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Friday, August 28, 2020

Leicester residents to decide fate of school proposal

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER – Residents will vote on the new school proposal during a Special Town Meeting next month.

Set for Saturday, Sept. 26, at 10 a.m., the Special Town Meeting will take place at the former Millbrook Distributors site (88 Huntoon Memorial Highway). Residents will decide the fate of the proposed school on Paxton Street, which would serve students from pre-kindergarten through eighth grade.

The Town Meeting vote has to pass by a two thirds majority vote. If the proposal moves forward, residents would then take a ballot vote on Nov. 3,

with a simple majority vote needed to pass.

The proposed site for the \$91.4 million school is town-owned land on Paxton Street. The building would replace both the existing middle school – which would be removed – and the elementary school, which would be closed and potentially repurposed or sold.

If approved, the project would be funded in part by an anticipated Massachusetts School Building Authority grant. The town would be responsible for payment of project costs beyond the amount of the MSBA grant.

The MSBA has signed a project scope and budget agreement with the town. The

maximum total grant funding available from the MSBA is \$41,937,394, leaving the town's total maximum project budget at \$49,467,340.

The project is anticipated to be funded through a debt exclusion, which requires both a town meeting vote and a ballot question.

School officials, who have spent the last year-plus informing residents about the proposal through public forums and informational sessions, are hoping for a successful vote next month.

"I hope Leicester residents see the value in a new school," said Leicester Public Schools Superintendent Marilyn

Please Read **PROPOSAL**, page A6



Photo Courtesy

Spencer Police responded to flooding on South Spencer Road.

Severe storms trigger flooding across region

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – Severe thunderstorms caused extensive damage throughout the area last weekend, but no injuries were reported.

Flooding was the major concern during the Aug. 23 storms, with several roads made impassable along the Route 9 corridor. In Spencer, a vehicle was stranded in the flooded railroad underpass on South Spencer Road. Police responded to secure the area and prevent further traffic from accessing the road. The stalled vehicle had to be towed away for repairs.

Spencer Police Chief David Darrin said the underpass flooding was partially caused by a clogged drain that has since been addressed by the Highway Department.

Further east, in

Worcester, several drivers attempted to venture down flooded roads and wound up becoming trapped. In some locations, the water was over three feet high and swept vehicles off the road. With help from an off-duty member of the Auburn Fire Department, all drivers were able to make it to safety as their vehicles began to drift and tilt. In some cases, vehicles were on the verge of sinking before the floodwaters receded.

"Auburn Fire Department Deputy Chief Glenn Johnson didn't hesitate to jump into action at Route 20 and Grafton Street in Worcester, assisting people out of the water and making sure everyone else was out of their vehicles and safe in waist-deep floodwaters," read a statement from the

Please Read **FLOODING**, page A4

Deja New provides adaptive swing set for Leicester boy

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER



Photo Courtesy

Nine-year-old Oliver Rust recently received a new adaptive swing set thanks to local generosity.

LEICESTER – The Deja New team continues to help the community, most recently by facilitating the acquisition of an adaptive swing set for a local family.

Thanks to the generosity of a donor and local volunteers, Deja New leaders were able to coordinate the purchase and construction of the swing set for nine-year-old Oliver Rust, who lives in Leicester. Oliver suffers from a rare genetic condition, and the new swing will provide hours of safe enjoyment for the youngster.

"It's incredible," said Oliver's mother, Lenore Rust. "This is something we wanted to do for years, but it's expensive. It's very heartwarming that everyone wanted to do this to help us. To have a safe place for him to be able to play at home is amazing."

The process began back in the early spring, when resident Becky Forsberg called Deja New expressing her desire to find ways to assist the community during the height of the pandemic. When Deja New co-leader Cheryl Cooney informed

Please Read **SWING SET**, page A6

Local Eagle Scout builds tool shed at Lucy Stone Park

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

WARREN – Thanks to the hard work and dedication of a local Eagle Scout, volunteers now have a place to store their maintenance tools at Lucy Stone Park.

Daniel Mazzaresse, a member of Boy Scout Troop 281, built a tool shed at the park for his Eagle Scout project. Scouting and community leaders recently joined him at the park to celebrate the finished product.

The park has come a long way over the last few years. Donated to the Warren Conservation Commission in the 1960s, the park was largely unused and overrun with invasive plants until six years ago, when volunteer project manager Tim O'Brien began making improvements.

Now, with the completion of the

Photo Courtesy

Daniel Mazzaresse, a member of Boy Scout Troop 281, recently planned and built a maintenance shed at Lucy Stone Park.

maintenance shed, volunteers will be able to store several tools. Mazzaresse took on multiple challenges to transform his project from a vision to a reality, including managing all aspects of the planning and building process.

"There wasn't just construction, but so much logistical work to do – so that the time you are constructing, you can actually make the shed," said Mazzaresse, who lives in West Brookfield and attends Quaboag Regional Middle-High School.

Mazzaresse handled such tasks as lumber measurements, hardware orders, shed design, and the build itself. He received help from several volunteers, including younger Scouts.

"The most rewarding part of the project was watching some of the younger volunteers learn something that they never knew before," Mazzaresse said.

Located on the Quaboag River, the park is a member of the C4R Blue Trail. It boasts a large native flower garden, an ADA-compliant trail (thanks

Please Read **SCOUT**, page A6



ROCHDALE VFW POST AWARDS SCHOLARSHIP



Photo Courtesy

The Rochdale VFW Post 7556 awarded their annual scholarship to Leicester resident Adam Carpenter. VFW member Jacob Menzigan, Chairman of the Scholarship Committee, presented Adam with a check for \$500. Adam is a recent graduate of Leicester High School and will be attending Westfield State University this September. Adam is going to major in Elementary Education. Adam is the son of proud parents; Cynthia and Joseph Carpenter.

The members of Rochdale VFW Post 7556 wish Adam a successful and a safe college year.

Spencer residents graduate from Bryant University

SMITHFIELD, R.I. — Bryant University is pleased to recognize the Class of 2020 who have completed their undergraduate studies to earn a Bryant University degree, one which has more value now than at any time in Bryant's history. These 757 graduates join a powerful network of more than 50,000 accomplished alumni who are inspired to excel and make a difference as leaders in their organizations and communities around the world.

Alec Simonovitch of Spencer earned Magna Cum Laude a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree in Accounting.

Jonathan Zilonis of Spencer earned a Bachelor of Science in Data Science degree in Data Science.

"Graduates of Bryant's Class of 2020 have faced challenges and demonstrated resiliency that is unprecedented," says Bryant University President Ross Gittell. "These graduates will go down in history for successfully completing their studies in the face of

daunting obstacles caused by the global health crisis."

When our most recent alumni left campus for spring break, no one knew that their final Bryant semester would be spent adapting to the challenges of a pandemic and that public health and safety policies would cause their graduation ceremonies to be postponed.

"This crisis has revealed the character and grit of our community of scholars. I am extraordinarily proud of the entire Class of 2020," says Provost and Chief Academic Officer Glenn M. Sulmasy, JD, LL.M. "Together with our dedicated faculty, they have worked hard to complete their Bryant education with distinction."

While a ceremony worthy of the accomplishments of the Class of 2020 will take place in May of 2021, we want to take this moment to recognize and celebrate the achievements of these distinguished individuals whose Bryant education has prepared them to be the innovators, lead-

ers, and design thinkers ready to make a difference.

Through their resilience, determination, and innovative spirit, these graduates have shown their peers, professors, and the entire community what it means to Be Bryant Strong.

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News, really close to home

StonebridgePress.com

Quaboag schools to adopt hybrid reopening plan

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

WARREN – By the narrowest margin, Quaboag Regional School Committee members voted in favor of a hybrid reopening model.

During its Aug. 10 meeting, the School Committee voted 5-4 to employ a hybrid format of in-person and remote learning to start the school year. The committee features members from both Warren and West Brookfield.

As of press time, the reopening model was pending approval from the Quaboag Education Association. QRSD Superintendent Brett Kustigian sent a letter to the school community informing parents and students of the latest updates.

“COVID-19 has temporarily changed the face of education in our school community, but as we have done in the past, Quaboag will improvise, innovate, and overcome any obstacle that comes our way,” Kustigian wrote. “We have the proven ability to weather any storm, and this is what makes our school community unique.”

School leaders recognize that the upcoming year will bring unprecedented challenges. From mask regulations, to new social distancing protocols, to sports being moved to new seasons,

students and staff will be adjusting to a vastly different campus experience this year.

School leaders also remind the community that, per state guidelines, any parent can elect to educate a child on a fully remote schedule this year. Many parents throughout the area are worried about children with underlying health conditions, as well as elderly family members living at home.

“All families will need to decide in the coming weeks what method of learning they will choose,” Kustigian wrote.

The district also mailed out extensive guidance on new bus regulations. Capacity will be reduced to 23 passengers on a 71-passenger bus, and specific seating rules will be in place. The school district continues to work closely with its transportation vendors (Lizak, McCarthy, and Vanpool) to manage staffing assignments and new cleaning protocols.

School staff members and nurses will also have heightened roles in ensuring adherence to regulations. Several infection prevention strategies have been implemented in each building, and school officials understand that it will take time for students to adjust to a new normal.

“We anticipate there will be anxiety

for some students and families returning to school in person,” read a statement issued by the district. “We are here to answer your questions and provide your student with support during this unprecedented time.”

School officials throughout the area remind parents that the process of slowing the spread of COVID-19 starts at home. Guardians should closely monitor students for symptoms and keep kids at home when they aren’t feeling well. With the imminent return of flu season, it will be difficult for school officials to differentiate symptoms of COVID-19 from those of the flu.

The state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education advises parents to check their kids for symptoms each morning as a primary screening mechanism.

School officials thank all parents and students for their patience and cooperation in the reopening process.

“The Quaboag Regional School District is a small, tight-knit community where everyone knows one another and we all look out for each other,” Kustigian added. “Each time a crisis occurs, no matter the circumstance, our community steps up to help support one another.”



ACCURACY WATCH

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

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

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

Pet of the Week

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Suzanne Geary Nagle Foundation awards \$3,000 in scholarships

REGION — It is with great pleasure that the Suzanne Geary Nagle Educational Foundation announces the scholarship recipients for the 2020 academic year.

From Tantasqua High School, Abigail Cantwell of Brookfield will be attending Quinsigamond Community College, majoring in their two-year occupational therapy program. Work hard! Best wishes.

From North Brookfield High, the SGN Foundation is pleased to award Fait Caramiello of North Brookfield a scholarship. Faith will be attending Roger Williams University with concentration in Psychology. Success with hard work will follow for her!

From Quaboag Regional High School, the Foundation awards its annual scholarship to Caitlin Rice. Caitlin, from West Brookfield, plans on attending the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. At MCPHS, Caitlin will be enrolled in the nursing program, a worthy endeavor.

Each of these students received a \$1,000 scholarship for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Since its inception on March 1, 2016, the Suzanne Geary Nagle Educational Foundation has awarded thousands of dollars in scholarships and grants to colleges, high schools, elementary schools, to hospitals, to churches and community groups and medical train-

ing. Suzanne Nagle, a remarkably good teacher in the Brookfield school for 26 years, is remembered by these efforts. If you would like additional information about the work we do, our address is SGN Foundation, PO Box 126, North Brookfield, MA 01535.



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\$220,000, 101 Blueberry Ln, Miers, Michael G, and Miers, Brianne M, to Castro, Miguel A, and Moore, Alysya N.

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\$570,000, 453 Rawson St, Ayotte, Michael W, and Ayotte, Joy T, to Economou, John, and Malvey-Economou, Pamela.

\$295,000, 462 Pleasant St, Bonner, Justin R, and Bonner, Sara, to McNally, Jeffrey, and McNally, Jacquelyn E.

\$285,000, 2 Hillside Rd, Bashista, Douglas S, and Bashista, Darby L, to Keenan, Tyler P.

\$240,900, 173 Pleasant St, Arsenault, Marie E, and Arsenault, Daniel J, to Yanchuk, Stephen A, and Nylander, Melissa.

\$229,000, 2 Chestnut St, McCabe, Nicholas, and McCabe, Kelley, to Marcotte, Samantha M.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

\$344,900, 60 Old East Brookfield Rd, Angers, Michael P, and Hanson, Kristian P, to Tisdell, Robert, and Tisdell, Karen.

