

# Summer Solstice Fest honors local woman's battle against Alzheimer's



A two-day Summer Solstice Fest will raise funds and awareness to combat Alzheimer's disease.

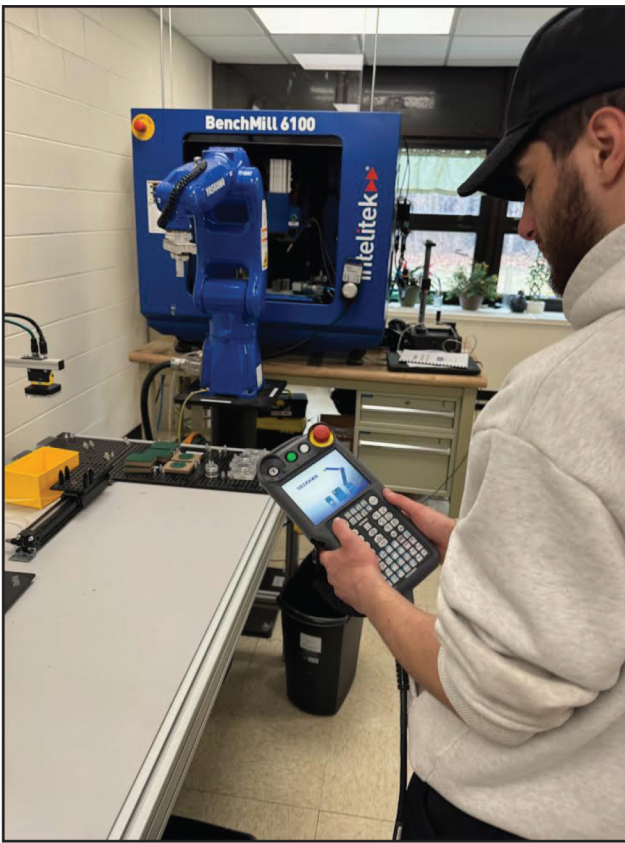
**BY KEVIN FLANDERS**  
**STAFF WRITER**  
EAST BROOKFIELD — In honor of their late mother and her battle against Alzheimer's disease, sisters Cathy Czystewski and Donna Viens are organizing the Summer Solstice Fest to benefit the Alzheimer's Association.

The event is held in memory of their mother, Louise "Weezie" Peterson, who died from Alzheimer's disease in 2018. For this year's program, a two-day Summer Solstice Fest will take place at Timberyard Brewing Company in East Brookfield. The program will begin

with a cornhole tournament on Sunday, June 1. The following weekend, on Saturday, June 7, the second day of the event will include live music, food, and raffle baskets. Bands will include Specific Gravity (1 p.m.) and Rack Em Up (7 p.m.).

Turn To **FEST** page **A12**

## LHS launches engineering program



Leicester High School students are taking part in a new engineering program.

**BY KEVIN FLANDERS**  
**STAFF WRITER**  
LEICESTER — Continuing to expand its lineup of career readiness offerings, Leicester High School recently started a grant-funded Innovation Pathway in engineering. The newly launched program of courses and opportunities allows students to focus on a high-demand industry. Not only do participants gain knowledge and skills in engineering through manufacturing, but also college credits and hands-

on experience with an industry partner. LHS alumnus and Leicester resident Tracy Arsenault is the educator who drives the program. Before teaching, Arsenault worked for EMC Corporation as a senior product engineer. "Mrs. Arsenault makes the classroom alive. She brings a wealth of knowledge from her time in the industry, and this is exactly what we need," said Leicester Public Schools Superintendent Brett Kustigian. In each class, Arsenault

emphasizes to students the importance of working together and not being afraid to make mistakes. "Engineers fix things. We don't always get things right the first time," Arsenault said. "We learn by trial and error, and sometimes I will purposely have students 'break' things so we can fix them. It is a powerful way to learn." The school's other Advanced Manufacturing educator is Raymond Boucher, who joined LHS for the 2023-24 school year. He earned his Project Lead the Way credentials for Introduction to Engineering and Principles of Engineering shortly after joining. Boucher's addition to the team enabled LHS to offer coding and app development electives, creating more opportunities for students to join the program. Meanwhile, school officials are thrilled with the grant funding they have obtained to augment programs. Innovation Pathway grants have allowed LHS to purchase over \$125,000 worth of materials and devices, including a computer numeric controlled (CNC) machine, industrial-grade laser cutters, robotic arms, and 3D printers. "Students learn about the subtractive and additive manufacturing process to be prepared for life after high school," read a statement released

Turn To **LHS** page **A13**

## Department of Ed honors SEBRSD as Green Ribbon nominee

EVERETT — The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is honoring Spencer-East Brookfield and Cohasset High School for their Green Ribbon Schools recognition.

These exemplary districts are reducing environmental impact and costs, improving students' and staff's health and wellness, and delivering effective environmental and sustainability education that incorporates STEM, civics, and green career pathways.

Over the past several years, the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District (SEBRSD) has made a strong, concerted effort to reduce its environmental impact and reduce costs. This has been achieved through the launch of a Master Energy Plan aimed at enhancing resource efficiency in key areas such as lighting, controls, building envelope, and energy management systems. SEBRSD promotes and supports environmental education through STEAM initiatives for students in Grades 2-8, as well as through community events, and local partnerships within their Environmental Sciences and Technology Career Technical Education (CTE) program for Grades 9-12.

## Spencer police seek approval for additional detective

**BY KEVIN FLANDERS**  
**STAFF WRITER**

SPENCER — With the volume and complexity of police responses significantly increasing in recent years, officials are asking voters to support the addition of a new detective position through the upcoming override votes.

At the Select Board's April 7 meeting, selectmen unanimously voted to place two override questions on the ballot for the May 13 election.

The first question asks whether voters authorize the town to assess an additional \$1,348,390 in real estate and personal property taxes to fund several departmental expenses. These include \$830,000 for the regional school districts' assessment to meet the state-mandated "Required Local Contribution"; \$150,000 to fund contractual expenses for the Spencer Rescue Squad; and \$368,390 for four firefighters in the Spencer Fire Department.

The second question asks whether voters authorize \$211,500 to be assessed for added municipal personnel, including \$88,500 for one Highway Department employee and \$123,000 for one police detective for the SPD.

"The detective position is critical as a means to prosecute criminals, provide justice for victims, and prevent those criminals from victimizing others," said Town Administrator Jeffrey Bridges. "As crimes become more complex, so do investigations and the time it takes to work cases."

For Police Chief Michael Befford and his team, the addition of a new detective would help ease the strain of heightened demands on public safety servants.

"As we strive to provide effective law enforcement services, it is becoming increasingly clear that additional resources are required to keep up with the growing demand and ensure public safety," read a statement released by Befford.

In 2024, the Spencer Police Department responded to 22,065 calls for service (approximately 60 calls per day). Since the pandemic, police across the area have seen an increase in responses involving mental health emer-

Turn To **DETECTIVE** page **A13**

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# School, law enforcement officials team up for online safety program

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — School officials recently teamed up with the police department and the Worcester County District Attorney's Office to educate students on the importance of responsible online behavior.

Held earlier this month, the program was offered to all middle school and high school students within the school district. The goal for law enforcement officials, who have seen a rise in cyberbul-

lying and other incidents across the area in recent years, is to achieve prevention through education.

"As always, we are happy to partner with DA Early's Office to give our kids the tools to succeed," said Leicester Police Chief Kenneth Antanavica. "Education is the key to success and respect. Once you put something on social media, it never goes away. Respect one another as if you are face to face."

Topics covered during

the program include respectful social media use, digital footprints, and preventing harmful future incidents. Students also learned that even one ill-advised post or photo has the potential to cause damage far down the line, if viewed by college officials or potential employers.

LPD Officers Ed Santiago, Scot Brooks, and Jim Murphy attended the event. School officials thank the police department and the DA's Office for their ongoing support of teen safety programs.

"LPS meets quarterly with representatives from the DA's Office and LPD to constantly review our protocols and procedures," said Leicester Public Schools Superintendent Brett Kustigian. "Maintaining a safe and supportive learning environment is our goal."

To augment the lessons provided in class, law enforcement officials urge



Courtesy  
Leicester students team up with local law enforcement officials to promote responsible online behaviors.

guardians to serve as role models for responsible online behavior at home. Too often, children assume it's acceptable to bully other students online after seeing their own adult family members berating or threatening people on social media pages and message boards, officials said.

Looking ahead, public safety leaders are hoping all residents—students and adults alike—take a few moments to think before they post.

In addition to cybersecurity and anti-bullying programs, members of the DA's Office also regularly visit schools to provide education on sev-

eral other topics. These include the dangers of drugs and alcohol for teens; avoiding distracted driving; and teen dating safety.

To learn more about educational and outreach programs conducted by the DA's Office, visit [www.worcesterda.com](http://www.worcesterda.com).

## Capstone

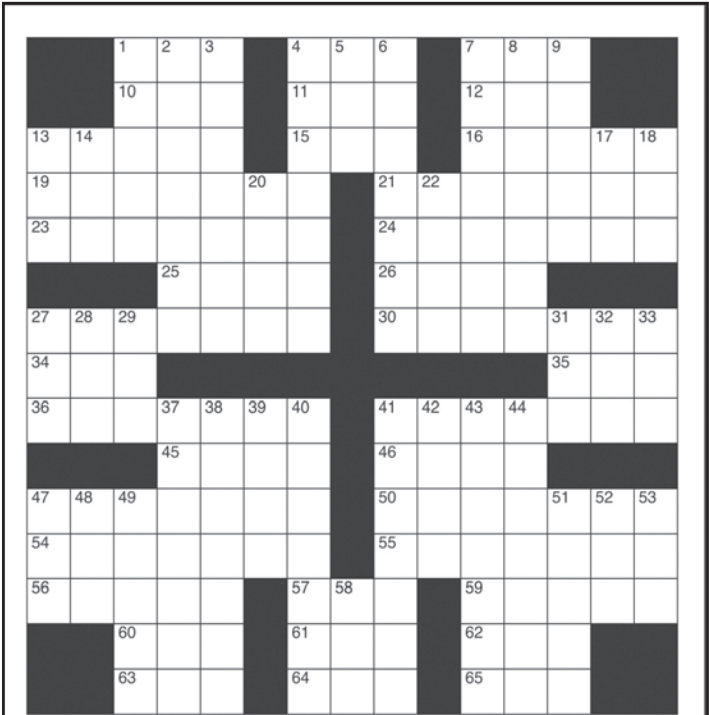
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CLUES ACROSS

1. English TV station

4. It fuels cars

7. Where ships dock (abbr.)

10. Indigenous people of Thailand

11. Midway between northeast and east

12. Small Milky Way constellation

13. Fritz \_\_, Austrian chemist

15. A Brit's grandmother

16. Colombian city

19. Visualize

21. Charged

23. People's assets

24. Informative books

25. Jeer

26. You can do it with your horn

27. Agents of your downfall

30. Central Uganda city

34. Supervises flying
35. Type of tree

36. Alfalfa

41. Dishwasher soap brand

45. Hall where military eats

46. Ancient Greek City

47. Speaks incessantly

50. Discuss again

54. Extreme greed

55. Adopt or support

56. Fantasy writer Russell

57. Seize

59. Early Mesoamerican civilization

60. Noted pet detective Ventura

61. Automobile

62. Georgia rockers

63. Color opposite green

64. Amount of time

65. Attempt

CLUES DOWN

1. Sheep sound

2. Some can be emotional

3. Inflammation of colon lining

4. Origins

5. Comedienne Gasteyer

6. Perceived by the senses

7. A place to play ball

8. Occur before

9. Animal body parts

13. Thanksgiving dessert

14. Root mean square (abbr.)

17. 1960s teen idol Bobby

18. Promotional materials

20. One point east of northeast

22. Piers Anthony protagonist

27. Popular sports league

28. Cologne

29. Partner to cheese
31. Constrictor snake

32. Not good

33. Supplement with difficulty

37. Hug with fondness

38. Enforced again

39. Small amount of time (abbr.)

40. Substance

41. Anterior parts of the brain

42. Brews

43. Where ships load cargo

44. Holiday season singer

47. " \_\_ humbug!"

