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Friday, September 11, 2020

Fall sports approved at DPHS

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – After receiving the green light from the School Committee, it's game on for student-athletes at David Prouty High School.

Last month, the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School Committee voted unanimously to have DPHS sports for the 2020-21 school year. All sports will be played in accordance with state and MIAA regulations, which feature several modifications to various sports.

Although the game atmosphere will be dramatically different than in past years, athletes are grateful to have a chance to play. Coaches, school administrators, and SEBRSC members are also thrilled that students won't have to miss some of their favorite activities.

"I am so happy the kids will be able to participate in sports this year. It's a glimpse of hope that we are getting through this pandemic," said School Committee Chairman Jason Monette.

To better accommodate high-risk sports, the MIAA will feature four high school athletic seasons this year. Fall Sports I, which includes soccer, field hockey, golf, and cross country, among others, will run from Oct. 5 through Nov. 20.

The winter sports season will be played between Nov. 30 and Feb. 21. Immediately following this season, a newly implemented season known as Fall Sports II will run from Feb. 22 through April 25. This season will feature the sports that are unable to be played this fall due to safety concerns, including football, cheerleading, and unified basketball.

Spring sports will be extended beyond the normal timeframe, operating from April 26 through July 3.

Individual school districts throughout the Commonwealth had the final say on whether their athletes would take the field. The SEBRSC is committed to supporting athletic competition this year if COVID-19 numbers remain manageable.

"David Prouty High School Principal Liz York, Athletic Director Chuck Fahey, and the SWCL [Southern Worcester County League] worked very hard to put this fall sports plan together," said Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District Superintendent Paul Haughey. "I credit them with creating the best opportunity possible for our students."

If COVID-19 conditions worsen during the first fall sports season, the entire season must either be canceled or postponed to Fall Sports II. In each school district, the superintendent, principal, and school committee will be responsible for monitoring conditions and reporting to the MIAA. Teams in the second fall sports season will be allowed to hold modified practices throughout the fall. Additionally, there will be no tournaments or middle school sporting activities this fall. In an effort to limit travel and the number of opponents, SWCL principals and athletic directors recently approved local pods of competing high schools for the upcoming year.

Meanwhile, the MIAA's COVID-19 Task Force continues to monitor the latest state guidance and conditions within school districts.

"It's exciting that student-athletes and coaches from across the Commonwealth are finally able to prepare for an

actual athletic season," said MIAA President Jeffrey Granatino. "The work that the MIAA COVID-19 Task Force and our individual sports committees put forth will allow for these sports to take place in a fashion that adheres to the safety precautions that have been recommended."

All sports regulations and guidance are aligned with mandates from the state's Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA), as well as the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Modifications to various sports were vetted through the MIAA's Sports Medicine Committee, which includes two epidemiologists who worked with state officials.

"These modifications will continue to be reviewed as they relate to current regulations surrounding COVID-19, and they may be modified if necessary," read a statement released by the MIAA.

Officials remind coaches and athletes that conditions can change quickly – and state guidance may be updated at any time in response to elevated risks.

"There is still a great deal of work to do, but the efforts made to date have been amazing," Granatino said. "All participating MIAA member schools are expected to adhere to these sport modifications."

Added MIAA Executive Director Bill Gaine, "On behalf of the membership, I enthusiastically advance gratitude to MIAA Task Force members for their valuable contributions in providing a blueprint for MIAA student-athletes to participate in athletics this fall season."

Camp Marshall pushes through pandemic



Photo Courtesy
From left, campers Shaylie Moore (seven), Erick Earley (seven), and Kade Stolberg (eight) enjoy their time at Camp Marshall.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – Bolstered by ongoing community assistance, most recently from Webster First Federal Credit Union, Camp Marshall continues to push through the pandemic.

Last month, members of Webster First presented Camp Marshall officials with a donation of \$35,000. The funds will go a long way toward

helping the camp maintain financial stability in uncertain times.

Camp Marshall has been especially hard hit by the COVID-19 crisis. State regulations prevent the staff from offering overnight camps until the fourth phase of reopening, which has led to a significant reduction in the number of campers in 2020. Meanwhile, costs have gone up

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Primary sets the stage for November contests

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – With last week's State Primary in the books, the stage is set for several central Massachusetts rematches in the Nov. 3 general election.

Incumbent Democratic Congressman Jim McGovern is being challenged again by Tracy Lovvorn for the Second Massachusetts Congressional District. Lovvorn, a Republican from Grafton, only picked

up 33 percent of the votes in her 2018 battle against McGovern. After running unopposed in the Republican Primary on Sept. 1, she is looking forward to her rematch with the longtime incumbent McGovern.

"I want to bring a new energy to Washington – a positive energy focused on unification and solutions," read a statement released by Lovvorn. "I am tired of being lied to by career politicians. I am done with allowing

them to advance their personal agendas and careers, instead of working for us in support of our needs."

Congressman McGovern, who has held his seat for 24 years, is the current Chair of the House Rules Committee.

"Since his first election to Congress in 1996, Jim has consistently delivered millions of dollars for jobs, vital local and regional projects, small

Turn To **PRIMARY**, page **A7**

SPENCER LIONS
HELP TO KEEP OFFICERS SAFE

Photo Courtesy

Thanks to a grant from Lions Club International, the Harvard Lions Club recently donated protective face shields to help keep officers in Spencer safe.

Libraries continue to manage COVID challenges

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – Most local libraries have reopened in a limited capacity, but it might be several more months before guests can enjoy normal programming.

In North Brookfield, Hoston Free Public Library is open five days per week, three hours daily. Officials have seen success from social distancing regulations and the use of facial coverings by staff and patrons.

"We have been very fortunate to have the support of our selectmen and Board of Health, as well as daily custodial cleaning to make this possible," said Library Director Dawn Thistle. "Library staff and volunteers perform additional cleaning and disinfecting each day to ensure patron safety."

One of the most important services provided by libraries is access to computers. During the statewide shutdown earlier this year, many local residents were unable to

have internet access to search for jobs and print materials. In the current system provided at Hoston Public Library, patrons are able to use one of two available computers.

As of Sept. 5, Hoston Public Library is limited to ten patrons in the building at a given time, with thirty minutes allotted per session. The children's library is also open for one family at a time (no toys are available). Moreover, guests

Turn To **LIBRARIES**, page **A7**

QCC’s early college program a direct pathway to higher education

WORCESTER — Students in the Worcester Public Schools and the surrounding communities have been taking advantage of Quinsigamond Community College’s Early College Program and the results have been promising. Early College Programs have become a way for high school students to get a head start on college, by enabling them to earn college credits while still in high school, and according to the Baker-Polito Administration, the Early College program model has been successful. QCC has seen 42 percent of its Early College students enroll at the college within one year of taking early college courses during the program’s early beginnings.

In the first preliminary data analysis completed since the state’s Early College Initiative began in 2018, the findings showed that Massachusetts high school students who graduate from Early College programs are applying for Federal financial aid and are enrolling in college at significantly higher rates than their school or state peers. Data from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education showed that

high school graduates who participated in Early College programs are enrolling in college at a rate that is 20 percentage points higher than their school or state peers; and their FAFSA completion rates are 25 percentage points higher than their school peers.

Since 2018, QCC has been providing Worcester Public Schools’ diverse student population with educational services, creating college equity access to more students who have historically been underserved. Data collected by QCC, found that of those students who participated in the college’s Early College Program during the 2018-2019 academic year, the largest participating student populations were Latinx (29.2 percent) and Black (28.8 percent).

“At a time when we see racial equity gaps widening, it is encouraging to see the impact of Early College as an effective strategy to propel Black and Latinx students to successful college completion,” said Higher Education Commissioner Carlos E. Santiago.

The state data also showed that when outcomes for Black and Latinx students enrolled in Early College were com-

pared with peers of the same race who were not enrolled in the program, Early College students of color attended college at higher rates. The differential between Black Early College graduates who enrolled in college and their Black school peers was 25 percentage points. Between Latinx early college program graduates and their Latinx school peers the difference was 30 percentage points.

“While the Commonwealth performs well in many education measures, the launch and growth of Early College is an important step forward in equitable access to college for all students and a proven way to close the college degree completion gap,” said Education Secretary James Peyser.

QCC has partnered not only with the seven Worcester Public High Schools, but also with 22 additional area Central Massachusetts High Schools. Students take classes that range from general education, business and healthcare, and fulfill their high school requirements while completing college credits.

“Our Early College Program is making such a difference in the lives of students. It is giving them a pathway to

higher education and a way to realize their dreams and have a better life,” said QCC President Dr. Luis G. Pedraja.

According to QCC’s Director of Educational Partnerships K-12 & Early College Initiatives, Christina Hebert, the majority of high school students taking classes are juniors and seniors, with a small percent who are sophomores.

“Some students take two courses per semester and summer classes,” she said. “The goal of Massachusetts Early College Programs is to have all high school students graduate with at least 12 college credits. The opportunity is there for students to graduate from high school and also earn a certificate or associate degree. Some students have graduated with 15 to 24 or more credits.”

To learn more about QCC’s Early College program, visit www.qcc.edu/early-college.

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

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

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Girls on the Run Worcester County launches fall season

REGION — Recently, Girls on the Run Worcester County (GOTR) announced the launch of its fall season. GOTR is a leader in delivering evidence-based, life skills curriculum to girls of all abilities. Through more than 20 sites across Worcester County GOTR has served more than 2,100 since it was founded in 2015. For the 2020-2021 school year, GOTR is offering a variety of programs to accommodate the changing and unpredictable school year due to the pandemic. Registration for the fall 2020 season is open at several of our sites, with more being added daily at www.gotr-worc.org.

“Our staff and coaches are ready to bring critical social-emotional programming to Worcester County girls at a time when they need it the most,” said Karen Spencer, Executive Director. “We have adapted based on the recommendations of local health officials and decisions of local governments and school districts. Our fluid model will work completely in-person, completely virtual or can

seamlessly transition between the two as needed. We are excited to offer for the first time, our new residential program which will work great for small teams of 6-12 neighboring girls or home schoolers. Coaches do not need to be runners to implement this amazing social emotional curriculum.”

Flexible Programming Model

If schools and sites are in session, GOTR afterschool programming can be delivered as in the past, with enhanced safety measures including physical distancing modifications. Should school and site close, the program will be easily transitioned to a virtual model, with lessons that mirror the in-person program. This fluid programming model ensures that participants will experience the social, emotional, and physical outcomes of the program while allowing local teams to adjust to changes in the school and community health guidelines throughout the season.

100 percent Virtual

Virtual fall programming is delivered by trained coaches in a safe virtual space, with lessons that mirror the in-person Girls on the Run or Heart & Sole program. Virtual programming will include physical activity and social-emotional learning, providing girls with an opportunity to still build meaningful connections with their peers and caring adult role models.

GOTR at Home Activity Kit for Fall

For 25 years, Girls on the Run 1 has provided evidence-based programming that builds confidence and empathy in girls when they need it the most. Girls on the Run is proud to unveil the GOTR at Home Activity Kit. Designed to fuel girls' mind, body and spirit, the kit includes 50 activities that emphasize the important connection between physical and emotional health. Each activity helps girls learn valuable skills such as how to cope when things get difficult, demonstrate care for self and others, and practice positivity. From the silly starters to the fun

movement games and challenges, girls will laugh, create, and grow through each activity

Volunteer coaches will receive the training and materials required to provide girls a safe, trauma-sensitive space to learn valuable life lessons and be active.

Added Spencer, “Together, we will find a way to motivate girls to nurture their physical and emotional health, no matter the circumstances.”

About Girls on the Run Worcester County

Through more than 20 sites across the Worcester area, GOTR Worcester has served more than 2,100 girls since it was founded in 2015. Last year, over \$33,000 was provided in financial assistance to 44 percent of participants, ensuring that the program remains accessible to all girls who wish to participate. For more information, visit www.gotr-worc.org and follow us on social media @gotrwochester.

SEMI TRUCK BRINGS DOWN POWER LINES



Photo Courtesy

LEICESTER – No injuries were reported during an incident last month involving a semi-truck striking power lines. On Aug. 24, Virginia Drive and Lillian Avenue were closed after a tractor-trailer unit brought down the power lines. National Grid crews responded for repairs.

The truck was owned by Clean Harbors, a waste management and environmental services company based in Norwell. As of press time, police had not announced any charges filed against the driver.

Yard Sale – Sat. 9/12/20 9-1:00 240 Hamilton Street • Southbridge



Some items available from an apartment clean out: small wooden 2-drawer file cabinet; large black TV stand; side wooden bed stand; misc. cookware and dishes; many various collections of elephants; Peanut Pals Sculptures by The Hamilton Collection (\$5 ea.); Protect Nature's Innocents Collectibles (\$5 ea.); Eftanbee Legends Series George Burns doll (boxed); Franklin Mint Diana Princess of Wales porcelain doll (boxed); small wooden roll-down cabinet with key; many record albums and cassettes; 2 tall light oak wooden swivel chairs; stained glass lampshades; small black roller suitcase; used washer (\$35) and dryer (\$35); antique clothing armoire (56"x34"); round (6 ft.) wool braided handmade rug (\$25); grandfather clock; and other collectibles and odds and ends.

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\$278,000, 641 Little Rest Rd, Giovanello, Enrico, and Arcoite, Bradley, to Kimball, Michael D.

P.A.L. of the Week

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Name: Suri

Breed: DSH

Sex: Spayed Male

Age: 4 Mos.



Suri is a very sweet kitten although she is a little shy initially when meeting new people. She has her playful moments but then is content to “chill out” and watch the other “crazy” kittens. She would be a great companion for another kitten. She lived in one of our foster homes where she was very compatible with their cats and a dog. Suri has a lovely disposition and will blossom in a quiet and loving home.



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Friday's Child



Jaiden
Age 6

Hi! My name is Jaiden and I love to snuggle!

Jaiden is a sweet and loving little boy of Caucasian descent. Those who know him best adore him and share that he can make you smile as soon as you see him. Once you start speaking to Jaiden, he will turn towards you to see who is visiting and will give you a wide grin. The more you speak to him, the more excited he gets. He absolutely loves to be held and is a very happy boy. All of the staff members in the program at which Jaiden resides,

as well as his teachers at school, have fallen in love with him and are hoping that he finds his forever family soon.

Jaiden's favorite activities include playing with the Singing Elmo that he received for Christmas and listening to music. He loves being in the pool and enjoys pushing off the wall and splashing around in the water. Jaiden is also able to engage in many activities at school such as arts and craft projects with the help of his teachers and aide. Jaiden enjoys going to school and is always happy to see his teachers. Jaiden is non-verbal, is wheelchair bound, and has been diagnosed with cortical blindness. He relies on 24/7 support and receives occupational, physical, vision, and speech therapy at his school.

Legally freed for adoption, Jaiden is seeking a loving and caring home that can understand the complexity of his needs. The staff at his program are committed to helping a pre-adoptive family make Jaiden comfortable and happy in a home setting. Jaiden has the potential to thrive in family of any constellation, either as an only child or with siblings (he very much enjoys being around other children). It is important to Jaiden that he maintains a relationship with his two siblings who are placed in another home.

Who Can Adopt?

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

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

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



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Second Chance to host DinnerLESS Auction

EAST BROOKFIELD — Second Chance Animal Services has announced plans to host a DinnerLESS Auction in place of their twice rescheduled Annual Dinner Auction. The nonprofit contacted ticket holders and sponsors to let them know that under the current state event capacity restrictions, it was impossible to host the annual dinner. Instead, Second Chance will host four weeks of virtual auctions throughout the month of October, kicked off with a live virtual event on Oct. 3.

“So far the reaction has been so positive,” reports Second Chance Development Director Lindsay Doray. “So many ticket holders have reached out to decline a ticket refund, opting to donate the money to the Second Chance Food Pantry Operation Fund. For years, we’ve distributed food to local food pantries, so no pet goes hungry. The need is great

right now - we are helping more pantries than ever before and providing more food to each location.”

Doray and the Dinner Auction Committee are currently preparing for the virtual event and auction, photographing the almost 200 items that were donated for the auction. The public will have the chance to bid on items including the always popular giant dog and cat baskets created by Second Chance CEO Sheryl Blancato.

“The auction will be a great way for people to do some Christmas shopping,” according to Blancato. “We have lots of gift baskets and gift cards that will be up for grabs and every winning bid will help pets like Dante, a beagle mix who came to us needing surgery for a broken leg after she was hit by a car.”

Dante is currently recovering at the home of a Second Chance foster and will be available for adoption after a two-to-

three month recovery.

As a nonprofit, Second Chance relies on donations, fundraisers and grants to operate all the programs that help over 40,000 pets a year. As donors face increasingly tough times, Second Chance reports donations are down while the cost of providing programs has increased due to all the extra precautions in place. Anyone interested in helping to sustain all the programs that help pets in need in our community can find many ways to make a donation at www.secondchanceanimals.org including DinnerLESS Auction tickets which will support the Food Pantry Operation Fund. Donations can also be made through the Second Chance for Dante Facebook fundraiser to help defray the cost of care for Dante and homeless pets like her who need extensive veterinary care. Donations are also welcome by mail to Second Chance, 111 Young

Road, East Brookfield. Information on the DinnerLESS Auction will be announced later this month.

About Second Chance Animal Services

Second Chance is a nonprofit 501c3 tax exempt organization that began in 1999 in East Brookfield and relies solely on donations from grants to operate. The organization operates an adoption center in East Brookfield, Community Veterinary Hospitals in North Brookfield, Springfield, and Worcester. Second Chance helps over 40,000 pets a year through adoption, spay/neuter, veterinary care, community outreach, educational outreach programs, training, and a pet food pantry. For more information, visit Second Chance’s website at www.secondchanceanimals.org.

