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Friday, May 3, 2024

# Community offers support for mental health of students

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

NORTH BROOKFIELD — Recognizing the many challenges facing local students following the pandemic, community partners are teaming up with school officials to offer support and resources.

A celebration of learning event will take place on Wednesday, May 8, from 5-7 p.m. at North Brookfield Elementary School. Local families and students will join school officials and area organizations for special presentations and activities.

Additionally, several resources will be offered to help families address such challenges as mental health struggles; substance use; and problems leading to chronic absenteeism.

Hope Rudzinski, who serves as an outreach coordinator for District Attorney Joseph Early Jr.'s Office, has worked closely with community leader Suzanne Lewandowski in recent years. They regularly meet with NBHS Principal John Diorio to discuss various problems and how the community can help.

"We learned last December that chronic absenteeism is a major concern since Covid, not just in North Brookfield but nationwide," Lewandowski said. "The Student Wellness Initiative was born from ensuing discussion."

As part of the May 8 wellness and informational program, speaker John Morello's "Dirt" presentation will serve as the kickoff to what local officials hope will be a continuing collaborative effort between school leaders, community partners, and families.

Turn To **HEALTH** page **A14**



Gretchen Ertl — Courtesy

Young people from the Leicester 84 Club at Leicester High School celebrated Kick Butts Day; Youth Day of Action, at the Massachusetts State House. As part of The 84 Movement, teens educated their legislators about the tobacco industry's historic and unjust targeting of youth, communities of color, and LGBTQIA+ youth. Pictured, from left to right: youth leaders Dylan Delage, Hannah Collette, and Melissa Ledbetter. Visit The 84 to learn more: The84.org.

# Theatre Guild presents "Mamma Mia!"

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

NORTH BROOKFIELD — The Theatre Guild of North Brookfield invites community members to enjoy its upcoming productions of "Mamma Mia!"

Shows will run from May 3-5, as well as May 10-12.

All Friday and Saturday shows will begin at 7:30 p.m. Sunday performances will take place at 2 p.m.

All shows will take place at North Brookfield Elementary School. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$12 for seniors and students age 12 and under.

The show's cast features members from throughout the community, including NBES Principal Sarah Priestley, North Brookfield Police Chief Mark Smith, long-time Guild member Missy McDonald, and several local students.

Guild leaders were thrilled by the interest shown in the production from people across the area and the region.

"At auditions back in January, over a two-day span, we had over 40 folks come out and audition for the show," said Jay Valencourt, the Vice President of the Theatre Guild of North Brookfield. "We had folks not only from the immediate area, but we also had some folks from Connecticut and Rhode Island who were willing

to travel to be in this show."

Added Valencourt, "We got quite a few new people coming into the Guild to perform this show. It's a great cast."

Chief Smith told the New Leader he is also excited for the upcoming performances. "Mamma Mia!" will serve as his debut in live productions.

Cast members have been rehearsing for their shows since February. Countless hours of preparations will soon culminate during two weekends of community entertainment.

The Theatre Guild of North Brookfield is

a nonprofit organization that has presented local community theater for more than 40 years. The organization offers opportunities to performers of all ages.

"We are committed to making the theatrical arts available to anyone and everyone. We pride ourselves in creating a welcoming, inclusive, and creative environment for both participants and audiences."

To learn more about the production, visit [www.theatreguildofnorthbrookfield.com](http://www.theatreguildofnorthbrookfield.com). You can also purchase tickets for the shows by visiting the Web site.

# Leicester Public Library announces May programs

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — Residents of all ages are invited to attend fun, educational programming this spring at Leicester Public Library.

The Friends of the Library will hold a pair of book sales this month. The first event will take place on Saturday, May 4, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The second sale is set for Tuesday, May 7, from 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

At both book sales, guests will be able to purchase books, audiobooks, board games, puzzles, DVDs, music CDs, magazines, and more. All items cost \$1 or less.

On Saturday, May 11, from noon to 1:30 p.m., the library will hold an event featuring local authors Ron Martin and Susan Sheperd. Martin will discuss his book "Apples and Oranges", while Sheperd will discuss her book "This Is Why I Sing."

Copies of both authors' books will be available for purchase at the event.

On Tuesday, May 14, from 6-7:30 p.m., the library will host a craft night featuring beaded dragonfly suncatchers. The free event is intended for guests ages 14 and older. No registration is required to attend.

The Massasoit Art Guild will hold a reception and art show at the library on Thursday, May 16, from 4-6 p.m.

On Saturday, May 18, and Tuesday, May 21, the Drip Cup Café will hold all-day art swap and give-away programs. Leading up to the events, donations of art supplies, craft materials, and sewing supplies will be accepted at the library during open hours on May 14-17.

All items at the give-away programs will be free. While donations are

Turn To **LIBRARY** page **A14**

# Leicester seniors go to prom

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — The school community once again teamed up with Senior Center leaders to hold the annual "Senior-Senior Prom."

Held on April 25, the intergenerational program brought local seniors and students

together for a fun night of dancing, food, and unforgettable memories.

The program is made possible by a partnership between Leicester's Director of Elder Affairs, Rachelle Cyr, and School Committee Chair Donna McCance, who also serves as Vice Chair of the Council on Aging.

"The evening was picture perfect. A beautiful sunset laid the ideal background for the event held at the Leicester High School cafeteria, former Becker College Campus Center," read a statement released by McCance.

Guests were treated to performances by the Lou Borelli Band, which

delivered several ballroom dancing pieces.

"Many of our older adults look forward to this event, which is a precious time for them to enjoy companionship, a special meal, and the elegance of a prom," Cyr said.

Under the leadership of Leicester's Food Service

Director, Barry Sbordy, as well as LHS Principal Ted Zawada, student volunteers handled everything from serving meals to cleanup tasks.

"We never have a shortage of volunteers. Our students love our community, and they will do everything possible to support our elders, many of whom are their grandparents," Zawada said.

LHS students served guests their choice of grilled marinated steak, Icelandic cod, or chicken parmesan, all of which were prepared by Sbordy. Guests also feasted on cheeses, crackers, and grapes, followed by a garden salad. The meal also featured a dessert buffet that included a variety of parfaits, fruit dishes, and other treats.

Jeff Eller, the owner of Eller's Restaurant in town, supported the event by serving beverages on a one-day beer and wine license that was approved by the Select Board.

All volunteers, supporters, students, and school officials are thanked for

Turn To **PROM** page **A5**



Courtesy

Leicester students and seniors enjoy an intergenerational program at LHS

Please complete and mail the card in today's paper.

# Belanger hopes to return to Leicester Select Board

**BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER**  
LEICESTER — Like many residents, former selectman Doug Belanger

is concerned by the increasing acrimony he's seen across town in recent years. Hoping to return to the board and once again lead by example, he is seeking your vote at the upcoming election. It's been six years since Belanger, now the

Town Moderator, stepped away from the board after serving his town for eight terms (24 years). At the time of his departure from the Board, he assumed the town was poised for a smooth transition of leadership. But after witnessing a turbulent six-year stretch fraught with conflicts between municipal leaders—and complaints surging in from residents over poor communication and transparency—Belanger aims to provide a stabilizing influence with his return.



Courtesy

**Former Leicester selectman Doug Belanger is seeking a seat on the Board at the upcoming election.**

not only unprofessional—they are counterproductive to getting things done.”

Added Belanger, “I am also very concerned with the turnover and low morale of our town employees. I will use my professional training to get to the factual reasons and share them with the public and governing bodies, with an eye toward real systemic solutions.”

Additionally, in recent years, Belanger has seen several missed opportunities to maximize the potential of assets and projects in town.

“The Becker transition project has had too many starts and stops. In my experience, the lack of a thoughtful, publicly debated, and accepted master plan has resulted in what appears to be a piecemeal, reactionary approach to what can and should be the town’s shining jewel,” Belanger

added.

Belanger currently serves as Chairman of the WRTA Advisory Board. He recently led the search and contracting process for a new Administrator.

Moreover, as a member of the Board of Directors of the United Way, Belanger was the recipient of the 2023 Labor Hero Award, presented in recognition of his dedication to assisting workers throughout Worcester County.

Additionally, Belanger is an active member of the Sons of the American Legion Post #443, a member of the Leicester Recycling Committee, the President of the Worcester County Senior Athletic Association, and the founder of the Leicester Parks and Recreation Pickleball League.

Belanger’s professional career highlights include owning or operating numerous successful retail establishments, later becoming a trained mediator, negotiator, organizer, and business agent. He retired in 2019 as Vice President of UFCW Local 1445, as well as the Treasurer of the Central Mass AFL/CIO.

Belanger’s past community service activities include being a member and chairman of Leicester’s Advisory/Finance Board and Personnel Committee; moderator for the Burncoat Pond Watershed District and the Leicester Water Supply District; and pres-

ident of Leicester Little League.

Looking ahead to the final weeks of his campaign, Belanger is excited to have conversations with residents about opportunities to work toward positive change. He hopes to eventually see more community members become involved in municipal service and volunteerism, rather than remain at the sidelines of social media squabbles.

“My family does not look forward to the inevitable, anonymous social media misinformation or hasty conclusions that come with public positions,” Belanger said. “In my deliberation with my wife and children about looking to return to the Board, they reminded me of how my dad used to respond to anyone complaining: ‘If you’re not part of the solution, you are part of the problem.’ So, in the spirit of my dad, I’m asking all residents, officials, and employees to join me in being part of the solution.”

Belanger and his wife of 38 years, Donna (Clark), have two children and three grandchildren.

The June 11 Annual Town Election will be held at Town Hall from noon to 8 p.m.

Requests for absentee ballots are available by contacting the Town Clerk’s Office at 508-892-7011.

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**Attention North Brookfield Water Users:**  
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The North Brookfield Water Department will be flushing water mains throughout town beginning Wednesday, May 1st through Friday, May 31st 2024. The purpose of the flushing is to remove sediment buildup in the mains. The flushing may result in temporary discoloration of the water, caused by small particles dislodged during the flushing. This discoloration might stain your laundry, especially white materials. Flushing is performed between the hours of 7:30AM and 3:30PM. We post our daily flushing schedule on the North Brookfield Water Department Facebook page. If you would like additional information, please call the Water Department at (508) 867-0207.

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**Friday's Child**

**Hi! My name is Destiny and I love art and music!**

Destiny is a charming, compassionate, and creative girl. She is described as very sociable and enjoys making new friends. Destiny takes pride in being an older sister and loves caring for others. Her creative side has inspired a love of art and music, which includes dancing and coloring. Destiny has developed a new interest in reading and enjoys reading to others. Her favorite sport is basketball which she plays with her friends, and she wants play for a team in the future. Destiny also enjoys hanging with friends whether she is going shopping, going to trampoline parks, or making TikTok videos. She also loves dogs.

<https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/8937>

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. As an adoptive parent, you won't have to pay any fees, adoption from foster care is completely free in Massachusetts. The process to adopt a child from foster care includes training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you. These steps will help match you with a child or sibling group that your family will fit well with. To learn more about adoption from foster care visit [www.mareinc.org](http://www.mareinc.org). Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) can give you guidance and information on the adoption process. Reach out today to find out all the ways you can help children and teens in foster care.

## Lake Wickaboag Association to host annual lake clean-up

WEST BROOKFIELD—The Lake Wickaboag Preservation Association (LWPA) is hosting its 25th annual lake cleanup day, from 9:00 a.m. to noon, Saturday, May 4th at the town beach. Refreshments will be provided for lake cleanup volunteers.

Reed Savary, event chairman, encourages local volunteers to help LWPA members in removing trash from the lake and along its shoreline. As in previous years, the clean-up effort will also include the lake area along Wickaboag Valley Road to Snow Road and the rest area on Route 9 across from the lake.

The LWPA will also sponsor an information table, which will include lake publications and association membership applications. LWPA sweatshirts, T-shirts, hats and other Lake Wickaboag branded merchandise will be available for sale.

For further information, please visit [LakeWickaboag.com](http://LakeWickaboag.com).

**P.E.T. of the Week**  
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**Loki**  
Hello there, lovely people! My name is Loki, and I'm here to introduce you to the joy and love that I bring into every room I enter. Despite being a senior, I've still got the heart of a puppy and the energy to match!

You see, I've got a playful spirit that just won't quit. Whether it's chasing after a ball, going for a brisk walk, or curling up for some cuddles, I'm always ready for some fun and affection. Age is just a number, right?

Now, I'll admit it - I can be a bit nervous around men. But with patience, understanding, and gentle care, I know I can overcome my fears and learn to trust again. All I need is someone who's willing to take the time to earn my trust and show me that there's nothing to be afraid of.

If you choose to adopt me, you'll gain a loyal companion who will fill your days with endless joy, laughter, and love. I can't wait to find my forever home and become the cherished member of the family that I know I was meant to be. Oh, and did I mention that I love going on hikes? It's true! Exploring the great outdoors is one of my favorite pastimes. However, I do need to work on my leash manners a bit. You see, I get so excited while exploring that I can be quite strong on the leash. So, I'll need someone who can handle my exuberance and help me become the best hiking buddy I can be.

So, if you're ready to open your heart and home to a sweet senior like me, please consider giving me a chance. I promise to fill your life with love, laughter, and unforgettable adventures. Let's make each day an exciting new journey together!

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**BROOKFIELD**  
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\$360,000, 323 E Main St, Meyerdierks, Michael, and Meyerdierks, Louise A, to Wytiaz, Taylor, and Vallee, Brandon.

**LEICESTER**  
\$437,500, 1115 Stafford St, G Richardson Rt, and Richardson, Christa, to Pax Management Group LLC.  
\$390,000, 6 Merrick St, Bulkeley, Kristin L, to Alsayfi, Ehab S, and Hasan, Nisreen F.  
\$320,000, 1156 Stafford St, Wytiaz, Taylor, and Vallee, Brandon, to Toledo, Melinda J.  
\$145,900, 18 Carleton Rd, Hawes, William C, to Home Theory LLC.