48. Monetary unit of Macao

49. Popular children's book elephant

51. Glutinous

52. Function

53. Old world, new

58. Swiss river

PUZZLE SOLUTION

		A	H	L		V	H	E		D	E	H
		W	E	H		H	V	C		E	C	V
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E	S	O	D	S	E		E	C	I	H	V	A
E	O	G	H	V	E	H		S	E	T	B	B
		V	E	T	E			S	S	E	W	
E	D	V	C	S	V	C		E	N	H	E	C
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		L	D	S		S	V	G		C	B	B

## Asparagus chowder is back!

WEST BROOKFIELD — On Saturday, May 17 during the town of West Brookfield's Asparagus, Heritage and Flower Festival on the town common, the First Congregational Church (36 N. Main St.) will offer their famous asparagus chowder from the church lawn. Hot chowder by the cup, cold chowder to take home, heat and eat by the quart, cookies and cold drinks will be available from 10 a.m. until it runs out. Inside and outside dining is available.

Call the church for more information at 508-867-7078.

## Kindergarten registration open at NBES

NORTH BROOKFIELD — North Brookfield Elementary school is excited to announce that Kindergarten registration is now open for the 2025-2026 school year! Please contact Dresden at NBES to register at 508-867-8326 or [drenaud@nbschools.org](mailto:drenaud@nbschools.org).

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## SPENCER ALMANAC

### REAL ESTATE

#### BROOKFIELD

\$495,000, 108 Fiskdale Rd, Cogen, Geraldine M, to Ramirez, Cesar I, and Solano, Amy A.

#### EAST BROOKFIELD

\$320,000, 189 Harrington St, Wozniak, Jessica, to Przypek, Adam.

#### LEICESTER

\$1,400,000, 12 Huntoon Memorial Hwy, Dientes, James P, to Leicester Storage LLC.  
\$575,000, 99 Lake Ave, Kennan, Lance, to Smith, John, and Smith, Susan.  
\$150,000, 91 Brown St, Mcshera, Linda A, and Mcshera, Joseph, to 91 Brown Street LLC.

#### NORTH BROOKFIELD

\$332,000, 7 Chestnut St, Jbg Investments LLC, to Couture, Kayla A, and Couture, Willem E.

#### SPENCER

\$558,000, 2 Lincoln St, Marcia E Pottle RET, and Camerer, Jean L, to Valdes, Ana R, and Romero, Diolbys D.  
\$482,000, 16 Irving St, Jebola Properties Inc, to Fusco-Bartley, Annmarie.  
\$325,000, 2 Parent St, Birch Grove Prop Inc, to Noyes 4th, Gordon A.  
\$315,000, 5 Candlewood Dr #5, Sec Of Veterans Affairs, to Lawrence, Brian P.  
\$275,000, 25 Clark Rd, Toomey-Lovett Inc, to Lussier Enterprises LLC.  
\$275,000, 25 Marble Rd, Toomey-Lovett Inc, to Lussier Enterprises LLC.  
\$275,000, 37 Marble Rd, Toomey-Lovett Inc, to Lussier Enterprises LLC.  
\$225,000, 4 G H Wilson Rd, Brown Joseph R Est, and Cycz, Annette L, to 123 Kids LLC.  
\$210,000, 72 Thompson Pond Rd, Thibeault Rt, and Thurber, Cecelia M, to Lynch, Thomas W.

#### WARREN

\$600,000, 1300 Bemis Rd, Fountain & Sons Const Co, to Sauve, Michael J, and Sauve, Michelle D.  
\$439,000, 965 Cronin Rd, Lee, Pauline, and Wang, Qing P, to Watson, Kendall L, and Watson, Amanda S.  
\$200,500, 110 Maple St, Harris, Emily, to Reis, Anthony.  
\$150,000, 790 Bemis Rd, Mainville, Paul R, to Mckusick, Jason.

#### WEST BROOKFIELD

\$550,000, 43 Ragged Hill Rd, Goodwin, Patricia N, to Robillard, Olivia, and Mace, Matthew.  
\$542,750, 117 Ragged Hill Rd, Roy, Robert A, and Roy, Jeryl L, to Ferranto, Peter.  
\$335,000, 10 High St, Adams, Kenai M, to Stevens, Holly A.



# Leicester Senior Center announces upcoming programs



Courtesy  
Guests attend the Leicester Senior Center to learn about ways to protect themselves from scammers.

LEICESTER — With reach team, delivered a presentation earlier this month on fraud prevention. “The older adults in attendance were very interested and appreciated all the information and warnings that he was able to share,” read a statement released by Senior Center leaders. Looking ahead, Carol Cohen will attend the Senior Center on April 28 at 1 p.m. to give a presentation titled: “If Pots Could Talk – Pottery of Ancient Greece.” Cohen will provide

a show about the pottery of ancient Greece. Afterward, there will be time for a hands-on activity of pot painting.

On May 6, performer Tommy Rull will visit the Senior Center to entertain the Leicester Senior Citizens Club at 10:30 a.m.

On May 8, a luncheon at the Senior Center will take place, titled “Women Celebrating Women.”

Hosted by Vibra Hospital and The Meadows, this event will start at noon. Attendance is limited, so please sign up on the luncheon sheet at the Senior Center.

On May 19, during the center’s “Tea and Talk” group, Muriel Dyas, a historical reenactor, will present a show about Susan B. Anthony.

On May 20, author Christie Higginbottom will visit the Senior Center to present her book.

For more information about events happening at the Senior Center, call 508-892-7016.

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## 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 7th thru April 25th, 2025. 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 2025). If you have any concerns, please feel free to contact the Spencer Water Department office at 508-885-7525. Thank you.

# Local schools earn Purple Star Award designation

REGION — On Wednesday, April 16, Wire Village School Principal Mrs. Melanie Ethier and East Brookfield Elementary School Principal Mrs. Christine Lavin were informed by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education today by letter that their elementary schools, which are part of the Spencer-East Brookfield School District were awarded the Class of 2025 Purple Star Designation.

The award is in its second year in Massachusetts, having been established during the 2023 - 2024 school year. Each school met all the criteria outlined in the application process for this three-year designation.

Recipients of this award support military-connected students enrolled and attending their schools, as well as the families and staff who interact with military-connected students. The goal of this award is to recognize schools that are helping to close educational gaps military-connected students experience, as a result of their high mobility while their parent/guardian is serving our country.

“The Purple Star School program is designed to help schools support military-connected students, who often experience frequent relocations and the challenges of parental deployments. In Massachusetts, the benefits of the Purple Star Designation include support(s) in areas like relocation, enrollment, registration, and social and academic planning for military-connect-

ed students,” said Superintendent of Schools Paul Haughey.

To be clear, our entire regional school district - all four of our schools are committed to providing the programming and services of Purple Star Designation in grades PreK-12, and will provide the necessary programming, services, and supports of military-connected students and their families - now and into the future.

On behalf of all of us within the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District, we look forward to the collaboration and work ahead with our military-connected students and their families.

## Attention North Brookfield Water Users:

### WATER MAIN FLUSHING

April 28th through  
May 31st 2025

The North Brookfield Water Department will be flushing water mains throughout town beginning Monday, April 28th through Friday, May 30th 2025.

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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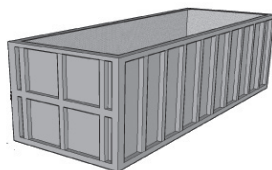


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- Preview @ 5 pm
- Auction @ 6 pm

Saturday, May 3

- Preview @ 4:30 pm
- Auction @ 5:30 - starts outside



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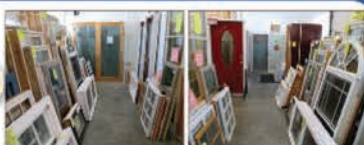
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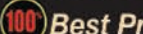
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# POLICE REPORTS

## Leicester Police Log

THURSDAY, APRIL 10  
12:26 a.m.: assist other PD (Marshall Street), message delivered; 1:19 a.m.: assist other PD (South Main Street), message delivered; 3:08 a.m.: suspicious mv (Soojians Drive), resolved; 8:33 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 9:14 a.m.: restraining order service (South Main Street), served; 9:41 a.m.: welfare check (Logan Street), services rendered; 10:51 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 11:25 a.m.: welfare check (Paxton Street), services rendered; 11:43 a.m.: welfare check (Mannville Street), services rendered; 12:56 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 1:07 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:01 p.m.: assist citizen (Main Street); 3:12 p.m.: mv stop (Baldwin Street), verbal warning; 3:19 p.m.: mv stop (Baldwin Street), verbal warning; 3:22 p.m.: ambulance (Charles Street), transported; 3:27 p.m.: erratic operator (Baldwin Street), no action required; 3:33 p.m.: mv stop (Charlton Street), written warning; 3:46 p.m.: mv stop (River Street), verbal warning; 4:13 p.m.: ambulance (Greenville Street), transported; 4:56 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 5:06 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 5:25 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 5:51 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 6:04 p.m.: mv stop (Soojians Drive), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, no inspection sticker, criminal application issued; 6:15 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 6:25 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 6:32 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 7:10 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), unfounded; 9:17 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), services rendered.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11  
10:26 a.m.: welfare check (Main Street), services rendered; 10:33 a.m.: investigation (Moose Hill Road), report taken; 2:27 p.m.: ambulance (Shirley Street, Worcester), transported; 2:48 p.m.: suspicious person (Mulberry Street), report taken; 3:15 p.m.: animal complaint (Salminen Road), referred; 3:18 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), unlicensed operation, op w/suspended registration, uninsured mv, criminal application issued; 3:48 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), written warning; 3:54 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 3:56 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), written warning; 4:02 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), written warning; 4:08 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), written warning; 4:16 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 4:22 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 4:28 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 4:40 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 4:47 p.m.: mv stop (Massasoit Drive), report taken; 5:00 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police report, unlicensed operation, no inspection sticker, criminal application issued; 5:10 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 5:11 p.m.: accident (Pleasant Street), report taken; 5:27 p.m.: ambulance (Columbus Street, Worcester), transported; 5:52 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 6:11 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), written warning; 6:25 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended registration, uninsured mv, criminal application issued; 7:59 p.m.: soliciting (Towtaid Street), resolved; 9:44 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12  
12:40 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 2:10 a.m.: suspicious mv (Paxton Street), resolved; 5:25 a.m.: ambulance (Flint Way), transported; 6:31 a.m.: disabled mv (South Main Street), assisted; 7:54 a.m.: accident (Mannville Street), report taken; 7:56 a.m.: disabled mv (Stafford Street), assisted; 7:58 a.m.: disabled mv (Stafford Street), no action required; 8:12 a.m.: disabled mv (Winslow Avenue), assisted; 8:14 a.m.: accident (Auburn Street), report taken; 8:47 a.m.: accident (Stafford Street), report taken; 8:53 a.m.: disabled mv (Mayflower Road), gone on arrival; 9:21 a.m.: disabled mv (Stafford Street), assisted; 9:26 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:42 a.m.: debris in road (Sabine Circle), referred; 11:02 a.m.: debris in road (Moose Hill Road), referred; 11:27 a.m.: erratic operator (Lexington Avenue), gone on arrival; 11:29 a.m.: ambulance (Paxton Street), assisted; 12:26 p.m.: accident (Main Street), referred; 1:33 p.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 1:57 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and

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address redacted from police log, forgery/misuse of RMV document, criminal application issued; 5:53 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), verbal warning; 7:52 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 8:44 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), assisted; 9:20 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 10:01 p.m.: suspicious mv (Mannville Street), assisted; 11:33 p.m.: commercial alarm (Charlton Street), false alarm; 11:56 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning.

