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Photo Courtesy

What began as a small project for Brianna Fleming has quickly expanded thanks to support from coworkers, family, friends, and the community.

## Local nurse supports comrades on the front lines

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

REGION – A local nurse and her coworkers are rallying the community to provide much-needed supplies for medical workers on the front lines.

Since 2014, Brianna Fleming has worked as a stroke-certified registered nurse on the acute care neurological floor (4East) at UMass Memorial Healthcare Center (UMMHC). When the COVID-19 crisis struck local communities and hospitals in early March, she was inspired to give back by collecting food and drink donations from 4East coworkers. She then assembled the donations into “power boxes” that help refuel and reenergize medical workers.

Each power box features a variety of individualized snack packages, including gum, mints, candy, granola bars, pretzels, crackers, and chips. The boxes also include fruits and revitalizing drinks like Powerade, Gatorade, vitamin waters, iced teas, and others.

Fleming’s goal for the project was to provide snacks and drinks that could be easily wiped down prior to consumption, allowing workers a quick refuel break before returning to the front lines. UMMHC has been one of the leaders statewide for COVID-19 admissions, and the power boxes have helped provide a little relief for beleaguered employees.

“I distributed the first round of COVID power boxes to the first three units at UMMHC to be designated as COVID units on the university campus, as well as the emergency room,” said Fleming, who grew up in Southbridge and school-choiced to Quabog Regional High School. “After having such success with the first round, one of my 4East coworkers and I were able to collaborate and give a second round of baskets to these units.”

The second round was funded by donations secured through family and friends. The process was so successful that Fleming began

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## Second Chance volunteer fosters making the best of stay-at-home

EAST BROOKFIELD — Some very lucky families have found a great way to spend their time during the current stay-at-home advisory – helping to care for newborn kittens for Second Chance Animal Services. Right now, Second Chance has four litters of kittens in their care and they are grateful to their volunteer fosters who are providing round the clock care for these helpless babies.

Fosters follow many of the steps of the lifesaving kitten protocol which was developed by Second Chance to help save the lives of prematurely born kittens, including weighing the kittens twice a day to ensure they are receiving the proper amount of nutrition. The protocol was published last year to help increase the odds of survival for premature kittens through animal welfare organizations across the country.

Second Chance has so many kittens in foster right now that they dedicated their weekly Wish List Wednesday Facebook post to the kittens in hopes of receiving more kitchen scales to help fosters track each kitten’s weight. Second Chance shared a video of a foster kitten nicknamed Mitten being brushed with a toothbrush. The toothbrush feels like a mother’s tongue for the kitten.

Mitten and his sibling are getting extra attention from the whole family. Five-year-old Lila asks her mom to bring home foster kittens and likes to help feed and bathe them daily. Her mom says fostering provides important life lessons, from caring for others to saying goodbye to the kittens when



it’s time for them to go back to Second Chance so they can find forever homes. Lila’s two-year-old brother Callen is doing his part, cuddling with the kittens to provide socialization under the close supervision of mom’s watchful eye.

When the kittens are old enough, they will return to Second Chance where vets will clear them for adoption after they are spayed or neutered and vaccinated. The next stop is the adoption center in East Brookfield where they will be available for adoption.

Second Chance is currently working to process all the foster applications that have been submitted by animal lovers looking for a way to help during the COVID-19 crisis. For more information becoming a foster, visit [secondchanceanimals.org](http://secondchanceanimals.org).

## Young musicians earn distinguished honor

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER – Even though they were unable to participate in a major music festival, three Leicester Middle School students are taking time to reflect on the accomplishment of being chosen for the elite program.

Ryan Delage, Jillian Morrison, and Gabrielle Pietri were selected to take part in the Central District Junior Music Festival. This year’s concert was canceled due to the coronavirus crisis, but the student musicians are turning the disappointment of the setback into momentum.

For seventh grader Ryan Delage, who plays the mallets

and bells, it was a thrill to earn a spot in the festival after his debut audition.

“I was very happy that I got in with all the hard work I’ve done for the past eight months. It was an extreme honor to be chosen,” Delage told the New Leader.

Delage earned the second highest audition score of all the central Mass. candidates in his category. Not only did the experience push him musically, but it also provided him with confidence moving forward. Although he and his peers missed out on the concert, they will always take pride in being selected.

The students will work hard over the summer, and they

hope to have another opportunity at the festival next year.

“It was a big challenge because I am normally really shy and this pushed me out

of my comfort zone,” Delage added. “I would like to try out again next year, and I want to push myself as much as possible.”

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## Leicester Middle School principals honored with messages of thanks

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER – Unable to celebrate National School Principals Day in person this year, students and staff at Leicester Middle School found a unique way to say thanks to their administrators.

Several members of the school community showed their appreciation by sending messages of thanks. The messages were delivered to Principal Christopher Fontaine and Assistant Principal Beth Johnson on National Principals Day, May 1.

Although the word principal often carries a negative connotation – especially the dreaded principal’s office – administrators serve as the glue that keeps building operations together. At LMS, Johnson and Fontaine work closely each day to manage all aspects of the school community.

“Chris Fontaine is a scheduling mastermind, making sure all kids get the classes they need and want. Beth Johnson creates a trusting environment for students to come chat about issues or feelings. As a team, they support

all students, teachers, and staff in the classroom and at events such as sports and concerts,” said LMS music teacher Kristina Looney.


Added math teacher Christine Auen, “Chris Fontaine and Beth Johnson are the best administrators I have ever worked under. They are always approachable by staff and students. They truly listen to the concerns brought to them and find a solution. They always make decisions based on what is in the best interest of the students.”

In addition to overseeing academic operations, extracurricular activities, and student scheduling, LMS administrators also manage the personnel side with professional development opportunities.

“As a new member to Leicester Middle School this year, Chris Fontaine and Beth Johnson made me feel right at home. They are very supportive and dedicated to the success of the students and staff,” said Paige Almstrom, a behavior analyst who works at the school. “They

Turn To **PRINCIPALS** page **A11**






# National Nurses Week

*Thank you!*

Stonebridge Press and the following businesses would like to recognize nurses during National Nurses Week (May 6-May 12). Thank you for your selfless dedication, kindness, compassion, and bravery especially during these pandemic times. You are truly angels in scrubs. Thank you for all you do all year long.



# What nurses do each day

There are millions of nurses nationwide. According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, there are roughly 3.8 million registered nurses in the United States. That number figures to grow along with the demand for qualified, highly trained nurses.

Nurses perform a variety of functions, some of which may come as a surprise to those outside the medical profession. Learning more about what nurses do on a daily basis can paint a clearer picture of just how vital these health care professionals are.

Nurses are on the front lines of the medical profession, often interacting with patients more than any other professional within the health care field. Nurses communicate concerns, answer questions about conditions and care and even administer such care. While there are many tasks nurses can perform, some of their main responsibilities are

observing and recording behavior; performing physical exams and diagnostic tests, collecting patient health histories, counseling patients and their families, and educating about treatment plans. Nurses also are responsible for administering medications, addressing and treating wounds and interpreting doctors' patient information to make decisions about necessary actions, where appropriate.

Nurses excel at listening to patients and analyzing their physical and emotional needs. Nurses also coordinate care with other health care providers and stay current with treatment options and cutting edge research and technology.

In addition to the aforementioned tasks, nurses may draw blood and perform other health-related tests. Testing may differ based on the subspecialty of the nurse. For example, obstetrics nurses

may initiate sonograms or oversee urine testing for pregnancy hormones. Pediatric nurses may plot growth charts and administer routine immunizations.

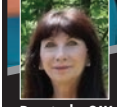

Nurses are also there to listen to patients, and some may offer compassionate advice as they aim to help patients navigate difficult situations. According to CareerBuilder, nurses who work in physicians' offices, community health centers, schools, and other health environments may enjoy a regular working schedule and shifts during typical business hours. However, nurses working in hospitals and trauma centers tend to work rotating shifts to ensure patients receive round-the-clock care. Many nurses work outside traditional business hours, including during evenings, on holidays and on weekends. Some nurses are even on-call like doctors.

Nurses possess a distinct skill set that enables them to handle various tasks.

**In honor of Nurses week, I would like to recognize the following dedicated healthcare workers.**

Marylynn Pratt (ER Nurse at Baystate Medical)  
Laurie Dibara (Nurse at Quaboag Rehab & Skilled Nursing Center)  
Colleen Dibara (NP at St. Vincent's)

Your compassion, optimism, hard work, and kindness does not go unnoticed. Thank you, and all healthcare workers, from the bottom of my heart.  
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# TOGETHER STRONG.

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## How to implement infection prevention measures in the workplace

Protecting workers has long been a priority for business owners, but that responsibility took on new meaning in the wake of the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus in late-winter 2020. Business owners accustomed to traditional workplace safety protocols designed primarily to prevent accidents and injuries were now tasked with protecting workers from a deadly virus.

Though many businesses were forced to close their doors in an effort to prevent the spread of the virus, many others remained fully or partially operational. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration recommends employers implement the following hygiene and infection control practices in an effort to prevent workers from infection.

- Promote frequent and thorough hand-washing. Workers, customers and worksite visitors should be routinely reminded of the importance of washing their hands. The OSHA advises employers, in instances where soap and running water are not immediately available, to provide their employees with alcohol-based hand rubs that contain at least 60 percent alcohol. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention urges people

to employ the following techniques when washing their hands:

When washing with soap and water:

- Lather the hands by rubbing them together with the soap, making sure to scrub all surfaces of the hands, including palms, backs, fingers, between fingers, and under the nails

- Scrub for at least 20 seconds

- Rinse hands clean under running water

- Dry hands with a clean towel or air dry them

When washing with alcohol-based sanitizers:

- Cover all surfaces of the hands with the product before rubbing hands together

- Rub hands together until they feel dry, about 20 seconds

- Encourage workers to stay home if they are sick.

Employers should emphasize to workers the importance of staying home if they feel sick. Even people who feel ill but are not showing any signs of COVID-19 infection,

which the CDC notes include shortness of breath, fever and cough, should stay home. That's because any illness can weaken a person's immune system, which makes them more vulnerable to viruses like COVID-19. Staying home when they feel sick is a great way for employees to protect not only themselves, but also their coworkers.

- Encourage respiratory etiquette. The OSHA and the CDC say covering your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze, putting used tissues in the waste basket and coughing or sneezing into an upper sleeve when no tissues are available can help prevent the spread of germs.

- Discourage sharing. Workers should be discouraged from sharing

phones, desks, offices, and tools or equipment whenever possible. This can help prevent the spread of germs.

- Choose the appropriate cleaning chemicals. The OSHA advises employers to use chemical cleaners approved by the Environmental Protection Agency. The OSHA notes that products with EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens are expected to be effective against SARS-CoV-2 based on data for harder to kill viruses.

Protecting their employees from COVID-19 is of the utmost importance for employers across the globe. Safety measures can be implemented rather easily and ultimately save lives. TF206046

SOCIAL MEDIA  
TEXT: The Occupation-



al Safety and Health Administration recommends employers implement the following hygiene and infection control practices in an effort to prevent workers from infection.

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# Library staff accentuate the positive

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – Unsure when the Richard Sugden Public Library will be able to reopen, staff members are sharing thoughts of positivity with patrons.

“The health and safety of staff and users are of utmost importance when deciding when to reopen the building,” library officials wrote in a statement. “We look forward to serving you in person as soon as we are able. During this extended time of closure to the public, the library staff and board of trustees would like to share some thoughts with our patrons.”

Thoughts from individual staff members can be found below. They include library information, messages to patrons, and even creative works.

From Lynn Dobson (library trustee): During this COVID-19 crisis, I would like to quote our recently departed beloved children’s book author and illustrator, Tomie DePaola. He spoke of “wanting to use this time to look at things differently, to have more compassion for others, to rethink how we live our lives, and to come out better than we were before the crisis.” We at the library would like to thank our patrons for their devotion to our library and their willingness to wait for this crisis to end. In the meantime, the library staff and trustees are looking for ways to respond to our community’s evolving needs and the changing nature of the library services to keep them relevant and vital to our public. Thank you all for your continued support.

From Amy Paul (library assistant): We miss our patrons! We very much look forward to seeing you soon, to

torture you with our silly jokes and recommend our latest favorite books. Keep reading, keep wondering and thinking, but most of all, keep healthy.

From Patricia Mayotte (library assistant): I miss the interaction with my circle of library friends, each with their individual characters, tastes, and opinions. I miss the smiling faces when a book or DVD they have been waiting for arrives via the interlibrary loan system. I miss watching people bump into each other and catch up on the latest news. Mostly, I guess I miss the feeling of being part of something that brings joy. I miss the relationship I have established with each individual who returns again and again to our place where they feel welcome, where they make me feel like a friend. My interaction with you, our patrons, is the best part of my day. I can’t wait until we can return to our lovely simple ordinary lives. I hope you and yours are well.

