

SPENCER NEW LEADER

©2024, Issue #39 Free by request to residents of
East Brookfield, West Brookfield, North Brookfield, Brookfield, Leicester and Spencer
SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO NEWS@STONEBRIDGEPRESS.NEWS Friday, September 27, 2024



Kevin Flanders

VISITORS ENJOY LEICESTER'S 24TH ANNUAL HARVEST FAIR

Despite a rainy, windy day on the Town Common, guests enjoyed plenty of programs and activities at the 24th Annual Harvest Fair. The Sept. 21 event featured dozens of local vendors and crafters; seasonal offerings and decorations; children's activities; and appearances from area officials and organizations. Additionally, local business leaders, first responders, and elected officials also visited the Common to greet guests. Youngsters got to explore fire trucks, meet police officers, and check out pumpkins and other harvest delights.

Spencer officials seek information on proposed rehab clinic

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER — Selectmen are seeking more information about a drug rehabilitation clinic proposed for Route 9.

The proposal was submitted by Habit Opco for 401 East Main St., a one-story building most recently occupied by Spencer Veterinary Hospital.

Though selectmen discussed the proposal during their Sept. 16 meeting, requesting that clinic representatives attend a future meeting to provide more information, the fate of the proposal is beyond the Board's control. Ultimately, the decision on final approval will be made at the state level.

"No Planning Board, Zoning Board, or Board of Selectmen approvals are required, as a medical clinic is a permitted use in the zoning district," said Town Administrator Jeffrey Bridges. "They have building permits for renovations."

Selectmen expressed differing views regarding the clinic and its potential impacts on the community. Officials are hoping to learn more about the specific services proposed for the clinic, as well as the processes by which treatment recipients would be serviced in a supervised environment.

"As I understand it, these are people who are off illegal drugs and need help staying off illegal drugs," Selectman Ralph Hicks told the New Leader. "Almost everyone knows someone who has a drug problem, whether it's a friend, a relative, or someone you know

Turn To **CLINIC** page **A12**

TipTop Country Store turns 20

BROOKFIELD — In addition to turning into a co-op, TipTop is turning 20! In order to celebrate these milestones, please join us on Oct. 12 at the Apple Country Fair. We will have a table on the Brookfield common from 10-2 with information for those interested in becoming members. Also, the store will offer a 10 percent coupon for those interested in shopping that day. There will be activities for children in the garden as well.

As businesses that are democratically governed by the people who use them to meet their shared needs, co-ops offer an alternative vision for a more inclusive and sustainable economy that puts people and our collective future before profit. Recent research has suggested that the success of humankind is rooted in our ability to collaborate, to recognize our interdependence and that the best route to our own well-being is to work together for shared benefit. The modern co-operative movement, which emerged in response to industrial globalization, reflects diverse cultural traditions around the world, and an expression of the ideals of mutual self-help, participation, and sustainability.

In 1948, Minnesota was the first state to celebrate Co-op Month, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture issued the first national proclamation in October of 1964, reflecting

the importance of co-operatives to America's family farmers and rural communities. Since 1971, the National Co-operative Business Association (NCBA CLUSA) has continued this tradition, promoting co-operation as a model for inclusive economic development.

For example, farmer co-ops such as Organic Valley and Cabot Creamery Co-op play a key role in the survival of family dairy farms that contribute so much to the character of our region and the vitality of rural communities. More recently, Deep Root Organic Co-op, founded in 1985, has enabled a new generation of farmer-members to market fresh, organic produce across the Northeast and beyond.

A recent survey by the Neighboring Food Co-op Association (NFCA) found that grocery co-ops across New England and New York play a key role on supporting our regional economy, selling more than \$121 million in local products annually — or an amazing 25 percent of total sales. Taken together, the more than 40 food co-ops and start-ups of the NFCA are locally owned by 185,000 members and provide employment for more than 2,545 people, more than 60 percent of whom are also members, sharing in the ownership of their local grocery store.

Turn To **TIP TOP** page **A12**

Music students selected for major event

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER



Courtesy

LEICESTER — Several local student-musicians, including six from Leicester, were selected to march in the 2025 New Year's Day Rose Parade as part of the New England Honor Band.