SUNDAY, APRIL 13  
12:15 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 1:49 a.m.: abandoned mv (River Street), mv towed; 1:54 a.m. suspicious mv (Pleasant Street), resolved; 2:26 a.m.: welfare check (McCarthy Avenue Street), assisted; 2:54 a.m.: welfare check (Main Street), assisted; 11:09 a.m.: investigation (Masonic Home Road, Charlton), report taken; 11:18 a.m.: investigation (South Main Street), report taken; 11:26 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 11:31 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 11:57 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 12:08 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 12:32 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:32 p.m.: welfare check (Stafford Street), assisted; 12:40 p.m.: ambulance (Howard Terrace), transported; 12:44 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:50 p.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 12:53 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:06 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 1:15 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 1:23 p.m.: arrest warrant service (Stafford Street), Fabrine C. Marques, 50, 502 Stafford Street, #1, Cherry Valley, administrative booking/Sturbridge PD, arrest; 1:27 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:32 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 1:39 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 2:10 p.m.: mv stop (River Street), written warning; 2:20 p.m.: mv stop (River Street), written warning; 2:35 p.m.: mv stop (River Street), written warning; 2:42 p.m.: investigation (Lake Avenue North, Worcester), report taken; 2:45 p.m.: investigation (Stafford Street), report taken; 4:54 p.m.: assist other agency (Stafford Street), services rendered; 5:32 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 7:43 p.m.: investigation (Stafford Street), report taken; 7:52 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported.

MONDAY, APRIL 14  
2:50 a.m.: welfare check (Town Beach Road), services rendered; 6:55 a.m.: ambulance (Pitcairne Avenue), transported; 8:27 a.m.: ambulance (Moose Hill Road), transported; 10:19 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 11:51 a.m.: welfare check (Main Street), assisted; 12:45 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 2:01 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), citation issued; 2:16 p.m.: ambulance (Southbridge Street, Auburn), call canceled; 2:25 p.m.: arrest warrant service (Town Beach Road), unable to serve; 2:31 p.m.: ambulance (Southbridge Street, Auburn), transported; 6:27 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), verbal warning; 8:03 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 8:09 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:17 p.m.: welfare check (Stafford Street), assisted; 9:30 p.m.: assist citizen (Wesley Drive), report taken.

TUESDAY, APRIL 15  
12:51 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 1:40 a.m.: larceny (Newfield Street), report taken; 02:50 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 3:09 a.m.: suspicious activity (Main Street), resolved; 3:54 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 5:12 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 7:16 a.m.: assist other PD (Town Beach Road), no service; 11:18 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 11:33 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 11:43 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 11:54 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:05 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 12:16 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 12:32 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:00 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), written warning; 1:15 p.m.: residential alarm (Collier Avenue), false alarm; 1:32 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), citation issued; 2:01 p.m.: summons service (River Street), served; 2:19 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 2:29 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), verbal warning; 4:33 p.m.: animal complaint (Waite Street), spoken to; 5:26 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), services rendered; 6:37 p.m.: ambulance (Greenville Circle), transported; 7:14 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), citation issued; 7:55 p.m.: disturbance (Town Beach Road), unfounded; 8:34 p.m.: assist other PD (South Main Street), no action required; 8:49 p.m.: suspicious person (Crystal Street), unfounded; 11:28 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 11:55 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 11:58 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), citation issued.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16  
1:20 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), cita-

tion issued; 3:05 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 6:57 a.m.: accident (South Street), report taken; 8:30 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:06 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 10:08 a.m.: disturbance (Main Street), services rendered; 11:00 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 11:21 a.m.: ambulance (Maple Street), transported; 12:00 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:06 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 1:47 p.m.: ambulance (Watson Street), services rendered; 2:15 p.m.: investigation (McCarthy Avenue), report taken; 3:56 p.m.: ambulance (Watch Street), transported; 4:24 p.m.: investigation (Green Street), report taken; 4:44 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 5:33 p.m.: residential b&e (Ingram Road), report taken; 8:04 p.m.: ambulance (Leela Lane), transported; 8:53 p.m.: investigation (Pleasant Street), report taken; 9:43 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Burncoat Lane), spoken to; 10:00 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), transported.

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## Spencer Police Log

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9  
12:47-12:48 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:51 a.m.: residential fire (Northwest Road), referred; 1:06 a.m.: disturbance (Salem Street), neighbor dispute; 6:40 a.m.: medical/general (Brooks Pond Road); 7:48 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 8:36 a.m.: commercial alarm (Water Street), services rendered; 9:32 a.m.: animal complaint (McCormick Road), bat in horse stall; 11:09 a.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 11:22 a.m.: officer wanted (Bixby Road), spoken to; 11:44 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), req. EMS to Paxton; 12:01 p.m.: arrest warrant service (Church Street), Ediberto Angel Rojas-Rodriguez, 23, 52 Church Street, warrant, arrest; 12:38 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 12:40 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (West Main Street), referred; 1:50 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Ash Street), misdial; 2:20 p.m.: suspicious persons (School Street), info taken; 2:41 p.m.: officer wanted (Meadow Road), spoken to; 2:49 p.m.: officer wanted (Bixby Road), rep. theft; 4:08 p.m.: officer wanted (Cherry Street), spoken to; 5:23 p.m.: officer wanted (Old East Charlton Road), spoken to; 5:36 p.m.: juvenile matter (Bixby Road), services rendered; 6:22 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Worcester PD bolo; 6:28 p.m.: disabled mv (Meadow Road), assisted; 8:13 p.m.: accident (Paxton Road), Duane Francis Laythe, 46, 19 Mechanic Street, Spencer, OUI liquor, negligent operation, marked lanes violation, arrest; (total daily mv stops – 2).

THURSDAY, APRIL 10  
12:11 a.m.: larceny (Temple Street), report taken; 12:33 a.m.: missing person/juvenile (Ash Street), report taken; 1:59-3:00 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:43 a.m.: 911 call (Main Street), no response noted on police log, 6:43 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 9:11 a.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 10:03 a.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), erratic TT unit; 10:15 a.m.: fire/woods/grass (Vista Lane), referred; 10:40 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Brookfield PD bolo; 11:38 a.m.: citizen complaint (Greenville Street), re: pavement work; 12:13 p.m.: medical/general (Mechanic Street); 12:35 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), info taken; 12:53 p.m.: citizen complaint (Meadow Road), via FB; 1:11 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 1:23 p.m.: accident (Mechanic Street), report taken; 1:43 p.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 2:08 p.m.: suspicious mv (Wm. Casey Road), investigated; 2:35 p.m.: mv lockout (Main Street), assisted; 3:20 p.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 3:31 p.m.: restraining order service (G.H. Wilson Road); 4:05 p.m.: medical/general (Greenville Street); 5:00 p.m.: suspicious mv (Greenville Street), investigated; 6:08 p.m.: juvenile matter (Maple Street), 7:08 p.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), re: dog; (total daily mv stops – 0).

FRIDAY, APRIL 11  
12:40-2:06 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 8:14 a.m.: DPW call (Bay Path Road), re: water shutoff; 8:22 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 10:28 a.m.: 911 call (Maple Street), hang-up; 12:08 p.m.: mutual aid (Oak Lane), assist Deerfield PD; 12:45 p.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 12:56 p.m.: mv stop (McCormick Road), Alexander R. Innamorati III, 56, 55 Lakeshore Drive, Spencer, OUI liquor, open container of alcohol in mv, arrest; 1:42 p.m.: animal complaint (Elm Street), re: loose dog; 2:36 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 3:29 p.m.: medical/general (Wall Street); 4:09 p.m.: restraining order service (Deer Run Road); 4:51 p.m.: mv complaint (Casey Road), re: mvs speeding; 6:07 p.m.: juvenile matter (Lake Street), re: spray painting; 6:38 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), assisted; 7:36 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: resources for the homeless; 8:26 p.m.: hit/run accident (Main Street), report taken; 11:17 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), son not home; (total daily mv

stops – 3).

SATURDAY, APRIL 12  
12:57 a.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 1:47 a.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), icy conditions; 4:43 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Old East Charlton Road), no contact; 4:49 a.m.: suspicious mv (Pine Acres), investigated; 8:29 a.m.: parking complaint (Valley Street), abandoned mv/wrong side of road; 8:36 a.m.: DPW call (Howard Hurley Road), tree down; 9:23 a.m.: officer wanted (Elm Street), mv stuck in road; 9:40 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 9:51 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 9:51 a.m.: fire alarm (Greenville Street), referred; 11:05 a.m.: medical/sudden death (Meadow Road); 11:10 a.m.: suspicious persons (West Main Street), investigated; 12:10 p.m.: DPW call (Cherry Street), re: steel plate in road; 12:53 p.m.: medical/general (Cranberry Meadow Road); 1:12 p.m.: 911 call (Pleasant Street), accidental; 1:43 p.m.: officer wanted (Howe Road), services rendered; 4:34 p.m.: mv complaint (Pleasant Street), erratic operator; 7:03 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Thompson Pond Road), no response noted on police log; 7:30 p.m.: residential fire (Ash Street), referred; 7:59 p.m.: juvenile matter (Ash Street), spoken to; 9:14 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), unwanted party; 9:18 p.m.: officer wanted (Charlton Road), re: something in road; (total daily mv stops – 2).

SUNDAY, APRIL 13  
12:00 a.m.: suspicious persons (Mechanic Street), investigated; 12:20-1:37 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:23 a.m.: mutual aid (Main Street), assist State Police; 8:40 a.m.: medical/general (Irving Street); 11:26 a.m.: medical/general (Church Street); 11:41 a.m.: medical/general (Charlton Road); 1:46 p.m.: officer wanted (Paula Bay), spoken to; 1:52 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Bay Path Road), accidental; 1:53 p.m. officer wanted (Main Street), re: poss. harassment prevention order; 2:11 p.m.: officer wanted (Church Street), req. welfare check; 2:18 p.m.: officer wanted (Town House Court), service rendered; 3:38 p.m.: 911 call (Main Street), open line; 3:52 p.m.: officer wanted (McCormick Road), re: former employee; 3:59 p.m.: animal complaint (Brown Street), loose cat; 6:15 p.m.: suspicious persons (Lake Street), re: kids in schoolyard; 6:24 p.m.: officer wanted (Lincoln Street), duress alarm; 6:35 p.m.: officer wanted Marble Road), re: issues w/ex; 7:22 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), no response noted on police log; 7:48 p.m.: medical/general (Pleasant Street); 7:51 p.m.: disturbance (Gold Nugget Road), unwanted party; (total daily mv stops – 8).

MONDAY, APRIL 14  
12:09-12:50 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:52 a.m.: accident (Fourth Avenue), report taken; 3:21 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Leicester PD bolo; 6:21 a.m.: mv lockout (Charlton Road), assisted; 6:51 a.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), injured owl; 8:59 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 10:09 a.m.: illegal dumping (Cooney Road), couch left on property; 11:00 a.m.: medical/general (Church Street); 11:15 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), open line; 12:35 p.m.: medical/general (North Brookfield Road); 12:43 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 12:55 p.m.: fraud (Bond Street), report taken; 1:17 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 2:28 p.m.: mutual aid (Sunset Lane), Auburn PD req. assistance; 2:42 p.m.: medical/general (Brown Street); 3:28 p.m.: arrest warrant service (West Main Street), Seamus M. Donahue, Junior, 25, 1 Oakham Road, North Brookfield, warrant, arrest; 3:33 p.m.: suspicious mv (Temple Street), investigated; 4:43 p.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 4:59 p.m.: residential alarm (Candlewood Drive), services rendered; 11:50-11:58 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; (total daily mv stops – 1).

