

SPENCER NEW LEADER

Free by request to residents of East Brookfield, West Brookfield, North Brookfield, Brookfield, Leicester and Spencer

SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO NEWS@STONEBRIDGEPRESS.NEWS Friday, November 20, 2020

Gobi, Berthiaume investigate COVID outbreak at Soliders' Home



Sen. Anne Gobi



Rep. Donald Berthiaume

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – A special oversight committee that includes two local legislators is continuing its review of the mass casualty COVID-19 outbreak at the Holyoke Soldiers' Home.

This past spring, at the start of the pandemic, 76 veterans lost their lives in the outbreak at the western Massachusetts facility. Several probes and reports have indicated that the outbreak was caused by major failures in policies and decisions at the leadership level.

For State Rep. Donald Berthiaume and Sen. Anne Gobi, both of Spencer, it

has been an honor to serve on the special oversight committee tasked with getting answers for the families of victims.

"Our mission is to draft legislation to present to our colleagues that will ensure the tragedy that occurred at the Holyoke Soldiers' Home never happens again," Gobi said. "Additionally, this legislation will aim to improve the care of our veterans at the Commonwealth's soldiers' homes."

The oversight committee has held in-person and remote hearings over the last three weeks. The initial hearings

Please Read **OUTBREAK**, page **A7**

Stuff the Bus campaign kicks off Dec. 5

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – The fifth annual Stuff the Bus campaign will be the most important yet, as the need for toys is greater than ever due to COVID-19.

Run each year by AA Transportation, the Stuff the Bus program enables the community to donate toys for local youngsters. Because of the large number of residents who lost jobs during the pandemic, community donations of toys are especially important in 2020.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in many of our neighbors facing financial insecurity," said Melody Miller, who runs the East Brookfield division of AA Transportation. "We hope that everyone who can possibly donate this year will do so to help our neighbors in need. Many fundraisers have been canceled this year due to the pandemic, and many organizations are afraid there may not be enough toys to go around."

On Saturday, Dec. 5, AA Transportation will bring buses to Spencer, North Brookfield, and Leicester as part of its Stuff the Bus pro-

gram. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., AA employees at each site will collect new, unwrapped toys.

In Spencer, AA Transportation will work with David Prouty High School band members to collect toys. Residents are welcome to bring toys to DPHS for a socially distanced program. The DPHS band will perform music throughout the event. Once the toys are collected, they will be brought to Donna Flannery at the Spencer Town Hall for distribution.

In North Brookfield, AA Transportation will once again team up with the police department and Hannaford Supermarket. The bus will be parked at the North Brookfield Hannaford Supermarket from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"The North Brookfield Police Department makes this a very fun and active location. Please come to Hannaford Supermarket and make your donation to this toy drive," Miller added.

All toy donations will be brought to the North Brookfield Police Department

Please Read **BUS**, page **A3**



LEICESTER REPAIRS WORLD WAR II ERA MEMORIALS

Photos Courtesy

Two stone masonry memorials built in June 1944 in Leicester were refurbished with the help of a 50/50 state grant. The memorials, a twelve foot tall obelisk at James F. Sugrue Square and a twenty foot long stone wall at Chester A. St. Martin Square were both built by John Sugrue, Sr., father of 1st Lt. James Sugrue, USAAF, age 24, who was killed in action March 12, 1943, in Tunisia when his B-26 bomber was shot down. All six crewmen perished. Apprentice Seaman Chester St. Martin, USN, age 21, was killed in

action on Feb. 28, 1942, 30 miles southeast of Cape May, N.J. when his ship, USS Jacob Jones, DD-130, was torpedoed and sunk. There were only 11 survivors of a crew of 149. Lt. Sugrue is buried in a family plot in Leicester, Seaman St. Martin was lost at sea. The Leicester Historical Commission researched and found the grant. A special thanks to the Town Administrator's office and the Select Board for their support in applying for and acquiring the grant and the people of Leicester who approved the matching funds to restore these two memorials. Never Forget.



DPHS senior recognized for academic excellence

SPENCER – Even though David Prouty High School began the year remotely, officials have been committed to maintaining as many traditions as possible. Most recently, district leaders presented DPHS senior Brendan Halloran with the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Academic Excellence Award.

The award celebrates top students statewide in the fall of their senior year. At DPHS, Principal Elizabeth York recently joined Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District Superintendent Paul Haughey in presenting the award to Halloran.

School officials have been impressed with Halloran's commitment to academics over the last three years. He finished his junior year ranked first in his class, and

he has continued his success into the final year at Prouty.

"He is an AP scholar and a candidate for the AP diploma," Principal York said. "As well, he is captain of the football team, class president, a member of National Honor Society, and a White Sweater Award winner."

Like the rest of his classmates, it was a challenge for Halloran to start senior year away from his friends, teachers, and activities. He has joined the entire Prouty community in making the most of a difficult situation.

"He is an outstanding young man, and a deserving recipient of the MASS Academic Achievement Award," York said.

Added Superintendent Haughey, "Brendan is an example of the type of education that happens here in the Spencer-East Brookfield



Photo Courtesy

David Prouty High School senior Brendan Halloran recently received a major award.

Regional School District and David Prouty High School. He has taken advantage of every opportunity he could."

Solar farm moratorium awaiting AG's approval

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – After receiving Special Town Meeting approval last week, a solar farm moratorium must now get the green light from the Attorney General's office.

At the Nov. 12 Special Town Meeting, the moratorium received the two thirds majority vote necessary to pass. The Planning Board previously endorsed the moratorium, which was put forth by the Board of Selectmen.

"I am very pleased that the voters recognized the need for a solar moratorium," said Board of Selectmen Chairman Ralph Hicks. "It will give the town the time needed to get a bylaw in place that will protect the town's citizens from the environmental and financial dangers that can evolve from for-profit solar development."

If final approval is granted, the town's zoning bylaw would be amended to include a new temporary moratorium on the construction of large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations.

Spencer currently has 12 approved large-scale solar installations – commonly known as solar farms – that are either completed or under construction. Another six proposals are currently in the permitting process.

Many of the solar projects in town have involved large-scale clear cutting of trees and ground vegetation, officials said. Several project sites are located in close proximity to residential neighborhoods, causing concerns among residents about future proposals affecting Spencer's overall landscape and image.

Please Read **SOLAR**, page **A4**

TIS THE SEASON TO SHOP LOCAL

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Did you know?

Giving the gift of an experience is a rising trend, particularly among millennials. Harris research has determined that millennials (defined as people born between 1980 and 1996) highly value experiences, and they are increasingly spending time and money on them. Types of experiences include athletic pursuits, cultural visits, concerts, social events, and various travel. The research goes on to say that more than three out of four millennials choose to spend money on a desirable experience instead of buying a product. And it's not just millennials. Overall, consumer spending has shifted in the last 10 to 15 years. HSBC bank chief economist Kevin Logan has said consumer

spending on recreation, travel and eating out has been trending upward for more than a decade, while purchases of clothing and shoes as a share of discretionary spending has dropped. These trends can help drive purchases during holiday gift-giving. Gifts that are more experience-oriented may be more appreciated by their recipients.

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Donations as of 11/10/2020

Paradigm Home Energy Audits	\$100.00
Mary & Stanley Kulesza	\$50.00
Robert & Margaret Moschini	\$100.00
Felix & Carol Courteau	\$50.00
Janet & Glen Stevens	\$100.00
Joseph & Ellen Lowkes	\$25.00



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. 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.

Local realtor to open new brokerage

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

BROOKFIELD – After 15 years of working for the same broker, a local realtor is excited to open her own brokerage. Lisa Caron will open her brokerage, Lisa Caron Real Estate, on Jan. 1, 2021. Located at 42 West Main St. in Brookfield, the business is a convenient destination for residents throughout the Route 9 corridor. Caron, who has resided in Brookfield for more than 30 years, became a licensed realtor in 2006. She has since worked in all facets of the real estate industry, including managing listings, short sales, and marketing. Now she is prepared to combine her many skills in her own operation. “It takes an experienced realtor to ensure buyers and sellers are properly guided to make the right financial decisions relating to the purchase or sale of their home,” Caron said. “My extensive knowledge of the real estate market is what enables me to be an incredible resource to my clients and one of the area’s top real estate professionals.” Caron’s detailed knowledge of the region over the course of many years helps set her apart from competitors. Not only has she served Worcester

County homeowners, but also several clients in Hampden and Hampshire Counties. “I am seen in the industry by my clients as loyal, trustworthy, hard-working, and always reachable,” Caron said. “Quick and timely responses to my clients’ needs and concerns is a number one priority and one of the most critical services a top professional must provide.” Caron has enjoyed all facets of branching out on her own, including the creation of marketing materials and a logo for her business. Having received her broker’s license this year, she has all of the tools necessary to thrive in her own business. Caron also has a strong backing from local homeowners, sellers, and professionals. Several residents have issued statements praising her dedication and commitment, as well as her always rapid responses. Additionally, Caron remains a stout supporter of those who serve. She has helped several veterans and active duty members start the next chapters in their journeys. “As a military relocation professional, I help military personnel, veterans, and their families find housing that lets them make the best use of their benefits and serves the unique needs of military

life,” added Caron, who has a son in the U.S. Marine Corps. “When military staff and their families relocate, the services of a real estate professional who understands their needs and timetables can make the transfer easier, faster, and less stressful. Realtors who earn this certification know how to work with active duty military buyers and sellers, as well as veterans.” A graduate of the Real Estate Institute, Caron is well-prepared to navigate all kinds of real estate climates. She is also a certified pricing strategy advisor who has plenty of experience in working with appraisers and guiding clients through the anxieties and misperceptions related to home values. “I am committed to serving my clients and customers with the highest ethical standards,” Caron said. “I have a professional yet personal approach. I believe in representing my clients’ best interests at all times, providing unparalleled service, and developing lasting relationships. If we work as a team, whether you’re buying or selling, we can make your real estate dreams a reality.” Moreover, as a senior real estate specialist, Caron is certified to represent adults ages 50-plus and help them navigate the process. To learn more about Caron and her



Photo Courtesy

Realtor Lisa Caron is preparing to open her own brokerage.

business, visit www.lisacaron.com. You can also contact her at caronlisarick@aol.com, or by phone at 508-341-8299.

BUS

continued from page A1

for distribution. The Leicester police department, fire department, Leicester Teachers Association, and Walmart. The bus will be parked at the Walmart Supercenter in Leicester. After the toy drive, donations will be brought to St. Joseph’s Church for distribution. AA Transportation thanks all donors for their continued support. As several families throughout the area struggle to figure out how to pay for gifts, the holiday spirit of local residents will help provide some relief this Christmas season. “For some families, this can be a very challenging time of year. We hope to make it a little easier for them,” Miller said. “We look forward to this campaign each year because this is one way that we can all give back to our community and spread some cheer.” AA Transportation officials understand that many residents might not be able to donate this year. For those who

are able, your donation will go a long way toward brightening the season of giving. “It is a very important time of year for us at AA Transportation. To help bring holiday happiness to children is very rewarding and heartwarming for us,” Miller said. Gifts are needed for children of all ages. Donations can also be made in advance at the North Brookfield Police Department, Leicester Police Department, or with your AA Transportation bus driver between Nov. 30 and Dec. 4.



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Friday's Child

Zayalani
Age 11

Hi! My name is Zayalani and I am very kind.

Zayalani, who likes to be called Zaya, is an affectionate and easy-going girl of Puerto Rican descent. She can be shy with new people, but once she opens up, she can connect well with others. Zaya is said to possess a caring heart and has a strong desire to help others. Some of her favorite activities include arts and crafts, listening to music, spending time outdoors, and spending time with her foster family. At school, Zaya is receiving extra support, both academically and emotionally. She does very well with one-on-one attention and also gets

along with her peers. Legally freed for adoption, Zaya has the potential to thrive in a family that can provide her with nurturance and support. Her social worker believes that she will do well in a family with at least one mother and where she can be the only or youngest child in the home. Prospective families must be willing to help Zaya maintain her relationship with her sister and her biological father.

Who Can Adopt?

Can you provide the guidance, love and stability that a child needs? If you're at least 18 years old, have a stable source of income, and room in your heart, you may be a perfect match to adopt a waiting child. Adoptive parents can be single, married, or partnered; experienced or not; renters or homeowners; LGBTQ singles and couples.

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. The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have a permanent place to call home.

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Country Bank welcomes new Commercial Lender

WARE — Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving Central and Western Massachusetts, is pleased to announce that Eric Goodwine has joined their Commercial Lending Division. Goodwine, who resides in Shrewsbury, has been in the commercial lending industry for eight years. As a former small business owner, Goodwine brings more than his commercial banking knowledge; he brings real-life experience.

leverage my experience as an entrepreneur and provide real value to my clients. I have been on their side of the table and understand what it takes to own and operate a business day-to-day,” stated Goodwine. “I really enjoy developing meaningful relationships with my clients and becoming a part of the community I serve.”

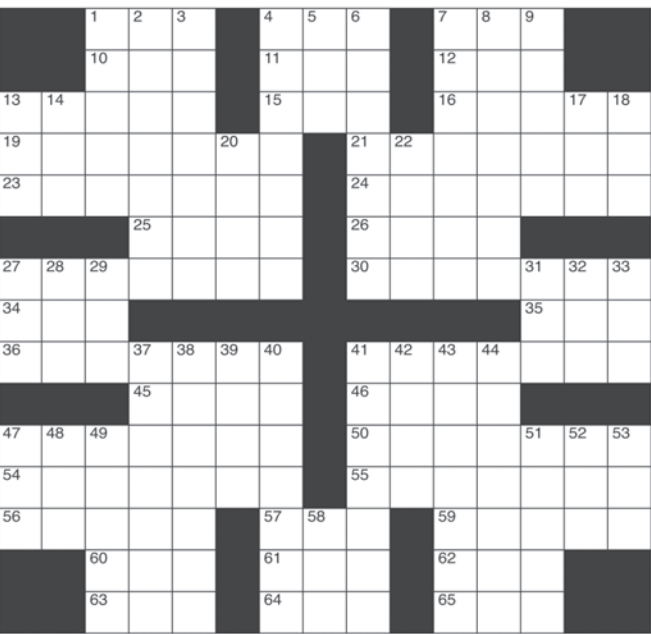
Goodwine came to Country Bank from J.P. Morgan. He earned his Bachelor’s degree in Finance from Bentley University and is an active partner of the Greater New England Minority Supplier Diversity Council. This partnership includes educating minority business owners on various paths to obtaining capital for their businesses.



Eric Goodwine

Vice President, Commercial Banking. Goodwine is based in the Worcester Loan Production Office of Country Bank at 315 Main St., and may be reached at egoodwine@countrybank.com or at 413-277-2111.

