\$89,900**  
Webster - Upper Gore w/View of the Lake! 1+ Acre! Artesian Well, Septic Design & Conservation - DONE. **NEW PRICE \$115,000.**  
Webster - Copper Road 2 Buildable Lots! Water & Sewer Access. Zoned Lake Pls! **Each \$24,500.**  
Douglas-Mount Daniels 2.5 Acres abuts Douglas State Forest! **ON DEPOSIT! \$132,900**  
Dudley - Marshall Terrace 12,000+- Sq Ft Lot! Potential for a 2 Family! **SORRY SOLD! \$70,000.**  
Dudley - Packard Dr. 2 Lots! Very Private! off Ridge Dr. Will not last! **SORRY SOLD! \$50,000**

**OXFORD - 4 SPICEBUSH LANE**  
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**OXFORD - 115 CHARLTON ROAD**  
**SORRY, SOLD!**  
Beautiful home set back off road providing privacy and oversized yard. Kitchen w/granite counters & abundance of cabinets. Cathedral ceilings kitchen, dining and living room. Open floor plan large deck with large backyard through sliders in dining room. Hardwood floors! Tile baths. Master bedroom/master bath! Finished walkout lower level w/bar! 2 car garage. Extras: above ground pool! **\$369,900.**

**WEBSTER - 52 CUDWORTH ROAD**  
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**WEBSTER LAKE - 100 LAKESIDE AVE**  
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**LAKE SHIRLEY - 647 RESERVOIR RD**  
**SORRY, SOLD!**  
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# Stand up for decency and democracy

BY BOB DATZ  
CORRESPONDENT

As our spirit pants through what we hope is the last lap of the presidential election race, headlines have begun popping up around the country about voter intimidation. There are fears but also realities, from a mail ballot drop box set afire in Boston to supporters of a president prone to badmouthing shouting at people outside an early polling place in California.

This is a type of election security breach that is being documented. Attempts to establish voter fraud as a significant security problem have been rejected by pretty much all credible investigators. And by the time you read this the mail-in ballot deadline will be passed, leaving us only Election Day to look forward to and look beyond.

Should you feel intimidated this Tuesday? Voting is a hard-won right. You certainly have less to fear than the Founding Fathers when they put their lives on the line to sign the Declaration of Independence, or the people of Syria who stepped into the streets to demand democracy more recently and were cut down by their own government. We are more fortunate, but good, decent people can feel intimidated by shouting and such.

Let's stand together and not be turned around. People have fought and died for the rights we have, voting included.

Your vote on Nov. 3 is secured by a historically reliable electoral system in the Commonwealth. In our communities, clerks are confident they will see that election and harassment laws will be enforced if necessary. They have worked hard to put extraordinary

systems in place to certify each ballot received by any means, and to assure sanitation and social distancing for all who vote and work at the polls during a pandemic. And towns like Brimfield are welcoming the public to observe the "great care our staff will apply to the processing of ballots."

We can do our part to ensure the integrity of the process by following the advice commonly given to the public about any threat of terrorism: "If you see something, say something." 9-1-1 makes that easy enough. And make no mistake: Voter intimidation is terrorism.

Election officials can call on officers to enforce bans on politicking and voter intimidation within 150 feet of polling places. Police officers are at the polls but may need public help seeing something occurring outside that dis-

tance. If called, police departments can enforce other laws dealing with unruly behavior and harassment on the public streets. Don't hesitate to be their eyes and ears.

"I think that we have everything pretty secure," Barre's Town Clerk Ellen Glidden told me. She acknowledged the media and public discussions have heightened election security awareness in 2020 beyond the norm. If anyone sees anything suspicious or disruptive, she said "they should definitely contact the police or election officials."

Clerks I interviewed reported no issues have surfaced in their Western Worcester County towns during early voting. "We have police officers at the polls to keep order. We think there's going to be plenty of police on duty that day (November 3)," Southbridge Town

Turn To **DATZ** page **A19**



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| 19 Grant St.                | S     | 12-2 | Starting bid \$160,000 | Simond & Oaks 508-479-7716      |
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| <b>SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1</b>   |       |      |                        |                                 |
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# My favorite time of year



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The month of October is my favorite time of year. Hunting and fishing provides us with a lot of opportunities to get out and enjoy all Mother Nature has to offer, before we head into the cold weather, and more than

likely a few snow storms before all is said and done. As we grow older, time seems to go a lot faster. I do not want to wish my life away, but because of Covid-19, I will be happy to see spring. That is when a vaccine will more than likely be available to the general public, and we can get back to some form of normality. Until then, we will need to take life a bit slower and refraining from social gatherings. It is only six months away. Hoping everyone stays safe until then.