\$210,000, 3 Sandy Dr, FNMA, to Allain, Brian J.

\$105,000, 7 Wigwam Rd, Mooney, Jay F, and Mooney, Nicole D, to Simmoneau, Matthew, and Serus, Taylor.

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\$625,000, 71 Chickering Rd, Grenier, Kelley M, and Grenier, Bryan G, to Ricard, Patrick P, and Ricard, Hayley C.

\$300,000, 37 Old Farm Rd, Lafountain, Mark R, and Lafountain, Melanie, to Corey, Kiel, and Corey, Amanda M.

\$230,000, 122 Smithville Rd, Pritchard, Steven R, to Dupuis, Heather R.

\$194,000, 68 Cherry St, Couture, Celeste, to Morrill, Robert K, and Laird, Caleb J.

\$110,000, 20 Temple St, Wilmington Svgs Fund Soc, to Deoliveira, Wando M.

\$72,500, 6 Washburn Dr, Berkshire Prop Buyers LLC, to SRK Real Estate Inc.

\$45,000, 6 Washburn Dr, Alan King RET, and King, Alan R, to Berkshire Property Buyers.

WARREN

\$200,000, 406 North St, Jordan, Daniel R, and Jordan, Denise M, to Towlson, Christopher, and Lopez, Melissa.

\$46,000, Old West Brookfield Rd #12, Cloutier, Kenneth J, and Cloutier, Elizabeth A, to Paquette, Aimee B, and Grover, Michael J.

PERSON of the WEEK

STEVE YOUNG of North Brookfield

“He is one of the smartest and most helpful guys I know. He will do anything for anyone, no questions asked.”

— Sent in by a friend who wishes to be anonymous.

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

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Friday’s Child



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Age 13

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Ruth is a playful and fun girl of Hispanic descent. She has a great sense of humor and loves to play games, both indoors and outdoors. She loves to dance and has taken dance lessons in the past. Ruth has also participated in horseback riding, where she was described as being a natural. Ruth is also described by her teachers as being very bright academically.

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North Brookfield opts for hybrid school reopening plan

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

NORTH BROOKFIELD – School Committee members recently approved a hybrid reopening plan that will employ in-person and remote learning.

At a special meeting of the School Committee held on Aug. 10, members approved the hybrid plan presented by the district's Reentry Task Force. Comprised of 24 members, the task force included participants from throughout the community, including school administrators, teachers, parents, union officials, nurses, custodians, a Board of Health representative, and a School Committee representative.

After several weeks of research and discussion, the task force crafted a hybrid learning model that features four student groups operating on different schedules. Following the School Committee approval, additional details

on schedules and protocols will be released this week.

The first student group will attend school for two days per week (Monday-Tuesday) and work remotely for three days (Wednesday-Friday).

The second group will attend classes on Thursdays and Fridays, with remote learning slated for Monday-Wednesday.

The third group is made up of students who will be invited to attend school every day due to their specific needs. This group includes students with disabilities, preschool students, and English language learners.

The fourth group of students will participate in remote-only learning due to various reasons. This group will include students with underlying health conditions, students who have someone in their home with underlying health conditions, and students whose parents believe the environment is not safe for in-person classes. Per state reg-

ulations, any parent can choose to educate a child remotely this year due to health concerns.

For school officials statewide, the summer has been anything but relaxing. In districts across the Commonwealth, administrators and teachers have been gearing up for a new normal in the classroom. This will involve masks, social distancing, rearranged school furniture, and new daily rituals.

But despite the many challenges that await students and staff this year, North Brookfield school leaders are looking forward to getting back to class. Several students throughout the area reported struggles with fully remote learning, and they are eager to see their teachers and friends again.

"We are excited to have our staff back in the building, beginning on Aug. 24, and students back in the building on Sept. 10," said North Brookfield Public Schools Superintendent Richard Lind.

School officials recognize that the new protocols will require a major adjustment from the entire community. Many parents will have to make work accommodations to facilitate remote learning for three days weekly, and students must adjust to only two days in school each week. Moreover, everyone from bus drivers to sports coaches will play a role in ensuring mask use and social distancing.

"We would like to have all students back for full days, but given the circumstances, we are just not able to do it within the guidelines at this time," Lind added. "Hopefully, in the near future, we can return to school without restrictions."

School leaders thank all members of the task force who contributed to the reopening plan. The district also relied on return-to-school guidance from the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Daniel Kennedy of Brookfield graduates with Bryant Class of 2020

SMITHFIELD, R.I. — Bryant University is pleased to recognize the Class of 2020 who have completed their graduate studies to earn a Bryant University degree, one which has more value now than at any time in Bryant's history.

Daniel Kennedy of Brookfield

earned with Honors a Master of Business Administration Online degree in Leadership.

Kennedy joins a powerful network of more than 50,000 accomplished alumni who are inspired to excel and make a difference as leaders in organizations and communities

around the world.

"Graduates of Bryant's Class of 2020 have faced challenges and demonstrated resiliency that is unprecedented," says Bryant University President Ross Gittel. "These graduates will go down in history for successfully completing their studies in the face of daunting obstacles caused by the global health crisis."

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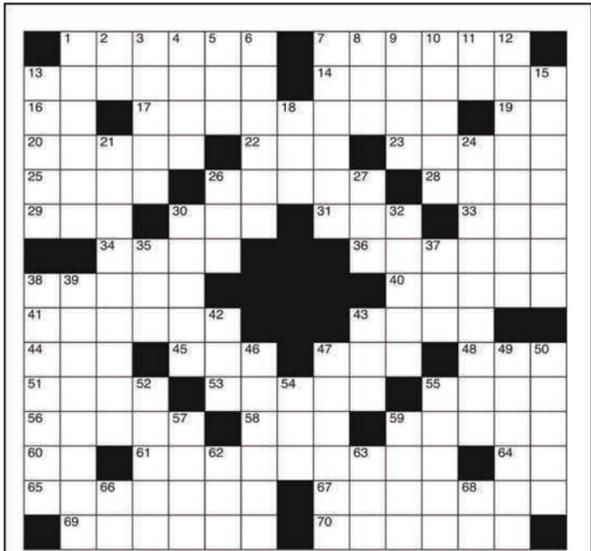
entire Class of 2020," says Provost and Chief Academic Officer Glenn M. Sulmasy, JD, LL.M. "Together with our dedicated faculty, they have worked hard to complete their Bryant education with distinction."

While a ceremony worthy of the accomplishments of the Class of 2020 will take place in May of 2021, we want to take this moment to recognize and celebrate the achievements of these distinguished individuals whose Bryant education has prepared them to be the innovators, leaders, and design thinkers ready to make a difference.

Through their resilience, determination, and innovative spirit, these graduates have shown their peers, professors, and the entire community what it means to Be Bryant Strong.

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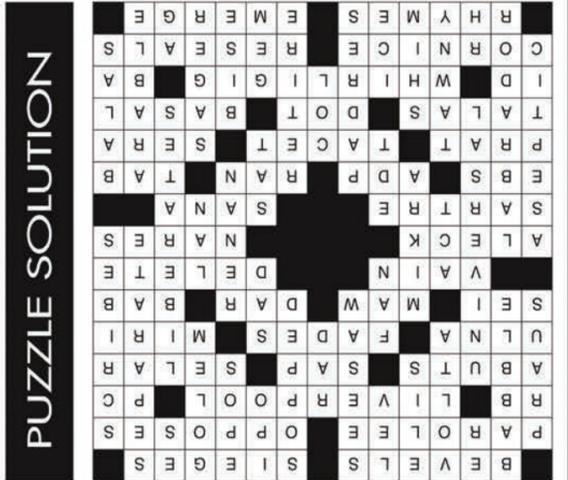


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Slopes
- 7. Attacks
- 13. One who has left prison
- 14. Goes against
- 16. Atomic #37
- 17. Home of The Beatles
- 19. Mac alternative
- 20. A common boundary with
- 22. Fluid in a plant
- 23. Genus that includes seeds
- 25. Longer of the forearm bones
- 26. Gradually disappears
- 28. AI risk assessor
- 29. Type of whale
- 30. Jaws of a voracious animal
- 31. Patriotic women (abbr.)
- 33. Ancient Egyptian God
- 34. Obsessed with one's appearance
- 36. Erase
- 38. A type of smartie
- 40. Nostrils
- 41. Influential French thinker
- 43. Popular K-pop singer
- 44. One point south of due east
- 45. Payroll company
- 47. Moved quickly on foot
- 48. Bar bill
- 51. An idiot
- 53. Indicates silence
- 55. Protein-rich liquids
- 56. Rhythmic patterns
- 58. Scatter
- 59. Belongs to bottom layer
- 60. Impulsive part of the mind
- 61. Carousel
- 64. Type of degree
- 65. Ornamental molding
- 67. Locks in again
- 69. Sounds the same
- 70. Come into view

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Speak rapidly
- 2. Trauma center
- 3. River in W. Africa
- 4. Ancient Greek district
- 5. Bulgaria's monetary unit
- 6. Children's ride
- 7. Absorbed liquid
- 8. Markets term
- 9. Retail term recording sales
- 10. Automaton
- 11. Spanish form of "be"
- 12. Divide
- 13. Malaysian sailing boat
- 15. Writers
- 18. Cool!
- 21. Popular tourist attraction studio
- 24. Sets free
- 26. An enthusiastic devotee of sports
- 27. Unhappy
- 30. Alternate term for Holy Scripture
- 32. Influential French scholar
- 35. What thespians do
- 37. Local area network
- 38. Free from contamination
- 39. Coastal region of Canada
- 42. Sun up in New York
- 43. High schoolers' exam
- 46. Fathers
- 47. Call it a career
- 49. Suitable for growing crops
- 50. Rose-red variety of spinel
- 52. Orange-brown in color
- 54. Lowest point of a ridge between two peaks
- 55. Late TNT sportscaster
- 57. A way to wedge
- 59. Cold, dry Swiss wind
- 62. Hockey players need it
- 63. Something highly prized
- 66. Atomic #45
- 68. Top lawyer



Spencer woman drowns at Stiles Reservoir

SPENCER – A 48-year-old Spencer woman died of an apparent drowning earlier this month after swimming in Stiles Reservoir with her husband and friends.

On Aug. 9, members of the Spencer Police and Fire Departments responded to a 911 call at approximately 4:20 p.m. Upon arrival, officers took over for a neighbor who was performing CPR on the woman. The victim was transported to St. Vincent

Hospital, where she was pronounced dead just before 6 p.m.

As of our press deadline for this week's edition, the victim's name was withheld by authorities until all family members were notified.

The incident is being investigated by the Spencer Police and State Police detectives assigned to District Attorney Joseph Early's office.

LEICESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS PUBLIC NOTICE

Special Education Child Find Notice

Under federal and state special education regulations, Leicester Public Schools has a duty to locate, identify, refer, evaluate and, if eligible, provide a free, appropriate public education to students with disabilities who reside in the town of Leicester. For parents or guardians of children ages 3-21 years of age who have a disability or developmental delay, and who would like more information, please contact Pamela Smith, Director of Student Services and Child Find Coordinator, at 508-892-7040 X9010

Parent's Notice of Procedural Safeguards Brochure

A special education Parent's Notice of Procedural Safeguards is available from the Office of Student Services, 508-892-7040 and this brochure is available in a number of different languages at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/sped/prb>.

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- In a car, park, abandoned building, or bus or train station

Doubled up with other people due to loss of housing or economic hardship

\$504 Child Find Notice

Pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which prohibits discrimination in publicly funded activities the Leicester Public Schools has a duty to identify refer, evaluate, and if eligible, provide access to public education to student with impairments in its jurisdiction. For additional information about the rights or parents of eligible children, or for answers to any questions you might have about identification, evaluation and placement into Section 504 programs, please contact the District's Section 504 Coordinator at the following:

Pamela Smith, Director of Student Services
Leicester Public Schools
3 Washburn Square, 3rd Fl., Leicester, MA 01524
508-892-7040 X9010

FLOODING

continued from page A1

fire department. "It is extremely dangerous to walk through the flooded areas due to manhole covers popping off from the pressure of the water in the drainage systems."