About Country Bank
Country Bank is a full-service mutual community bank serving central and western Massachusetts with 14 offices in Ware, Palmer, West Brookfield, Brimfield, Belchertown, Wilbraham, Ludlow, Leicester, Paxton, Charlton and Worcester. Country Bank is a member of FDIC, DIF and the SUM network. Country Bank can be reached at 800-322-8233 or online at countrybank.com.

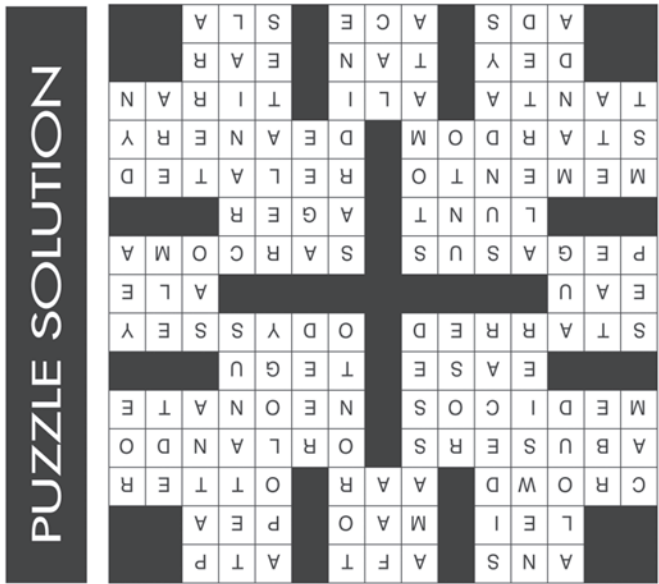


CLUES ACROSS

1. Autonomic nervous system
4. At or near the stern
7. Adenosine triphosphate
10. Polynesian garland of flowers
11. Chinese revolutionary
12. Green veggie
13. Large group
15. Swiss river
16. Semiaquatic mammal
19. Wrongdoers
21. Home to Disney World
23. Spanish doctors
24. Newborn child
25. Absence of difficulty
26. Large, stocky lizard
27. Earned top billing
30. A long wandering and eventful journey
34. Water (French)
35. Brew
36. Winged horse
41. A usually malignant tumor
45. Alfred __, American actor
46. Austrian river
47. A reminder of past events
50. Connected with
54. Status
55. Dean residence
56. Egyptian city
57. Boxing’s GOAT
59. Straits along the Red Sea
60. “The Partridge Family” actress Susan
61. Get some color
62. Facilitates hearing
63. Commercial
64. A team’s best pitcher
65. Patti Hearst’s captors

CLUES DOWN

1. Speak up
2. More informative
3. Where passengers sit
4. Gathered
5. Supervises flying
6. Home of the Blue Jays
7. Public statement of regret
8. Lockjaw
9. Indian city
13. Patriots’ Newton
14. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
17. Sun up in New York
18. Eggs in female fish
20. Stood up
22. NBA legend Willis
27. Calendar month (abbr.)
28. Exercise regimen __-bo
29. The 8th month (abbr.)
31. __ Paulo, city
32. Tall deciduous tree
33. Affirmative
37. Notified of danger
38. NFL game days
39. Archaic term for “to”
40. Plant pores
41. Canned fish
42. Phil __, former CIA
43. Connects with
44. Of the skull
47. Time zone (abbr.)
48. When you hope to get there
49. Hindu goddess
51. Land
52. Pitching stat
53. Field force unit
58. Lakers’ crosstown rivals



PERSON
of the
WEEK


**Food Services Staff at
Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District**

I would like to nominate the food services staff at SEBRSD. They have been feeding the children of our towns since the schools closed in March. They ran an amazing program all summer and are continuing to feed our students who are learning remotely from home while at the same time providing lunches to the kids who are back in the buildings. They are working so hard and doing an amazing job. Thank you!

Nominated by Alyson Berthiaume


If you would like to nominate a
PERSON OF THE WEEK, please email your suggestion to
jsima@stonebridgepress.news. Thank you.


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P.A.L. of the Week
Sponsored by Leicester Veterinary Clinic, LLC
Name: Aladdin & Jasmin
Breed: DSH
Sex: Male & Female
Age: 3 mos.


Prince “Ali Ababwa” Aladdin - a rescued Street Urchin - is in need of a home with his Princess Jasmin. He found his magic lamp when he arrived at the shelter - and has asked the Genie to find them both a new forever home for them to live happily ever after. They currently have taken a magic carpet ride to a foster home as they love getting in trouble together and seem to need more help with their social skills. Princess Jasmin is the shy and rebellious one against living her royal life and social structure. With time these two will do wonderfully once they realize the Genie has granted their wish and they are now in their forever home!


Aladdin & Jasmin


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Dr. Colm P. Scanlon
Veterinarian

SOLAR

continued from page A1

“The town needs time to consider and study the future implications and impact of large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation developments upon the town as a whole, as well as the consistency of the already completed solar facilities with the town’s current and future planning goals,” read an informational statement released by town officials ahead of the Special Town Meeting.

A temporary moratorium on solar farms would allow sufficient time for officials to assess many issues and amend the zoning bylaw to address environmental and aesthetic impacts, said former Town Planner Paul Dell’Aquila.

If approved by the Attorney General’s office, the solar moratorium would run until Nov. 12, 2021, or the date on which the town adopts amendments to the zoning bylaw concerning solar farms – whichever occurs earlier.

During the moratorium period, the town would undertake a planning process to study potential revisions to the zoning bylaw relative to large-scale ground-mounted operations.

The Special Town Meeting took place at David Prouty High School. Additional articles involved Sewer Department capital projects; a new cruiser for the police department (\$50,215); fire department upgrades (\$17,000); and new security cameras for the Parks and Recreation Department (\$11,000).

All Special Town Meeting articles passed.

For more information about the Special Town Meeting warrant, visit www.spencer-ma.gov.

SPENCER ALMANAC

REAL ESTATE

LEICESTER

\$485,000, 17 Hyland Ave, Gouin, Keith D, and Gouin, Tara J, to Zito, Christopher, and McKenzie-Zito, Elizabeth.

\$350,000, 3 Hankey St, Prabucka, Maria, to Blease, Lindsey P, and Levine, Joseph D.

\$290,000, 149 Peter Salem Rd, Gillette, Jacinta, and Croke, Christopher, to Manzi, Christopher J, and Hayden, Catherine.

\$285,000, 57 Pine St, Taylor, George W, to Hickson, James L, and Hickson, Amanda C.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

\$280,000, 39 Brookfield Rd, Lucier, Peter J, and Lucier, Heather L, to Nichols, Joseph, and Nichols, Erin.

\$265,000, 8 W Brookfield Rd, Daley, Ryan P, and Daley, Stacey M, to Mcmanus, Roger.

\$242,000, 122 Summer St, Burnett, Karen J, to Sanders, Matthew D.

SPENCER

\$369,000, 75 Bacon Hill Rd, Vitkos, Angelique, and Vitkos, Todd, to Gilchrist, Keith, and Gilchrist, Jennifer L.

\$317,500, 56 Cherry St, Foist NT, and Foisy, Michael F, to Kim, Pyong.

\$285,000, 25 Lake View Dr, Lindberg, David H, to Haynes, Corey, and Haynes, Cynthia.

\$282,000, 16 Old Farm Rd, Bolivar, Brian P, to Richards, Heather, and Ashmore, Cj.

\$180,000, 62 Grove St, Mercon, Melissa, and Mercon, Steven, to Nieves-Valentin, Christia, and Valentin, Edwin.

\$57,500, 73 Wilson Ave, 73 Wilson LLC, to Sobiech, Andrzej.

WARREN

\$311,000, 457 Brimfield Rd, Pennington, Cody J, and Pennington, Kristienne L, to Mercon, Melissa, and Mercon, Steven.

WEST BROOKFIELD

\$200,000, 33 Winter St, Fant, Debra K, and Williams, Brian, to Mcpartlan, Stephen.

\$170,000, 63 Central St, Fedirko, Jennifer L, to Rowland, Alicia.

\$43,000, 141 Shea Rd, Vono Francesco Sr Est, and Hinckley, Francesca, to Paoluccie, Dominic.

\$43,000, 143 Shea Rd, Vono Francesco Sr Est, and Hinckley, Francesca, to Paoluccie, Dominic.

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This section reaches 47,000 households in 7 Massachusetts newspapers.

Common Sense Tips to Save Fuel Costs

The bad news is, heating your house will likely cost you a bit more this winter. The good news is, a few common sense tips can cut your losses down to size. According to a Nov 10, 2020 report from the EIA, oil, gas and electricity prices are set to bump up in 2021. With the uncertainty of COVID restrictions looming, even the slightest increase can upset a household budget. Instead of digging deeper into your pockets this winter, you can offset the expected modest increase by making some common sense changes around the house. And lest you think a little energy loss here and there won't add up, ponder this: Heat loss from a one quarter inch gap in a door threshold is as great as that from a four inch hole in the wall! The following practical ideas (some of which were previously featured in this column) reveal how a little compromise and effort can add up to impressive energy savings.

Families typically use more hot water in winter months and heating up the water can account for nearly 15 percent of total household energy costs. Lowering the temperature on the hot water heater to 120 degrees can add up to substantial savings throughout the winter. Here's a simple test to check if you're heating water hotter than necessary: Place the back of your hand under a stream of running hot water. If you cannot comfortably keep your hand under the water, your water temperature is too high and you're wasting money.

Think lowering the thermostat temperature slightly won't make a dent in your fuel savings? Think again. Did you know turning down the thermostat just one degree can save three percent on your fuel bill? Better yet, lowering it five degrees for four hours a day can add up to a ten percent savings! Lower your thermostat at night and use an extra wool blanket or quilt. And if the house is empty for more than four hours per day turn the thermostat down five or more degrees when you leave for work and crank it back up

when you return.

Another easy money saving tip is to opt for showers instead of baths during winter months. While a long, hot bath is tempting, remember, it will almost triple your cost over a shower as more water is used and must be heated. To save even more on hot water costs, replace shower heads with low flow models. New ones are so improved, you'll hardly notice the reduction in water flow.

If you have an older hot water heater, check with your utility company to find out if it would benefit from an insulation jacket. This cost effective tip can add up to over \$100 a year in energy cost savings. Here's another quick tip: If you are going on vacation, be sure to turn the hot water thermostat down a bit. You'll save money even while you're gone!

Doing laundry takes its toll on water usage and hot and warm water cycles use more fuel than you might think. Save money by buying a cold water detergent and doing all your laundry in cold water. Typical savings realized by a family of five is up to \$250 annually.

During the winter months, use your stove and bathroom fans sparingly, as they remove precious warm air from the room. Obviously, you'll want to use a vent to dispel moisture in the bathroom, but there's usually no need to switch on the vent fan every time you put on the bathroom light. Ditto for a kitchen fan vent. Use it periodically while cooking; do not leave it on constantly unless smoke is an issue.

If you have an electric heating element in a small bathroom, consider disconnecting it. Supply plenty of thick towels to dry off fast, place a fuzzy scatter rug on a tile floor and your family may never miss the heat!



TAKE THE HINT
KAREN TRAINOR

Use good old fashioned solar power to cut down on heating costs. On sunny winter days, open curtains or blinds on the south side of the house. Just be sure to close the curtains or drapes at night to block out drafts.

Check your furnace filter frequently. A clogged filter greatly decreases the furnace's efficiency and makes it work harder. Some energy efficient advisors suggest automatically replacing filters each month. They claim the savings realized in efficiency more than make up for the cost of the new filters.

Dust is a powerful insulator and dusty baseboard vents and radiators use more energy than necessary to heat up a room, so keep surfaces clean. If you have a coil thermostat, be sure to clean it each season to ensure accurate readings. Just take off the cover and wipe or blow away dust.

Do a vent check. If you have baseboards, make sure they are fully open and operable. Move any furniture or drapes that could be blocking warm air flow. Vents or baseboards that are even partially blocked result in an unnecessary hike in heating costs.

Automatic timers are very affordable and they make adjusting thermostats a no brainer. Typically they will keep the temperature steady during the day and automatically reduce it at night, resulting in substantial savings.

Take full advantage of heat created from cooking. Warm up the house while you cook by planning slow cooking stove top dishes such as stews and simmering soups. When you are done using the oven for cooking and shut it off, keep the door open to release the remaining hot air into the kitchen. When you heat water, use a tea kettle or pot instead of the microwave oven,

etc.

Generations before us took frugal advantage of the fact moist air retains heat. Stoves of yesteryear often had a pan of water to add moisture to the air. Today, a humidifier is often the choice to boost the effect of heating, which translates into lower fuel costs.

If you run a dishwasher you can add moist heat to the kitchen simply by shutting off the washer before the heated dry cycle and opening the door. As a bonus you'll save energy and money by air drying the dishes.

Are you doing absolutely everything you can to save energy? For an instant energy assessment, visit www.energystar.gov The government sponsored site has lots of valuable advice and recommendations to help you cut down on heating costs.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renowned restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I'm in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I'm counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

Do you have a helpful hint or handy tip that has worked for you? Do you have a question regarding household or garden matters? If so, why not share them with readers of Stonebridge Press newspapers? Send questions and/or hints to: Take the Hint!, C/o the Southbridge Evening News, PO Box 90; Southbridge, MA 01550. Or email KDRR@aol.com. Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn.

Select the right tool for the pruning task

Deadheading, trimming, and pruning are part of growing and maintaining a beautiful and productive garden and landscape. Make sure you are outfitted with the right tool for the job. Matching the tool to the pruning task will help ensure a proper cut, reduce hand fatigue, and allow you to work longer.

Since most pruning cuts in the garden and landscape are between a quarter and three quarters of an inch, a bypass hand pruner is a must. These pruners have two sharp blades like scissors, making a clean cut that closes quickly. This helps reduce the risk of insects and disease moving in and harming your plants.

Avoid hand-held pruners that are too heavy or open too wide for your hand size. Those with a spring action return help reduce hand fatigue as long as the opening matches the size of your hand. Make sure the pruner does not open wider than your hand can easily grip. Select a tool that fits in your hand, is comfortable, has an ergonomic grip and is easy to control.

Matching your pruner to your hand size is as important as matching it to the cutting job. Opting for an oversized pruner to make larger cuts can lead to hand fatigue, frustration, and improper cuts. Measure the width across the palm of your hand at the base of your fingers. Next, measure the height from the middle of the base of your hand to the tip of your middle finger.



GARDEN MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA MYERS

A pruner rated for half inch cuts is a good match for those with small hands less than 3 1/2" wide and 6 1/4" high. If your hands measure three and a half to four inches wide six and a half to eight inches high, you may want to purchase a three-quarter-inch pruner. Those with larger hands should do fine with a one-inch hand-held pruner.