TUESDAY, APRIL 15  
12:01-12:42 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:33 a.m.: domestic/no abuse (Church Street), domestic dispute; 7:10 a.m.: accident (Charlton Road), report taken; 7:30 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 8:02 a.m.: medical/general (Jolicoeur Avenue); 9:06 a.m.: officer wanted (Cherry Street), req. property checks; 10:32 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), Harrington Hosp. on code black; 11:10 a.m.: medical/general (Jolicoeur Avenue); 12:19 p.m.: DPW call (Meadow Road), re: alarms sounding; 1:52 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), assist Fitchburg PD/en route; 2:24 p.m.: suspicious persons (High Street), info taken; 2:24 p.m.: juvenile matter (Maple Street), re: assault; 3:19 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), can't retrieve belongings from ex; 3:44 p.m.: juvenile matter (West Main Street), re: previous incident; 4:00 p.m.: sex offender registration/annual (West Main Street), assisted; 4:40 p.m.: 911 call (Cherry Street), hang-up; 4:55 p.m.: officer wanted (Maple Street), rep. theft; 7:47 p.m.: fire alarm (Mechanic Street), referred; 8:38 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 8:43 p.m.: accident (East Charlton Road), report taken; 9:45 p.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), re: re-homing; (total daily mv stops – 1).

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# A sustainable lawn starts with the right grass seed



Courtesy — Outsidepride

A healthy lawn starts with selecting the right grass seed.

Growing a healthy lawn in a more sustainable manner is better for the

environment and can also help reduce maintenance. As a major component of landscapes, they provide living surfaces for play areas and pathways while protecting the soil from erosion and slowing stormwater runoff.

When starting a new lawn, selecting the best lawn grass is as critical as selecting the right plant for your gardens. Look for a mixture of grasses that thrive in your growing conditions and activity level, provide the aesthetics you prefer and with the care you are willing and able to provide.

Fescues are known for their shade and drought tolerance and ability to thrive in warm and cold climates. Tall fescues are among the toughest with their dense root system,



## GARDEN MOMENTS

MELINDA MYERS

ability to tolerate heavy foot traffic and other wear and compaction. Turf-type tall fescues have finer leaf texture, denser growth, and tend to spread better than the bunching tall fescues.

When selecting a tall fescue grass seed, look for one with several varieties to create an attractive, resilient and low maintenance lawn. Varieties like Annihilator, Marauder, Rhizing Moon, and Bloodhound have excellent heat resistance while Channell is great for high traffic and low maintenance areas. Barbarian can be managed at a moderate height. Roman tolerates diverse soils and Warhawk produces a beautiful dark green lawn.

Using a mixture of grass seed allows the various varieties to fill in where they excel, tolerate the often-challenging growing conditions and work together to create an attractive lawn. Grass seed mixes, like Combat Extreme Transition Zone (Outsidepride.com), contain several tall turf type fescue seeds to create a heat, cold, and drought resistant lawn that looks good and requires less watering and fertilizing and is suitable for zones 3 to 8.

Prepare the soil and begin planting the seeds when the soil temperature is 55 degrees and warmer or up to six weeks before the first fall frost. Use this seed calculator to help you determine how much seed you'll need.

Broadcast the seed over the soil surface and lightly rake to ensure adequate seed to soil contact. Water often enough to keep the soil slightly moist and mulch to conserve moisture. Look for seedlings to sprout in seven to 14 days and be ready to start mowing in 21 to 30 days.

Mow high, two and a half to three inches, and often enough to remove no more than 1" at a time. Regular mowing is less stressful on the lawn and the short clippings quickly decompose, adding nutrients and organic matter to the soil.

Save even more time, fuel, and water with sharp mower blades when cutting the grass. You can cut more efficiently when the blades are sharp, your mower will consume 22 percent less fuel, and the lawn will use up to 30 percent less water when using sharp blades.

Put away the rake and mow over fall leaves in the lawn. As long as they are the size of a quarter or less, they will not pose a problem to the grass. You may need to make several passes, but the leaf pieces will decompose, adding nutrients organic matter to the soil for your lawn to benefit.

Selecting the best grass seed for your climate and growing conditions and making a few changes in maintenance can help you grow a beautiful lawn.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20

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

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**ATTENTION  
WEST BROOKFIELD RESIDENTS**

**Hydrant Flushing**



The West Brookfield Water Department will be flushing hydrants April 28th through May 9th during the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Flushing will cause some disturbance in the water mains. The water may appear cloudy but will eventually dissipate. *Please plan water use accordingly.*

**P.E.T. of the Week**

Sponsored by Leicester Veterinary Clinic, LLC

**Meet Scarlet (FKA Melinda)**

Scarlett is a beautiful 7-year-old shepherd mix with a heart full of love and a tail that never stops wagging! This playful girl adores her toys—whether it's a squeaky plush or a sturdy chew, like her beloved pineapple, she's always up for some fun. Walks are another favorite pastime, and she's a fantastic companion on adventures, always ready to explore by your side.



Due to a tough experience as a puppy, Scarlett prefers to be the only pet in the home. She thrives in a calm, predictable environment where she can be your one-and-only. For everyone's safety, she is muzzle trained and wears it comfortably and happily—she knows it means more time out and about with her people!

Scarlett is looking for a loving, pet-free home where she can shower her humans with affection. If you're searching for a loyal, playful, and devoted best friend, Scarlett just might be the perfect match!

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**Dr. Colm P. Scanlon**  
Veterinarian

## Space & Time!

Does the U.S. military possess technology capable of bending time and space?

Michael Kratsios, the White House Science Advisor, remarked last week, "Our technologies permit us to manipulate time and space. They leave distance annihilated, cause things to grow, and improve productivity."

That could be a statement geared to intimidate our enemies, but. I wouldn't be surprised if he was telling the truth.

DARPA, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, isn't exactly known for its modest goals. These are the same people who've dabbled in weather modification, psychic warfare, invisibility cloaks, and aircraft that all but scream alien tech.

As a longtime listener of "Coast to Coast AM" with George Noory—a show I'm proud to say my father appeared on twice to discuss the tragic plane crash that claimed Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens, and the Big Bopper—I've spent years entertaining the possibilities of the strange, the fringe, and the not-so-easily dismissed.

This brings me to another time-bending story that doesn't involve black-budget tech but the power of the human mind.

Back in 1980, an interesting report for the U.S. Army would eventually land in the CIA's archives. The title? "Analysis and Assessment of Gateway Process." If it sounds like a sci-fi manual, that's because it practically is.

The report explores the possibility that we can naturally access altered states of consciousness—states where time, space, and

even physical reality don't behave the way we think they do. Using something called Hemi-Sync, a brainwave-altering technique developed by the Monroe Institute, the Gateway Process suggests that with enough mental focus, we can transcend the physical body entirely.

And it's not just theoretical. The report was funded, studied, and taken seriously enough by intelligence agencies to remain classified for decades.

But you don't need classified documents to toy with time. Sometimes, all it takes is a change in perception—and a powerful enough intention.

In the 1980 film "Somewhere in Time," Christopher Reeve plays a playwright so obsessed with a woman from the past that he wills himself back to 1912. No machine, no portal—just pure belief and focus. He changes his clothes, removes all signs of the present, meditates, visualizes... and suddenly, he's there. In love and living in another era, but that's Hollywood, right?

If you ask Dr. Joe Dispenza, maybe it's not that far off.

Dispenza, a neuroscientist and author who's made a career out of studying the intersection of thought and biology, teaches that the brain doesn't know the difference between a real experience and a vividly imagined one. "Where you place your attention is where you place your energy," he says. "If you can mentally rehearse a future and emotionally embrace it as if it's happening now, your body begins to believe it's real."

That belief, according to him, is the catalyst for change. Internal change.

## POSITIVELY SPEAKING

TOBY MOORE

External change. Cellular-level, reality-bending change.

He teaches that the quantum model of reality suggests all possibilities exist in the present moment. By mentally rehearsing a desired future and emotionally embracing it as if it's happening now, we can condition our bodies to believe it's real, thereby influencing our reality.

Physicist David Bohm believed that time may be a secondary effect—an unfolding of a deeper, implicate order.

Max Planck, the father of quantum theory, once said, "I regard consciousness as fundamental. I regard matter as derivative from consciousness."

In other words, reality might not be something that happens to us. It could happen through us.

What if time isn't fixed, but relative—not just in Einstein's equations, but in our day-to-day experience of reality?

So what do we do with that?

Maybe nothing. Maybe everything.

Maybe the next time you catch yourself trapped in routine, convinced that life is fixed and time is ticking in one direction, you pause and wonder: what else is possible?

Not in a metaphorical way—but in a very real, very strange, very human way.

Because if time can stretch, and reality can bend—even just a little—then maybe your future isn't something you wait for.

Maybe it's something you reach back from and pull toward you.

## Spencer Town Meeting, election coming up

SPENCER — Spencer will be holding its Annual Town Meeting on Thursday, May 1 at 7 p.m. in the town hall.

Spencer will be holding its Annual Town Election on Tuesday, May 13 from 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. in the town hall.



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FRANK G. CHILINSKI  
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE  
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Stop  
saying  
we're  
divided

We are growing tired of the constant narrative that America is hopelessly divided. Turn on the news, scroll through social media, or listen to national pundits, and you'll hear it over and over: the country is split in two. But here's the thing — when we look around at the small community we call home, that is not at all what we see.

Do we all agree? No. Of course not. People have different beliefs, political opinions, and worldviews. But that doesn't stop them from showing up for one another. Out here, disagreement doesn't automatically equal division. It definitely does not mean disconnection.

In our town, and in so many like it, neighbors still bring each other meals when someone's sick. People still shovel snow from a neighbor's driveway just because they can. When someone's house burns down, the whole town rallies, no matter which yard signs are out front. That's not just anecdotal, that's reality in small-town America. And it stands in direct contrast to the "us vs. them" story being pushed at a national level.

It's not that we don't have our challenges. Sure, we've got people who stir the pot, and yes, sometimes things get tense. There are always outliers. But by and large, people here care more about helping than about who voted for who. The shared value of showing up for each other is still very much alive.

We are not saying we shouldn't be aware of national issues or political conflict. I'm saying we shouldn't let them convince us that the divide is bigger than our humanity. The truth is, many of us in small towns work hard to build bridges every day quietly, without headlines, without applause.

So, when we hear people say this country is broken beyond repair, we push back. Not because we are intent on ignoring the issues, but because we have seen firsthand what happens when people come together, even when they disagree. We have watched neighbors with opposite views work side by side on a community project. We have seen people set politics aside to get the job done, to take care of each other, and to keep our small towns thriving.

If you want proof of unity, look away from your screens and into your local community. You might be surprised to see just how strong and connected we really are.

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

America's back!

To the Editor:

For the last four years, the only thing the world saw as our leader was a pathetic Alzheimer's patient. Biden was led around at the D-Day remembrance event by Macron like a patient in a nursing home. We were laughing stocks on the world stage. They wondered how a country that saved the world in WWII and sent astronauts to the moon could elect a president so weak and feeble. So weak that he let our adversary, China, freely fly their spy balloons over our country; what American wasn't shocked by that! He placed DEI hires in defense and high Cabinet positions, not based on skills, but based on their sex and race. Our national safety took back place to progressive Democrat ideology. We watched as a drugged out criminal who died from resisting police was put up as an idol. We then had BLM and Antifa burn and ransack our cities with Democrats applauding them. America was truly looked upon as a nation in decline, and one to be taken advantage of by any country. We were a country in decline under Biden. Officially the worst president ever.