First responders also warn against driving through ponded roadways, even if the water doesn't seem deep. Vehicles can easily become disabled and begin to float toward more dangerous areas.

The Aug. 23 storm also knocked out power to over 5,000 customers in central Massachusetts. A handful of houses were struck by falling trees, and storm-wear power crews from National Grid were forced to respond only a few weeks after Tropical Storm Isaias.

Frequent lightning also presented problems throughout the area. The Spencer Fire Department responded to a structure fire caused by a lightning strike on R. Jones Road.

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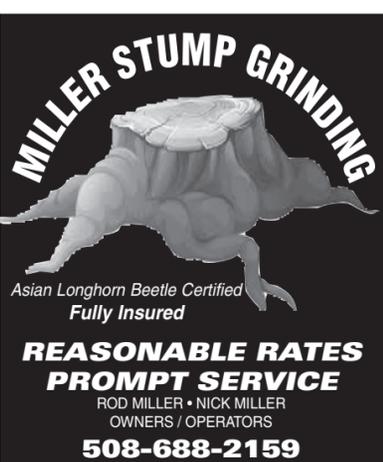
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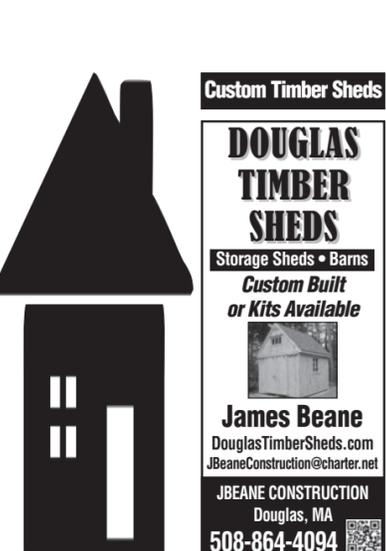
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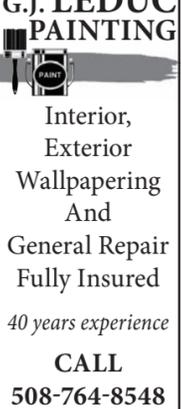
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This section reaches 47,000 households in 7 Massachusetts newspapers.

SWING SET

continued from page A1

Forsberg about the Rust family's hope for an adaptive swing set, she was eager to donate. Her \$500 donation, along with Deja New's \$300 contribution, paid for the adjustable swing and frame that can grow along with Oliver.

The swing was recently installed by the father-son team of Brian and Danny Brousseau, who spent hours putting the device together. Deja New has always been able to rely on a strong group of community volunteers eager to assist.

"We are most appreciative of their support on a hot summer day. Just another example of Leicester helping Leicester," Cooney explained.

Deja New representatives are also grateful for all community donations and volunteers, regardless of whether their contributions are large or small. Because of the many donations the organization receives each

year, it is able to support multiple families and causes. In just the last two years, the organization has helped fund a wheelchair-accessible van for a Leicester Primary School student; raised funds for the purchase of a service dog for a local family; assisted area food pantries; and benefited the Hearts for Heat organization.

"Deja New's mission is to help Leicester residents in need," Cooney told the New Leader. "We have paid bills, bought needed products, and fundraised for larger items in an effort to make life a little easier for our neighbors. We appreciate all of the donations we receive."

Officials also thank Deja New volunteers Karen Durant and Linda Colby for their instrumental efforts in the process.

To learn more about Deja New's community assistance efforts, or to find out how you can get involved, visit www.DejaNewLeicester.com.

PROPOSAL

continued from page A1

Tencza. "It will ensure that students have state of the art classrooms and facilities that will match the needs of a 21st century education."

Added Leicester School Committee member Tom Lauder, "I feel strongly that the new PreK-8 school for Leicester will be the biggest and best thing for the children of our town and the town itself. As a lifelong resident, a student myself, a parent whose kids attended Leicester Schools, and a former teacher and principal in Leicester, I

SCOUT

continued from page A1

to another Eagle Scout project), convenient fishing access, and several other features. With the construction of the shed, maintenance of the park will be much easier for volunteers.

Of course, Mazzarese and other longtime volunteers remember a time not long ago when the park was barely useable. But thanks to a series of volunteer projects over the years, most recently

can't tell you how excited I am about the opportunity for our current and future students."

Several studies and discussions have weighed the pros and cons of a new school. One of the major benefits is cost savings over the next decade, officials said, as significant repairs would be needed to the aging middle and primary schools.

The new school would also have several benefits for residents, including modern playing fields and facilities.

"The fields and the building have been designed with community use in mind," Tencza added. "I would like to see as

many residents as possible come to the meeting to make a decision for the future of our students."

Officials understand residents' concerns over the financial impacts of the new school, but they warn that the alternative would be far more costly.

"We have an opportunity to get \$41 million from the state, or we can try to bring our aging schools up to code with zero dollars from the state, completely on our dime," Lauder added.

Additional information on the Special Town Meeting is posted on Leicester's Web site, www.leicesterma.org.

the completion of the shed, the park can be enjoyed by guests of all ages.

"I've been helping clean up the park, so I've seen just how far it's come and I finally can give something back that will last for years to come," said Mazzarese, who has been involved in scouting since the first grade.

The shed was finished on Aug. 6. Soon thereafter, a community celebration included scouting leaders, town officials, and members of the police department. Looking ahead, Mazzarese

hopes to pursue a college degree in engineering. Scouting and community officials congratulate him for all of the hard work that went into his Eagle project.

The Eagle Scout is the highest achievement attainable in the Boy Scouts of America. Since the establishment of the Eagle program in 1911, only four percent of all scouts have earned this rank. Completion of the program includes a lengthy review process of a Scout's project, plus prior acquisition of several merit badges.

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TAKE THE HINT

KAREN TRAINOR

Fall Planting for Spring Blooms

Following a long New England winter, few signs of spring are more welcome than the first sprouts of green popping up in a barren garden. The promise of a season of beautiful blooms, the tiny shoots are the gardeners reward of a past autumn spent preparing and planting. Experts agree fall offers ideal conditions to plant perennials. In fact, autumn is the preferred time to plant spring blooming bulbs. The following is a beginner's guide to preparing, planning and planting bulbs now for a flourish of flowers come spring.

Choosing Choice Bulbs
If you are selecting bulbs in bulk, such as loose bulbs offered at discount garden centers, it's important to follow a few rules of thumb. Typically, big bulbs produce the largest blooms and may yield more flowers, therefore, it may be worth the cost to pay a bit more for good sized, healthy bulbs. However, if you are on a budget and have the time to wait, smaller bulbs will eventually increase in size and bloom each year. When choosing a bulb, look for those that are firm and plump. Hold them in your palm and select bulbs that feel heavy for their size. Avoid bulbs with bruises, spots or signs of mold. And steer clear of soft, mushy and lightweight bulbs. Sprouting bulbs may indicate a bulb that has been in storage for a long time.

Planning a Flower Garden
A little thought and preparation go a long way in reaping the benefits of a successful spring and summer flower garden. The

planning you take time for in the fall will be apparent when the flower garden plantings burst with color and texture next year. Know your flowers before you plan to plant. While most bulbs require an area where there is full sun, other varieties such as the iris and crocus enjoy some shade after blooming. For best results select a location in full sun or sun with morning shade only. Well drained soil is a requisite for flower bulbs. If you have poor soil, raised flower beds may be an effective alternative.

For best results, design your garden with pen and paper first, mapping out the size of the beds and the flowers to scale. Keep in mind color, texture and fragrance are all important factors when deciding on a particular flower garden plan. Plotting a garden plan is an exciting chore, and there are some basic rules that ensure a pleasant mix of color for a showy display. Notice how a clump of daffodils and tulips are much more charming than a tidy row of the spring-time flowers. The eye is drawn toward the burst of color when these flowers are situated in generous groups of plantings. Be sure to take an accurate bulb count of such large splashes of plantings. Your layout plan should also include using flower bulbs as accents in perennial beds, or to fill in rock gardens or as an interesting border to greenery. Be sure to plan for extra bulbs to fill in areas or to add as landscape accents.

For an interesting mix, merge short plants with tall specimens to give variety and depth as well as differing textures. And don't underestimate the power of fragrance. Nothing is more delightful than a pathway of floral scents welcoming visitors to your door!

You should also decide if you want to plan out every aspect of planting a semi formal garden, or if you choose instead to toss convention and bulbs to the wind, planting bulbs the natural way, thus creating a natural sprinkling of blooms. Scaling plants to the bed is another important factor when plotting your plan. A simple rule to follow is to keep in mind the tallest plant in an island flower bed should have a mature height that is equal to about half the width of the bed. Place these plants in the center, so they can be viewed from all sides. Also remember to take into account plants that grow and expand quickly.

Color is another major consideration when planting your bulbs. If you want your garden to be a showcase all season, select a variety of bulbs that flower during early, middle and late spring and summer for a continuous burst of color. Just as in the home, in the garden bed cool colors seem to recede and warm colors appear to come forward. To make a small garden area appear larger and more spacious, plant flowers in cool, light colors. As a general rule white goes a long way in a garden bed, but if you use a lot of white flowers in an area, consider adding a dramatic splash of bright red or bright pink or purple for visual contrast. And, remember, if you are growing flowers to cut and bring the blooms indoors, choose colors that will go with the decor of your home, as well as harmonize with one another in the garden. Gardens, in fact, are often planned around color. The ambience of your outdoor living space is determined by color and your choices decide whether your garden flowers contrast or comple-

ment each other which can result in either a subtle hue of color or a spectacular show of brilliant blooms. The former, which relies on soft pastels to make a statement in the flower garden, is often achieved through monochromatic planning. Choosing flowers of all the same color family may offer a soothing garden setting. Interest is accomplished by providing varying textures and flower heights in monochromatic pastel gardens. For a more showy garden, eye catching bright reds, yellows, purples and whites take center stage in a flower bed. Such contrasting colors can be often be achieved with little effort simply by matching up opposite colors on the standard color wheel.

Planting Prep: Planting time varies depending on location, but here in the Northeast it ranges from September until as long as the soil can be worked, usually around the end of October. Prepare your bed by making sure soil is properly fertilized. Be sure to dig out the soil to the proper depth. Loosen the soil and if you choose, add a bulb booster to the soil. Bulbs should be planted with pointed side up. Place them firmly, yet gently, into the ground. Cover the bulbs loosely with soil, water lightly and add a layer of mulch. Typically, bulbs should be planted three times as deep as the bulb is wide. In sandy soils, you can plant a little deeper, and in heavy soils you can dig a slightly shallower hole. Bulbs should be spaced approximately a width twice the diameter of the bulb. Note: Tulips should be planted one inch deeper than indicated if the soil is not too heavy and their location is permanent as deep rooting can prolong the effective life of the tulip bulb.

Forcing bulbs
Forcing bulbs indoors allows the impatient gardener to enjoy springtime blooms during the winter season. Certain bulbs, such as the narcissus and hyacinth lend themselves to forced budding.

To do: Drop a bulb into a glass jar and fill with water and small pebbles until the water level reaches the base of the bulb. Position the jar in a sunny window. Water must remain at the same level, so add moisture as needed. To prevent mold, change the water periodically.

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

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
 PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
 EDITOR

EDITORIAL

A hard-fought right

Women acquired the right to vote on Aug. 18, 1920. It's amazing to think that there are individuals born during that time are still with us today, bringing into light that it wasn't long ago that women were given the right to take part in the democratic process.

The 19th Amendment stated that citizens could not be denied the right to vote based on sex. Because of loopholes, many African American men and women were not permitted to vote pending literacy tests and the inability to pay poll taxes leaving the group disenfranchised. That same year some states, such as Georgia, had a law requiring people to register to vote six months in advance, which meant that many were turned away from the polls. In states such as California, New York and Illinois, women were permitted to vote before the 19th Amendment was ratified.

In 1915, a group of 25,000 women marched in New York City, demanding the right to vote. During that time, the New York Times printed an article against the women's cause, stating, "If women vote, they will play havoc for themselves and society and that if granted suffrage they would demand all the rights that implies. It is not possible to think of women as soldiers and sailors, police patrolmen or firemen, heavens think of the chaos!" The National Women's Party began to picket the White House in 1917, for the entire year despite weather. Some women were arrested and sent to work camps as punishment.