But size is just one factor to consider. Hand strength also influences the diameter of the stems you will be able to cut. Just because a tool is rated for three quarters of an inch doesn't mean everyone will be able to apply the needed pressure to make such a large cut. Invest in tools with compound levers or ratchets when you need a mechanical advantage to make cutting easier.

When the job is too big for you or the tool, select one better suited to the task. Employ a bypass lopper like Corona Tool's ComfortGel SL 3164D with tactile handles. Loppers have long handles that give you greater leverage and extend your reach. This extra reach makes it easier to prune all parts of small trees, shrubs, and roses.

Invest in a foldable pruning RazorTOOTH Saw (coronatoolsusa.com) with a pull stroke cutting action and ergonomic handle. You'll be able to make cuts fast and easy and minimize hand fatigue. Foldable saws allow you to tuck the blade into the handle for safekeeping and reduce storage space.



Photo Courtesy — Corona Tools

The FlexDial bypass pruner allows you to adjust the grip to fit the size of your hand, reducing fatigue when making repetitive cuts.

Saws are useful tools for cutting larger branches on trees and shrubs that you can safely prune. Although I am a certified arborist, I only prune small trees and shrubs. I save big tree work for my colleagues that climb, have the equipment and training to do the job safely.

Melinda Myers has written numerous books, including *Small Space*

Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and the nationally-syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Corona Tools for her expertise to write this article. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

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A change in the warm weather to a bit more normal for this time of year has made all outdoor activities more comfortable, especially for hunters. Bird hunters have been doing very well in the valley. Watching a well trained dog point or flush a bird in a field is something only a hunter can appreciate. For the hunter that owns a good bird dog, he or she can get the most satisfaction from a hunt. A lot of hours training the dog has made the four legged family member enjoying the hunt as well.

This past week, this writer hunted the Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club and brought along a young hunter hoping he could get a shot at a bird. Young Aiden loves dogs and was overjoyed when I asked him to handle my nine year old Lab "Twig" on the leash, as we walked along a road leading to some decent pheasant cover. Aiden is the grandson of Steve Rondeau who walked along with us as we followed Twig through the heavy cover. He was allowed to carry a 410 single shot shotgun and was kept in front of us as we navigated the underbrush. It was not long before "Twig" flushed a Cock Pheasant from the cover, and we told Aiden to shoot. As the young hunter put the sites of the 410 gun on the flushed bird, the shotgun discharged and the pheasant folded to the ground. «Twig» was on the bird in seconds and did a great



retrieve bringing the bird back to me. That was the highlight of the day for us. We headed back to the club to order breakfast and sat under the Pavilion at the club, to discuss the hunt and enjoy our food. This week's second picture shows Aiden with his pheasant and this writers Lab, Twig! The club host youth hunts annually prior to the hunting season!

The hunt brought back many memories of my childhood, with a Daisy Red Rider BB gun my parents put under the Christmas tree for me when I was around 10 years old. It was the best Christmas present I received that year. I was allowed to take the gun outdoors on my own, after my dad told me about the dangers of the gun, and to never ever point the gun at anyone. "It is not a toy," my dad stated numerous times. Fortunately, I never got into trouble with the gun. My dad was more of a fisherman than a hunter, so we got to enjoy fishing on the Meadow Pond

and numerous brooks, catching brook trout. Every year, he took time for us to go fishing for trout on opening day, at Prentice Brook and Johnsons Brook in Whitinsville.

When I became 15 years old, my Uncle the late Paul Hale purchased a H & R 12 gauge shotgun from Harrington & Richardson. Paul was employed at the H & R factory and was able to purchase the gun for very little money. The gun was a bolt action shotgun, with a clip to hold additional shotgun shells. It had a Polly choke that could change the discharged load from open to full. I had a lot of fun shooting ducks back then. As I got older, I purchased a new Browning 20 gauge automatic, from a gun shop in Douglas. I later purchased an Ithaca light weight 12 gauge shotgun, with two barrels. One for deer hunting and one for bird hunting. The 12 gauge Ithaca I now own was purchased at Sparky's gun shop in Webster which is now closed after his passing. It is a



great gun and is used by my Granddaughter Andrea, for trap shooting on occasions.

As I was growing up, I can fondly remember all the good times I had hunting with our two sons David and Ralph, Jr.! It was a time that leaving a gun in my car or truck was permitted, without a trigger lock on. Pickup trucks often had a gun rack in the rear window with two guns left in the unlocked truck as hunters stopped to have breakfast or some other chores. It was a time when youngsters respected someone else's property and were taught right from wrong. There are still a lot of great kids out there today.

Archers are harvesting some impressive deer locally and in neighboring states, as this week's first picture shows. Numerous 10 and 12 point bucks weighing in at over 200 lbs. dressed are being reported. It is hard to believe that Mass.

is producing such impressive deer. It is normally a deer that comes from Maine or Canada, but they are being harvested here in new England. Shotgun season in Massachusetts starts Nov. 30. Are you ready?

We are in for a rough ride this winter because of the pandemic, and it will require all family members to use common sense, and to wear masks and practice social distancing. This is serious stuff!

Just a reminder that Wallum lake is open to fishing until the last day of February, as it is governed by Rhode Island regulations. Hopefully, there will be some ice this winter to do some ice fishing for some of the recently stocked trout.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending.

OUTBREAK

continued from page A1

included statements from family members of victims lost to the outbreak. Subsequent hearings featured testimony from Holyoke Soldiers' Home employees.

The former director of the facility from 2011-16, Paul Barabani, was also in attendance to discuss warnings he provided years in advance about the facility's deficiencies and vulnerabilities. He resigned in early 2016 after voicing concerns over limited staffing and long overdue renovations.

At the time of the COVID-19 outbreak in the spring, the Holyoke Soldiers' Home was run by Superintendent Bennett Walsh. He resigned from his position in October and now faces criminal neglect charges

for his actions before and during the outbreak. The facility's former medical director, Dr. David Clinton, is also facing charges.

A scathing June report from an independent investigator suggested that Walsh was unqualified to lead the facility. The management team's decisions in response to the worsening outbreak were described as "utterly baffling" by investigator Mark Pearlstein in his 174-page report.

Several additional investigations revealed that infected residents at the facility were not properly isolated after testing positive. Others displaying symptoms of COVID-19 were allowed to remain in the general resident population while awaiting their test results, investigators said. Later, after even more residents contracted the virus, COVID-19 patients were still allegedly mixed with healthy residents in a scrambled

response.

Shortly before the release of the independent report in June, Massachusetts Secretary of Veterans' Services Francisco Urena resigned from his position.

For Berthiaume and Gobi, who work on opposite sides of the aisle, the special oversight committee provides a unique opportunity to join forces to get answers.

"I'm looking forward to a final resolution to this process to give closure to families that have suffered due to the mismanagement of this virus response at the Holyoke Soldiers' Home," Berthiaume said. "It's unconscionable that this was allowed to happen to those who gave so much of themselves to our great country."

The joint oversight committee will wrap up hearings in the coming weeks.

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PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

A story of
inspiration
for a sunny
morning

Twenty-one-year-old Chris Nikic of Maitland, Fla. made history last Saturday when he became the first person in history with Down Syndrome to complete a full distance Ironman triathlon. Watching the video of Nikic crossing the finish line in Panama City, Fla., did not leave this writer with dry eyes. This was good news, in an otherwise chaotic news cycle.

As most people know, a full Ironman consists of a 2.4 mile swim, a 112 mile bike ride and a 26.2 mile run. The race, has a time cap of 17 hours. Nikic completed the race in 16:46:09.

Nikic had a few setbacks throughout the race, including two falls from his bike.

Special Olympics Florida President and CEO Sherry Wheelock released a statement. In it she said, “He’s become a hero to athletes, fans, and people across Florida and around the world. He’s an inspiration to all of us.”

Nikic is no stranger to triathlons and has been training since he was a teenager. Looking ahead he will strive to qualify for the 2022 Special Olympics USA Games.

In an Instagram post, Nikic wrote “Goal set and achieved. Time to set a new and bigger goal for 2021. Whatever it is, the strategy is the same. One percent better every day. Yes, I did the work, but I had angels helping me. God surrounded me with angels. Best part of all. New family and friends. All about awareness and inclusion. Awareness for Down Syndrome and Special Olympics. Inclusion for all of us with all of you.”

His proud father, Nik Nikic, released his own statement: “To Chris, this race was more than just a finish line and celebration of victory. Ironman has served as his platform to become one step closer to his goal of living a life of inclusion, normalcy, and leadership. It’s about being an example to other kids and families that face similar barriers, proving no dream or goal is too high,” he said.

Nikic completed the 2.4 mile swim (along with his coach Dan Grieb) in just under two hours. Just prior to getting on his bike to attack the 112 miles, he was bitten by fire ants. He forged ahead and finished the bike portion in 8:12:37. He then went on to finish the 26.2 mile run in 6:18:48.

Nikic’s father says that the mantra is to improve one percent each day. His coach, Grieb said in a statement, “I’m no longer surprised by what Chris can accomplish because I recognize who Chris is; a human being that has goals and dreams just like everyone else. He wants to make the path easier for those just like him and can follow his lead.”

He is now a Guinness World Record holder.

This is a story of inspiration, hope and positivity, and now, more than ever, the world needs more of it.

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.
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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.news.
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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.
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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

An exemplary public servant

To the Editor:
I wish to formally thank retired Spencer Town Clerk Jean Mulhall for stepping up to the plate to be the Acting Town Clerk for last Thursday’s Special Town Meeting. A quirk in the law would not allow Lisa Johnson, our Interim Town Clerk, for that evening’s

meeting.
Mrs. Mulhall exemplifies what we know as a public servant.

RALPH E. HICKS, ED. D.
CHAIRPERSON
SPENCER BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Coronavirus plague

To the Editor:
Is today’s Coronavirus yesteryear’s plagues? Plagues were common yesteryear in Egypt; in the book of Exodus, chapter 7 describes the water turning into blood and in 8, the frogs, gnats and flies, in 9 affecting livestock, and in 10 invaded by locusts and in 11 the 1st born son was to die, and as we get further into the Bible before the birth of Jesus in Joel 2 more locust, and now today’s virus [plague] the Corona the invisible killer, killing thousands. The plagues of yesteryear and today the Corona virus God continues making His appeal to the people in 2 Chronicle 7: 14, “if” my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their “wicked ways. God Himself is calling out, I God will hear and forgive.
Also, Joel 2: 32 God is again appealing to everyone who will humble themselves and call on His name from our hearts, the Lord God promises those calling on Jesus will be saved.

I have shared with you in a previous Viewpoint that Corona is a Latin word for ‘crown,’ God’s crown, and when God removes His crown of protection as we are presently experiencing today with this virus there will be chaos, plagues, viruses as we are presently witnessing.

In John 14: 6, Jesus is teaching He is the way, the only way to God, heaven, and John 15: 5 Jesus teaches that apart from God, Jesus we can do nothing, and in Romans 10: 13, we are being taught that everyone who calls, accepts Jesus from their hearts will be saved.

The choice is ours, yours, humble our self, confess and repent and live by God’s moral laws and this virus will leave. We can allow God, Jesus to be our vaccine or we can wait and hope this new vaccine will work, help, save us.

The choice is yours.

ROLAND BLAIS
BROOKFIELD

Where do we go from Here?

To the Editor:
Mr. Trump knows how to run a scam. He has been running them all his life. On Feb. 6, 2018, a federal court approved a \$25 million settlement to students who were duped by Donald J. Trump through the Trump University. On Dec. 10, 2019, Donald J. Trump was ordered to pay \$2 million for illegally using his charity’s, The Trump Foundation’s funds and now there is the ‘election defense fund’ for you good folks to be conned into sending him money. But this scam is worse than the others because this scam attacks the integrity and trust in our elections, which is the bedrock of our democracy. Trump is seeking to delegitimize elections, and destroy the last bit of trust in our institutions. Don’t let him continue his destruction of any trust left.

This is a time we need to work together, to repair the damage to trust caused by this man who spoke only of division, not unity. We are bound to each other as Americans, and as neighbors through our trust in our laws and institutions. Let’s work toward restoring the trust and unity. We have lots to

discuss: transparency in our government, especially in the state house, who shoulders the costs for maintaining our roads, better education for our children, fairness in access and costs of healthcare, who controls energy costs and who will pay to restore the environment, as it continues to deteriorate. Can we discuss issues with respect for each other’s opinions? Can we start listening and really talking to one another, with an open mind on subjects that really matter to our lives? Can we try to rebuild trust in each other? Could it start with just wearing a mask? You could be saving another person from suffering or dying, or maybe yourself. I realize it’s an inconvenience, no one likes them, it’s a small thing that makes a big difference. Trump turned a mask into a political statement. It isn’t. It’s just caring for each other, and maybe there are other small things we can start to do where we are caring for each other.

NANCY TAME
SPENCER

Reflections on Biden’s win

To the Editor:
We’ve had more than a week to process the fact that Joe Biden has been declared the winner. I’m surprised that the margin was so close. In retrospect, the campaign of Donald Trump deserves enormous credit for identifying and motivating voters who were quite frankly not regular voters. The Trump campaign found people that none of us thought existed and surely that translated to the House seats that the Republicans picked up as well as them maintaining the Senate.

Joe Biden won the popular vote very comfortably; 5.5 million votes is a good margin. In the Electoral College there were a lot of close states but when you consider that Biden won most of the states that were up for grabs, even by small margins in each state, it indicates a comfortable win and a broad win. Biden flipped several states that Trump won in 2016 in the rust belt but also in Arizona.

The closeness in those states however indicates to me that Joe Biden was the only Democratic nominee who could have won, and the Democratic party made a good decision by playing it safe this election.

There was a lot more Pro-Trump support than any of use college educated elites thought, and there was not as much broad Democratic party support as we thought. What we had was an enormous anti-Trump sentiment where millions of voters despite being apathetic about other races or even liking the GOP broadly, came out to vote for Joe Biden because he was the man that could make Donald Trump a former president the soonest.

The Democrats need to get over this idea that they are the emerging majority party in the United States because demography is on our side. In raw numbers, the Democrats have been the

Turn To **ROSENBERG** page **A10**

Counting chickens

To the Editor:
That timeless expression, ‘Don’t count your chickens before they hatch’ may very well be the best advice I can give to my liberal counterparts. According to the current ballot count, Joe Biden is the apparent front runner and is claiming to be President Elect. You would think that would make liberals burst with joy. However, reading some of the Letters to the Editor in last week’s (Nov. 13) Spencer New Leader, even in ‘victory’, they can still find something to whine about. They claim that the Trump-Era is over, yet grumble that it didn’t turn out to be the Blue Wave they expected it to be. From what I can gather, they (all one of the

Faux Five... figure that one out for yourself) lamented the fact that this election wasn’t the ‘blowout’ they had been promised. I suppose the sting of 2016 is now just a faint memory, being that it was so long ago, and they have forgotten what had happened. To refresh the memories of my learned, uber-intelligent, woke, liberal friends, Hillary bounced off of that glass ceiling harder than a seagull hitting the windshield of an Airbus a380.