Follow Second Chance on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/secondchanceanimals>



Photo Courtesy

Dante is a seven-year-old female beagle mix who came to Second Chance in need of surgery after being hit by a car. Dante is currently recovering in the home of a loving Second Chance foster known for her ability to coax shy dogs out of their shells. Dante will be available for adoption following her recovery, expected to be two to three months.

North Brookfield Savings Bank congratulates Patty Ostrout as New England Women in Banking winner

NORTH BROOKFIELD — is very proud to announce North Brookfield Savings Bank that Patty Ostrout, NBSB

Senior Vice President of Retail Banking, has been named a 2020 New England Woman in Banking winner.

Each year, Banking New England awards the New England Women in Banking awards to the women that have shown the strength of their accomplishments and are considered female trailblazers in the banking industry. Ostrout was chosen as a 2020 recipient of the award from a remarkable collection of nominees, with the final list consisting of only 13 winners total.

“I am completely honored to be recognized for my accomplishments and dedication,” said Patty Ostrout, Senior Vice President of Retail Banking, “I have had many wonderful experiences throughout my 34-year banking career and this is certainly one of them. I am abundantly grateful for many mentors who have guided me, the colleagues who have supported me, the customers who

have placed their trust in me as their banker, and the communities who have embraced me throughout the years. Thank you to Banking New England and their staff for the recognition.”

It is people like Ostrout that help our communities grow and prosper. Her attitude and loyalty to her values and her commitment to excellence in herself and others is contagious and noteworthy; Patty gives back and expects nothing in return. It is this unique dedication to her work, colleagues, and community, along with her genuine investment in the customers we serve that made Patty an ideal nominee and New England Woman in Banking winner.

She serves as a committee member of the Bank’s Community Reinvestment Committee which aims to respond to the local needs of the communities, having a meaningful, positive and broad impact within the local area. She also serves as a board member for Camp Putnam, which provides an authentic, nature-based camping experience for children from all backgrounds. Patty is instrumental in championing local organizations that need the Bank’s assistance and she continually speaks up on their behalf. She shares not only their mission but also their passion for the good work they do that further supports the communities she lives and works in.

Patty can be found mentoring students at the BAAM Business Workshop at the North Brookfield Elementary School, speaking to students about internship opportunities, and volunteering at many community events throughout local neighborhoods Through the BAAM program, she mentors



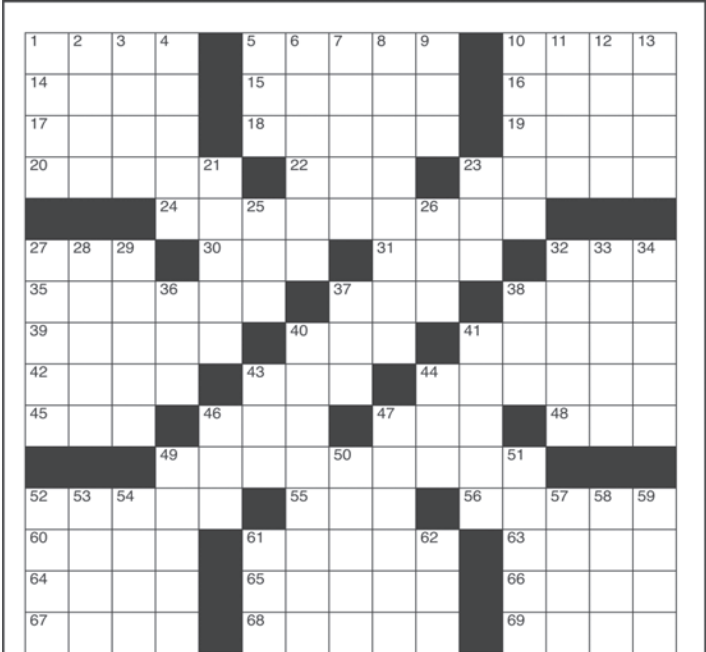
Patty Ostrout

young students on how to start a business, create and manage a budget and market themselves for maximum results.

Patty is also responsible for managing a comprehensive 5-week Financial Literacy Course to local high schools and elementary schools, as well as an in-depth program aimed at protecting older community members from Identity Theft, Fraud, and Scams. Each which provides community members with the tools they need to protect themselves and their families from risk and set themselves up for financial success.

“We are so proud of Patty for this great achievement. There is no one who is more deserving of the recognition,” said North Brookfield Savings Bank President and CEO, Donna Boulanger. “Patty is a terrific and thoughtful leader who illustrates how everyone should care for their community and support their teams. She leads by example and inspires all of her colleagues at North Brookfield Savings Bank every day to do the same.”

To learn more about the 2020 New England Women in Banking winners, or to read Patty Ostrout’s full profile, visit <https://www.bankingnewengland.com/women-in-banking/>.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Aurochs

5. Central Dravidian language

10. Split pulses in Indian cooking

14. Tropical starchy tuberous root

15. Well known constellation

16. About aviation

17. Bowfin genus

18. Proper

19. Expression of annoyance

20. Cabbies

22. Bro or sis

23. Spiritual leader

24. Where football coaches work

27. Old TV part

30. A way to color

31. Touch lightly

32. Surround

35. Breached

37. Aristocratic young woman

38. Dry ravine

39. Hebrew measurement units

40. Supporter
41. Type of sword

42. Influential Irish playwright

43. Witch

44. Flower cluster

45. Mark Wahlberg’s animal friend

46. Psychedelic amphetamine

47. Actors’ group

48. Cool!

49. Salts

52. Group of SE China

55. Illuminated

56. Semitic Sun god

60. Water (Spanish)

61. Employed

63. Japanese ankle sock

64. Fishing fly

65. Some pheasants are this

66. Literary name for Ireland

67. Must have

68. A way to write

69. One point east of southeast

CLUES DOWN

1. American state

2. Hindu model of ideal man

3. Type of acid

4. Drenches

5. “The Raven” writer

6. Emerged

7. Alpha Centauri: __ Centaurus

8. Democratic Presidential candidate

9. Hostelry

10. Fathers

11. Any plant with leaves used for flavoring

12. Member of a Semitic people

13. Lesotho monetary unit

21. Lots

23. Jewish address for “Sir”

25. Male parent

26. A way to get

27. Body part

28. Seam in an organ

29. Landlocked African country

32. Process for producing ammonia
33. Fluid accumulation in tissues

34. Bugged down

36. Native American tribe

37. Unfashionable person

38. Female grunts

40. Well known

41. Gurus

43. Norse mythological site

44. Tell on

46. __ Farrow, actress

47. Cotton fabric

49. Reciter of Scandinavian poems

50. Clouds

51. Satisfies

52. Shuttered Air Force base in Germany

53. Phil __, former CIA

54. Japanese seaport

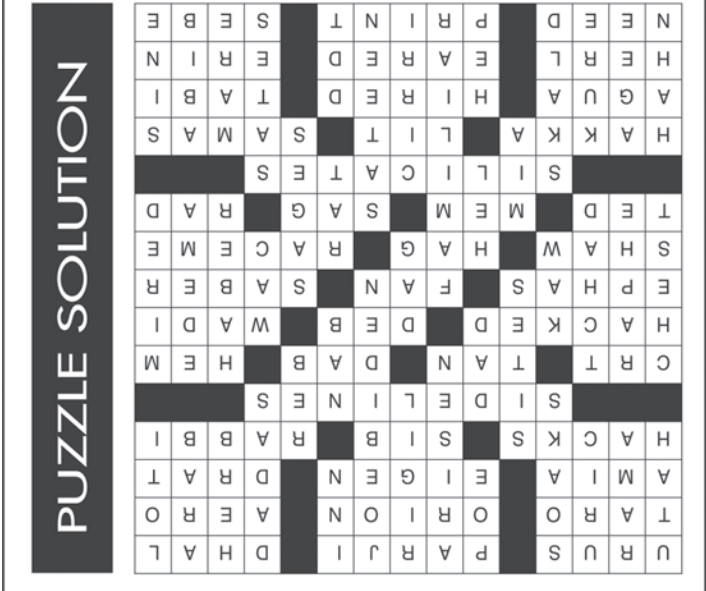
57. Female horse or zebra

58. 1st month of ancient Hebrew calendar

59. Trigonometric function

61. Fathomable knowledge (Slang)

62. Insecticide



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WEEK

Jessica Klem Bettencourt, New Braintree, MA

“She did an incredible job keeping Klems going over this time of COVID. She went above and beyond to make sure that her employees were safe while working as Essential employees. She helped out small businesses around her as well. She has quite a story...she sacrificed in order to make sure others were safe, her employees paid, essential products orders and made available, all while her husband passed away during this time. She took a college student into her home who did not have a place to go due to COVID as well as kept her business running with new avenues such as curbside orders, internet orders and as soon as she could let people back in the store she let them in. She was very supportive to her employees who could not work due to frail family members or children that needed their attention. She is truly an incredible woman.”

— Person who submitted wishes to remain anonymous

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

Baker launches initiative to help local businesses

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – Gov. Charlie Baker recently announced the launch of an initiative aimed at supporting local businesses.

Joined by Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito at an Aug. 25 press conference, Baker unveiled the new statewide effort to promote shopping local and supporting small businesses and attractions in a safe manner.

Although several sectors of the state's economy have reopened since May, countless businesses have seen significant drops in customers from pre-pandemic levels. Restaurants have had an especially difficult struggle, with many patrons afraid to return to their favorite locations due to COVID-19 concerns. Small shops have also struggled, and area attractions and recreational businesses have suffered the impacts of decreased discretionary income.

With his newly launched platform, My Local MA, Baker is employing several tools to promote safe in-person business interactions, online sales, curbside pickup, and takeout meals.

“The intent of the campaign is to showcase Massachusetts’ vast array of businesses and attractions – from

family-owned restaurants to artisan boutiques to museums – that are a critical part of the Commonwealth’s economy,” read a statement released by the Governor.

One of the major problems for area businesses, officials said, is that many residents aren’t aware of safe shopping accommodations like curbside pickup. Owners are encouraged to promote such offerings through physical signage, social media, and website announcements. Curbside pickup options should be heavily promoted, as well as a list of safety and sanitation measures in place at a given business, state leaders said.

“From Stockbridge to Provincetown, our local retailers and restaurants are open for business and are utilizing safe practices,” Baker said.

To assist local businesses with promotions, Baker’s My Local MA program will feature several advertising mediums. The campaign, which runs through December, will include print, broadcast, billboard, and digital ads, along with social media encouragement for residents to shop local.

Moreover, officials will feature resources for consumers and additional information on the website: www.FindMyLocalMA.com.

FindMyLocalMA.com.

The Governor is also reminding residents that the best way to support local businesses and ensure they can stay open is to shop safely and responsibly. To that end, the My Local MA program features a “Masking Up” component devoted to promoting facial coverings and social distancing efforts.

“Supporting beloved local businesses also means acting responsibly,” Baker added. “Masking up and practicing social distancing will be emphasized throughout the campaign to protect our quality of life and ensure that businesses can safely serve customers.”

The Commonwealth’s small business community plays a vital role in the overall state economy. According to the U.S. Small Business Administration, small businesses in Massachusetts employ approximately 1.5 million workers, accounting for approximately 45 percent of the state’s total workforce.

“Through My Local MA, residents are encouraged to protect and preserve those elements that make Massachusetts unique,” Baker said.

In central Massachusetts, local leaders continue to advocate for support of small businesses and entrepreneurs.

Area officials have seen several residents step up and seek out ways to help local enterprises as they begin their emergence from the COVID-19 crisis.

“We need to keep supporting our local businesses and make sure we do everything we can to help,” said State Rep. Peter Durant, of Spencer. “There is a ground swell of people who are promoting buying local, but a lot of businesses are still struggling. We’re seeing permanent layoffs in many places, and that affects everyone. People want to get back to work and start to come out of this.”

Local officials remind residents that supporting farmers and growers is just as important as shops and restaurants.

“Our main streets and side street businesses have all suffered during this health crisis. We are blessed to have so many small businesses and farms in our region – all offer unique products and produce,” said Sen. Anne Gobi, also a Spencer resident. “The more we can shop local, the better for our local economy, business owners, and their families.”

For more information about the state’s shop local effort, visit www.FindMyLocalMA.com.

North Brookfield Savings Bank recognized for community commitment

NORTH BROOKFIELD — North Brookfield Savings Bank’s roots run deep in its local communities and they have always held strong to the importance of being a source of support for their neighborhoods. In fact, “Community Support” is one of their five core values established by the Bank. That is why North Brookfield Savings Bank was pleased to be notified that the local, community-focused Bank had been recognized as the #1 leader in Community Contribution for Central Massachusetts at the annual Banking Choice Awards.

The Banking Choice Awards are presented annually by American Business Media, publishers of “Banking New England,” and Rivel Banking Benchmarks. The Banking Choice Awards are based upon the results of the Rivel Banking Benchmarks, the largest and most comprehensive measure of banking customer experience in the world. The benchmarks are conducted independent of any financial

institution biannually by Rivel, a pioneer in the online measurement and tracking of customer experience for banking institutions.

To track and measure customer experience, 281 financial institution’s customers were surveyed across the state of Massachusetts; conducting 11,099 interviews, and generated 313,842 reviews. This data was used to determine how customers rate their bank, and how those ratings compare to direct competition.

“All of us at North Brookfield Savings Bank are proud of this accomplishment of being recognized as the #1 bank in Central Massachusetts for Community Contribution. As a local neighborhood bank that is committed to supporting our communities and living our core values every day, this is truly a great honor,” said North Brookfield Savings Bank President and CEO Donna Boulanger.

North Brookfield Savings Bank consistently shows their dedication to supporting their communities through

donations, volunteerism, and educational opportunities. A small selection of recent contributions from the Bank are a recent Homebuyers Night Webinar, food pantry donations, \$10,000 worth of Scholarships for local High School seniors, and a Financial Literacy presentation aimed at protecting older community members from fraud, scams, and identity theft.

Recently the Bank released their 2019 Annual Report which was fittingly themed “Neighbors helping Neighbors,” displaying the various ways the Bank gives back to local communities through charitable giving and outreach efforts, as well as support of their local business communities.

“In addition to the Bank’s monetary contributions made, we have a fantastic group of employees who are committed and enthusiastic about providing our neighborhoods with community support,” said Andrea Healy, Chief Administrative and Human

Resources Officer. “We are continually impressed by their generosity and caring nature when it comes to giving back. Many of our employees sit on committees and serve as board members of organizations and non-profits in order to support their operations. Our employees are the heart and soul of the Bank and their commitment is what makes these accomplishments possible.”

It is through these efforts and many more that North Brookfield Savings Bank and its employees upholds and embodies their core values of Supporting our Communities, Embracing Teamwork, Committing to Excellence, Acting with Integrity, and Sharing Kindness.

To learn more about North Brookfield Savings Bank’s community giving efforts and all of the convenient banking products and services offered, visit www.NorthBrookfieldSavingsBank.com.

About North Brookfield Savings Bank

North Brookfield Savings Bank is a mutual savings bank with full-service branches in North Brookfield, East Brookfield, West Brookfield, Ware, Belchertown, Palmer, and Three Rivers Village of Palmer. NBSB offers a wide variety of deposit and loan products for individuals and businesses throughout Central and Western Massachusetts and has been a steadfast supporter of the communities in which it serves since 1854. North Brookfield Savings Bank is a 2018 Banking Choice 1st place award recipient in all categories including Overall Quality, Customer Service, Technology and Tools, and Community Contribution. All deposits are insured by the FDIC and the Depositors Insurance Fund. For additional information, please call 1-866-711-6272 or visit us online at www.NorthBrookfieldSavingsBank.com.



Suzy Langevin

Open Sky Community Services appoints new Director of Training and Professional Development

WORCESTER — Open Sky Community Services has announced the appointment of its new Director of Training and Professional Development, Suzy Langevin. As part of her new role, Langevin, who brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in behavioral health, will also lead the Bridge Training Institute, replacing long-time employee and recent retiree Stephen Murphy.

“2020 has brought unique challenges for the individuals we serve and our staff need high quality, up-to-date training. Suzy is the right person for that important job,” said Ken Bates, President and CEO of Open Sky Community Services. “COVID-19 may have started as simply a health crisis, but it has morphed over the past several months into a mental health crisis as well. In order to help the individuals we serve, our Clinicians

and Direct Care staff, we will be looking to Suzy to strengthen our collective skill sets.”

For years, the Bridge Training Institute had hosted workshops at an off-site hotel, but these types of large gatherings have been suspended due to COVID-19. Langevin sees this suspension as a growth opportunity rather than a barrier.

“Having worked with Steve Murphy for years, I have a strong understanding of what the Bridge Institute was, and I’m excited to expand its offerings. Having to innovate where and when we provide workshops is a real opportunity to broaden our audience beyond our core here in Central Massachusetts,” said Langevin. “Reducing barriers like time and travel to make training opportunities accessible to as many professionals as we can will exponentially help more people and expand the training opportunities we currently provide from Open Sky.”

Open Sky Community Services is an affiliation of The Bridge of Central Massachusetts and Alternatives Unlimited, Inc., which came together in 2018. Langevin previously served as Director of Dual Diagnosis Services, where she developed a model for services for co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders. She also previously worked to implement and supervise the provision of Illness Management and Recovery (IMR) services and was instrumental in the development and opening of The Bridge Counseling Center, Open Sky’s outpatient division. As a consultant and trainer, she specializes in Motivational Interviewing, and is a member of the Motivational Interviewing Network of

Turn To **LANGEVIN** page **A7**

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LANGEVIN

continued from page A6

Trainers (MINT). She was recently named to the Leadership Worcester Class of 2021.