The band includes student membership from David Prouty High School, Auburn High School, Leicester High School, and Millbury High School. The musicians are looking forward to ringing in the new year at a major annual parade in Pasadena, CA.

Also known as the Tournament of Roses Parade, the event will be viewed by audiences across the country.

"Being selected for the New England Honor Band has been an immense honor, from being able to participate in yet another band that shares a common love for the music we all have grown with," said Dakota Zinkevich, a junior at LHS who plays alto saxophone. "This band has already allowed me to meet students from all over New England, building connections with people I likely would have never known otherwise."

Turn To **MUSIC** page **A12**

Grassroots group present state officials with solar petition

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER — After collecting signatures from residents across the state concerned with ground-mounted commercial solar impacts, a local grassroots group recently delivered their petition to state officials.

Headed up by Spencer's Carol and Beth McPherson, the group has connected with residents from Cape Cod to the Pioneer Valley. On Sept. 17, after amassing 200 signatures during their petition drive, group leaders delivered copies to the Governor, the State Senate, and the State House of Representatives.

"The petition encourages siting of commercial solar arrays on roofs of large commercial buildings and brownfields. It also asks that control of these sitings stay in local communities," read a statement released by group leaders.

The 200 signers of the petition represent the following communities: Spencer, Tewksbury, Hyannis, Hopkinton, Millbury, Brookfield, Auburn, East Brookfield, Charlton, North Brookfield, Sturbridge, West Brookfield, Holden, Webster, Belchertown, New Braintree, Southbridge, Paxton, Brimfield, Chicopee, Warren, Wales, Worcester, Shrewsbury, Northbridge, and Leicester.

In her discussions with residents across the state, Carol McPherson saw many of her own concerns reflected by fellow Bay Staters. These include the effects of clear-cutting trees, which often occurs to make space for large-scale commercial solar sites.

"There is evidence that removal of large amounts of trees is one of the factors affecting climate change. A recent program pointed out that the forests in northern Maine are helping to maintain more favorable weather patterns in New England," McPherson said.

Beth McPherson also spoke with several residents alarmed by the effects of clear-cutting across Massachusetts in recent years. In their respective communities, petition signers reported experiencing or witnessing increased stormwater runoff; flooding of properties; water damage to homes; and destruction of wildlife habitats.

The McPhersons received reports of widespread negative impacts in the towns of Douglas, Sutton, and Plainfield.

In recent years, Spencer residents and officials have also voiced frustrations over the extensive large-scale solar activity in their town.

Spencer now has 23 approved large-scale, ground-mounted solar projects, with 21 having already been developed. A project on North Brookfield Road is in progress, and another project slated for Hillside Baptist Church was approved but has not yet begun.

"This has become a pattern of companies seeking to come into town, put up their solar projects without listening to residents' concerns, then move on to the next town," said Spencer Selectman Ralph Hicks in a prior interview. "This pattern is very concerning to me as a resident

Turn To **SOLAR** page **A12**

Several local music students are getting ready to take part in a major event.

Coast Guard offers boating safety certification course

WEBSTER — The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Tri-State Flotilla, Massachusetts will be instructing a one-day boating safety course at the Webster Fire Department, 55 Thompson Rd., Nov. 2 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. It is time to get your family's boating knowledge and skills ready for the waters and for required Massachusetts, Rhode Island, or Connecticut Certification.

This course was developed to provide the skills and confidence needed to explore the coast and inland waters; and the basic knowledge necessary to have safe, enjoyable boating experiences. This course is perfect for families that have just purchased any type of boat or are planning to in the future, including paddlecraft, and for the boater keeping up with changes to boating regulations and laws. Some marline-spike seamanship (knots etc.) will also be included, along with the new Rhode Island regulations. Successful completion of the course will certify any minor, from 12 to 16 years of age, to operate a powerboat, including a Personal Water Craft / Jet Ski (for 16 & 17-year-old operators), on Massachusetts waters; in con-

junction with the Mass. Environmental Police. Certification requirements for MA may be expanded in the future; approved by NASBLA this course covers requirements to operate a vessel in other states and many countries where boating safety education is mandatory; including RI and CT where it is required for all PWC operators and most boaters. Most boating insurance companies offer a discount on premiums for successful completion of this course. The Webster course is limited to 30 students; an additional course at this popular location may be scheduled with interest.