Well, not anymore! Throughout those four years, there was one guy who held on to the dream of a great America. A fighting president in the mold of Teddy Roosevelt. When he walks in rooms with the heads of nations at the EU, he walks in the front, with his head held high. Leaders such as Putin and Xi tremble in fear. The mullahs in Iran and terrorists keep their traps shut. They know they're dealing with a new America with a tough, hardened fighter at the helm. Threaten us and you get a guided missile up your butt. Donald J. Trump is the ultimate fighter. He took a bullet and jumped up with his fist in the air. He is fighting for our country the same way. The tariffs are a weapon showing the world who is in charge. It's America, and we aren't taking it anymore. You either deal honest or

feel the pain. Biden traveled to China with his son and sold out America for a few pieces of gold. Not Trump; on day one, Trump changed the selling out of the American worker by placing record tariffs on China to stop the steal. He has his people shutting down the agencies that are slush funds for the Democratic politicians. The corrupt Dems use the NGO's (Non Government Agencies) to steal your tax money. Biden funneled \$2 billion to one run by Stacie Abrams two months before he left.

You have to wonder what kind of people stand against Trump getting rid of government corruption, getting rid of the illegals flooded into our country, trying to get manufacturing back in our country, ending the wars, and making America powerful again. Truly, some people have something wrong in their heads. You have witnessed what has been done in three short months. It's a miracle from God. It truly is the affirmation that God saved Trump on that day in Pennsylvania in divine intervention to save these United States. These people who oppose his commonsense solutions are not true Americans. They are the takers in society. The ones that want to live off what others make while giving nothing. In short socialist with limited skills. They are perfectly happy if America goes down the drain because that's where they feel equal. At the bottom, where they dwell. No innovation. No inspiration. No motivation. Fortunately, the majority of our citizens are hardworking common sense people. With their support, he is bringing back America. The freeloading socialists are whining like crazy. They are like ticks on a dog. Donald has sprinkled insecticide on them, and they are frantically trying to stay on. Its time they start pulling their weight because America's back, baby!

MARK ROBILLARD  
SPENCER

Putting aside other Trump horrors  
to focus on our children's climate  
& environment

To the Editor:

The noted conservative writer David Frum indicated how difficult normally free and fair opposition would become during the second. This would happen because of the massive number of attacks it would make on our Constriction, Government, other Public and Private organizations, friendly countries and neighbors and specific groups and persons.

As examples we need only look at the last week or so. Begin with President Trump's horrible, horrible posting on Easter Sunday or sending "Home Grown" - that is American citizens - to jail in foreign countries, his attacks on judges or "terminating" the Chair of our Federal Reserve Bank.

Instead, taking Frum's advice - and with reliable sources - this letter will focus some of the ways the second Trump administration will further harm the climate and environment we want to pass on to our children and grandchildren.

Overall, the Trump administration has stopped the effort to reduce Global Warming even as our planet has reached record levels of heat mainly driven burning fossil fuels. Due to this, we experience rising temperatures in the form of deadlier hurricanes, and floods droughts and wild fires like the one that recently devastated Los Angeles.

The situation will get worse in the next four years and beyond because

this administration has cancelled projects, fired masses of federal climate workers, all but eliminated the work of environmental agencies, and attacked needed regulations.

It has frozen funds for clean energy projects, particularly wind energy ones which make up America's largest potential source of renewable power.

The Trump Administration almost immediately withdrew from the Paris Climate Agreement. We stand as the only country to withdraw - once again, we become "America alone."

Finally, look at the impact of the Trump administration to reduce efforts efforts to protect the environment and reduce global warming. Economists say doing this would increase health and other costs to the country by \$254 billion.

Worse still, estimates are that over the next 25 years, climate and environment contributed deaths will increase by about 200,000, asthma incidents by over 150 million, restricted activity days by 90 million, and heart related ER visits by over 20,000.

On Easter Sunday, my family celebrated the birthday of a 14 year old grandnephew and five year old grandniece. More than anything else I hope they and all others live in a healthy world.

KEVIN KANE  
SPENCER

New law raises  
Social Security  
income for  
some



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Until recently, if you received a pension from a job that did not pay into Social Security and you've also worked in a job that did, your Social Security benefits at retirement were reduced based on your pension income.

As of Jan. 5, that's no longer the case, thanks to the Social Security Fairness Act. Now, you'll receive both your pension and your fully earned Social Security benefits because the Act repealed the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP).

This new law also repealed the Government Pension Offset (GPO) provision which had reduced spousal or survivor Social Security benefits for people employed in government jobs. These benefits will be increased in 2025.

There are nearly three million people who, depending on their situation, may see their benefits increase - from very little to \$1,000 a month or more. Those impacted fall into these professional categories: teachers, firefighters, and police officers in many states; and federal employees covered by the Civil Service Retirement System.

The Act is retroactive to January 2024, and the Social Security Administration paid an additional lump sum benefit to affected people in March 2025. Going forward, most monthly income "raises" appear on April checks (for March benefits). A few more complex cases may take a little longer.

A word of caution - beware of scammers. The Social Security Administration doesn't tend to call, email or text; they'll send a letter regarding changes to your retirement benefits. And they will never ask you to pay for assistance or to have your benefits started, increased, or paid retroactively. But you can call the SSA at 800-772-1213 to ask if your retirement benefits have changed.

Plan for your increased retirement income

Of course, everyone's needs are different, so there's no one "right" way to handle a lump sum benefit or a monthly raise in income. But here are a few suggestions:

Pay off some debts. If you have credit card debt a car or student loan, you may want to pay it down, or even pay it off.

Invest in an individual retirement account (IRA). If you still have "earned" income - from wages, salaries, tips, bonuses, commissions, self-employment earnings or long-term disability payments - you can contribute from these sources to an IRA. There are tax benefits and an array of investment choices, so it's an excellent way to build resources for retirement.

Save for college. If you have children, or grandchildren, who have college in their plans, you might want to put some money into a college savings vehicle, such as a 529 plan, which provides tax benefits and gives you great flexibility in distributing the money.

Build an emergency fund. If you don't already have an emergency fund with three to six months of living expenses, you can work on that. Keep the money in a liquid, low-risk account, so that it's readily available to pay for unexpected costs. Without such a fund, you may be forced to tap into your long-term investments.

Above all, you may want to get some help. A financial professional can recommend ways of using the money to help you meet your goals. Take any recent government correspondence that shows how your retirement benefits have changed so you can build or review your retirement income strategies.

If you're thoughtful about how you put your new income to work, you'll be doing yourself, and your retirement, a favor.

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.

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# Aromatherapy for What Ails You

Aromatherapy products are big business. With a seemingly never-ending array of candles, oils, and potions promising to do everything from altering a mood to healing an ailment, it can be easy to be taken in by exaggerated marketing claims. While outrageous promises can be just hype, don't be too quick to dismiss the power of scent. Beneath all the brouhaha is decades of data supporting a link between smells and moods. Medical research proves scent stimulation does in fact, send particular messages to the brain, which in turn effects our moods and feelings. Read on for some research findings, as well as some aromatherapy potions you can whip up to change your little corner of the world - or at least the way you perceive it! NOTE: Organic essential oils should be used with care and caution. Be sure to check with a health professional before using any aromatherapy treatment. \*

Orange you calm?: University of Vienna research revealed exposure to ambient odor of orange can have a relaxant effect and it relieved levels of anxiety in study subjects awaiting dental treatment. As a bonus the orange scent prompted a positive mood among the participants. Tip: Have a fresh orange handy for a quick snack to de-stress and cheer up. Or, add some natural orange essential oil to the bath to ease anxiety. \*

Vanilla memories: In a study conducted at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Hospital in New York, patients under-



TAKE  
THE  
HINT  
  
KAREN  
TRAINOR

going an MRI reported 63 percent less claustrophobic after being exposed to the aroma of vanilla. Experts attributed the reduced anxiety to the pleasant memories evoked by the vanilla aroma or by some other physiological response related to the fragrance. Tip: Mix up this vanilla room freshener and spritz at whim or will to relax fast: Mix together two ounces of vanilla extract and two ounces of distilled water. Pour into a small, clean perfume or spritz bottle. \*

An apple a day: Scientific studies show the scent of apple and cinnamon make people feel secure, comfortable and "at home." The feeling of well being was experienced by both men and women participants who experienced the fragrance of an apple and cinnamon mixture. Tip: Welcome visitors with a batch of apple and cinnamon potpourri. Mix together in a glass jar or ziplock bag: one cup dried apple slices; two tablespoons ground cinnamon; 1/4 cup whole allspice berries (or two tablespoons ground allspice); two tablespoons whole cloves; 10 two inch cinnamon sticks; 10 to 12 small pinecones; eight drops cinnamon oil (or 32 drops of cinnamon extract). Shake up every few days to distribute scent until desired fragrance is achieved. \*

Safe slumber: In a

study published in the British Medical Journal Lancet, elderly patients slept "like babies" when a lavender aroma was wafted into their bedrooms at night. These patients had complained of difficulty falling asleep and had to take sleeping pills to get sleep prior to the aromatherapy. While lavender sleep products are available, why not make your own? Tip: Place one drop of natural lavender essential oil in one cup of boiling water. Inhale the vapors to induce sleep. Or if fresh lavender flowers are available, sew up a muslin sachet, fill with lavender flowers and tuck between a bed pillow and its case. \*

Dump Depression: Studies show the fragrant flowers of ylang ylang and roses help halt depression. Furthermore, ylang ylang has been touted as an anti panic treatment. When added to a warm bath, feelings of depression can literally be washed away. Tip: Simply add three drops of rose essential oil and four drops of ylang ylang essential oil to a tub full of warm water. To induce further relaxation, bath by candlelight. \*

Here are some more "tried and true aromatherapy aids: \*To improve concentration: Blend equal parts of basil, cardamom, ginger and black pepper essential oils in a diffuser. \*To increase alertness: Peppermint, dill and coffee essential oils dispersed in the air might do the trick. \*To aid memory: Try using lily of the valley or coriander essential oils in a diffuser.

\*Heighten focus by combining in a diffuser equal parts cypress and cinnamon oils. \*Tame a headache by dabbing one drop of lavender essential oil on each temple. Take several deep breaths and relax. (Note: most essential oils should not be applied directly to the skin, but lavender is one exception). \*

Organic essential oils to transform moods: \*These oils promote inner security and self-acceptance: frankincense, jasmine, sandalwood, vetiver, cedarwood and bergamot. \*To improve self esteem and confidence, try bay laurel, bergamot, cypress, grapefruit, jasmine, rosemary or orange essential oils. \*Be the vibrant happy person you should be with help from grapefruit, lemon, orange, rose, sandalwood and ylang ylang. \*Jasmine is the oil to boost your spirit help bring out your sunnier side. \*Help dispel negative feelings and loneliness with rose, clary sage, frankincense and Helichrysum oils. \*Cheer up with the essential oil of lemon balm. \*\*\*

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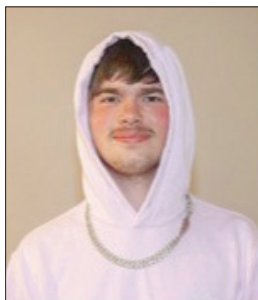
Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month (or whenever I receive enough tips for a column) will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renowned restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I'm

in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I'm counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

\*\* Do you have a helpful hint or handy tip that has worked for you? Do you have a question regarding household or garden matters? If so,

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

## Friday's Child



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Registration # 5427

Aiden is a resilient, calm, and friendly young man who enjoys staying active. He loves playing sports, especially basketball and football, where he can have fun and challenge himself. When he's not outside, he likes playing video games and watching TV. His favorite show is Supernatural, which he enjoys for its exciting storylines. Aiden's positive attitude and friendly nature make him a joy to be around!

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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.