For more information about Open Sky Community Services, please contact Lorie Martiska, lorie.martiska@openskycs.org

For more information about the

Bridge Training Institute and its 2020-2021 training calendar, please visit the website www.thebridgetraininginstitute.org or contact traininginstitute@openskycs.org

About Open Sky Community Services
Open Sky Community Services is dba for Alternatives Unlimited, Inc. and The Bridge of Central MA. Open Sky offers a wide range of services for adults, adolescents, and children with mental health challenges, developmental

and intellectual disabilities, substance use disorders, brain injury, homelessness and other challenges throughout Central Massachusetts. Open Sky Community Services has over 1,300 dedicated employees and an annual budget of \$83M with more than 100 programs throughout the region. For more information, please visit www.openskycs.org.

About The Bridge Training Institute
The Bridge Training Institute is an

industry leader in providing both theoretical and real-world training on evidence-based and best practices for clinicians and school personnel. Offering over 20 trainings per year, the Institute features expert trainers from human services, education, professional practices and academia. Institute trainers have worked directly with leaders in the field such as Marcia Linehan, Aaron Beck, the BU Center for Psychological Rehabilitation and others.

MARSHALL

continued from page A1

for the camp this year due to increased health protocols and sanitation supplies.

“Not being able to host overnight campers this summer was a devastating blow,” said Camp Marshall Executive Director Sheryl Moore. “We already have to stretch our budget as thin as possible, but having to reduce our camper capacity – combined with the loss of overnight camp – equated to almost 75 percent less campers than last year, which is an almost impossible financial hurdle to overcome.”

In response to the numerous challenges, the entire camp community stepped up to soften the blow. One camper’s parent started a GoFundMe page to collect donations, and camp

staff members accepted pay cuts.

The staff has also embraced extra training on sanitation protocols to help keep campers safe. Staff members were fully prepared to host overnight camps in July, but the unexpected decision at the state level caused camp leaders to scramble through several hurdles.

“The staff has been amazing through all of the unknowns that have come with this summer,” Moore added. “We have had to constantly make adjustments and turn on a dime, and the staff was extremely committed to preserving the experience for the campers above all else.”

While many local kids have been mostly stuck at home since March, the dedication of the Camp Marshall staff

helped salvage the summer for area families. Even though overnight camp was scrapped, youngsters still enjoyed plenty of fun activities at day camp. Additionally, a stay-and-play partnership with the Publick House in Sturbridge increased travel convenience for parents and campers.

For Webster First President/CEO Michael Lussier, it’s important to invest in local businesses that help sustain the community during challenging times.

“The camp fits in with our values as a credit union – community, family, learning, and leadership,” Lussier said. “Many of our members and employees are from the area, and we have a branch in town. It’s making an impact right here at home.”

The Webster First donation

will help the camp weather the 2021 off-season and ensure its return in the summer. Camp leaders are already planning a year in advance.

“We are committed to getting creative in the off-season to provide needed programs for the community, as school and daycare needs look very different this fall,” Moore said. “We are extremely thankful that Mr. Lussier and Webster First were able to provide such generous assistance in our time of need.”

Webster First Federal

Credit Union serves the financial needs of Essex, Middlesex, Suffolk, and Worcester Counties. Founded in 1928, Webster First is one of the largest credit unions in Massachusetts.

Camp Marshall, located at 92 McCormick Rd., has served the community for more than 50 years. Outside of its summer programming, Camp Marshall is home to year-round youth educational activities and an equestrian center.

To learn more about the camp, visit www.CampMarshall.net.

PRIMARY

continued from page A1

businesses, public safety, regional and mass transportation projects, and affordable housing throughout his district and Massachusetts,” read a statement from Congressman McGovern’s office.

The Second Massachusetts Congressional District contains communities in four counties, including the Worcester County towns of Auburn, Leicester, North Brookfield, Douglas, Uxbridge, Northbridge, Spencer, Sutton, West Brookfield, and Webster.

Another rematch is looming in the state Senate race, with Senator Anne Gobi once again facing opposition from Republican challenger Steven Hall, of Sturbridge.

In their 2018 battle, Sen. Gobi, of Spencer, took 55 percent of the votes. Her Senate district represents portions of Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire, and Middlesex Counties. The district runs from Winchendon and Ashburnham at the northern end of the state to Monson and Wales at the southern end.

Sen. Gobi currently chairs the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture,

as well as the Joint Committee on Higher Education.

Meanwhile, State Rep. Donald Berthiaume will be challenged for the Fifth Worcester District by Samuel Biagetti, a North Brookfield Democrat. In 2018, Berthiaume cruised to re-election over challenger Jean Strauss, collecting 60 percent of the votes.

Biagetti, an antiques dealer and teacher, is focusing on healthcare, education, and infrastructure improvements as part of his platform.

The Fifth Worcester District includes the towns of Barre, Brookfield, East Brookfield, Hardwick, Hubbardston, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Oakham, Spencer, Ware, and West Brookfield.

In other State Primary news, Incumbent Senator Edward Markey defeated Joseph Kennedy III in the Democratic Primary. Markey, 74, will face challengers Kevin O’Connor, Andre Gray, and Frederick Mayock in the Nov. 3 general election.

“Tonight is more than just a celebration of an election – it is a celebration of a movement,” Markey said after the Primary. “Thank you to the thousands of grassroots supporters who organized around the principles that we believe in. We could not have done it without you.”

PRIMARIES

continued from page A1

can ask the staff for faxing, copying, and other services.

“Unfortunately, we have not been ready to do any face-to-face programming – even with social distancing – but we’re considering doing some outdoor programs,” Thistle said. “People have been very pleased to be able to come inside, browse, and check out books, despite the social distancing and requirements for masks and hand sanitizer on entry. Everyone has been very compliant and willing to do whatever is necessary to keep us open.”

Since many local libraries remain closed or restricted to remote service, the Hoston Public Library staff has met several patrons from out of town. Some guests have utilized the computers and curbside service, while others have simply enjoyed a quiet place to read.

“They have expressed their gratitude at being able to come inside a library during this crazy time,” Thistle said. “It’s remarkable how important

library buildings are to people, with lots of shelves of books and welcoming staff. As necessary as curbside service continues to be for many libraries, some library lovers just need to be surrounded by that library ambience.”

At the Leicester Public Library, curbside pickup services remain popular for patrons until the building can fully reopen. “Take-and-make” crafts are also available for pickup without an appointment, and the library is offering printing, faxing, and telephone reference services, among others.

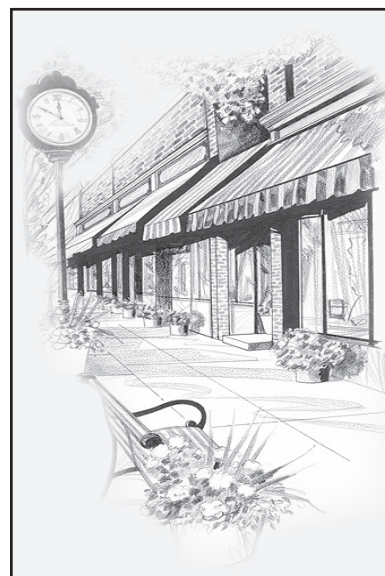
Staff members in Leicester are looking forward to eventually welcoming all patrons back to their newly renovated library for full programming. For now, like their counterparts in other communities, staff members are offering what they can in a limited capacity.

“Our readers are happy with curbside pickup. We know they miss browsing, but we are currently able to get books in the hands of readers, whether from our own collection or via the system-wide holds process,” said Leicester Public Library Director Suzanne Hall. “People

can request books online through the catalog, or via email or phone. If someone wants a book but doesn’t know exactly what they want, our staff is excellent at finding just the right book you didn’t know you wanted.”

As part of this process, library staff members typically ask readers through email or phone about their favorite authors and genres, then put together a personalized collection for them. Guests can also pick up an assorted bag of books across several genres. Although the process is far from normal, patrons and staff members are making the most of a challenging situation.

“I think what patrons miss most is the in-person chats with our friendly and helpful staff,” Hall said. “Parents with kids miss the ability to play with our games, toys, and activities. Everyone misses a space to just hang out for a bit, alone or together, without the need to purchase anything. We look forward to being able to provide those services to our community when it is safe to do so.”



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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

The flavors of fall

The first day of fall is upon us. Sept. 23 will mark the first day it is socially acceptable to drink pumpkin and apple flavored coffee, doughnuts, bread and burn fall scented candles. Coffee shops and bakeries are already busting out the fall flavors.

Pumpkin enthusiasts beware, on the flip side, there are several people who think it is too soon. A survey that posed the question, “When is it OK to start drinking and eating pumpkin?” produced the following responses:

“Right now!”

“First day of fall.”

“I always strive for after Labor Day, but often start on July 12th.”

“I’m waiting until September 1st.”

“After zucchini season.”

It is true, there are more people in New England who are holding on to every last bit of summer than those looking forward to fall. To those people, we get it. Some people refuse to swap their flip flops for boots until the first snow fall. The end of the summer season really isn’t so bad. With fall comes hearty crock pot recipes, crisp evenings, sweaters, boots, and Halloween. The closer to Halloween we get, the closer to snow, which means the ski resorts will soon be open for businesses. What could be better?

Perhaps the best part about fall is foliage. The leaves are already changing and soon New England will be swarming with tourists, camera’s in tow. Peak foliage will hit during the last week of September through the first week of October.

Within the next four weeks, temperatures will drop drastically, with some hot days still sprinkled in for balance. The good news is, there is still plenty of time to sneak in a few more summer hikes, a kayak excursion on the lake, a few more backyard barbecues, or a day reading out on the hammock.

The Old Farmer’s Almanac says of winter 2021, “Our long-range forecast is calling for a cold winter with normal to below-normal temperatures in areas from the Great Lakes and Midwest, westward through the Northern and Central Plains, and Rockies. Remember last year’s almost snow-free winter in the Northeast? Well, this year our prediction is very different, with the possibility of a blizzard hitting the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast states during the second week of February. This storm may bring up to one to two feet of snow to cities from Washington, D.C. to Boston, Massachusetts.”

So wether you’re still sipping pina colodas or drinking a pumpkin spiced latte while dreaming of jack-o-lanterns and the smell of wood stoves, this IS the perfect time of year for you.

LETTERS

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

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

But first, you have to write us!

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

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

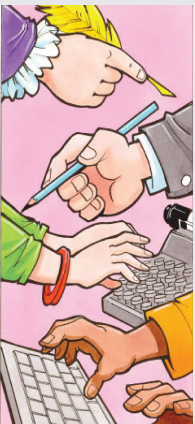
You’ll need to provide your name and place of residence, along with a phone number, so we can verify the letter is yours.

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

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

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

So, what are you waiting for? Start writing!



VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Pro-life vs. abortion

To the Editor:

God is the creator of “all” life, all that exist in this world and universe.

God is a loving God and did not create living matter for us to kill needlessly. When God created this world and all living matter, God gave us, mankind a command, responsibility that we are to care for our self, others in need, all animals and vegetation, all this is created by God for us in this world and for us to take care of. [Genesis 1: 26-31]

The following are examples of God’s command, order, His will and desire for our lives in this world. It is ironic, complete hypocrisy, we place more value, concerns on stray, abandon, abused animals then you do on unborn [fetus] infants. God is very explicit teaching us in His Word [Bible] and then we wonder “why” we are experiencing so much chaos from protesters rioting! Why! It is God’s loving discipline to get our attention that abortion and other

Of protests and vaccines

To the Editor:

To clarify one last time for Mr. Herholz – you are free to raise your children however you like, including indoctrinating them. Neither my, nor anybody else’s opinion of what is or is not appropriate should interfere in your choices. I only know you have children and only know anything about how you are raising them from your own words in this newspaper. The choice to discuss them was yours. My goal here is to counter the various false arguments you have made and provide context to the various comments you have made. When your children stand outside holding a Trump flag, they are standing up for what you believe in, they are too young to absorb the greater context. When you take them to church

Decision that will impact us for decades

To the Editor:

My fellow Leicester residents, on Sept. 26, a vote will be put before us at the special town meeting that will impact our town for decades. While they say that it will be the biggest vote in our lifetime, let it be known, it has the potential to be the biggest tax burden put on this community for decades. This is our opportunity to take a stand and provide a voice for those struggling economically during Covid-19.

So many people are now facing economic hardships. Currently, 17.4 percent are unemployed in Massachusetts, and so many uncertainties regarding state reimbursement and employment lie ahead. Let us speak for the residents of Cherry Valley, who are being devastated by inflated water and sewer costs, with some residents facing \$300-\$600 per month water and sewer bills.

This is the first issue that needs to be

Why do veterans like Trump?

To the Editor:

There are some writers in the paper who claim to be veterans of, I think, the US military. These people seem to support re-election of Trump, which is confusing.

Several dozen veterans died in Haverhill. Back in the Ebola epidemic, when a few Americans died, Trump screamed that Obama had to resign. Oddly, these opinion-writing veterans celebrate Trump even though he failed to keep the pandemic out of the country. Heck, Trump now claims the pandemic is behind us, which is moronic.

In his speech at the convention, Trump lied, for the 150th time, that he had passed the Veterans Choice act, added to VA health care, which Obama had passed in 2014. Trump signed an

Shameful

To the Editor:

This week, both Donald Trump and Joe Biden visited Kenosha, Wisc. Both trips had intended to serve both a political purpose (to help build support) but also has a leadership obligation to help health the community.

Donald Trump was true to his message that he’s a menace, there’s a lot of danger out there, and he is the one to restore order. Trump posed in front of burned out buildings and toured the carnage of what has become more common in his term while touting a second term will bring real change. President Trump’s trip was certainly political in the way he tried to stoke fear and he didn’t seem to offer any presidential leadership to the community smoldering. Trump’s comments

sinful immoral acts is an abomination [detestable] to God, Jesus.

The following evidence of God’s Word will prove that. However, you will not believe if you do not believe in God, God’s Word the Bible. Whatever your belief, God’s Word [teachings] is a fact, and so are the consequences.

It starts in the beginning when God chose to create all of this we are presently experiencing, living in. [Genesis chapter 1 & 2] and then in chapter 3 the beginning of mankind’s sinful nature.

The body, our bodies is made up of many chemical elements, and, was lifeless until God breed life into it, God’s breath of life, God’s breath is what gives us physical and spiritual life keeping us alive. Apart from God, we are vulnerable to evil Satan.

It is God who chooses to give us His mysterious and miraculous gift

Turn To **BLAIS** page **A11**

you are indoctrinating them with what YOU want them to believe, they are not expressing their own free will. I fully expect you will continue to raise them in the way you clearly see fit and I don’t think anybody should interfere, but it is important that both you and the editorial reading public understand.

For all of the talk of protests equaling riots, it seems lost on the conservative authors in this publication that 93 percent of BLM protests have been completely peaceful. Of the 7 percent that have turned violent, nearly all of them were peaceful during daylight hours. Even when night fell, what percentage of individuals out protesting was actually violent? While I haven’t seen esti-

Turn To **HAR-YAROK** page **A11**

addressed before any other project in town. We need our infrastructure fixed, as has been promised and neglected for decades. That will bring in businesses to share the tax burden of a future school. We cannot burden our fellow friends, family and neighbors with additional taxes. Adding an additional \$1,000 per year will only cause more hardships to these people, along with the 21 percent elderly in town on fixed incomes. We cannot make our seniors choose between food, medication, rent increases and taxes. These are the people who should take priority when making this decision to vote against the school.

We do not need to see any more homes in foreclosure or having liens placed upon them. We do not need to have any more businesses going

Turn To **HART** page **A10**

amendment to it, but it was an Obama bill.

In further disrespect to veterans, Trump is crippling the Postal Service, which delivers a billion VA prescriptions annually to veterans, who are now suffering late deliveries.

In 2018, Trump did not visit a military cemetery since it was raining. He didn’t want to mess up his hair. Trump said “Why should I go to that cemetery? It’s filled with losers.” He referred to 1,800 marines who died in Belleau Wood as “suckers.”

As for what he did to the active service military, Trump stole billions which congress had allocated for construction on domestic military bases.

Trump and Kim exchanged love

Turn To **JOHANNESSEN** page **A11**

were all about law and order, stoking fear, white grievance and white fear of black people.

President Trump was standing with law enforcement which on its face is fine, except for the fact he was ignoring the legitimate grievances of thousands of protestors. In this city a 17-year-old right-wing militia member traveled in and shot three people, killing two of them, to protect property he didn’t own and a city he didn’t live in. Law enforcement gave that militia member water and rolled past him after he had shot people. President Trump has had nothing but good things to say about that kid and the law enforcement that let him patrol.

Turn To **ROSENBERG** page **A11**

Grandparents: Consider these financial moves



FINANCIAL FOCUS

JEFF BURDICK

Each year, on the first Sunday after Labor Day, we observe National Grandparents Day. Although it’s not as widely recognized as Mother’s Day or Father’s Day, if you’re a grandparent, you probably want to do whatever you can to help your grandchildren on their journeys through life. So, you might want to consider the following moves:

Contribute to their education. If you want to help your grandchildren pay for college, you have a variety of options, including 529 plans. You could also simply set aside some money in an investment account earmarked for education. But you don’t just have to stick to helping out financially – you might also want to do some research to see what scholarships are available.

Consider a UGMA/UTMA account. The Uniform Gifts to Minors Act (UGMA) and Uniform Transfer to Minors Act (UTMA) are custodial accounts that provide a relatively easy way for you to give money to your young grandchildren. A financial advisor can help determine if such a plan is right for you. However, once you put money into the UGMA or UTMA, you no longer have any legal access or authority over the funds unless you are the custodian managing the account.