From Denise Famosa (library assistant): Whether you’re a regular or a one-time visitor to our beautiful library, we are thinking of you. We hope all of you are staying safe and are well. We also miss our many volunteers and wish you rest during this time of hibernation; we’ll need you when our doors are able to open again.

While the building is closed, we are diligently working for you. We have regular updates happening on our website, [www.spencerpubliclibrary.org](http://www.spencerpubliclibrary.org), that include fun websites for all ages. Experience art, science, crafts, learn a new hobby or language, crossword puzzles (including the New York Times), sudoku, free virtual tours of museums, zoos, and around the world and much more.

Did you know that you have access to thousands of free e-books, e-audio books, and e-movies with your library card? We are also offering remote help to download e-books onto your computer and devices. If you need help accessing electronic formats, email Denise at [dfamosa@cwmmars.org](mailto:dfamosa@cwmmars.org).

From Katie Smith (assistant director): During this time of uncertainty, we thought you might like to know we are all thinking of you, wishing you well, and hoping that this letter is a reminder of how special each of you are. Here are just a few of the things we miss about you:

Your smiling faces, your laughter, your cheer

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For more information about upcoming programs at the library, visit [www.SpencerPublicLibrary.org](http://www.SpencerPublicLibrary.org).

## Knox Trail Middle School recognizes top performing students

SPENCER – The Knox Trail Middle School staff has released its latest edition of top weekly performers.

The following list of students includes write-ups provided by the KTMS staff:

Fifth grade: Aliyah Gauvin. “Aliyah completed all of her assignments, reached out to her teachers for help, participated in her class Zoom meetings, and said she hopes to be back in school soon.”

Sixth grade: “Mariana Munzert and Alyssa Kuszpa are exceptional students. Both of these young ladies take their education seriously – they have been logging in and completing all assignments since day one of quarantine. They both go over and above, taking time to reach out for assistance when needed, and responding to teacher feedback. Hats off to both of them for their unwavering commitment to bettering themselves during this time of uncertainty.”

Seventh grade: Cherise Berthiaume. “She has gone above and beyond expectations this week. She diligently attends and participates in Zoom meetings, has worked incredibly hard at all of her classwork, and has even completed additional classwork.”

Eighth grade: James McNichol. “He is a focused and diligent worker who puts his time and effort into getting things done. He is a talented artist and had his work chosen for the Youth Art Month at the Worcester Art Museum.”

KTMS officials congratulate the students on their accomplishments.

“We’re proud of all of our students at Knox Trail for all of their hard work and efforts under these trying circumstances. Stay tuned for next week’s top performers,” read a statement released by the school.



## Family Dining & Gift Guide

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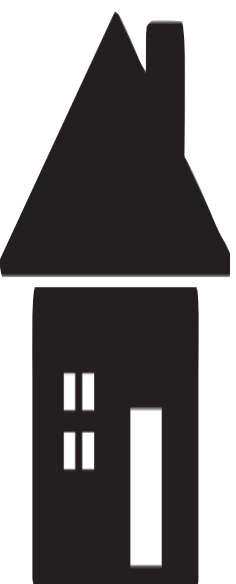
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This section reaches 47,000 households in 7 Massachusetts newspapers.



# Dave's Appliance Inc. embraces Essential status by providing safe and fast sales, delivery, and service

BROOKFIELD — The Coronavirus pandemic continues to wreak havoc on the nation, and nowhere more heavily than in the northeast. New Englanders have stocked up on necessary supplies, and are grateful to be safe at home ... until the refrigerator suddenly quits or the washing machine breaks.

"Following a stay-at-home order is hard enough," says Rick Caron, Owner. "But without a reliable way to keep food cold and clothes clean, things get exponentially more challenging. That's where we come in."

Dave's Appliance is a family run premier local appliance store, providing sales, delivery, installation and repair since 1976.

"We are open, ready and waiting to help in your time of need. We have implemented safe and effective ways to do business during the pandemic, including sales, delivery and repair," says Rick.

Dave's Appliance belongs to The New England Appliance Group (NEAEG), a cooperative buying organization consisting of 105 independent appliance retailers encompassing 165 storefronts

throughout New England and northern New York. As a member, Dave's Appliance enjoys exponential buying power to help keep them competitive price-wise, often beating the big-box competition. NEAEG is also a member of the NECO Alliance, with over 600 members in the northeast and \$1.8 billion in buying power. But it's what Dave's has access to that big box stores *don't*, which sets them apart: **immediate inventory**.

"We pull product directly from 300,000 square foot warehouse right here in Brookfield, MA that includes inventory of over 80 appliance brands, seasonal appliances like air conditioners and even mattress brands – all available for delivery within 24 to 48 hours," says Rick.

In addition, Dave's employees live and work in this community, so they have a vested interest in the well-being of the residents and businesses.

"We try to provide a premium customer experience for each and every neighbor we service," says Rick. "We truly care about helping our community thrive by providing competitive

pricing and white glove service. That includes ensuring the safety of our employees and our customers during this trying time."

Another advantage of Dave's is the experience and knowledge of its sales associates.

"If you're shopping remotely via online, you want to speak with someone who is dedicated to the appliance business and has been for years, or do you want to talk with the person who is in the appliance department today, but tomorrow may be selling lumber and yesterday was working in the paint section?" "The advantages of doing business with Dave's, your community's number one local appliance store, versus a large chain are numerous."

Independent local appliance retailers like Dave's Appliance are not strangers to challenging business environments and strong competition. We will survive and thrive after this virus as well. For more information on Dave's Appliance, please visit [www.davesapp.com](http://www.davesapp.com) For more information on The New England Group, and to access a

member appliance retailer locator, please visit <https://neaeg.com>.

## About NEAEG

The New England Appliance Group (NEAEG) is a cooperative buying organization consisting of 105 independent appliance retailers encompassing 165 storefronts throughout New England and northern New York. Its goal is to provide the most competitive pricing through valued vendor partnerships as well as merchandising and advertising guidance for its members to ensure market advantages over big box corporations. NEAEG's 300,000 square foot warehouse stocks more than 80 appliances, furniture and bedding brands, all available for delivery to its members within a day. As a leader in sustainable business practices, the building itself supports one of the largest solar farms in New England on its roof. Founded in 1963, NEAEG has grown steadily, relying on the principles of strength in numbers, the power of collaboration and a belief that locally owned and operated businesses are the foundation of our communities.

# Leicester Middle School earns national recognition for commitment to empowering students

LEICESTER — Leicester Middle School announced this week that it has been recognized as a Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Distinguished School for providing broad access to transformative learning opportunities for students through PLTW Gateway. It is one of just 176 middle schools across the U.S. to receive this honor.

PLTW is a nonprofit organization that serves millions of PreK-12 students and teachers in more than 12,200 schools across the U.S.

Leicester Middle School currently offers five different courses in STEM education and plans to offer a new course in App Creation beginning in the 2020-2021 school year.

Principal Christopher Fontaine says "PLTW has embraced STEM education

among all of our students while teaching them various foundational skills and team building skills."

Leicester Middle School is one of 9 schools across the state of Massachusetts to receive this award.

The PLTW Distinguished School recognition honors schools committed to increasing student access, engagement, and achievement in their PLTW programs. To be eligible for the designation, Leicester Middle School had to meet the following criteria:

Offer at least one PLTW Gateway unit at each grade level;

Have more than 50 percent of the student body participating during the 2018-19 school year;

Have 25 percent of students advancing to high school participate in two or more units,

Have strategies and supports in place that support reasonably proportional representation with regard to race, ethnicity, poverty, gender and can support such claims with relevant data.

Through PLTW programs, students develop STEM knowledge as well as in-demand, transportable skills that they will use both in school and for the rest of their lives, on any career path they take. PLTW Gateway empowers students to lead their own discovery and uncover a range of paths and possibilities they can look forward to in high school and beyond.

"It is a great honor to recognize Leicester Middle School for their commitment to providing students with an excellent educational experience," said Dr. Vince Bertram,

President and CEO of PLTW. "They should be very proud of their work to ensure students have the knowledge and skills to be career ready and successful on any career path they choose."

Leicester Middle School is part of a community of PreK-12 schools, colleges and universities, and corporate and philanthropic partners across the country united around a passion for providing students with inspiring, engaging, and empowering learning opportunities. For more information about PLTW's recognition program, visit [pltw.org/our-programs/program-recognition](http://pltw.org/our-programs/program-recognition).

For more information on Leicester Middle Schools PLTW Gateway program or to set up a school visit, contact Principal Christopher Fontaine at [fontainec@lpsma](mailto:fontainec@lpsma).

net or (508) 892-7055.

Project Lead The Way (PLTW) is a mission-driven organization that is transforming the learning experience for millions of PreK-12 students and thousands of teachers across the U.S. PLTW empowers students to develop in-demand, transportable knowledge and skills through pathways in computer science, engineering, and biomedical science. PLTW's teacher training and resources support teachers as they engage their students in real-world learning. Approximately 12,200 elementary, middle, and high schools in all 50 states and the District of Columbia offer PLTW programs. For more information on Project Lead The Way, visit [pltw.org](http://pltw.org).

# Everlast Nursery offers customers peace of mind in challenging times

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER – A local business is using several creative options to bring peace of mind to customers during these challenging times.

Family-run since the spring of 1985, Everlast Nursery is committed to preserving safety while helping brighten spirits during the crisis. Manager Nishon Kachadoorian and his family knew they would have to think outside the box to sustain business during the lengthy statewide shutdown. Over the last month-plus, they have cultivated several successful strategies, including online ordering enhancements and increased pickup options.

Residents have enjoyed the many convenient options made available to them. Spring took a while to arrive after a cold, raw April, but the flowers are finally in full bloom.

"Business has been picking up. Now that people have been home all day long and the weather is getting nicer, they have been going from glancing at their yard to walking around in their yard daily," Kachadoorian told the New Leader. "They're thinking about where

they can plant their veggie garden or spruce up beds with some color."

When guests visit Everlast's Web site, [www.everlastnursery.com](http://www.everlastnursery.com), they are able to navigate a convenient list of options. Guests can choose their own pickup day and time, and all pickups are available within an hour. The staff also included a webpage outlining its commitment to social distancing and ensuring customers' safety during the shutdown.

With Mother's Day just two days away, the Everlast team has been kept busy with online ordering and pickups.

"We've been getting ready for Mother's Day since the beginning of March, when we planted all our Mother's Day baskets. That kicks off a two-month planting spree," Kachadoorian added.

The business is open Monday-Saturday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., as well as 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Sundays. During scheduled curbside pickup sessions, guests can choose to either load their vehicles themselves or request an employee to assist with loading. Guests are also able to inspect a shrub, plant, or tree before buying it.

"We're taking social distancing very

seriously," Kachadoorian said. "Even our in-house transactions take place at least six feet away. Our doors are always propped open, so no need to touch anything."

Online ordering has exploded in recent weeks, as residents enjoy the curbside pickup option.

"We're trying to accommodate everyone. It's a completely different buying experience when doing it online, but we have been getting quite a few online sales," Kachadoorian said. "It's new for everyone, but people are adjusting and appreciating the conveniences we're providing."

The business also offers premium bark mulch by the yard or half yard. If you have a pickup truck or trailer, you can call ahead or order online; experienced operators will load the mulch for you during pickup. If you prefer to have your mulch delivered, please call ahead for a quote. There is a minimum of three

yards for deliveries; the business delivers to residents of Leicester, Spencer, the Brookfields, Auburn, Charlton, Paxton, Rutland, Holden, Sturbridge, Princeton, Worcester, and more.

For more information about the business, visit [www.everlastnursery.com](http://www.everlastnursery.com).

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JENN WYSOCKI, & PATRICK TATRO**

Kimberly Derosiers of East Brookfield and Jenn Wysocki of Spencer are true COVID19 warriors who have made and donated over 2000 masks and ear savers in the last few weeks.

Patrick Tatro of Spencer, of the Spencer Big Y is being commended for great crowd control procedures promoting social distancing, and for operating a clean, safe grocery store.

Thank you for all you're doing for our community to help keep us safe.

*If you would like to nominate an upcoming Person of the Week, please email your suggestion and the reason you're nominating him or her, or a group of people to June at [jsima@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:jsima@stonebridgepress.news). Thank you.*

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EDITORIAL

An important lesson from history

We have several thoughts now that states are beginning to slowly re-open. Each state is doing it in their own way. We have noticed that this situation has made more aware of the remarkable amount of control state governors actually have. This is a good thing.