With the political drudgery of this election in the rear view, the focus is now on the legal aspect. For those who can see, there are far too many irregularities in the ballot counting for even the most partizan to turn a blind eye. Biden needed key states in the

Ideas for
thanking
your family



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It’s almost Thanksgiving. And although 2020 may have been a difficult year for you, as it has been for many people, you can probably still find things for which you can be thankful – such as your family. How can you show your appreciation for your loved ones?

Here are a few suggestions:

Invest in your children’s future. If you have young children – or even grandchildren – one of the greatest gifts you can give them is the gift of education. You may want to consider contributing to a higher education funding vehicle.

Be generous. Do you have older children, just starting out in life? If so, they could well use a financial gift to help pay off student loans, buy a car or even make a down payment on a home. You can give up to \$15,000 per year, per recipient, without incurring gift taxes. Of course, you don’t have to give cash – you might want to consider presenting your children with shares of stock in companies they like.

Review your insurance coverage. If you weren’t around, it would leave some gaping holes – financial and otherwise – in the lives of your family members. That’s why it’s essential you maintain adequate life insurance. Your employer might offer a group plan, but it may not be sufficient to meet your needs. There’s no magic formula for determining the right amount of coverage, so you’ll have to consider a variety of factors: your age, spouse’s income, number of children and so on. Also, you may want to consider disability insurance – if you were unable to work for a while, it could cause a real problem for your family’s finances.

Preserve your financial independence. When your children are young, you take care of them. But you certainly don’t want them to have to do the same for you – so it’s essential you maintain your financial independence throughout your life. You can do this in at least a couple of ways. First, consider investing regularly in your 401(k), IRA and other retirement accounts. The greater your resources during your retirement years, the less you may ever need to count on your family. And second, you may want to protect yourself from the devastating costs of long-term care, such as an extended nursing home stay. A financial professional can suggest a strategy to help you cope with these expenses.

Create an estate plan. To leave a legacy to your family, you don’t have to be wealthy – but you do need a comprehensive estate plan. You’ll have to think through a lot of questions, such as: Have I named beneficiaries for all my assets? How much do I want to leave to each person? Do I need to go beyond a simple will to establish an arrangement such as a living trust? For help in answering all these issues, you’ll want to work with an attorney.

By making these moves, you can show your loved ones, in a tangible way, how much you value them – and that can help you keep the spirit of Thanksgiving alive all year long.

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.

mythical Blue Wall to secure enough votes to win the top spot. To achieve that he would have had to retain Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, and Ohio, which pundits and the talking heads on the cable networks alike thought to be very unlikely that he could win all of them. Late into Tuesday night this seemed to be the case as President Trump’s numbers in most of those state was pulling away from Biden, particularly in Michigan and Wisconsin. To the chagrin of weary eyed liberals across the Fruited Plain, it appeared as though President Trump had won the states of Pennsylvania, Michigan, and

Turn To **HERHOLZ** page **A10**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The new rules of the game

To the Editor:
There's an old saying in martial arts, and it goes like this: "When a strong wind comes, it's better to be like the willow tree instead of the oak. A willow will bend in the wind, and once it's past, stand back up. The oak will stand rigid against the wind and be broken." The winds of politics have changed and there are new rules that govern the political game. I am going to outline here how conservatives can navigate the rules of the political correctness and come out ahead.

One rule is now sexual identity. It seems there is going to be three now. Male, Female, and Other (Non-binary). So, what's the best path to take when confronted with this. The obvious answer now is other or binary. If you are filling out any government form or job application, the new rule is to check both and tell them you're binary. If they confront you or question it, document it. You now have the basis for a lawsuit if you are denied or do not get the job. The other plus of being binary is that you can now use both men's and ladies' restrooms. If any store or establishment confronts you, you have been denied your civil rights and can also sue. Ladies who voted for Biden have now made it acceptable to enjoy binary individuals in their public bathrooms. Your wish has come true.

Another rule is now race identity. If you are white, then you are immediately open to charges of white privilege and racism by the left. So, the best path forward is on any government form or job application where they ask for race, you check all of them. That means you identify with all races. After all, you don't know what genes you have? You could be like Elizabeth Warren who identifies as native Indian. If they confront you about it, then document it. You have a good lawsuit against them if you do not get the job or they deny your application. Your civil rights have been violated.

I also strongly recommend that all people buy a cheap knock-off of a "Black Lives Matter" shirt. Wearing this will entitle you to additional rights

Buckle up

To the Editor:
The ballot counting has continued, and as of now, Joe Biden is up to 78,606,350 votes compared to Donald Trump's 73,069,853. So that is more than 5.5 million more people, or 7.6 percent more Americans, cast their ballots for Biden compared to Trump. Every major news source, including Fox News, has called the election for Biden. It's over. Trump lost.

Of course, Donald Trump won't concede, and millions of his supporters are pushing a "stolen election" myth without a shred of evidence. We saw tens of thousands in Washington this weekend for the "million MAGA march" and what is so insidious about this is that people are now protesting democracy. People are protesting the concept of majority rule. People are protesting the very system which is supposed to make America better and different because as it turns out they are in the minority.

It seems as though Trump intended all along to use the false claim of a stolen election as a backup strategy in case he lost. If there is one constant in Trump's life and career, it's been his unwillingness to acknowledge losing. In business and now politics he has consistently lost as a result of his consummate arrogance and poor judgement while always carrying a backup strategy: Never accept responsibility for the loss, blame someone or something else, and pretend that the loss is actually a victory.

The "stolen election" myth is so dangerous because it is an assault on truth and facts generally. It is an assault on the concept that facts aren't negotiable. It is an assault on the concept that we can know things.

Things are about to get real interesting... Will Trump ever concede? How will his most virulent supporters accept President-Elect Biden? Will they deal with Biden the way they dealt with Obama (which was poor) or will we have an armed insurgency? One way or the other, Trump will be out of the White House, but will he be quiet and go away or will he be riling people up for years?

Mr. Robillard – I am very curious about your source(s) for news given how concerned you are about BLM and Antifa. Where are these alleged videos of pre-filled ballots? I really want to see them. How can you be sure they weren't staged? I am a vociferous consumer of news and I regularly read/watch The PBS Newshour, Washington Post, New York Times, The Atlantic, Vox, and Fox News among others. Yes, I regularly log onto Foxnews.com because I am often curious what they are saying and how they are twisting things. If you have a source that is more right-wing than Fox News I want to know what it is so I can check it out!

Mr. Robillard also commended the New Leader for publishing all viewpoints and hypothesized that might be why these towns voted for Trump. Please, look at a town-by-town map from 2016 and a town-by-town map of

and privileges. If you are pulled over for speeding or any other vehicle infraction, blame it on discrimination by the police. Charges dismissed. I encourage police to wear "Black Lives Matter" pins and shirts. It will make criminals harder to charge you with racism if you are shown wearing these on video cams. You might even get a raise. For regular citizens, these are like shields if you go into metro areas like Worcester. You can cut into lines at the store or argue with clerks. Have it on under your jacket. If something happens, immediately open your jacket. Once they see you have the shirt on, you are politically in the right and will be apologized to by the manager. Eventually everyone needs to wear one, so the system goes back to normal. I also urge all Republican politicians to go to their site and become a donor. Donate \$1. It automatically makes your opponent impossible to be labeled you as a racist. You can openly say you support them since you sent them a donation. Another plus is for you single guys. I see a lot of good-looking girls wearing the BLM shirts. If you are wearing one it gives you a "ice breaker" to say hi and talk with her. After all, that's why their wearing them, too attract your attention.

So, if Biden gets in, don't fight it. Demand all the freebies that the Democrats promised. Free college, free Medicaid, new stimulus checks, federal bailouts for cities and towns. If they don't come through, put on the BLM shirt and demonstrate at the Democratic homes of your local reps and Senators. Maybe riot at around a home improvement store. Maybe I'll join in and get a free new dryer, refrigerator, or TV. I like free stuff too.

My guess is that after four years of failure and broken promises, the mob will be looking to go back to good old conservative ways. They'll be looking for a new fresh guy who is not a career politician, maybe Tom Brady. Until then, enjoy the game.

MARK ROBILLARD
SPENCER

2020. Trump lost support everywhere in Massachusetts. This area's relative Trumpiness has to do with other factors. Mr. Robillard also accused me of spreading misinformation. Rather than broadly saying, "you're wrong", how about you point out the specific misinformation I am spreading? Let me and the other readers know what topics I'm wrong about and explain why. I always afford you the same courtesy, when you are wrong and I feel it is worth addressing I am specific, I explain why you are wrong, I give context....and you usually drop it.

Mr. McRae – your letter last week sounded like a veiled assault on the concept of democracy, given that your side has now lost yet again but this time with enough margin to wipe out the GOP advantage in the Electoral College. Your letter seemed like a veiled call to arms – "...if he needs us in the upcoming fight to prevent his well-deserved second term from being stolen..." How exactly do you plan on helping?

As it stands now, the election is over and Biden has won 5.5 million more votes as well as a large enough margin in Arizona, Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Georgia to survive historical recount errors. Trump's current strategy is to try to convince the Supreme Court to throw out more ballots than he can readily identify as questionable. If they disqualify all late arriving ballots, Biden still wins. Trump has to somehow get them to declare the entire election invalid because he can only win by cutting into the ballots boxes that hold all the non-questioned on-time ballots.

Is Mr. McRae suggesting armed insurrection should the courts not overturn the 2020 election? I really want to know what the suggested remedy is for the upcoming Supreme Court ruling that Biden won.

Many people have said that COVID would go away as soon as the election was over. They were almost right... The results of the election, the counting of ballots, and Trump's refusal to concede the election he lost dominated the news as the top story for about a week. Of course, COVID was getting exponentially worse in the background and had fallen to the 2nd story. Well, this week, Biden's win and Trump's refusal to accept reality are both old news... COVID popped right back to the top story.

COVID didn't go away after the election, it actually got much worse. We again hit new all-time highs in the United States making last week look like child's play. New daily cases in the US went up by 31% last week. Hospitalizations rose by 22%. Deaths rose by 10.3 percent...All in a week!

Just this week, the U.S. saw 1,010,413 new COVID-19 cases. Compare that to 732k a week prior. The U.S. saw 7,806 people die from COVID-19 this week. Compare that to 7,020 the week prior. As large of a disaster as this is, it is

Turn To **HAR-YAROK** page **A10**

No quitting, no concessions — fight on!

To the Editor:
Shortly after the election, I received a note from an old friend and fellow Trump supporter who stood out with us on many occasions holding flags or signs and waving to the passing traffic. The message was one of despair, that we had "wasted our time," that the fix was in from the beginning thanks to the convenient arrival of the Wuhan Flu which allowed the corruptocrats to steal the election with millions of phony mail-in ballots, early voting, unsecured vote counting operations, compromised computer systems, etc.

I responded that when I was asked to join the Trump effort in this area, I felt all I/we could possibly impact was the local small towns where, at least, we could trust the vote counts would be done honestly.

Well, welcome to Trump Country! In all the little towns where we took our street campaign, President Trump either won or did very well indeed considering this is Massachusetts. That would be Spencer, Leicester, Sturbridge, Rutland, Oxford, Ware, Charlton, and the four Brookfields. Oh, wait a minute, Trump was crushed in West Brookfield....by ten votes.

We did all we could have done to influence voters in our little corner of the state to give the President his well-deserved support. I have no regrets

Let's get real

To the Editor:
It is well past time to grow up, face facts and get back to work. Despite a neverending conversation about election fraud, Homeland Security of the Trump administration has stated that there has never been a more secure election.

Consider this: The person in charge of the entire country, has been sounding the alarm about his concerns about the security of our elections for quite a while. His statement that if I don't win means there was rampant fraud, pretty much says, don't bother voting, as I have already chosen the result I will accept. Anyone who thinks this is any relation to democracy or a democratic republic, probably voted for the author of this ludicrous claim. That said, the campaigning, stand outs, signs, hats and banners, give the impression of actually believing in the system. That appears to be the fraud.

The same guy who won with a landslide of 306 electoral votes four years ago, now says the guy with that same 306 barely edged him out. Going to court, citing dozens or just rumors of fraud, where he would need to disallow thousands of votes to have any impact, is continuing to make us the laughing stock of the world, and wearing very thin on the winning majority.

I often review the prior week's letters before writing anything. This week, I am taking particular issue with Mr. McRae. As I have noted before, my family did not immigrate here, as in 1636, this was England. My family has served in the military for many generations, but most recently, both grandfathers in WWI under Democratic President Woodrow Wilson, my father and all of my Uncles in WWII under FDR, both of my sons

about the time and energy we put in to further the cause.

We were a motley crew, we flag-waving Trumpsters: from all walks of life, of many levels of economic status, ages from quite young to quite old, education, life experience, and differing health situations. But, we were a band of brothers and sisters, united by our love of America and freedom, and our belief that President Trump had done a very good job of giving us back our pride in the nation and its history, and, consequently, rekindling our faith and hope that America was, indeed, being made "Great again!"

And, we were a happy group, laughing and cheering as people in the passing cars and trucks—in overwhelming numbers—blasted their horns and yelled their support and appeared to be jubilant at seeing us and all the Trump paraphernalia. There were few experiences in my long life to match the great pleasure I experienced being with like-minded patriots, joyful to be alive and out there celebrating our love for America and our President. I will miss those days and those great people.

Some of us were too old and too physically unsuited for the blazing heat and humidity of July and August, but we wouldn't have

Turn To **MCRAE** page **A17**

from 9/11 through Korean and Iraq deployments, and my granddaughter is currently USAF. I am fed up with your aspersion that Democrats are not loyal Americans. I doubt to my core that Generals Kelly or Mattis are by any stretch un-American.

The actions of the current occupant of the White House would be laughable if they were not so sad.

Apparently, it is not enough to deny and suppress the ability of the new leader to hit the ground running, he is also steering the ship to the center of the waterfall, firing the crew and fowling the motors.

Yesterday's positive Covid test rate exceeded 150,000. While Taiwan, with a population close to Florida's, has had seven deaths compared to Florida's 6,500-plus, they actually can do contact tracing.

We are well out of that range. If you think Biden will be able to suddenly reverse the most ridiculous, least effective pandemic response in the world, on the brink of going over the falls, think again.

What he will do is stop feeding you the BS we are getting now, and encourage all of us to make that supreme sacrifice of wearing face masks, social distancing and disinfecting hands and surfaces. Clearly, a vaccine is the best answer— but first we need to live that long. Does not giving lip service to honoring those who have served in uniform for our safety and freedoms, not entitle us to ask everyone to do this simple thing for the same reason?