After children reach the age of majority – typically 18 or 21 – or the age of termination if the state where they live allows for the assets to be held until a later age, they will control the assets, and they may not want to use the money as you had envisioned, such as for college. (Also, tax issues for custodial accounts can be complicated, so, before opening an UGMA or UTMA, you’ll want to consult with your tax advisor.)

Consider gifts to older grandchildren. If you have older grandchildren, you might want to help them out if they’re saving for a down payment on a home, or are between jobs, or perhaps are even having children of their own. You can give \$15,000 per year, per individual, without having to file a gift tax return. Your spouse can also give \$15,000 per year to the same individual, again without triggering the need for a gift tax return.

Review your will. If you’ve already created your last will and testament, you may want to review it upon the arrival of grandchildren. You can include specific instructions, such as requiring your grandchildren to turn a specific age before they can receive their inheritance. You could also codify the same requirements through the use of a living trust. Contact your legal advisor to determine if such a trust is appropriate for your situation.

Update beneficiary designations. If you want your grandchildren to receive proceeds from various accounts, such as your 401(k), IRA and life insurance, you may need to update the beneficiary designations, which can even supersede the instructions on your will. Keep in mind that if you have grandchildren with special needs, you may want to designate a supplemental needs trust for your grandchild as the beneficiary instead of naming your grandchild directly. Again, contact your legal advisor for more information.

These aren’t the only steps you can take to help your grandchildren, but they should give you some options to consider. The world is an expensive place, and any assistance you can provide to your beloved grandkids can make a big difference in their lives.

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.



www.StonebridgePress.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Three 21st century presidents, three epidemics — two under control, one not

To the Editor:

The fact that in the first three decades of the 2000's, we have experienced three deadly epidemics should cause concern and fear. It should make us insist that America has prepared and remains ready to deal with Covid-19 and new epidemics.

For this let us review how three Presidents – Bush, Obama, and Trump – responded to and dealt with epidemics.

President George W. Bush:

With good reason, the conservative Financial Times considers Bush as “Africa’s favorite US President.” Why? Because Bush worked to control the HIV Aids epidemic. Encouraged by First Lady Laura and assisted (by Trump Covid-19 former advisor) Dr. Anthony Fauci, he designed a powerful program to control the world wide HIV-Aids epidemic. It contained treatment, prevention and research elements. Bush and qualified administration officials first secured the necessary Congressional approval and funding. Then Bush directed execution of the program called PEPFAR through now badly damaged government agencies and now largely sidelined NGOs. Still in existence, studies indicate PEPFAR has saved upwards of 17 million lives.

Bush got virtually no political benefit from it.

Why then and how did Bush accomplish this? He cared, cooperated with Congress, and put qualified people in charge.

President Barack Obama:

Obama, his administration (and Vice-president Biden as a key leader) and world wide assistance from allies and friends, first contained and then restricted the deadly Ebola outbreak. This included the now badly damaged by Trump and less effective US Center for Disease Control (CDC). As a result, the deadly Ebola barely reached the shores of the United States. In contrast to current White House, Obama did not de-fund the World Health Organization (WHO). Instead he made use of their mainly very competent scientists (including many Americans) and incredibly brave on the ground disease prevention and control specialists. Some contracted the deadly disease. Then the Obama people worked to reform, not destroy the WHO. In addition he placed CDC staff in virus prone countries like China to monitor and control outbreaks. (President Trump later ignored plans eliminated these positions and an epidemic task

Turn To **KANE** page **A11**

Thank you for keeping Operation Undercover going

To the Editor:

In spite of the pandemic, “Operation Undercover” will happen again this year. This will be the 30th year. My daughter, Beth, and I talked it over and decided to collect donations at our home, 125 Pleasant St., Spencer.

I am grateful that Laura Torti, the Spencer Town Clerk, and my daughter headed up the collection last year, but due to changes in the town hall and the pandemic, we decided to move the collection center back to our home. We are sure that there is still a need and perhaps it is even more urgent. We will not be wrapping in Christmas paper this year. We are asking that folks leave unopened packages, and we will sani-

tize them before they are delivered.

We will again collect men and women's adult underwear for Jeremiah's Inn, Abby's House and the Mass. Veterans Shelter. We will have a tote on the front porch where you can leave the packages after Nov. 1 or just leave them hanging on our door at any time. We hope to deliver the items right after Dec. 13. We wanted to give you an early heads up so you can look for the sales. I am already buying underwear on eBay. As always, thank you for your generosity. Please call 508 885-4484 if you have any questions.

CAROL MCPHERSON
SPENCER

Sainthood of felons

To the Editor:

It used to be the heroes of our communities were those men that were self-made. The ones that made it through perseverance and hard work. They were proud of how they made their way in life. They didn't look for handouts or charity, they wanted to make it on their own. We looked up to such men and wanted our children to be like that. They were the models we strived for. In the minority communities' models such as these would be beacons for future generations. Look at what the leftist media and Democrats instead put

up as models for these communities.

They tell us this gentleman, Jacob Blake, in Kenosha is a gentle family man that was just trying to break up a fight. He was then violently gunned down by racist police. That is the story on MSNBC and CNN put forward. The truth is that this was a guy playing the “Baby Daddy Game.” For you who don't know how this works, it goes like this. Get as many girls knocked up and make sure you don't marry them. The women then apply as single mothers for welfare and a host of other free social programs

Turn To **ROBILLARD** page **A11**

An unfit Commander-in-Chief

To the Editor:

I am certainly on record as not considering President Trump to be the sharpest pencil in the box. His veracity is atrocious. His morality is abominable. He has perverted the rule of law to unknown levels.

I have always thought the way he wraps himself in the flag, to be just an act.

The proof is now clear. Captain Bonespurs should never be commander in chief. It is now confirmed that he has referred to our military dead and maimed as suckers and losers. His bereavement call to the widow of a killed Marine upset more than helped, especially informing her that he knew what he signed up for. He stood at General Kelly's dead Marine son's

grave at Arlington and expressed to his father that he did not understand anyone risking so much for so little. He chose not to visit a graveyard in France, full of our war dead, calling them losers.

I know he and John McCain did not agree in many areas, but I also have seen the Hanoi Hilton, and would not want to spend a day, never mind five years, there. Trump is on record saying he likes people who don't get captured.

For those who risk or have given all, to be under the command of this traitor, is appalling. Maybe those who vote for him would have no issue putting their offspring under his command. I do.

KEN KIMBALL
BROOKFIELD

In response to Mr. Har-Yarok

To the Editor:

Provocative – causing annoyance, anger or another strong reaction, especially deliberately. Sacrilegious – having or showing a lack of proper respect for a sacred person, place or object. This is your idea of a compliment? This is what you are proud of? This is what defines you? If so, you are a pathetic human being, deserving more sympathy than contempt. Of course, you have an ally. In your July 31 letter, our editor chose to allow you to spell my Heavenly Father as G-d, but did not allow me to underscore the vowels in your name in my Aug. 21 letter – maybe I should have used dashes. Perhaps he approves of your provocative spelling and believes you deserve more proper respect as a sacred person than God. I will leave that to the readers.

It surprised me that you constantly pursue me as a Facebook friend, but now I know why – you are looking for more arguments – what a miserable existence. I will pass; I have enough friends, thank you. It's sport to you and I'm not interested in playing. You have enough unintelligent and willfully misinformed from the general population to play with. Maybe they will bow to

your superior intellect and defriend. Or is it unfriend?

I have never gone down a rabbit hole, but if that's where you live it's no wonder John can't find you. You say you have a calling – Who is the divine being that is doing the calling – if it's a rabbit do you live in the same hole or in a neighboring hole.

“State sponsored violence?” What state is doing the sponsoring – local, county, state, federal or all the above? Are police officers individuals? Are black victims or shooters private citizens? When an individual (paid or not) commits violence against another individual (black, white, brown, red or yellow) the violence is tragic. To compare the two is not only logical but factual. Calling police officers less than individuals is a lot like saying that slaves were less than “other human beings” which is absurd.

I think we have dealt with slavery enough – it no longer exists. We are both right and both wrong – I'll even admit that you are more right and I'm more wrong – I don't want to bruise your ego. However, your university

Turn To **REID** page **A13**

A wish for healing of the divisions between us

To the Editor:

Computer being hacked again by Deep State operatives, picking up random rejected pilot episodes, outtakes, bloopers, overheard conversations, implanted false memories, flashbacks, Community Access TV, pirate radio, themes from imaginary doctor shows cop shows legal dramas, Cocomelon, on and on. Even keyboard hacked. Coming in fast and furious, guess I'll just sit back and read and listen as best I can...

With the thoughts you'd be thinkin', you could be another Linc... “Cut, cut! Judy Judy Judy, learn your lines, get with the times. We've gone over this.

It's Jeff Davis, could be another Jeff Davis. Honest Abe is passe, so yesterday. It's about statues of Stonewall and the Stars and Bars. It's not about Emancipation, it's about sending them back to their s**t-hole nations. There's no room for the likes of him in the Party of Linc...oops.”

“I'm going down to the billabong for a drink. Come on, all of you jumbucks, the drinks are on me. It's going to be incredible.” BAA jumbucks! The billabong's dry, he brought us here to be fleeced.

Turn To **BANKS** page **A13**



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OBITUARIES

Arthur M. Maskell III, 54

E. BROOKFIELD- Arthur M. Maskell III, 54, of Mill Brook Circle died of natural causes on Monday, August 31, 2020.

Arthur was the beloved son of Arthur M. Maskell Jr. and Mary Fern (McRevey) Maskell. He also leaves his loving brothers Atty. Daniel F. Maskell (Lori); his nieces Katelyn Mary and Samantha Marguerite Maskell; his special aunts Jaquiline Trevor, Sheila McRevey Burke, Shirley Nimmons and Rita Buck; many caring cousins Kathleen Earl and Michael Cross, Kim, Steven and John Trevor, Darlene, Michelle and Sharon McRevey, Myland McRevey, Audrey Coonan; all the Mannixes and his loyal friends Leslie, Shukes and

HART
continued from page A8

into bankruptcy because of these tax increases. We need to protect our seniors. We need to protect the people of Cherry Valley. We need to focus on economic development to increase the town's business tax revenue so we can afford projects. We need to stop building on wet properties that are deemed challenging or difficult sites by engineers. We have enough added costs with lawsuits from the wet

Joan Benz.

Arthur graduated from Cathedral High School in Springfield and he attended Green Mountain College in Poultry, VT. After living for a time in California, he worked for the family businesses at the Windsor Spirit Shop, the After Five Lounge and Madden Estates Mobile Home Park.

Arthur was a member of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in West Brookfield, a lifetime member of the Barre Fish and Game Club and a licensed Trapper.

A funeral Mass was held on September 3, 2020 at 11:00AM in Sacred Heart Church in Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish 22 West Main St. West Brookfield. Burial followed in the parish cemetery. Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home 3 West Brookfield Rd. Brookfield.

fire station build. We do not need a repeat.

What will schooling look like in the future with virtual learning and those who decide to home school? Do we need such a financially burdensome school? We need a more viable option presented to the town in order to address the middle school, something the building committee failed to do. We need to be presented the eleven options that were given to the SBC, not just the biggest and the best. We need to stop being so fixed on having all the

schools on one campus when we have a solid school in Memorial without drainage issues. Why was that school/site not awarded an opportunity for cost savings? When the School Committee and the SBC put wants before needs, we do a disservice to our community. Fix the infrastructure and send them back to the drawing board to come up with a more viable and financially responsible plan.

JOEL HART
LEICESTER

Christine Murphy, 75

SPENCER- Christine Murphy 75 died July 26th 2020 peacefully with family by her side. The 10th born of 11 children from Italian immigrant parents Joseph Colella and Loretta Pagnano. She is survived by her son Richard Murphy of Worcester and Daughter Rhonda Brault of North Brookfield. Grandsons Nathan Murphy of Canandaigua NY & Nicholas Brault of North Brookfield and Great Granddaughter Leah. Brothers Joseph Colella of Mentone CA, Steve Colella of Wayland MA. Sister's Mary



Tempesta of Palm Coast FL, Catherine Esperian of Framingham MA, Theresa Begeman of Phoenix AZ & Lucy Havener of Shrewsbury MA. Honorable Family Mention Ray & Velocity Lopolito.

Born in Newton Ma on December 29th 1944. She was an honest woman of faith. College educated who truly believed in the power of knowledge through reading and self education. An artistic, creative soul who would share a cup of coffee with the world! She lived at Astorwood Place in Spencer MA surrounded by friends and wonderful neighbor's

A celebration of life service will be held in the future after restrictions are lifted and at the family's convenience.

Thomas E. Jacques, 78

BROOKFIELD: Thomas E. Jacques, 78 of Brookfield, died Wednesday, September 2nd, after a brief illness.

He leaves his wife of 39 years, Marie A. (Tift) Jacques, his son Robert T. Jacques and his wife Denise of Ludlow, his daughters Wendy V. Jefferson and her husband David of Brookfield, and Patricia A. Jacques of Warren, his step son Robert F. Henry of Brookfield and his step daughter Linda L. Christianson of Brookfield, a sister Gail Plowman and her husband Jerry of Goleta, Calif., 12 grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren. He is predeceased by his sister Donna Saar.

Tom was a senior Vice President at Flexcon Co. in Spencer where he worked for 43 years, retiring in 2003.

He was born in Mineloa, NY, the son of Thomas A. and Grace L. (Trayer) Jacques and later graduated from



Massapequa High School on Long Island and also Worcester Junior College.

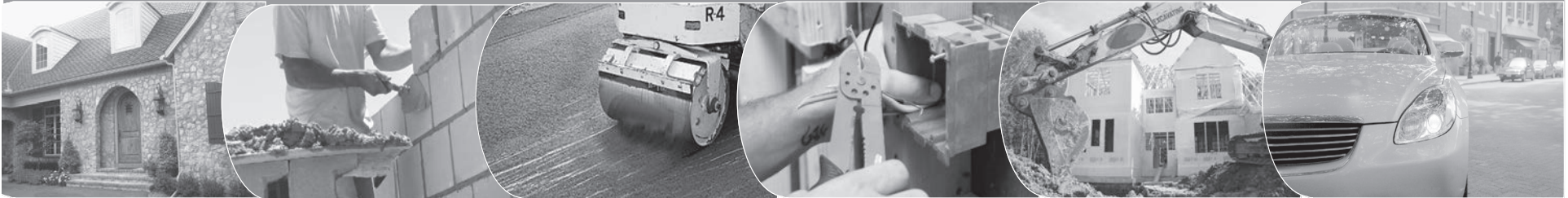
Tom was past President and an Honorary Life member of the Spencer Exchange Club and was very active over the years, spearheading many committees and activities. Tom was an avid golfer and former member of Cohasse Country Club in Southbridge. He enjoyed traveling, skiing and boating on South Pond with his family.

He was a former corporator of Cornerstone Bank and former board member of Mary Lane Hospital in Ware.

Memorial calling hours (with Covid-19 guidelines, masks and social distancing) was held on Tuesday, Sept. 8 from 5 to 7 p.m. in the J.HENRI MORIN & SON FUNERAL HOME, 23 Maple Terr., Spencer. At the conclusion of the visitation, a private family only memorial service will take place in the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Spencer Exchange Club (Scholarship Fund), P.O. Box 219, Spencer, MA. 01562. www.morinfuneralhomes.com

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BLAIS

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of life, and now we go to the next miracle, the gift of giving life, that gift that allows us, the man and woman to be united together [mirage] and miraculously give birth, life to a baby. Unfortunately, because of our inheritance of the sin of disobedience [sinful nature] between Adam and Eve the woman has to experience much pain in delivering this baby, child. [Genesis 3: 16]

God is very explicit! You, me, we shall not murder. Murder is very different from killing; murder is a direct act, intent, deliberate. Killing is self-defense going to war, defending yourself or an accidental act. [Exodus 20: 13]

This Psalm is very clear, explicit, bless is the Nation, us, this Country that God is our God, the Lord. [Psalm 33: 12]

Again, very clear, explicit that God made, formed us. [Psalm 119: 73] that God's character enters into all of His creations, every person, we are all made in God's image [Psalm 139: 13-16] and parents have the responsibility to teach their young children about

ROSENBERG

continued from page A8

Joe Biden had a different message, one of a uniter. Biden spoke to the Blake family and offered empathy for their struggles in the way that a man who was widowed as a young father with 1 of his three children dying in the accident could. Joe Biden obviously hoped to score political points for his trip but in contrast to Trump's trip he went to Kenosha to meet with the family, spoke with the victim, met with local community leaders. Biden met with community leaders and listed. When events like what has recently unfolded in Kenosha happen people look to the president for calm and leadership. They found that in Joe Biden yet Biden isn't the president.

The events in Kenosha have not seemed to change the polls. Trump is still down seven or eight points. When people are asked on a whole range of measures which candidate makes them feel more safe, Biden wins

ROBILLARD

continued from page A9

designed for those in need. The "Baby Daddy" then visits the woman and demands half the money. He earned it because he got them pregnant. Any of them give him lip, they get smacked and beat down. Sooner or later the woman gets tired of this and calls the cops. A warrant goes out on him for assault, robbery, and sexual assault. It doesn't stop him though. He wants his money and goes back towing the kids along. She calls the cops and they show up to protect her. By law, since he has a warrant outstanding, the cops are duty bound to arrest him. He isn't taking this, so he fights the cops and goes reaching for something in the car. In the heat of the confrontation he gets shot. Now the fake news trolls out his family and tries to make him a saint. He is no saint. He is a Felon. The only place they should say his name is in court. The news cries

HAR-YAROK

continued from page A8

mates, it seems of the millions upon millions that have taken to the streets to demand justice, less than 1 percent have been violent... Yet we see Fox News, Breitbart, and the conservatives in this paper painting the entire BLM movement as a bunch of feral dogs looking to burn cities down.