**NORTH BROOKFIELD**  
\$220,000, 14 Central St, Ingemi Theresa M Est, and Premo, Kathryn A, to Provo, Catherine E, and Demers, Michael R.

**SPENCER**  
\$505,000, 25 Laurel Ln, Whittaker, Nancy R, and Whittaker, Peter M, to Pupillo, Frank M.  
\$449,900, 15 Roys Dr #15B, Labonte, Theodore, to Addobe, Mavis.  
\$443,001, 3 Pond St, Grenier, Amanda L, to Chivallatti, Steven.

**WARREN**  
None

**WEST BROOKFIELD**  
\$509,000, 306 Long Hill Rd, Penna, Michael, to Belanger, Wayne, and Belanger, Robin.  
\$360,000, 31 Central St, Patenaude, Brian K, to Haag, Renata R, and Haag, Ruediger R.

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# Schlegel seeks selectman's seat in North Brookfield



Courtesy

Vaughn Schlegel is seeking a seat on the North Brookfield Board of Selectmen.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

**NORTH BROOKFIELD** — Vaughn Schlegel hopes to continue his mission of municipal service leadership by earning a Select Board seat at the upcoming election.

Immediately after arriving in North Brookfield, Schlegel served his new community by becoming a member of the Finance Committee and Planning Board. His goal was to learn how the town operates—and what challenges he could help address—by being directly involved in boards.

“When I moved to town

a year and a half ago, I wanted to get involved in the community I call home. I wanted to find a way to give back to my community,” Schlegel told the New Leader. “I formed a lot of good relationships with other people that work for the town, and in doing so I learned a lot of the problems facing North Brookfield. I worked with several departments and committees, as well as the Board of Selectmen, in trying to address some of these issues. When John Tripp decided to step down as a selectman, that’s when I made the decision to run, where I can make a real change for my community. I didn’t think twice about it.”

In addition to working as a letter carrier for the Post Office in North Brookfield, Schlegel is also a Union Steward for the National Association of Letter Carriers.

“Being a letter carrier has given me the opportunity to form relationships with a large portion of the residents in town, and in talking to each one of them, I’ve gotten to know their thoughts on the town, what they like,

and what they disagree about,” Schlegel added. “It’s given me an avenue to really get to know the people.”

Schlegel has also enjoyed his time serving on the Finance Committee and Planning Board, which have combined to provide plenty of valuable experiences that augment his run for the Select Board.

“The Planning Board has given me insight and knowledge on the town’s physical development, where we can utilize space in the future for residential and commercial growth, and an understanding of our zones and districts,” Schlegel said. “The Finance Committee has played the most important role in getting me ready for this candidacy. It has been through this committee that I have been able to see the operating budget, work with department heads to find alternate sources of revenue, and find cost savings for our town.”

Added Schlegel, “One of the most important jobs of the Board of Selectmen is setting the budget for the town. The Finance Committee acts

as the Board’s advisors in this capacity.”

One of the biggest challenges facing North Brookfield is the operating budget, Schlegel explained. He has several ideas for helping the town gain momentum in the right direction.

“The past several years, we have seen a large increase in a deficit that seems to be snowballing. Each year, it gets harder to balance the budget,” Schlegel said. “I had a hand in helping to resolve the Fiscal Year 2024 budget, and we are currently still working hard, meeting almost weekly, to find a solution for Fiscal Year 2025. There are a lot of reasons for this. For one, we have a good amount of state and federal mandates being imposed on us that are almost totally unfunded, such as our sewer upgrade, our special education services in the school, and many more. That leaves us as a town shouldering millions of dollars to pay for, with no extra revenue and little in grant support.”

Other items driving up the budget are contractual pay increases and benefit costs for town employ-

ees; rising fuel and utility costs; and school choice losses, Schlegel said.

“When we lose kids to other schools, that money follows the children to that school instead of staying in our district. To address the issue with the school, I would look to find ways working with the School Committee and Superintendent on how we can retain our student population in town, offer programs to peak interest, and put out a positive outlook on our school district,” Schlegel said.

If elected, Schlegel would also propose the idea of revitalizing the town’s Economic Development Committee.

“This committee would ideally be comprised of individuals who have a background in real estate, marketing, and business,” Schlegel added. “The goal would be to find ways to attract more businesses to town, thus creating additional

revenue and taking some of the burden off the existing tax base while also providing jobs for residents and consumer goods and services that would be closer to home for many living in town.”

Schlegel also has high hopes for community improvements once North Brookfield installs a town administrator.

“I am hopeful we can look into getting the town some additional grants to better help our departments get the resources and funding they need,” Schlegel said.

Away from work and municipal service, Schlegel enjoys weightlifting, off-roading, hiking, and spending time with family and friends.

# Viner puts focus on economic development



Courtesy

Candidate Jonathan Viner is seeking a seat on the Spencer Select Board.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

**SPENCER** — With the Annual Town Election fast approaching, Select Board candidate Jonathan Viner is focused on economic development and stability.

Currently serving as Vice Chair of the Finance Committee, Viner has also served on the Planning Board, the Capital Improvement Planning Committee, the Building and Property Reuse Committee, and the Solar Bylaw Review Committee.

Additionally, he served as Spencer’s Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission delegate from 2019-21.

If elected, Viner would push for restarting the Economic Development Committee, in addition to several other measures to support development.

“We need to do everything we can to foster economic development in town to ensure Spencer can remain financially solvent in both the short and long term,” Viner

told the New Leader. “We also need to follow through with all of the research and work done by the Financial Management Planning Committee and similar studies, reports, and community surveys that have been conducted.”

Viner also supports implementing a more comprehensive and long-term financial plan, specifically regarding town-owned buildings and their capacity to serve the future needs of Spencer.

“I also want to institute the necessary policy changes to promote better transparency and communication between town government and the public. Financial information should be more readily accessible on the town website, and the town government should be regularly communicating with the public about issues being addressed and to be addressed.”

One of the greatest challenges facing Spencer is financial stability, Viner said. He continues to share with voters his plans for addressing the challenge and helping to advance the town.

“The upcoming FY 25 budget could not be balanced with recurring revenue and required the use of one-time funds. This represents extraordinarily poor financial practice that can only be addressed through better adherence to sound budget practices and decision making, which I would strongly advocate for,” Viner said. “I would also take the necessary steps to promote economic development that would result in more tax revenue without raising the tax rate.”

Another challenge Spencer faces is the preservation of open space and the town’s rural character, while still allowing for development, Viner said.

“Achieving that balance requires appropriately updated policies and zoning bylaw that I could help initiate based upon my experience serving on the Planning Board,” Viner added. “I would also work toward creating a Master Plan Implementation Committee to carry out the town’s Master Plan once it is completed.”

As a Resident Engineer for the MassDOT Highway Division, Viner supervises, administrates, and inspects construction contracts on behalf of the state.

“I’ve been with MassDOT for 12 years now, and I’ve been in my current position for the past three years. My entire career with MassDOT has prepared me for a seat on the Board, but my time as a Resident Engineer has served me best,” Viner said. “I am directly responsible for the expenditure of taxpayer money and ensuring that the public is provided with the product that we’re paying for. I’ve also become experienced in procurement law and other laws relevant to public

service.”

The Annual Town Election will take place on Tuesday, May 14.

**The Town of North Brookfield Highway Department is hiring for a full-time position**

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# First three 2024 season bus trips for Paxton-area seniors

PAXTON — The first outing for the 2024 season for Paxton-area Seniors is scheduled for Tuesday, May 21.

Nancy Wilby, with the support of the Friends of Paxton Council on Aging, is continuing the trips her husband, Robert Wilby, with her help, have run for more than a dozen years. Robert died last August. In addition

to the three trips below, four more trips are in the planning stages to finish the season in December and will be confirmed soon. All area seniors are invited to join us.

Our first destination on Tuesday, May 21 is the Quechee, Vermont, area. We will start the day at the Simon Pearce Flagship Store in a restored mill amidst an

array of products that would set a fine table. This company is known for making fine glassware, and we will see a glassblowing demonstration while there; in fact, they have a dinner restaurant at this location (not open for group lunches) where diners get to use their fine glassware. We will then move on to the nearby Public House Pub for lunch, with a choice of three entrees, BBQ Pulled Pork Sandwich, Woodstocker (grilled chicken, bacon, cheddar, etc.), Public House Chop Salad (mixed greens, pasta, bacon, chicken, blue cheese, tomato, etc.) including beverages and dessert, after which we will drive a very short distance to spend a

short while viewing the Quechee Gorge, which is affectionately known as "Vermont's Little Grand Canyon." Following that, we will reboard our luxury Wilson Bus Lines motor coach for the 20-30 minute ride to

Norwich's King Arthur Flour. This kitchen store prides itself on selling all kinds of King Arthur flours and grains, spices and herbs from around the world, kitchen appliances, implements and gadgets, dressings, marinades, cookbooks, kitchen linens, international food and specialty ingredients. Meanwhile, if you're not a shopper, there is a cafe or cafeteria where you could buy a cup of coffee, a cookie, or whatever your heart desires.

Our second outing of the season, June 22, is a Saturday, which is different for us as we usually travel weekdays. Our destination is Moultonborough, New Hampshire's Ossipee Mountain attraction, Castle in the Clouds, formerly known as Lucknow Mansion. A trolley will take us up the hill to the castle where we will tour the 16-room arts and crafts-style castle and enjoy the moun-

tain view with Lake Winnepesaukee nearby. We are invited to stroll the garden as well. A complete lunch at Patrick's Pub in Guilford, New Hampshire, with choice of two entrees, Roast Chicken Breast with Herb or Baked Haddock Provencale, with sticky toffee pudding for dessert will precede the tour of the Castle. Come and join us for a Saturday outing in June!

Tuesday, July 23 finds us headed first to Jonathan's Restaurant in Ogunquit, Maine for a lovely lunch of three entrees with a complete menu (Chicken Piccata, Lemon Baked Scrod or Roast Pork Loin) in a restaurant that people rave about. Then we'll board our motor coach for the ride to Portland where we'll board for Portland's Harbor Lights and Sights Cruise, a one-and-three-quarter hour afternoon Casco Bay cruise amid iconic light-

and the picturesque waterway, Diamond Pass, enjoying the bustling inner harbor and main shipping channel, where we'll view lovely lake homes, close-up Civil War-era forts and lighthouses that guide mariners into Portland Harbor.

For reservations or to get on our mailing list if you haven't traveled with us previously, please call Deb Grensavitch at 508.754.6366 or email her at

grensavitchd@aol.com. Flyers will be emailed or mailed to any potential travelers

who request them. If you would like more information, you may call Deb as above or Nancy Wilby at 508.792.4662 or her cell phone 508.414.0261 or email Nwilby1@yahoo.com but Deb will handle reservations this year. Come share a wonderful summer with us.

## Senior Citizens Club of Leicester offers meal and performance

LEICESTER — On Tuesday, May 21, the Senior Citizens' Club of Leicester will offer entertainment and a meal.

"Eternal Health's professional team has often offered our elders very valuable information and have agreed to partially sponsor this event," read a statement released by Senior Center officials.

The Carlos Davis Quartet will entertain guests during the program at the Senior Center. The group is sponsored by the local Arts Council, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

A ticket must be purchased to attend the May 21 program. The fee for members of the club is \$10 per person. For non-members, the fee is \$15 per person.

The club meeting begins at 10 a.m. Entertainment begins at 10:30 a.m.

The meal will be served afterward by Toupin Catering.

"There are a few tickets available at the Senior Center. Seats are limited," the promotional statement read.

If you would like more information about the program, call the Senior Center at 508-892-7016.

## Sheriff's Office celebrates success stories



Courtesy

Members of the Worcester County Sheriff's Office join area officials in celebrating graduates who completed special programming.

REGION — The Worcester County Sheriff's Office recently celebrated several graduates who completed special programming.

A total of 18 local graduates completed programs as part of the project. All participants were referred through the Massachusetts Probation Service, and some individuals also addressed struggles with substance abuse and/or mental health disorders.

"This diversion programming was created as an alternative or supplement to time served in the Worcester County Jail and House of Corrections," read a statement released by the Sheriff's Office.

Inspector General Jeffrey Shapiro and State Representative Michael Kushmerek attended the program to share messages with the group.

## Try a free Tai Chi class at North Brookfield Senior Center

NORTH BROOKFIELD — Join us in North Brookfield on Tuesday afternoons at 1pm for strength, balance, relaxation, and fun! The cost is only \$5 per 45-minute class led by certified Tai Chi instructor Jen Tetreault. Let Jen take you through some easy warm up exercises, then move on to gentle relaxing movement patterns that will increase your Strength, Ease Stress, and Improve Cardiovascular Health.

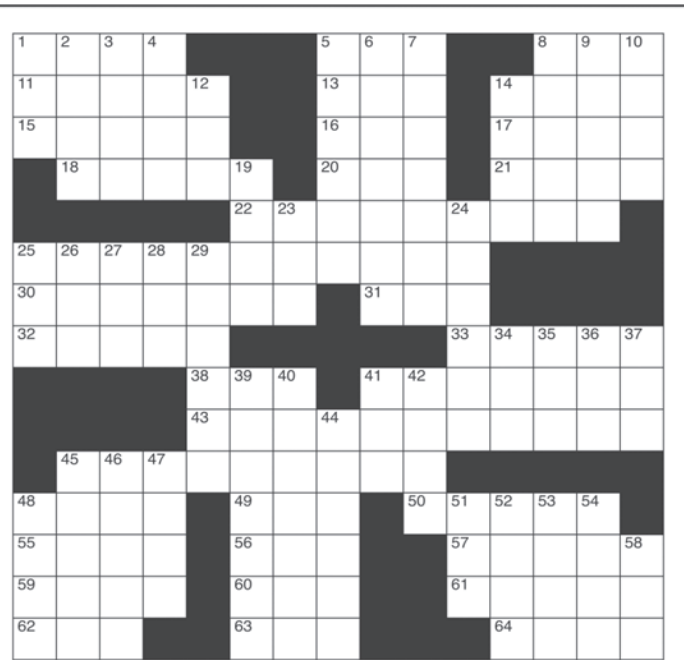
You do not need to be a North Brookfield resident to take advantage of this weekly class. And your first session is free.