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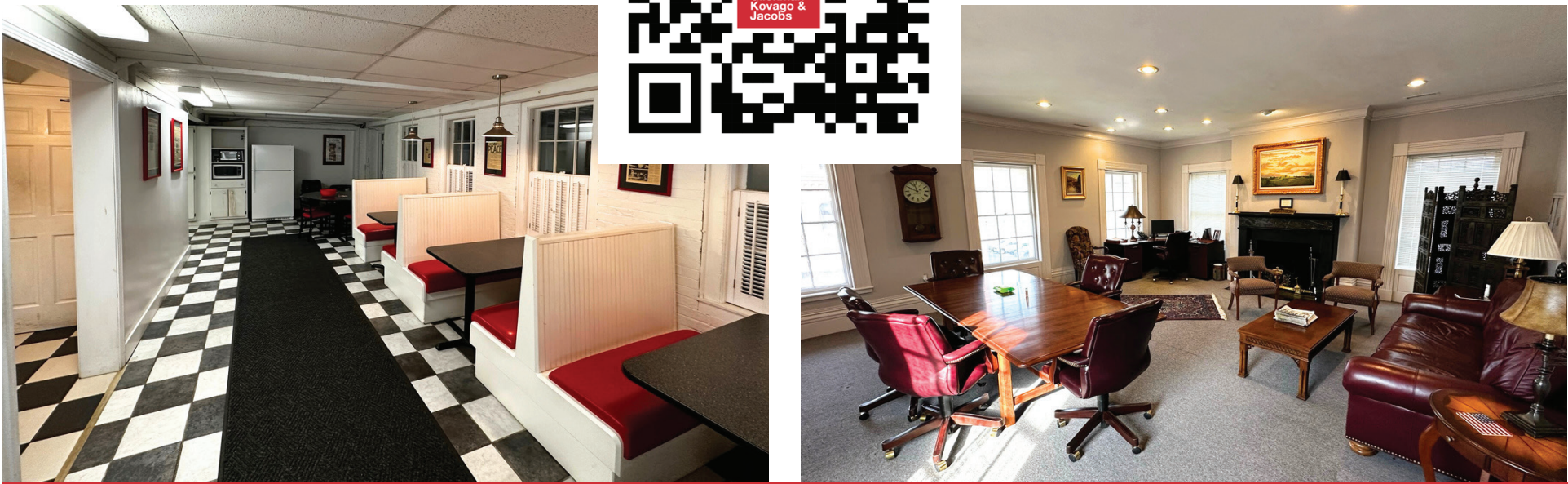
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Courtesy

The David Prouty High School Band has returned from Disney! The band scored “Excellence,” which is a score of 89.5, placing second among the high school concert bands in this competition! The Prouty Band received feedback from renowned musicians who were impressed with how we represented our school through music and personalities. Positive feedback was provided regarding emotion and connection to the music, as well as telling a story. A huge thanks to our students, chaperones, and Mrs. Forfa for coordinating this trip, rehearsals, and so much more to ensure this trip was a success! You can see the band perform on May 6 at 6:30 p.m. here at DPHS, the last concert before the auditorium begins the renovation process. See you there!

# Hofstra recognizes student employees

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — During National Student Employment Week, Hofstra University is celebrating the impact and experiences of student workers across campus and in the surrounding community. Through the student employment program - whether through Federal Work-Study or other opportunities - students are receiving more than just a paycheck. They’re building transferable skills, gaining practical experience, forming meaningful professional relationships, and in many cases, engaging with the wider community.

The following list are students that are student workers at Hofstra:

Elizabeth Manfield of Spencer

Jordan Cox of Spencer

Supporting student employment is one of many ways Hofstra is advancing its commitment to student success, a key priority of the Hofstra 100 strategic plan. On-campus jobs help students integrate into the University community, while Federal Work-Study positions connect them with meaningful opportunities both on and off campus.

The Office of Student Employment plays a central role in supporting Hofstra’s student workforce, which includes more than 1,100 students each year. Amanda Nastasi, manager of the Office of Student Employment, sees firsthand the impact these opportunities have on students’ personal and professional growth.

“One of the most gratifying parts of my role is meeting a student at the start of their job search and later welcoming them into the office for onboarding once they’ve secured a position,” she said. “It’s a privilege to play a small part in students’ journeys, and to watch them grow through the student employment program.”

Hofstra University’s primary mission is to provide a quality education to its students in an environment that encourages, nurtures, and supports learning. At Hofstra, new ideas take shape through collaboration, engagement, and interaction. Hofstra students create their success with small classes and dedicated faculty, alongside a beautiful campus, plus all the opportunities of New York City within easy reach.

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Holiday  
FACT:



This religious holiday is celebrated by billions of people across the globe each spring.

Answer: Easter

How they  
say  
that in...

- English: Rabbit
- Spanish: Conejo
- Italian: Coniglio
- French: Lapin
- German: Kaninchen

What’s the Difference?

Find the four differences between the two pictures.

A



B



Answers: 1. Bunnies in background 2. Missing egg in hand 3. Extra egg in grass 4. Shadow on tree trunk

THIS  
DAY IN  
HISTORY



1792: “La Marseillaise,” the French national anthem, is composed by Claude Joseph Rouget de Lisle.

1859: British and French engineers break ground for the Suez Canal.

1954: The first practical solar cell is demonstrated by Bell Telephone Labs.

NEW  
WORD

FAITH

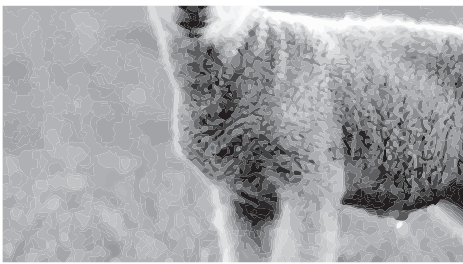
a strong belief or trust in something

Did You  
KNOW?

Easter is the oldest Christian holiday. The Easter Bunny, or Osterhase, is a symbol that was first mentioned in German writings in the 1500s.



Get the  
PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Lamb

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to springtime. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 10 = R)

A. 2 7 22 19 21 10 4

Clue: Blooms

B. 6 15 11 4

Clue: Beginnings of flowers

C. 19 23 10 12 16 5

Clue: Temperate climate

D. 10 23 9 26 14

Clue: Lots of wet precipitation

Answers: A. flowers B. buds C. warmth D. rainy

SUDOKU

7							1	
			7		1	4		3
	2			9				
						3		
3	8	5		4				
		1	9				4	
		8	4					7
				8		6		9
		9	6				5	

Level: Advanced

Here’s How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

4	5	8	7	1	6	9	3	2
9	3	6	2	7	1	5	8	4
7	2	1	9	3	4	8	6	5
8	4	2	5	6	9	7	1	3
5	6	3	8	7	1	4	2	9
6	8	7	5	9	3	4	1	2
3	9	4	1	2	8	6	5	7
2	1	4	6	9	7	5	3	8
1	2	5	3	8	4	9	6	7

ANSWER:



# LEICESTER HIGH SCHOOL ANNOUNCES HONOR ROLL

LEICESTER — Leicester High School has released its honor roll for the third quarter of the 2024-2025 school year:

High Honors  
12th Grade: Kayla Bouchard, Sophia Danforth, Ryan Delage, Vanessa Finney Madeline Milionis, Alexander Ngo, Gia Norcia, Sedona Richard  
11th Grade: Kate Barbato, John Gahagan  
10th Grade: Joshua McCormick  
9th Grade: Brady Bouchard, Zachary Couture, Allison Gagne, Annalise Guzman, Haylee Kularski, Charlotte Mercer, Max Milionis, Alivia Perry, Paula Roberts, Jayke Williams

Honors  
12th Grade: Jenna Abusalah, Sean Alves, Matthew

Beique, Jayden Benton, James Colonies-Kelley Jacob Cruz, Dylan Delage, Kathryn Dolimount, Jason Fournier, Jacqueline Gallant, Alexis Herbert, Angela Kitchen, Felix Landor, Benjamin LaPointe, Jack Ledbetter, Daymien Lindstrom, Ngoc Ly, Joseph Nelson, Jordan Patterson, Kadienne Patterson, Tyler Pierce, Dylan Raskett, Brendan Salek, Ella Smith, Shya Stephens, Cooper White  
11th Grade: Abigail Baker, Kaylee Buckley, Avery Bullock, Timothy Coll, Sophia Comeau, Jacob Cosper, Brandon Escobar, Jordan Giggey, Brody Grant, Eliannie Guzman Bueno, Emily Hunt, Natalia Kallio, Ava Lane, Savannah Lumb, Makayla Lyons Hannah Martin, Crislary Martinez Castillo, Augustine Marubu, Christopher Moffat, Zoe Morales, Jemima Noel, Bethany Parke, Lucas Souza Sampaio, Jack Skoglund, Luke Soden Johanna Torres, Nicole Tuson,

Tyler Williams, Dakota Zinkevich  
10th Grade: Jacob Beaulac, Taylor Gallant, Ariana Gursky, Kenneth Lane, Arunas Orloff, Gianna Panepinto, Ava Petruzzi, Taylor Rodrigue, Phuc Hoai Truong, Mary Van Hazinga, Sabrina Wright  
9th Grade: Matthew Alves, Brody Arnberg, Muhammad Arslan, Russell Baker, Rory Barrett, Kennedy Bates Emma Bernabei, Jude Campbell, Sarah Kozlowski, Joseph Kulla, Brock Lopez, Kaylee Luby Michael Lupien, Matthew Magoun, Alena Martinkova, Julianna McCormick, Trinity Medeiros Maia Mitchell, Trevor Moorghen, Brandon Nguyen, Juliana Ormon, Katherine Ozarowski Maryangelie Rivas, Naya Rodriguez, Nicholas Stuart, Shane Stuart, Ryan Sweeney

# LEGALS

**Town of West Brookfield  
Zoning Board of Appeals**  
A public hearing will be held on **Tuesday, May 6, at 6:00 p.m.** at the West Brookfield Town Hall, to act on an application for a Special Permit, for Gary & Karen Brisbois, for the property located at 78 Lake View Ave., West Brookfield. The applicant wishes to close in an area below their deck. A special permit is required as per section(s) -1.5 Non-conforming structures (a) (et al).  
April 17, 2025  
April 25, 2025

**NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE  
OF REAL ESTATE**  
By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Paul T. Burke to JPMorgan Chase Bank, NA, dated March 23, 2007 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 40973, Page 223, as modified by a certain modification agreement recorded on January 5, 2018, and recorded with said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 58283, Page 157, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 12:00 PM on May 12, 2025, on the mortgaged premises located at 94 Clark Road, Spencer, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,  
TO WIT:

A CERTAIN TRACT OF LAND SITUATED IN SPENCER, WORCESTER COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS, ON THE SOUTHWESTERLY SIDE OF BALDWIN STREET, AND BEING LOT NO. 17, AS SHOWN ON A PLAN OF WILDWOOD PARK, PREPARED BY E.A. CHAMBERLIN, SURVEYOR, DATED MAY 1, 1954, AND RECORDED WITH THE WORCESTER DISTRICT REGISTRY OF DEEDS IN PLAN BOOK 197. PLAN 14. SAID LOT CONTAINS ABOUT 4,180 SQUARE FEET OF LAND, BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT THE NORTHEASTERLY CORNER THEREOF, TO THE SOUTHWESTERLY LINE OF BALDWIN STREET, AT A POINT ABOUT 154 FEET NORTHWESTERLY OF A STONE CULVERT CROSSING SAID STREET FOR A BROOK EMPTYING INTO STILES LAKE; THENCE SOUTHWESTERLY BY LOT NO. 16, ABOUT 101.5 FEET; THENCE NORTHWESTERLY BY LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF EDWARD DESPLAINES ET UX. 72.76 FEET TO LOT NO. 18; THENCE NORTHEASTERLY BY LOT NO. 18, ABOUT 107.75 FEET TO BALDWIN STREET; THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY BY SAID STREET, 50 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. SBL 27-72-0. For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 11501, Page 377.  
These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.  
TERMS OF SALE:  
A deposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the

premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.  
Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.  
JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A.  
Present holder of said mortgage  
By its Attorneys,  
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.  
150 California St.  
Newton, MA 02458  
(617)558-0500  
26861  
April 18, 2025  
April 25, 2025  
May 2, 2025