For argument's sake... If we were to have a protest movement of 25 million people, what is the maximum number of violent individuals before the entire movement is discredited? If there were 10,000 violent people mixed in with the 24.99 million peaceful protestors would it still be seen as a peaceful protest or would you still describe it as a violent mob? What if it were only 1,000 violent individuals? That would represent 0.004 percent of the movement. Is that too many? Is the standard for "peaceful protest" perfection, zero violence?

As should be obvious to any casual observer, perfection is an impossible standard. There never was and never will be a movement of millions of people where all of them are protesting perfectly. Some will take things too far. Some are opportunists. Some are outright criminals. If your standard is perfection, zero violence, then clearly there is no such thing as "protesting right" because that is an impossible standard. Never mind the fact that right wing outside agitators have been found embedded within protests trying to incite violence since violence helps discredit the movement.

The Coronavirus stats are getting bor-

God. Unfortunately, when we became the age of accountability 12 -16 the beginning years of becoming and adult and the gift of free will, choices, and unless we as parents have taught our children godly principals Satan [devil] will invade and deceived us into believing we have the right to live as we please to live a life that opposes, rejects God, Jesus value, standards and principals.

In the days of yesteryear, Isaiah was a prophet of God and God instructed Isaiah and clearly teaching the people and us today that God's Word is the same today as it was yesteryear because God does not change [Numbers 23: 19] [Malachi 3: 6] [James 1: 17] and God spoke to Isaiah 44: 2 teaching the people yesteryear and us today that it is God who formed us, you, me in our mother's womb and the privilege of giving birth to an infant, child.

Anyone who is reading this, don't allow yourself to be deceived by people who are deceived by the devil [Satan] the fetus is formed and grows in the woman until it is time to be delivered into this world, it is a

hands down. More than half of Americans believe Donald Trump is making it worse.

Biden has finally come out and denounced riots and looting by saying that they are not protests, which should have been obvious. Biden has had to come out and admit that there really is disorder in the country and for the first time in decades crime really is rising. For decades now Republicans have been fomenting fear around rising violence when the reality was crime was going down. After three and a half years of the Trump Presidency, it finally seems as though crime and disorder are actually going up and it is ironic that this reality puts the Democratic challenger on the defensive.

It seems as though there have been several anonymous sources that have all corroborated the Atlantic story that the president described war dead as suckers and losers. As quickly as Trump fans pointed out that it was anonymous sources, the story was corroborated by other news organizations including

that the kids are traumatized by the shooting. They are probably more traumatized by seeing this guy beating their momma. Wouldn't surprise me if one wants to become a cop someday to be like the man who stopped his part time dad from beating his momma.

Another one they are trying to canonize is Daniel Prude. A deranged, mentally ill, drug crazed naked black man. He had mental problems which were exuberated by his drug use. The family couldn't control him so they called the police for help. They knew he was a danger to the community. Imagine yourself as a cop coming to this scene. A rabid naked man. You don't know if he has AIDS or Covid, AIDS is spread by bodily contact with fluid. It is prevalent in drug users. You try to subdue him to protect the public, but he is spitting everywhere. So, to keep you and the other officers safe, you put a thing called a spit hood on him. Due to his violent behavior and the hood he unfortunate-

ing. With the same terrible news week after week we've just become desensitized and numb to it. This week we have seen 283,286 NEW Americans diagnosed with COVID-19 and 5,889 NEW deaths. Just this week we have seen the death toll of two 9/11's! But alas, it is not much different from last week and thus boring. The total number of Americans sickened from the "Trump viral blunder of 2020" is 6,259,163 with 188,574 fatalities.

In the global race for the worst outbreak, there has been a change! The United States is still #1 of course with 6.3 million, America First! Breaking news though, India has overtaken Brazil for the #2 spot at 4.1 million and now India has its sights set on the United States. The USA, despite being #1 in disaster for a virus that didn't start here and holding onto the crown for several months has a lot of work to do to maintain its position. India's population is three times America's, and its infection rate is only two times! America may be worse per-capita than India but it is going to have to get even worse to fend off a country three times as large from taking the crown. Which will turn out to be worse for infection control, abject poverty in unimaginable slums or leadership and half the country that doesn't think it's a big deal?

As COVID-19 rages on and the temperatures are about to turn colder Trump is now looking for a new quick fix to his blunder. He has directed the CDC to slow down testing (no longer do they recommend a test if you have been in close contact with a COVID patient), only if exhibiting symptoms. Imagine how much better the numbers will look

child of God whom God trust you to give him or her earthly life. If you choose not to recognize and accept this infant into this world believing it is a woman's right to abort [murder] this infant was created formed by God, Isaiah 44: 2, 24 The choice is yours and so is the consequence. Why a consequence? Because the fetus [infant] was formed in the womb by God [verse2, 24] this infant belongs to God and God is trusting this infant child in your care to give it life not abort.

God is making it very clear that He is God, our creator our redeemer, forming us in the womb and giving us the responsibility to allow this infant [fetus] to be born at the proper time of 9 months. Any deliberate act [abortion] to prevent this event is murder. [Isaiah 44: 24]

Again, God is very clear He is God, the creator, that before you, me, us were born He [God] formed us in the womb of the woman, mother, God has given us the responsibility to allow this fetus to be born. [Jeremiah 1: 5] Continue part 2!

ROLAND BLAIS
BROOKFIELD

Fox News. This type of language is not so far out of the realm of possibility – consider his public statements about John McCain. While it seems absurd that a guy who is offended by athletes taking a knee while the national anthem is played and dishonors the country would call war dead losers...that is Donald Trump. What is interesting about this is that this offense goes to the core of the conservative value system – honoring the military.

I didn't think I could be shocked anymore, particularly since Charlottesville, about what the president thinks or says about things or individuals. Jeffrey Goldberg of the Atlantic is a high credibility source with a stellar record going back decades. Goldberg had four sources. The story has been corroborated by other news organizations. It happened. It is shameful. What is most shameful at all, though, is the silence from the Republican leaders around the nation.

DAVID ROSENBERG
SPENCER

ly dies. That is a tragic consequence of his situation. Now the Democrats and fake news acts like these cops were trying to kill him. That make him appear as a saint crucified by racist police.

Are these the heroes of the BLM and the colored community? Are these the models they want their children to emulate? If this is so then it is pretty sad. They have deeper problems then systemic racism. They have problems of leadership. The RNC gave them plenty of upstanding black men and women who show the courage and character to bring your communities out of this hole of despair. With leaders like them they may be able to build their communities into areas of hope, prosperity, and pride. Real change comes from within and not from what others give you. Hopefully they realize this and vote Trump in the fall.

MARK ROBILLARD
SPENCER

if asymptomatic cases aren't reported! Of course, this is dangerous because asymptotic people can still spread it and if they don't know to quarantine themselves it will only sicken and kill more people... but on the bright side, Trump looks better for a little while!

Vladimir Putin has beaten Donald Trump to the punch in putting out an untested questionable vaccine, so Trump has decided there will be a vaccine before Election Day. The CDC has directed states to prepare for an end of October vaccine. It is bizarre for them to put out a date before they have decided which of the several vaccines in trials will be ready. They have clearly decided they're going to approve whichever one looks most promising in October. This is clearly driven by the calendar and not science.

The President has twisted the arm of the CDC, FDA, and Dr. Fauci. They were all steadfast in their predictions of timing. It looks like an approved vaccine is going to be one of the "October surprises". Donald Trump will approve a vaccine come hell or high water. The only question now is whether he twists the FDA's arm or if he simply overrules them and does it himself. His lemmings will see nothing wrong with a reality TV star approving vaccines personally because "the swamp" over at the FDA are really deep state liberals trying to make Trump look bad...

This is so dangerous for a number of reasons. Obviously, we might be inoculating millions of Americans with a vaccine which turns out to be unsafe. Early trials of the original SARS vaccine turned out to cause more severe cases. Safety is the obvious prob-

JOHANNESSEN

continued from page A8

notes, after which Trump claimed that we no longer had anything to fear from North Korea. I don't understand why, since Kim did not stop his nuclear project or his missile tests, and it's possible that the continental USA is in range of Kim's missiles. Kim demanded that Trump stop the annual wargames with the South Korean military, and Trump immediately obeyed. So readiness of the forces meant to keep Kim at bay is degraded.

Trump pulled out of the Iran Nuclear deal, but just went to the UN Security Council to put sanctions specified in the deal onto Iran. The US was laughed at, since how did we expect to use sanctions from a deal we had exited?

Putin wants the US to back off in Europe and Trump obliged by withdrawing troops from Germany. Trump continually appeases Putin, perhaps as a reward for Russia helping in his elections, or perhaps because he still wants a Trump Tower in Moscow. He was working on that tower deal during the 2016 election (swearing to his supporters he was not). The Republican Senate Intelligence Committee just confirmed that Russia helped Trump in the 2016 election, and that Trump lied to Mueller in his written "testimony."

Trump said nothing to Putin about the bounty that Russia gave to the Taliban to kill American troops. Trump claimed that the intelligence was not certain, so this continues his denigration of intelligence, like

KANE

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force our National Security Council, leaving us unprepared for Covid.) Like Bush before him, Obama gained little political benefit.

Then why and how did Obama accomplish this? Like Bush, Obama cared. Then he empowered the CDC., and cooperated with CDC, friends, allies and the WHO.

President Donald Trump: First let the Covid numbers do the talking – a by far worst in the world, six million infected and 200,000 dead. Other countries both well off democracies like Germany and New Zealand, and poor socialist countries like Viet Nam have done better and avoided these terrible, terrible numbers.

According to the highly respected Dr. Asish Jha, the primary reason these countries have overcome now mostly control Covid and the United States doesn't relates to one fact. They have clear, committed leadership and we don't.

For example, consider these White House etc. actions and announcements; Nothing to worry about, China has it under control, Just a dozen cases, Be gone in a few weeks,

his ignoring the intelligence that COVID was coming. Pompeo, who believed the intelligence, mentioned the bounties to a Russian diplomat, but there is no push back at the presidential level. Trump consoled a military widow saying "he knew what he signed up for."

Trump used the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs as a prop in his political biblical display, after which the Chairman apologized for his involvement. The general was tricked and it exposes Trump's use of the military as pawns. He's Commander in Chief, but should not use soldiers as political fodder.

Trump intervened in the case of a war criminal whose own troops had reported him. Trump admires unbridled illegal brutality (sadly, his "bone spurs" prevented him from winning the Vietnam War) so he circumvented the Unified Code of Criminal Justice,

Trump personally prevented Lt. Colonel Vindman's promotion. Vindman had accurately testified that Trump made the "perfect" extortion call to Ukraine. That meant he had to be crushed. Trump is even going after Vindman's brother, another soldier, just because, well, of petty vindictive bile. Trump is nothing if not vindictive. The New Leader Veterans probably celebrate this, since anything Trump hates, they hate. You know, like black lives.

I see so many examples of Trump's disrespect of the military that I cannot understand a veteran supporting his re-election.

ALLAN JOHANNESSEN
LEICESTER

All okay, The China travel ban will stop it, Will disappear with warm weather,

Only a problem in Democrat run states and cities,

We have more cases only because we test more, It's China's fault The Governors should take care of it,

Masks are for weak Democrats,

Take Clorox or malaria pills and you'll be fine,

If we ignore Covid, it won't be important so open the beaches, bars, stadiums, and schools

My expert advisors (including Fauci) don't tell me what I want to hear, so I'll replace them with a willing to please radiation specialist, and

We will have a vaccine (or at least an announcement) before the election!

The reasons Trump fails where Bush and Obama succeeded ? Trump doesn't really care and has surrounded himself with incompetent and often corrupt "Yes" men.

Let us hope on Election day, or soon thereafter, we Americans exchange incompetence for competence.

KEVIN KANE
SPENCER

lem... Originally, roughly one third of Americans are skeptical of any new vaccine and wanted to wait and see how it played out. Now that Trump had muddied the waters and destroyed confidence in the CDC and FDA, we are up to two thirds of Americans that say they won't get the vaccine. On top of that, experts consider 50 percent effectivity acceptable and expected 80 percent of the population to get it. If only 33 percent of the population gets a vaccine that is only 50 percent effective that is not enough to create herd immunity with 17 percent of the population immune! Donald Trump destroying confidence in our institutions has doomed any vaccine effort!

Of course, there is the possibility that the vaccine is dangerous – that would be worse. There is the possibility that the vaccine doesn't work – that is worse than is obvious because it will destroy confidence if and when an actually good vaccine comes out. The experts are predicting that it will take months to immunize all Americans and that the protection will wear off in a matter of months... So basically, we're doomed... But on the bright side he will have a vaccine to tout in the days leading up to Election Day!

This is so bad. Who would have thought that this level of bad news and poor management wouldn't move the needle of the polls? The Republic has failed. Democracy, as a system, is doomed to failure.

OMAR HAR-YAROK
EAST BROOKFIELD



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Lions provide face shields for first responders



Photo Courtesy
Pictured above (from left to right) Lion Fred Swan (president of the Leicester Lions), Leicester Police Sgt. Al Saima, Lion Sharon Brooks (Secretary of the Leicester Lions), Police Chief Ken Antanavica being presented with the shields.

LEICESTER — The Leicester Police Department was the recipient of 25 face shields this week through the collaboration of the Leicester Lions Club and the Harvard Lions Club (both part of Lions District 33A) and the generosity of a grant from the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF).

The goal of this partnership is to provide much

needed PPE for local first responders in the cities and towns within Lions District 33A (Worcester County). The partnership of the Harvard Lions Club with the Leicester Lions Club helped to identify and satisfy their first responders need for personal protective equipment (PPE). Check out the Leicester Lions club for their fundraising events and how those events support the community.

with China and Russia. All three rank in the top 20 of the world's economies by GDP (India and Brazil are in the top 10) and all three are ranked in the top 10 of the world's economies by PPP. And third, Sri Mulyani was educated in Indonesia but received her masters and doctorate in economics from the University of Illinois. Abhijit Banerjee was educated in India but received his doctorate in economics from Harvard. And finally, Miguel Nicolelis was edu-

cated entirely in Brazil but his research with monkeys was conducted entirely at Duke University which happens to be in North Carolina. I wonder how many dumb southerners assisted.

You probably will have plenty to critique from this letter and I hope you enjoy yourself. In the future I will not respond to anything you write. You win the game. You are the GOAT of letter writers. I wish I had a prize for you but I will offer you something that

is priceless. You probably will hate it but you will never be able to refuse it. From now, I will add you to my daily prayers. I will ask all the Angels, Saints and Martyrs to intercede to my Lord on your behalf and try my best to save your wretched soul.

JIM REID
SPENCER

REID

continued from page A9

argument is flawed. First, you failed to name a third world university. Second, the people you named were from Indonesia, India and Brazil – not what one should think of as third world at this time. All three countries are members of the G20 (19) and Brazil and India are members of the BRIC group along

BANKS

continued from page A9

Canine Control Officer: “There’s rabid dogs in the streets, in heat. The town is overrun with roving packs of frothing-at-the-mouth mutts. There’s poop everywhere, and the good people of our town are stepping in it. Somebody’s poodle gets destroyed by a pit bull everyday. There’s so many dogs that haven’t had their shots, they’ll be dying on our lawns. There are unleashed, unlicensed four-legged killers everywhere you look, and they have been flying them in from out of state. It’s carnage, it’s getting worse every day, and only I can put a stop to it. That’s why it is absolutely essential that you appoint me to another four year term as Canine Control Officer.”

Chair, Board of Selectmen: “You realize, sir, don’t you, that you are the current Canine Control Officer, have been so for the past four years, and insofar as the conditions you describe actually exist, they are occurring on your watch?”...

Whatta you got here, Patrolman. “Looks like a shooting, Lieutenant, right here in the middle of Fifth Avenue, broad daylight. Lone gunman, one victim. They rushed him to Mt. Sinai, no word yet on his condition.” Okay, cordon off the area and keep uh, let that limo through. OK, where was I. Oh yeah, keep the street blocked off, both

ends, no one in, no one else out. Then round up the usual suspects. ...

I project that Hurricane Hannah will veer well off the coast of New England, so except for some rain on the outer Cape and the islands, it looks like a pretty good weekend shaping up. Before turning it back to you at the news desk, I want to give a shout-out to future meteorologist Brandon from Quincy, age 8. Brandon wrote in with his tip for remembering which way tropical storms rotate. Brandon writes: “It’s pretty simple, it’s just like the action of a toilet. As everybody knows, when you flush the toilet in the Northern Hemisphere, the water spins in a counter-clockwise direction. And in the Southern Hemisphere, again as everybody knows, clockwise. So, the next time you’re at a FEMA briefing, just think toilet, and you’ll never find yourself wondering which way tropical storms rotate again.” Good job, Brandon. Back to you, Jason and Melissa.

Five little monkeys jumping on the bed, one fell off and bumped his head. Mama called the doctor and the doctor said ... “I’m very busy right now dispensing medical advice to a very important patient on critical issues of national health. Take two hydroxychloroquine, avoid intimate relations with demons and aliens, and call me in the morning.”

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall. Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.

All the king’s horses and all the king’s men, tore down Humpty’s wall and united the People again...

I have every confidence that you, the Editors, will publish the above nonsensical mishmash in its unedited entirety. I admit that it’s long, disjointed, and nonsensical. But, to your First Amendment credit, being overly long and not making sense is no impediment to publication in these pages.