How many readers realize that those against defunding the police, are doing just that at this very moment. States and municipalities cannot run a deficit. Only the feder-

Turn To **KIMBALL** page **A17**



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Happy Thanksgiving

HAR-YAROK
continued from page A9

exponentially growing. At this rate it will run through our entire population this winter.

The total cases in the US are about 11 million, with 245,600 deaths. You should be more shocked than you are reading those numbers.

The worst nightmare scenarios are starting to unfold in the middle of the country. I always assumed that the middle of the United States would eventually turn into the world COVID disaster zone, and I was correct. The worse place in the world on a per capita basis for COVID is the Dakotas. In North Dakota several hospitals are at capacity and they are allowing COVID positive nurses to work in COVID wards because otherwise they just don't have anyone to staff it. Tulsa, OK is at capacity for ICU – if any more patients need ICU they need to be ambulated elsewhere. El Paso, TX is erecting tents in hospital parking lots and putting hospital beds in them...literally. Officials in El Paso are now openly discussing rationing care because they simply have no choice. Oregon and New Mexico are implementing lockdowns/shelter-in-place orders because their hospitals are nearly overflowing.

I know people don't like social distancing, lockdowns, or even masks... But this is life or death. "Herd immunity" was never a viable strategy because COVID spreads too fast and is too seri-

ous for too many people. Did you ever think you would be treated inside a tent instead of a hospital in the US? What about the DCU Center? What do you think happens if this spreads too quickly and not even the DCU Center or tents can handle it? The answer is rationing care and then the fatality rate skyrockets.

On the topic of "herd immunity," many people in this publication and on Facebook have suggested that the US should have adopted Sweden's "light touch" strategy. Putting aside massive cultural differences between the U.S. and Sweden and putting aside that conservatives hate everything else about Sweden and just wanted to cherry pick pandemic management... Sweden's top epidemiologist now acknowledges that their experiment was a total failure. Death rates are 10x in Sweden compared to neighboring countries. The very purpose of herd immunity was to avoid a winter surge like the rest of Europe. Unfortunately, that did not come to pass. Sweden is seeing a fall surge just like the rest of the world... Sweden ended up with a death rate 10x higher than its neighbors Norway and Finland. Sweden now has daily cases 3.3x higher than Norway and 8x higher than Finland. Sweden is currently in exponential growth. We now know that Sweden was no model to follow.

Buckle up... We have interesting times ahead...

OMAR HAR-YAROK
EAST BROOKFIELD

ROSENBERG
continued from page A8

majority party in the United States for over a generation but of course the way we're broken up into states the parties are roughly 50/50. We are becoming more polarized on education where Democrats are becoming the party of the college educated and Republicans becoming the party of the poorly educated. The urban/rural divide is wider than ever. We are doomed to either gridlock or compromise and it seems like our fate is gridlock.

This election is a story of unfulfilled expectations. Trump raised expectations that Biden was senile and would fall asleep on the stage when of course Biden handled himself well. Democrats had expectations of winning the Senate, Presidency, and enlarging their majority in the House and they barely squeaked the presidency and lost ground in the House.

The GOP is a monolithic homogeneous party of essentially white non-college educated interests, or at least perceived interests. The

Democratic party is a coalition of everybody else – the unions, minorities, well educated, etc. The Democratic party put aside their differences to defeat Donald Trump. As we go into 2021 and 2022, the Democratic party is likely to start in-fighting between its various wings.

Donald Trump will soon no longer be President. He has, however left a lasting scar on our norms, on the way we feel about each other, and the way the world looks at us. Dictators around the world are happy to see an American president denying election results. That gives them encouragement and gives them a set of norms they can feel comfortable emulating. Trump is clearly going through the phases of grief – denial, then rage, and eventually there will be acceptance.

When will Lame-Duck Trump start helping with the transition and giving President-Elect Biden intelligence briefings? Will Trump attend Biden's inauguration?

DAVID ROSENBERG
SPENCER

HERHOLZ
continued from page A8

Wisconsin. Having already taken Florida, President Trump was well on his way to securing his second term. However, through an amazing turn of events, ballots for Biden came flooding in like mana from Heaven! And, just like that, the unlikely event of Biden taking Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania to cement his victory, became a 'reality'. Joe Biden, who hardly made his way out of the basement, had pulled off the impossible. What used to be the bane of the lefts existence, the very same libs who railed against the electoral college back in 2016 now had no issue with it. Melting snowflakes near and far yelled, "Rigged! Rigged! Rigged!" back in 2016, but, just a mere four years later we had, as they now claim, the most secure election in United States history. This sentiment is also echoed by the talking heads on Fox,

CBS, NBC, CNN, MSNBC, AP, etc., etc., etc... All I have to say to Fox is, "Et tu, Brute?"

News flash, and something the aforementioned media outlets aren't telling you, nothing has been certified and cannot be until the legal proceedings have been finished. If I am not mistaken, the deadline is Dec. 9. The media has no authority to call an election, period. From what I have been seeing from alternate news sources is that there is mounting evidence contrary to what the Main Stream Media wants you to believe. Don't get me wrong, I take everything I now see with a huge grain of salt (once bitten, twice shy). In the end, the outcome could be that Biden won and is President Elect. If so, I hope he proves me wrong and becomes the best President ever. But, for now, he is still just Former Vice President Biden, sitting and waiting in the basement.

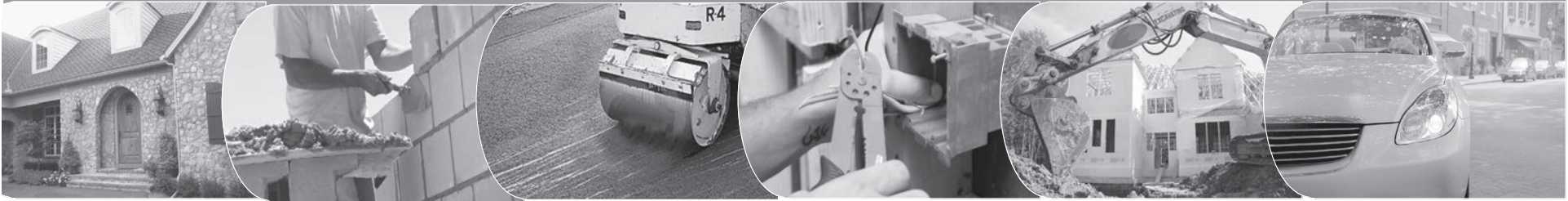
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Midcentury glassware



Regular readers of this column know that “brown furniture,” glassware and china prices have dropped over the years. There are a few notable exceptions though, including many midcentury (1940s to 1960s or 1970s) glassware pieces.

Some kitchenware from the midcentury is collectible. Green “Jadeite” Fire King prices may have peaked when Martha Stewart displayed pieces in a cabinet behind her on her cooking

show, but it still sells fairly well today. Five Fire King mixing bowls recently sold for \$70 at auction. A large 87-piece group of mixed dinnerware brought \$550. Pyrex kitchenware is also in demand. A pink one and a half quart divided covered casserole cooking dish recently sold for \$54. A set of nesting Pyrex mixing bowls in yellow, green, red and blue went for \$120 this month.

Midcentury modern art glass is also quite popular with collectors. When thinking of glass from this era, most people think of Murano (Venetian glass). It was popular in the 1960s but has a much longer history, dating all the way back to the 1200s. Venetian glass was in high production during the 15th and 16th centuries. Glassmaking in Murano declined in the 17th century, but it came back in the 19th century. During the 1920s, Murano produced art nouveau design glass. World War II saw production drop, but it came back strong again after the war.

Prices have increased for midcentury Murano glass. Glassware that may have sold at estate sales for anywhere from two bucks to \$10 in the 1990s may now bring 10 times those prices. For example, a Murano cockatoo recently sold for \$50 and two Murano “Aquarium



ANTIQUES,
COLLECTIBLES
& ESTATES
• • • • •
WAYNE TUISKULA

bowls” by Alfredo Barbini, with fish designs on the bottom, sold for \$200 and \$250 this month.

Nordic countries also produced some quality art glass during this time. Gerda and Asta Stromberg made tall cylindrical “Sputnik” vases, along with other patterns for Strombergshyttan of Sweden. The well-known Swedish glassmaker Orrefors purchased Strombergshyttan in 1976. Riihimäki glass of Finland made colorful vases and other art glass objects during the 1960s. Many had a clear base with curves, creating the effect of multiple levels.

America also produced some quality midcentury art glass. Higgins glass designed what was called a “glass sandwich.” According to higginsglass.com: “on one piece of enamel-coated glass, a design is created, either drawn with colored enamels, or pieced with glass segments.” Another piece of enameled glass is placed on top of that. Blenko Glass created amberina glass (red and yellow colors merging) among many other patterns during the 1960s. Other companies like Heisey offered some modern design glassware as well.

Some midcentury glassware can fetch high prices at auction. A large 1940s-1950s Asta Stromberg Diamant (Diamond pattern) glass vase by Strombergshyttan sold for \$735 in a 2013 online auction. A “peacock” Blenko floor bottle brought

\$2,100 at auction in 2016. A set of four Riihimäki glasses made by the artist Nanny Stil for the Riiimaen Lasi Oy company went for £4,000 (\$5,278 U.S.) in 2011. A 1960 Michael and Frances Higgins Rondelay screen with five rows each with five round pieces of glass and brass sold for \$13,000 in 2014. A 1960 Murano “Dorico Corniola” vase by Ercole Barovier, described in one auction catalog as “colourless glass with inclusions in carnelian, white, violet and colourless,” was auctioned for \$29,000 in 2013. Art glass has still been selling well more recently. A pair of Murano glass chandeliers sold for \$2,750 in late October. Despite the pandemic, there is still bottled up demand for high quality art glass.

We will be offering a large collection of antique and newer toys from one estate in several online auctions over the next few months, beginning with some die-cast cars. We also will be offering paintings by Fay Moore from her estate. Moore is well known for sporting scenes and horse racing paintings. I’ll provide additional updates in future columns.

Contact us at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique Auctions, Estate Sales and Appraisal Services www.centralmassauctions.com (508-612- 6111) info@centralmassauctions.com.

Knox Trail supports successful reopening

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – Despite the statewide surge in COVID-19 cases, local schools are relying on strong safety protocols to return students to the classroom. Last month, Knox Trail Middle School became the latest school to reopen, with David Prouty High School expected to return this week.

Students at Wire Village School, East Brookfield Elementary School, and Knox Trail Middle School are now able to return to the classroom on a hybrid schedule. District leaders said the reopening of KTMS has progressed well over the first few weeks.

“Our faculty, staff, students, and administration have really prepared well for this transition and have made the guidelines a priority throughout the schools,” said Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District Superintendent Paul Haughey. “It was a lot of work getting ready for the reopening of these grades, and everyone has

taken the necessary steps to put safety first so we can welcome everyone back to the hybrid model of learning.”

As of our press deadline this week, the regional school district had not seen a single confirmed case of COVID-19 among students or staff. Although it will be a long and challenging winter, school leaders believe the comprehensive safety measures can continue to be effective and keep kids in class.

“It is nice to know that our due diligence and adherence as a learning community to the safety protocols and guidelines has worked well,” Haughey added. “Thank you to our staff, students, parents, and families for all of your partnership and support in making the reopening of the schools possible.”

The process of keeping the school community safe starts with parents at home, officials reminded. This requires a careful monitoring process of student activities away from school that could potentially lead to transmission.

“Families play a critical role in supporting the culture of health and safety in our schools,” read a statement issued by Kara Westerman, the district’s director of student services. “As an important reminder, please keep your child home if they have been identified as a close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19. If you or someone in your household has tested positive for COVID-19, please notify your child’s school nurse or principal, who can help guide you with this process.”

Parents should continue to perform daily symptom checks of their children before leaving home, officials said. Students should not attend school if they are experiencing any of the following symptoms:

- Fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit or above)
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing; shortness of breath
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea

- Loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Headache, when in combination with other symptoms
- Fatigue/weakness, when in combination with other symptoms
- Muscle aches or body aches
- Nasal congestion or runny nose

If your child presents these symptoms, please contact your child’s physician for COVID-19 testing. If the physician determines that there is an alternative diagnosis, you must provide the school nurse with a written doctor’s note stating the diagnosis.

DPHS was expected to reopen on Nov. 16 after extensive preparations from building administrators.

“Mrs. York, Mr. Malone, and our entire learning community at the high school have been working diligently to prepare for the return of our students in a hybrid model of learning,” Haughey said. “We are excited to welcome our high school students back to in-person learning.”



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Seven Hills Family Services receives grant

WORCESTER — Seven Hills Family Services, which operates a Family Resource Center in Sturbridge, has received a \$49,620 grant from The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts to upgrade the AV equipment in one of its Family Support Center classrooms in order to record sessions, edit, translate, and post them on its website so that families who cannot attend the sessions can access them at their convenience. The grant will also be used to purchase technology for Family Support Navigators to enhance integrated supports to families.

The grant was one of 14 Activation Fund grants recently awarded by the Foundation totaling almost \$700,000.

“Throughout Worcester County, there are many important health, education, and human service agencies and organizations, which, through the efforts of their dedicated staffs, are providing essential services to our most vulnerable populations,” said Francis M. Saba, Chairman of the Board of the Foundation. “The critical nature of their work has been heightened by the challenges of the current pandemic. Through our Foundation’s annual Activation Fund process, we are able to help support many of these agencies and organizations. In 2020, 66 letters of intent to participate in the application process for support from the Activation Fund were submitted. Of

the 66 letters, many were from organizations that had never applied and others from both previous applicants and agencies that had not previously been invited to apply. The 66 letters in 2020 compare with 38 from 2019. Clearly the need for support has increased and is significant. After a thorough review of the letters and applications by our experienced and thoughtful Foundation staff, 14 projects with support of \$698,039 were funded. Five of the projects totaling \$271,000 were specifically funded in response to the pandemic. Our Foundation is pleased to continue to do our part in helping these agencies.”

The other grants awarded are:

Quinsigamond Community College (QCC) - \$70,790 to upgrade instructional equipment in QCC’s Radiologic Technology program to better prepare QCC students for their clinical rotations and entering the workforce.

Worcester Common Ground (WCG) - \$100,000 to install a rooftop greenhouse on an affordable housing project WCG is developing in Worcester which will allow residents to grow produce for themselves and their families.

NEADS World Class Service Dogs - \$50,000 for the construction of its Behavioral Check List space to test puppies to determine their eligibility to enter NEADS training pro-

grams as Service Dogs.

Living in Freedom Together (LIFT) - \$19,000 for the installation of sprinklers at its residential home for survivors of commercial sexual exploitation.

LUK, Inc. - \$50,000 to support telebehavioral health services for students in middle and high schools in Central Massachusetts.

Edward M. Kennedy Community Health Center - \$60,000 for four dental chairs as part of its plans to expand its Milford site to include dental services, optometry and a 340B pharmacy.