Register by Oct. 28, as space is limited!

The USCGAux. offers courses at no charge however there is a \$45 fee for the cost of materials including the Boat America textbook, handouts, and certification(s). Participants under the age of 16 must be accompanied in person by a registered parent/guardian.

Contact our Public Education Officer Phil Kubat for registration or additional information: email phil.uscgauz@verizon.net or call (508) 478-3778.

Leicester Senior Citizens Club announces final bus trips of 2024

LEICESTER — As we rapidly approach the holiday season, guests are invited to take advantage of the final two bus trips organized by the Leicester Senior Citizens Club.

On Nov. 8, a bus trip will take guests to the New England Christmas Festival at Mohegan Sun in Uncasville, CT. Shop over 300 pop-up shops full of handmade crafts and specialty foods. There is also access to the casino on site.

The cost of this trip is \$64 per person.

On Dec. 10, a bus will take guests to the Kennebunkport Christmas Prelude, a seaside holiday celebration in Maine. Lunch will be offered at Jonathan's Restaurant in Ogunquit (included in the trip).

The cost of this trip is \$88 per person.

All bus trips depart from the Leicester Senior Center (40 Winslow Ave.). Departure times are strictly enforced, so please arrive early for your trip.

Bus trips are open to all area residents.

Full payment is due two weeks before each trip's departure. Payment must be in the form of a check made payable to the "Leicester Senior Citizens Club."

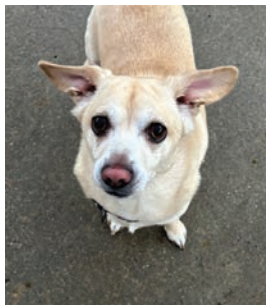
For more information about the trips, or to make a reservation, call trip coordinator David Wood at 508-330-1118.

P.E.T. of the Week

Sponsored by Leicester Veterinary Clinic, LLC

Meet Brownie!

Meet our next eligible bachelor, Brownie! He has been waiting for his forever home for quite sometime. He is looking for a special home where he can soak up all the love for himself, and he deserves it! Brownie does not like to share, and he is quite the ladies man. He is very loyal to his person, because of this he needs to go to a one person household. He is an easy going guy who likes to spend his days going on walks, doing some sunbathing outside, then coming in to enjoy some cuddles on the couch. If you're looking for a sweet boy who will be your most loyal sidekick your search is over!



Second Chance Animal Services

www.secondchanceanimals.org
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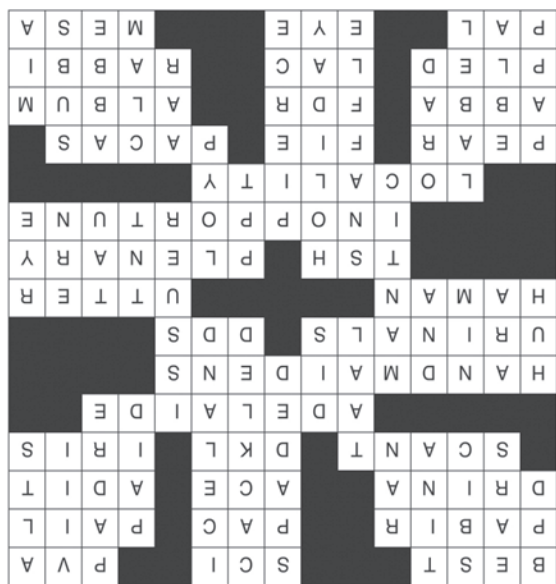
CLUES ACROSS

- Unequaled
- ___-fi (slang)
- Synthetic resin
- Chadic language Bura-___
- Influent come Election Day
- Bucket
- European river
- Earn a perfect score
- Horizontal passage
- Barely sufficient
- Dekaliter
- Goo Goo Dolls hit
- Australian city
- Female servants
- Plumbing fixtures
- Tooth caregiver
- Book of Esther antagonist
- Say aloud
- Thyrotrophic hormone
- Absolute
- Untimely
- Area or neighborhood
- Juicy fruit
- Expresses distaste, disapproval
- S. American rodents
- Swedish rock group
- Influent American president
- Volume
- Begged
- Resinlike substance secreted by certain lac insects
- Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- Good friend
- Body part
- Tableland