As we've seen on the national news, some states are riddled with protesters, in many cases armed with guns. We simply cannot fathom this approach. Governors are taking measures to protect the health and well being of their residents. Mistakes are bound to happen in the face of an unprecedented scenario such as this, but we are quite certain that no one — governors and legislators included — wants to be dealing with a highly deadly contagious disease that has now killed more Americans than were killed during Vietnam. No one.

The Stay at Home orders are not easy on anyone, especially those who are still waiting for unemployment checks, and who are dealing with a backlog of unpaid bills. It's also stressful to have to watch the impact on our economy. Again, no one wanted or invited this situation, but here we are. Whether things might have turned out differently if we had seen a quicker response from the federal government, we cannot say, but in any case, what is in the past should be left there.

The question now becomes, what happens if states rush to open too much too soon? Will we have to close everything down again if a second wave of COVID-19 washes through?

Flashing back to the 1918 Spanish Flu epidemic, we can learn a few things about how and what happens when reopening. Cities who kept strict orders in place such as social distancing, earlier and kept them longer, fared better both financially and health-wise in the long run. Noted was fewer deaths and a faster bounce back to their economies. Health and economy went hand in hand.

Studies show that in Denver, San Francisco and St. Louis, measures to distance were taken early; however, those cities made what was, in retrospect, the mistake of reopening too soon, and a second wave hit that was worse than the first. People in states who lifted restrictions too early in 1918 went out into the streets to celebrate the armistice that ended the First World War sans masks, and from there, a severe second wave hit.

In 1918, New York City kept their measures in place for much longer. Officials waited until the death rates were extremely low. Consequently, New York experienced only one wave, and had the lowest death rate in the country. What we can learn here is that it is better to shut down once, for longer, than experience a shutdown far longer, if two shut downs become necessary.

A study recently posted by the CDC tells the story of a woman who was dining at a restaurant while asymptomatic. She spread the disease to nine other diners who were eating nearby. Noted was the fact that those who were infected were in the same zone as the air flow from an air-conditioner.

At the end of the day, we learn from history that the most advisable approach is a slow, steady, and cautious one.



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VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

This is not the Apocalypse

To the Editor:

“On a clear day, you can see forever.” Oh, who was it that sang that in an otherwise forgettable musical back in ‘65? Wait a minute, wasn’t it that girl with the big nose? What was her name? Ah, well, it doesn’t matter. Sic transit gloria mundi, or, “such is the glory of the world.”

But even on an unclear day, intelligent and honest people can readily see what the game plan for the socialist, Trump-hating left is for dealing with the ongoing virus crisis. If they learned nothing else from the failed mayor of Chicago (and Obama coat-holder) Rahm Emanuel, they remember his admonition to “Never let a crisis go to waste.” And to suck all the value they can out of this particular crisis, these dishonest crooks of the media and the Democrat Party will tell any lie, distort data (figures lie and liars figure), ignore positive news while sensationalizing the negative, and refuse to make comparisons from history that might blunt their efforts to terrorize Americans into meekly submitting to dictatorial commands from petty tyrants calling themselves governors or judges. Governors like Janet Mills of Maine, hell bent on destroying the life’s blood of the Pine Tree State: the summer tourist trade. Or, “Gruppenfuhrer” Gretchen Whitmer, the living embodiment of Professor Limbaugh’s famous descriptive of such women: “feminazi.” Or, Kate Brown, Governor of Oregon, who has managed to turn-overnight-the Beaver State into East Germany while firing nary a shot. What is it about these purblind feminist crackpots who, given the first opportunity, shove their imperial decrees down your throat while telling the “strong men, armed” who enforce their decrees to shoot you if you resist? I mean, in the immortal words of Rodney King, “Can’t we all get along?”

Who remembers the Hong Kong Flu of 1968? I don’t, and that year was a pivotal one for me; I should know all about it. After all, unlike “Old Blue Eyes” crooning his great tune about a «Very Good Year», 1968 was a very bad year: assassinations, riots, the Tet Offensive, protests, all of it. It was also the year I graduated from college (and re-entered the military), and had the dubious honor of having as our commencement speaker a very, very bad man, old LBJ himself, “Landslide Lyndon.” A true thug if there ever was one.

But, I had completely forgotten the flu. It killed a hundred-thousand Americans, six times as many as their countrymen who would perish in Vietnam that year. I recall nothing being closed down, no masks, social distancing, etc. Nothing. I bet no one of advanced years reading this remembers it either.

What about the H1N1 Flu of 2009, the one from which a thousand American children with no known underlying medical conditions died? You know, when Obama was president. Remember how they shut everything down and nearly brought on a new Great Depression with their draconian economic edicts? Of course you don’t, because they didn’t. Remember how the press tormented Obama with their incessant “gotcha” questions, day after excruciating day? What? You don’t? What am I thinking?

My grandparents lived through the

We must make 2020 a turning point

To the Editor:

During this pandemic, all of us in rural central Massachusetts are grateful to our essential workers, from nurses and doctors to grocery staff. However, the medical personnel protecting us are forced to work long back-to-back shifts without enough personal protective equipment to contain the virus, nor temporary housing to avoid passing the illness to their families. At UMass Memorial Hospital, nurses reportedly must use a single unclean mask for several shifts in a row, which under normal circumstances would have been punished as negligence. Baystate Health in Springfield was forced into a bidding war just to obtain a shipment of masks, which barely escaped confiscation by the FBI and Homeland Security.

Although Massachusetts has the most advanced biomedical industries in America, the state has done practically nothing to mobilize those capacities to handle the pandemic. Some businesses have contributed – FlexCon in Spencer shifted to making medical masks, producing enough to supply many of them to hospitals for free – but other firms have refused to do their part, such as GE, which closed its plant in Lynn rather than switch to producing ventilators.

We were unprepared for this crisis due to decades of negligence by both business and government. Healthcare, especially in rural America, has been decimated, with vital facilities closed and

Spanish Flu of 1918, and I never heard them mention it even once. But, they almost never stopped recalling the Great Depression, where their family learned first-hand what it was like to go hungry, to have men come to your door and beg for a chance to work for you for a dollar. Their kids—my father, aunts and uncle—never wasted a dime for the rest of their lives without suffering the pangs of a guilty conscience.

And, please don’t write me off as being unsympathetic to those who have suffered from the current [Coronavirus] (why do they all seem to come out of that inscrutable land hidden behind that “great, big, beautiful wall” —to borrow a phrase from some great man somewhere?) Pandemics changed the course of my life in a very personal way. In August, 1955, the Polio Epidemic raged across New England, and hit our home in Brockton with a vengeance. To make a long, sad story short, suffice to say my beautiful little sister perished from the bulbar strain of the disease on what would have been her sixth birthday. Our even younger brother was stricken with the paralytic variant and survived, but had it return in mid-life in the form of PPS (Post Polio Syndrome), and has been 100 percent disabled ever since. Their little friend from the neighborhood died from it at about the same time. My mother, overcome with grief, suffered a complete nervous breakdown, endured the horrors of electric shock therapy treatment, and hardly ever laughed or smiled again for the remaining fifty years of her long life. My father, beside himself with despair, nonetheless had to work every day just to keep a roof over our heads. I don’t need any pontificating, virtue-signaling lectures about compassion or empathy; I’ve lived with those dark memories for 65 years.

What is by now crystal clear, even from a great distance, is that the “Deep Swamp,” the liberal establishment, the ruling class—call it what you will—sees this ongoing drama as their last and best shot to “get Trump.” They couldn’t do it with the Russian hoax, the Ukrainian lies, Michael Avenatti, the total waste of time and money in the bogus impeachment proceedings, or with their fake news and phony polls. It’s now or never for them. If they ever pray for anything it is for: 1.) as many dead Americans as possible, 2.) an utterly destroyed economy, and, 3.) that America blames Trump for the entire calamity and votes to destroy the country once and for all by electing a Democrat—any Democrat—in November. As long as it doesn’t touch them, they couldn’t care less how disastrous this becomes for the country, as the country doesn’t matter to them. It’s always been about the power to control the way the rest of us live our lives that drives these embittered, soulless ideologues.

You have been the Rock of Gibraltar throughout this ordeal, Mr. President; no man or woman could have possibly-done more or better. Real Americans love a fighter; that’s you. Stay strong, you know who your friends are: We, the People. Continue, please, to look out for us, our freedoms and the futures of our children and grandchildren.

JOHN MCRÆE  
EAST BROOKFIELD

Smart moves for women business owners

Mother’s Day is upon us. If you’re a mother, you’ll enjoy the recognition you get from your family on this day. And given the health concerns caused by the coronavirus, your appreciation of family may be even greater this year. As we all know, mothers have a difficult job. And many mothers also run their own businesses – another demanding task made even more difficult these days. What special challenges do women face who embark on careers as business owners?

Of course, motherhood itself presents a major challenge. As a society, we have not achieved gender equity yet, in terms of family responsibilities, so mothers – even busy business owners – still face time constraints and interruptions from work to care for children. And it’s not just children, either – the vast majority of caregivers for elderly relatives are women, according to a study from Northwestern University. So, many women business owners may be coping with multi-generational family issues.

You can’t change the demographic pressures you may face, but, as a business owner, you can take some steps to help improve your financial outcomes. Here are a few ideas:

Seek networking opportunities. You can find useful, and empathetic, allies in other women business owners, who may be able to direct you to valuable resources. To illustrate: Women’s businesses often lack financial support to a greater degree than men’s, and it is unfortunately not uncommon for women to be denied loans because of gender and cultural biases. But if you become active in a network of women business owners, you could find some leads to financial institutions that have showed themselves to be free of gender-based prejudices.

Be extra aware of investment risks. Everyone should always be aware of investment risk, of course, but if you have most of your assets tied up in your business, you may need to be extra diligent. You’re already taking a fair amount of risk by just having a business, so you may need to balance this risk in your investment portfolio by choosing the mix of investments that can help you move toward your goals without subjecting you to excessive market volatility.

Establish a retirement plan for yourself. Have you established a retirement savings plan for yourself? About one-third of business owners haven’t, and 40 percent are not confident they can retire before 65, according to data compiled by SCORE, a nonprofit organization that works with small businesses. Fortunately, you have several good retirement plan options, including an “owner-only” 401(k), a SEP-IRA, a SIMPLE IRA or even a solo defined benefit plan, which functions like a pension.

Create a succession plan. You may need a strategy for transferring or selling your business. Do you want to keep the business in the family? If so, who do you want to take it over? Or would you prefer to simply sell it to someone else? Your decisions, whatever they are, will affect your financial picture and possibly that of your family, so you will want to consult with your tax, legal and financial advisors to arrive at a plan that works best for your needs.

You’ve got some twists and turns ahead of you on the road to financial security. But planning ahead, considering various possibilities and seizing your opportunities can help you smooth out the journey.

*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.*



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Trump wants to destroy America’s Post Office

To the Editor:

From the beginning, America’s founding fathers intended that our Post Office serve the public good as a binding and information force for the good. For example, you will likely read this letter in the Post Office delivered Spencer New Leader.

Unlike us, European countries mostly established postal services to make money

As a mailman turned honest historian once said of his customers and our United States Postal Service, “To him and to others on my route, I represented not just a chance of (mail), but also a connection to (his) government.

Our Postal Service, from Hawaii to Maine, delivers 48% of the world’s mail to 160 million homes. It ranks among America’s most popular institutions enjoying approval ratings of almost 90 percent. We endlessly gripe about lousy roads and sometimes mediocre schools, but almost never about the Post Office.

Much of the above comes from historian Philip Rubio. Yet in late March President Trump threatened to veto a \$2.2 trillion Covid-19 related funding package. The reason for the veto? It would have provided \$13 Billion – less about a half of 1 percent of the total package - to help our Post Office keep meeting its’ payroll, gassing its vehicles, and paying its suppliers. In the end, Trump only agreed to a \$ 10 billion strict penalties related loan.

In a rationally governed world, no President would threaten to veto a \$2.2 trillion rescue bill

over a \$13 billion allocation to of all things, the Post Office! (After all, the very badly managed

Boeing got \$27 billion and many of the already rich, large tax breaks)

So why did President Trump, with Treasury Secretary Mnuchin, deny the Post Office assistance?

Four reasons jump out.

1. Many reactionaries, including Tea

Party types, want to reduce government to the basic essentials and allow a far less regulated “market” to take over almost everything else.

They wrongly say our Post Office “loses” money and is badly wasteful.

2. Without our Postal Service, already rich and well-connected “vultures” see a pot of gold ready for the taking Now two Trump reasons.

3. Trump and his allies want to restrict or halt ballot by mail due to concern the vote of moderates etc. will go against them. Evidence: Trump calls vote-by-mail “corrupt” and “ripe for fraud.” However both Republican and Democratic officials say safeguards like signature requirements can make this kind of fraud virtually non-existent. Likewise they know our Post Office will excellently especially in the time of Covid, manage vote by mail.