The classes are open to anyone between the ages of 50 and 99. Jen will help you modify the movements, if necessary, by using a chair for seated moves or to have on hand for balance.

Who knew caring for yourself and improving mental health and well-being could be so much fun? It's all here at the North Brookfield Senior Center, 29 Forest Street.

Call the Center at (508) 867-0220 if you have questions about the Tai Chi class or want information on other center programs.

We Hope to See You Some Tuesday afternoon!



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Lions do it
- 5. In favor of
- 8. Rest here please (abbr.)
- 11. Pulpits
- 13. Leisure activity
- 14. Fertility god
- 15. Financial obligations
- 16. When you anticipate getting somewhere
- 17. Spanish river
- 18. Sporting events
- 20. Type of tree
- 21. Ceased to be
- 22. Persons
- 25. Synthetic resin
- 30. Relates to photochemical reactions
- 31. Father
- 32. Former Cowboys coach
- 33. City in Finland
- 38. Run batted in
- 41. Got through
- 43. They darken skin
- 45. In a harmful way
- 48. Form of weaving
- 49. City of Angels hoopster
- 50. Caucasian language
- 55. Syngman \_\_, Korean president
- 56. Sun up in New York
- 57. Paddled
- 59. Fishes
- 60. Affirmative
- 61. Nimble
- 62. Doctor of Education
- 63. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 64. A small island

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Cool!
- 2. Hebrew unit of measure
- 3. Swedish rock group
- 4. College army
- 5. Favor over another
- 6. Called it a career
- 7. Egg-shaped wind instrument
- 8. Israeli statesman
- 9. Hurries
- 10. Slog
- 12. Midway between south and southeast
- 14. Benedictine monk
- 19. Self-immolation by fire ritual
- 23. Family of regulator genes
- 24. Surrendering
- 25. Political action committee
- 26. S. American plant
- 27. Long-term memory
- 28. Bark
- 29. Breathes in
- 34. Take hold of
- 35. Everyone has one
- 36. Valentine's Day color
- 37. Drivers' licenses and passports
- 39. Outer walls of castles
- 40. Enters with force
- 41. One thousandth of an inch
- 42. Deceased Chinese politician
- 44. Sugary secretion of plants
- 45. Expressed pleasure
- 46. Shelter
- 47. Utilizes
- 48. Forest resident
- 51. Fashion accessory
- 52. A sharply directional antenna
- 53. \_\_ Kristofferson, actor
- 54. A bad place to end up
- 58. MLBer Gordon

**NOTICE**  
**HYDRANT FLUSHING**  
**TOWN OF SPENCER**

The Town of Spencer Water Department will be flushing fire hydrants throughout the western part of the distribution system starting April 29th thru May 17th, 2024.

Flushing removes sediment from the water mains to help maintain water quality. When the Water Department staff is in the immediate area, residents could experience loss of pressure and short periods of rusty water. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause. A daily list of the flushing locations will be posted on the Spencer town website [www.spencerma.gov](http://www.spencerma.gov) each day by 8:00AM (click on Departments, then click Water Department, then click Hydrant Flushing 2024).

If you have any concerns, please feel free to contact the Spencer Water Department office at 508-885-7525. Thank you.

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# American folk art

I've had the pleasure of seeing and handling a wide variety of antiques and collectibles and one of the things I enjoy seeing most is folk art. Folk art follows traditional forms of style, theme, and craftsmanship. Items were made from whatever resources were available to the craftsperson at the time. Folk art pieces often have a utilitarian purpose but are also aesthetically pleasing.

popular toy at the time. An older girl is holding a baby. Other paintings of the time depict boys with fishing poles and a sea captain with a ship beside him. Given the high mortality rate for children during that time period, many paintings of children were painted posthumously.



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES  
WAYNE TUISKULA

cloth to create something that not only kept people warm but looked great in their homes.

There are many other types of folk art, including weathervanes, whirligigs, cigar-store figures, trade signs, ship's carvings, stone-ware face jugs, game boards, carnival game wheels of chance, and scrimshaw. Most definitions describe a whirligig as a toy that spins like a top or pinwheel. The folk art whirligigs often depict people with paddle-like arms that twist in the wind or cause a character to saw wood or perform another task.

Some of the more interesting types of folk art we've handled were trade signs. We sold a painted zinc sign that had painted eyes inside the frame to let people know they could find an optometrist there. That piece sold in the mid-thousands. We've sold multiple weather-

vanes, but an old banner (directional arrow design) with great patina (natural aging) went for over \$4,000. A pair of beautifully painted leather fire buckets with a connection to Sutton, MA sold for nearly \$20,000. We've sold two 19th century wooden barber poles that brought figures in the thousands. One pole had a sign attached advertising haircuts, shaves, and baths. Up until the 1700s, barbers also performed surgery, dental work, and bloodletting. The red and white design that's still being used symbolized blood and bandages. In the 18th century, you had to be very clear when telling a barber to "take a little off the top."

We are accepting folk art consignments for our summer auction, along with historical items, fine jewelry, sterling silver, art, coins, and other antiques and collectibles. It was nice discussing antiques with the large group who came to the Holden Senior Center last week. Thank you to the readers of this column who attended the event. I'll be at a Learning in Retirement event in



Danielson, Conn. on May 6 discussing downsizing. Please visit our website <https://centralmassauctions.com> for links to other upcoming events. Contact us to consign items or for auction information at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/

Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique, Collectibles Auctions and Appraisal Services info@centralmassauctions.com or (508-612-6111).

# Heat-tolerant beauties for gardens and containers

Boost the summer-long beauty and heat tolerance in your gardens and containers with new varieties of annual vinca (Catharanthus). The unique Soireea vinca varieties provide added appeal with their cute, double, and ruffled flowers.



GARDEN MOMENTS  
MELINDA MYERS

Annual vincas, also known as Madagascar and Rose periwinkle, thrive in full sun and well-drained soil. Once established they are drought tolerant.

Similar in growth habit as impatiens but these flowers thrive in hot sunny locations where impatiens struggle. Hardy in zones 10 and 11, vincas are grown as an annual in most parts of the country.

Include annual vincas in containers, hanging baskets, and garden beds. Mix them with other plants or allow them to shine on their own.

Soireea Kawaii vincas light up any garden with their vibrant mini flowers. You'll enjoy an abundance of flowers that cover the nine to 18 inch tall by 12 to 18 inch wide mound of glossy deep green foliage. No need to prune away long leggy branches as this plant maintains its compact habit all season long. Kawaii means cute in Japanese and these flowers certainly are just that.

Select from eight Soireea Kawaii (suntoryflowers.com) flower colors ranging from white to coral, purple, and red. Add some sizzle with Paprika Red, a patriot flare with the Lady Liberty Mix, or a harmonious mix of pinks and purple in the Berry Blast mix. Grow White Peppermint, Coral, or Coral Reef Soireea Kawaii if the disease phytophthora has been a problem in the past. These three are as resistant to this dis-

ease as Cora XDR, the gold standard of phytophthora resistance. Visitors to your garden will take a second look when you add Soireea Double and Flamenco vincas to the landscape. Their unique flowers don't look like a typical vinca, adding a bit more pizzazz to any planting and combination.

Soireea Doubles have two distinct layers of frilly petals and produce an abundance of blooms. They are more vigorous, with a larger growth habit than Soireea Kawaii. These plants have a larger leaf and body. You can select from white-, pink-, or orchid-colored flowers that bloom all season long. Don't be fooled by their delicate appearance, Soireea Doubles are as heat tolerant as other annual vincas.

Unlike any other vinca, the Soireea Flamenco puts on a display as fancy as that of a flamenco dancer. The ruffled petals may be solid or bicolor. This plant grows 8 to 12 inches tall and 15 to 20 inches wide. It has the same heat tolerance, glossy green foliage, and compact growth habit as the other Soireea vincas.

Senorita Pink Flamenco flowers have a dark pink eye surrounded by a lighter pink blending into the white outer edges of the frilly petals. Contrast that with the deep maroon ruffled petals with a bright terracotta edge of Salsa Red. Salmon Glow's white eye contrasts nicely with salmon peach. Pink Twist has the most curled flowers in a lovely pink, adding to its appeal.

Look for opportunities to add some unique flare to this



Soireea vincas are drought tolerant, thrive in full sun, and add lots of color all summer with an abundance of flowers.

year's garden and containers. You'll enjoy their season-long beauty and the oohs and aahs they inspire.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the recently released Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD and instant video series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Suntory Flowers for her expertise in writing this article. Myers' Web site is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).

# Knox Trail softball team dominates Uxbridge, Bartlett

SPENCER — On Thursday, April 18, the 2024 Knox Trail Panthers triumphed over Uxbridge with a 3-0 victory, showcasing their dominance in the circle. Sophia Delvalle, starting for the Panthers, recorded an impressive 21 outs, including 12 strikeouts, while conceding no runs and only four hits over seven innings.

The Panthers took the lead in the second inning when Ashlynn Consiglio's walk allowed Ava Rondeau to score. Kinley Sauvageau's single in the third inning extended their lead to 2-0.

Ava Rossik led the Panthers at the plate, going 2-for-3, while Consiglio and Sauvageau each con-

**PROM**  
continued from page A1

tributed to the event.

"One of the things that impressed me the most was how well coached the students were with service and hospitality," McCance added. "They were highly efficient, and we truly valued their friendliness and respectfulness while serving. It was a fabulous evening I will always cherish."

Sbordy is also thanked for his extra efforts in making the event a success. Having previously held food service leadership positions at various facilities in Massachusetts and Connecticut, he will play a pivotal role in the launch of an LHS culinary program next year.

Leicester Public Schools Superintendent Brett Kustigian also attended the prom, along with his parents, Harry and Gail Kustigian. His father never had the chance to attend a prom when he was in school, as he enlisted with the Marines and fought in the Vietnam War.

"The highlight of this event was hearing the compliments about our high school students. This is the town I grew up in, and we have the best community in the Commonwealth. I'm incredibly proud and honored to be a part of it," Superintendent Kustigian said.

Prom guests voted Rachele Cyr as the event's queen and Tony Maio as the king.

tributed an RBI. Alyssa Olsen and Ava Rondeau showcased their speed with multiple stolen bases, contributing to the Panthers' total of eight stolen bases for the game.

In a dominating performance on Monday, April 22, the Panthers defeated Bartlett 19-1, led by Delvalle's outstanding hitting. Delvalle recorded an inside-the-park home run in the second inning, driving in two runs, doubled in the first inning scoring one, and doubled again in the third, scoring one more.

The Panthers wasted no time getting on the scoreboard, with Alyssa Olsen's walk followed by Mikayla Moorcroft's groundout, setting the stage for Delvalle's first double, and Ava Rossik's lineout, each contributing to a run in the top of the first inning.

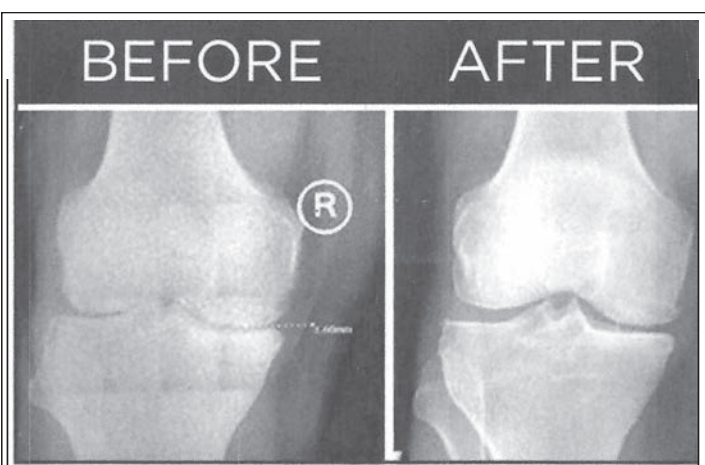
In the second inning, Knox Trail Panthers exploded for five runs on six hits, highlighted by solo inside-the-park home runs from Ava Rondeau, Delvalle and Olsen, and a single by Tristyn Masterson driving in a run.

The offensive onslaught continued in the third inning, as the Lady Panthers scored five runs on three hits, with Kinley Sauvageau and Olsen reaching base and scoring, Moorcroft drawing a walk to drive in a run, and Delvalle adding another RBI with her double.

Even in the fifth inning, Knox Trail managed to score five runs, despite only one hit, utilizing strategic baserunning including tagging up and stealing home.

Delvalle's prowess extended to the pitching circle, where she pitched a no-hitter over two innings, striking out four and walking none. Moorcroft took over in the third inning, allowing two hits and one run over two and two third innings, striking out seven and walking none.

The team's offensive dominance was evident with 13 hits, including three each from Sauvageau and Delvalle, and two from Masterson. Stella Hitchner and Olsen led in walks, while Hitchner, Anna Messier, and Sauvageau excelled in stealing bases, contributing to Knox Panthers' impressive total of nine stolen bases in the game.