Whatever they are, the sentiments expressed above are not a declaration of war on any of my fellow citizens. They are not an exercise in name-calling or buzz-word labeling of fellow Americans who may have differing ideas for keeping America great. They do not, and would not, call out, name, belittle, or impugn the occupation, appearance or motivations of any private citizen whose concern for our country or community compels her to write to this publication. They do not attribute any belief, value system, or political affiliation to any person who has not himself or herself professed such belief, values, or affiliation. They are not a veiled or overt threat to resort to armed insurrection, are not congratulatory of anyone who has violently taken the law into his own hands, and do not claim any exclusive ownership of patriotism. They do not disparage those who take to the streets and lawfully assemble in peaceful protest, but do not suggest in any sense that violence and destruction in the streets will solve the problems

facing our great nation today. They are not an unfairly harsh savaging of any political office seeker, nor are they a frothing, mindless, man-crush mash note to any particular inept, corrupt, historically ignorant, sociopathic, narcissistic, draft-evading, buck passing, divisive, intellectually lazy, solipsistic, unfaithful, pathologically mendacious, or lawless political public figure.

Nor are sentiments expressed in the opening paragraphs a wish for any further division of this all-too-divided country. There are and there have been for a long time very real, concerted efforts out there to pit us against ourselves. I pray that we can somehow reject the efforts of those who want to turn Americans against each other for their own gain. We seem so caught up in preserving the legacy of the Civil War, that war that was fought after several states seceded in order to preserve the right of some people to own and enslave other people. If we really remember it, in all of its horror, we know we don’t want or need another one. What we do need is leadership that would embody the healing sentiments expressed in Lincoln’s second inaugural address, and that would “do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.”

ROGER BANKS
SPENCER

LEGALS

A.C. 92A Commonwealth of Massachusetts 20E0053PP Worcester, ss. Probate Court

To Patricia Darrah of Spencer in the County of Worcester, Harold A. May of Brewster in the County of Barnstable, Oren May Jr. of Lake Panasoffkee, David Eaton, Eric Eaton both of Kissimmee in the State of Florida, Christina Dorsey of Mount Airy in State of Maryland, Nicholas Chiudioni of Temecule in the State of California, William Chiudioni, of Suffolk in the State of Virginia and to all persons interested. A petition has been presented to said Court by Mark S. Foss, Trustee of Brookfield Woods Realty Trust of Worcester in the County of Worcester representing that he hold as tenant in common undivided part or share of certain land lying in Brookfield in said County Worcester and briefly described as follows: Petitioner owns as co-tenant an undivided share of the following described land (referred to in this petition as the “land”) in Brookfield (name of city or town in which the land is located) which petitioner wishes to own separately: That certain parcel being know as 24 Maple Street, Assessor’s Map 6C, Lot48, containing approximately 8.73 acres, more or less. See deed at Book 61578, Page 101 for a more complete description setting forth that he desires that – all – the aforementioned described part – of said land may be sold in private sale for not less than \$125,000.00 dollars, and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be

ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which th Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof. If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at Worcester before ten o’clock in the forenoon on the twenty-second day of October 2020, the return date of this citation. Witness, LEILAH A. KEAMY, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this twenty-fourth day of August 2020. Stephanie K. Fattman Register of Probate September 11, 2020 September 18, 2020 September 25, 2020

Town of West Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals

A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at the West Brookfield Town Hall, to act on an application for a Special Permit for Bonnie St.Cyr, for the property located at 73 East Main Street, West Brookfield. The applicant wishes to tear down the existing garage and build a new one, not on the current footprint of this pre-existing nonconforming property in the General District. She will need a Special Permit as per sections(s), -1.5 Nonconformity: §1.5.2 Nonconforming Structures (a) (et al). The public is invited to attend.

Renee Adams White
Clerk

September 4, 2020

ATTENTION SPENCER RESIDENTS A PUBLIC HEARING WITH THE SEW-

ER COMMISSIONERS
WILL BE HELD TO DISCUSS SEWER RATE FEES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2020 @ 6:00 P.M.
BROADCAST LIVE FROM MCCOURT SOCIAL HALL
BY SPENCER CABLE ACCESS
REMOTE MEETING ONLY
September 11, 2020
September 18, 2020

Notice of Special Public Hearing East Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals

This Zoning Board hearing will take place at the East Brookfield Town Hall, 122 Connie Mack Drive, East Brookfield, MA on Thursday September 24, 2020. Hearing will commence at 7:00PM or soon thereafter as can be heard. Interested parties can attend in person adhering to all CDC guidelines for COVID 19 including masks, 6-foot distancing and limited occupancy. Dial in audio only option is available at: 669.224.3412 access code: 185.817.781. Applicant: Josh Buzzell; owner. Property location: 117 Evergreen Street, East Brookfield. The applicant is requesting a special permit to demolish an existing structure and construct a new single-family dwelling on an existing non-conforming lot as outlined in Section 4 non-conforming uses, paragraph 2 of the East Brookfield Zoning Bylaws. September 11, 2020

Notice of Public Hearing

The North Brookfield Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, September 30, 2020 at 7:15PM at

When we stand as one

When our National Anthem is played, we stand,
Salute and respect those that have given
Their service for us to be free
Make an effort to honor and ensure that we never
Forget the men and women who served and those who made
The ultimate sacrifice on land and sea
When we stand united as one, giving honor and respect
For those who were so brave
Their purpose, desires and goals were for all of us,
To see and understand and appreciate the deeds
They performed and how much they really gave,
They never waived when they were under siege,
During the War of 1812 or any conflict that
Threatened our unity
Today as a nation we are confronted with a pandemic
And injustices galore, it’s our challenge to eradicate.
Stamp out these diseases, like never before, we must act
Now using our resources and a great deal of creativity,
Acting together, as one nation, and with patience,
Understanding our differences, but using common sense as
a goal
We should stand tall, in a line, we have differences, but
loving our
Country and our God will be a major step in saving our
souls

DONALD L. GAUDETTE, SR.

The author is a former resident of Brookfield who currently resides in South Hadley. He is an Adjunct Professor at American International College in Springfield.

SHREWSBURY – Waterfront – Flint Pond w/Direct Boating Access to Lake Quinsigamond! The Quiet of Flint, All the Action of Quinsig! Privacy Galore on Sargents Island – 42 Acres – 2,000' Waterfront! Beautiful Sunrises & Sunsets! Looking for a Getaway, Principal Residence or Second Home, Summers in Florida, Summers on the Island! Tons of Potential, Do a Little or Do a Lot! 4 Rm, 1 Bdrm, 1.5 Bath "A" Frame with the Ability to Finish the Walk-out Lower Level, add a Family Rm, Bdrm, Bathrm! Nature Abounds, Visited by Deer, Fox, Eagles & More! In Time for Summer! **\$579,900.00**

OXFORD – 377 Main St! 9 Rm Center Hall Colonial! 59 Ace Corner Lot! Charm of Yesteryear! Eat-In Frpld Granite Kit w/Updated Cabinets, Frplcd Din Rm w/Built-In China Cabinet & Butler's Closet! Gracious Foyer! Spacious Frplcd Lvl 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! Lakeside Lake Neighborhood access to Webster Beach & State Boat Ramp Near-by! 10,000' Lot! 1 Level Living! 11 Rooms, 4 Bedrooms, 2 Baths! Room for the Extended Family! Complete Living Quarters! AC! 1/2 Gas Heat! Town/Seaside-3rd Floor, Fenced Back Yard! 2 Sheds! **\$189,900.00**

DOUGLAS – 102 Se Main St! Start Packing! Sliders 9 Rm Colonial! 223 Acres! Center Island Granite Kit w/Soft Close Cabinets, SS Appliances! 9' to 24' Deck! Open Floor Plan! Hickory Wood Floors throughout the Kit, Din & Lvl Rms, all w/Recessed Lighting! 1st Flr Office or Possible 4th Bdrm w/Kid's Frnt Full Bath in the Hall! 2nd Flr w/2 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 3 Comfortable Bdrms, w/2 Bdrms w/Wood Laminate Floors! Master w/Cathedral Ceiling, Skylight, Ceiling Fan, Window over the Back Yard and a Master Bath! Lower Level w/2 Finished Rms, Utility w/Laundry and Half Bath! 3.5 Baths! Total! Recent C/Air, Heat & Roof! 24x26 2 Car Detached Garage! Huge Shed! Neatly Mature Trees & Walum Lake Beach! **\$379,900.00**

WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT - 112 Gore Rd! NORTH POND! Sucker Brook! Cove!
 8 Rm, 3 Bdrms, 15 Bath Ranch is Ready for You! Southwestern Exposure!
 Gorgeous Sunsets! Unique Waterfront! An Open Floor Plan! Lake Views
 from Nearly All Rooms! 2x6 Construction! Energy Efficient Blinds in
 Every Room! 4 Oil Tanks - Fill Up Once a Year! C/Air! Gas Fireplace!
 Whole House Fan! Meticulously Cared For! Large workshop! 3 Car
 Garage! Carport! 2 Sheds w/Electric! Back Yard is Perfect for Family
 Gatherings! Plenty of Off Street Parking! Summer is Here! **\$539,900.00**

HOLDEN - 315 Holden St! 6 Rm
 Ranch! Meticulously Maintained! 2
 Spacious Bdrms, Full Tiled Bath & 1
 Car Garage! Move In Tired! Granite
 Countertops! w/Full Kitchen! Splash
 & JennAir! Stove! Frpl! Liv Rm! Fam
 Rm! Gleaming Hardw! Perfect Yard
 w/Major Landscaping this year!
 New Roof 2019! **\$44,900.00**

WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT - 3 Lakeview Rd! Middle Pond - Reid Smith Cove! Ideal Summer
 or Year Round 6 Rm Ranch! Western Exposure - 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! Plan! Being Sold Fully Furnished! Recent Kiln w/Quartz Counters,
 Breakfast Bar, SS Appliances, Tile Flr & Recessed Lighting! Liv Rm w/Rdwrd Flr, 6x14 Lake Facing Picture
 Window & Stone Frpl! 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 Master! **\$579,900.00**

GRATON - 168 Brigham Hill Rd! 8 Rm Garrison Colonial set on 13Acres!
 4 Comfortable Bdrms, 2 Full Bathrooms, Freshly Painted, Floors Recently
 Refinished! Spacious Kiln w/Ranch Countertops, Appliances w/Gas Cook Top!
 Grand Dining Rm for Family Gatherings! 1926's Living Rm w/Pellet Stove!
 Master Bdr w/Dble Closets & Hot Tub! Bright & airy Mudroom out to the
 2 Car Garage! Furnace & Hot Water Tank 5 Years Young! Rndom tested at 2.5!
 New Roof! Corrig to Garage & Breezeway! New Well Water Tank Installed! Title &
 Insurance in the Area! Call for more info! Call for more info! Call for more info!
 Door! Converse to Routes 90, 8, 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' A/C'd Colonial! Custom SS Appliance Granite Kit! Formal Din Rm w/ Cherry Hrdwds! Lake Facing Liv Rm w/Cathedrals, Cherry Hrdwds! Slider to Waterfront Deck! Spacious 1st Flr Master Bdrm w/Full Bath, Cherry Hrdwds & Walk-in Closet! Frplcd Lower Level Fam Rm! 1st & 2nd Flr Laundries! 2 Car Garage! **\$949,900.00**

















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

<p>June Cazeault * Laurie Sullivan * Matthew Ross * Lori</p> <p>WOODSTOCK CT - 110 JOY RD</p>  <p>NEW LISTING</p> <p>Quisential Woodstock Farmhouse w/Spectacular views of Pond. Detached Studio Building! 2.5 Acres. Prof. Landscaped. 5 Bedrooms. Fireplaced Dining. library/Music room. Master Bedroom, 2 Full Baths! Renovated Kitchen. Upstairs, 4 Bedrooms w/Full Bath. \$425,000.</p>	<p>OXFORD - 4 LEICESTER ST</p>  <p>THOMPSON -</p> <p>ON DEPOSIT</p> <p>Impressive Gambrell! Colonial Level Master BR Suite! Private Mea. 2.41+/- PRIVATE Acres! Cathedral Granite counter-tops, stainless steel floors! 2 bed rooms & full bath on conyl! Over-sized 3 car detached finished 2nd story! TRULY A FARM!</p>
---	---

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

WEBSTER LAKE - 28 BLACK POINT RD

BOATER'S & FISHERMAN'S PARADISE! 2019 Custom Cape! Webster Lake located in Quiet Lower Cedar Cove. All of the benefits of Lake Living, while Relaxing in Privacy. Enjoy Sunrise Lake Views from an Expansive Back Deck & Sunset Views from your Farmer's Porch. Cathedral Ceilings, Stone Fireplace, Upscale Gourmet Kitchen w/Huge Island, Sunny Breakfast Area w/Built In Beverage Nook, Vaulted Loft, Formal Dining, Office, Laundry Room! 2 BRs with 1 Full Bath. 2nd Fl., 1,500 SF+ Basement Potential for FUTURE ENTERTAINMENT or IN-LAW AREA. Rough Plumbed for Bath & Kit. w/ INSIDE & OUTSIDE ACCESS. Central Air! Oversized 2 Car Garage! New 28' Poly Docks! Private Shared Beach! Check out our Video Too!

NEW PRICE \$625,000.

ON DEPOSIT

you need to live is local
facing dining , formal
floor fireplace lake-fac
Social Ramona

Special: **Remember, Timing Is Everything** **\$1,075,000.** assisted sale **\$859,000.**

POLICE REPORTS

Spencer Police

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26

12:12-12:18 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:32 a.m.: parking violation (South Street), ticket issued; 12:32 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 12:44 a.m.: building checked, secure; 12:45 a.m.: parking violation (Park Street), ticket issued; 1:05 a.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 1:07-1:26 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:30 a.m.: parking violation (Old Farm Road), ticket issued; 1:31 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:39 a.m.: parking violation (Bay Path Road), ticket issued; 1:41-3:15 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 6:27 a.m.: medical/overdose (West Main Street); 8:02 a.m.: DPW call (Main Street), sign knocked down; 8:13 a.m.: disabled mv (North Spencer Road), assisted; 8:36 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), welfare check; 9:57 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 10:39 a.m.: officer wanted (Lloyd Dyer Drive), bike tires vandalized; 11:36 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 11:55 a.m.: suspicious persons (Howe Road), investigated; 12:35 p.m.: fraud (Paxton Road), unemployment scam; 1:52 p.m.: restraining order service (Lakeshore Drive); 2:10 p.m.: elderly matter (Lincoln Street), spoken to; 3:58 p.m.: building checked, secure; 4:31 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Church Street), misdial; 7:12 p.m.: multiple LTC issued/5 (West Main Street), assisted; 7:58 p.m.: building checked, secure; 8:04 p.m.: animal complaint (Mechanic Street), dog sicced on reporting party; 8:14 p.m.: building checked, secure; 8:24 p.m.: animal complaint (Wire Village Road), loose dog; 9:19 p.m.: officer wanted (Bixby Street), neighbor's back door open; 9:35 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 10:23 p.m.: suspicious persons (Rene Drive), investigated; 11:26 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 11:41 p.m.: building checked, secure; (Total daily mv stops – 29).

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27
12:02 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Faith Drive), no contact; 12:31-2:20 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 4:41 a.m.: medical/general (Hastings Road); 6:51 a.m.: officer wanted (Meadow Road), accidental alarm; 7:57 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), accident reported; 9:36 a.m.: sex offender registration (West Main Street), assisted; 9:38 a.m.: medical/general (Northwest Road); 11:34 a.m.: 911 call (Main Street), hang-up; 12:11 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 12:46 p.m.: disturbance (Summit Street), unwanted party; 1:59 p.m.: mv complaint (Greenville Street), erratic operator; 2:09 p.m.: DPW call (Bell Street), limb on power line; 2:13 p.m.: DPW call (South Spencer Road), road flooded; 2:18 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 2:42 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 3:20 p.m.: medical/general (Smithville Road); 3:33 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 3:52 p.m.: fraud (West Main Street), spoken to;

4:05 p.m.: mutual aid (Main Street), DCF escort; 4:11 p.m.: citizen complaint (West Main Street), spoken to; between 4:11-6:00 p.m.: entire incident, including time, redacted from police log; 6:23 p.m.: disabled mv (Maple Street), assisted; 6:43 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), missing person report; 9:43 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), inquiry re: extortion; 11:04 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Donnelly Cross Road), tree fell on house; 11:20 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 11:58 p.m.: fireworks complaint (Maple Street), services rendered; (Total daily mv stops – 18).

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28
12:45 a.m.: lost/found (Bixby Road), lost wallet; 1:24 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:45 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), Webster PD bolo; 1:53-2:24 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:43 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), Webster 7-11 robbed; 2:48-2:56 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:58 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), Sturbridge PD bolo; 3:01 a.m.: building checked, secure; 3:03 a.m.: suspicious mv (South Spencer Road), investigated; 3:04 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), Leicester PD bolo; 3:33-3:39 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 5:01 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 6:37 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 9:02 a.m.: animal complaint (Paxton Road), concerned about cat; 9:50 a.m.: officer wanted (Paxton Road), referred; 11:23 a.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), inquiry re: leash law; 11:43 a.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 11:46 a.m.: medical/general (Clark Road); 12:30 p.m.: harassment prevention order service (Main Street); 1:34 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 1:40 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 2:06 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), services rendered; 2:23 p.m.: suspicious mv (Bixby Road), spoken to; 2:23 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 3:09 p.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 4:06 p.m.: mv complaint (North Spencer Road), erratic operator; 4:27 p.m.: multiple LTC issued/6 (West Main Street), assisted; 4:39 p.m.: residential alarm (North Brookfield Road), services rendered; 4:44 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), family issue; 5:56 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Mechanic Street), poss. illegal burn; 6:06 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 6:15 p.m.: medical/general (Clark Road); 7:34 p.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 7:49 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 9:44 p.m.: officer wanted (Prospect Street), re: mv damaged; 10:56 p.m.: juvenile matter (Main Street), kids looking in car windows; 11:11 p.m.: officer wanted (South Street), welfare check; 11:14 p.m.: building checked, secure; 11:31 p.m.: disturbance (Elm Street), family fight; (Total daily mv stops – 15).