This month, National Women's Suffrage Month, commemorates the turning point in American history as well as the founding of the League of Women Voters. Women began requesting the right to vote in the 1600's. Second lady Abigail Adams wrote to her husband in 1776, "Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the Husbands. Remember, all Men would be tyrants if they could. If particular care and attention is not paid to the Ladies, we are determined to foment a Rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any Laws in which we have no voice or Representation." Adams would never cast a ballot.

In 1848, the cause picked up, after a women's rights convention in New York with Elizabeth Stanton, Susan B. Anthony and Lucy Stone spearheading the group of 300 women. Supporting Stanton, was abolitionist Frederick Douglass. After 70 years, with the last 20 packing a powerful punch, public sentiment changed and women were eventually heard and supported.

This year, when at the polls, let us remember the women who were imprisoned, marched in treacherous weather, went on hunger strikes and dedicated their lives so that the women of the future could have a voice.

Congress designated August 26 'Women's Equality Day' in 1973.



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VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Republic for which it stands

To the Editor:
 This week, we witnessed the virtual Democratic National Convention. While it came across as a weird TV show, if we're honest, nothing really changed; there just were not a few thousand party activists in a convention center with TV cameras. I didn't watch the whole thing, but honestly, there were some highlights that all Americans should watch.

John Kasich's speech was very powerful, and any and all who would consider voting for Donald Trump should watch it. Kasich was a 2016 Republican presidential hopeful, and the last to drop out of the race before Donald Trump took over the party. Kasich is a former Republican Governor of Ohio, former Republican Congressman, and has been a Republican in elected office since 1979. Politics makes odd bedfellows, and while I disagree sharply with John Kasich on a range of issues, he is a good and decent man. Kasich is fighting for America - not his own ego or having puppet strings pulled from Russia and that I never question.

Never in the last 40 years would I have expected John Kasich to give a speech at the Democratic National Convention. This is a fight for the soul of America, and at the end of the day, Kasich and Biden are on the side of America. All should watch Kasich's

speech - it is on YouTube.

Bernie Sanders gave a powerful speech. You don't have to agree with his policies, his economic plans, or like his presidential campaign to be touched by that speech. He spoke about the unprecedented moment this country is in. We are in the worst health crisis in 100 years, the worst economic collapse since the Great Depression, systemic racism, and climate change. Not only is President Trump incapable of addressing these crises, but he is leading us down the path of authoritarianism.

Even if you hate Bernie, please watch his speech. Watch it to laugh at him. Bernie disagrees with Joe Biden on a host of issues but this election is not about issues, it is about the future of this nation. I hope to read a critique of his DNC speech in next week's New Leader from both sides!

Finally, Barack Obama's speech was incredible. It was his most searing rebuke of Donald Trump by name to date. Donald Trump hasn't grown into the job of President because he can't. I can't say it as eloquently as President Obama has, but I urge everyone, of both political parties, to watch that speech. I predict even staunch Republicans will get a tear in their

Turn To **BAGG** page **A10**

What ate the promises of God?

To the Editor:
 All God's laws and promises are to benefit us in this world and prepare us to make the right choices for the next life.

The promise I have chosen to share is the one that we need now, today, 2 Chronicle 7: 14. This promise and all God's promises, God's Word are in the Bible, and this promise starts with us, what we need to do, what we must do, what is expected of us, how we need to repent and submit and then God will do what we cannot do remove our circumstance and bless our needs.

Our responsibility before God, Jesus, starts with humility and submission and followed with praying [talking to God] seeking God's will God's moral law.

When we become obedient, responsible before God, Jesus God promises to bless us.

What are our responsibilities? We need to humble. Humility! That is a tough one for me in some circumstances. We need to practice humility as an individual, a couple, a family, a group, a nation. We need to recognize our disobedience to God's moral law and repent. We need to pray, talk to God, Jesus from our heart, confessing and asking God, Jesus for HIS

forgiveness, mercy, "and" we need to remain committed to our confession, obeying, submitted and dependent on God, Jesus.

What does it mean to seek God's face? We must turn to God, Jesus with our whole heart "and" desire God's presence with a meaningful heart. We must turn from our worldly sinful, wicked life style of idolatry, idolizing anyone or anything rather than God, we need to stop rejecting, opposing God with our sins of abortion, adultery, fornication, homosexuality, and it starts with repentance, repenting from conforming to this world and return to God, Jesus, God's moral law. Then God will begin to hear us and forgive us and heal and restore us. As always the choice is yours, ours. We have two choices, the one I just mentioned and the other is you can continue to disrespect, reject God's moral law and experience the consequences of God's wrath. That could be another Sodom [Genesis 19: 24] Again, the choice is yours, ours.

Do you want to be blessed? Live by God's moral and dietary laws. It is that simple!

ROLAND BLAIS
 BROOKFIELD

The United States is falling

To the Editor:
 Apart from the Democratic National Convention, it has been a relatively slow news week, and I got to say, the New Leader editorial pages are getting a bit boring and repetitive. I know I am guilty of the same. I try and think of new and novel ways of framing things, but when the topics are the same, it gets old. I may as well start with some responses:

Mr. Herholz - I know you're smart enough to know that the same 75-100 person clump moving from street corner to street corner throughout the western part of Worcester County does not mean Trump will be remotely competitive in this state. I grant you, Trump's supporters are more enthusiastic than Biden supporters and more willing to get baked in the sun for a few hours, but this will not pay dividends in November.

I can't speak for all on the left, but I have no interest in silencing these Trump standouts. Generating enthusiasm for Biden, a 77-year old party hack centrist, is hard. There is nothing more effective at generating excitement on the left for the upcoming election than to see Trump supporters. This is not a Trump vs. Biden election, this is Trump vs. not-Trump, this is more like Lukashenko vs. literally anybody else. Thank you for helping our cause!

Mr. Robillard - I'm not quite sure why you are proud that decades ago, your wife described somebody as "colored." Are you trying to make that type of language acceptable again? I'm curious, where do you think that a house for troubled teens should go? If not near families, where? Where are these houses that are not near families? Most houses are near other houses and houses usually have families, so I'm confused.

Yes, all people should have a safe

environment. Yes, all people have individual civil rights. Balancing these things is hard. It is hard to have a Second Amendment which guarantees the right to keep and bear arms while also protecting the residents of Miami from being shot. It is hard to have states mostly in the South and West with no firearms restrictions that are connected by road without border checks to Baltimore, Chicago, and New York. Impoverished people all living on top of each other with very little personal space makes it hard to pre-emptively stop rapes, robberies, and even murders.

We have to balance everyone's rights. We could have border checks and pat-downs for every person to go into a major city but I doubt you'd like that. We could address the fact that black people get sent to jail and their families wallow in poverty for crimes white people get probation for. We could address the fact that black people get pulled over, cited, cars towed, etc. when a white person would just continue with their day. We could try to address the underlying poverty issues that lead to crime, but that is hard... We already have the largest incarcerated population in the world - how much larger do you want it?

Mr. McRae's letter was a little rambly...Just a nice mix of hate and name-calling. I guess I'm not a "strong man"... I really encourage everyone to read his letters in full. McRae represents the soul of the Republican party as well as this newspaper is willing to regularly publish (George Graham must be incapacitated or is getting censored). The 2020 election is about the soul of the nation and McRae makes the case for both sides pretty well.

COVID-19 seems to be abating somewhat, at least for now. We are still in

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

Get the most from your 401(k)

You won't see any greeting cards celebrating it, and it's not likely to be on your calendar, but in just a few weeks, National 401(k) Day will be observed. And this type of recognition may be warranted, too, because 401(k) plans have become key building blocks for a big part of people's lives - a comfortable retirement. Are you making the most of your 401(k)?



FINANCIAL FOCUS
JEFF BURDICK

Of course, during the past few months, you may have had mixed feelings about your 401(k). After all, at the beginning of the coronavirus, when the financial markets tumbled, the value of your account probably fell significantly, although it has likely regained some ground since the initial drop.

Nonetheless, the recent market volatility and its short-term effects on your 401(k) should not unduly influence your decisions about this important retirement account. After all, a 401(k) is truly a long-term vehicle, in every sense - you contribute to it for decades while you're working, and you can draw on it, along with other sources of income, for decades during your retirement. Consequently, you'll want to consistently review your account to ensure it is working hard for you.

Here are a few suggestions:

Get the match. At a minimum, put enough into your 401(k) to earn your employer's matching contribution, if one is offered. While employers can set their own rules, a typical match is 50% of what you put in, up to 6 percent of your salary. So, if you don't contribute the amount needed to earn the match, you are essentially "leaving money on the table." (Be aware, though, that some employers have temporarily suspended matching contributions in response to the economic slowdown during the pandemic.)

Give yourself regular "raises." Every time your salary goes up, increase your annual contributions. Most people typically don't come anywhere near hitting the maximum annual 401(k) contribution limit (which, in 2020, is \$19,500, or \$26,000 for those 50 or older), and you might not, either, but try to put in as much as you can afford. Not only will you be building tax-deferred resources for retirement, but you'll be giving yourself a big tax break, because the more you contribute each year, the lower your taxable income (unless you have a Roth 401(k), in which case your contributions aren't deductible, but your earnings can grow tax-free).

Invest for growth. Because your 401(k) is designed to help fund your retirement, which could last 20 years or more, you'll want to build the biggest account possible. That means you'll need to include investments designed to provide growth within your 401(k), subject to your personal risk tolerance.

Be careful about loans. You can take out loans from your 401(k), but it's not always a good move. You'll have to pay yourself back, and if you leave your job, either voluntarily or involuntarily, the repayment may be due at an inconvenient time. (However, as part of the CARES economic stimulus act, many 401(k) loan repayments are being suspended for up to one year.) Furthermore, by taking out money from your account, even temporarily, you can slow its overall growth potential. So, you may want to look for other sources of income before tapping into your 401(k).

National 401(k) Day is just that - a day. But by taking the appropriate steps, you can help ensure your own 401(k) gives you many years' worth of benefits.

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.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Say the name — Cannon Hinnant

To the Editor:
Breathes there a man on this earth who does not know the name George Floyd? Maybe the odd tin miner in Sumatra, the wandering machete sharpener in the sugar fields of Shangri-La, or the deaf/mute fishmonger on the stilted docks of Tuvalu in the absolute middle of nowhere...but I doubt it. George has become more of an omnipresent topic of conversation—thanks to media hype and Chi-com-style propaganda—than even Bad Orange Man or the pandemic.

Stupid, useless John Lennon (composer of the worst song ever recorded in the English language: «Imagine») said in 1966, “We [The Beatles] are more popular than Jesus.” Lennon, thanks to the efforts of Mark David Chapman in 1980, another nut, got the opportunity—earlier than he had anticipated—to test his thesis mentioned in “Imagine” that there “is no heaven or hell.” He probably found it didn’t matter what he thought; it is what it is...like it or not. But, Lennon, the plutocrat communist, never met George Floyd who had five huge funerals (where masks were not required), was buried in a gold casket, and for whom 10,000 acres of forest died to make the paper to tell the legend of poor George.

The narrative of endemic anti-black police violence is taken as an article of faith by ignorant people (I should say sheeple) everywhere, from Kyoto to Kinshasa, from Keflavik to Kentucky, and from all points in-between (including liberal, white nitwits in small town New England), that poor George was murdered by white, racist American police officers who find it great sport to hunt down and kill innocent black

males doing nothing more than simply walking down the street minding their own business.

This conviction of theirs—the smarter, better people—that America is hopelessly racist and bigoted, and which asseveration is demonstrated by these high-profile—and extremely complicated—incidents involving troubled street people and stressed-out cops, allows them to grant unconditional emotional and political support to the unvarnished Marxist (read: communist) goals of the Black Lives Matter agenda: no more intact traditional families, no more police; no more prisons; no more suburbs; no more capitalism; no more Christianity; no more Constitution; no more First Amendment; no more non-state educational options; no more equality before the law; no more equal opportunity, just equal outcomes; in a word, no more America.