## Regenerative Medicine

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**Wednesday, May 8, 2024, 6:30 pm**

**at Leicester Eagles Club, 850 Main St, Leicester, MA. 01524**

Attendance is free, but seating is limited, and RSVP is required. Bring a friend or spouse!

To reserve your spot  
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 EDITOR

**EDITORIAL**

# Unwind and savor

In a world where the pace of life seems to quicken with each passing day, it's becoming crucial to pause and appreciate the beauty in life's simplest moments. We're bombarded with messages that tell us success is synonymous with constant activity and productivity, but in our relentless pursuit, we often overlook the joy that can be found in slowing down and simply chilling out.

Think about it—how often do we rush through our days, barely taking the time to notice the world around us? We grab our morning coffee on the go, scroll through our phones during moments of downtime, and fill our schedules to the brim with commitments and obligations. But what if we took a step back and savored the little things?

There's something incredibly powerful about embracing simplicity in a world that seems to value excess. Whether it's enjoying a quiet moment with a good book, taking a leisurely walk in nature, or sharing a meal with loved ones without the distraction of technology, these small acts can have a profound impact on our well-being.

Research has shown that practicing mindfulness and engaging in simple activities can help reduce stress, improve focus, and cultivate a greater sense of contentment. By slowing down and being present in the moment, we can find peace amidst the chaos and rediscover the beauty that surrounds us.

Living more simply isn't about depriving ourselves or giving up on our goals—it's about finding balance and prioritizing the things that truly matter. It's about recognizing that true happiness isn't found in material possessions or external achievements, but rather in the connections we form, the experiences we cherish, and the moments of quiet reflection that nourish our souls.

## Letter submission policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author's name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author's name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted.

It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.

# VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Be careful what you wish for

To the Editor:

POTUS #45 has already been busy today, impugning the honesty of Michael Cohen. It sure sounds like the pot calling the kettle black. Trump finally pays someone for their work, and look how badly that has turned out. I am sure he won't make that mistake again. Considering his history, would you want to be the friend to guarantee his bond? Let us hope his mob does not scare off too many jurors.

Speaking of winning, I await the ruling by SCOTUS on whether he will be immune from all prosecution. The ruling they rendered, answered questions not asked but made section #3 of the 14th Amendment virtually unenforceable, by requiring congress to add that provision to this amendment, unlike all other amendments, by passing regular order, meaning house majority and 60 senators, which is likely when pigs fly.

One of his and their most effective schemes was, holding a SCOTUS seat open 11 months, because in an election year, the voters should decide, but then, when RBG passed away a few months before the last election, filling the seat immediately before the election, perhaps feeling the need to steal another election, like the one Al Gore won, but went to Bush #43 by a 5-4 SCOTUS vote. I distinctly remember all of the new GOP justices saying they believed Roe to be settled law. Lifetime appointments for liars are what they got, and #45 proudly claims it was his efforts that overturned Roe.

They are, mistakenly, calling these people "Pro life" when the fact is that they are only pro birth. In much the same way religious fundamentalists actually have no interest in Christ Jesus or his teachings. While it was said the Dobs decision was to support states rights to choose, as it turns

out, the outcome has looked more like removing any women's choice whatsoever.

I would love to hear an explanation of how victims of rape or incest being forced to deliver, is anything but cruel and unusual punishment. I would love to hear an explanation that jailing people for transporting persons to a different state is consistent with our founding principles. Clearly, some of the overzealous laws are creating an exodus of care givers. Every person, every pregnancy is its own story and, that is why cookie cutter laws and rules, mostly uninformed and overstepping reason, will soon find those who delivered babies, choosing it too great a risk, and moving out or moving on to greener pastures. The death rate for maternity in Florida is rising. It will follow in other states.

I am old enough to remember the horrors of stories of back alleys and hangers. Irish coming here because abortion was outlawed there. What benefits do you think a national ban will yield? Do you realize that Roe never made abortion mandatory, just one of the options rational people and their doctors might make. If you were paying any attention, you just saw it assist a woman wanting children to continue that option instead of losing her fertility or life. Then, there is the story of the ten year old, too young to ride in the front seat or read some books, but expected to give birth.

I know everyone is not thrilled with their options this cycle, but if you really value living in the land of the free, be brave, and vote a straight blue ticket, or write letter next year lamenting the poor chose that lost more rights and freedoms, maybe forever.

KEN KIMBALL  
 BROOKFIELD

## Religious belief doesn't make you more of an American

To the Editor:

This letter is in regard to the letter Mark Robillard sent to you titled, "Suckers and Losers."

I was brought up in a Catholic family as well, and am still a practicing member of my church. I certainly have my personal opinions on the presidential election and who I think should run this country, but I am not going to tell other people what I think they should believe or tell them who they should vote in. More specifically, I work hard not to criticize or fault others for their beliefs when they differ from my own. I believe not passing judgement on others is a core principle of my Christian faith.

My letter today is a response to the erroneous and baseless words expressed by Robillard suggesting that religion or Christian beliefs identify who is more American in this country.

If Mr. Robillard truly believes that our lord created man (not everyone's belief), then he must also believe Genesis 1:27, "So God created man in His own image." From my perspective, this would include people that do not look like me, along with others that do not share my beliefs or perhaps have non traditional rela-

tionships or live a different lifestyle. I would like to believe that when the Pope said "we are human first" he meant it. This includes all humans, not just friends or family, or people who share our beliefs.

Fortunately, I have not had anyone close to me that I'm aware of that has had to make decisions about abortion; however, if I did, I would not crucify them for their beliefs or for making what must be a painful decision.

For the record, Joe Biden didn't pledge his loyalty to Mary, Jesus, Joseph, the Apostles, the Pope, or King Tut. Biden serves and made a pledge to all Americans, every color, gender, ethnicity, race, religion, age, and every beautiful element of diversity in the country. Oh, and by the way, that includes the foreign born!

Our brothers, sisters, or children in our community that struggle with sexual identity or who they love, are not safe when there are angry people like Mr. Robillard among us. I don't know about him being a "Sucker," but in my mind, he is an example of someone who is afraid or lost. I will not call him a loser, for I believe there is hope for all of us.

MARY MOORE  
 LEICESTER

## The Becker campus can be put to better use

To the Editor:

An informational note about Leicester's Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article 24, "Citizens Petition — Revoke the authority of the Select Board to sell, rent, lease or otherwise dispose of the former Becker Campus real estate and assets." On May 7, you will be asked to vote on the above Warrant Article, and I write to you today as the petitioner.

About a month ago, there was a growing concern that the town was considering additional housing for the homeless in Knight Hall on the former Becker Campus. Approximately 56 families could be housed in the former dormitory that is mere steps from Leicester High School. There is a tremendous amount of concern about the proximity of a homeless shelter adjacent to LHS, and so a Citizens Petition was submitted for your consideration. Although I appreciate the town's efforts to monetize the potential of the building, I believe that it is not the best long-term use for it.

A better use for the building would be to repurpose it to suit the needs

of additional vocational (Chapter-74) programming for Leicester High School. Vocational programs have grown far beyond the traditional offerings of yesterday. Carpentry, plumbing, and electrical programs are still quite popular but the addition of selections like Biotechnology, Marketing, Environmental Science, and Horticulture (just to name a few) reflect, not only our community's diversity, but also the workforce's growing needs. This plan not only provides a purpose for the building, but also allows our students the opportunity to explore more options during high school. Graduates of Ch. 74 programs have the necessary tools to enter the workforce the first day after graduation and often at a higher pay rate.

There is a monetary benefit to adding more Ch.74 programs to the Leicester curriculum. Leicester currently offers two Ch.74 programs (Building & Property Maintenance and Early

Education & Care) and LHS is planning to offer two more next school year (Culinary Arts and Health Assisting), pending approv-

al from the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary

Education. Upon reaching five Ch.74 programs there is a financial incentive of approximately \$6,000 per student for offering an exploratory program. As these programs grow in popularity there will be an increase in school choice applications to Leicester, adding even more monetary gains.

Any lease agreement to any other agency will be short-lived, and will include obvious and unforeseen liabilities for the town. Preserving Knight Hall for future use by Leicester High School is a solid plan that carries a long-term monetary benefit back to all of Leicester that far exceeds any lease arrangement. Please support the article.

To see all of the Ch.74 offerings, please visit: <https://www.doe.mass.edu/ccte/frameworks/default.html>

JIM REINKE  
 LEICESTER

## Invasion of the stripers



Courtesy John Gareri with his first striped bass of the season from the Providence River!

Stripers are starting to invade coastal waters in both Mass. & Rhode Island. This week's picture shows John Gareri with his first striper of the season caught in the Providence River last week! The pair of anglers reported no sightings of Menhaden, but the fish were feeding on some small fish near the surface.



THE GREAT OUTDOORS  
 RALPH TRUE

The one striper that they caught was on a surface plug. Tautog fishing was also hot last

week, with Captain Mel of FishNet Charters reporting limits of tautog for his clients. Seabass will open on May 18 in Mass.! Black seabass will open on May 17 in Rhode Island with a two fish daily limit? Summer flounder open on May 3, in Rhode Island with a four fish daily limit, and an 18 inch size limit.

The black bugs exploded with their annual hatching last week, and made it uncomfortable just trying to sit in the backyard. Wild turkey hunting opened this past Monday and hunters were hoping that the black bugs were gone by then.

The wild rabbit population continues to grow which is good news for sportsmen that own a good beagle, and love to hunt the rabbits. This past week, I observed five rabbits that were killed by cars near my home. It is a sure sign that the rabbits are making a big comeback, and are here to stay. Unfortunately, they are a nuisance to gardeners trying to grow some fresh vegetables for the family. Woodchuck populations are also abundant in the valley area, and can mow down a garden almost overnight.

The Uxbridge Rod & Gun club will stock their club pond with trout this Friday in anticipation of their annual kids fishing derby next Saturday, May 4. Breakfast will be served starting at 7 a.m., and the derby will start at 8 a.m.! Fish chairman Matt Fontaine is hoping for a good turnout, with plenty of prizes being awarded for the largest trout caught.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

## SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Why we need Joan Burkhardt on the North Brookfield Select Board

Join me in voting for Jared Grigg

To the Editor:

Have you heard about the \$1.6 million dollar shortfall? The finance committee said it would require about a 12 percent tax increase when asked by the select board. Those of us having a hard time paying for food, electricity and gas cannot afford more taxes. So how did we get into this much money trouble? Poor decision making by town government over the past four or five years is the reason. You don't take tax paying businesses off the tax rolls, buy them for way over appraised value then spend more fixing them up. You don't force lawsuits which cost the town thousands of dollars plus huge increases in the town's insurance because we are considered a high-risk decision-making town. You don't graduate classes of 21 students then say the school is a problem and should be closed. The reason for most of our woes has been poor decision-making. Anyone in town knows that poor decisions give your poor results.

Joan Burkhardt has taught analysis and decision making to FBI agents who cannot afford to make poor life and death decisions. She is the only Selectboard candidate who has learned

and practiced how to deal with complex people problems in order to find solutions which will meet the needs of North Brookfield residents. I have spent my career teaching leaders and managers how to leave their personal likes and dislikes at the door in order to solve problems benefitting their workers and customers. The same is true of a town government leader. They must use analysis and problem solving without personal bias to meet the needs of town residents.

I would hire Joan Burkhardt as a leader to manage complex expensive projects in a minute because she not only has received extensive training, but she has successfully applied that training in successful organizations. As we move into including a town administrator to make North Brookfield an affordable pleasant community for all of us, Joan Burkhardt is the only candidate with the skills and experience to make a huge positive difference in our future. Please vote for Joan Burkhardt for the North Brookfield Selectboard as you will be happy you did.

JIM METCALF  
NORTH BROOKFIELD

To the Editor:

I am asking the voters of Spencer to please consider voting for Jared Grigg, who is running for

re-election to the Board of Selectmen. I have served with him for the past three years, and can attest to his being a bright, hardworking young man. He has repeatedly stepped up to the plate to serve on multiple sub-committees and does not shy away from hard work.

Jared is a full time firefighter for Framingham. He is also a member of the Massachusetts National Guard, and has served in the Middle East while on active duty. He knows what public service is and lives it every day.

Most of you know how important

education is to me. Jared has earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Framingham State University. He is also pursuing a Master's degree.

Jared represents the future of Spencer. He is a homeowner, and he and his wife Alyssa, a teacher in the Worcester Public Schools, have a beautiful, ten month old daughter. He and Alyssa have chosen Spencer as their hometown. They also want Spencer to be the best town it can be.

Please join me and my wife Tina in voting to re-elect Jared Grigg to the Board of Selectmen on Tuesday, May 14. Thank you for your consideration.

RALPH E. HICKS  
SPENCER

Sound off on solar arrays

To the Editor:

A group of concerned citizens from Spencer and Grafton gathered on April 27 at the home of Beth and Carol McPherson to discuss the pros and cons of solar development in our towns. Most were concerned about the large commercial solar arrays. Spencer has 23 large solar arrays, and the moratorium will end soon. It is anticipated that when this happens, there will be developers submitting plans.

The consensus of the group was that they support the articles for the Spencer Town Meeting that amend the solar

bylaw. They also agreed that their approach needs to be at the state level. Submitting a bill to the legislature, capping the number of large commercial arrays in each community in the state, will be pursued and they also discussed submitting an initiative petition.

If you wish to join this grass roots group and be invited to the next meeting on Zoom, please email [rmcpher683@aol.com](mailto:rmcpher683@aol.com).

CAROL MCPHERSON  
SPENCER

North Brookfield Haston Free Library Trustees election

To the Editor:

When opportunity knocks a door opens...a successful life usually involves learning and education. Free public libraries have historically and continue to be spaces to experience life-long learning and to provide enrichment for emerging learners, for Gen X, Y, Z, and Alpha, or for Seasoned Learners! Each age group has unique needs and the Haston Library can be influential in supporting you! To continue this tradition, we need to make the library relevant to the needs of each generation.