People that love the outdoors and do hunting and fishing

should have no problem social distancing while still enjoying life. Deer hunters are often perched up in a tree observing wildlife and waiting for that big buck to walk into shooting range. If he does not come, harvesting a smaller deer will still give him some venison for the cold months ahead.

Bird hunters also should have no problem with social distancing, walking through the woods with a couple of buddies, and their dog. With the state stocking birds once a week at two local hunting areas, bird hunt-

ing should provide some great hunting opportunities through the Thanksgiving holiday. After hunting a local stocked area for pheasant last week, I noticed a few ticks on my Labrador retriever when I brought her home. After removing as many as I could locate, I ran a flea comb through her hair the best that I could. Next came a bath with a flea & Tick shampoo. I keep her on Nexguard which is a once a month pill to keep her from contracting Lyme disease.

This past weekend, I decided to bake one of the pheas-

ant that I retained from a hunt in open covers. The Ringneck pheasant was at least a couple of pounds after cleaning. I located an electric roaster oven that my wife always used to bake our Thanksgiving turkey. After she passed a couple of years ago, I had to take up cooking my own meals. I always liked to cook, but she would never let me into her kitchen. I can remember her words «You like to cook but you never clean up when you are done.» That was not exactly true. It was just that she was

Turn To **TRUE** page **A19**

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### St. Jude's Novena

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved, throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, help of the hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer 9 times a day. By the 8th day your prayer will be answered. Say it for 9 days. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank you St. Jude.  
N.F.L.

### PRAYER TO THE ANGELS

Pray 9 Hail Mary's for 9 days, ask for 3 wishes, 1 involving business and 2 involving the impossible. On the 9th day publish the prayer and your wish will be answered even though you may not believe it. As promised.  
N.F.L.

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### Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

Most holy Virgin Immaculate, my Mother Mary, to thee who art the Mother of my Lord, the queen of the universe, the advocate, the hope, the refuge of sinners, I who am the most miserable of all sinners, have recourse this day. I venerate thee, great queen, and I thank thee for the many graces thou has bestowed upon me even unto this day; in particular for having delivered me from the hell which I have so often deserved by my sins. I love thee, most dear Lady; and for the love I bear thee, I promise to serve thee willingly forever and to do what I can to make thee loved by others also. I place in thee all my hopes for salvation; accept me as thy servant and shelter me under thy mantle, thou who art the Mother of mercy. And since thou art so powerful with God, deliver me from all temptations, or at least obtain for me the strength to overcome them until death. From thee I implore a true love for Jesus Christ. Through thee I hope to die a holy death. My dear Mother, by the love thou bearest to Almighty God, I pray thee to assist me always, but most of all at the last moment of my life. Forsake me not then, until thou shalt see me safe in heaven, there to bless thee and sing of thy mercies through all eternity. Such is my hope. Amen. N.F.L.

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### Thanksgiving Prayer to St. Jude

Dearest St. Jude, thank you for your prayer and intercession on my behalf to the Lord, you have always answered my prayer but still I will never be able to thank you enough. Please forgive me on occasion that I may have forgotten or overlooked in thanking you for the favours granted. I promise you St. Jude to be ever grateful and always be, devoted to be you as my patron saint. For by the good Lord's grace has got me to this point in life, and there is still a very long road for me to traverse. Therefore, St. Jude, I will always need you by my side and please continue to guide and help me with God's grace. I ask you St. Jude to not leave any prayers unanswered whether it is one of mine or from others who have invoked your aid. Look upon us the hopeless and desperate for the Lord's help in our life. I will always be in need of your help and you always hear my prayers, otherwise my life will be very difficult to lead. AMEN. N.F.L.

### FIREWOOD

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# North Brookfield Savings Bank hires Jeffrey Kerr as Vice President, Marketing Director

NORTH BROOKFIELD — North Brookfield Savings Bank is proud to announce the recent hiring of Jeffrey Kerr as Vice President, Marketing Director for North Brookfield Savings Bank.

“We are thrilled to have Jeff join our Team,” said North Brookfield Savings Bank President and CEO Donna Boulanger, “We know his wealth of knowledge and experience will be a great asset to the Bank and our communities moving forward. His enthusiastic approach to marketing and the customer journey will benefit both the Bank and the community.”

In his role as Vice President, Marketing Director, Kerr will be responsible for managing the marketing department, maintaining the marketing budget, a creating strategic marketing plan and setting goals, and most importantly highlighting the value of

North Brookfield Savings Bank to the communities that it serves.

Kerr, of East Longmeadow, most recently served as the Vice President of Marketing for PeoplesBank. Prior to that he held the position of Director of Agency Marketing at MassMutual Financial Group. In total he brings more than 26 years of experience in marketing in the financial industry to North Brookfield Savings Bank.