Building Futures - \$49,998 for facility and technology upgrades to the Worcester Housing Authority’s Youth Center in Great Brook Valley, which provides youth ages 5-14 with tutoring and homework help.

Christopher House of Worcester - \$39,082 for a program to enhance the skills of its first line managers and train peer mentors with the goal of reducing the turnover rates of both nurses and CNAs.

Jeffrey’s House - \$23,772 for the installation of sprinklers in three sober living houses it operates in Fitchburg and for accessibility renovations in two of the houses.

CENTRO - \$50,000 to hire a community health worker to assess the needs of people using its food pantry and refer them

to other services CENTRO offers if they are eligible.

Genesis Club - \$40,000 to create a “virtual clubhouse” to enable Genesis Club to reach out to people recovering from mental illness who cannot access its physical location, allowing people to access clubhouse services remotely.

Open Sky Community Services - \$45,777 to expand telepsychiatry services in 33 of its group homes.

South Middlesex Opportunity Council - \$50,000 for the pre-development costs associated with converting the second floor of a building in Worcester into a 50-bed permanent emergency shelter facility.

The Foundation was established in 1999 with the proceeds from the sale of Central Massachusetts Health Care, Inc., a physician-initiated, not-for-profit HMO. The Foundation currently has assets of approximately \$79 million and has awarded grants totaling over \$45 million since it began its grantmaking in 2000. For further information about these grants or about the Foundation’s grantmaking programs and application process, please visit The Health Foundation’s website at www.hfcm.org or call (508) 438-0009.

North Brookfield Town House to be downtown focal point

NORTH BROOKFIELD — In July of 2018, the Friends of the North Brookfield Town House met with representatives from the Board of Selectmen, the Architectural Heritage Foundation, the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), and the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation to discuss economic development in North Brookfield with the Town House as the focal point. As a result of this meeting, the Friends were encouraged to create the Downtown Development Committee. The DDC members were appointed by the Selectmen in October of 2018 to focus on stimulating redevelopment of the town center and aid in fundraising efforts aimed at Town House renovation. Since then, the Committee has been working on efforts to create a vibrant atmosphere for business and social activities in North Brookfield.

With the support and dedication of the team at the CMRPC, the Downtown Development Committee has completed a Strategic Plan for development in downtown North Brookfield. The plan has five goals: 1) A Walkable Downtown 2) A Connected Trail System 3) Town House Revitalization 4) Downtown Redevelopment 5) Business Investment. All of these goals are dedicated to making North Brookfield’s commercial/cultural center a pedestrian friendly, economically viable area.

After establishing timelines and responsible entities, the DDC is moving forward on each of their goals, while remaining closely aligned with the Friends of the Town House as they move forward with their own Town House project, which has three main objectives:

Renovating and revitalizing the Town House and its Great Hall as a venue for local, regional, and touring theater productions, musical performances, and community gatherings

Coming to terms with isolation by offering programs that unite the community through common purpose and opportunities

Building a creative economy by utilizing untapped human and physical resources, incubating creative problem solving, fostering innovation, and building a workforce for the future that will strengthen downtown North Brookfield businesses and the economic viability of the region

The Friends have been taking steps toward the restoration of the Town House, a building listed on the National Register of Historic Places. With the help of a Massachusetts Cultural Council grant they have completed an architectural feasibility study of the building and a theatrical report for its Great Hall.

Working toward their second and third objectives the Friends have developed an innovative program called ROAR – Rural Opportunity through Art and Restoration. When ROAR is fully implemented, the Town House will provide a wide assortment of creative workshops and will host a variety of performances in the Great Hall.

With the interactive, imaginative, exciting arts and life programs they are creating for the renovated Town House, the Friends hope to make positive changes for the people of North Brookfield.

Having an arts-driven and walkable downtown has been proven in both research and practical studies to be the most effective way to improve economic viability in rural communities. When

communities attract tourism, all commercial businesses experience significant upticks and home sales increase. All of this directly enriches the tax base and the public offerings, which in turn benefits everyone.

After the Town House and its theater are renovated and ROAR is in place, the building once again will be the ‘center of everything’ in the region as it was for decades upon decades. Community involvement in this undertaking is vital. As the DDC and the Friends work to attain their goals, potential grantors and donors are expecting to see support from Town leaders and residents.

Pilot ROAR programs are being planned now. It is hoped that they can begin in the Spring, either virtually or in person, in a temporary space until the Town House is ready for occupancy. As challenging as it is in this age of Covid-19, it is vitally important that we find ways to be together, create together, and build community together – now more than ever before.

For more information on the Friends of the Town House renovation project and the ROAR program check out their new Web site, www.nbtownhouse.com.

Keep up to date on the work of the Downtown Development Committee at NorthBrookfieldDDC@gmail.com or follow the link from the Town Website. Also find them on Facebook by searching North Brookfield Downtown Development Committee or using the following link: https://www.facebook.com/North-Brookfield-Downtown-Development-Committee-101799524697159/?modal=admin_todo_tour.

Cornerstone Bank holds annual food drive

ITEMS TO BE COLLECTED AT ALL LOCATIONS



REGION — Cornerstone Bank is hosting a food drive from now until Saturday, Nov. 21. All non-perishable food items will be donated to local food pantries throughout the community.

During the drive, customers and local residents are encouraged to drop off non-perishable food items at any of Cornerstone Bank’s 12 branch locations.

Drop-off locations include:

- 2 Center Depot Rd., Charlton
- 1073 Main St., Holden
- 121 S. Main St., Leicester
- 93 Main St., Rutland
- 253-257 Main St., Southbridge
- 176 Main St., Spencer
- 72 W. Main St., Spencer
- 200 Charlton Rd., Sturbridge
- 968 Main St., Warren
- 86 Worcester Rd., Webster
- 230 Park Ave., Worcester
- 70 W. Boylston St., Worcester

a great opportunity to help families in need during the holiday season,” said Cornerstone Bank President & Treasurer Todd M. Tallman. “Any donation helps and is greatly appreciated.”

About Cornerstone Bank

Cornerstone Bank is an independent, mutual savings bank serving the residents, businesses, and communities throughout Central Massachusetts from offices in Charlton, Holden, Leicester, Rutland, Southbridge, Spencer, Sturbridge, Warren, Webster, and Worcester along with a Loan Center in Westborough. Deposits are insured in full by a combination of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Depositors Insurance Fund. The Bank is an Equal Opportunity Employer, Equal Housing Lender, and SBA Preferred Lender. For more information, visit online at cornerstonebank.com, on Facebook, or call 800-939-9103.

“Our annual food drive is

LEGALS

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Division
Docket No. WO20P3165EA
Estate of:
Paul E. Barnes
Date Of Death: August 16, 2019
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Sharon A. Barnes of West Boylston MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate **Sharon A. Barnes of West Boylston 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.

November 20, 2020

TOWN OF BROOKFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Town of Brookfield Board of Selectmen will conduct a public hearing on the application of Paul Cantin for a Class II License to Buy, Sell, Exchange or Assemble Second-Hand Motor Vehicles, or parts thereof, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 140 of the Massachusetts General Laws. Said hearing will be conducted on Tuesday, December 1, at 6:45 p.m. during the Board of Selectmen’s Meeting. This will be a Zoom meeting. See information below:

Brookfield Board of Selectmen’s Meeting
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84703684356?pwd=aldWR-WVQYmFmd2xZbzZqWEc0MS9M-dz09>
Meeting ID: 847 0368 4356
Passcode: 149731
One tap mobile
+13017158592,,84703684356#,,,,0#,,149731# US (Germantown)
+13126266799,,84703684356#,,,,0#,,149731# US (Chicago)
Dial In +1 929 205 6099
Meeting ID: 847 0368 4356

Passcode: 149731
BOARD OF SELECTMEN:
Clarence R. Snyder, III Chairman
Beth L. Coughlin, Vice-Chairman
Linda M. Lincoln, Clerk
November 20, 2020
November 27, 2020

TOWN OF BROOKFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing beginning at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 9 at the Brookfield Town Hall located at 6 Central Street. The zoning sections cited below are from the Brookfield Zoning By-Laws.

The purpose of the hearing (6:10pm) is to consider a request from Daniel Plourde to have 2nd Principal Use, a retail vending business, at his property at 5 Quaboag Street in Brookfield. This requires a Special Permit as per Section 4 – B.1.c, More Than One Principal Use. This property is located in the BB Zoning District which is generally known as light manufacturing.

ZBA Hearing 12-9-20
Wed, Dec 9, 2020 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (EST)
Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/111421325>
You can also dial in using your phone.
United States: +1 (571) 317-3122
Access Code: 111-421-325

New to GoToMeeting? Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/111421325>
Timothy Simon – ZBA Chairman
November 20, 2020
November 27, 2020

Notice of Public Hearing
Spencer Zoning Board of Appeals

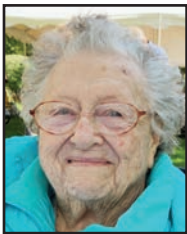
At the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting to be held on Tuesday, December 08, 2020, the hearing will be conducted remotely to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 and will be broadcast live on Spencer Cable Access channels and at SCATV.org on the following items starting at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard:

Comprehensive Permit/40 B – Applicant/Owner: Women’s Institute Realty; Location: 17 Lake Street, Spencer Assessor’s Map U15-01. The applicant is requesting a Comprehensive Permit Pursuant to M.G.L. c.40B, §§ 20-23, and 760 CMR 56.00 et seq/ the applicant is looking to construct a new, 3-story building and will consist of a total of 31 rental units for seniors aged 62 years or older, including a total of twenty-nine (29) one bedroom units and one (1) two-bedroom units. The property is located within the Village Residential zoning district.
November 20, 2020
November 27, 2020

OBITUARIES

Dorothy R. (Christian) Fritze, 92

SPENCER- Dorothy R. (Christian) Fritze, 92, of Spencer, passed away Saturday, Nov. 14 in Quaboag Nursing & Rehabilitation, W.Brookfield.



Her husband of 64 years, Robert O. Fritze, Sr. died in 2011. She leaves her children; Christine J. Ahearn and her husband Patrick, Robert “Bo” Fritze, Jr. and his wife Sandy, Dean A. Fritze and his wife Diane, Wayne D. Fritze and his wife Kelly all of Spencer and Beverly J. Openshaw and her husband Donald of E.Brookfield, 12 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren, several nieces and nephews.

Dottie was born in Spencer, the daughter of David and Esther (Tenney) Christian and later graduated from David Prouty High School in 1945. She was a longtime member of the First Congregational Church of Spencer and

was a volunteer in its Economy Shop. She was a 35 year member and past Treasurer of the Harmony Rebekah Lodge (Odd Fellows). She worked at the election polls for the Town of Spencer for 20 years. She was a former member of the Republican Town Committee. Special thanks to the compassionate staff at Quaboag Rehab. for their wonderful care during the past 3 years.

Dottie enjoyed dancing with Bob, playing cards, listening to country music, watching Red Sox games and visiting with family and friends.

A private Memorial Service followed by burial in West Ridge Cemetery, Charlton will be held at the convenience of the family. There are no calling hours. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the First Congregational Church of Spencer, 207 Main St., Spencer Ma. 01562. J.HENRI MORIN & SON FUNERAL HOME, 23 Maple terr., Spencer is directing arrangements for the family. www.morinfuneralhomes.com

North Brookfield MA- Beloved husband of Gloria (Baril) Kennan passed away unexpectedly and quietly on Monday, November 2, 2020 in his home that he and his wife built in 1950. They celebrated 70 years of marriage with friends and family last November 2019 At the North Brookfield Congregational Church.



James was born to the late Evelyn Shumway, and Herbert Kennan. In addition to his wife, James is survived by his three children, Linda Jarmolowicz and husband Bruce of MA, Gail Gladu of NH and Debra Brown of MA. Also, he leaves behind his beloved grandchildren Holly Gladu of NH, James Kennan Jarmolowicz and fiancée Lindsey of MA, his extended family, granddaughter Mariah Holt and two extended great grandchildren, Lillian Devoid and Atticus Jenks.

James leaves behind his beloved

Sisters, Kathy Crevier and Celia Daniels and husband Chet. His brothers Herbert, Harry, and Richard Kennan passed on before him. He leaves behind Brother-in-law’s Donald Baril and Richard Baril, many beloved nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews and great great nieces and nephews.

James joined the Navy in 1948. Was a member of the North Brookfield Fire Dept. And was a dedicated Christian who belonged to the Choir at the North Brookfield Congregational Church and served as a deacon for many years. He retired from the Quaboag Rubber Co in 1992 after 45 years of service.

James was either known as “Dad”, or “Uncle Jim” to many because of the memorable mark he made on everyone who knew him. He had that wonderful devilish grin and a twinkle in his eyes. If you are reading this, I’m sure you also have a feel-good story about Jim!

A memorial service will be planned at the Congregational Church in North Brookfield in the spring or summer when we can all spread out and celebrate his life. In lieu of flowers, a donation to the North Brookfield Congregational Church, 144 N Main Street, North Brookfield, MA, 01535, would be greatly appreciated.

Sewer moratorium prompts concerns for businesses

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – Officials are concerned that a moratorium recently implemented by the Sewer Commission could restrict future business growth.

During the Board of Sewer Commissioners meeting held in late September, the Commission approved a moratorium calling for commercial, industrial, and residential connections to not exceed 440 gallons per day of design flow. This represents the amount of sewage flow from a connection to the sewer main, which is

then conveyed to the Spencer Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The plant currently has a design flow of 1.08 million gallons daily (MGD), but only 80 percent of design flow is permitted by state regulations. This equates to 864,000 gallons per day, which is exceeded in wet weather, officials said.

“Until we are able to identify a source, or sources, for removal of the excessive flow, we cannot accept any large flow sources,” said James LaPlante, Jr., the Superintendent of the Spencer Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Many town officials are wor-

ried about the effects of the moratorium, especially related to future growth. They are hoping various alternatives can be discussed to ensure that state and federal sewage mandates are met while not restricting business.

“If a town is not growing, then it’s dying. We know we have a problem here, but I worry that this will stifle growth,” said Selectman Tony Pepe. “I hope we can find creative solutions. Right now, the town is on a good path [in terms of attracting new businesses and development], and we would like to keep it that way.”

Officials are also concerned that the sewer moratorium could negatively impact the planned conversion of the former Lake Street School property into senior housing. The developers are still in the finance assembly phase of the project, Town Administrator Thomas Gregory said. Developers plan to raze the existing school building and construct 30 new senior housing units.

Other town officials fear that the current plans to upgrade the wastewater treatment plant might not be sufficient to facilitate significant new

business growth in the future. The Environmental Protection Agency has issued an order to upgrade the plant, and fines for not properly controlling the amount of sewage can be \$300 daily.