So, to that end, the true believers accept the narrative unquestioningly. That every last one of these incidents—excepting the nearly non-existent cases where a murder clearly was committed and punishment was meted—turns out to be not quite as simple as the partisan press would have you believe, and court verdicts are eventually returned which exonerate the falsely accused officers (even though their lives are ruined), matters not to these ideologically driven people. They know what they know, the facts be damned.

Case in point: a few weeks ago, I wrote
Turn To MCRAE page A10

Har-Yarok’s criticisms deserve a response

To the Editor:
Mr. Har-Yarok, I try to shy away from correcting Intellectual Giants (self proclaimed or otherwise), but I must say that you were never dismissed as crazy, but rather determined to be crazy. As for your criticism of my Aug. 7 letter, please accept the following:

If a straw argument is a truth that can only be countered by ignorance, than I agree with you. I did read the 11 articles of succession, and stand by my statement regarding slavery. When the word slavery was used it was always in connection to the individual state’s way of life and their economy. The North wanted to abolish slavery (and I agree they should have, and I’m glad they finally did), but their interference with the South was unconstitutional. Slavery was a constitutional right granted by the Constitution itself, by the Congress and by the Supreme Court as I stated. It was a State’s Right granted by law, and not made of straw. Only through legal means was it finally abolished.

As you know, our Civil War was unique. Unlike Vietnam and Korea, the Union was restored fully. We still have our differences, but they are mainly in the form of lifestyles, accents, religious beliefs and alike. I realize that every great liberal must, by sacred pledge, inject Nazis into their argument, but I also realize that you are smart enough to know the difference between the Civil War and WWII. As far as the Brits are concerned, we live in New England, and Spencer (an aristocratic family in the UK founded in the 15th century) –

not memorials or statues but certainly references to our history.

As for my university argument, you need to look at the facts. The thirteen universities have numerous Nobel and Pulitzer winners, Rhodes Scholars, Astronauts, numerous business, legal, media and political leaders as alumni. The new anointed messiah of the left, Mr. Joseph Scarborough, graduated from the University of Alabama as an undergrad and the University of Florida School Of Law. Not bad for a third world education. Please feel free to make a better third world argument by naming one third world university and one prominent alumnus – just one will do.

Please explain the following: “Finally, all violence is tragic but to compare state sponsored violence against by our paid employees against a private citizen to crimes by individuals is absurd. It is apple and oranges.” I’m sorry, I don’t understand – I’m sure it is a brilliant statement.

Finally, I would never call you a racist for continuing to make invalid arguments. You are provocative, misleading, at times vile and border-line evil, sacrilegious and at all times rather boring and usually wrong but not a racist. I would love to read one of your letters that contained your own original thoughts – no counter arguments, no leftist talking points, no COVID-19 updates – just you and your brilliance.

JIM REID
SPENCER

The Strings of the puppet

To the Editor:
The Democratic Convention clearly showed what groups are the ones pulling the strings on the puppet Biden. These groups are too far radical to be elected on their own, so they are using simple Joe as the covering for their visions of hate and racism. The main leader seems to be the communist Bernie Sanders with his antifa troops. They are allied with BLM, The Nation of Islam, and socialist Democrats called the squad. It pretty clear their objective. Use Biden as a front to for their political agenda of the reshaping of America. They are using the tactics clearly spelled out in the Marxist Communist Manifesto. The three goals to achieve this agenda are as follows: Destroy the economy and the middle class, Destroy the founding principles and history, and Install leaders who institute their ideals into law.

Goal 1 has been achieved with unmitigated success. With the help of communist China and the progressive news channels, they have forced the liberal governors to close the small businesses ruin by the middle class. These hard-working people will lose their business and property because the state has decided they do not have the right to freedom and liberty. The news has scared the populace into subjugation. They and their minions shout alarms about the rate of infection when they now in it means nothing. The truth is, you have a 0.08 percent change of dying from Covid. You have twice the chance of dying from cancer or a heart attack.

Out of the 188,000 deaths, only 180 are below age 24. Eighty percent of the deaths are people over 65. Did businesses have to be closed? Absolutely not. The ultimate goal was the destruction of the middle class. If Biden is elected, this wealth will be redistributed. Those who go bankrupt will get nothing. BLM and the squad will see to it that free money is doled out under the auspices of social reform. Who gets money will be solely based on race. They will say those who went bankrupt deserve it because of their white privilege. This is their underhanded way of wealth distribution.

Goal 2 is well on its way. The armies of destruction have been sent out under the banners of BLM and Antifa. Their success has been aided by weak and ineffective liberal Democratic governors. You have seen it on TV and in our communities. They are tearing down the statues of our history, including those of Washington, Lincoln, Roosevelt, and union soldiers. They have denigrated our long history and our heroes to one of racism and evil. If Biden wins in the fall, our history books will be changed to further indoctrinate the children in the schools. Gone will be the great statesmen of our past. Instead, they will be teaching about the utopia of Karl Marx and Lenin. Biden has already stated that Islam will be required teaching in the classes. Was this suggested by his racist advisor, Louis Farrakhan? Traitors like the Rosenbergs, who were executed for selling the plans to the

Turn To ROBILLARD page A10

Goodyear

To the Editor:
President Trump has made many references to “America First!” when it should be pretty obvious he is running on a narcissistic chant of “me, me, me first!”

Last week, Goodyear Rubber Company banned the wearing of MAGA hats and “Blue Lives Matter” gear in their factories because it made some employees feel unwelcome. Goodyear specifically does not endorse any political candidates or political parties. Goodyear tries its best to be non-political. All they want to do is sell tires.

Regardless of your thought on the items Goodyear banned, it should be pretty obvious that they make some employees, especially non-white ones, feel uncomfortable. You can argue until the cows come home that they shouldn’t feel uncomfortable, but the more you try and convince them, the more threatened they will feel. It seems obvious that the solution here is to not wear those things at work, and that is exactly what Goodyear wants. Goodyear supports Black Lives Matter, but also supports law enforcement because they support both missions. Goodyear does not support or oppose any candidate or party.

President Trump reacted to this by going on a Tweetstorm urging his supporters to boycott Goodyear. As inappropriate as this is, it really isn’t different from Trump promoting Goya beans from the Oval Office or Kellyanne Conway promoting Ivanka’s fashion line.

This made me wonder, who are Goodyear’s competitors? If faithful

Trump supporters listen to him and hurt Goodyear, who are they hurting and who are they helping?

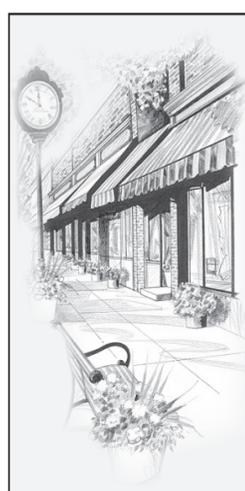
First of all, Goodyear is an American company that has 64,000 employees in the United States. Most of these are good paying working class jobs – the kind that Trump says he is the champion of. Goodyear is likely are responsible for many more jobs in their supply chain. Who are Goodyear’s competitors you may ask? Bridgestone, Michelin, Pirelli, Yokohama, Continental, Sumitomo, and Hankook all come to mind.

Goodyear is American... But Bridgestone, Sumitomo, and Yokohama are both Japanese. Michelin is French. Pirelli is Italian. Continental is German. Hankook is South Korean. There are a number of cheaper brands which are manufactured in China and Taiwan. As it turns out, of the top 10 tire manufacturers in the world, only 1 of them is based in the United States... Goodyear.

What will be the effect of Trump’s temper tantrum over Goodyear’s prohibition of MAGA hats on the factory floor? Some people will boycott American manufactured goods in favor of foreign imported goods. Trump is governing not by what is best for America, but what is best for his ego. Last week I described how he is hobbling the only major cell phone company we have overseas (Apple). In the course of a week, he has turned his sights on the only major American tire company.

America first? Hobble by advocating a boycott of the only major

Turn To TAYLOR page A13



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MCRAE

continued from page A9

in this space that people of good will ought to wait a while—or as long as it takes for the wheels of justice to turn—before condemning the four police officers involved in the Minneapolis incident involving the unfortunate George Floyd. It was too soon to demand they be hanged, drawn and quartered, as was done in Old Blighty to get back at exceptionally unpopular figures—but which would be just fine with these avatars of tolerance and non-violence.

Now, it turns out the Black Muslim/ radical socialist/communist Attorney General of Minnesota, one Keith Ellison, who has made it clear he will settle for nothing but a murder conviction in the Floyd case, has kept hidden from public viewing a video of the incident which casts the police in an entirely different and far more sympathetic light. If anything, the officers are shown to be following the police department's manual for such situations to

the letter. Maybe the clueless, uber-progressive boy/mayor of the city, Jacob Frey, his police commissioner, and the entire city council ought to be put in the dock: it was they who signed off on this document dictating how officers on the street must conduct themselves in such chaotic happenings.

Nothing is ever as it first appears. Stand by for more BLM (burning, looting and mayhem) if the jury in this case is composed of honest and courageous citizens, and, acting upon the evidence, find for the defendants.

But, who is—or, tragically, was—Cannon Hinnant? Never heard of him? I'm not surprised, neither has just about anyone else. Young Cannon was a happy-go-lucky, handsome little fellow of five years who lived with his mom and dad in a small town in North Carolina. He now rests in the cold, cold ground (well, maybe not so cold—it's August) in that town in which he might've chosen to reside as an adult if he had been allowed to live.

He was assassinated by a black twenty-three year old neighbor—shot in the head while riding his bike in his own driveway and bothering no one—and, did I say he was five years old?!

Why haven't you heard about this? Is this not at least equally as outrageous as the murky and convoluted story of the death of an extremely troubled man of the streets whose demise may very well have had nothing to do with his physical arrest?

The reason you know little, if anything, about this horror is that the media and the ruling class doesn't want you to know anything about it. It is too inconvenient for them as it disturbs the flow of the narrative, that white America is irredeemably racist and guilty, and that white people deserve no sympathy for they are all—even five-year-olds—beyond redemption.

The Black Lives Matter movement, so wholeheartedly embraced—and now seemingly led-by the white fools of the left, is as responsible for the execution of little Cannon as is the murderous scum who pulled the

trigger. That's you, you smug, self-satisfied, imbeciles who march with BLM, chant their slogans, and hold their classless signs. Useful idiots.

None of the many murdered victims of both races, none of the miles upon miles of burned-out buildings, of shattered dreams, of ruined lives, of victims of the “cancel” culture, etc. need to have happened, and wouldn't have without the mindless support of you white, utterly uneducated, overly-emotional, guilt-wracked, simpletons of the millennial left. The groundswell of enthusiasm for the BLM cause coming from the spoiled-rotten children of privilege who want desperately to feel good about themselves is what allowed all the destruction to occur over the summer.

You, and all your teachers, ministers, priests, athletic heroes, and corporations who idiotically signed on to this dark and malevolent movement and gave cover to the burners and murderers of the summer, helped put little Cannon in the ground. Little Cannon, who, if he were black, would be riding his bike today in his driveway in North Carolina and enjoying life as he found it. BLM/Antifa and their brain dead supporters, like a fireplace bellows, pumped fresh air into the dying embers of race hatred, and the little fellow paid a terrible price. So have—and so will—many others. Way to go, Democrats.

JOHN MCRAE
EAST BROOKFIELD**HAR-YAROK**

continued from page A8

the first wave, but our “southern outbreak” seems to have been brought into sort-of control in the last few weeks. Of course, school hasn't started yet and it is still searing hot out so we are still poised for the darkest of winters. Of the schools in the south that have opened, many had to be closed down within days due to COVID-19 outbreaks. Colleges that called their students back had to be closed within days due to outbreaks. This is not going well. Imagine if we used our opportunity last spring to squash this like every other industrialized nation did!

Since last week, we have seen 304,064 NEW cases and 6,864 NEW deaths in the U.S. due to COVID-19. Our total number of infections is 5,670,875 and the total deaths are 176,408, and counting. Of course, we only had so many weeks in the tank of COVID mitigation and the country as I predicted has tired of it and we have simply been desensitized to the death and illness. Honestly, we had no choice but to become desensitized. We had to carry on at some point and it is easier to convince yourself that hundreds of thousands of deaths are

normal and unavoidable than it is to admit you live in a failed state.