On Monday, May 6, the Town of North Brookfield will hold its Annual Election, and voting will take place at the Senior Center on 29 Forest St. from 7 a.m. - 8 p.m. We hope you will mark your calendar and come out to vote! This is your opportunity to support Diane Buzzell and Janice King as new candidates for Library Trustee. We believe we have the professional background, experience, fresh ideas, and new perspectives, that will enhance current programming, services, and activities that presently exist at the library.

Program initiatives:

- Enhancements in the development and communication of library programs through innovation with online technology are needed to inform the members of our Town about what is offered and what services are available. With the busy lives everyone has, it is essential that we provide information through many formats to promote awareness and encourage participation in library programs. This would involve investigating relevant technology and services that support interlibrary programs, locally, statewide and nationally.

We would propose these as a short list of initiatives:

- Generate new creative revenue streams, locally, and through grant writing, to bring the library forward as a hub of activity for the community. With funding challenges, this must be a focus and primary goal.

- Expand the outreach and use of the facilities. Encourage increased community involvement and interaction. Enhance the utilization of communication channels to provide program resources and events.

- Develop and communicate vibrant programs and services with the North Brookfield Public Schools, students, families and stakeholders, community organizations, and home-schooled children and families.
- Sponsor formation of groups for building active sources of connectedness and interests within our community.
- Develop increased access and use of programs, library resources, and services for Senior Citizens in Town.
- Enhance cur-

rent programs, and expand those for the increasing needs and interests of all members in Town.

- Facilities management, repairs and maintenance.

- Budget performance and financial planning, short and long-term.

- Strategic planning and utilization of metrics for analyzing and achieving goals and objectives to share with the Town through annual reports and communication.

- Collaborations with area town libraries to share resources and to offer joint programs and initiatives.

In summary, Diane has lived in North Brookfield for over fifty years, and Janice for over thirty-four years. Throughout this time, we have admired the numerous accomplishments of the library. However, we believe we can provide new insights, and additional professional expertise to advance the central work of the library and the Board of Trustees.

We love North Brookfield and are fully vested and committed to fulfilling our roles if we are fortunate to be elected by voters in our Town. We believe through our support and dynamic collaboration with the library staff and community, we will build upon the unique advantages we have as a small town.

We seek your support and vote on Monday, May 6th.

Thank you very much!

Please be sure to stop by The Annual Haston Free Library May Festival to Celebrate Spring on Saturday, May 4, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the library and the Town Center. It is truly a wonderful event!

DIANE BUZZELL AND JANICE KING  
NORTH BROOKFIELD

Attend Town Meeting and adopt the CPA

To the Editor:

On May 2, the voters of Spencer will have the opportunity to adopt the Community Preservation Act (CPA).

Repeated surveys and the Master Plan show that residents care deeply about preserving the character and beauty of Spencer. The CPA will help by providing dedicated funding for the acquisition and protection of open space, recreation (playing fields, trails etc.), historic preservation, and senior / affordable housing.

CPA monies are not part of the General Fund. Instead, the CPA provides a "smart growth" tool to shape the future of our town. That's one of the best parts of the Act - there will always be money to help preserve the best of Spencer for our children.

The CPA does not restrict in any way a property owner's right to sell, build, or develop their property.

Investing in the CPA creates a funding stream through a partnership between the Town and the State. This partnership has been so successful that 196 Massachusetts communities have joined the CPA since 2000. Our town

will use a 1 percent surcharge based on property assessment. Those funds will be augmented by the State. The CPA is a great investment.

The first \$100,000 of assessed property value will be exempt from the surcharge. Low-income families will also be exempt, protecting the most vulnerable in our community. For the average property in Spencer, the surcharge will be about \$31 per year.

The impact of CPA funds is in the citizens' hands - our hands. A Community Preservation Committee consisting of both Town officials and other residents will be established to review and recommend CPA projects. These projects will be either approved or disapproved by the voters at Town Meetings.

Please help by voting "Yes" for the CPA on May 2. We all love our town. It's a state of mind, and a slice of history for those who grew up here, those new to town, and future generations.

ROGER FOSS  
SPENCER

ADDITIONAL LETTERS TO THE EDITOR,  
SEE PAGE A-10

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# Opacum honors conservation volunteers



Gus Steeves

Opi the Salamander does his mime performance for the people arriving at Opacum's breakfast last Saturday.

BY GUS STEEVES  
CORRESPONDENT

REGION — Opacum Land Trust highlighted its last year and previewed ongoing projects last weekend at its annual breakfast, this time at Pathfinder Tech in Palmer.

In the process, two Southbridge residents played key roles for the same project. Jeff Hehman received the Friend of Conservation Award for his work on the \$500,000 urban tree

planting project that Steve Brady is serving as arborist for.

Brady said the years-long effort, which formally has to end this September, aimed to reduce the “heat island” effect in low-income and environmental justice areas of Southbridge and Ware. It originally began with a 1,000-tree goal, but various issues including Covid prompted Opacum and the US Forest Service to scale it back to 650 trees per town. At present, Southbridge has

received 427 trees, and “we’re always looking to plant more trees,” Brady said.

Opacum President Leslie Duthie described Hehman as “an immensely important part” of that program, “especially in convincing people they want a tree in their yard. I never thought that’d be so hard.”

Hehman, also an arborist who retired recently, said “I still find great joy in talking about trees.” He noted he and Brady recently visited Southbridge elementary schools to talk and distribute dawn redwoods, a species that was thought extinct a few decades ago. He noted even the first graders knew what “extinct” meant, and was glad young people are more ecologically aware today.

Brady noted tree planting won’t stop in September. As that project ends, one to create a community arboretum and catalog public trees is just beginning. Also, USFS grant funded (this time \$1 million), it aims to tag trees along Main

Street, other streets, cemeteries, and various town properties for identification, give them health checks and replace dying ones, clean public forestland of invasives and related work.

“Urban spaces and urban trees are so important to all that we do,” said Executive Director Laney Wilder. But she also highlighted the many other projects Opacum has going.

One that’s new this year is a collaboration with TerraCorps, a federal ecological volunteer program modeled on AmeriCorps. Over the next 11 months, a couple TerraCorps interns will help Opacum coordinate land and habitat management, create a “really cool database called Landscape” to track such work, and propose future projects.

“When we do conservation work, it’s forever,” she added, noting visiting nature “restores our brains from the busy tech lives we have.”

A key part of that long-term protection is the forest legacy program,

where Opacum works with landowners to put their land into conservation easements in perpetuity. Since many owners are land-rich but cash-poor, Opacum helps them seek out grants and other compensation to do so, as an alternative to selling for development. Last year, Wilder said, Opacum got an \$85,000 grant to help work through the legal details of such easements.

She noted the nonprofit now holds 3,852 acres across the region, with an additional 1100-plus acres in the process of being protected. To help that process, it launched its spring donor campaign, aiming to collect \$30,000 by the end of May; she said the first \$11,000 will be matched by a group of donors.

“We never want to overlook those small donations” Duthie later added. “Those nickels add up to make a big donation.”

She said Opacum is also seeking volunteers for stewardship, fundraising and other efforts, to help run events like the annual Tour Opacum

in September, manage properties, and other functions. She noted the organization used to be entirely volunteer, but has since grown enough to hire three paid staff.

“I look forward to many years of being able to see and have others see what we’re able to do with stewardship,” Duthie said.

“The land gives so much to us,” Wilder agreed. “The value of land is more than a dollar sign. ... All of the spaces we’ve protected are so important to people and wildlife. Wildlife needs places to live and thrive as well.”

Specifically, Wilder was referring to what should be common knowledge, but might not be — the fact nature provides carbon sequestration and oxygen, cleans the air of pollutants, gives us food, housing and resources, and, although she didn’t mention it, literally provides the very atoms of our DNA.

Gus Steeves can be reached at gus.steeves2@gmail.com.

## Spencer Fish & Game Club derby ushers in spring



Kevin Flanders

Spencer's Liam Ponte, left, and Charlton's Declan McGinn enjoy the event.



Ronald LaFlash, Jr., of Spencer, is ready for a day of fishing.

SPENCER — Families from throughout the area recently enjoyed a favorite annual springtime tradition.

On the weekend of April 27 & 28, the Spencer Fish and Game Club hosted its spring fishing derby.

The family-friendly event featured prizes in several categories, as well as meals and music. Many guests have brought their families to the program for years.

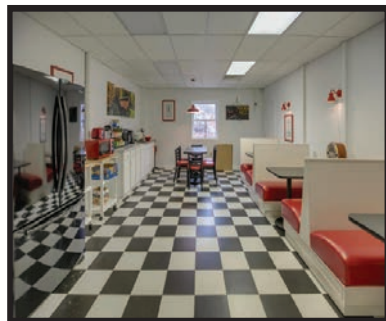
To learn more about the organization and its upcoming events, visit [www.spencerfishandgame.com](http://www.spencerfishandgame.com).



Anthony Demaio, of Spencer, spends the day with his 4-year-old daughter Nora.

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## LEICESTER HIGH SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

LEICESTER — Leicesters High School has released its honor roll for the third quarter of the 2023-2024 school year.

12th Grade  
High Honors: Molly Baker; Grace Bujak, Adylene Crocker, Charolette Libby-Toler; Jasmine Ngo, James Sweeney

Honors: Rina Appiah, Andrew Boisvert, Chloe Bouchard, Hannah Collette, Sadie Connery, Ashlyn Deary, Ace Delgado, Matthew Drenzo, Elizabeth Gallagher, Mason Griffiths, Patrick Harrington, Jasmine Hunter, Steven Jyringi, Nathan Keenan, Abbi Lane, Meghan Le, Jessica McCarth, Jillian Morrison, Austin Muturi, Eric Ortiz, William Panepinto, Logan Potter, Kayla Reynolds, Oprah Roberts, Adam Skoglund, Gabrielle Stuart, Laylah

Summers

11th Grade  
High Honors: Kayla Bouchard, Jacob Cruz, Jason Fournier, Ngoc Ly  
Honors: Jenna Abusalah, Jayden Benton, Dylan Delage, Ryan Delage, Kathryn Dolimount, Kaiden Fevens, Vivian Giles, Alexis Herbet, Kyle Huff, Jack Ledbetter, Madeline Milionis, Delonte Moore, Gia Norcia, Sedona Richard, Brendan Salek, Brenna Savoie, Ella Smith, Elizabeth Sosa, Nikolai Swenson

10th Grade  
High Honors: Kate Barbato, Avery Bullock, Jacob Cosper, Brandon Escobar, John Gahagan, Shane Garrahie, Brody Grant, Natalia Kallio, Tyler Williams  
Honors: Tomas Acero, Abigail Baker, Julia Dee,

Owen Fadden, Eliannie Guzman Bueno, Michael Hagglund, Emily Hunt, Christopher Moffat, Zoe Morales, Elias Narvaez, Nola Perry, Cassidy Poce, Lucas Sampaio, Jack Skoglund, Luke Soden, Johanna Torres, Dakota Zinkevich

9th Grade  
High Honors: Taylor Gallant, Joshua McCormick, Gianna Panepinto  
Honors: Estefania Aguirre, Destiny Barshell, Jacob Beaulac, Inal Bouzid, Karsyn Bulak, Alexa Butler, Kelsey Cole, Margaret Dillon, Jahmisha Layne, Jeremy Ledbetter, Luke Marjault, Valerie Maynard, Arunas Orloff, Laila Paquin, Ava Petruzzi, Jilian Rodrigue, Talyor Rodrigue, Phuc Truong, Abigail Valinski, Mary Van Hazinga, Sabrina Wright



# LEICESTER MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

LEICESTER — Leicester Middle School has released its honor roll for the third quarter of the 2023-2024 school year.

### 8th Grade

High Honors: Rory Barrett, Kennedy Bates, Emma Bernabei, Brady Bouchard, Jude Campbell, Zachary Couture, Allison Gagne, Sarah Kozlowski, Haylee Kularski, Joseph Kulla, Brock Lopez, Alena Martinkova, Julianna McCormick, Trinity Medeiros, Charlotte Mercer, Katherine Ozarowski, Alivia Perry, Katarzyna Piascik, Maryangelie Rivas, Paula Roberts, Shane Stuart, Ryan Sweeney, Lillian Warner, Jayke Williams

Honors: Jack Albro, Matthew Alves, Anthony Andino, Brody Arnberg, Muhammad Arslan, Russell Baker, Isabella Cortes Flores, Stephen Giaquinto, Hailey Knott, Kaylee Luby, Michael Lupien, Josiah McDonald, Max Milionis, Maia Mitchell, Kameron Monroe, Trevor Moorghen, Nikolai Ngo, Brandon Nguyen, Paul Roberts, Muhammad, Saqlain, Desmond Strom, Nicholas Stuart, Jameson Wood

### 7th Grade

High Honors: Camden Beaudry, Elijah Belisle, Jansen Benton, John Derrick, Javier Flores, Liam Gentile, Benjamin Hagglund, Papayaw Larbi, Rocco Lauder, Tighe Lauder, Kingston Nguyen, Nick Nguyen, Jaedyn Perry, Hunter Wright

Honors: Braydon Herbert, Zachary Lincoln, Arilyn McNally, Lincoln Meloche, Thinkh Pham, Lily Schimke, Evelyn Stewart, Malin Stimson, Marielee Valentin, Robert Zinkevich

### 6th Grade

High Honors: Olivia Cardona, Adalynn Grant, Tyler Kularski, Fiona Liebman, Charlie Martilla, Cadence Medeiros, Joseph Ukoh

Honors: Griffin Bayer, Maxwell Belizaire, Trey Blais, Jolene Boudreau, Landon Bullock, Avery Cole, Michael Cormier, Shelby Grant, Haidi Hadi, Christopher Harrington, Cameron Hipple, Ava Johnston, Alyse LeBlanc, Sadie Lenahan, Ayla Lis, Benjamin Marjault, Cullen McShera, Owen Murphy, Grace Ngima, Sonya Potvin, Hailey Rooney, Owen Saari, Davis Sanborn, Kayzen-Kalani Santana-Ernestburg, Lily Schrader, Raymond Singharaj, Jacob Soucie, Jackson Trainer, Allannah Trought, Casey Tuomenoksa, Jayden Ukpong, Aiden Valinski, Leah Varney, Gianna Wooden

### 5th Grade

High Honors: Juliette Bellisario, Aubrey Bullock, Blake Cooney, Anna Derrick, Raegan Higgins, Larissa Lafflame, Nanakwasi Larbi

Honors: Philip Armstrong, Fiona Barrett, Mackenzie Beaulac, Brooklyn Bullock, Victoria Cardona, Daniel Ciciliane, Sophia Collins, Matthew Cormier, Celeste Couture, Ava Cruz, Logan Curren, Rylee Garrahe, Jayden Gleason, Andri Guzman, Jealousy Hollyer, Siobhan Kane, Damon Kobel, Payton Lacroix, Gracie Laudon, Andrew Lemerise, Jane Mercer, Benjamin Murphy, Hugo Salas, Kason Ward

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

More suckers

To the Editor:

In this paper, Richard Beltran wrote "Kimball claims that Trump called veterans 'suckers and losers.' This claim is made by left leaning sites. And cannot be independently corroborated. It's another smear tactic that the looney left uses in their continuous effort to disparage Trump. That's my opinion."