**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. WO23P0007EA  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR  
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
Estate Of:  
**Russell Gardner Auclair  
Date of Death: 06/06/2021**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **S/A- Formal Probate fo Will** has been filed by **Amy M. Auclair of Chicopee 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:  
**Amy M. Auclair of Chicopee 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 05/06/2025.**  
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 08, 2025  
Stephanie K. Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
April 25, 2025

**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. WO25P1415EA  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR  
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
Estate Of:  
**Thomas J Arnesen  
Also known as:  
Thomas John Arnesen  
Date of Death: 03/10/2025**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Arne O Arnesen, Jr. of Hampden 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:  
**Arne O Arnesen, Jr. of Hampden 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 05/20/2025.**  
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, 2025  
Stephanie K. Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
April 25, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Worcester Division  
225 Main Street  
Worcester, MA 01608  
(508) 831-2200  
Docket No. WO18P3553PM  
Estate of:  
Frances Laflamme  
CITATION ON PETITION  
FOR ORDER OF  
COMPLETE SETTLEMENT**

A Petition for **Order of Complete Settlement** has been filed by **Anita Palmaccio of Lancaster MA** requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account , 1st and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.  
**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 05/13/2025.**  
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.  
Witness, Hon. Leilah A Keamy,  
First Justice of this Court  
April 14, 2025  
Stephanie K. Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
April 25, 2025

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE  
ADVERTISEMENT**  
**The West Brookfield Housing Authority, the Awarding Authority,** invites sealed bids from **Electrical Contractors** for the EOHLC #307061 Fire Alarm System Upgrade project at Olde Village Place (667-1) located in West Brookfield, MA, in accordance with the documents prepared by Hesnor Engineering Associates, PLLC.  
The Project consists of but is not limited to: Removal of existing fire alarm system and installation of new addressable fire alarm control panel and devices.  
The work is estimated to cost **\$275,765**  
Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-

J and to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §§26 to 27H inclusive.  
**THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**  
Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. All Bids shall be submitted online at biddocs.com and received no later than the date and time specified.  
General bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) in the following category of work, Electrical, and must submit a current DCAMM Certificate of Eligibility and signed DCAMM Prime/General Contractor Update Statement.  
General Bids will be received until **2:00 PM on Wednesday, May 14, 2025** and publicly opened online, forthwith.  
General bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (including all alternates), and made payable to the **West Brookfield Housing Authority.**  
Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available for review at biddocs.com on Wednesday, April 23, 2025 (may be viewed and downloaded electronically at no cost).  
A pre-bid walkthrough is scheduled for **Friday, May 2, 2025** at 10:00 AM at 29 East Main Street, West Brookfield, MA. Meet at the Community Building (Building #7).  
April 24, 2025

**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. WO25P1401EA  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR  
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
Estate Of:  
**Beatrice C. Lawrence  
Date of Death: 09/23/2024**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Ellen M. Lawrence of Wallingford, CT** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.  
The Petitioner requests that:  
**Ellen M. Lawrence of Wallingford, CT** 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 05/13/2025.**  
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 18, 2025  
Stephanie K. Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
April 25, 2025



FEST  
continued from page A1

The two-day event is organized in conjunction with the Alzheimer's Association, which runs an annual campaign called "The Longest Day" around the summer solstice.

"The idea is that people will fight the darkness of Alzheimer's on the longest day of the year. All funds raised will be directly donated to the Alzheimer's Association," read a statement promoting the event.

For Czyzewski and

Viens, now in their fourth year of membership on Team Memory Mile, it's an honor to hold events that expand awareness and fundraising. Last year, they raised nearly \$15,000 for the cause.

"Since 2016, we've proudly supported the Alzheimer's Association through The Longest Day campaign—hosting events, building community, and raising funds for a cause close to our hearts," Czyzewski said. "One constant is that our participation keeps growing and our fundraising goals keep increasing."

During each commu-

nity event, the organizers are honored to see their mother's legacy inspire other families to keep fighting to end Alzheimer's disease.

"Our mom, Louise 'Weezie' Peterson, was a very special lady—a single mom who raised five kids in a very loving home. Weezie was a beloved member of the Southbridge/Sturbridge community," Czyzewski added. "Throughout our years of fundraising for the Alzheimer's Association, we've talked with so many people who have that same connection, through a family member or friend. We feel

very passionately that, by working together, we can end Alzheimer's disease."

Community events also provide an opportunity for families affected by the disease to build solidarity through their shared battle.

"When she was first diagnosed, our mother said that relationships were the most important thing in her life and now Alzheimer's was taking them away. With Alzheimer's, you lose a family member piece by piece," Czyzewski said. "We are a family who want to do something bigger than ourselves. And what better

way to honor our wonderful mom and make a difference, than to host our own party to put an end to the disease that took her life."

The organizers are hoping to reach the \$20,000 fundraising threshold this year. Community members are invited to join the battle and get involved in Summer Solstice Fest activities.

"This is a family event. Donna and I, our spouses and children, our three brothers and their spouses and children all come together to support this cause," Czyzewski said.

For the June 1 inaugural cornhole tournament,

sponsored by Southbridge Credit Union, registration begins at 10 a.m. The entry fee is \$80 per team.

The June 7 celebration at Timberridge Brewing Company will begin at 1 p.m.

"We can't thank the local businesses enough for their continued support of our events. Their donations are an integral part of our success," Czyzewski said.

Timberridge Brewing Company is located at 555 East Main St. in East Brookfield.

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**DETECTIVE**

continued from page A1

gencies. Additionally, scam incidents have skyrocketed over the past five years, many of which target seniors.

Last year, SPD officers handled 87 fraud-related cases, plus another 139 responses encompassing Section 12 of Massachusetts General Laws (which often involve emergency mental health situations). Additionally, officers made 773 motor vehicle stops and processed 287 accidents.

The SPD also responded to 67 domestic incidents in 2024.

“These numbers reflect a heavy workload for our current team, with specific areas that require additional focus and resources,” Befford added.

The police department initially requested a pair of new positions—includ-

ing the second detective and a day shift officer—to be funded through the override. After receiving feedback from residents at public hearings, selectmen decided to pare down the request to include only the detective position.

“As our caseload increases, having a second detective will allow us to provide more thorough investigations and follow-up on cases,” the Chief explained. “Specifically, the rise in fraud cases requires dedicated investigative time. A second detective will reduce case backlogs, ensure timely investigations, and help close cases that might otherwise go unsolved due to limited resources.”

In addition to managing the investigatory facets of the position, a second detective would also help the department

address several other challenges presented by post-pandemic police work.

“Recent changes in policing have significantly increased the time officers spend on each call,” Befford said. “Officers are now required to complete detailed reports for each incident, ensuring accuracy and compliance with legal standards. This process can be time-consuming, often extending the duration of routine calls.”

Body-worn cameras (BWCs) have also introduced responsibilities and procedural expectations that never previously existed for officers. These include taking several steps to ensure privacy when releasing footage.

“The implementation of BWCs has improved transparency and accountability. However,

managing video footage—including storage, retrieval, and redaction—adds a layer to each incident, further extending the time officers spend on individual cases,” Befford said.

A second detective would also help free up other officers to investigate more incidents. In recent years, the flood of scam investigations has taken time away from other critical needs. Local seniors have been heavily targeted through email, text, and social media, with scammers sending messages regarding bogus unpaid tolls and past-due bills. Some cybercriminals even go as far as fabricating local craft fairs, charity events, and other community programs, then collecting preregistration fees or donations online.

“The detective’s workload has increasingly

been burdened by the rise in fraud and technology-related crimes. These cases present unique challenges,” Befford said. “Fraud and cybercrimes often involve intricate schemes and require specialized knowledge to trace and understand. Investigators must analyze digital evidence, which can be complex and technically demanding.”

Cybercrime cases frequently involve collaboration with federal agencies, financial institutions, and technology experts, adding even more layers of coordination to the investigative process. Additionally, legal facets present yet another dimension that can hinder investigations.

“Navigating the legalities of digital evidence and ensuring compliance with evolving regulations

requires meticulous attention, further extending the investigative timeline,” Befford added.

Increased training requirements also play a role in officers’ time management. Regulations now require 32 hours of classroom updates, bi-annual firearms training, CPR and first aid programs, and taser certification. Additionally, officers regularly attend specialized training sessions to increase their skills.

For the override to pass, an appropriation must be approved at Town Meeting on May 1. The increase in the tax levy authority would then need to be approved by voters at the May 13 election.

For the latest information and announcements regarding the override, visit the town Web site, [www.spencerma.gov](http://www.spencerma.gov).

**LHS**

continued from page A1

by school leaders. “The demand for STEM jobs is higher in Massachusetts than in almost any other state. According to a 2022 report by Commonwealth Corporation, 21 percent of the Commonwealth’s workforce is employed by a STEM industry, significantly higher than the nation’s average of 14 percent.”

LHS engineering students are also eligible to receive a Level 1 certification from the Manufacturing Advancement Center Workforce Innovation Collaborative (MACWIC). This certification is available through the Massachusetts

Manufacturing Extension Partnership.

“It provides students with both the basic competency skills that entry-level positions require in today’s advanced manufacturing environment—and the more advanced computer-assisted manufacturing utilized by most manufacturers today,” read the statement released by school leaders.

For LHS staff members, it’s exciting to add another program that provides opportunities for students to gain knowledge and critical skills while still in school.

“At LHS, we are committed to getting our students access to industry-recognized credentials,” said LHS Principal Ted Zawada. “Our Chapter 74

and Innovation Career Pathway programs are specifically designed to allow our students access to industry credentials and a leg up on the competition. The MACWIC is another highly desirable skill for students to succeed after high school.”

In addition to earning industry-recognized credentials, students in the Innovation Career Pathway programs must enroll in advanced coursework, which are eligible for college credits. Students have a number of options for this coursework, including participation in AP courses and applying for college credits by completing a range of engineering courses. These include Introduction to Engineering, Principles

of Engineering, Computer Integrated Manufacturing, and Engineering Design and Development.

Students can also participate in early college courses offered at no cost through Worcester State University. These courses are taken on campus at LHS.

School leaders are also

working with local industry partners, including companies like Flexcon and St-Gobain. Leicester Public Schools Assistant Superintendent Rich Lind works closely with each partner to help students maximize their opportunities.

“Industry partners like Flexcon and St-Gobain are integral to these pro-

grams,” Lind said. “They allow us to understand what students need to be successful in this field, and they provide access to experts in the industry that can guide us in purchasing the right equipment, tools, and materials, as well as provide internship opportunities for our students.”



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# Master Gardener introduces audience to seed starting



Gus Steeves

Eric Bromberg explains how to use a heat mat for starting seeds.

BY GUS STEEVES  
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — With the air outside warming up, it's time to think about planting.

"I think everybody should grow a garden," said Eric Bromberg. "Even if you only have an empty coffee can with a hole in it, you should plant something at least once."

As a long-term Master Gardener and member of the Blackston Valley Vegetable Gardeners, he was speaking to about a dozen people at the library on April 15 about seed starting. It's something he's done since about age seven, when his family was surprised he was the only one of nine grandchildren to get the "green thumb."

Of course, he hasn't been teaching it that long, just since 2017.

"When the world shut down (for Covid), that's when everyone wanted to learn how to grow for themselves ... and I didn't want to pay \$3.49 for a one-pound bag of carrots," he recalled.