4. Probably the most important - Trump wants to punish Jeff Bezos. Why would Trump want to shut down our near 250 year old Post Office to punish Bezos? Bezos owns (but doesn’t manage of direct) the Washington Post, which, like others, often is critical of Trump. Bezos also founded and manages Amazon. Like other online retailers, Amazon uses the Post Office.

Trump can’t directly get back at Bezos, he too wealthy. Likewise Trump can’t get back at Bezos by shutting down the Post – the First Amendment, reliable reporting, and big time lawyers provide the needed big “wall” against that.

If our Post Office goes under, Trump believes he can control whatever emerges to take its place and can get Amazon prices raised.

Since Trump only thinks about what is good for him, he doesn’t care what happens to our Post Office. Or what we Americans lose.

KEVIN KANE  
SPENCER

Who are the real savages?

To the Editor:

Regarding Mr. Har-Yarok’s constant harangues on past, current and future events, I think one would agree, that we get it. He seemingly despises America and a good deal of its people, whom he has recently labeled savages.

His persistent bashing and vilification of all things American is getting boring and petty. His misguided loathing of America, its people and its history is apparent. His recent unwarranted praise of Communist China is troubling and revealing.

His praise for China, however brief, is telling. Come on, sir, you state China’s response as “saved lives.” China’s government is the same government that murdered 50 to 100 million of its own

people in one way or another not long ago. It’s the same government that forcibly sterilizes young women by the millions every year. It’s the same government that cracked down hard on Hong Kong citizens protesting the tightening stranglehold from Xi’s Party. The same government that abused its own people at Tiananmen Square. And just the other day, it was the same government which instructed its Naval forces to ram an unarmed Vietnamese fishing vessel, sinking it. No, sir. Your praise for the real savages, China, is more than misguided. It’s repulsive.

RICK BELTON  
SPENCER

Tarentino Strong  
5K rescheduled

LEICESTER – The Officer Ronald Tarentino, Jr., Charitable Fund announced last week that the Tarentino Strong 5K Road Race has been rescheduled for Sept. 20.

“We know this interruption has had an impact on every family in a variety of ways,” event organizers wrote in a statement. “We’ve seen tragedy, but also witnessed some awesome acts of heroism and selflessness. This COVID crisis has made each one of us appreciate family, friends, and community that much more.”

Like craft fairs and other large events throughout the area, 5K organizers want to ensure that all guests feel safe to attend.

“This is one of our largest fundraisers, and we rely on your support to continue doing the work Ron inspired us to do,” organizers wrote. “Whether you are a seasoned runner or walking with your family, everyone can do

their part to help those in need in our greater community.”

Residents who were already registered for the postponed April date will be automatically carried over to the new date. For more information or to register, visit [www.racewire.com](http://www.racewire.com) and search for the event.

Where does the buck stop?

To the Editor:

We hear a lot about fake news these days. Admittedly, the potential sources and publications are vast and varied, and sometimes you just have to pay attention and focus on the consensus. Sometimes it is how people respond to allegations, don’t respond, or actually acknowledge facts but not conclusions.

When the President was impeached, no one disputed the fact that the White House was withholding funds that had been allocated to Ukraine for the purpose of defending itself against any further incursion by Russia. No one disputed that there was an attempt to get them to open an investigation into Joe Biden, Hunter Biden or the company he worked for.

No one has disputed the several acts of obstruction of justice or the 125 noted Russian contacts received by Trump campaign.

It is now a matter of record that Russia did, and continues to interfere in our elections.

No one has disputed that the pandemic has been mentioned in the President’s daily briefings, going back to December, although there is no reason to believe he read any of them. His comments into March, would lead you to believe everything was under control. He was finding the time to play golf 6 times and hold 9 rallies while being briefed on the concern.

Today, he is touting “strong” numbers and his son in law claims a “superior response.” One can only wonder what number of lives might have been saved by actually asking the response team to make a plan and prepare back when it became clear that we would have to deal with it. I am led to understand that his major health concern when he spoke with HHS Secretary Azar, was the vaping crisis.

While I am more than a little confused that three years into a four year term, your predecessor would still be responsible for empty shelves, but also for not having tests for a disease that did not

then exist. Perhaps it was the job of the pandemic team, fired in 2018, to fill them.

Having already botched any preparation before we arrived at crisis mode, stay at home and social distancing became the first best option. Businesses and schools were closed indefinitely, and a variety of social rules enacted to defeat this invisible foe. People far and wide stepped up to bring an end to this menace. Not everywhere though. The president stepped back and left it for governors to take appropriate action. The result has been everywhere from wide open to tightly closed.

At spring vacation break, most schools and colleges shut down and sent everyone home for the duration of the siege. The national health experts have indicated, that because we were in no condition to test and tamp down any outbreak, this shotgun approach was necessary, and because of excellent compliance, death estimates dropped dramatically.

The experts came up with a three step program to safely re-engage our economy. Before meeting any of that criteria, multiple states are re-opening with encouragement from the president Not only are testing capabilities still lacking, there is no indication of being able to contain an outbreak. Death estimates are back on the climb.

As the commander in chief, the President is sometimes called upon to put our military in harm’s way. I find myself wondering if the inability to hold rallies with little social distancing and carrying poor optics, is why the President is recalling the senior class of West Point back to the New York City area so he can deliver the commencement address.

While chants of “Lock her up!” “Send them back!” and “Build the wall!” will be lacking, I hope that endangering so many for so little will be worth it.

KEN KIMBALL  
BROOKFIELD

enough. Our region has long contended with declining manufacturing, a squeeze on farmers, and inadequate services, all allowed by the same indifferent attitude from Boston that has exacerbated the crisis of 2020. This has to change-the state must commission vital medical equipment, expand our hospital capacities, and hire unemployed citizens to train for testing, tracking, and tracing the virus, before the likely next wave of coronavirus in the fall, as well as before the next pandemic. The Commonwealth must help our already struggling workers and small businesses to rebound, and in the longer term, we must rebuild our manufacturing and human resources for the benefit of our region and the Commonwealth. 2020 must be a turning point, and the hard sacrifices made by our essential workers must not be in vain.

SAMUEL BIAGETTI  
NORTH BROOKFIELD

More Letter on page 10

Parade planned for Boston  
Post Cane recipient

SPENCER – Residents and officials are planning an extra celebration for this Mother’s Day, as they will hold a small parade to honor the town’s next Boston Post Cane recipient.

With the recent passing of Mary Madden at 105, Norma Cormier is now Spencer’s oldest citizen. She will turn 102 on Wednesday, May 13.

To celebrate Cormier’s birthday and the transition of the Boston Post Cane, a drive-by parade will gather on Sunday,

May 10, at the Mary Queen of the Rosary Church parking lot at 2:45 p.m. The parade will begin when Spencer Fire, Rescue, and Police representatives arrive.

The parade will proceed up Maple Street, down Adams Street, and back onto Mechanic Street for people to disperse. Parade viewers are reminded to adhere to social distancing guidelines during the event.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Storms can make us stronger!

To the Editor:  
Before I share with you this message I want to congratulate Mr. John McRae for his recent article on President Trump. Kudos to you!

Whenever I am convicted and or experience some turmoil, trials in life as we are today with this coronavirus storm which excites anxieties, fears I am convicted to share with you because I have been where some of you are today and I know the realization for the need of comfort and assurance and God, Jesus is that source, God is real and alive and God loves us and desires to comfort us and grant His help.

We may not understand why God allows these storms and or why we may need storms. Frankly, I also have questioned God’s reason in the past and I found my answer from other special people, friends and acquaintances that also suggested God’s Word the Bible as I am suggesting to you.

I do not believe this storm is ordained of God [it could be]. I do believe God is allowing it as judgment to get our attention to return to Him in repentance. Storms are often consequences for our bad behavior [sin] and it is a means of getting our attention because many of us are straying from Him [God] and we need to return to God, Jesus. Storms do get our attention and serve to strengthen the faith of those who do believe and to make them who doubt [James 1: 6-7] who compromise, who are lukewarm [Revelation 3: 16] those of us who do believe to develop stronger faith. As always, it is our choice, we can accept or reject God, Jesus.

I am only the messenger who is elected, convicted to share with you. Whenever there are challenges and or

a storm like this one we are presently witnessing that is causing us pain, anxiety, concerns, fear and unfortunately death, we want to remove it as fast as possible. The best place to go, to start, besides what the medical experts are presently doing is to go to God, Jesus in prayer.

The following are five Biblical teachings that can make us, you, and me stronger. Storms can help us stand firm and grow in faith, trusting and relying on God, Jesus helping us to developed a need to become dependent, patient, reliant on God, Jesus that He is our source of security. God wants to build our faith muscles so the crises don’t crush us.

God uses storms to help us mature, persevere and perfect us in developing, increasing our faith in Him. God’s goal during a storm is to help us grow, make us more like Jesus; fearless and faithful, knowing God is in control [Matthew 8: 26]. God want us His adopted children to grow in spiritual maturity.

Storms help give us new perspectives. We don’t always know why trials [storms] come, we do know they are intended to help us see life from God’s perspective, wisdom, and that usually happens from trials. God wants to teach us to come to Him for help for wisdom, God gives His children generously who come to Him in humility.

Storms help us learn humility. Storms help us bend our knees before God, Jesus in prayer, a humbling moment before God, Jesus. Jesus teaches and sets the example for us in the garden. [Matthew 26: 38-39] storms help us to come before God, to know God, Jesus the redeemer, the Savior.

Storms can help us to grow in spiritual maturity, maturing in struggles. Storms can be a testimony “if” we let God strengthen and sustain us. Like always, the choice is ours.

Storms can help you, us gain new spiritual vitality. The people I respect most are those who have been through the deepest struggles and do not allow their struggles to defeat them, but they rise stronger and more faithful, their testimony is an inspiration and their message is to help conform us to God, Jesus, allowing Jesus to sustain and change us.

The following are scriptures that confirms God’s Word, what God wants to teach us through trials, storms, and unless we take the time to search, read, study God’s Word, scriptures, the scriptures will be of no value.

God is very explicit and specific in His Word. This is God speaking to the people yesteryear and to us today. If and when my people humble themselves, pray, seek, turn from their wicked ways I [God] will hear form heaven. God will answered our prayer request depending on four of His conditions, we must humble our self, your self! We must pray [talk] to God, Jesus Daily! Seek God’s heart continually! Stop our sinful behavior, turn from our wicked ways.

What is true repentance? It is more than talk; it is changing our behavior, life style, submitting to God, Jesus values, principals, standards, as individuals, as a group and as a Nation.

God is a Holy God, sin cannot come near Him and when we confess and repent before God, Jesus God will answer our prayers. [2 Chronicle 7: 14] Psalm 92: 1-2 is teaching and prepar-

ing us when we experience trials we need to praise God, focus on our blessings, expressing our gratitude and the many blessings we experience daily, never taking anything for granted.

When we practice fellowshiping with Jesus day by day it eventually becomes a part of your day, life and it helps develop our attitude of gratitude towards our every day life and encourages us to rely on God, Jesus spiritually, emotionally and physically for our provision.

Isaiah 43: 1-2 & 54:10 teaches that when we remain faithful to God, Jesus God reveals to us His mercy, God restores us, God pours His love on us and assures us we need not fear the present or coming trial, we are assured and promised God’s protection.

Whenever we face, experience trials like this deadly virus there is always hope, hope is only a prayer away, and God’s willingness to help has promised us restoration and blessings to those of us who trust in Jesus. [Lamentation 3: 21-24]

In a previous viewpoint, “We need to take shelter in God, Jesus,” I said we should not fear the storm, we need to respect it. Today I am sharing with you Jesus is saying, making the same statement, asking the same question? Why are you so afraid? Are you of little faith? Come on people; turn to God, Jesus in prayer. Jesus is our refuge, our shelter, God, Jesus does not wish for any of us to perish. [Matt. 8: 26] [2 Peter 3: 9] To be continued!

ROLAND BLAIS  
BROOKFIELD

Entering a new phase

To the Editor:  
Does anybody remember when the schools first shut down on March 13? The U.S. had 3,000 COVID-19 cases and 55 recorded deaths, with both numbers increasing exponentially. Does anybody remember when Gov. Baker first shut down the restaurants on March 17? The U.S. had 8,288 cases and 120 recorded deaths, still increasing exponentially. Remember when we passed the 9/11 death toll of 3,000 lives on March 30? Remember when President Trump predicted there would be 60,000 deaths by August? We hit the 60,000 mark on April 29.

As states with lower levels of education and lower regard for other people’s lives begin to re-open, the U.S. now has 1,134,000 cases and 66,430 recorded deaths. Soon, those numbers will look quaint, just like all the horrifying wickets we passed in March and April that now look small.