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29
12:28 a.m.: disturbance (Mechanic Street), unwanted party; 1:25-1:57 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:00 a.m.: parking violation (Temple Street),

ticket issued; 2:03-2:12 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:17 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 2:36 a.m.: parking violation (Mechanic Street), ticket issued; 2:55-2:56 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 7:19 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), Worcester PD bolo; 7:24 a.m.: entire incident redacted from police log; 7:41 a.m.: parking violation (Bemis Street), ticket issued; 9:08 a.m.: school alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 9:14 a.m.: medical/general (Chickering Road); 9:34 a.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 10:23 a.m.: parking violation (Casey Street), ticket issued; 10:26 a.m.: officer wanted (Grove Street), attempted mv b&e; 10:56 a.m.: officer wanted (Paxton Road), scam phone calls; 10:59 a.m.: disabled mv (West Main Street), assisted; 11:18 a.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 12:52 p.m.: mv complaint (Charlton Road), erratic operator; 1:06 p.m.: officer wanted (Cranberry Meadow Road), SS scam call; 1:23 p.m.: suspicious persons (Pleasant Street), investigated; 1:40 p.m.: parking violation (Grant Street), ticket issued; 2:41 p.m.: abandoned mv (Paxton Road), services rendered; 2:45 p.m.: mutual aid (Kittredge Road), assist North Brookfield PD; 3:58 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Wall Street), services rendered; 4:00 p.m.: fire alarm (Donnelly Cross Road), services rendered; 4:10 p.m.: officer wanted (Elm Street), multiple scam calls; 4:11 p.m.: DPW call (Wall Street), sink hole; 5:20 p.m.: 911 call (Brown Street), open line; 5:46 p.m.: parking complaint (Maple Street), mv blocking travel lane; 6:16 p.m.: fireworks complaint (Elm Street), investigated; 6:17 p.m.: juvenile matter (Main Street), skateboarding in roadway; 7:22 p.m.: disturbance (Sunset Lane), neighbor dispute; 7:25 p.m.: RV complaint (Northwest Road), ATV/dirt bikes racing on road; 8:21-9:35 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 9:47 p.m.: parking violation (Adams Street), ticket issued; 9:49p.m.: suspicious mv (West Main Street), investigated; 9:53-10:07 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 10:27 p.m.: medical/general (Irving Street); (Total daily mv stops – 20).

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30
1:03-1:34 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:35 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), male passed out in mv; 1:41-2:01 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:09 a.m.: parking violation (Water Street), ticket issued; 8:04 a.m.: medical/general (Highland Street); 8:42 a.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), sewer backup; 10:02 a.m.: officer wanted (Wall Street), re: road conditions; 10:11 a.m.: disturbance (Valley Street), m/f dispute; 10:19 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 11:22 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), req. assistance w/ property retrieval; 11:52 a.m.: animal complaint (McCormick Road), hissing racoon on trail; 11:53 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 12:29 p.m.: mutual aid (Chestnut Street), assist environmental police; 12:40 p.m.: medical/general (Grove Street); 1:05 p.m.: officer wanted (Sherwood Drive),

gunshots heard; 1:31 p.m.: lost/found (Prospect Street), mv plate lost; 1:41 p.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 2:19 p.m.: medical/general (Highland Street); 2:31 p.m.: lost/found (Main Street), wallet found; 2:42 p.m.: medical/general (Thornberry Circle); 2:43 p.m.: mv lockout (G.H. Wilson Road), assisted; 2:59 p.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 2:59 p.m.: 911 call (Paxton Road), open line; 3:49 p.m.: officer wanted (Wm. Casey Road), neighbor issues; 3:58 p.m.: lost/found (West Main Street), wallet found; 4:13 p.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), family dispute; 4:22 p.m.: 911 call (Cranberry Meadow Road), accidental; 4:56 p.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 5:01 p.m.: RV complaint (Brooks Pond Road), kids on dirt bikes; 5:22 p.m.: 911 call (Lloyd Dyer Drive), open line; 7:35 p.m.: parking complaint (Ledge Avenue), d/way blocked; 8:00 p.m.: mv complaint (Maple Street), unsafe operation; 8:20 p.m.: animal complaint (High Street), barking dog; 9:18 p.m.: medical/general (Bell Street); 10:06 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), info taken; 10:29 p.m.: animal complaint (Lake Avenue), injured rabbit; 11:00 p.m.: officer wanted (Lincoln Street), services rendered; 11:48 p.m.: suspicious mv (Paxton Road), investigated; 11:50 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); (Total daily mv stops – 8).

MONDAY, AUGUST 31
12:04-12:12 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:33 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 12:36-2:04 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 6:22 a.m.: medical/general (South Spencer Road); 6:35 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 7:19 a.m.: sex offender registration (West Main Street), assisted; 10:35 a.m.: larceny (Maple Street), rep. theft from apt.; 11:54 a.m.: restraining order service (Mechanic Street); 12:24 p.m.: animal complaint (Rene Drive), barking dog; 12:32 p.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info taken; 12:51 p.m.: mv repossessed (Williams Drive), info taken; 2:10 p.m.: disturbance (Lloyd Dyer Drive), fem. teens making threats; 2:25 p.m.: accident (Main Street), info taken; 2:27 p.m.: parking violation (Maple Street), ticket issued; 2:42 p.m.: animal complaint (Grove Street), rabid racoon in yard; 4:01 p.m.: medical/general (Church Street); 4:13 p.m.: larceny (West Main Street), purse stolen; 4:25 p.m.: assault (West Main Street), referral from DA; 4:40 p.m.: DPW call (Northwest Road), limb over road; 4:40 p.m.: elderly matter (Wall Street), info taken; 5:37 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: previous incident; 7:08 p.m.: animal complaint (Kingsbury Road), cows loose; 7:58 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), welfare check; 8:03 p.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 8:54 p.m.: multiple LTC issued/4 (West Main Street), assisted; 10:37 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), accidental; 11:13-11:14 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 11:23 p.m.: animal complaint (Route 49), deer in road; 11:32 p.m.: distur-

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GARDEN
MOMENTS

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MELINDA
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Cooler temperatures and warm soil make fall a great time to add trees to your landscape. Make the most of this investment of money and time and give your tree its best chance at survival with proper planting and care.

Select a tree suited to the growing conditions, your landscape design and available space. Make sure it tolerates the sunlight, soil and temperature extremes. Check the tag for the mature height and spread. You'll have a better-looking plant that always fits the space with minimal pruning.

Avoid planting near overhead utilities since trees and power lines make for a dangerous combination. Contact your underground utility locating service at least three business days before placing the first shovel in the ground. It's free and all you need to do is call 811 or file an online request.

Once the area is marked, you can get busy planting. Ensure your tree thrives for many years to come with proper planting. Dig a saucer shaped hole three to five times wider than the root ball. It should only be as deep as the distance from the root flare to the bottom of the root ball. The root flare, where the roots bend away from the trunk, should always be at or slightly above the soil surface.

Set the tree in the hole, then peel back and cut away any burlap and wire cages. These can eventually constrict



Photo Melinda Myers

When planting, the tree's root flare should always be at or slightly above the soil surface.

root growth. Roughen the sides of the hole and backfill with the existing soil. Water thoroughly to moisten the roots and surrounding soil.

Continue to water thoroughly whenever the top few inches of soil are crumbly and moist. Proper watering, espe-

cially during the first two years, is critical for establishing trees. Watering thoroughly as needed encourages deep roots and a more drought tolerant and pest resistant tree.

Monitor soil moisture near the trunk and beyond the rootball. Since many

containerized trees are grown in soilless mix, the rootball dries out more quickly than the surrounding soil. Adjust your watering technique and schedule to accommodate this difference.

Mulch the soil surface with a two- to three-inch layer of woodchips or shredded bark to conserve water, suppress weeds and improve the soil as it decomposes. Pull the mulch back from the trunk of the tree to avoid disease problems.

Remove any tags that can eventually girdle the tree and prune out any broken or rubbing branches. Wait a year to fertilize and two years, once the tree is established, for additional pruning.

Continue providing tender loving care for at least the first two years. Make regular checkups, prune to create a strong structure, and keep grass, weeds and lawn care equipment away from the trunk throughout the lifetime of your tree. Your efforts will be rewarded with years of beauty and shade.

Gardening expert Melinda Myers has more than 30 years of horticulture experience and has written over 20 gardening books, including Small Space Gardening. Myers is the host of The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio segments. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine. Myers' Web site is www.melindamyers.com.

Home Canning Tips & Tricks



TAKE
THE
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Farmer's Markets are selling tomatoes and cukes in bulk, workshops on preserving produce are filling up fast and canning jar manufacturers report double digit hikes in sales. There's no doubt about it, self quarantines and the current homebound culture have spawned a renewed interest in gardens and home grown goods.

Whether canning in bulk to stock the pantry, or filling a few jelly jars for holiday gifts, the following information is geared toward helping your preserving efforts pay off in both financial and "feel good" benefits.

One of the joys of canning is the ability to literally put the fruits of your garden labor on the dinner table. For those who do not grow their own foods, a trip to a farmer's market or neighborhood farm stand can reap bushels of freshly picked produce. In rural areas, farmers typically offer boxes of produce in bulk to home canners at discounted prices.

When choosing produce for canning, overlook those with bruises or obvious imperfections. Common backyard garden vegetables such as tomatoes and cucumbers are popular candidates for canning as they offer a variety of finished products from condiments to side dishes.

A few old fashioned canning recipes can transform the versatile garden favorites into glistening jars of pantry staples. For example, tomatoes can be prepped to be canned as tomato sauce, tomato soup, tomato

juice, salsa, ketchup, and more. Cucumbers transform into sweet gherkins, dill pickles, chow chow and a variety of relishes. Orchard fruits such as apples and peaches can be processed as jelly, butter, chutney, pie filling, syrups and sauces.

Proper Processing: Before choosing a preferred method of processing be sure to study the options, all of which are available in canning "how to" books or online. For safety's sake be sure your resources are up to date, since processing recommendations have changed in the past several years. The classic Ball Blue Book serves as the canners bible. Online, a reliable and free resource titled "U.S. Department of Agriculture's "Complete Guide to Home Canning," is available and can be accessed by visiting www.uga.edu/nchfp/publications/publications_usda.html

A general rule is that the traditional boiling water bath is a canning option only for high acidic foods such as fruits, preserves and some pickled vegetables. All vegetables, which are low in acid (except some that you acidify first), must be processed in a steam pressure canner. Consult a trusted resource before you attempt to can your own food, as improper processing can cause Botulism, which is a serious and often fatal form of food poisoning.

Once you have completed processing of the jars according to safety guidelines, another important step in the canning process is testing your jar seals. After jars have cooled for 16-24 hours, a few easy visual and manual tests can ensure the jars have sealed properly. After removing the screw band:

1. Press down on the middle of the lid with your finger. If the lid comes back up when you let go, the lid did not seal correctly.
2. Lift the jar to eye level and look across the top of the lid. It

should curve down slightly in the center. If the center is flat or convex, the jar did not take a good seal.

3. Or, try the old fashioned "tap test." Tap the top of the lid with the bottom bowl of a teaspoon. A properly sealed lid will make a high pitched ringing sound.

According to the National Center for Food Preparation, if lids are tightly vacuum sealed on cooled jars, the screw bands may be removed before storing the jars. Before storing, jars and lids should be washed to remove any waste, and rinsed and dried. Jars should be stored in a cool dark, dry place. For best quality, store between 50 and 70 degrees and use canned products within a year.

Home Canning Recipes: Even the novice home canner can experience success with the following recipes that use fresh garden ingredients:

Pepper Jelly
This jelly, which uses up the last of the season's garden peppers, makes a festive holiday gift.

Ingredients: 3 green bell peppers, minced; 2 (4 ounce) cans diced jalapeno peppers
1 1/2 cups distilled white vinegar; 6 1/2 cups white sugar; 1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper; 1 (6 fluid ounce) container liquid pectin; 5 drops green food coloring.

Directions: In a large, stainless steel saucepan, combine peppers, vinegar, sugar, and cayenne pepper. Cook over medium high heat. Stir frequently until mixture begins to boil.

Stir in pectin; boil 5 minutes longer, stirring constantly, and mix in food coloring. Skim off foam, and remove from heat.

Ladle into sterilized jars. Seal and process in a boiling-water canner for 5 minutes.

Apple Chutney

It's apple season in New England and this chutney, made from freshly picked fruit, will be the perfect accompaniment to upcoming holiday feasts.

Ingredients: 2 quarts chopped, cored, pared tart apples (about 10 medium); 1 cup chopped onions; 1 cup chopped sweet red bell peppers (about 2 medium); 2 hot red peppers, seeded and chopped; 1 1/2 pounds seedless raisins; 4 cups brown sugar; 3 tablespoons mustard seed; 2 tablespoons ground ginger; 2 tablespoons ground allspice; 2 teaspoons canning salt; 1 clove garlic, crushed; 1 quart white vinegar (5%).

Directions: Combine all ingredients; simmer until thick, about 1 hour and 15 minutes. As mixture thickens stir frequently to prevent sticking. Pour boiling hot chutney into hot jars, leaving 1/2 inch headspace. Remove air bubbles and adjust headspace if needed. Wipe rims of jars with a dampened clean paper towel; adjust two-piece metal canning lids. Process in boiling water canner according to the altitude recommendations below. Makes about six pint jars.

Recommended process time for Apple Chutney pints in a boiling water canner (altitude chart): 1-1,000 ft, 10 minutes; 1,001-6,000 ft, 15 minutes; above 6,000 ft, 20 minutes.

Home Canning DOs and DON'Ts

- DOs**
- Do be sure to wash, wash, and wash again! Wash hands, all food prep surfaces and all canning supplies thoroughly before starting the canning process.
 - Always wash and examine all foods to be canned. Be sure to cut out any bruises and discard any overripe fruits and vegetables.
 - Do an inspection of your glass jars, old and new. Before sterilizing jars, look and feel for

nicks or chips. Inspect new lids for imperfections and make sure the screw bands fit properly.

• Do use only proper glass canning jars and avoid the old time practice of reusing mayonnaise and other such jars.

• Do take advantage of farm fresh fruits and vegetables in season. Buy in bulk and process to enjoy gourmet style foods at rock bottom prices.

DON'Ts

- Never use overripe fruit. A good rule of thumb to remember is that canning can't improve the quality of food, so always begin with top quality fruits, ripe and free of bruises.

• Never add considerably more spices or seasonings than a recipe calls for. Some spices can be high in bacteria and too much of a good thing can put your safety at risk.

• Never reuse canning jar lids. Be sure to seal jars with a new, clean lid each and every time.

• Do not store filled jars above 95° F or near hot pipes, a range, a furnace, in a non insulated attic, or in direct sunlight. Under these conditions, food will lose quality in a few weeks or months and may spoil.

• Don't store jars in damp areas such as a basement. Dampness may corrode metal lids, break seals, and encourage spoilage.

Win Dinner for Two at the Public House

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

Factors that can put kids at risk of vision problems

Vision can be taken for granted. Unless a person has experienced diminished vision or temporary or permanent vision loss, he or she likely cannot imagine life without the ability to see. But such a life is a reality for people across the globe, including many children.

The American Optometric Association notes that children who exhibit certain ocular signs and symptoms require a prompt, comprehensive eye examination to reduce their risk of vision loss. In addition, the AOA notes that certain factors can put kids at significant risk for eye and vision problems. Learning about these factors may help parents recognize vision problems in their children before they contribute to substantial vision loss.

- Prematurity, low birth weight, prolonged supplemental oxygen at birth
- A family history of myopia, ambly-

opia, strabismus, retinoblastoma, congenital cataracts, metabolic or genetic disease

- Infection of the child's mother during pregnancy. Rubella, toxoplasmosis, venereal disease, herpes, cytomegalovirus or human immunodeficiency virus are examples of infections that can occur during pregnancy that raise a child's risk of eye or vision problems.
- Maternal smoking, use of alcohol or illicit drug use during pregnancy
- Cortical visual impairment
- A difficult or assisted labor, which may be associated with fetal distress
- High or progressive refractive error
- Strabismus, a condition in which a person cannot align both eyes simultaneously or under normal conditions. This condition is sometimes referred to as "cross-eyed" or "wall-eyed."
- Anisometropia, a condition that causes the eyes to focus unevenly. This

condition is often marked by one eye being a different size or shape than the other.

- Known or suspected neurodevelopmental disorders
- Systemic health conditions with potential ocular manifestations
- Eye surgery or previous eye injury
- Taking prescription or nonprescription drugs (e.g., over the counter medications, supplements, herbal remedies) with potential ocular side effects

Parents also should know the eye exam recommendations for their children's ages. AOA guidelines recommend children receive their first eye exam between six and 12 months of age. Children should receive at least one additional exam between the ages of three and five, while kids between the ages of six and 17 should get annual exams.

Vision problems can affect young-



sters of all ages and backgrounds. Learning the risk factors for such problems can help parents know when to contact their children's eye doctors.