Likewise, growing from seed is much cheaper than starting with seedlings: you can get a packet of 100-200 seeds for the same price as a four- or six-pack of started plants in small plas-

tic trays. When you get seeds, you know what variety they are; often, the seller doesn't identify (and may not even know) what the seedlings are beyond "tomato" or "pepper."

Here in New England, weather makes planting a little tricky. Our climate doesn't allow enough time for seeds of several major food species planted outdoors (termed "direct sow") to grow to maturity before fall frosts hit, and spring variability (late frosts) can kill them before they get started. To compensate, Bromberg urges starting many plants indoors.

When you do, the crucial factor is not light. In fact, many seeds should not get any light until their first leaves (termed cotyledons or "seed leaves") emerge, nor should they get fertilizer. What they need is warmth – a heat from the bottom that warms up the root zone to start, using a heat mat, heating pad or even the top of a refrigerator. They need a steady temperature of 80-85 degrees, but be careful to avoid both too hot and too cold, and be careful to make sure the seed isn't too close to either the top or bottom of the soil it's in. (One-fourth to a half inch down is best; that way,

they don't have to push up too far to emerge.)

Seeds need "very light" watering (by mist sprayer), and covering them with plastic wrap will keep the moisture in. "Don't deluge it. You'll drown the seed or dislodge it from the soil," he said.

How long they'll take to emerge can vary greatly by species and growing conditions. "Some things go as quickly as three days; some take as long as a month," he said. He noted he's had lettuce come up within 24 hours, and peas can germinate when the soil's just 35 degrees.

Many seeds will germinate by simply being wrapped in a damp paper towel inside a plastic baggie.

Among the plants that do best starting inside are tomatoes – "by far the most popular vegetable in backyard gardens anywhere in the world" – and Brussel sprouts, which have a very long season. As a rule of thumb, he recommended taking the "direct sow" date on the package and backing it up six weeks when planting indoors.

By contrast, some plants are fine to start outdoors; in our climate, we can often get two crops of them, one planted in-

or outdoors in spring for mid-summer harvest, on in mid-summer (started indoors, because the soil's too hot) for fall harvest. Those include radishes, beets, carrots, zucchini, peas, beans, lettuce and broccoli. If you're growing a plant for its leaves (like kale, lettuce and broccoli), they're usually shade-tolerant. If you want their fruit, they usually need a minimum of six to eight hours of direct sunlight (some quite a bit more).

"If it's your first time, I'd recommend you start with radishes," he said. "(Growing time) can be as little as 2.5 weeks," and that's particularly good for children "who are looking for instant gratification and have no patience."

Bromberg also noted a few other details to remember. Seeds will keep up to five years if stored properly, and you can determine if they're still viable by dropping them in water: If they sink, they're good, if they float they're dead. Some plants need a minimum of 600-1,000 "chill hours," where the air temperature is under 40 degrees, the previous winter to set fruit for next spring.

When giving emerged young plants light, they need 12-14 hours a day. Any fluorescent bulb is fine, but don't use incandescents; they're too hot. Also, the light should only be about 1.5 inches above the plants and directly overhead to avoid creating "leggy" plants that put all their energy into growing long, thin stems to reach the light. He recommended putting the plant tray on a pile of books and removing one at a time as they grow.

Only start lightly fertilizing them after they get their third set of true leaves (not the cotyledons). He recommended using fertilizer mixtures where the numbers are close to each other (for example, 5/5/5,

for the N/P/K). Giving them too much nitrogen (N) will make them tall and bushy, but with no fruit; giving them too much potassium (K) will give them strong roots, but little or nothing above the surface. (That's good for root crops like carrots; if that's your plant, he recommended adding a bloodmeal that's high in K to the soil and companion planting with lettuce. The P, by the way, is phosphorus. If your root crop is potatoes, though, they like a lower pH soil (about 5.0, when most plants prefer 5.5-6.0, he said. In either case, "keep the plants completely covered in soil" with only a little greenery above so they grow properly.)

When you're thinking about transferring indoor seedlings outside, you need to make sure the plants are ready for it by exposing them to the change gradually over 7-10 days (termed "hardening"). For the first three days, they should go out only for two to three

hours of indirect sun; for the next three, they get three to five hours; and for the last four, they get four to six hours.

That should only happen at temperatures of 50 degrees or above. Done right, "it may not grow in height, but you'll see the girth of the stem increase" as the plant gets stronger. Done wrong, especially without enough time, it causes "transplant shock," and the plant may not grow at all.

It's important to water the young plants outdoors from the bottom, and do it before sunrise, after sunset, or in overcast. Otherwise, the water droplets on the leaves will concentrate the sunlight and scald the plants. He noted it's just the same as how it's much easier for people to get sunburned early in the season.

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

## LEICESTER MIDDLE SCHOOL ANNOUNCES HONOR ROLL

LEICESTER — Leicester Middle School has released its honor roll for the third quarter of the 2024-2025 school year.

### 8th Grade High Honors

Camden Beaudry, Elijah Belisle, John Derrick, Javier Flores, Liam Gentile, Benjamin Hagglund, Natalie LaPointe, Papayaw Larbi, Rocco Lauder, Tighe Lauder, Kingston Nguyen, Nick Nguyen, Jaedyn Perry, Thinh Pham, Malin Stimson, Marielee Valentin, Hunter Wright, Robert Zinkevich

### 7th Grade High Honors

Olivia Cardona, Fiona Liebman, Cadence Medeiros, Sonya Potvin, Hailey Rooney, Leah Varney

### 6th Grade High Honors

Juliette Bellisario, Edmund Besse, Aubrey Bullock, Brooklyn Bullock, Anna Derrick, Raegan Higgins, Sophia Kennedy, Larissa LaFlamme, Nanakwasi Larbi

### 5th Grade High Honors

Skylar Backstrom, Kaydence Beamenderfer, Vivienne Belizaire, Leah Cunningham, Angelica De Brito, Giuliana Escobar, Calvin Fryer, Rosalie Hayes, Aoife Kane, Adhuresa Latifi, Noah Loosemore, Benjamin Machado, Emmaline Milgate, Benjamin Miller, Tylor Moorghen, Layla Mullins, Anna Nguyen, Ayva Robidoux, Helena Senko, Taymiyyah Sullivan

### Honors

### 8th Grade Honors

Godfrey Angua-Mante, Jansen Benton, Brody Dufries, Avril Halbedel, Braydon Herbert, Liana LaFlamme, Ryan Lynch, Lincoln Meloche, Gia Rigiero, Lily Schimke, Serenity Whalen

### 7th Grade Honors

Dianexiz Acevedo-Ortiz, Elisa Aguirre, Beverly Ampaw, Jolene Boudreau, Annika Bowen, Landon Bullock, Justin Cai, Avery Cole, Mila Cortes, Bridget Dillon, Athena Flanders, Gavin Ford, Adalynn Grant, Shelby Grant, Haidi Hadi, Christopher Harrington, Emily Hipple, Isabella Jaszur, Ava Johnston, Tyler Kularski, Ayla Lis, Benjamin Marjault, Charlie Marttila, Francis Marubu, Chloe Mayotte, Emma Mercier, Cole Milgate, Sophia Muzzy, Nana Obeng, David Sanborn, Lily Schrader, Rayman Singharaj, Diego Suarez Ramirez, Joseph Ukoh, Oliver Underwood, Aiden Valinski

### 6th Grade Honors

Phillip Armstrong, Mackenzie Beaulac, Victoria Cardona, Daniel Ciciliane, Ava Cruz, Logan Curren, Rylee Garrahe, Alessandro Guzman, Jealousy Hollyer, Siobhan Kane, Andrew Lemerise, Nora MacDonnell, Olivia Maki, Jackson McKenzie, Amiah Medina, Stacy Morrobel Dominguez, Benjamin Murphy, Logan Perry, Theresa Reynolds, Nevaeh Sackor, Hugo Salas, Kason Ward

### 5th Grade Honors

Maxwell Alade, Gannon Arnberg, Nolan Beaudry, Stratton Bombard, Sadie Bosco, Huy Bui, Addyson Conway, Khaleesi Dejesus, Tyler Dube, Bailey Foley, Hunter Hayes, Sophia Huguys, Haley Johnson, Luke LeBlanc, Jonathan Letourneau, Olivia Mason, Jackson McCauley, Santy Melendez Vasquez, Addison Murphy, Lily Nguyen, Cobby Obeng, Bentley Payne, Blake Potvin, Emilianna Rodriguez, Dominic Salas, Rayden Singharaj, Richard Spratt, Brandon Ukpong, Enzo Valente Senna, Anthony Walsh, Tristan Walsh, Madison Westberg, Dylan Williams, Finian Wood, Julian Wooden.

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*Featured Listing!!*



**ON DEPOSIT**

**Webster Lake Waterfront 88 Union Point**  
Excellent opportunity! Natural Western Facing Shoreline-Beautiful Sunsets - Views of Middle to North Pond! 7,000 +/- Sq. Ft. Waterfront Lot! Winterized cottage Fireplaced living room! 12 X 30 one car garage. Beautiful Pine trees at the water's edge! - **\$660,000**

*Webster Lake Waterfront Lots Bates Point Rd*

In Beautiful, Calm, *Winter Cove*  
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**Webster Lake Waterfront**

**44 West Point Rd**  
1st Time Offered!! On Killdeer Island! Beautiful Waterfront Property. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, custom kitchen, Indoor/Outdoor Fireplace! Entertainers Dream! Beautiful Sunsets! Large Garage **SORRY, SOLD \$1,270,000**

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**36 Center Rd \$515,000**

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# Library showcases authors throughout North Brookfield’s history

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER  
NORTH BROOKFIELD  
—In celebration of its 2025

theme, “Turning Pages for 130 Years,” Hoston Free Public Library hosted a showcase honoring authors throughout the town’s history. Held on April 12, the event enabled local readers and writers to meet several authors and learn



Courtesy

Writers from throughout North Brookfield’s history are celebrated with a special display at a recent library showcase.

about their collections. “Without writers and authors, we wouldn’t have books. And without books, we wouldn’t have libraries,” said Diane Buzzell, a library trustee who organized the event.

The program began with a presentation highlighting many accomplished authors and writers from throughout North Brookfield’s history, going back as far as 1870.

Guests learned about a fascinating lineup of historical writers, including Amasa and Frances Walker, Tryphosa Bates-Batchelor, William Cullen Bryant, George Cohan, and William Cary Duncan, among others.

More recently, writers like Tim Parker and Richard Johnson have added to North Brookfield’s rich literary history.

“A secretary of state, president of MIT, international concert singer, lawyers, and scientists cre-

ating computer programming and spacesuits for the Apollo mission were just some of their amazing talents,” Buzzell added. “These people lived among us, walking the streets of North Brookfield and calling it home.”

Following the historical presentation, local writers described their backgrounds, inspirations, and writing processes before sharing passages from their works.

Guests enjoyed hearing Brianna Lamb’s poetry, Kristi Seymour’s moving memories of a close friend, and Tammy Doherty’s passages interweaving town aspects into her mystery fiction.

The program concluded with author Jack McClintock sharing his poetry and other works.

Presenters enjoyed the opportunity to share their works and connect with local readers.

“I recited four poems, and the other three

authors read from their books and talked about their writing experiences. They ranged from memoirs and short stories to romance,” said Lamb, who also serves as the library’s youth services specialist.

After the authors shared their works, guests enjoyed refreshments while purchasing books from writers on the panel. Guests said they appreciated the opportunity to meet local writers and learn about books inspired by central Massachusetts.

Buzzell is thanked for the hard work she put into organizing the program. She also made a display celebrating the town’s literary history.

For more information about upcoming library events, or to register for an activity, call 508-867-0208. You may also send an email to: [hostonfreepubliclibrary@gmail.com](mailto:hostonfreepubliclibrary@gmail.com).

The library is located at 161 North Main St.



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