As a person interested in math, science, history, and current events, I have been tracking this crisis very closely. I continue to me amazed by the arguments made by people who should know better, people who I know have more intellectual breadth and context to draw on compared to the things they say. Early this week, I noticed that the governors of Georgia and Florida had been declaring their curves to “have flattened.” I thought to myself, “that’s odd, I didn’t think they had flattened.” So I put my Sherlock Holmes hat on, grabbed my pipe, opened up Excel, and went to work.

Johns Hopkins University (JHU) has an excellent tracking tool, Covidtracking.com, and the Washington Post are all great. None of those showed GA flattening. I went on the GA Dept. of Public Health’s website and looked at their data and it looked like it had flattened over the previous 14 days and was obviously different data. I built a spreadsheet and made a graph with all four sources. Three of the sources lined up, GA’s official data

was the outlier. I then saw a disclaimer claiming that data from the last 14 days may change as new information becomes available. Interestingly, it looks like GA is trying to guess the date of infection by backing up the “infection date” whereas everybody else tracks “positive test day” and this will cause the immediately preceding week to always look like it is “flattening” when in fact it is not.

On Tuesday, I tried to update my spreadsheet and found something more startling. GA’s official data from prior days back to April 1 had changed from what I recorded from their website the day prior. They are changing data from the past! Again, everything lined up except the official Georgia data.

Florida is a different story. The Tampa Bay Times ran a piece telling us that the Gov. there is prohibiting counties from releasing data as they always have, and everything goes through Tallahassee now. Florida’s cases dropped and the death toll dropped immediately, and the death rate is now mathematically impossibly low. Nothing natural would change as abruptly as Florida’s data did and I’ve read that they are now classifying deaths on COVID-positive patients as “pneumonia” and not COVID. Florida’s hospitalizations continue to climb, their total deaths from all causes climbs, as their propaganda minister in Tallahassee tells the people they’ve got COVID-19 under control. The easiest way to spot a data manipulator is when they forget to scrub everything (hospitalizations, total deaths, etc.).

I did the same analysis for Massachusetts. Everything lined up. Our state is above board.

Worse yet, the data suggests that COVID deaths and cases are under-reported. No developed nation on earth has bungled testing like we have, and it can be difficult to get a test. If you recover it’s like it never happened. If you die in a red state, they won’t do an autopsy because all that will do is

hurt President Trump and the party line. How do we know that COVID deaths are underreported? Total deaths in this country are severely elevated from seasonal averages. 2020 deaths through May 1 were roughly 70,000 more than normal while we were reporting roughly 60,000 COVID deaths. We know that car accidents, strokes, ladder falls, etc. are all down due to the quarantine, yet total deaths including unsuspecting deaths at home are very elevated. This suggests that the COVID deaths are much higher, as much as 50 percent higher than reported both because some corpses are never tested and because red states are calling double-collapsed lungs from COVID patients unavoidable lung collapses that would have happened anyway....No COVID here, nothing to see here....

What we are seeing out of the red states represents a new phase in this, data manipulation. The story Republicans want to tell is not borne out by the data, so they are grabbing the data by the horns. This is propaganda that could have come from the desk of Joseph Goebbels.

The quarantine and economic shutdown is getting old. Don’t get me wrong, I don’t like it either. Unfortunately, though, the United States has proven itself incapable of controlling infectious disease. We are starting to see armed protests and stormings of state capitals. If we don’t placate the savages they will have heads on pikes in short order. Furthermore, vaccine or herd immunity are both at least 12 months out and we can’t do this indefinitely. We had about eight weeks of plague management in the budget, and it is just about exhausted. The fact that we, as a country, were completely and totally unable to manage this crisis does not put more weeks in the budget.

The danger to the population from COVID-19 is higher than it’s ever been, yet we are about to re-open because eight weeks is all we had in us. If we

were going to bungle managing this and let the plague rip through anyway, it begs the question of why we shut down in the first place...

We are not only entering a new phase of data manipulation, we are entering a new phase of callousness. It is time to just admit to ourselves that we are willing to let people die to end the shutdown. The question is how many and how soon. In this pandemic, we are now all moral relativists. Today’s death toll of 66,430 will soon look as quaint as when we were concerned about 3,000 people on 9/11 enough to invade a few countries. Even as critical as I am at our nation’s response to this, I understand that we have competing goals and the economy can’t be shut down indefinitely. I had hoped that we could manage this like New Zealand but I was sorely mistaken. Donald Trump is no Jacinda Adern.

In our new phase of data manipulation and moral relativists, it will be interesting to see where the American liberal/conservative dichotomy falls. The conservatives, “pro-life” of only a few months ago will start saying “everybody dies of something eventually so let’s put this in perspective” whereas the liberals are more likely to say “listen to the health experts.” Conservatives will see “freedom” as their right to do whatever they want without regard to others and liberals will see “freedom” as their right to live a safe and healthy life.

This next phase is the truly scary one. When it becomes normal to fudge data to achieve a goal we can’t know anything for sure. If nothing can be known, how can we make informed decisions? A society with disease ripping through it will be a failed state. Hopefully it stops at Americans being callously unmoved by other people dying. At worst, we will be more concerned with lead injections from Trump supporters than bleach.

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# Help needed for local police officer with COVID-19

LEICESTER – Community assistance is requested to help a Rutland Police detective who contracted COVID-19.

Det. John Songy, who lives in Leicester, is in need of an O- negative blood donation. Doctors aim to perform a plasma transfusion, which requires plasma from a person who recovered from COVID-19 within the last four to six weeks.

Det. Songy joined the Rutland force in 2013; he became a detective in 2018. He is one of the department's field training

officers.

Songy's wife Joanne took to social media last week to reach out to the community. If you or someone you know is willing to help, please contact Joanne at 508-413-0214.

Several area police departments, including those in Leicester and Spencer, have shown their support for Songy by reposting his wife's urgent plea.

has since secured a spot at UMass' Community Donation Center to store all donations. It has been a thrill for her to see donations pouring in from family, friends, coworkers, and strangers, with plenty of fun surprises along the way.

"A dear friend of mine surprised me by giving me a stack of thank you cards made by a few of the children in her neighborhood to include with each power box," Fleming said. "Each one spreads words of kindness and gratitude for healthcare workers. There is something about the sweet innocence of a child that makes it hard not to smile."

Because of the strong reception to the thank you cards, Fleming recently invited residents with children to get involved in the project by creating cards at home. The cards will be included in future power box donations.

"Ideally, I'd like to include one or two with each box as I move forward," Fleming said. "I can provide an address privately. My plan is to keep distributing power boxes with the sweet cards every week to two weeks – depending on

inventory – until funds run dry."

To date, Fleming has raised about \$3,000 for the project. She also received a donation from BJ's Wholesale Club to help boost her inventory for upcoming rounds.

Fleming has been shocked by how quickly a simple act of giving has expanded throughout the community. Residents and their families look forward to contributing to each new round of boxes meant to assist those on the front lines.

"This project has really taken off since my first round of giving, which was in the last week of March," Fleming said. "I can't believe it has blossomed into what it has. I have my friends, family, work family, and the kindness of strangers to thank for that."

Residents who would like to contribute can do so via Fleming's Venmo account (@Brianna-Fleming-12). If you do not have a Venmo account, she is also collecting cash and donations; she is willing to pick up donations.

You can also donate via Fleming's GoFundMe account at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/covid-power-boxes>.

more prepared for the tryouts. Last year, I got third chair and this year I got first chair for my section."

Countless hours of preparation were converted into confidence for Morrison when she attended the audition. Rather than become complacent after earning a spot last year, she was determined to return even more prepared in 2020.

"This year, I felt more confident about evaluations. I knew that I had done better than last year," Morrison said. "My future goal is to become a music teacher. I absolutely love music, and it is so important to my life."

Pietri, also an eighth grader, could not be reached for this piece. She plays the flute, and LMS teachers congratulate her on her festival selection.

# Thomas J. Bartholomew honored in *Financial Times*

WORCESTER — Bartholomew & Company, a leading provider of financial services in Worcester, Massachusetts, announced that its President & CEO, Thomas J. Bartholomew, AIF® has been named to Financial Time's list of the 400 Top Financial Advisors for 2020. The list is published on ft.com1.

According to Financial Times, a leading financial publication, the ranking reflects advisors with a minimum of 10 years' experience and \$300 million or more in assets under management (AUM)2. In addition, list makers are determined based upon compliance records, industry certifications, online accessibility, and AUM growth rate.

"I am pleased to have been named to this prestigious list—a recognition that, to us, speaks to our firm's commitment to providing trusted financial planning and investment advice that addresses each individual's and organization's needs," said Mr. Bartholomew. "I am grateful for the trust our clients place in us, and we remain committed to providing the guidance and support they need to achieve their unique financial goals."

About Bartholomew & Company



Thomas J. Bartholomew

Bartholomew & Company has been providing individuals and organizations with financial guidance since 1994. Located at 370 Main Street, Suite 1000, Worcester, MA, with branch offices in Chatham and Bedford, MA, Bartholomew & Company's advisors pride themselves on crafting unique strategies for each client. For more information, please visit [www.bartandco.com](http://www.bartandco.com).

Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser.

Produced independently by Ignites Research, a division of Money-Media, Inc., on behalf of the Financial Times; the Financial Times 400 is based on each advisor's performance in several primary areas, including assets under management, asset growth, compliance record, experience, credentials, and accessibility. Approximately 1,040 applicants were considered, and 400 (38.5 percent of candidates) were recognized. For the full methodology,\* please visit ft.com.

\*Not indicative of advisor's future performance. Your experience may vary.

## PRINCIPALS

continued from page A1

go out of their way to make LMS a great place."

While some might assume principals and assistant principals spend most days in their offices, no two days are ever the same. In addition to regular duties, LMS administrators enjoy taking part in volunteer opportunities that present themselves throughout the day. This past year, administrators made pancakes for the staff, helped fix the boiler, and took part in several student activities.

The LMS team was also praised for their communications and emphasis on team-building.

"Chris and Beth have mastered the art of leading without micromanaging. They welcome our input and are always open to new ideas," said health teacher Diane Leveillee.

New teachers and veteran educators alike appreciate the extra time put in

each day by the LMS administrative team.

"I am in my 16th year of teaching, 14 of them at LMS, and Beth and Chris are the best administration team I have ever worked for," said math teacher Joe Lijoi.

Administrators also work with every department within the building, from the guidance staff to janitors and maintenance personnel. They also must meet regularly with the Superintendent and School Committee to provide updates on building operations.

"As a guidance counselor at Leicester Middle School, I have had the honor and pleasure of working closely with great administration teams who have helped Leicester Middle School continue as the caring, wonderful school that it is known to be. Fortunately, we have Chris Fontaine and Beth Johnson as leaders to guide us in helping to continue this legacy," said guidance counselor Mike Vaughn.

## MUSICIANS

continued from page A1

ble."

The students' accomplishments continue to be celebrated by educators in Leicester. The district has only seen its students selected for the music festival two times in the last 16 years. The festival features students from throughout the region.

For eighth grader Jillian Morrison, a year of hard work paid off when she was once again selected for the festival. Morrison plays the bass clarinet, clarinet, piano, and alto saxophone.

"This year, it meant a huge improvement from last year's tryouts," Morrison said. "This year, I was a lot

# Is your town holding a local election?

Do you want to avoid going to the polls in person?  
Vote Early by MAIL!

Complete this application and send it to your local Town Clerk, who will then send you an Early/Absentee Ballot. Addresses are below. All ballots for local elections must be returned by the close of polls on election day.

For more information, call your local town clerk's office.

**LEICESTER:**  
3 Washburn Square  
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508-892-7011

**SPENCER:**  
157 Main Street  
Spencer, MA 01562  
508-885-7500 x150

**BROOKFIELD:**  
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Brookfield, MA 01506  
508-867-2930 x12

**EAST BROOKFIELD:**  
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**NORTH BROOKFIELD:**  
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508-867-0200

**WEST BROOKFIELD:**  
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508-867-1421 x302

## 2020 Municipal Election Early Ballot Application



William Francis Galvin  
Secretary of the Commonwealth

<b>Voter Information</b>	1	Name: _____ Legal Voting Residence: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Telephone Number: _____ E-mail Address: _____	
	<b>Ballot Information</b>	2	Mail Ballot to: _____
	<b>Special Circumstances (If applicable)</b>	3	<input type="checkbox"/> Voter required assistance in completing application due to physical disability. Assisting person's name: _____ Assisting person's address: _____

Signed (under penalty of perjury): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Eligibility**  
Any registered voter may use this application to request an absentee ballot for a local election being held on or before June 30, 2020.