CLUES DOWN

- Barrels per day (abbr.)
- Body parts
- Invests in little enterprises
- Rock legend Turner
- Dug into
- Laughed
- Northern European nation
- San Diego ballplayer
- Eight
- Substitutes (abbr.)
- Moved swiftly on foot
- Compensated
- Volcano in the Philippines
- Speak ill of
- One who publishes
- Expression of bafflement
- Macaws
- Matchstick game
- We all have our own
- Divinatory
- Explosive
- Follows sigma
- Sea eagle
- Type of bread
- Bit used with a set of reins
- Time away from work
- Parts per thousand (abbr.)
- Lots on your plate (abbr.)
- Actor Brosnan
- It's part of packaging
- Towards the oral region
- Public Theater creator Joseph
- Ancient Syrian city
- Swiss river
- Mollusk
- A French abbot
- Hoagies
- Not present (slang)

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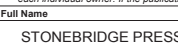
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Presentation pays tribute to Rachel Carson

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — “Everyone has the right to secure his or her home from intrusion of another’s poison.” That quote came from one of Rachel Carson’s last public appearances, testifying before Congress when she was deathly ill with cancer in 1964. But its message is still relevant, maybe even more so, now, and retired professor Ellen Duzak brought that message to a Southbridge Garden Club talk in Charlton last week.

Duzak said Carson’s message of humanity’s ecological interdependence with other species was a new and sometimes controversial one in that era. Carson grew up during the heyday of what was called the “natural studies movement” of the early 1900s, and was raised a reformist Presbyterian, with her family believing in “fixing nature.”

While her youthful education focused largely on what nature could do for humanity, “what she got from it was a biocentric idea.” Carson started expressing that in print with four articles in St Nicholas magazine, a quite popular media source then, before she graduated high school in 1925. They helped her get into what was then the Pennsylvania College for Women (now Chatham University) as an English major, where she was praised for her writing.

But one of her advisors saw her interest in biology, and pushed her in that direction instead, leading to a master’s in marine biology at Johns Hopkins despite the fact she’d “never seen the ocean.” That changed rapidly. Before long, eight weeks in the “completely equal” (in terms of male-female and student-scientist) atmosphere of Woods Hole Marine Biology Lab (MBL) set Carson on the path that would make her famous and connect her with “the elite” of world biologists in that era. As Duzak noted, Carson would later send “the best minds in the world” 10-15 letters a day for both friendly correspondence and scholarly research.

“She ends up finding her voice and who she is at the MBL,” she said.

Like most female scientists and other professionals of that era, Carson never married (women had to resign their jobs if they did). She got her feet wet professionally at the US Fisheries Division (now Fish & Wildlife) as one of the first two women hired there, writing “every pamphlet known to mankind.” Her boss and friend told her “the government doesn’t deserve this” and urged Carson to submit to the Atlantic. When she did, the magazine ran it with the comment that it would “fire the imagination of the layman.”

Reading it prompted publisher Simon & Schuster to ask Carson to write them a book, which became “Under the Sea-Wind.” Duzak said Carson wrote it on the Beaufort, N.C. seashore “because of the tides and

the full moon,” walking the beach at night with “a profound sense of awe.” Her mother helped as her secretary, typing Carson’s notes.

Upon publication, it got good reviews and “accolades,” but the timing was awful. It came out just before the US entered World War II in 1941, so it sold poorly.

Duzak noted that kind of luck seemed common for Carson – “Something wonderful happens, and something terrible, and she always makes her peace with it.” Part of that peace came from “creat[ing] an ecological social world as well as a professional world.” She had to juggle her research in various places, caring for mom, siblings, nieces and a nephew, activism in Audubon and more. Her journeys took her all over the nation, with favorite sites including Parker River on Cape Ann, Boothbay Harbor, ME, a visit to Georges Bank on the Albatross III, and even a brief dive in one of the era’s cumbersome diving suits at Key West.