New Zealand had eradicated COVID-19 and had repealed all restrictions in May including masks and social distancing. They had their schools fully re-opened for months and had gone 102 days without a case. This is incredible because it is winter in New Zealand, and we know this virus is more virulent in the cold. It looks like they had a new outbreak from a port/cargo worker, and it generated 50 cases or so. Auckland went into a two-week lockdown, there have been no new deaths, and the outbreak is squashed. New Zealand is firm at 22 total deaths since the start of this pandemic.

I have to say that the various arguments I read on Facebook are entertaining, disheartening, and frightening at the same time. Some people seem to think that the truth about COVID-19, how dangerous it is, and how to mitigate it is a popularity contest, and any news source or data that doesn't support their view is just wrong. The media is like our fourth branch of government, it forces accountability and prevents corruption of the other three branches. Recently in the United States we haven't been censoring the media like

in other authoritarian states but instead undermining all trust in it. Now nothing can be known, so just believe what you want, and the power of facts are neutralized.

The United States is falling. We will look back and wonder how seemingly good and decent people let this happen. It will be taught in future History classes as just another empire which withered and eventually fell. We are the modern Rome, but we are at the end of our rope. The American empire and American century will soon go the way of the Ottoman Empire, Austro-Hungarian, and Rome. Like Rome we were a beacon of light for the world in our heyday and I fear like Rome, a diminished America will lead to a diminished world and a new dark age.

The United States and the ideals we held before the white-lash of 2008-present were important. It is too bad that the politics of grievance are destroying democracy from the inside out and forcing us to abdicate our position as a world leader. Even if Joe Biden wins, it will take a generation to forget that a Trump presidency was possible.

OMAR HAR-YAROK
EAST BROOKFIELD**BAGG**

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eye because they know it's all true. Even if you hate Obama, consider him the anti-Christ or the devil incarnate, please watch that speech. I hope to read a critique of Obama's DNC speech in next week's New Leader from both sides!

I promise and pledge to watch Donald Trump's RNC speech in its entirety. I promise and pledge to watch any other RNC speech mentioned in next week's New Leader in its entirety. This isn't about censorship. This is about the soul of America. Everyone even thinking about voting for Donald Trump owes it to themselves to watch the Bernie, Kasich, and Obama DNC speeches and I pledge to watch RNC speeches in return.

This year's Republican National Convention will be notable in that it represents a party completely transformed. It is not the GOP we grew up with in the way it defined itself since the Civil Rights era. Fort the 2020 RNC, the most recent prior Republican nominee for president, Mitt Romney, is not welcome. The Republican nominee for president prior to him, John McCain, if alive, would not be welcome. The most recent former Republican president, George W. Bush, would not be welcome. The Republican president prior to “W,” George H.W. Bush, would not be welcome at Trump's RNC. This is incredible and unprecedented. This is a party transformed. This is the party

of Trump. It is a cult of personality.

I would like to quote and comment on the 1923 version of the Pledge of Allegiance.

“I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America...” is a familiar beginning to the day for anybody who went to public school in this nation. That phrase taken in isolation seems pretty silly, pledge allegiance to a flag? A piece of cloth? Are we talking about the official flag of the U.S., a Trump flag, the West Brookfield Confederate flag that keeps showing up, a “Trump 2020 no more [BS]” flag? Conservatives sure seem to like their flags...

“... and to the Republic for which it stands.” This is where things break down. I and most non-Trumpers are more concerned about the republic for which it stands than the piece of cloth itself. The 2020 election is a fight for the soul of the country and Biden is a vote for consensus centrism and constitutional order. Donald Trump is a vote for ego-centric authoritarian rule.

“one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all...” We are one nation made up of all colors and races yet too many of our minorities don't get a fair shake or get railroaded at every corner. All lives can't matter until black lives matter. Nobody should be angry about a peaceful Black Lives Matter protest marching through their town.

FRED BAGG
SPENCER**ROBILLARD**

continued from page A9

nuclear bomb to communist Russia, will now be heroes. The terrorist who flew the planes into the world trade center will be changed by congresswoman Omar to freedom fighters. The officers who died trying to save lives by going up the burning towers will be vilified as racists storm trooper by BLM.

The success of goal 3 will be decided on Nov. 3. If sleepy Joe is elected his cabinet of far-left radicals will work from day 1 to restructure the government to institute their agendas. Free speech will only be reserved for those on their side. Any other speech will be deemed hate speech and subversive.

The full power of the justice system will be employed to enforce it. Wealth distribution will begin in earnest, the middle class will be taxed to the max. The monies provided free to those who marched, burned, and looted. The school curriculum will erase our present history and replace it with one of racism and oppression. The teachings of Marx and the Koran will be forefront in the classroom.

America is the freest and most racially equal society in the world. Think about it. If it was as bad and unjust as the Democrats describe it, then why aren't people leaving it in hordes to go to other countries? Instead, we see that everyone wants to come here to experience the freedom and liberty we

have. Just look at Dr. Shiva running for US Senate here in Massachusetts. A colored man from India who was from the lower class. He immigrated to here and thru hard work is a success. He loves this country fervently and is one of its biggest supporters. He came from hell to the promised land. You have to wonder why the new colored arrivals make it so successfully. I mean congress woman Omar is a recent immigrant. Systemic racism hasn't stopped them. The truth is the native colored community has been held back by the Democratic politicians that perpetuate a feeling of inferiority in their minds. They keep them downtrodding and in the slums. This way they can keep getting elected by providing them hope but

no real solutions.

It's not Trump that is in with the Russians, but comrade Bernie. Bernie has been well trained by his handlers. Probably when he honeymooned in Russia. They have given him a mission. Destroy America. With the puppet Joe, he can achieve this mission only if the electorate goes along with it. If you want to keep America the greatest country in the world join me in supporting Donald Trump on Nov. 3. Also consider Dr. Shiva for US Senate. Oh yeah God Bless America. If you didn't notice many Democrats have already erased him too from their oath.

MARK ROBILLARD
SPENCER

LEGALS

**ADVERTISEMENT:
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

**Pioneer Valley
Planning Commission
Administrative Services for
Spencer and Warren Microenterprise**

Business Assistance Program

The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) is seeking proposals for an agency to administer a recently funded Microenterprise Assistance Program through federal CARES Act Community Development Block Grant Funding. This will include administration of two separately funded programs for the town of Spencer and the town of Warren. The CDBG funding will provide assistance to small business owners who have been adversely impacted by COVID-19. Eligible businesses must have five or less employees (including the owner) and the owner's family must be low to moderate income, based on data provided by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Businesses will be eligible for funding equal to the amount of eligible losses documented, not to exceed \$10,000. Between the two grants, it is anticipated approximately \$300,000 will be awarded as grants to approximately 30 businesses in the two towns.

A more detailed Request for Proposals (RFP) is available at the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 60 Congress Street, Springfield, MA 01104, (413) 781-6045, from 9 AM to 5 PM. The RFP will be available from the date of this notice until the due date specified

below in digital format via email by request from Sue Ortiz at sortiz@pvpc.org. Parties requesting the RFP electronically are strongly encouraged to verify that their email request has been received. PVPC is not responsible for any requests that are not received. The PVPC, then awarding and contracting authority, reserves the right to reject any and all proposals if it is deemed in the best interests of the PVPC to do so. **Completed proposals are to be submitted no later than 3:00 PM, Tuesday, September 11, 2020 at the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 60 Congress Street – 1st Floor, Springfield, MA 01104-3419, Attention: Ted Harvey, Senior Planner.** August 28, 2020

**BAY PATH REGIONAL VOCATIONAL
TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL****NOTICE OF
DESTRUCTION OF****SPECIAL EDUCATION RECORDS**

Parents, guardians and former students are hereby notified that all special education records within the possession of the Southern Worcester County Regional Vocational School District/Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School will be destroyed, pursuant to 603 CMR 23.06, 7 years from the date when the student is no longer eligible for special education, graduates, moves or transfers to another district or completes his/her educational program. These records from the 2012 – 2013 school year will be destroyed effective September 30, 2020. Eligible students, parents or guardians may re-

ceive the student's special education records prior to the destruction date by submitting a written request to: Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School
Attn: Student Support Services
57 Old Muggett Hill Road
Charlton, MA 01507
August 28, 2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Division
Docket No. WO20P2270EA**

Estate of:

**Dane F. Varney
Date Of Death: July 14, 2020
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Richard W. Varney of Spencer MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Richard W. Varney of Spencer MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and

expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
August 28, 2020

**Notice of Public Hearing
Planning Board**

The Spencer Planning Board will be holding a Public Hearing on Tuesday September 15, 2020 in McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall and the hearing will be conducted remotely to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 and will be broadcast live on Spencer Cable Access channels and at SCATV.org on the following items starting at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard.

Request for Extension –Site Plan Approval; Applicant: Beta Group, Inc; Owner: DG Northeast 2020 Holdings, LLC, Location: North Brookfield Road; Spencer Assessor's Map R39-14. The applicant is requesting an extension to the Major Site Plan under Sections 7.4 of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw to install a 1.98 MW solar array. The property is located within the Rural Residential zoning district.

August 28, 2020
September 4, 2020

Saltwater fishing heats up



THE GREAT
OUTDOORS
.....
RALPH
TRUE

Saltwater fishing is heating up for numerous species of fish. Yellow fin tuna in the 50 to 60-pound class were reported by anglers fishing out to the canyon. This writer was heading out to do a bit of fluke fishing in Galilee Rhode Island when I spotted a group of three anglers rushing to get there 25-foot boat in the water. The rods on board were positively identified as tuna rods. The two 200 hp outboard motors on the back of their boat, are what is needed to travel to the canyon. Reports of numerous shark species on their last trip to the canyon was also good news for the group of anglers.

Fluke fishing remained strong again last week in the waters around Carpenters Beach and the Breachway. Many fish were just shy of the 19-inch size limit, but we man-

aged a few 20-inch fish & a few nice seabass. Catching our own mummies and Silversides also helped this writer & my boat captain Matt to catch our targeted fish. The silversides were a few inches long which were affixed to our hook. Threading the silversides on the hook like you would a nightcrawler worked very well, and stopped the short misses.

Anglers were spotted chasing a few small schools of Bonito and False Albacore last week around Point Judith light.

Upstate New York anglers fishing Lake Ontario are catching numerous King Salmon on the lake but River fishing is still slow. Lack of water flow in the river, and warm temperatures have played a huge role in this year's late migration of King Salmon. Fat Nancy's Bait & Tackle shop in Pulaski New York, reported the slow fishing in the river which is expected to blow wide open in the next week or two.

Local bear hunters are excited about the bear hunting in Maine which is slated to open on Aug. 31. Hunting over baits is allowed during the Black Bear season in

Maine. Numerous local hunters travel to Maine every year to hunt bear, and the reports of numerous large bears hitting the baits prior to the season is good news. If bear hunting in Maine over baits was not allowed, very few bears would be harvested annually causing a bear population explosion.

Most Field days at Rod & Gun Clubs this year have been canceled because of the Covid-19 Pandemic. Whitinsville Fish & Game Club recently canceled their Field Day after reconsidering their options. The first priority is keeping everyone safe until the virus is brought under control!

A few local saltwater anglers fished areas around Block Island for stripers this past Friday and were rewarded with a few monster stripers. Unfortunately, they could not be retained and were quickly released. This week's picture shows Jim Lavallee with a 40-pound striper! Some of the stripers were caught using tube & worm and others were caught using live eels. Hopefully, the slot limit placed on stripers this year in Massachusetts & Rhode Island will not carry



over to next year's fishing. One group of striper anglers reported seeing a monster striper floating by their boat. It was still alive, but was surely a recently released fish. Just one of the many released stripers that succumbed to the new slot limit regulations. What a waste.

NOAA Fisheries enacted Final interim Rule in Mass. extending Recreational Gulf of Maine Cod and Haddock seasons. The bag limits however

have not hanged. The one cod daily limit remains the same, as well as the daily bag limit of haddock. A complete listing on the new ruling can be found on the NOAA Web site.

Fishing at the canal this past week was extremely slow according to reports of local anglers. That could change quickly by the time you read this column.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

Now may be the time to sell gold and silver

An article in the July issue of Forbes was titled "Gold And Silver Are Just Getting Started." With gold recently rising above \$2,000 per ounce for the first time in history and silver nearing the \$30 per ounce mark, we have been receiving many emails and calls to auction precious metals.