“My concern is that the current plans for upgrading the plant will still not allow for more town growth, which is unfortunate, especially if we are to attract new businesses to come to Spencer,” said Select Board Chairman Ralph Hicks. “I am hoping we can collectively come together and find a way to expand the proposed treatment plant upgrades.”

Donation to help Nichols Endowment Fund

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – Nichols College in Dudley has announced a \$2 million anonymous donation that will boost the school’s endowment increasing a scholarship that assists both local students and numerous academic initiatives.

The \$2 million donation was provided to the school from a global financial services leader who has chosen to remain anonymous. The gift will serve to support the primary objective of the college’s Bicentennial Campaign to raise funds for capital projects, endowments, and leadership education which has to date surpassed the \$45 million goals set three years ago. A new goal has been set to raise \$20 million in additional funds to help increase the endowment and support scholarships, professorships and college programs.

Nichols College President Susan West Engelkemeyer, Ph.D. released a statement expressing gratitude for the gift thanking the anonymous donor for their generosity.

“This gift will advance our mission of transforming lives through expanded educational and experiential opportunities for our career focused students. It ensures our continued success as a college of choice for business and leadership education,” President Engelkemeyer said.

Chair of the Nichols College Board of Trustees and member of the Class of 1972 John H. Davis also expressed his gratitude for the gift calling it critical support for the endowment especially in a time of uncertainty in higher education.

“Most importantly, it will increase experiential opportunities for our students to give them a competitive edge,” Davis said.

The \$2 million donation, along with other funds from the endowment, will assist with launching a business consulting center in addition to supporting a scholarship for students in the Southern Worcester County region. The \$2 million will also be utilized to augment the Student-Managed Investment Fund which was founded in 2019 through alumni donations.

State takes additional steps to curb rise in COVID cases

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – State officials have taken several additional measures in response to a steep rise in COVID-19 cases over the last three weeks.

Gov. Charlie Baker announced last week that a field hospital will be set up at the DCU Center in Worcester. With new COVID-19 cases rising throughout the state, officials are prepared for an influx of hospitalizations as winter looms.

The Worcester site, which will be built by the National Guard, is the first field hospital to open in the state since June.

“The Commonwealth continues to see an alarming rise in cases and hospitalizations for COVID-19, and we are acting now to expand hospital capacity,” Baker said. “All residents are urged to follow guidance to wear masks, stay home at night, and stop gathering. We are preparing our hospital system to add more beds and stand up our first field hospital to care for COVID-19 patients if these trends continue.”

If needed, the Worcester field hospital is expected to be available for patients in the first week of December. Additional loca-

tions can be added if conditions dictate a need.

State and health officials are also coordinating to prepare hospital staffs across the state for a wave of patients.

“Since day one of our response to this crisis, we have worked to ensure that our hospitals and healthcare providers have the resources they need to meet the acute health needs of our residents,” said Massachusetts Health and Human Services Secretary Marylou Sudders. “We are in a much better position to respond to what will be a difficult next few months.”

Statewide, COVID-19 hospitalizations since Labor Day have increased from 178 to 661. Several days last week saw new cases exceed 2,000.

If needed, the Worcester field hospital will provide approximately 240 additional beds to care for lower-risk COVID-19 patients, helping preserve the hospital system capacity for higher-risk patients.

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) will coordinate the logistics of the DCU Center field hospital, in close collaboration with health officials.

“The Commonwealth’s for-

ward planning is a direct result of lessons learned and our experience during the first wave of the pandemic,” said MEMA Director Samantha Phillips. “We hope that we won’t need all of these overflow beds, but if we do, they’ll be ready.”

The DCU Center was the first of five field hospitals constructed by the Commonwealth during the response to the springtime surge of COVID-19 cases. From early April until late May, when it was de-mobilized, the Worcester site served 161 patients.

Meanwhile, officials throughout the county and state continue to deal with COVID-19 flare-ups at all levels of the community. The East Brookfield District Court was closed for multiple days last week after a staff member tested positive for COVID-19.

Even the State House had to be heavily sanitized last week, after two officials tested positive for the virus. Privacy laws regarding medical information prevent the officials from being identified.

For more information about ongoing state efforts to combat COVID-19, visit www.mass.gov.

Scarecrows make a difference

SPENCER — On five weekends this fall, Bemis Farms Nursery in Spencer held its 14th annual fundraiser, Scarecrows for Solutions. The local nursery donated the clothes, wooden frames, and all the accessories to make the scarecrows. \$10 from each scarecrow made was donated to (20) local organizations.

They are thrilled to report that 885 scarecrows were made this fall, raising a total of \$8,850! The list of organizations is below:

Auburn High Marching Band – FAME – Leicester Elementary PTO
Chaffee School PTO – Mark Bavis Foundation
Charlton PTO– MAYO PTO

Here We Grow Preschool– Naquag PTO
Oakham New Braintree PTO– Trinity Catholic Academy
Old Sturbridge Village Academy– WCAC Head Start
Our Lady of the Angels Preschool– Webster Music School
Oxford Webster Pirates– West Brookfield PTG
Paxton Center School– Worcester Animal Rescue League
Second Chance Animal Shelter– Your Football/Cheering Leicester/ Spencer Raiders

Co-owner Tina Bemis said “A small, family company like ours is never going to help raise enough money to cure a major disease. Funneling a



few hundred dollars more into each of the treasuries of 20 small, community organizations, however, can mean the difference between a local program that can happen, or not. We couldn’t

be more thrilled about the tremendous response from members of our community who are helping them,

POLICE REPORTS

Spencer Police

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4
12:19-12:56 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:58 a.m.: parking complaint (Main Street), flyer issued; 1:03 a.m.: building checked, secure; 1:05-1:16 a.m.: parking violations (South, High, Main, Lincoln streets), flyers issued; 1:22 a.m.: building checked, secure; 1:22-1:30 a.m.: parking violations (Chestnut, School, Mechanic streets), flyers issued; 2:40 a.m.: building checked, secure; 7:45 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 7:53 a.m.: illegal dumping (Irving Street), bag of syringes; 7:58 a.m.: mv repossessed (Charlton Road), info taken; 8:11 a.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 8:18 a.m.: restraining order service (Mechanic Street); 8:55 a.m.: fraud (Oakland Drive), unemployment scam; 9:06 a.m.: fire/ woods/ grass (Thompson Pond Road), poss. illegal burn; 11:55 a.m.: fraud (Lincoln Street), unemployment scam; between 11:55 a.m.-12:36 p.m.: entire incident, including time, redacted from police log; 1:21 p.m.: medical/ general (Lincoln Street); 1:32 p.m.: fraud (West Main Street), scam/ money lost; 1:50 p.m.: sex offender registration (West Main Street), assisted; 3:10 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 4:24 p.m.: medical/ general (Church Street); 5:54-6:02 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 6:14 p.m.: illegal dumping (Alix Road), items in field; 6:15 p.m.: disabled mv (Charlton Road), assisted; 9:22-10:01 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; (Total daily mv stops – 8).

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5
12:03 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:06 a.m.: parking violation (Grove Street), flyer issued; 12:11 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:13-12:14 a.m.: parking violations (Adams, Chestnut streets), flyers issued; 12:16 a.m.: building checked, secure; 12:16-12:20 a.m.: parking violations (Church, Mechanic, Cherry streets), flyers issued; 12:21-12:38 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:39 a.m.: parking violation (South Street), flyer issued; 12:46-1:07 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:16 a.m.: disturbance (Bixby Road), noise complaint; 1:25-2:02 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:12 a.m.: parking violation (Main Street), flyer issued; 6:34 a.m.: residential alarm (Clark Road), services rendered; 9:05 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), window broken; 9:38 a.m.: fraud (R. Jones Road), unemployment scam; 10:06 a.m.: mv theft (Lincoln Street), moped/ items stolen; 10:11 a.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), stray cat; 10:17 a.m.: fraud (Hastings Road), unemployment scam; 10:53 a.m.: medical/ general (Lincoln Street); 11:21 a.m.: medical/ general (Ash Street); 11:25 a.m.: animal complaint (Wire Village Road), loose alpaca; 11:44 a.m.: accident (Main Street), mv vs pedestrian; 12:47 p.m.: restraining order service (Briarcliff Lane); 1:08 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: email rec'd; 1:47 p.m.: restraining order service (Maple Street); sometime between 2:13-3:19 p.m.: entire incident, including time, redacted from police log; 3:19 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 3:50 p.m.: medical/ general (Main Street); 4:11 p.m.: fraud (Clark Street), unemployment scam; 4:36 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 4:50 p.m.: building checked, secure; 5:05 p.m.: parking violation (Grove Street), ticket issued; 5:07 p.m.: accident (North Spencer Road), mv vs deer; 5:24 p.m.: mv lockout (McDonald Street), assisted; 5:32 p.m.: disabled mv (West Main Street), info taken; 6:17 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), welfare check; sometime between 6:17-9:17 p.m.: entire incident, including time, redacted from police log; 9:17 p.m.: suspicious mv (Clark Road), investigated; 10:33 p.m.: building checked, secure; 11:01 p.m.: medical/ general (Lakeshore Drive); 11:42 p.m.: building checked, secure; (Total daily mv stops – 10).

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6
12:09 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:21-12:31 a.m.: parking violations (Main, South, Grove streets), flyers issued; 12:33-12:36 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:37-12:39 a.m.: parking violations (Mechanic Street), flyers issued; 12:43 a.m.: building checked, secure; 12:47 a.m.: parking violation (Chestnut Street), flyer issued; 12:52 a.m.: building checked, secure; 12:54 a.m.: parking violation (Ash Street), flyer issued; 12:58-1:48 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:06 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), wrong-way driver/ Rte. 84; 2:07 a.m.: building checked, secure; 2:43 a.m.: officer wanted (South Street), family issue; 6:27 a.m.: accident (Route 49), mv vs deer; 7:31 a.m.: medical/ general (West Main Street);

7:41 a.m.: medical/ general (Chestnut Street); 8:37 a.m.: elderly matter (Paxton Road), family matter; 9:07 a.m.: medical/ general (Howe Village); 9:12 a.m.: suspicious persons (West Main Street), re: credit checks; 10:36 a.m.: building checked, secure; 11:00 a.m.: animal complaint (Ash Street), missing cat; 11:05 a.m.: 911 call (Main Street), accidental; 11:50 a.m.: fraud (Wilson Avenue), SS scam; 12:31 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), question re: license; 12:43 p.m.: medical/ general (Lincoln Street); 2:22 p.m.: accident (Main Street), hit/ run; 3:52 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), disruptive male; 5:07 p.m.: officer wanted (Maple Street), landlord/ tenant issues; 8:40 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 9:06 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (South Street), misdial; 9:29 p.m.: commercial alarm (Water Street), services rendered; (Total daily mv stops – 9).

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7
1:00 a.m.: suspicious mv (West Main Street), investigated; 1:05 a.m.: parking violation (Mechanic Street), flyer issued; 1:07-1:17 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:23 a.m.: parking violation (Church Street), flyer issued; 1:26-2:11 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:36 a.m.: fire alarm (McDonald Street), referred; 4:42 a.m.: mv stop (Chestnut Street), Charles P. Mandeville, 30, 21 Lincoln Street, Spencer, OUI liquor, negligent operation, marked lanes violation, arrest; 8:35 a.m.: 911 call (Briarcliff Lane), hang-up; 9:32 a.m.: DPW call (Route 49), couch in road; 10:35 a.m.: 911 call (Maple Street), open line; 3:08 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), North Brookfield PD bolo; 3:26 p.m.: 911 call (Chestnut Street), non-emergency; 3:33 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 5:14 p.m.: disabled mv (North Spencer Road), assisted; 5:54 p.m.: lost/ found (Maple Street), phone missing; 7:05 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), fireworks complaint; 7:27 p.m.: suspicious mv (West Main Street), investigated; 7:40 p.m.: medica/ general (Lincoln Street); 7:52-8:29 p.m.: building checked, secure; 9:48 p.m.: accident (Elm Street), report taken; 10:01-10:13 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 10:15 p.m.: mv complaint (Chickering Road), speeding; 10:49 p.m.: fire/ woods/ grass (Donnelly Cross Road), referred; 11:15 p.m.: disturbance (Salem Street), noise complaint; (Total daily mv stops – 6).

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8
12:13 a.m.: fire alarm (Wilson Street), referred; 1:00 a.m.: parking violation (Mechanic Street), flyer issued; 1:12-2:49 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:07 a.m.: parking violation (Church Street), flyer issued; 3:08 a.m.: residential alarm (Clark Road), services rendered; 6:34 a.m.: animal complaint (Elm Street), dog issues; 8:01 a.m.: officer wanted (Maple Street), poss. damaged wires; 8:34 a.m.: parking violation (Main Street), ticket issued; 9:23 a.m.: 911 call (Bacon Hill Road), open line; 10:09 a.m.: fire/ woods/ grass (Greenville Street), brush fire; 10:14 a.m.: medical/ general (Main Street); 21:00 p.m.: commercial alarm (West Main Street), services rendered; 12:06 p.m.: disabled mv (North Spencer Road), assisted; 12:29 p.m.: fire alarm (McDonald Street), referred; 12:30 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: no contact order; 12:52 p.m.: officer wanted (Cherry Street), neighbor issue; 12:59 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), nails in road; 1:26 p.m.: medical/ general (Lincoln Street); 1:36 p.m.: residential alarm (Borkum Road), accidental; 2:45 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 3:24 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), spoken to; 3:37 p.m.: mv theft (South Spencer Road), plate stolen; 3:57 p.m.: RV complaint (Smithville Road), scooters in road-way; 4:11 p.m.: disabled mv (Route 49), assisted; 4:25 p.m.: fire (Main Street), referred; 4:53 p.m.: 911 call (Main Street), open line; 4:59 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 5:18 p.m.: suspicious persons (West Main Street), investigated; 6:14 p.m.: 911 call (Chestnut Street), no contact; 7:43 p.m.: medical/ general (Pine Acres); 7:44 p.m.: animal complaint (Temple Street), barking dog; 8:27-10:18 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 10:42 p.m.: medical/ general (Main Street); (Total daily mv stops – 16).