They led to her second book “The Sea Around Us,” which Duzak described as expressing the ocean as “a web of life, an ecological whole” and advocating for protecting it. That book also won awards and became “a runaway best-seller” because “people are looking for some big answers.” A New York Times critic praised Carson as being “a physical scientist with literary genius.”

Success enabled Carson to quite the Fisheries service and devote time to

research and writing in 1952. Spending summers at Woods Hole and living in Southport, Maine, “she’s in seventh heaven,” Duzak said.

Over the next few years, Carson wrote “Edge of the Sea” (looking at how the coastline nurtures life), “A Sense of Wonder” (a child-focused book written largely for her nephew Roger) and Silent Spring (sparked by receiving letters about birds dying “as soon as they’re spraying”). Duzak noted the latter’s working title was “Man Against the Earth,” with “Silent Spring” as a chapter title, but friends said the original title would be seen as “ugly and toxic” and urged her not to publish.

Of course, that’s what it was about – the toxic effects of DDT. At that time, Duzak said, the common (chemical-company-promoted) idea was to kill all insects. When “Silent Spring” came out in 1962, Monsanto, DuPont, the USDA and others attacked her as “a communist and a subversive” and claimed “if you don’t spray, crops will die and everyone will starve.”

But Carson got support from various sources, including garden clubs, Sierra Club, President John Kennedy and Interior Secretary

Stuart Udall. Those led to Congressional hearings and a CBS-TV interview in her home when she was so sick she had to be “propped up.” It was seen by 15 million people.

The combination of those efforts led to DDT being banned, the Clean Air and Clean Water acts being passed, and the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency over the next several years. Subsequent decades have seen the discovery of other toxins with widespread ecological impact, including endocrine dis-

ruptors, PFAS and microplastics. Environmental concern has largely gone mainstream, but also faces renewed corporate pressure against regulations and Supreme Court decisions undermining EPA authority to do so.

Carson didn’t live long enough to see those happen, dying April 14, 1964. But, as Duzak concluded, “She’s still with us today, guys. She’s still with us.”

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

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Attention North Brookfield Water Users:

WATER MAIN FLUSHING

October 1ST 2024 through November 8th 2024
The North Brookfield Water Department will be flushing water mains throughout town beginning Tuesday, October 1st 2024 through Friday, November 8th 2024.
The purpose of the flushing is to remove sediment buildup in the mains. The flushing may result in temporary discoloration of the water, caused by small particles dislodged during the flushing. This discoloration might stain your laundry, especially white materials.
Flushing is performed between the hours of 7:30AM and 3:30PM. We post our daily flushing schedule on the North Brookfield Water Department Facebook page. If you would like additional information, please call the Water Department at (508) 867-0207.



PLOW DRIVERS

The Town of West Brookfield Highway Department is looking for part-time plow drivers
This is an on-call position. Duties require a background in light and heavy equipment operation. High School Diploma or G.E.D. is required or experience may be substituted. Snow plowing experience is preferred but not required
Must have a valid, clean MA Driver’s License and a DOT physical card. Starting pay is \$20.82/hour or \$23.85/hour with a Class B License with air brakes.
This position is not eligible for benefits. Alcohol, controlled substance and criminal background testing is mandatory.
Applications are available on the Town Website @ wbrookfield.com
Application deadline: Friday, November 1, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.
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Local fairs and festivals roll on

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — With Halloween and the holiday season quickly approaching, central Massachusetts residents are encouraged to check out local fairs, festivals, and programs this fall.

Whether you’re looking for Halloween decorations, Thanksgiving supplies, or Christmas gifts, area crafters, vendors, and event organizers have something for everyone.

In Brookfield, the 45th annual Apple Country Fair will take place on Saturday, Oct. 12, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event will bring thousands of guests to the Brookfield Town Common for a day of fun and festivities.

Highlights will include fundraisers; dozens of crafters; food trucks; and the famous apple pie contest.

“Fairgoers can browse and buy hand-knit sweaters and blankets, carved wooden bowls and décor, beaded jewelry, specialty soaps and lotions, hand-crafted toys, locally-produced honey, and more,” read a statement released by event organizers.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Brookfield Community Club, a charitable organization that awards grants to enrich community life.