All silver has been selling well, but older pieces typically command the strongest prices. Coins are one example. Silver coins are popular with both collectors and investors. Silver coins may have numismatic value (value to coin collectors) above the silver's worth. The age, condition, and rarity of the coin can make coin values soar. Dimes, quarters, half dollars, and dollar coins from 1964 or earlier were made with 90 percent silver and are worth at least the silver bullion value. Rare ones bring much more. A 1795 three leaves flowing hair silver dollar in fair condition sold for \$4,500. An 1893-S (San Francisco mint) Morgan silver dollar in extra fine condition went for \$6,900.

Along with coins, many people are looking to sell their sterling silver flatware and hollowware services, especially with fewer people holding formal dinners than in the past. The good news is that there are still plenty of buyers for sterling. A Georg Jensen sterling ornamental mustard pot with liner and acorn design spoon sold for \$1,000. A vintage Stieff floral repousse



ANTIQUES,
COLLECTIBLES
& ESTATES
.....
WAYNE TUISKULA

(hammered into relief from the reverse side) rose pattern sterling silver coffee pot went for over \$1,000. A Wendt sterling silver Medallion pattern flatware 79-piece service dinner sold for \$13,500. A Tiffany Co. Japanese pattern sterling silver flatware 57-piece service picturing Audubon birds brought \$36,500.

As you might imagine, gold coins are also selling very well. For investors, even modern coins like American Gold Eagle or American Gold Buffalo coins are desirable. A 2019 MarketWatch article wrote "gold and other precious coins are the easiest collectible item to trade, whether you are investing in bullion coins as a hedge against inflated stock and bond prices or if you're interested in building a special collection of rarities." If you have older gold coins, they may have numismatic value well above what the gold is worth. For example, an 1827 Capped Bust Gold Quarter Eagle \$2.50 coin sold for \$7,700 and a 1907 St. Gaudens gold coin went for over \$15,000 at auction recently. The condition and rarity of the coins made them sell for much more than just the value of the gold.

Antique gold "estate jewelry" also has been bringing strong results at auction. An Edwardian (Edwardian period was 1901 to 1910) sapphire and diamond ring set in gold and platinum recently fetched over \$8,400. A Black



Opal Engagement 14K Yellow Gold ring described as either Art Nouveau (Art Nouveau period was 1890 to 1910) or Art Deco (1920's and 30's) recently sold for \$8,000. An antique openwork (metal work with holes, typically in aesthetic patterns) pearl cuff bracelet 18-karat yellow gold reached \$6,050. Pieces with quality diamonds or gemstones increase value. A recent BusinessWire article titled "Reduced Diamond Supply Lifts Polished Prices" said that diamond prices are also on the rise. In this current market, silver, gold, and diamonds are all shining.

Our Oct. 29, multi-estate online auction will include a large amount of

sterling silver and gold. We are now accepting bids for our Warren, R.I. online estate auction. There will be a preview on September 12th in Warren with bidding ending on Sept. 16. Please keep checking www.centralmassauctions.com for information on upcoming events.

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

Give your landscape a late summer facelift

Whether it is the hot weather, the age of your landscape or simply the need for change; a late summer makeover can help you increase your landscape's beauty. Put the "wow" back into your garden with a few new plantings, garden art, or other simple improvements.



GARDEN
MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA
MYERS

Perennials are much easier to move than an overgrown shrub.

A bit of pruning may be all that is needed to bring back the beauty and reduce the size of overgrown plants. Make a note on your calendar to do a bit of pruning at

the right time. Prune spring flowering shrubs right after they bloom. They have already set their flower buds for next spring and pruning now will eliminate the spring floral display. You can prune summer flowering shrubs during their dormant season from fall through spring. Prune evergreens in colder climates in late winter or early spring once the worst winter weather has passed. Fall pruning where winters are brutal can lead to an increase in winter damage.

Replace tired annuals in the garden and containers with fresh plants suited to the upcoming fall season. Don't be afraid to add dried materials to existing planters for added color and texture. Or create new container gardens to set by the front door and welcome guests. These also make great fillers in the garden. Just place the container in a spot where an existing plant has failed. You will benefit from the instant color and extra time you gain to plan for a permanent replacement.

Garden art is another option for filling those late summer voids in the garden. Or use it to create a focal point, drawing attention to areas that are looking their best.

Adding a few new cushions on your



Photo Courtesy

Garden art can fill in late summer voids or create a focal point in the garden.

outdoor furniture can further enhance your landscape's appeal. It is an easy way to change things up with minimal investment of time and money.

Big or small, a few changes can make a big difference. Tackle a few of the easier ones or those with the biggest impact first. Once you get started, you will not want to quit.

Melinda Myers is the author of more than 20 gardening books, including *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* DVD series and the nationally-syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and her web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.



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1

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your entire project¹

No minimum purchase required.

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FOR 1 YEAR!¹

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POLICE REPORTS

Spencer Police

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12
 12:00-12:22 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:23 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 12:37 a.m.: suspicious mv (North Spencer Road), investigated; 12:46-1:18 a.m.: buildings checked, secure;

Leicester Police

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13
 3:23 a.m.: suspicious mv (Stafford Street), gone on arrival; 5:03 a.m.: gunshots heard (Main Street), unable to locate; 9:00 a.m.: trespassing (Pleasant Street), peace restored; 9:25 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 9:54 a.m.: investigation (Winslow Avenue), services rendered; 12:00 p.m.: assist citizen (Pleasant Street); 1:14 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), unable to locate; 4:20 p.m.: welfare check (Mayflower Circle), services rendered; 5:06 p.m.: investigation (Spring Street), services rendered; 5:32 p.m.: investigation (Spring Street), services rendered; 6:08 p.m.: assist citizen (Boyd Street); 10:13 p.m.: suspicious mv (Pleasant Street), no action required; 10:35 p.m.: disturbance (Tobin Road), peace restored.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14
 12:38 a.m.: suspicious mv (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, criminal application issued; 1:58 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), Henry A. Pineda-Orellana, 25 Summit Street, #3, Spencer, straight warrant, arrest; 2:55 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), spoken to; 5:30 a.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 7:09 a.m.: assist citizen (Charlton Street); 8:36 a.m.: assist citizen (Min Street); 9:11 a.m.: investigation (Paxton Street), services rendered; 9:12 a.m.: mv stop (Mannville Street), written warning; 10:02 a.m.: investigator (South Main Street), services rendered; 10:06 a.m.: neighbor dispute (South Street), peace restored; 10:13 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), no action required; 10:33 a.m.: restraining order service (Green Street), served; 12:26 p.m.: suspicious activity (Main Street), gone on arrival; 3:14 p.m.: erratic operator (Soojians Drive), gone on arrival; 3:25 p.m.: suspicious person (Auburn Street), gone on arrival; 3:55 p.m.: suspicious person (Main Street), gone on arrival; 4:19 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), peace restored; 6:05 p.m.: assault (Main Street), report taken; 8:08 p.m.: welfare check (Church Street), report taken.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15
 12:39 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street),

Spencer police seize drugs during routine call



Photo Courtesy

Several drugs and paraphernalia were confiscated at a Spencer residence last week.

SPENCER – Police confiscated several drugs and paraphernalia during a routine call last week.

The Aug. 18 incident began as a wellbeing check at 37 Paxton Rd. After observing illegal narcotics on site, police secured the residence until a search warrant was obtained. Officers executed the warrant

shortly before 5 p.m. Confiscated materials included quantities of heroin, cocaine, and methamphetamine, as well as pipes, scales, and other paraphernalia.

Multiple individuals were present at the residence, police said. Charges are pending following a full investigation.

verbal warning; 12:57 a.m.: suspicious mv (Memorial School Drive), services rendered; 1:58 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), written warning; 2:17 a.m.: erratic operator (Stafford Street), referred; 3:06 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, marked lanes violation, criminal application issued; 11:55 a.m.: shoplifting (Soojian Drive), spoken to; 3:45 p.m.: assist citizen (Main Street); 4:49 p.m.: disturbance (Moosehill Road), report taken; 5:37 p.m.: assist other PD (South Main Street), unable to locate; 8:41 p.m.: mv stop (Mannville Street), verbal warning; 8:48 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 9:03

p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), Dallace G. LaCerte, 40, 723 Charlton Street, Southbridge, straight warrant, possession Class B drug, arrest; name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license/subsequent offense, criminal application issued; 10:11 p.m.: disturbance (Church Street), spoken to; 10:14 p.m.: family problem (South Main Street), spoken to; 10:29 p.m.: suspicious person (Main Street), spoken to; 10:30 p.m.: disturbance (Brown Street), peace restored; 10:46 a.m.: erratic operator (South Main Street), no action required; 10:52 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), spoken to; 11:54 p.m.: disturbance (Stafford Street), referred.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

10:23 a.m.: suspicious mv (Mannville Street), investigated; 11:49 a.m.: assist citizen (Rawson Street); 1:44 p.m.: keep the peace (Rawson Street), services rendered; 2:20 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 4:32 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street), message delivered.

MONDAY, AUGUST 17

1:22 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), citation issued; 2:54 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 5:32 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 9:04 a.m.: vandalism (Washburn Square), report taken; 9:12 a.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 9:51 a.m.: suspicious mv (Mulberry Street), no action required; 10:29 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 11:30 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 12:23 p.m.: accident (Virginia Drive), report taken; 12:45 p.m.: assist citizen (Main Street); 1:05 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 1:36 p.m.: trespassing (Auburn Street), gone on arrival; 2:37 p.m.: ambulance (Paxton Street), transported; 6:41 p.m.: disturbance (Reservoir Street), peace restored; 8:27 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), spoken to; 9:11 p.m.: suspicious mv (Mannville Street), gone on arrival; 9:32 p.m.: assault & battery (Main Street), report taken; 9:56 p.m.: restraining order service (Green Street), served.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18

9:58 a.m.: debris in road (Bond Street), removed; 12:30 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), gone on arrival; 2:52 p.m.: summons service (South Main Street), served; 6:39 p.m.: investigation (Wells Street, Oxford), services rendered; 6:58 p.m.: investigation (Cricklewood Drive), services rendered; 8:24 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:01 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), services rendered.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19

10:27 a.m.: fraud (South Main Street), report taken; 11:40 a.m.: welfare check (Marshall Street), no action required; 12:39 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:10 p.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant Street), unfounded; 2:44 p.m.: accident (Tobin Road), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, mv towed; 3:18 p.m.: RV complaint (Winslow Avenue), unable to locate; 6:52 p.m.: investigation (South Main Street), services rendered; 7:10 p.m.: suspicious activity (Main Street), spoken to; 8:19 p.m.: investigation (Winslow Avenue), services rendered.

OBITUARIES

Irene L. Stoddard, 87

SPENCER- Irene L. Stoddard, 87, died peacefully on Thursday, August 20, 2020 in Notre Dame Nursing home.

Irene was born in Warren on September 21, 1932 the daughter of Anna (Regula) and Albert Czynodel; both immigrants from Poland. She was pre-deceased by her husband of 62 years, Richard Stoddard,

her parents, her sister Wanda Starzyk, her brother John Czynodel, and an infant sister Gladys Czynodel.

At age 16 she went to work for Roger's Plastics in West Warren where she worked for many years as a machine

operator until she married in 1957 and started a family. She worked Mother's hours for Zayre's, Catholic Charities and Becker's College. She retired from Anna Maria College where she worked for 20 years.

Irene is survived by 2 sons Philip and his wife Mary Stoddard of Spencer, James and his wife Robin Stoddard of Charlton; and her 4 grandchildren Sara, Andrew, Colin, and Victoria which made her very proud.

Funeral services will be private for the family in Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Spencer. Burial will follow in Worcester County Memorial Park in Paxton. Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home 163 Main St. Spencer.

TAYLOR

continued from page A9

American tire manufacturer representing 64,000 jobs plus the supply chain in favor of foreign made imported goods?

Even if you are willing to power through the economic authoritarianism, the hypocrisy, and policy shooting from the hip fresh off of being embarrassed...Shouldn't we care about American jobs? In the past month Trump has threatened millions of American jobs over his ego. Why would we give that up to foreign companies over a temper tantrum?