**Completing the Application**

1. Voter Information – Provide your name, legal voting address, and date of birth. Telephone number and e-mail address are optional fields.
2. Ballot Information – Provide the address where you want the ballot mailed.
3. Special Circumstances – If you are assisting a voter in completing this application, complete this section.
4. Sign your name. If you require assistance in signing the application, you may authorize someone to sign your name in your presence. That person must complete the assisting person's information in Section 3.

**Submitting the Application**  
Send the completed application to the local election official at your city or town hall. Applications can be mailed or hand-delivered. Applications may also be submitted electronically by fax or e-mail, as long as your signature is visible. Please allow ample mailing time for this application and for the ballot. Ballots must be returned to your local election official by Election Day. Find contact information for local election officials at [www.sec.state.ma.us/ele](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele) or by calling 1-800-462-VOTE (8683).

THIS DOCUMENT CAN BE REPRODUCED.

## Leicester Water Supply District Hillcrest Water District HYDRANT FLUSHING May 1, 2020 to July 31, 2020

The Leicester Water Supply District and Hillcrest Water District will be flushing water mains and hydrants throughout the districts beginning Monday, May 1st through July 31st, 2020. Hours of flushing will be between 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The purpose of the flushing is to remove sediment buildup in the mains. The flushing may result in temporary discoloration of the water and low water pressure. If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact the office at (508) 892-8484 (Leicester Water Supply District) or (508) 892-7585 (Hillcrest Water District). Sincerely, Joseph H. Wood – Superintendent Joe@LWSD.net

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## PERSON of the WEEK

APRIL DEMETRIUS, Monson, MA

This week's honor goes to April Demetrius (Miss April) who works at the West Brookfield Elementary School Cafeteria. She gets up at 4 am every day and drives to the school to prepare breakfasts and lunches for the students. She has done an incredible job and always has a smile on her face and is so kind when you go and pick them up. A BIG THANK YOU from the entire West Brookfield community.

— Submitted by Becky Ryli, West Brookfield, MA

If you would like to nominate an upcoming Person of the Week, please email your suggestion and the reason you're nominating him or her, or a group of people to June at [jsma@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:jsma@stonebridgepress.news). Thank you.

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Friday's Child



Braydon  
Age 12

Hi! My name is Braydon and you can call me Brady!

Braydon "Brady" is a polite and caring boy of Caucasian descent. Braydon has many talents and interests including dancing, music, sports, drawing and playing games. His favorite activities are basketball, football, video games and being active! Braydon is described by those who know him as enthusiastic and fun-loving.

Brady shares that he loves going to school. His favorite subject in school is math. He reports his favorite colors are red and blue and his favorite food is pizza but is open to trying different foods. Braydon can be a good advocate for himself and has shared he is looking forward to having his own family.

Legally freed for adoption, it will be important to Braydon that he continues to maintain contact with his two older siblings. Braydon sees them at least monthly and has a positive relationship with them and their families. Braydon absolutely loves animals and hopes his future family will have a dog and that one day he will become a vet! Braydon shared that his three wishes for his future family are for them to always make hot breakfast (or buy sweet cereal and a lot flavored oatmeal), to have dogs, and to have a bike and a helmet! Braydon would do best as the only child or youngest child in a family.

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](http://www.mareinc.org). The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have a permanent place to call home.



To sponsor Friday's Child call Mikaela at 508-909-4126 or email [Mikaela@stonebridgeoress.news](mailto:Mikaela@stonebridgeoress.news)

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# OBITUARIES

## Cecelia H. (Rivers) Ikey Dufault

Spencer/Holly Hills, FL – Cecelia “Cece” Ikey Dufault passed away November 16, 2019 at the hospital with her loving family by her side. She leaves her loving husband of 35 years, Paul “Whitie” Dufault; her daughter, Wanda and her husband Lloyd Dyer; her son, Robert Ikey, Jr. and his partner Violet Sanchez; three step-children, Patricia and her husband Scott Blakney, Susan and her husband William Hudson, and William and his wife Patricia Dufault, three grandchildren, John Germaine, Samantha Ikey and Robert Ikey, eight step-grandchildren, Brandon, Tyler and Nicholas Hudson, Ryan, Hillary and Casey Blakney and Brett and Christian Dufault; and two great-grandsons, Damian and Dominick Germaine. She also leaves her brother, Robert Rivers of Spencer, and three sisters, Ida Lizak of Warren, Mary Jane Alexander, and Harriet and her husband Bob Moore



both of Auburn. She was predeceased by her first husband Robert Ikey, Sr., a step-son Paul Dufault Jr., brothers Arthur “Peg” Roger, Richard, Henry, Donald and William Rivers, as well as sisters, Helen Benjamin, Betty Lou Oard, Beverly Gagliardi and Iona Lamothe, two cousins and several nieces and nephews. She was the daughter of the late Wilfred and Harriet (Viets) Rivers. She attended David Prouty High School and worked for Raytheon Technologies before retiring. Cece was a creative lady and enjoyed decorating cakes. Making several wedding cakes for family and friends. She adored her family and spending time with them, especially her great-grandchildren. She will be missed by all who knew her. A Memorial Service for Cecelia will be held at a later date. Varnum Funeral Home, Inc., 43 East Main St., in West Brookfield is assisting her family with arrangements. An online guest book is available at [varnumfuneralhome.com](http://varnumfuneralhome.com)

## Diane J Downie ,72

NORTH BROOKFIELD- Diane J (Dean) Downie ,72 ,passed away on Wednesday April 29,2020. She was the daughter of Ann Dean of Oakham and the late Howard Dean. Diane was born in Worcester on September 14,1947 and raised in Oakham. She was a graduate of North Brookfield High School Class of 1965 and retired from the Barre Family Health Center in Barre MA. Diane is survived by her husband of 49 years Bob Downie; son Dana Downie; daughter Heather Downie all of North Brookfield; her



mother Ann Dean of Oakham; a sister Joyce Harter of Rutland; sisters in-law Cheryl Downie and Nancy Kenyon of Springfield and Chicopee; 16 nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by a sister Paula Dixon of Teeresa NY. Diane was a loving mother and wife she also loved her window box filled with petunias in particular yellow ones and the two family cats Cinder and Midnight. A Memorial Services for Diane will be held at a later date. In lieu of Flowers donations in Diane's name may be made to the North Brookfield Congregational Church Memorial Fund 144 Main St. N.Brookfield,MA. 01535. Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home. 44 Gilbert St.N.Brookfield.

## Armand J. McCarthy, 88

WEBSTER - Armand J. McCarthy, 88, died Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at home surrounded by his family. He leaves his wife of 60 years, Rita (Gallant) McCarthy; a son, Richard J. McCarthy and his wife Mary C. McCarthy of West Boylston; a daughter, Kathleen A. Flibbert and her husband David J. Flibbert of Webster; 2 grandchildren, Jason Flibbert and his wife Valerie, and Jeffrey Flibbert and his wife Brittany, all of Dudley; 2 great-grandchildren, Kayla Flibbert and Connor Flibbert; a brother, Albert McCarthy and his wife Lorraine of Coral Gables, FL; 4 sisters, Claire Ugalde of Worcester, Claudia Seale and her husband Arthur of Oxford, Frances Normandin and her husband Roland of West Brookfield, and Gail Sivret of Dudley; a sister-in-law, Dolores LeBlanc of Webster; nephews and nieces. He was preceded in death by 3 brothers, Walter, Kenneth and Roger McCarthy and by a sister, Janet Williams. He was born on June 18, 1931 in Worcester and lived in North Oxford, a son of Walter and Blanche (LaPlante) McCarthy, who died in childbirth. He was raised by his father and stepmother, Irene (Strack) McCarthy. He obtained



his high school diploma through a correspondence course from the American School in Chicago. He was an Army veteran of Vietnam, serving as a medic from 1956 to 1958 and then remained in the Army Reserves for 4 years. Mr. McCarthy worked at First National Stores, later known as Finest Supermarkets, retiring as the deli manager in 1993. He was a communicant of Saint Louis Church and a weekly adorer at the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. For many years, he attended a retreat at Calvary Retreat House in Shrewsbury. He belonged to the swimming club at the YMCA in Southbridge. He liked walking at the track at Webster Lake. The family would like to thank the staff of Care Central VNA & Hospice for their compassionate care during Mr. McCarthy's illness. A funeral Mass at Saint Louis Church will be held privately. Burial will be in Saint Joseph Garden of Peace. Donations in his name may be made to the American Cancer Society, 3 Speen Street, Framingham, MA 01701. Arrangements are under the direction of Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, Webster. [www.websterfunerals.com](http://www.websterfunerals.com)

## M. Louise Earle, 90

ATHOL/NORTH BROOKFIELD- M. Louise Earle, 90, of Athol formerly of North Brookfield. passed away April 25, 2020. She is survived by five of her chil-

dren Robert A. Earle, Penny L. Mitko and her husband Joe, William B. Earle and his wife Pam, James C. Earle and his wife Terri, Bradley J. Earle and his wife Paula; 10 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren. She was predeceased by her daughter Tina M. Earle. Louise loved watching sports of any kind especially the Red Sox, Bruins, and Patriots. The family would like to give special thanks to the staff at Quaboag on the Common in West Brookfield for Louise's care these past few months. We would also like to thank the nurses and staff at Baystate Medical in Springfield for their support and care during her short stay there. A graveside service for Louise will be held at a later date. Funeral arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home 44 Gilbert St. North Brookfield.

## Jason Nicholas King. 37

Jason Nicholas King of Ashford, CT. 37, went to be with his Lord on April 27th, 2020. Jason was born April 7th, 1983 in New Haven, CT to Peter and Melinda Basto King. A 2001 graduate of Woodstock Academy, he worked as a skilled carpenter and became versed in plumbing and electrical. He made his home in Maine, Rhode Island, East Killingly, Eastford and Ashford. Jason was a gentle soul, always eager to say a kind word and lend a helping hand. Nature was his



soul mate. In the woods with Ox, his loving golden lab, was where he felt most comfortable. Jason is survived by his parents, Peter (Springfield, Ma) and Melinda King (Ashford, Ct.) His brothers, Peter (Woodstock CT) and Brandon King (Eastford, CT) and his Grandparents, Dana Basto (Woodstock, CT) and Marieann MacGinnis (Auburn, MA). Due to current pandemic limitations Jason's Memorial Service will be scheduled at a later date. Interment at the discretion of the family. In lieu of flowers, donations in Jason's memory may be made to: The Evangelical Christian Ctr., 574 Ashford Center Road, Ashford, CT 06278.

## Sheila V. Noonan, 93

AUBURN- Sheila V. (Sheehan) Noonan,93, died Wednesday, April 29 in Care One at Millbury, due to complications with the Covid-19 virus. She leaves her sons; John J. Noonan and his wife Wallis of Rutland and James E. Noonan and his wife Caren of No.Grafton, her daughters; Sheila V. Noonan of Worcester, Patricia A. Ianotta of Auburn, Mary T. Sjoblad and her husband John of Worcester and Anne M. Carroll and her husband Mark of Charlton, grandchildren; Edward, Christian, Megan, Jennifer, Michelle, Erin, Kayla, Jill, Derrick, Jenn and Sarah. Great grandchildren; Lily, Owen, Jason, Allison, Michael, Kayleigh, Delaney, Isabella, Gabriella, Aiden, Roman, Trisha, Renee, Sydney and Taylor. Her nephews John and Tommy Maloney. She is predeceased by her four brothers;



Jacky, Thomas, Jeremiah and Maurice Sheehan and her three sisters, Anna & Mary Sheehan and Eileen Maloney. She was born in Worcester, the daughter of Jeremiah and Mary (Wallace) Sheehan. She was a member of St. Joseph's Church in Auburn. She enjoyed spending time with her children, family and especially her grandchildren. She loved Bingo, The Lifetime Channel and their many love stories. She was proud of her Irish heritage and loved to listen to Irish music. She looked forward to her yearly vacation to Maine, taking rides by the ocean and shopping. Due to health restrictions, funeral services and burial in St. John's Cemetery, Worcester are private for the immediate family. The MORIN FUNERAL HOME, 1131 Main St., Leicester is assisting the family with arrangements. Due to this difficult time, please consider making memorial donations to Worcester County Food Bank, 474 Turnpike Rd., Shrewsbury, MA 01545 or Feeding America, P.O. Box 96749, Washington, DC 20090-6749. [www.morinfuneralhomes.com](http://www.morinfuneralhomes.com)

## Eugene B. Blodgett, Jr., 84

SPENCER- Eugene B. Blodgett, Jr., 84 of Spencer died suddenly, Saturday, May 2 after being stricken ill at his home. He leaves his wife of 64 years, Pauline C. (Ethier) Blodgett, his sons; Michael G. Blodgett and his wife Elizabeth of Webster and Thomas G. Blodgett of Milford, Mich., his daughter; Diana J. Blodgett and her fiance Norman Vigneault of Spencer, his brothers; Karl Blodgett and his wife Judy of E.Brookfield and K.Neil Blodgett of W.Brookfield, 5 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.