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9
12:00-12:10 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:15 a.m.: parking violation (Mechanic Street), flyer issued; 12:22-12:39 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:39 a.m.: parking violation (Grove Street), flyer issued; 12:45 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:52 a.m.: parking violation (Cottage Street), flyer issued; 12:57-1:17 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:23 a.m.: parking violation (Main Street), flyer issued; 1:30-1:52 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:30 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main

Street), spoken to; 7:42 a.m.: medical/ general (Linden Street); 10:00 a.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 11:19 a.m.: accident (South Spencer Road), report taken; 11:36 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), accidental; 11:36 a.m.: officer wanted (Jolicoeur Avenue), req. escort/ retrieve belongings; 11:48 a.m.: suspicious persons (North Spencer Road), info taken; 11:54 a.m.: medical/ general (Thompson Pond Road); 12:38 p.m.: fraud (Main Street), FB hacked; 12:40 p.m.: officer wanted (Lyford Cross Road), spoken to; 12:49 p.m.: 911 call (Old Meadow Road), open line; 12:55 p.m.: officer wanted (Greenville Street), rep. attempted b&e; 1:22 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Lake Avenue), no contact; 2:26 p.m.: officer wanted (Cranberry Meadow Road), welfare check; 2:29 p.m.: juvenile matter (Mechanic Street), bikes in lot/ fenced off; 2:44 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), package tampered with; 4:13 p.m.: fire/ woods/ grass (Hastings Road), referred; 4:19 p.m.: officer wanted (Route 49), motorist lost; 4:25 p.m.: fraud (West Main Street), unemployment scam; 4:26 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Ash Street), no contact; 4:32 p.m.: parking complaint (Smithville Road), gate blocked; 4:38 p.m.: lost/ found (South Spencer Road), found cellphone; 4:42 p.m.: vandalism (North Brookfield Road), mailboxes damaged; 4:44 p.m.: animal complaint (Chestnut Street), loose dogs; 5:14 p.m.: suspicious persons (Water Street), investigated; 5:33 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Main Street), accidental; 7:17 p.m.: accident (High Street), report taken; 8:03 p.m.: 911 call (Oakland Drive), accidental; 8:44-9:00 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 9:01 p.m.: robbery (West Main Street), services rendered; 9:54-10:18 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 10:20 p.m.: LTC issued/ 2 (West Main Street), assisted; 10:21 p.m.: FID issued (West Main Street), assisted; 10:22 p.m.: parking violation (McDonald Street), ticket issued; 10:24 p.m.: multiple LTC issued/ 7 (West Main Street), assisted; 10:32 p.m.: building checked, secure; 11:19 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), accidental; 11:46 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 11:47-11:48 p.m.: building checked, secure; 11:51 p.m.: suspicious mv (Park Street), investigated; (Total daily mv stops – 9).

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3
12:35-12:42 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:28 a.m.: parking violation (Mechanic Street), ticket issued; 1:40-1:46 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:50 a.m.: parking violation (Chestnut Street), ticket issued; 1:51-1:57 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:57 a.m.: parking violations (South, Church streets), tickets issued; 2:01-2:02 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:02-2:04 a.m.: parking violations (Main, High streets, North Spencer Road), tickets issued; 2:07 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:17-2:22 a.m.: parking violations (Prospect, Cherry streets), tickets issued; 3:43 a.m.: medical/ general (Lincoln Street); 7:46 a.m.: medical/ general (Bixby Road); 8:36 a.m.: intelligence/ criminal (West Main Street), Oxford PD bolo; 10:22 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), mailbox broken into; 10:28 a.m.: parking violation (Mechanic Street), ticket issued; 10:45 a.m.: parking complaint (Bixby Road), neighbor issue; 10:56 a.m.: juvenile matter (Pleasant Street), kid/ bike in street; 11:25 a.m.: fraud (Wilson Avenue), IRS scam call; 11:45 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: LTC renewal; 12:19 p.m.: residential alarm (Sunberg Road), accidental; 1:20 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), tenant issue; 1:41 p.m.: fraud (Hastings Road), unemployment scam; 2:29 p.m.: medical/ general (North Brookfield Road); 3:21 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 3:26 p.m.: mv complaint (Mechanic Street), wrong-way driver; 3:52 p.m.: medical/ general (Pleasant Street); 4:04 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 4:20 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 5:35 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 5:41 p.m.: medical/ general (Lincoln Street); 6:25 p.m.: fraud (Woodside Drive), unemployment scam; 8:00-9:57 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 10:06 p.m.: parking violation (Cherry Street), ticket issued; 10:16 p.m.: intelligence/ drugs (Mechanic Street), neighbor issues; 11:09 p.m.: officer wanted (Pearl Street), welfare check; (Total daily mv stops – 8).

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Leicester Police

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5
2:26 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 5:37 a.m.: disturbance (Utica Street), report taken; 11:11 a.m.:

fraud (Hillside Road), report taken; 12:47 p.m.: welfare check (Lillian Avenue), services rendered; 1:09 p.m.: restraining order service (Henshaw Street), served; 1:30 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 1:34 p.m.: investigation (Winslow Avenue), services rendered; 2:28 p.m.: investigation (Main Street), services rendered; 3:18 p.m.: welfare check (Henshaw Street), gone on arrival; 4:11 p.m.: restraining order service (Stafford Street), served; 5:23 p.m.: assist citizen (Washburn Street), services rendered; 5:25 p.m.: fraud (Charlton Street), report taken; 7:10-7:27 p.m.: assist other agency/ 5 (Main, Pleasant street), services rendered.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6
12:14 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 1:24 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 3:23 a.m.: mv stop (Mannville Street), verbal warning; 1:13 p.m.: assist citizen (Main Street), spoken to; 1:49 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), referred; 2:11 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 2:14 p.m.: restraining order service (South Main Street), served; 3:15 p.m.: erratic operator (Huntton Memorial Highway), no action required; 3:33 p.m.: welfare check (Huntton Memorial Highway), report taken; 4:41 p.m.: b&e/ residential (Waite Street), report taken; 4:59 p.m.: disturbance (Pleasant Street), spoken to; 7:17 p.m.: assist citizen (Siani Road), report taken.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7
12:37 a.m.: suspicious mv (Paxton Street), services rendered; 1:09 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 9:14 a.m.: debris in road (Bond Street), unable to locate; 10:19 a.m.: lockout (Pleasant Street), assisted; 10:58 p.m.: lockout (Pleasant Street), assisted; 12:28 p.m.: residential alarm (Pleasant Street), false alarm; 4:41 p.m.: parking complaint (Main Street), advised civil action; 5:34 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 5:46 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 7:08 p.m.: suspicious person (Stafford Street), investigated; 11:01 p.m.: disturbance (Craig Street), spoken to.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8
12:00 a.m.: disturbance (Green Street), spoken to; 1:10 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 2:13 a.m.: suspicious mv (Olney Street), spoken to; 10:18 a.m.: assist citizen (Brookside Drive), report taken; 12:17 p.m.: disturbance (Woodland Road), peace restored; 12:18 p.m.: restraining order service (Brookside Drive), served; 12:42 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), spoken to; 1:30 p.m.: disabled mv (Paxton Street), assisted; 4:02 p.m.: assist other agency (White Birch Street), services rendered; 4:48 p.m.: fraud (Conway Drive), spoken to; 5:54 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street), spoken to; 8:09 p.m.: suspicious activity (Huntton Memorial Highway), no action required; 10:46 p.m.: larceny (Sherri Lane), assisted.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9
5:31 a.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant Street), advised civil action; 7:52 a.m.: larceny (Lakeview Drive), report taken; 9:01 a.m.: assist citizen (Auburn Street); 10:48 a.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 12:08 p.m.: neighbor dispute (Pine Ridge Drive), peace restored; 2:09 p.m.: erratic operator (South Main Street), message delivered; 2:25 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), mv towed; 4:00 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/ suspended license, mv towed; 8:03 p.m.: arrest warrant service (Pine Ridge Drive), Jonathan Whitney Hine, 54, 12 Pine Ridge Drive, Leicester, straight warrant, arrest; 9:15 p.m.: erratic operator (Soojians Drive), spoken to.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10
9:17 a.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 9:47 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), no action required; 11:34 a.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 2:09 p.m.: mutual aid (Laurel Street, Worcester), transported to hospital; 4:08 p.m.: fraud (South Main Street), report taken; 4:22 p.m.: disturbance (Paxton Street), spoken to; 8:15 p.m.: suspicious mv (Pine Street), no action required; 11:43 p.m.: noise complaint (Towtaid Street), gone on arrival.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11
9:56 a.m.: fraud (Pine Street), report taken; 10:47 a.m.: fraud (Whittemore Street), report taken; 1:49 p.m.: suspicious activity (Folsom Street), unfounded; 3:31 p.m.: disabled mv (Stafford Street), gone on arrival; 3:52 p.m.: disabled mv (Stafford Street), assisted; 5:58 p.m.: harassment (Whittemore Street), spoken to; 6:54 p.m.: welfare check (Hemlock Street), report taken; 8:27 p.m.: fraud (Chapel Street), report taken.

###

East Brookfield Cultural Council seeks funding proposals

EAST BROOKFIELD — Proposals for community-oriented arts, humanities, and science programs due Dec. 14. The East Brookfield Cultural has set a December 14 postmark deadline for organizations, school and individuals to apply for grants that support cultural activities in the community.

The East Brookfield 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.

The East Brookfield Cultural Council's priority is given to events to enhance the town Fourth of July Celebration, to

support the East Brookfield Library, to support East Brookfield seniors, to support East Brookfield students and home schooled children, and events for the summer concert series.

For specific guidelines and complete information on the East Brookfield Cultural

Council, contact our E-mail at ebcc1920@gmail.com This year all applications will be done on line. Applications forms and more information about the Local Cultural Council Program are available at http://www.mass-culture.org/lcc_puplix.aspx.

MCRAE

continued from page A9

missed it. The cold rain and wind of October didn't defeat us. The foul-mouthed, indoctrinated, white millennial girls—whose gutter language would have shamed six soused San Diego sailors on a Saturday night—who went berserk at the sight of something their teachers had told them was evil (people holding political signs and flags), was unsettling, especially for the older women in our ranks who had never seen anything quite like it, but we got past it and ended feeling sorry for these pathetic, ill-educated, ill-mannered child-like creatures.

Now, as we wait for the outcome of this most critical election of our lifetimes (maybe of all of our history), those of us who understand it is almost a certainty the election was rife with fraud, and that Mr. Trump's earned

re-election was stolen from before our very eyes, we—his legion of friends—need to hang on to our flags, signs, banners, caps, shirts etc. This is very far from over. President Trump is a fighter, and will not “go easy into that good night.” He, and we, will not be denied our true and honest electoral victory. There are 73.4 million of our countrymen who voted for him, and will not be told well, it's over now, just accept your defeat and go home. Not going to happen.

Our country hangs in the balance, patriots. Do not surrender to despair or discouragement; this is for your kids and grandkids. There are more battles to come, and we will need you then more than ever. I love you all, respect and admire you, and thank God I was able to be out there with you.

JOHN MCRAE
EAST BROOKFIELD

KIMBALL

continued from page A9

al government can bite the bullet to keep them, and businesses and people afloat, until this trump virus is in our rearview mirror.

Healthcare aside, would not the level of socialism (things on the public dime), warrant keeping the first responders on payrolls, people fed and indoors, and businesses surviving to come back and take over when sensible? Tell Mitch McConnell.

Periodically, I review the Trump Campaign promise list, especially when his followers say he kept all of them. I don't think Mexico paid for the 45 miles of new wall. I have seen no better cheaper healthcare plan. I understand the deficit not going down, but giving \$1.5 trillion to millionaires did not help. Nukes are still

a problem as is the middle east. His taxes are not released. Look around—America is not Great again.

I still think the electoral college is a throwback to founders who did not trust the masses to make important decisions (or women, or blacks). Having seen the results of the election, I expect there are still many with that same mindset. That said, one person, one vote, would be much more fair than a system where you only have a chance of being heard in certain states. It brings to mind something may dad said years ago—“being Republican in Massachusetts is like a pregnant prostitute, driving her Edsel down to vote for Nixon.”

We may well never agree, but it is time to get real. The country demands it.

KEN KIMBALL
BROOKFIELD



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Market Volume	\$3,975,800	\$4,601,900	▲	Market Volume	\$4,351,152	\$4,303,802	▼
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Bartholomew & Company opens Metro-West office with two new advisors

WORCESTER — Bartholomew & Company, a financial planning and wealth management firm with offices in Worcester, Chatham, and Bedford, Massachusetts, announces the opening of its newest branch office at 161 Worcester Rd., Suite 402, Framingham.

John Moran and Jennifer Moran, wealth advisors and vice presidents in Bartholomew & Company's Private Wealth Management division, will be the primary contacts at the new Metro-West branch with support and guidance from the Investment Management Department, advisors, and staff at Bartholomew & Company's Worcester headquarters.

John and Jen have more than 60 years combined experience helping individuals and small business owners identify and reach their financial goals. John's experience includes positions at A.G. Edwards, E.F. Hutton, and his most recent six years at The Moran Group at Ameriprise Financial. John previously owned his own firm, Moran Financial, as an independent financial advisor. Jennifer's experience includes

positions at two local financial firms before she joined Moran Financial, followed by The Moran Group at Ameriprise Financial.

Bartholomew & Company President & CEO, Thomas J. Bartholomew, AIF® said of the new branch office and advisors, "We are pleased to be able to add a convenient new Metro-West location offering a full-range of financial planning and wealth management services to all of our current and future clients."

About Bartholomew & Company

Bartholomew & Company has been providing individuals and organizations with financial guidance since 1994. With headquarters at 370 Main Street, Worcester, MA, the firm prides itself on crafting strategies for each client's unique needs. For more information about Bartholomew & Company, please visit www.bartandco.com. Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network®, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser.



Jennifer and John Moran

Photo Courtesy

Sheriff's Office launches winter coat drive

WORCESTER — As you can imagine, the need for a warm winter jacket is greater than ever. The pandemic has created challenges for many.

To help those most in need in our community, Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis is proud to announce our partnership with Dr. Moses Dixon, Executive Director of Central Massachusetts Agency on Aging, for this year's Sheriff's Office Annual Winter Coat Drive.

Together, the Worcester County Sheriff's Office and Central Mass

Agency on Aging are determined to continue the tradition of holding one of New England's largest Winter Coat Drives. Unlike years past, collection boxes for pre-owned jacket donations cannot be placed in the community due to COVID. This year, we are solely relying on community grants, monetary gifts and new coat donations. Today, we are proud to report we are now up to more than 1,100 new winter jackets to help families, children and seniors in need throughout Worcester County. We are hoping with increased media expo-

sure and circulation, we will be able to secure more coat donations which will help so many during the cold winter months.

To assist with this effort, both Sheriff Lew and Dr. Dixon are available for any media opportunities/ interviews which will significantly help this cause during this incredibly challenging year.

We appreciate and value our extraordinary friends in the press, who have always helped us in this mission.

Winter coats will be distributed the first week in December to charitable

organizations throughout Worcester County, including but not limited to: Abby's House, LIFT, Hector Reyes House, St. John's Food for the Poor, Webster-Dudley Food Share, Gardner CAC, Alyssa's Place of Gardner, Spanish American Center of Leominster, Restoration Recovery Center of Fitchburg, Our Father's House of Fitchburg, Women's Recovery Program of Leominster, St. Anne's Human Services of Shrewsbury, Rutland Food Pantry and various senior centers throughout Worcester County.

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SCARECROWS
continued from page A14

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