Kerr earned a Bachelor of Science in Management from Mass College of Liberal Arts, is a candidate for Master’s in Education from American International College, and is a Certified Educator by the Massachusetts Department of Education.

Kerr is an active participant in the community, volunteering for such programs as Habitat for Humanity, the Read-a-loud program, and the Springfield school volunteers. He is

looking forward to being involved in North Brookfield Savings Bank sponsored community events and volunteer efforts.

“I look forward to adding value to an organization that has contributed so much to the local communities,” said North Brookfield Savings Bank Vice President, Marketing Director, Jeffrey Kerr, “It is a goal of mine to highlight the ongoing mission and values of North Brookfield Savings Bank of supporting our communities and customers throughout their financial journeys.”

Jeffrey Kerr, Vice President, Marketing Director, can be reached directly by calling 508-637-7444 or by emailing jkerr@BankNBSB.com. For more information, contact the North Brookfield Savings Bank Business Center at 508-637-7500 or visit NorthBrookfieldSavingsBank.com.



Jeffrey Kerr

## Spencer Cultural Council seeks funding proposals

SPENCER — The Spencer Cultural Council has set a November 16 deadline for organizations, schools and individuals to apply for grants that support cultural activities in the community. These grants can support a wide variety of artistic projects and activities in Spencer -- including exhibits, festivals, field trips, short-term artist residencies or performances in schools, workshops and lectures. Last year, the council distributed approximately \$8,800 in grants.

Application forms and more information about the Local Cultural Council Program are available online at [www.mass-culture.org](http://www.mass-culture.org). For more information about the council or the application process, contact the Spencer Cultural Council at 774-479-8797.

The Spencer Cultural Council is actively seeking new members. Volunteers meet several times a year to distribute funds in support of programs that enhance our community. Anyone

interested in serving is invited to complete a volunteer application form on the town website or to contact the town clerk.

The Spencer Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The LCC Program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, sciences

and humanities every year. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community.

For specific information about COVID-19 related considerations, please visit <https://massculturalcouncil.org/covid-19-resources/guidance-for-local-cultural-councils-and-their-grantees-in-response-to-covid-19/>.

## Take heart — the madness of 2020 is coming to an end!

A friend texted me a few days ago and said, “You’re going to need to issue a retraction.”

I responded with a very articulate and intelligent, “Huh?”

She then texted a picture of my first column of the year, entitled, “2020 Promises to be Awesome!” Maybe awesome wasn’t the correct word.

Another friend posted on Facebook, “Dear Mom, you once threatened to slap me into next year. Does that offer still stand?”

Although a funny statement, I think most of us would endure that slap if it truly delivered the desired result.

I’ll admit, 2020 wasn’t exactly what I expected and hoped for. We were handed a virus, (I believe history will show it came from China, but does it really matter?) that we didn’t and maybe still don’t understand. One side is saying, “We left you a plan! All you had to do was follow it,” while the other side is claiming that early closing of the borders saved lives. I really don’t care who was in office, this is a virus no one understood and it’s impossible to prepare for something you don’t understand. Those screaming that the current administration

has blood on their hands are making irresponsible claims to gain votes.

However, it’s election season and irresponsible and ridiculous claims are being sprayed like machine gun fire from both sides. As we talked about a few weeks ago, it would seem that civility is dead.

The best news of the year is that the election will soon be over and “hopefully” the heat of the national discourse will cool.

Is that wishful thinking? I keep making the same point, but it’s important.

I trust the will of the American people. If your candidate doesn’t win, it’s not the end of life on earth as we know it. There is another election in four years and the beauty of our system is that we have checks and balances to keep us from driving off the rails until then. The worse thing that can happen is if a single party takes control of all three branches of government. Trust me, neither party is always right or always wrong. A little gridlock slows things down and forces negotiation.

I’ve never seen both sides so frantic. The screams from both left and right claim that



POSITIVELY SPEAKING

GARY W. MOORE

if the other party ends, the nation will be irreversibly changed for the worse.

Irreversibly? I don’t think so. So please lower the volume, take a breath, and relax. The sun will rise on November fourth and life will go on.

As for COVID-19 ... it’s become so politicized that it’s hard to know what’s true. And shame on both parties for using a national life and death circumstance as a tool to gain votes.

But that is how 2020 began. It doesn’t mean that it must end this way. I am not naive. I understand there’s nothing that’s going to change until after the election. If we are going to save our nation, we must accept the will of the people, regardless of who wins, then move forward together.