To learn more about the festival and how you can get involved, visit www.applecountryfair.com.

Meanwhile, central Massachusetts officials urge residents to think local this shopping season and support vendors at area festivals. As we look deeper into the fall, additional craft fairs will take place

at Tantasqua Regional High School in Sturbridge (Nov. 9), Oxford High School (Dec. 7), and Auburn High School (Dec. 14).

Leicester High School will also host its holiday craft fair on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

An array of local church fairs, festivals, and other programs will also take place this fall season. Guests are invited to enjoy the seventh annual Pumpkin Patch organized by Sturbridge Federated Church.

Running from Sept. 28 through Oct. 31, the Pumpkin Patch will be located between Town Hall and Joshua Hyde Library in Sturbridge.

“Let everyone know the best place to get your autumn decorations is the Sturbridge Federated Church. Our high-quality pumpkins and gourds are grown by the Navajo Nation,” read a statement

released by organizers. “We also offer locally produced mums, hay bales, and cornstalks. Most of our proceeds support our ministries, including local and regional charities.”

Weather permitting, the hours of operation for the Pumpkin Patch are: Monday through Friday (10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.); Saturday (9 a.m. to 6 p.m.); and Sunday (11 a.m. to 6 p.m.).

Featured activities will include a pumpkin carving demonstration by a professional carver (Oct. 5); pumpkin stories for children (Oct. 12 and Oct. 26); Rock Voices singers; photos with a scarecrow (available daily); a corn hole toss activity (available daily); and pumpkin bowling (available daily).

For more information about this year’s Pumpkin Patch, please contact the church office at 774-304-1021. You may also visit www.sturfed.org.

For information on other local church events and activities, contact church leaders in your community.

NOTICE HYDRANT FLUSHING TOWN OF SPENCER

The Town of Spencer Water Department will be flushing fire hydrants throughout the eastern part of the distribution system starting September 30th thru October 31st 2024.
Flushing removes sediment from the water mains to help maintain water quality. When the Water Department staff is in the immediate area, residents could experience loss of pressure and short periods of rusty water. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause. A daily list of the flushing locations will be posted on the Spencer town website www.spencerma.gov each day by 8:00AM (click on Departments, then click Water Department, then click Hydrant Flushing 2024). If you have any concerns, please feel free to contact the Spencer Water Department office at 508-885-7525. Thank you.

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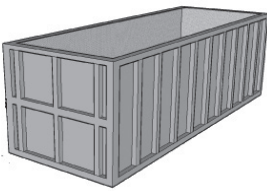
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QCC Foundation elects alum as new president

WORCESTER — The Quinsigamond Community College Foundation has elected its new president, Jorgo Gushi, QCC alum and technical account manager at MathWorks, a global company specializing in technical computing software for engineers and scientists. Gushi's nomination was approved by unanimous vote on Sept. 17, replacing former president Matthew Wally, vice president of Audit, Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) and Fair Lending at UniBank, who led the Foundation for two years.

"I am eager to raise awareness about the vital role community colleges play, particularly QCC," Gushi stated. "Returning to where my educational journey began is thrilling, and I am committed to supporting the college's mission of providing equitable education and preparing the local workforce. My achievements are deeply rooted in the foundation QCC provided me."

Gushi's journey with QCC began in 2018 after he moved to the United States from Albania, enrolling immediately after high school.

"Arriving in the U.S. alone to live with my Greek and Albanian-speaking grandparents, I balanced improving my English, attending college, and caring for them while working part-time. I want to inspire others

to understand that dedication and hard work can lead to significant accomplishments," Gushi shared.

Despite these challenges and the need to adapt to a new culture, Gushi fully embraced and participated in college life. In 2019, he was elected as president of the QCC Student Government Association and chair of the statewide Student Advisory Council (SAC) to the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education, a role he held for three years. During his tenure, he worked to advance open educational resources and championed a successful campaign that changed a state law, which now allows part-time students to run for student trustee positions.

After his time at QCC, Gushi pursued further education at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), where he earned both a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Electrical and Computer Engineering.

In 2022, Gushi received official citations from the Office of the Governor, the Massachusetts State Senate and the Massachusetts House of Representatives for his contribution to advancing public higher education. The same year, Gushi also received a GOLD award, given to 10 outstanding WPI graduates from the previous 10 years.