A life of accumulating stuff

I heard once that the first half of our life is spent accumulating things, while the second half is getting rid of those very same things. In our case, time has been more heavily weighted to accumulation, while getting rid of them has been a more sudden and quicker event. As most of you know, we are at a time and age where we are downsizing. We've spent the last 26 years in an exceptionally large home on forty acres and are downsizing into a significantly smaller place. The move requires that we sell, donate, give away or dump, eighty percent or more of our belongings. In the beginning, the thought sounded arduous and painful, but it has been quite the opposite. It has been a "freeing" experience. It has lightened our load and relieved a fair amount of pressure. As we've sorted through forty-five years of marriage in boxes of our belongings, I wonder why we ever bought most of it to begin with. It's as if we were on a search for meaning in things, that we later found to be meaningless. I believe I bought things to make myself feel

better and when I didn't ... I bought more. The more I bought, the more of a burden it became, so to relieve the stress ... I bought more. I think it's a vicious cycle that most of us go through. We all become burdened at some point with boxes of stuff. We either deal with it or leave it all to our kids to deal with after we are gone. So, we decided to have an estate sale, which turned out to be the right choice for us. It went well and I'm guessing half our stuff sold. It was an interesting experience. I thought I'd be able to hang around, greet people, answer questions ... but I was wrong. An hour before the sale began, George, the owner of Cait's, the estate sale company, asked me where I was going during the sale. I responded that I planned on staying and he began emphatically shaking his head and said, "No. You cannot be here. Go hang out with a neighbor or find another place to be." It was a mixture of feeling insulted



POSITIVELY
SPEAKING
GARY W.
MOORE

and hurt. It was my stuff, in my house! How could he tell me to leave? Arlene looked at me and smiled. "He didn't want to see you holding on to someone's ankle as they drag you out the door, while you are crying and pleading, 'please don't take my stuff!'" "You think I'd do that?" I asked. "It didn't take long for him to figure you out." She took me by the hand and pulled me towards the door. "Let's not stay and find out." We got in the car and instead of leaving, parked under a tree near the entrance to the property and watched people come in and later leave with our stuff. It wasn't a sad experience but just an odd sense of curiosity. Why did they want that? Where are they taking it? What will they do with it? The next day was different. I decided to hide in the bedroom and stay close, but my personality and curiosity didn't allow me to stay in hiding long. I slowly ventured out and had a fun time greet-

ing friends, meeting new people, and seeing smiles on faces as I watched our 'stuff' bring joy to others. I also smiled, knowing someday, sooner or later, that same stuff may be in someone else's estate sale as they wonder, "why on earth did I buy this?" My advice, for whatever it's worth ... Don't put your faith and happiness in material things. They eventually end up being burdensome and rarely deliver the expected pleasure. First and foremost, look to a higher source. For me, that is in Jesus. For you it may be something different. Then, find your earthly joy and satisfaction in family and dear friends. Stuff ... is just stuff. I don't miss any of it. Neither will you.

Gary W. Moore is a freelance columnist, speaker, and author of three books including the award-winning, critically acclaimed, "Playing with the Enemy." Follow Gary on Twitter @ GaryWMoore721 and at www.garyw-moore.com.

Antiques, collectibles, and auction news

It has been over two months since my last update on antiques, collectibles, and auction news. As you might expect, much has occurred since then, including a recently uncovered fake work of art. The Los Angeles Times reported that a statue attributed to Paul Gauguin that was on display in the J. Paul Getty Museum has now been hidden away in a storeroom. The Getty Museum purchased "Head with Horns" while it was on display at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City in 2002. The Los Angeles Times reported that the Getty described it as a "superb example" of Gauguin's work. Fabrice Fourmanoir is a Tahitian art dealer who has studied Gauguin's works. Fourmanoir informed the LA Times that he was contacted in 2002 by Wildenstein & Co. of New York who was handling the sale of the statue. He told them that he did not believe it was Gauguin's work because it was



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

smoother than the rougher pieces Gauguin created. Fourmanoir also noted that Gauguin never used a plinth (according to Merriam-Webster: a usually square block serving as a base) in his works. Additional research found that the plinth contained lacewood, which does not grow in Tahiti. Gauguin only used Tahitian wood. Photos of the artwork were later discovered that belonged to Gauguin's friend, Jules Agostini. Agostini took photos of the statue in 1894 a year before he met Gauguin and while Gauguin was still in France. The new evidence has led the Getty Museum to now attribute the statue to an unknown artist instead of Gauguin. In more positive news, a 1950's coin operated children's Pegasus ride sold well at auction recently. The Antiques and Arts Weekly reported on the sale of the Pegasus. "The symbol of speed and power, this example predated

Mobil's adoption of the steed as its US trademark in 1968," they wrote. It brought \$25,200. A space suit from Stanley Kubrik's movie "2001: A Space Odyssey" recently sold at auction, according to Vanity Fair. The space suit is believed to have been worn by Keir Dullea during the final shut-down sequence of the HAL 9000 computer. It sold for \$370,000, well above the \$200,000 estimate. Another item is expected to bring an even larger figure. Smithsonian Magazine reported that the world's most expensive coin is headed to auction. According to the magazine report "the rare silver dollar is thought to be one of the first, if not the very first, coins minted in the newly independent United States of America." The coin will fetch much more than pocket change with its \$10 million estimate. We will feature coins from three different estates in our October 29th online multi-estate auction. There is still time to consign for that sale. The preview for our Warren, R.I. auction takes place on Sept. 12 with bidding ending on Sept. 16. Please see the link on our



website to register and bid on this auction. I will be appraising items for the Townsend Historical Society's virtual appraisal event on October 10th. Participants can submit photos of their items to the Townsend Historical Society in advance. You

can also bring your items in person on the day of the event, and I will appraise them virtually. Please keep checking www.centralmassauctions.com for information on upcoming events.

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Establish winter habitats for backyard animals

Preparing a property for winter involves putting away lawn furniture, raking leaves and removing any annual plants that have shriveled up and spent the last of their energy. It can be tempting to want to clean up completely and leave a blank slate in the yard. But by doing so, you may be robbing wildlife of the resources they need to overwinter. The nature and conservation resource In Habitat says plants and animals depend on one another to survive. During the winter, animals may struggle to find adequate shelter and food, especially when there is a lack of sufficient plant matter available. In turn, these animals may actually take up home in people's residences, turning into pests in the process. Bats, field mice and even opossums and raccoons may move indoors into attics or basements, leaving behind waste and damage if they can't find adequate shelter outdoors. Homeowners concerned about potential pest infestations can take steps to ensure animals have places to bed down and escape the cold in their yards this winter. These tips can help local wildlife when the temperatures dip.

- Leave parts of the yard wild. Animals can make a nest in leaves or piles of brushwood. Just make sure piles left out are away from the home so curious critters don't try to get inside. Leave the task of tidying up shrubs and garden borders until spring, as shrubs can be dense areas to hide for both insects and animals.
- Consider planting animal food sources prior to winter. Plants like elderberry, holly, mulberry, sumac, and crabapple will grow in colder months and animals can enjoy them as a vital food staple.
- Don't forget water sources. Provide access to fresh water and replace as needed if the water freezes. For homeowners with fish ponds in their backyards, use a hot pot to melt a hole in the top of the pond and allow gases that have accumulated underneath to escape. This allows oxygen to reach fish and frogs in the pond.
- Leave bird, squirrel or bat houses in the yard. This is a fun and crafty project that can ward off winter boredom while also providing a safe place for local wildlife to shelter in winter.

Animals and insects need some extra



Leave some wild areas of the backyard so animals can roost safely during the winter.

help staying comfortable when cool temperatures arrive. Leaving some clean-up tasks for the spring ensures

that there are plenty of backyard habitats available to local wildlife.

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News, really close to home

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POLICE
continued from page A15

bance (Vine Street), fight; 11:48 p.m.: building checked, secure; (Total daily mv stops – 33).

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1
12:05-12:55 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:02 a.m.: parking violation (Valley Street), ticket issued; 1:03-1:31 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:33 p.m.: parking violation (Temple Street), ticket issued; 1:38-1:55 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:29 a.m.: medical/general (Prospect Street); 3:39 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), Southbridge PD bolo; 6:35 a.m.: threats (Main Street), tenant/tenant dispute; 9:08 a.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), aggressive operator; 9:24 a.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), dump truck losing load; 9:36 a.m.: juvenile matter (Ash Street), re: Instagram posts; 10:58 a.m.: parking complaint (Valley Street), services rendered; 11:45 a.m.: 911 call (Main Street), no contact; 12:16 p.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 12:41 p.m.: officer wanted (Howe Village), ongoing scam; 1:32 p.m.: elderly matter (Lincoln Street), spoken to; 1:39 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 2:04 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Main Street), brush fire; 3:09 p.m.: harassment prevention order service (Roys Drive); 3:12 p.m.: harassment prevention order service (West Main Street); 3:15 p.m.: harassment prevention order service (West Main Street); 4:06 p.m.: fraud (Main Street), identify theft; 6:01 p.m.: multiple LTC issued/5 (West Main Street),



assisted; 7:04 p.m.: suspicious persons (Olde Main Street), info taken; 7:26 p.m.: juvenile matter (Valley Street), 50 kids/ causing trouble; 7:53 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 8:44 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Main Street), accidental; 10:11 p.m.: mv complaint (North Spencer Road), erratic operator; 10:50 p.m.: disturbance (Mechanic Street), two fem. arguing; (Total daily mv stops – 43).

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Leicester Police
THURSDAY, AUGUST 27
9:29 a.m.: neighbor dispute (Paxton Street), investigated; 10:06 a.m.: investigation (Utica Street), services rendered; 10:23 a.m.: suspicious person (Soojians Drive), no action required; 11:34 a.m.: suspicious mv (Beech Street), no action required; 12:05 p.m.: welfare check (Pleasant Street), no action required; 3:20 p.m.: investigation (Utica Street), services rendered; 3:26 p.m.: hazardous conditions (Pleasant Street), referred; 3:33 p.m.: welfare check (Utica Street), report taken; 3:35 p.m.: hazardous conditions (Huntoon Memorial Highway), unable to locate; 3:49 p.m.: summons service (Lexington Avenue), served; 4:42 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 5:29 p.m.: residential alarm (Pine Street), false alarm; 6:31 p.m.: disturbance (Town Beach Road), peace restored.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28
1:16 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 1:18 a.m.: debris in road (Stafford Street), 2:26 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:54 a.m.: suspicious person (South Main Street), spoken to; 5:40 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Paxton Street), spoken to; 11:24 a.m.: assist other PD (Laflash Lane), unfounded; 3:01 p.m.: family problem (Pine Street), peace restored; 5:02 p.m.: assist other PD (Soojians Drive), no action required; 5:33 p.m.: ambulance (Fernecroft Road), referred; 6:39 p.m.: threats (Pleasant Street), report taken; 9:34 p.m.: neighbor dispute (Main Street), spoken to; 11:25 p.m.: ambulance (Rawson Street), transported.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29
12:09 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 12:52 a.m.: mv

stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 1:11 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), Kobe Gene Johnson, 18, 51 Crestwood Road, Leicester, speeding, reckless operation, failure to stop for police, unlicensed operation, arrest; 2:13 a.m.: suspicious person (Peter Salem Road), unable to locate; 3:12 a.m.: welfare check (Pleasant Street), unable to locate; 7:53 a.m.: disturbance (Stafford Street), peace restored; 10:08 a.m.: malicious mischief (Henshaw Street), report taken; 11:39 a.m.: welfare check (Stafford Street), gone on arrival; 4:22 p.m.: suspicious person (Chapel Street), spoken to; 5:11 p.m.: investigation (Fernecroft Road), services rendered; 5:32 p.m.: investigation (Burncoat Lane), services rendered; 8:07 p.m.: assist other PD (Stafford Street), citation issued; 9:16 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), unable to locate; 9:55 p.m.: welfare check (Stafford Street), no action required.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30
12:38 a.m.: ambulance (Dale Street), transported; 6:24 a.m.: suspicious activity (Huntoon Memorial Highway), services rendered; 9:59 a.m.: ambulance (Paxton Street), transported; 11:54 a.m.: fraud (Soojians Drive), investigated; 12:35 p.m.: accident (Main Street), services rendered; 4:45 p.m.: noise complaint (Charlton Street), unable to locate; 4:50 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), no action required; 4:53 p.m.: warrant service (Auburn Street), Peter Mancuso, Junior, 57, 370 Auburn Street, Cherry Valley, straight warrant, arrest; 7:29 p.m.: disturbance (Collier Avenue), transported to hospital; 8:50 p.m.: ambulance (Auburn Street), transported; 11:13 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 11:38 p.m.: ambulance (Chapel Street), transported.

MONDAY, AUGUST 31
8:28 a.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street), advised civil action; 9:04 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 10:27 a.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 11:36 a.m.: fraud (Massasoit Drive), no service; 12:48 p.m.: welfare check (Pleasant Street), unable to locate; 1:37 p.m.: suspicious activity (Chapel Street), spoken to; 1:54 p.m.: investigation (Main Street), services rendered;

5:17 p.m.: fraud (Rawson Drive), report taken; 6:06 p.m.: fraud (Soojians Drive), report taken; 6:12 p.m.: family problem (Pleasant Street), spoken to; 6:21 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 6:37 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 7:42 p.m.: investigation (Burncoat Lane), services rendered; 7:54 p.m.: assist other PD (Main Street), services rendered; 11:58 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1
12:57 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 1:29 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 8:46 a.m.: assist other agency (Pleasant Street), services rendered; 3:26 p.m.: accident (Pleasant Street), assisted; 3:37 p.m.: assist citizen (Main Street); 4:06 p.m.: investigation (Main Street), services rendered; 4:10 p.m.: investigation (Rawson Street), services rendered; 5:56 p.m.: disabled mv (Beech Street), peace restored; 8:47 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:57 p.m.: restraining order service (Brookside Drive), unable to serve; 9:04 p.m.: investigation (Pleasant Street), services rendered.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2
11:10 a.m.: assist other PD (Main Street), services rendered; 1:59 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Stafford Street), no action required; 2:06 p.m.: assist other agency (Chapel Street), services rendered; 3:10 p.m.: welfare check (Pleasant Street), gone on arrival; 3:30 p.m.: disabled mv (Mill Street), no action required; 4:41 p.m.: restraining order service (Brookside Drive), unable to serve; 4:52 p.m.: arrest warrant service (Stafford Street), assisted; 5:31 p.m.: investigation (South Main Street), restraining order served; 5:33 p.m.: missing person (Soojians Drive), services rendered; 7:12 p.m.: fraud (Auburn Street), report taken; 7:32 p.m.: suspicious mv (Paxton Street), investigated; 8:08 p.m.: disturbance (Soojians Drive), name and address redacted from police log, uninsured mv, unregistered mv, op w/suspended registration, mv towed; 9:04 p.m.: assist other PD (Stafford Street), services rendered; 10:40 p.m.: welfare check (Collier Avenue), transported to hospital.

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Applications are also available on the Town's website www.auburnguide.com, under the Public Works – Highway Division.
Application must be returned to the DPW by October 9, 2020 by mail or delivered to the drop box at the DPW located at 5 Millbury Street, Auburn, MA.
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Waterfowl weather sets in

The cool and pleasant weather of this past weekend signaled the start of the Massachusetts Waterfowl season. Although only Canada Geese are legal during the first segment of the hunting season, it will not be long before the opening of ducks and Pheasant season starting on Oct. 13. This year, the early goose season started on Sept. 8, and has a liberal daily bag limit of 15 birds. It may seem like a lot, but some areas in the state are overrun with Canada Geese that are polluting lakes and ponds and golf courses with their feces.

Unfortunately for sportsmen most corn fields are not cut during the early season, which has been keeping less areas open for sportsmen to hunt. Because of the extremely hot dry summer, farmers may be cutting there corn a bit early this year. Be sure to ask for permission to hunt private property prior to the season. A little courtesy



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goes a long way! Numerous other problems are the posted private property that geese find every year to hang out in. Access to these properties are often off limit to hunting, or are just too close to houses. Remember to stay at least 500 ft. from any occupied dwelling when hunting. Hundreds of local geese have been spotted in many grass fields in the past few days, and will survive the early hunting season if they continue to visit the same fields. When the regular season opens on Oct. 13, the two-bird daily limit goes into effect. Setting up a spread of Canada Goose decoys to harvest a couple of birds has kept many hunters away.

More bear sightings in Douglas this past week have prompted local deer hunters to purchase a \$5 bear hunting stamp from Mass. Fish & Wildlife this year. There are five bear hunting seasons in Mass. this year that include

rifle, hand gun, muzzleloader, archery & shotgun, with the last two being the most popular among hunters in the Central District, as they coincide with the deer season. Be sure to read the 2020 hunting season abstracts prior to hunting.

The Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club will be holding their second Wild Game Supper on Sept. 12. It was postponed because of the Covid-19 outbreak. Sportsmen that had purchased tickets to the supper this past fall can pick up their meal at the outside window starting at 2 p.m. All meals are to go only. Anyone that cannot make the meal can redeem their tickets for a full refund if they wish. The club is also planning a pig roast on Sept. 19, to benefit the Pheasant program. Tickets are \$10 each. The meal is also to go only. The club asks attendees to wear face masks at both events.

Reports of fast action on seabass in Rhode Island this past week, prompted numerous local anglers to give it a try. Knowing were to fish was the key to success. The seven fish limit on big seabass were caught using squid strips

baited on a single hook, or with squid strips and jigs. Very large bluefish were mixed into the fast action. Areas around Block Island were the most productive with large and small seabass.

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