Sounds simple ... but it’s not easy. First, watch a few movies and skip the evening news channels. Prime time is where the barking opinion heads work hard to hijack your head and heart. Watch a movie, read a book, take a walk ... do anything but expose yourself to the evening vitriol.

While in your car, listen to music and again, avoid the shrill political voices coming out of your radio. Please understand ... these voices are rarely there to inform. They are there to manipulate your hearts and mind to come over to their side.

Relax. Take a breath. Turn off the noise. We are better than this and from Nov. 4 to Dec. 31, don’t let the results of this election determine your happiness. Let’s work on taking our year back and ending on a happier note.

American optimism is what has made the United States of America a beacon of hope, peace, and prosperity. Be hopeful. Find your peace. Let’s all prosper together, regardless of outcome.

I choose optimism over despair.

Vote, then move on.

Will you join me? ■

Gary W. Moore is a freelance columnist, speaker, and author of three books including the award-winning, critically acclaimed, “Playing with the Enemy.” Follow Gary on Twitter @GaryWMOore721 and at [www.garywmoore.com](http://www.garywmoore.com).

### TRUE

continued from page A18

a very, very fussy person, and cleaning was something she practiced daily.

Anyway, I went on to YouTube and found a receipt for baking a chicken and figured it should apply to any bird. I quickly cleaned the baking oven three times, splashing soapy water all over the kitchen sink, and onto the floor. If my wife could see me now! After a good cleaning I washed the bird a couple of times and patted it dry per instructions. Salt and pepper and a full stick of butter was added to the bird along with a liberal amount of celery and onion. Placing the bird into the pan after heating it to 350 degrees, and it was time for the one hour or more cooking time. My two dogs Twig and Molly seemed to be entertained by my actions.

Finally, it was time to taste the results of my first baked bird. Allowing the bird to cool a few minutes I pulled a leg from the bird’s body and took a good bite into the meat. It was a bit chewy and did not have much flavor. After a few bites, I looked at the two dogs that seemed to be drooling, hoping for a bite. I took another bite and soon realized I had screwed it up. I lifted the remaining bird from the pan allowed it to cool, cut off some of the bird for the dogs, and threw the rest in the trash.

My next bird will come from the supermarket, and I still had the mess to clean up that I had made while preparing it. The two dogs will eat almost anything that looks like food, so I could not tell if even they really liked it!

My wife often said that I only married her because of her great cooking. It was one of the reasons, but staying married for 62 years there had to be a lot more than just her cooking. Rest in peace, babe!

With many people out enjoying the outdoors this year, they

to need to be very careful with their children becoming infected with Lyme disease. Daily checkups by parents should be made of all family members at the end of the day. A Thorough examination of the body, looking for a tick requires a few minutes to spot the extremely small deer tick. It could save one of your family a serious tick infection, that can turn into a life-threatening disease. There is a spray for your clothes called Permethrin that works very well to ward off ticks, but it should never be used on the skin. It is for clothing only, and can last up to a couple of weeks or more. Be sure to read all of the instructions before applying the spray.

This week’s picture shows Andrea Henchey and her husband Curtis shooting clay birds at the Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club this past Sunday. The trap range is open every Sunday weather permitting. It is open to the general public, so give it a try. You

cannot find a nicer group of trap shooters, and they will be happy to help improve your shooting skills.

Do not forget to vote!

Take a Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!



### DATZ

continued from page A17

Clerk Madaline I. Bonadies said. Spencer Town Clerk Lisa J. Johnson offered a similar assessment, adding, “I don’t anticipate anything” in the way of intimidation in her town.

The clerks said that state advisories weren’t giving voter intimidation as much emphasis as working out the mechanics of 2020’s unprecedented heavy mail-in and early voting season and COVID safety.

As for police chiefs, Chief David Darrin of Spencer said. “I think generally there’s more

concern with disorder after the process, what’s going to happen if there’s not a winner and how people are going to behave.” He alluded to the prospect of court battles prolonging the process around the country, but he was confident there will be order in these parts. “I don’t think that sort of thing would happen in Spencer,” he said, “or in the state of Massachusetts.”

And as common as the phrase “we’ll deal with it” seems to be coming from local officials, it would be hard to deny the tone of this election year can be uglier than we’re used to. Here’s how we can “deal with it”:

Don’t be intimidated. Vote

for decency and democracy by showing up on Nov. 3 if you haven’t voted already. Be civic and civil, and don’t let those who won’t be get away with a single step. If democracy is to be tested, we’re ultimately the ones who determine whether it passes or fails.

Bob Datz is a retired journalist and volunteers with Grassroots Central Mass., an area organization that addresses issues of fairness, justice, democracy, health and the environment. More information on GCM is available at [grassrootscentralmass.com](http://grassrootscentralmass.com) and on Facebook.



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