He was born in Worcester, the son of Eugene B. Blodgett, Sr. and Lena (Cournoyer) and graduated from David Prouty High School in Spencer. He later served his country with the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War. Gene was a supervisor of draftsmen for 35 years at Wyman Gordon in No.Grafton before retiring in 1995. At the family's request, no funeral services are planned at this time. J.HENRI MORIN & SON FUNERAL HOME, 23 Maple Terr., Spencer is assisting the family with arrangements. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Friends of the Richard Sugden Library, 8 Pleasant St., Spencer MA 01526. [www.morinfuneralhomes.com](http://www.morinfuneralhomes.com)

## Harbig “Harvey” Thomasian

NORTH BROOKFIELD- Harbig “Harvey” Thomasian, son of John and Sema (Goshgarian) Thomasian, age 91, died May 1, 2020 at Harrington Memorial Hospital in Southbridge, MA. Harvey was born on July 27, 1928 and resided in North Brookfield until the last six months of his life, at which time he lived with his daughter Brenda. His parents immigrated to the United States from Armenia about 1926. Harvey graduated from North Brookfield High School in 1945 and worked at the family-owned Thompson's Market in town. He met Phyllis (Berthiaume) and they married in 1949, settling in North Brookfield where they lived for their married life of 44 years until her death in 1994. Harvey joined the North Brookfield Police Department in 1956 and served thirty-one years on the force, nineteen of which were as Chief of Police. During these years he was instrumental in supporting his beloved town of North Brookfield. He was actively involved in the schools and numerous community organizations which supported the children and families of the town. He made sure that at Christmas time no family went without food or toys. Harvey touched the lives of many young people struggling to find their way. He retired as Chief of Police in 1987. His next years were filled with golf, gardening and playing a huge part in his children



and grandchildren's lives. He married his second wife,Claudia (Gardner) Beaudoin in 1996. They enjoyed winters in Florida and summers in North Brookfield spending time with family and friends. The last six months of his life were spent enjoying his great grandson's athletic accomplishments and time with his two beautiful great granddaughters. He loved playing pitch and winning, riding his scooter, watching westerns and as he would say, “living each day as a gift”. We loved him, we're grateful for his life, and we will miss him for the rest of our lives. Harvey is survived by his wife Claudia; daughter Brenda Heiniluoma of Rutland, MA; son John Thomasian and wife Belinda of North Brookfield, MA; his loving sister Julie Broman of North Brookfield, MA; grandsons Daniel and wife Sabrina of Rutland, MA, John and wife Natasha of New Braintree, MA, Jeffrey and wife Lauren of North Brookfield, MA; great-grandchildren Paxton, Leah and Audrey. He was predeceased by his first wife Phyllis; a sister Susan Zabek; twin brother Danny; brothers Aram, George, Peter and son-in-law Robert Heiniluoma. Due to Covid-19, services and burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made to the Harbig Thomasian Scholarship Fund, North Brookfield Savings Bank, 35 Summer St., North Brookfield, MA 01535. Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home 44 Gilbert St. North Brookfield.

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# OBITUARIES

## Lynn D. Howland, 75

NORTHBROOKFIELD—Lynn (Darby) Howland, 75, of North Brookfield, died on Sunday, April 26, 2020 at Blair House in Worcester after a brief illness.

She leaves her husband of 53 years, George C. Howland, Jr.; her son, James C. Howland and his wife Ann of Leicester; her daughter, Jennifer D. LeBlanc and her husband Robert of Blackstone; her son-in-law, Francis M. Hart of Barre; her loving grandchildren, Shawn Howland, Zachary Grondin, Steven Howland, Alicia Carlander, Justin Hart, Samantha Hart and six great-grandchildren. She was born in Somerville, New Jersey, daughter of the late Clifford K. and E. Minerva (March) Darby. She and George have lived in

North Brookfield for over 40 years.

Lynn was a loving and devoted wife, mother and grandmother. She took pride in taking care of her family and her home. She enjoyed quilting and was a talented seamstress.

A Graveside Service for Lynn will be held in Worcester County Memorial Park at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Hoston Free Public Library, 161 N. Main Street, North Brookfield, MA 01535.

Varnum Funeral Home, Inc., 43 East Main St., in West Brookfield is assisting her family with arrangements.

An online guest book is available at [varnumfuneralhome.com](http://varnumfuneralhome.com)

## M. Jean Moreau, 87

EAST BROOKFIELD—M. Jean Moreau, 87, went to meet her Lord on Friday, May 1, 2020 surrounded by her family, in her home.



She leaves her sons Brian K. Moreau and daughter in law Patty Moreau from Maryland, Craig P. Moreau and Cheryl Moreau of Southbridge MA., and Glen (Benji) Moreau of Oakham, MA; daughters Nancy J. Sablack and Ellen S. Moreau both of East Brookfield; her friends for life, Lois, Alice, Ruth, Sue & John, Ginny; her many friends from Brookfield Congregational Church; grandchildren Matthew, Kyle, Heather, Timmy, Tania, Billy, Melissa, Lea, Brandon & Owen, Amanda, Jenny, Andrew & Ethan. She is predeceased by her loving husband Francis "Redhead" Moreau of sixty years; daughter Donna L. Moreau; son Steven Z. Moreau and grandson Aaron E. Sablack.

Jean was born on February 1, 1933 in Troy NY before moving to Williamstown MA. She moved to East Brookfield at the age of 13, attended David Prouty High School becoming the first majorette,

where she met the love of her life, high school sweetheart, Francis E. Moreau. After getting married and raising her children, with the help of Vera Sheffield, she was able to finish her nursing degree becoming a Registered Nurse. Jean was a labor & delivery nurse at Worcester Memorial Hospital for sixteen years, then became a psychiatric nurse at Harrington Hospital in Southbridge for seven years leading up to her retirement. Besides raising 7 children, what gave her joy was going to the Cape every summer, and going to Broadway shows, and other adventures with her daughters. Her faith and love of God, singing in her church choir brought her much happiness. Her love of her best friend Pepper Dog and grand dogs Zeus and Bella, also her grand cat Harry, helped fuel her giving spirit as she supported so many worthy causes. Her last job being a monitor with her daughter Ellen picking up special needs kids from school, they all called her Grandma as she made them all feel loved.

A private graveside service for Jean will be held in Evergreen Cemetery in East Brookfield. Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home 44 Gilbert St. North Brookfield.

## Oren H. Howard, 89

NORTH BROOKFIELD—Oren H. Howard, 89, died on Tuesday, March 28, 2020 in UMass Memorial Medical Center Lake Ave Worcester.



He leaves 2 sons Steven Howard and Mark Howard & his wife Cheryl; grandchildren Kaitlyn Howard and Justin Howard; a niece Shirley Delahanty and 2 nephews Edward Howard Delahanty and David Delahanty. He is predeceased by his wife Alberta "Marion" (Glass) Howard; 2 sisters Emily and Harriet and 3 brothers Archer, Joe and Lawrence.

Oren was born in Worcester and was a US Army Veteran of the Korean War. He worked as a mechanic for many years until he retired. Oren was a Mason

for over 50 years and was a member of the Shriners Drum Core in Springfield. He was a longtime member of the



First Congregational church in North Brookfield. Oren played many musical instruments and loved fishing.

A private graveside service with Military Honors will be held in Walnut Grove Cemetery in North Brookfield. A memorial service and celebration of Oren's life will be held at a later date. Donations may be made in his name to the Shriners Hospital for Children 516 Carew St, Springfield, MA 01104. Funeral Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home 44 Gilbert St. North Brookfield.

## Richard Scott Rowland, 34



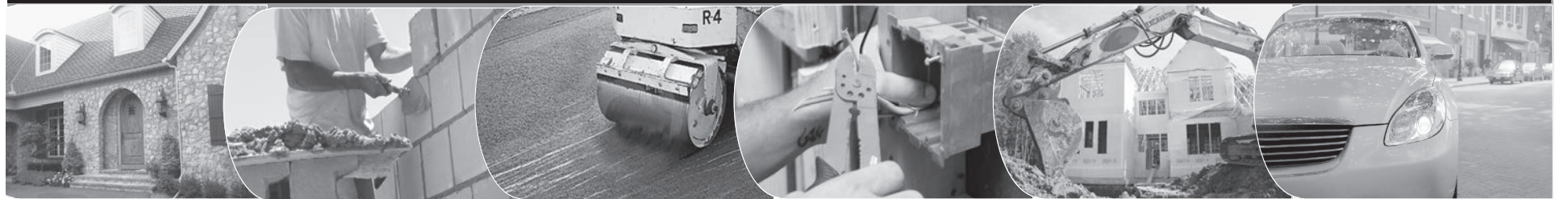
LEICESTER—Richard Scott Rowland, 34, of Leicester died on Thursday, April 23, 2020. He is survived by his parents, Scott and Susan (Serra) Rowland; children, Scott Rowland and Harmony Rowland; brother, Derick

Rowland; sister, Sherry Rowland Lund, all of Leicester; grandfather, Richard Serra of Pinellas Park, FL. He is predeceased by his grandmother, Patricia Serra.

Services are private. DIRSA MORIN FUNERAL HOME, 298 Grafton St., Worcester is assisting the family with arrangements. [www.worcesterfuneral.com](http://www.worcesterfuneral.com)

*More Obituaries on page 17*

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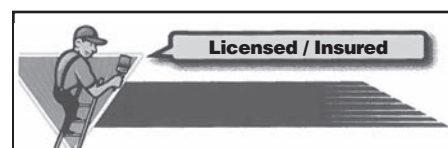
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**DUDLEY** – 38 Pine St! 5 Rm Ranch! Original Owner! Quaint Eat-in Kit! Formal Din Rm! Spacious Liv Rm w/New Picture Window! Fam Rm w/Views to Private Back Yard! Mudrm! Huge Deck! Buderus Oil Heat! 2 Car Garage! New Septic! Vinyl Sided! Newer Windows! Solar Panels! **\$239,000.00**

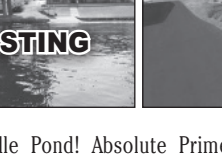
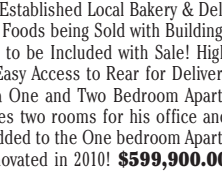
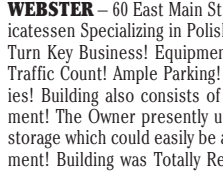
**DUDLEY** – 231 Dresser Hill Rd! 8+ Rm Custom Built 3 Bdrm, 3 Bath Split Set On 2.63 Acres Professionally Landscaped w/Panoramic Views of Nichols College at a Distance! Stamped Concrete Walk Leads to the Transom Side Light Door Entry! Custom Granite Kitchen w/SS Appliances including Gas Range! Dining Area w/3 Walls of Windows for the Views! Formal Din Rm! Beautiful Frplcd Liv Rm w/Cathedral Ceiling & French Doors to the New Deck with the Incredible Views! 3 Comfortable Bdrms w/Crown Molding, Spacious Master w/Walk-in Closet & Full Bath! Finished Lower Level w/Fam Rm Offers a Potential In-law! LP Gas Heat & C/Air for Comfortable Living! 3 Car Garage! Recent Driveway! Don't Delay! **\$449,000.00**

**WEBSTER LAKE** – 23 Beacon Rd! Kildeer Island – Middle Pond – Southern Exposure – Full Day Sun! Level 90' Waterfront Lot w/1,011 Square Feet! Meticulously Maintained 5+ Rm, 2 Bdrm, 1.5 Bath Home w/Room to Expand! Soaring Cathedral Ceiling Family Rm w/Stone Fireplace Opening to the Maple Cabinet Kit & 4 Season Sunroom w/Anderson Slider to the Expansive Deck! 2nd floor Lake Facing Master w/Master Bath, Huge Closets & Slider to It's Lake Facing Deck! C/Air! 2 Car Garage! Lake Living at its Best! Listed by Another – "SOLD" by Century21 Lake Realty! **\$645,000.00**



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**WEBSTER LAKE** – 62 Bates Point Rd! Middle Pond! Absolute Prime 51' Level Waterfront Lot w/Western Expo! Beautiful Sunsets! Fantastic Panoramic Lake Views! 11 Rms, 6 Bdrms, 4 Bathrooms, 3,269' A/C'd Colonial! Custom SS Appliance Granite Kit! Formal Din Rm w/Cherry Hrdwds! Lake Facing Liv Rm w/Cathedrals, Cherry Hrdwds! Slider to Waterfront Deck! Spacious 1st Flr Master Bdrm w/Full Bath, Cherry Hrdwds & Walk-in Closet! Frplcd Lower Level Fam Rm! 1st & 2nd Flr Laundries! 2 Car Garage! **\$1,199,900.00**