I submitted a [letter to the Editor] quoting President Trump's first Chief of Staff, General Kelly, reporting that Trump said deceased military personnel are suckers and losers. Mr. Beltran called General Kelly a liar.

We have another example of Trump's disrespect for the military.

Candidate Trump trashed John McCain for having spent years being tortured as a POW. Trump said he likes "people who weren't captured." I'm sure that all MAGA dutifully spat upon McCain and, I suppose, all POWs.

Trump's opinion of POWs smells just like his "suckers and losers" attitude about the deceased military.

ALLAN E JOHANNESEN  
LEICESTER

Last week's New Leader "dueling" Climate Change articles

To the Editor:

The Spencer Annual Town meeting will be held this Thursday evening, May 2. The meeting, among other things, will consider recommendations (or "articles" to be voted on) about commercial solar and energy storage systems

Thanks to our local newspaper, the New Leader, we have two articles on page 1 of its April 26 edition, providing some good information to consider before we vote.

The first, "Exploring the state's stormy past and future," mostly consists of a Worcester interview with CBS meteorologist Eric Fisher. In it, Fisher says that our climate is getting warmer and warmer due to "human driven greenhouse gases" mostly coming from fossil fuels such as oil and gas. He indicates how this rise in temperature is most observable in the ocean where species such as lobster keep moving further north. He also see it making tides and storm surges higher and hurricanes stronger.

Fisher also indicated that deaths human deaths because of heat are increasing, farmers need to think about choosing crops now being farmed in New Jersey and Pennsylvania and that by 2100, our Massachusetts climate will be like the sub-tropical one of southern Georgia.

He also indicated hope because some countries like the United States have begun to make changes, including using more wind and solar energy.

The other April 26 page 1 climate change article has the title "Spencer voters will decide on three solar related articles."

The first concerns "proposed bylaw amendments pertaining to battery storage systems, zoning districts and agricultural impacts". The second "focusses heavily on the maintenance of solar facilities as well as land and property requirements. The third "covers additional proposed amendments to requirements for developers of solar installations."

Here from a number of perspectives, the devil lies in the details.

First, do the amendments improve the selection and operation of the solar farms (and their positive impact on our climate) or, at the opposite end, do they just make it more difficult to develop and operate them?

Second, will the amended by laws be legal or, as in the past, rejected by state legal authorities?

One might also consider what net benefits in terms of family income, jobs, tax revenues etc. the solar farms might bring.

And finally what interested "outsider" assistance, if any was used to produce the amendments

Hopefully, the town meeting will answer some of these questions.

KEVIN KANE  
SPENCER

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Financial literacy: It's important for everyone



FINANCIAL FOCUS

TREVOR NIELSEN

some. One way of achieving this goal is to use "good" debts wisely — such as a low-rate mortgage on your home — and avoid "bad" debts — such as high-rate credit cards used for unneces-

sary purchases.

Investing — As you go through life, you'll likely have a variety of financial goals, such as making a down payment on a house, sending your children to college and attaining a comfortable retirement lifestyle. And to achieve these goals, you'll need to invest for them. That's why it's important to learn about different types of investments and how to develop an investment strategy that's appropriate for your objectives, risk tolerance and time horizon.

We aren't born with these skills — we have to learn them. Unfortunately, as valuable as they are, they aren't widely taught to young people. In fact, according to a 2023 Edward Jones study conducted with Morning Consult, only 20 percent of respondents reported receiving financial education in school. This situation may be changing, though, as many states are now requiring or recommending personal finance education before high

school graduation.

For now, though, if you have younger children, try to teach them money management skills. You will likely find that they enjoy learning about these matters. You can make it fun for them in different ways, too. For example, to teach them about investing, why not buy them a share or two of stock of a company with which they're familiar? Charting a stock's progress and learning something of the factors affecting its price can help children build a foundation in investing, which will be valuable when they reach the age when they can invest for themselves.

But financial education isn't just for kids. If you feel that you are lacking somewhat in any of the key financial management areas mentioned above, you can always educate yourself by reading or talking to people knowledgeable in these subjects. You also might find it valuable to work with a financial professional — someone who will take a holistic approach to your finances and make appropriate suggestions.

National Financial Literacy Month will end on April 30, but the benefits of financial literacy can last a lifetime.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Trevor Nielsen, your local Edward Jones Advisor in Sturbridge at 508-347-1420 or trevor.nielsen@edwardjones.com.

Spring Garden Roundup



TAKE THE HINT

KAREN TRAINOR

It's finally May, and the promise of a warm weather and a bountiful gardening season awaits. For many in New England, the highly anticipated spring season brings with it the excitement of "getting out in the garden" again.

A new season of gardening chores has begun, and in recognition of the 2024 planting season, the following guide, geared toward planning your garden tasks, is offered - as well as some tried and true garden tips.

MAY  
May Stats: Monthly Averages: Average temperature (Worcester, MA): High: 66 degrees; Low: 47 degrees; Precipitation: 4.19"; Rainy Days: 15 days US Climate Data, 2024

May is the month to: Obtain a soil test Add lime to "sweeten" soil as necessary

Complete indoor sowing of tomatoes, herbs, broccoli, cauliflower

Set out cool season varieties such as peas.

Turn gardens over Compost or fertilize garden beds six to eight inches deep

Dig and transplant many perennials before new growth advances too far.

Fertilize your trees, shrubs and perennials. As these plants emerge from the dormant state, their need for nutrients

is great.

Plant your bareroot rose stock this month.

Transplant crops that were sown in April.

Transfer crops to larger containers until ready to plant

Fertilize spring bulbs which are actively growing

Plant your summer flowering bulbs later in the month such as gladiola, dahlia and canna.

Prune shrubs such as forsythia, witch hazel, and weigela right after blooming. Fertilize soon after for lush growth this season

Harden off plants to prepare for planting

Pinch back early blossoms of annuals now and you'll be rewarded with more blooms later. Also Pinch off early blossoms of established strawberries for a more bountiful harvest later.

Control your lawn weeds now before the heat of summer to avoid burning grass.

Green Thumb Growing Tips

Hard shelled seeds do not always germinate properly. But you can aid the germination process by making an x cut in the hard seed with a sharp knife.

Or, to speed germination in without breaking the surface, try soaking hard shelled seeds overnight in water.

To get a fast start on germinating corn, try this old trick. Place the corn seeds on a moist paper towel, leaving it overnight. Then fold the damp towel over. Corn seed that has been pre-sprouted will jump-start your crop and is less likely to rot in cold soil.

When planting your garden, sink a small jar or can in the middle of a row. This way, you can gauge exactly how much water your garden is getting from both irrigation and rainfall.

To stop vigorous mint from spreading and taking over the garden, keep it corralled by planting it in a plastic bucket with the bottom cut out.

Pepper plants thrive on heat, so it helps to place large rocks next to your green pepper plants to attract the sunlight

Plants that grow best in alkaline soil such as geraniums and hydrainja, will thank you with better blooms if you water them with a mild mixture of baking soda and water occasionally.

When buying flowers, the general rule is to choose the largest bulbs because they usually result in larger flowers.

When buying annuals, you'll have the best luck transplanting them if you choose short, stocky, dark green plants with no flowers on them.

When removing the plants from their containers, don't be afraid to break the root mass apart. It will stimulate these small starters into better, stronger growth.

For cost effective mulch, use three sheets of newspaper under bark mulch. You'll save money on bark and the newspaper decomposes, enriching the soil.

Did you know that approximately seven pounds of human hair contain as much nitrogen as 200 pounds of manure? Save hair from home trims to toss in the garden.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

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

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

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Attract success, don't chase it

POSITIVELY SPEAKING  
TOBY MOORE

So many of us yearn to be successful, driven by an unrelenting desire to achieve. We work tirelessly, struggle against all odds, and clock in long hours, yet often find ourselves falling short of our goals.

Sometimes, it seems we're chasing after success like a mirage in a vast desert, seemingly within reach yet perpetually out of grasp, like trying to catch smoke

with our bare hands. It can be like running a marathon with no finish line in sight. This relentless pursuit can feel like chasing the horizon — the closer you get, the further it seems to stretch away. Success, when pursued directly, often proves elusive, darting away like a startled deer the moment you think you've cornered it.

If you persist in chasing success and consistently

fall short, you will encounter a series of deep disappointments. These are not just mere setbacks; they are soul-wrenching disappointments that penetrate to the core of your being. Like sharp thorns on a seemingly beautiful rose, they prick at your spirit each time you reach out, leaving emotional scars that linger. Each failure feels like a per-

**POSITIVELY**  
continued from page A10

sonal betrayal, a dream deferred that saps your enthusiasm and dims the light of hope within you. These profound letdowns can hollow you out, leaving a feeling of emptiness where your passion once thrived.

Imagine sitting quietly in a park, lost in thought, when Jim Rohn, a white-haired man with twinkling, wise eyes, sits beside you. He carries the quiet authority of someone who has experienced much in life and who, during his lifetime, was

celebrated for his insightful approach to personal development.

After a moment of comfortable silence, he turns to you and asks gently, "Well, how come you haven't achieved success yet?" His voice is soft but carries a weight that suggests deep understanding.

You find yourself opening up more than you intended, sharing, "I've tried for many years, but Success has always eluded me. I put in the hours, worked relentlessly, and at the end of the day, I watched as everyone else got their slice of the pie, but I never got mine." The older man nods thought-

fully as if he knows this story all too well.

His response is both shocking and eye-opening. He responds with serene confidence, "Success is something you attract, not something you pursue. It's something you attract by becoming attractive."

You can't help but chuckle to yourself, misinterpreting his words, and reply, "Well, there are plenty of successful people who aren't traditionally attractive, and unfortunately, we're born with the looks we have."

He flashes a gentle, knowing smile and clarifies, "Not that kind of attractive. I'm talking

about becoming someone who naturally draws opportunities. It's about being a person of value, character, and action—qualities that magnetize success."

Encouraged by his insight, you lean in, intrigued, and ask, "So, how does one attract success then?"

His eyes light up with the question as if he's been waiting to share this secret.

He replies earnestly, "It's not about chasing external rewards; it's about personal development. You can have more than you've got right now because you can become

more than what you are right now. If you multiply your value by three or by five, you can easily multiply your income by three, five, or even ten. But the key is to work on yourself. That's how you make yourself a magnet for Success.

His words resonate deeply, suggesting a shift from outward effort to inward growth and highlighting a pathway to better circumstances and a better self.

If you want to have a successful large business, you need to refine your leadership skills. If you aspire to be a renowned artist, enhance your

innovative thinking and master new artistic techniques. For those aiming to excel in academia, strengthen your research abilities and cultivate critical thinking. Want to innovate in technology? Develop your technical expertise and learn to adapt quickly to new technological advancements.

By focusing on personal growth in these targeted ways, you make yourself a beacon for opportunities, naturally attracting the success you seek.

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# POLICE REPORTS

## Leicester Police Log

THURSDAY, APRIL 18  
 1:36 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 5:24 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 7:36 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 7:42 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 7:48 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), verbal warning; 8:05 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 8:40 a.m.: missing person (Mulberry Street), spoken to; 9:06 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 9:24 a.m.: mv stop (Henshaw Street), Jency Emmanuel Rodriguez Jr., 21, 11 Duncannon Avenue, #4, Worcester, failure to stop for police, unlicensed operation, mv not meeting RMV safety standards, disturbing the peace, arrest; 10:12 a.m.: ambulance (Deer Pond Road), transported; 10:21 a.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 12:46 p.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 12:56 p.m.: assist citizen (Main Street); 12:57 p.m.: mv stop (King Street), verbal warning; 2:02 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 2:12 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 2:35 p.m.: summons service (Main Street), served; 2:40 p.m.: assist other agency (Watch Street), services rendered; 2:42 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 5:21 p.m.: suspicious activity (South Main Street), resolved; 5:43 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), spoken to; 7:55 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 8:24 p.m.: suspicious activity (Olney Street), resolved.