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 - Love Mom*

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Smoking cause of rooming house fire

SPENCER - Spencer Fire Chief Robert Parsons and State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey said the cause of the Aug. 10 fire at 204 Main St. in Spencer is the improper use or disposal of smoking materials. The 26-unit rooming house suffered an estimated \$80,000 in damage. Nineteen residents are displaced.

No residents were injured but one firefighter was treated and released from a local hospital.

The fire started on the windowsill of the old balloon-frame building. Embers

from smoking materials got inside the framing of the windowsill and travelled inside the wall up to the attic. The fire smoldered for a long time before breaking out.

Balloon frame construction is a technique that was used in many New England buildings in the last two centuries where there are little or no fire stops inside the walls. This allows fire to travel quickly, often before occupants are aware of the danger.

The Spencer Fire and Police Departments, the District 7 Fire Investigation Team,

and State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal jointly investigated the fire.

The building was equipped with a residential sprinkler system that is designed for life safety - to allow occupants more time to escape. The sprinkler system protected occupied areas only, but not the attic or concealed spaces. Because the fire was inside the walls and the attic, the sprinklers never activated. Everyone was able to escape safely.

Massasoit Art Guild issues call for art

REGION — The Massasoit Art Guild Announces its 17th Annual 2020 Art Show and Sale Oct. 17. This year's show will be held virtually on the website at www.massasoitartguild.com from Oct. 17 through Jan. 1, 2021. There will be an exciting display of artwork exhibited from members in all categories. New artists of any level are always welcome.

This year's judge is Nancy Cooke Bunnell, an award winning artist and teacher. Nancy Cooke Bunnell is a professional artist whose is best known for her pastels. NC Bunnell Studio offers existing paintings, pastels and photography as well as

t-shirts, prints and commission paintings in her studio and on the web. As a certified art teacher, she teaches throughout the state.

Nancy Cooke Bunnell's pastels are infused with light, color, and energy. She is an award winning artist and won 'Best in Show' at the Connecticut Pastel Society(CPS), 2012, 2nd place in 2011 at CPS and Vernon Art Center in 2013. Her work won first Place at Mansfield Art Show, 2012, and placed honorary mention at the CPS Show, 2013. She won the Great American Art Award at CPS in 2015. Her work can be seen at www.ncbunnells-tudio.com.

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OXFORD - 377 Main St! 9 Rm Center Hall Colonial! .59 Acre Corner Lot! Charm of Yesteryear! Eat-In Frplcd Granite Kit w/Updated Cabinets, Frplcd Din Rm w/ Built-in China Cabinet & Butler Closet! Gracious Foyer! Spacious Frplcd Liv Rm! Breezeway to a Home Office or an Unfinished Cathedral Ceiling Fam Rm or Craft Rm! Sit on the Front Porch and Enjoy Morning Coffee or Evening Tea! Huge 2-Car Garage w/Loft-Storage Area! Mature Tree Studded Yard! **\$339,000.00**

WEBSTER - 10 Wyman St! Webster Lake Neighborhood Access at Lakeside Beach & State Boat Ramp Near-by! 10,000' Lot! 1 Level Living! 11 Rooms, 4 Bedrooms, 2 Baths! Room for the Extended Family! 2 Complete Living Quarters! A/C! LP Gas Heat! Town Services! 2 Driveways! Fenced Back Yard! 2 Sheds! **\$189,900.00**

DOUGLAS - 102 SE Main St! Start Packing! Spacious 9 Rm Colonial! 2.23 Acres! Center Island Granite Kit w/Soft Close Cabs, SS Appliances! Slider to 24' Deck! Open Floor Plan! Hickory Wood Floors throughout the Kit, Din & Liv Rms, all w/Recessed Lighting! 1st Flr Office or Possible 4th Bdrm w/Oak Hrdwd Flr! Full Bath in the Hall! 2nd Flr w/Full Dble Vanity Bthrm & 3 Comfortable Bdrms, all w/Beautiful Wood Laminate Flrs! Master w/Cathedral Ceiling, Skylight, Ceiling Fan, Bay Window overlooking the Back Yard and a Master Bath! Lower Level w/2 Finished Rms, Utility Rm w/Laundry and Half Bath! 3.5 Baths Total! Recent C/Air, Heat & Roof! 2x2x2 Car Detached Garage! Huge Shed! Nearby Nature Trails & Wallum Lake Beach! **\$379,900.00**

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

HOLDEN - 314 Holden St! 6 Rm Ranch! Meticulously Maintained! 2 Spacious Bdrms, Full Tiled Bath & 1 Car Garage! Move In Ready! Granite Oak Cabinet Kit w/Tiled Back Splash & JennAir Stove! Frplcd Liv Rm! Fam Rm! Gleaming Hrdwds! Perfect Yard w/Major Landscaping this Year! New Roof 2019! **\$344,900.00**

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

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

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

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



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OXFORD - 4 SPICEBUSH LANE



OPEN HOUSE • 8/30 2-3:30

One level living with added 35 x 18 finished walk-out lower level! Enjoy entertaining! Home cathedral ceilings, skylight dining, hard-wood flooring and central air. Cook in style with all stainless appliances/w/arge double oven. Private over-sized 30 x 14 deck. All nestled in a quiet cul-de-sac! **\$324,900.**

WOODSTOCK CT - 110 JOY RD



NEW LISTING

Quintessential Woodstock Farmhouse with Spectacular views to the Pond. Fully Insulated Detached Studio Building! 2.5 Acres. Prof. Landscaped. 5 Bedrooms. Fireplaced Dining, Library/Music room, Master Bed-room, 2 Full Baths! Renovated Kitchen, Upstairs, 4 Bedrooms with Full Bath, Second stairway to Dining room. **\$425,000.**

OXFORD - 4 LEICESTER ST



LAND Great Opportunity for Developer! Total 8.47 +/- Acres. 6.54 Acres on tract 1, 1.93 Acres for Tract II. Excellent location for quick commuter access to several State Highways. Nice scenic nature views. Town water & Sewer in the street. Wetland Delineation. **\$89,900.**

THOMPSON - 452 FABYAN ROAD



Impressive Gambrel! Colonial 2, 343 SF, 3 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, Main Level Master BR Suite! Private Master sized bath w/whirlpool tub & shower. 2.41 +/- PRIVATE Acre! Cathedral wood ceilings & wide-board pine floors! Granite counter-tops, stainless appliances, gas cook-top & ceramic tile floors! 2 bed rooms & a full bath! Organic loft/great room with interior balcony! Over-sized 3 car detached garage w/whip ceilings, and a huge unfinished 2nd story room! TRULY A FAR-AWAY PLACE NEARBY! **\$398,500.**

WEBSTER - 195-199 THOMPSON RD



3 ACRE COMMERCIAL SITE! APPROX. 550 FT ROAD FRONTAGE ON STATE HIGHWAY RTE 193 A/K/A THOMPSON ROAD. STRATEGICALLY NESTLED BETWEEN TWO (2) I-395 (NORTH & SOUTH) ON-RAMPS & TWO (2) I-395 (NORTH & SOUTH) OFF-RAMPS! PROPERTY DIRECTLY ABUTS I-395! 48'X30' CONCRETE BLOCK BUILDING, 7,680 SF TOTAL! FULL LOWER LEVEL USE & DRIVE IN GARAGE DOOR! HIGH TRAFFIC - HIGH EXPOSURE! WHAT DO YOU HAVE PLANNED?! **\$600,000.**

WEBSTER - 39 OLD DOUGLAS RD



First time offered! Lovingly cared for ranch situated on 1 acre in country type setting! Recent improvements including windows, siding, gutters & new composite rear deck. No storage problems here - cabinet packed kitchen to the cedar closets. You will enjoy that the Bay window drenches the living room with tons of sunshine! 3 full baths! Master Bath with a conveniently located laundry area off the hall. Lower Level - Potential for an in-law or extra personal space for the kiddos!!! This home speaks for itself, don't miss out on this one!! **\$338,000.**

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

WEBSTER LAKE - 28 BLACK POINT RD



OPEN HOUSE • 8/30 11-2

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SPEAKING

GARY W.
MOORE

Finding love and service in pickles and an ironing board

We all have hobbies and passions in life. Some like to do woodworking while others may love to garden. Some activities are common and others unique and unusual. There are more hobbies and passions than I can think of and list on this page, but almost everyone has something. I love to cook for friends and family. When we have company, I'm up early and working in the kitchen. My skills are limited. I have no professional training. I just know what I like and share it with others.

I've often wondered about my cooking obsession and I now realize it is just a way that I enjoy serving others. I love to eat, and I seem to have a creative gene that encourages me

to try new recipes. It makes me feel good knowing that cooking for others makes them happy. It's a positive activity that provides a basic human service for people I care about and love.

Through the years I've developed a few recipes that I'm proud of. I grow pickling cucumbers in my garden and make what I call "Lemony Dill Pickles." I've never canned them because they are eaten as fast as I can make them. It's a citrusy twist to traditional dill pickles by replacing half the vinegar with lemon juice. I thinly slice the cucumbers and put them in a bowl. I never measure anything ... but I put in roughly 40 percent distilled or filtered water, 35 percent white vinegar, 25 percent

lemon juice, salt to taste (I like salt), dill, garlic, and black pepper cloves. I let it marinate for twenty-four hours and enjoy. I also thinly slice an onion and put into the mix. I'm sharing this with you as I don't want my recipe lost.

Please let me know if you try this. Play with the mixtures to suit your taste buds. I'd love to know what you think. I also make a killer Barbeque Sauce and a unique recipe of mashed potatoes I'll share later. I love working to please others through my cooking.

When my grandkids were younger, I bought a Mickey Mouse pancake maker that made pancakes in the shape of Mickey. They became known in our family as "MouseCakes."

The most common question from my Facebook friends was "Are they made out of real mice?"

My grandkids enjoyed them, until they didn't. Now, my "MouseCake Maker" sits in a cabinet hoping for another grandchild or six.

Cooking isn't an unusual hobby, but my next passion is. I love to iron my children and now grandchildren's clothes. I don't iron on schedule but only by request. "Dad, I'm running late to school. Can you iron this for me?" My daughter would often say as she tossed her shirt down the stairs. I'd sometimes try to resist, but the joy I found in doing this was surprising. I have ironed for everyone but there is a special

"ironing bond" I have with my daughter, Tara Beth. Before school ... later in life, before dates or even a job interview, I loved hearing her voice ask me to iron.

One of the things I like about ironing is that it is an anonymous activity. No one ever compliments you on your ironing skills. You've never been asked, "Wow, who ironed your pants? They did a great job!" I like the feeling of doing something for no credit nor attention but something that is appreciated by the recipient. Does that make sense? It does to me.

I've shared this in the past, but the most memorable ironing experience was on her wed-

Turn To **MOORE** page **A17**



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MOORE
continued from page A15

ding day. By this point in life, she realized the satisfaction I received by providing this service for her. The morning of her wedding she walked down the stairs with her wedding dress draped over her arms. All she said was "Dad ..." and I eagerly took it from her and quickly turned away so she would not see the emotion I felt bubbling up. I took my time, as it was the most complex garment I had ironed, but also the most meaningful. My emotions flowed and dotted her perfectly white dress as I ironed my tears into the fabric. It was both a sad but immensely joyful moment that I'll never forget.

So, now you know a little bit more about me and I'm guessing I'm the first person you've met who finds ironing joyful.

Until next week

... try my pickles!

Gary W. Moore is a freelance columnist, speaker, and author of three books including the award-winning, critically acclaimed, "Playing with the Enemy." Follow Gary on Twitter @ GaryW Moore721 and at www.garywmoore.com.

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Since 1923 Place Motor, Massachusetts oldest family owned Ford dealer has endured through all sorts of challenges. Covid-19 is the latest. Certainly, it has altered how we interact with each other. Now with Phase 3 of the reopening of Massachusetts underway we are welcoming customers back into our showroom while following safe practices including wearing face coverings and social distancing. Now is a great opportunity to take advantage of great deals with huge rebates and 0% financing available on many vehicles to those who qualify

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Revised hours • Extensive cleaning processes

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