**WEBSTER** – 14 Summit Street! Conveniently Located 8 Room, 4 Bedroom Cape! Featuring Newly Remodeled Stainless Steel Appliance Granite Eat-in Kitchen w/Custom Cabinetry & Luxury Vinyl Plank Flooring! Formal Dining w/Hardwoods! Spacious Living Rm w/Hardwoods! 2 1st Floor Bedrooms w/Hardwoods! Newly Remodeled Full Tile Bath! 2nd Floor w/2 Bedrooms w/Hardwoods, Plenty of Closet & Storage Space! Updated Second Full Bath! Recently Oil Heat, Cast Iron Baseboard! Detached Garage! Corner Lot! **\$279,900.00**



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DOUGLAS - 14 MOUNT DANIELS WAY



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WEBSTER - 5 SURREY LN



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**Dudley** - Marshall Terrace 12,000 +/- Sq. Ft. Potential for a 2 family to be built! Town Water, Sewer. **\$70,000**

**Douglas-Mount Daniels Lot #2-2.5 Acres** of flat land that abuts Douglas State Forest **\$132,900**

**Webster - Potential 6 Buildable Lots!** Water/ Sewer Access, Zoned Lake Residential **\$129,400.**

**Webster** - 85 Upper Gore! View of the Lake. 1+ acre, artesian well, Septic Design, Etc. **\$130,000**

**Oxford** - 4 Leicester St. approx. 8.47 acres! River frontage! Highly possible to be subdivided. **\$99,900**

WOODSTOCK, CT - 64 LYON HILL RD



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WEBSTER LAND - COOPER RD



2 BUILDABLE LOTS

Potential from 10,000+ sq. ft. Lot. Need to be divided. Town Water/Sewer. Zoned Lake Res. \$24,500. Each = Total **\$49,000**



WEBSTER LAKE - 28 BLACK POINT RD

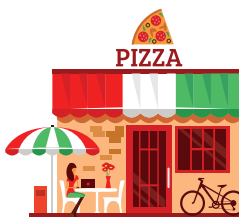
2019 CUSTOM BUILT WEBSTER LAKE (WATERFRONT ACCESSIBLE) CONTEMPORARY CAPE! Sunrise (E) & Sunset (W) Exposure! 2,600+ SF, 11 Rms, 3 BRs, Loft, & 2 Full Baths. Open Flr Plan, Cathedral Ceilings, Stone-faced Fireplace, Upscale Gourmet Kitchen w/Huge Island, Sunny Breakfast Nook w/Built Ins, Formal Dining, Office, Laundry Rm, Mudroom & Coat Closet, 2 Main Level BRs & Full Bath. 2nd Flr Private Master BR Suite w/Private Bath & Walk-in Closet! Central Air! Cavernous 1,500 SF+ Unfinished LL plumbed for a Bath, Oversized 2-3 Car Att'd Garage! Corner Lot, 12,599 SF (.29 Acre), of Land plus BOAT DOCK. **\$674,000.**



WEBSTER LAKE - 32 JACKSON RD

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## Brian Patrick Hanrahan, 61

**NORTHBROOKFIELD-** Brian Patrick Hanrahan, 61, passed away peacefully on April 23, 2020 in the comfort of his home surrounded by his loving family after a courageous battle against cancer.

He leaves his wife of 34 years, Cynthia (Truhel) Hanrahan and his two children: Kelly Yonnone and her husband John of Paxton, and Sean Hanrahan of North Brookfield; two grandsons: Sam and Jack Yonnone; his mother Mary Hanrahan of Worcester; three siblings: Edward Hanrahan and his wife Joan of South Windsor, CT, Maureen Hamel and her husband Paul of Enfield, CT, and Joseph Hanrahan and his wife Cathy of Worcester; his mother in law Mary Truhel of North Brookfield as well as nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his father, Martin Hanrahan.

Brian was born in Worcester, MA. He graduated high school from St. Peter Marian and earned his bachelors degree from Central New England College. Brian worked his way through college at UPS, then worked several years for McNeil Engineering in Marlboro, MA. He started at Quabaug, now Vibram Corp. of North Brookfield in 2003. He enjoyed working for the company as his

career evolved over the years.

Brian enjoyed fishing, hunting, skiing, hiking, golfing, riding his Harley, camping with friends and family on Cape Cod and making maple syrup. He was an avid fan of all New England sports, especially the Patriots and Bruins. He volunteered as an assistant Scout Master with Boy Scout Troop 257 of North Brookfield.

Brian loved his family and friends and was always willing to help anyone and everyone. He lived his life fully with a positive attitude, love and courage.

His family would like to extend their sincere thanks and gratitude to all the nurses, doctors and healthcare professionals at Dana-Farber/Brigham and Womens Hospital, Hope Lodge, VNA Hospice of Worcester and Laura's Angels. Their care and commitment for Brian will never be forgotten.

A celebration of Brian's life and memorial calling hours will be held in Pillsbury Funeral Home 44 Gilbert St. North Brookfield at a later date to be announced. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to either: Boy Scout Troop 257 of North Brookfield c/o Bob Pariseau 8 Mount Pleasant North Brookfield, MA 01535 or American Cancer Society - AstraZeneca Hope Lodge by check 125 S. Huntington Ave Boston, MA 02130 or online <http://www.cancer.org/hopelodgeboston>

## OBITUARIES

### Mary E. Madden, 105

**SPENCER-** Mary E. Madden, educator and Spencer's oldest citizen, ended her 105-year journey on Wednesday, April 29 2020, at Overlook Masonic Health Center in Charlton, her residence since 2017.

Mary was born in Spencer on September 18th, 1914, in the family home on Grant Street where she lived until declining health prompted her to move to Overlook. She was one of 5 children of the late William J. Madden and Ellen "Nellie" (Dempsey) Madden. In addition to her parents, Mary was predeceased by her siblings, Andrew, William, Eleanor (Meany) and A. Rita (McCaffrey).

She is survived by her nephews, William J. Madden (Ellen Gillis), of Lake Wylie, SC and Michael Madden (Linda Krese), of Edmonds, WA. Additional survivors include her great-nephews, Raymond Madden (Dr. Stacey Madden), of Winter Park, FL, and Connor Madden, of Washington, DC, her great-great nieces, Darby and Kolbe Madden, both of Winter Park, FL. Mary also leaves behind her special friends, Rose and Andrew Cassavant, Susan Jorritsma, Liz and Jesse Knott, Paul and Nancy LaVallee, Judie Leone & Sheila Noble.

Mary attended Spencer public schools, graduating from David Prouty High in 1931. She then went on to obtain her teaching degree at what is now Worcester State University, graduating in 1934. After college, she taught for a brief time in the Auburn school system, before returning to Spencer in 1935 to begin her 46-year long career as an educator there. Mary taught at Pleasant Street school from 1935 until 1947, when she moved to West Main Street school as teacher/principal, a position she held until 1966. During that period, Mary also found time to return to Worcester State, where she earned a Master's Degree in Education

in 1959. Mary's final assignment was at Lake Street school in Spencer, where she served as principal from 1966 until her retirement in 1981.

Following her retirement, Mary continued her commitment to the children of Spencer, first as a volunteer at Pleasant Street school and, following the closing of that facility in 1997, at Lake Street school, where she tutored and mentored countless students, many of whom remember her fondly to this day. Mary also devoted time during these years to other pursuits including the Spencer Garden Club, the Richard Sugden library, and especially her passion for creating intricate and beautifully hand-crafted quilts, which won her numerous awards at fairs and exhibitions statewide. Mary celebrated reaching the age of 99 with a hot-air balloon ride, was presented with the Boston Post cane recognizing her status as Spencer's oldest resident, and from then until her death she especially enjoyed her annual appearance as Grand Marshall of the Christmas Parade.

The family would like to thank the Skilled Nursing Facility staff at Overlook...especially Dave Auger, Pat Hoffman, Janice Gauthier, Kristin Reed and Melissa Totaro...for their exceptional level of care, and more importantly for the kindness and affection they all displayed toward Mary during her time there.

There will be no public services at this time, for obvious reasons. When circumstances permit, a memorial for Mary will be scheduled at a future date, and details to be published in advance.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests a donation in Mary's name to the Friends of the Richard Sugden Library, 8 Pleasant St., Spencer, MA 01562 or another other charity of your choice.

**J.HENRI MORIN & SON FUNERAL HOMES**, 23 Maple Terr., Spencer is assisting the family with arrangements.  
[www.morinfuneralhomes.com](http://www.morinfuneralhomes.com)

### Mary A. Bigwood, 82

**SPENCER:** Mary A. (Benoit) Bigwood, 82, of Howe Village, Spencer, died Saturday, May 2 at Life Care Center of Auburn due to complications with Covid-19.

She was the wife of William H. Bigwood who died in 2013. She leaves her sons; William J. Bigwood of Leicester, Michael C. Bigwood of N.Y.C., and Christopher K. Bigwood of Centerville, four grandchildren; Will, Amelia, Colby and Michael, her sister Karen Hutchinson of TN., nieces, nephews and extended family relatives. She is most recently predeceased by her daughter in law Beulah Bigwood on May 2, and her brother Joseph Benoit and her sister Helen Pelchat.

Mary worked in the Accounting Dept. at UMASS Memorial Hospital in Worcester prior to retirement.

Born in E.Brookfield, she was the daughter of Joseph and Mary (Keigney) Benoit. She was a member of Mary, Queen of the Rosary Parish, and the Spencer Garden Club. She enjoyed cooking and entertaining her family.

Private funeral services were held with burial in Mary, Queen of the Rosary Cemetery, Spencer. Memorial donations may be made to the Food Pantry c/o Mary, Queen of the Rosary Parish, 46 Maple St., Spencer, Ma. 01562. **MORIN FUNERAL HOME**, 1131 Main St., Leicester is directing arrangements for the family.  
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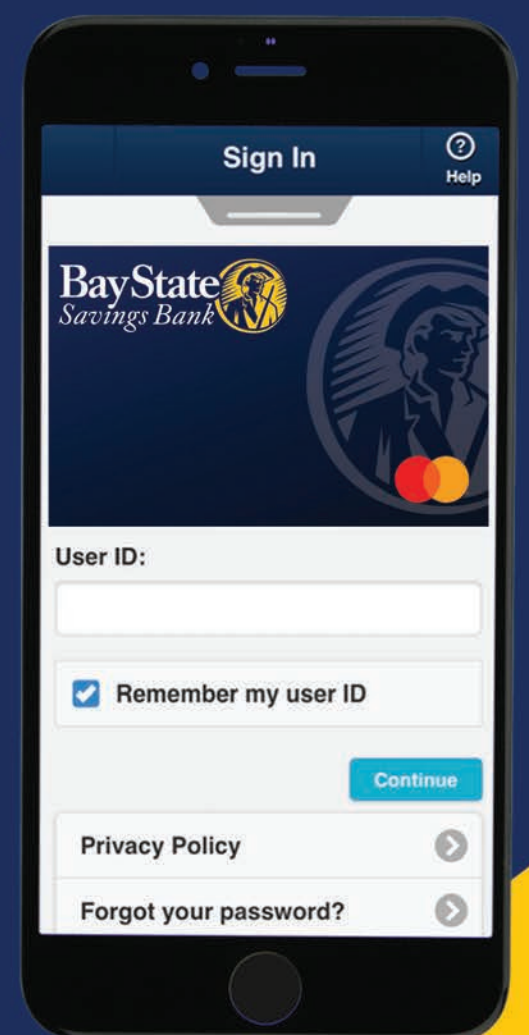


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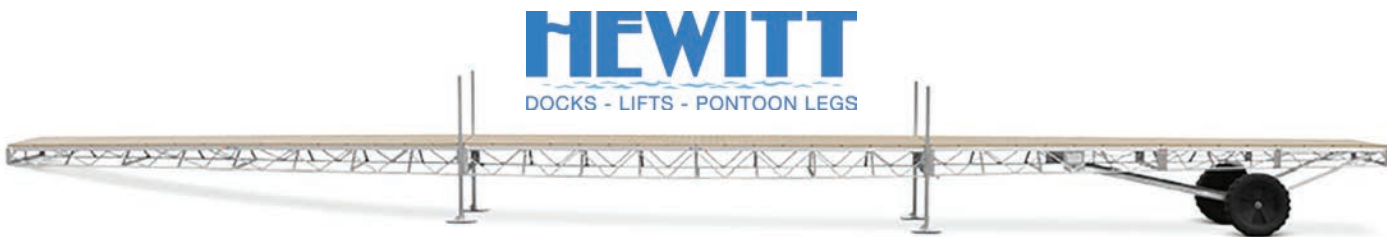
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