FRIDAY, APRIL 19  
 12:16 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:48 a.m.: welfare check (Huntoon Memorial Highway), assisted; 1:01 a.m.: mv stop (Sargent Street), spoken to; 2:04 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 2:43 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 3:09 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 6:32 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), false alarm; 10:36 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 11:18 a.m.: animal complaint (Huntoon Memorial Highway), referred; 11:26 a.m.: suspicious person (Auburn Street), gone on

arrival; 12:46 p.m.: neighbor dispute (McCarthy Avenue), resolved; 12:57 p.m.: animal complaint (Craig Street), referred; 1:43 p.m.: erratic operator (Bunker Hill Road), gone on arrival; 2:09 p.m.: investigation (Broadway Street, Methuen), report taken; 2:13 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 4:09 p.m.: erratic operator (Craig Street), gone on arrival; 4:48 p.m.: welfare check (Huntoon Memorial Highway), resolved; 5:53 p.m.: ambulance (Bixby Road, Spencer), transported; 8:42 p.m.: commercial alarm (Soojians Drive), false alarm; 8:59 p.m.: suspicious mv (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 9:20 p.m.: suspicious mv (Pleasant Street), resolved; 10:06 p.m.: disturbance (Pleasant Street), peace restored; 10:25 p.m.: animal complaint (Parker Street), referred; 10:32 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), gone on arrival.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20  
 12:02 a.m.: noise complaint (Brickyard Road), peace restored; 1:20 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 1:44 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 7:08 a.m.: investigation (South Main Street), report taken; 10:26 a.m.: parking complaint (Flint Way), resolved; 11:14 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:03 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 12:15 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 12:48 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), written warning; 2:22 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended registration, criminal application issued; 2:38 p.m.: ambulance (Pine Street), transported; 2:44 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), services rendered; 3:48 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 4:05 p.m.: erratic operator (Huntoon Memorial Highway), no action required; 5:17 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 6:38 p.m.: residential b&e (Deer Pond Road), Raymond Davis, 55, 611 Main Street, Worcester, trespassing, breaking/entering in daytime to commit a felony, arrest; 7:35 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 8:06 p.m.: recovered stolen property (Main Street), assisted; 10:58 p.m.: ambulance (Virginia Drive), transported.

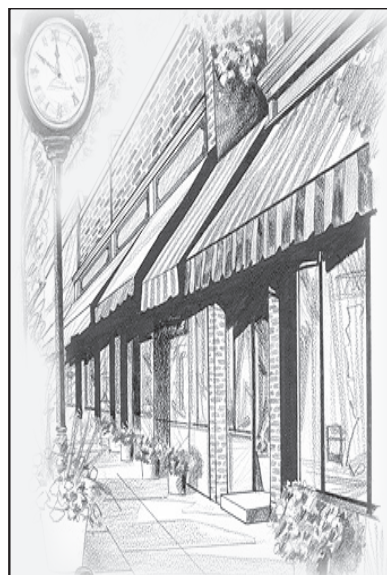
SUNDAY, APRIL 21  
 2:13 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street),

verbal warning; 6:48 a.m.: ambulance (Bottomly Avenue), services rendered; 8:04 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Drive), written warning; 8:40 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:07 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 9:22 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:39 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), no action required; 9:52 a.m.: assist other PD (Main Street), services rendered; 9:53 a.m.: parking complaint (Flint Way), resolved; 10:08 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, criminal application issued; 10:09 a.m.: domestic disturbance (Henshaw Street), transported to hospital; 10:29 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 10:44 a.m.: mutual aid (Auburn Street, Auburn), services rendered; 10:48 a.m.: suspicious mv (Huntoon Memorial Highway), resolved; 10:48 a.m.: ambulance (Siani Road), transported; 10:50 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 10:57 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), spoken to; 11:08 a.m.: mv stop (Dale Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, criminal application issued; 11:26 a.m.: ambulance (River Street), transported; 11:48 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 12:05 p.m.: accident (Huntoon Memorial Highway), report taken; 12:42 p.m.: mv stop (King Street), verbal warning; 1:23 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 1:39 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, criminal application issued; 1:56 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:23 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), citation issued; 2:24 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), spoken to; 3:40 p.m.: assist citizen (Chris Circle); 5:11 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), spoken to; 6:02 p.m.: ambulance (Auburn Street), transported; 6:06 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 6:35 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:29 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), false alarm.

MONDAY, APRIL 22  
 12:39 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 1:03 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 7:51 a.m.: ambulance (Cricklewood Drive), transported; 8:14 a.m.: erratic operator

(McNeil Highway), no action required; 8:31 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 8:37 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:49 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 8:50 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:07 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 9:12 a.m.: animal complaint (Parker Street), referred; 9:26 a.m.: animal complaint (Huntoon Memorial Highway), referred; 11:33 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), no action required; 11:42 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), citation issued; 11:44 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:08 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 1:12 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 1:17 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:45 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:46 p.m.: assist citizen (Marshall Street); 1:55 p.m.: mv stop (Henshaw Street), citation issued; 2:04 p.m.: assist other agency (Folsom Street), services rendered; 2:50 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 3:00 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 5:07 p.m.: suspicious activity (Bottomly Avenue), unfounded; 5:47 p.m.: suspicious mv (Stafford Street), spoken to; 6:37 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 6:43 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), spoken to; 6:47 p.m.: fraud (Conway Drive), report taken; 7:29 p.m.: suspicious activity (Winslow Avenue), report taken; 9:52 p.m.: welfare check (Tobin Road), transported to hospital; 10:38 p.m.: welfare check (Huntoon Memorial Highway), assisted.

TUESDAY, APRIL 23  
 1:01 a.m.: ambulance (Bunker Hill Road), transported; 2:34 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended registration, uninsured mv, criminal application issued; 3:37 a.m.: ambulance (Bottomly Avenue), transported; 4:51 a.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 6:36 a.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), no service; 9:34 a.m.: investigation (Soojians Drive), report taken; 10:37 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:46 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 10:54 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 11:00 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed



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# POLICE REPORTS

operation, criminal application issued; 11:42 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 12:18 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), Brian Thomas Martinello, 44, 55 Warren Avenue, Chelsea, straight warrant, shoplifting by asportation/3rd offense, possession Class A drug, arrest; 3:22 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 3:42 p.m.: assist citizen (Bottomly Avenue); 4:07 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 4:31 p.m.: ambulance (Paxton Street), transported; 4:35 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 4:39 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 5:31 p.m.: welfare check (Soojians Drive), assisted; 6:21 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 6:32 p.m.: suspicious mv (Chesnar Drive), call canceled; 6:33 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), Dylan Fischer, 31, 115 Shore Drive, Southbridge, shoplifting by asportation, warrant, resisting arrest, arrest; 7:29 p.m.: keep the peace (Main Street), services rendered; 8:43 p.m.: erratic operator (Pleasant Street), unable to locate; 10:20 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), spoken to.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24**  
 2:00 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:52 a.m.: ambulance (Charlton Road, Spencer), transported; 9:25 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 11:10 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 11:26 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, uninsured mv, number plate violation to conceal ID, unregistered mv, criminal application issued; 11:43 a.m.: harassment (South Main Street), spoken to; 11:45 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 11:54 a.m.: animal complaint (Pine Street), referred; 12:06 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 12:24 p.m.: suspicious mv (Soojians Drive), spoken to; 12:36 p.m.: fraud (Pine Ridge Road), report taken; 6:27 p.m.: malicious mischief (Fairview Drive), report taken; 7:39 p.m.: disturbance (Olney Street), resolved; 11:56 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning.

###  
**SPENCER Police**  
**Log**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17**  
 1:03-4:51 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:43 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village), lift assist; 4:34 a.m.: 911 call (Main Street), hang-up; 9:17 a.m.:

medical/general (Woodbine Terrace); 10:06 a.m.: officer wanted (East Charlton Road), req. odometer/VIN verification; 10:26 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: missing person; 11:49 a.m.: elderly matter (Main Street), req. help w/elderly customer; 12:10 p.m.: citizen complaint (Pleasant Street), re: construction; 3:21 p.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), naked person near store; 3:24 p.m.: fraud (Cherry Street), report taken; 4:48 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 5:41 p.m.: suspicious persons (West Main Street), Andrew C. Hedstrom, 38, 993 Sheldon Road, Barre, disorderly conduct, disturbing the peace; 5:58 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 6:49 p.m.: medical/general (Adams Street); 6:54 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), landlord/tenant issue; 7:22 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), hang-up; 8:51 p.m.: residential alarm (Hastings Road), services rendered; 10:37 a.m.: officer wanted (Maple Street), poss. drunk driver; 10:42 p.m.: building checked, secure; sometime between 10:42-11:45 p.m.: mv stop (location not noted on police log), John William Uwazany, 60, 31 Blackmer Downs Road, North Grosvendore, CT, OUI liquor, negligent operation, marked lanes violation, arrest; (total daily mv stops - 2).

**THURSDAY, APRIL 18**  
 1:21-2:10 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:35 a.m.: residential alarm (Hastings Road), services rendered; 6:59 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 8:14 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 9:52 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 9:53 a.m.: medical/general (Ash Street); 10:16 a.m.: officer wanted (Paxton Road), req. welfare check; 10:48 a.m.: larceny (Main Street), theft from construction site; 12:08 p.m.: animal complaint (Mechanic Street), tenant moved/left cat; 12:41 p.m.: vandalism (Deer Run Road), report taken; 1:21 p.m.: suspicious persons (Greenville Street), info taken; 2:14 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 3:20 p.m.: medical/general (Thompson Pond Road); 3:46 p.m.: medical/general (Pleasant Street); 4:40 p.m.: restraining order service (Collier Circle); 6:35 p.m.: officer wanted (Howe Village), rep. walker stolen; 9:51 p.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 10:07 p.m.: mutual aid (Meadow Road), assist State Police; 11:03 p.m.: fire alarm (Meadow Road), referred; 11:05 p.m.: juvenile matter (West Main Street), spoken to; 11:17 p.m.: fire alarm (Bixby Road), referred; 11:59 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted;

(total daily mv stops - 2).  
**FRIDAY, APRIL 19**  
 12:47-1:49 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 8:39 a.m.: commercial alarm (Water Street), services rendered; 10:28 a.m.: animal complaint (McCormick Road), loose dog; 10:34 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Worcester PD bolo; 12:18 p.m.: medical/general (Cherry Street); 12:56 p.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), req. ACO; 2:05 p.m.: lost/found (West Main Street), keys found; 2:28 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), spoken to; 2:34 p.m.: DPW call (Maple Street), re: mulch in road; 2:40 p.m.: accident (West main Street), report taken; 4:00 p.m.: suspicious persons (Valley Street), re: former neighbor; 4:50 p.m. restraining order (Mechanic Street); 4:56 p.m.: disturbance (Kingsbury Road), rep. threats; 5:37 p.m.: accident (Charlton Road), report taken; 5:50 p.m.: medical/general (Bixby Road); 8:14 p.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), re: injured baby barn owl; 8:38 p.m.: medical/general (Grove Street); 10:09 p.m.: medical/general (Starr Street); (total daily mv stops - 2).

**SATURDAY, APRIL 20**  
 12:16-1:59 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:19 a.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant View Road), barking dog; 2:19/3:24 a.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info rec'd; 7:46 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), req. welfare check; 8:07 a.m.: disabled mv (Smithville Road), assisted; 10:08 a.m.: animal complaint (Greenville Street), sm. bear in neighborhood; 11:10 a.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 11:23 a.m.: 911 call (Bay Path Road), hang-up; 1:41 p.m.: suspicious persons (Chestnut Street), info taken; 2:56 p.m.: fraud (Grove Street), report taken; 4:23 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 4:56 p.m.: animal complaint (Temple Street), barking dog; 5:43 p.m.: mv complaint (Greenville Street), erratic operator; 7:21 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), State Police bolo; 7:44 p.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), investigated; 7:45 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 8:20 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), unwanted parties; 9:49 p.m.: mv lockout (Paxton Road), assisted; 10:17 p.m.: suspicious mv (Smithville Road), investigated; (total daily mv stops - 0).

**SUNDAY, APRIL 21**  
 12:36-2:20 a.m.: building checked, secure; 2:18 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 2:38 a.m.: parking violation (Ash Street), ticket issued; 4:09 a.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), erratic

operator; 8:19 a.m.: medical/general (Pond Street); 9:42 a.m.: lost/found (West Main Street), wallet lost; 9:45 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 10:44 a.m.: medical/general (Pearl Street); 11:10 a.m.: residential fire (Paxton Road), referred; 12:14 p.m.: animal complaint (Chestnut Street), re: missing cat; 1:21 p.m.: medical/general (Linden Street); 3:13 p.m.: animal complaint (Grant Street), loose dog; 4:18 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 8:07 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street), lift assist; 8:43 p.m.: building checked, secure; 10:30 p.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), investigated; (total daily mv stops - 1).

**MONDAY, APRIL 22**  
 2:21-2:49 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 7:20 a.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 8:11 a.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 8:25 p.m.: officer wanted (Chestnut Street), re: parties camping on trail; 11:46 a.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 1:37 p.m.: mv complaint (Maple Street), loud exhaust; 1:45 p.m.: 911 call (Ash Street), no emergency; 2:51 p.m.: protective custody (Chestnut Street), male detained; 3:13 p.m.: juvenile matter (West Main Street), student/student issue; 3:15 p.m.: officer wanted (Hi Ridge Road), req. welfare check; 4:47 p.m.: larceny (West Main Street), report taken; 6:31 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 6:52 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 7:00 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), inquiry re: restraining order; 9:18 p.m.: medical/general (May Street); (total daily mv stops - 0).

**TUESDAY, APRIL 23**  
 12:54-2:47 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:32 p.m.: parking violation (Pearl Street), ticket issued; 5:27 a.m.: medical/general (Pond Street); 6:24 a.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), erratic operator; 8:41 a.m.: 911 call (Paxton Road), open line/hang-up; 9:50 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 10:10 a.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 10:15 a.m.: animal complaint (North Spencer Road), sick cat/ACO responded; 10:27 a.m.: fraud (West Main Street), report taken; 2:01 p.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), erratic operator; 9:49 p.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), referred; 11:06 p.m.: disturbance (Marble Road), services rendered; 11:48-11:49 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; (total daily mv stops - 3).

###

## Leicester Garden Club meets May 8

LEICESTER — On May 8 at 7pm the Leicester Garden Club will meet at the Leicester Senior Center for the May meeting. The guest speakers will be Mike and Angelina Chute of Rose Solutions. They will present six easy steps to growing roses in New England, how to select winter hardy and disease resistant varieties and the best way to plant and prune. Will be a very informative evening. The garden club is preparing for the annual plant sale to be held Saturday June 8 at the pavilion at the Leicester Rod and Gun Club.

## David Prouty Class of 1974 plans 50th reunion

REGION — The David Prouty Class of 1974 will be hosting a 50th reunion at the end of summer 2024. We are planning a weekend of events to connect at and would like to include our entire class. Please be sure we have your current contact information. We also need contact information for the following classmates: Debra Bercume, Carleen Blake, Wanda Byrd, Ricky Castle, Donna (Evans) Olson; Lance Hainsworth, Margaret Joyce, J Edward Lynds, Valerie Menard, Lynn Pelchat, Michael Sweeney, and Deborah Vandal. Please send an email to [dphsclassof74@gmail.com](mailto:dphsclassof74@gmail.com) with current contact information.

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**HEALTH**  
continued from page A1

"Because of our efforts, North Brookfield has now initiated the process of utilizing the town's allocation of the Massachusetts Opioid Settlement Funds. Some of the future objectives of the Student Wellness Initiative fall under the Opioid Settlement guidelines so funding will be available," Lewandowski added.

Last month, Lewandowski attended a program

**LIBRARY**  
continued from page A1

encouraged, they are not required to participate.

On Tuesday, May 21, from 6-7:30 p.m., a "Downtown Abbey Tea Pairing" event will take place at the library.

called "Chronically Absent: How to Manage School Refusal."  
The goal of the program is to help educators and partners better understand the root causes of absenteeism and what can be done to change the trajectory.  
"I am very pleased to say that what North Brookfield's administrators and counselors have been doing is exactly what the experts in the webinar recommend, but more is needed to ensure all students' needs are met," Lewandowski said.

Nationwide, school refusal affects up to 28 percent of young people at some point during their educational careers. Some children resist attending or staying in school because of emotional distress caused by multiple issues, experts said.  
"School refusal is a symptom, and it can stem from a combination of underlying issues, including mental health challenges, bullying, learning difficulties, or stressful life experiences," read a statement released by Lewandowski. "When a

student continues to miss school, returning can feel harder and harder, as they fall behind academically and start to feel socially disconnected from classmates and teachers."  
The ongoing community wellness endeavor is supported by the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance and DA Early's Office.  
If you are a community partner who would like to join the local effort supporting students, contact Cindy Schofield at cschofield@nbschools.org.

tion is required to attend. To register for this event, visit www.leicesterlibrary.org and use the link in the calendar section.  
On Tuesday, May 28, from 6-7:30 p.m., office hours will be held for State Rep. David LeBoeuf. This is a recurring event held on the last Tuesday of

each month.  
On Wednesday, May 29, from 3-4 p.m., the Library Book Club will meet. The club meets on the last Wednesday of each month. New members are always welcome.  
May's selection for the Book Club is "The First Ladies" by Marie

Benedict. Tea and cookies will be provided by the Friends of the Library.  
For a full list of library programs, check out the calendar at www.leicesterlibrary.org.  
To sign up for a library program, call 508-892-7020.

**LEGALS**

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508) 831-2200 Docket No. WO24P1092EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Estate of:**  
Nellie Gidopoulos  
Also known as: Nellie Vasiliadis  
**Date of Death: 01/18/2024**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for S/A - **Formal Probate of Will** with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by **Haralambos Gidopoulos** of East Brookfield MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: **Haralambos Gidopoulos** of East Brookfield MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/28/2024**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**  
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.  
**WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.**  
Date: April 22, 2024  
Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate  
May 03, 2024

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
A public hearing on the proposed North Brookfield Public School budget for 2024-2025 will be held on **Thursday, May 9, 2024 at 6:00 p.m., at the North Brookfield Police Dept. Training Room**, in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 71, § 38N. Copies of the proposed budget are available from the Office of the Superintendent, 10 New School Drive  
John Magario, Vice Chair  
North Brookfield School Committee  
May 3, 2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 Docket No. WO24P1177PM CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATOR OR OTHER PROTECTIVE ORDER PURSUANT TO G.L.c. 190B, § 5-304 & § 5-405 In the matter of:**  
**Cynthia Naylor**  
Of: West Brookfield, MA  
RESPONDENT

(Person to be Protected/Minor)  
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Quaboag Rehabilitation & Skilled Care of West Brookfield, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Cynthia Naylor** is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that Lisa Judkins of Auburn, MA, (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve **Without Surety** on the bond. The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.

**You have the right to object to this proceeding.** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **05/14/2024**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the abovenamed person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.  
**WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.**  
April 11, 2024  
Stephanie K. Fattman  
Register of Probate  
May 3, 2024

**NOTICE TO ABUTTERS PUBLIC HEARING**  
In accordance with the provisions of In accordance with the provisions of Section 22, Chapter 166, of the Massachusetts General Laws, you are hereby notified that a public hearing will be held in the Conference Room at the West Brookfield Town Hall, located at 2 East Main Street in West Brookfield.  
**WHEELER ROAD**  
The hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, May 7th, 2024 at 6:15 pm on the petition of National Grid (No. 30846792) and Verizon New England, Inc. who is seeking permission to install 2 JO Poles on Wheeler Rd. beginning at a point approximately 12 feet northwest of the centerline of the intersection of Lyon Rd. and Wheeler Rd. Install Pole #0-50 Wheeler Rd. ~ 200' NE of P72 Lyon Rd. Install Pole # 1-50 Wheeler Rd ~ 120' NE of P1 Lyon Rd.  
Parties in interest are invited to attend this hearing to express any comments or concerns. If you are unable to attend in person, you may submit your comments or concerns to my attention prior to the hearing to be included as part of the official records.  
Beth Gobeille  
Executive Assistant  
Town Administrator/Board of Selectmen  
Town of West Brookfield  
2 East Main Street  
West Brookfield, MA 01585-0372  
508-867-1421 Option 1  
bgobeille@wbrookfield.com  
April 26, 2024  
May 3, 2024

**NOTICE TO ABUTTERS PUBLIC HEARING**  
In accordance with the provisions of Section 22, Chapter 166, of the Massachusetts General Laws, you are hereby notified that a public hearing will be held in the Conference Room at the West Brookfield Town Hall, located at 2 East Main Street in West Brookfield.  
**LYON ROAD**  
The hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, May 7th, 2024 at 6:15 pm on the petition of National Grid (No. 30846792) and Verizon New England, Inc. who is seeking permission to install 5 JO Poles and Relocate 1 JO Pole on Lyon Rd beginning at a point approximately 37 feet northwest of the centerline of the intersection of Lyon Rd and Wheeler Rd. Install Pole 76-84 Lyon Rd ~ 36' NE of P76 Lyon Rd. Install Pole 75-50-84 Lyon Rd. ~ 40' NE of P75-50 Lyon Rd. Install Pole 73-50 Lyon Rd. ~ 120' NW of P74 Lyon Rd. Relocate P66-50 Lyon Rd. 15' west of P67 Lyon Rd. Install Pole 65-25 Lyon Rd ~ 110' SE of P65 Lyon Rd. Install Pole 63-50 Lyon Rd. ~ 113' NE of P63 Lyon Rd.  
Parties in interest are invited to attend this hearing to express any comments or concerns. If you are unable to attend in person, you may submit your comments or concerns to my attention prior

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508) 831-2200 Docket No. WO24P1220EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Estate of:**  
Catherine A. Fitzgerald  
**Date of Death: 01/10/2024**

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

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/21/2024**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**  
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.  
**WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.**  
Date: April 17, 2024  
Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate  
May 03, 2024

**NOTICE TO ABUTTERS PUBLIC HEARING**  
In accordance with the provisions of Section 22, Chapter 166, of the Massachusetts General Laws, you are hereby notified that a public hearing will be held in the Conference Room at the West Brookfield Town Hall, located at 2 East Main Street in West Brookfield.  
**LYON ROAD**  
The hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, May 7th, 2024 at 6:15 pm on the petition of National Grid (No. 30846792) and Verizon New England, Inc. who is seeking permission to install 5 JO Poles and Relocate 1 JO Pole on Lyon Rd beginning at a point approximately 37 feet northwest of the centerline of the intersection of Lyon Rd and Wheeler Rd. Install Pole 76-84 Lyon Rd ~ 36' NE of P76 Lyon Rd. Install Pole 75-50-84 Lyon Rd. ~ 40' NE of P75-50 Lyon Rd. Install Pole 73-50 Lyon Rd. ~ 120' NW of P74 Lyon Rd. Relocate P66-50 Lyon Rd. 15' west of P67 Lyon Rd. Install Pole 65-25 Lyon Rd ~ 110' SE of P65 Lyon Rd. Install Pole 63-50 Lyon Rd. ~ 113' NE of P63 Lyon Rd.  
Parties in interest are invited to attend this hearing to express any comments or concerns. If you are unable to attend in person, you may submit your comments or concerns to my attention prior

to the hearing to be included as part of the official records.  
Beth Gobeille  
Executive Assistant  
Town Administrator/Board of Selectmen  
Town of West Brookfield  
2 East Main Street  
West Brookfield, MA 01585-0372  
508-867-1421 Option 1  
bgobeille@wbrookfield.com  
April 26, 2024  
May 3, 2024

**NOTICE TO ABUTTERS PUBLIC HEARING**  
In accordance with the provisions of Section 22, Chapter 166, of the Massachusetts General Laws, you are hereby notified that a public hearing will be held in the Conference Room at the West Brookfield Town Hall, located at 2 East Main Street in West Brookfield.

**KENNEDY ROAD**  
The hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, May 7th at 6:15pm on the petition of National Grid (No. 30846792) and Verizon New England, Inc. who is seeking permission to install 1 JO Pole AND Relocate 1 JO Pole on Kennedy Rd. beginning at appoint approximately 170 feet northwest of the centerline of the intersection of Kennedy Rd. and Ragged Hill Rd. Relocate Pole #1 (Previously P1-1) Kennedy Rd. ~ 27' south of P63 Ragged Hill Rd.

Parties in interest are invited to attend this hearing to express any comments or concerns. If you are unable to attend in person, you may submit your comments or concerns to my attention prior to the hearing to be included as part of the official records.  
Municipal Contact:  
Beth Gobeille  
Executive Assistant  
Town Administrator/Board of Selectmen  
Town of West Brookfield  
2 East Main Street  
West Brookfield, MA 01585-0372  
508-867-1421 Option 1  
bgobeille@wbrookfield.com  
April 26, 2024  
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**NOTICE TO ABUTTERS PUBLIC HEARING**  
In accordance with the provisions of Section 22, Chapter 166, of the Massachusetts General Laws, you are hereby notified that a public hearing will be held in the Conference Room at the West Brookfield Town Hall, located at 2 East Main Street in West Brookfield.

**RAGGED HILL ROAD**  
The hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, May 7th at 6:15pm on the petition of National Grid (No. 30846792) and Verizon New England, Inc. who is seeking permission to install 2 JO Poles on Ragged Hill Rd. beginning at a point approximately 135 feet north of the centerline of the intersection of Kennedy Rd. and Ragged Hill Rd. Install Pole #62-50 Ragged Hill Rd. ~ 125' NE of P62 Ragged Hill Rd. Install Pole #60-50 Ragged Hill Rd. ~ 146' NE of P60 Ragged Hill Rd.  
Parties in interest are invited to attend this hearing to express any comments or concerns. If you are unable to attend in person, you may submit your comments or concerns to my attention prior to the hearing to be included as part of the official records.

Beth Gobeille  
Executive Assistant  
Town Administrator/Board of Selectmen  
Town of West Brookfield  
2 East Main Street  
West Brookfield, MA 01585-0372  
508-867-1421 Option 1  
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April 26, 2024  
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**WEBSTER 96 CHASE AVE**

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**WEBSTER-22 HALL RD**  
**FEATURED OPEN HOUSE SAT 5/4 11-1:30**

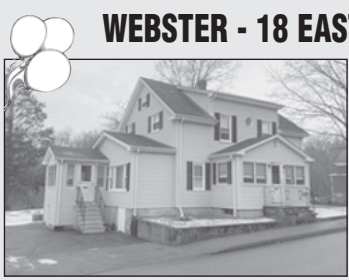


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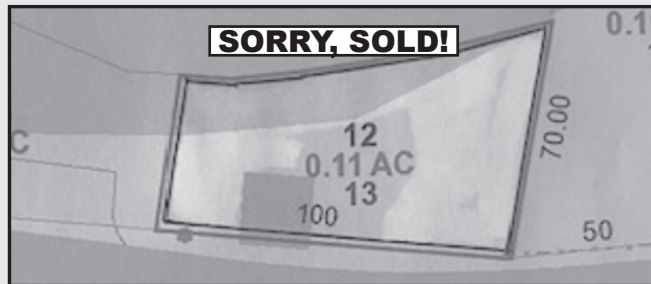


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316 Dresser Hill Rd \$300's

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