"Jorgo is going to be fantastic. Being an alum puts him in a very strong position to share the experience that students are going through," Wally said.

Under Wally's leadership, the Foundation offered various support to QCC students, faculty and staff through direct student scholarships, funding for special academic projects and investments in the HomePlate Food Pantry & Resource Center, which will continue under Gushi's leadership.

"It's been an honor to serve. The benefits that I received from being part of the Foundation are ten-fold what I've given. I run into QCC alumni weekly and see the quality of graduates who are contributing to the economic vitality of greater Worcester," Wally said, adding, "The other Foundation directors and the QCC staff and faculty are so committed to the mission. Without them, QCC wouldn't be as strong as it is today."

Other changes in the QCC Foundation include the nomination and election of Diane Giampa, chief community engagement officer at Bay State Savings Bank, who will serve as the new clerk. Giampa has been a board member since 2019, spearheading multiple efforts to recruit and engage new and current directors.

The mission of the

QCC Foundation is to raise funds and provide the resources to support the college in advancing educational and economic opportunities in Central Massachusetts, make impactful community connections and create and expand on initiatives to ensure students have a successful academic experience.

Worcester Regional Transit Authority celebrates 50th anniversary

WORCESTER — The Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA) is excited to announce the celebration of its 50th Anniversary, marking five decades of providing reliable, accessible, and affordable transportation services to 37 communities in Central Massachusetts.

WRTA will host two special events on Thursday, Sept. 26 to commemorate this significant milestone. The first celebration, exclusively for Advisory Board members and invited guests, will take place at the WRTA Maintenance & Operations Facility at 11 a.m. Later in the day, a Rider Appreciation Event will be held at 2 p.m. at the WRTA Central Hub, located at 60 Foster St.

The 50th Anniversary celebration will feature remarks from local officials, transportation leaders, and community advocates. Keynote speakers will reflect on WRTA's evolution from its founding in 1974 to becoming the central transportation network in the region. The events will also showcase a special 1974-themed wrapped bus, celebrating WRTA's history and contributions to the community.

As part of the 50th Anniversary festivities, WRTA invites the community to a Rider Appreciation Event at the Central Hub. The event will include a tour of the 50th Anniversary themed bus, giveaways, and opportunities for riders to engage directly with WRTA staff. This celebration highlights the critical role riders have played in WRTA's growth and success over the years.

Since its incorporation in 1974, WRTA has been instrumental in connecting Central Massachusetts residents to jobs, schools, medical facilities, and essential services. Over the last 50 years, WRTA has grown into a vital network that serves thousands of riders daily. The organization has continually adapted to meet the evolving needs of the community and remains committed to improving service quality.

As WRTA looks toward the future, it will continue to embrace technological advancements, enhance service offerings, and promote more sustainable transit solutions.

"These events are about saying 'thank you' to our riders, contractors, members of our Advisory Board and community partners," said Administrator Josh Rickman. "For 50 years, they have been the driving force behind everything we do. They are all at the heart of our operations, and this anniversary is the perfect time to celebrate their continued trust and support."



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Remembering “the two most powerful words: I am...”

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

WEBSTER — When you run into Scott Maloney, it sure doesn't look like he's dead.

But for a while 20 years ago, he was.

One night in September 2004, while a senior at Worcester's Becker College, Maloney did what college kids often do — went out drinking. When he came home that night, he found he'd locked his room keys inside, and thought he could climb in by way of the window.

He didn't make it.

“Every parent's worst nightmare is receiving that phone call,” Maloney said of that night. “That call” was from the hospital telling his parents to come to the ER, where they were “told to say goodbye.”

He'd fallen four stories and landed on his head, leaving him officially brain dead at age 21.

But the doctors gave him long emergency surgery, and Maloney spent “weeks in a coma, months in a semi-coma,” and even longer recovering the ability to talk, walk and perform other basic functions. He described that period as “the biggest challenges I've ever

encountered.”

Traumatic brain injuries (TBI) are extremely widespread, but seriously undercounted. According to the National Institutes of Health Web site (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK580076/>), multiple studies have found a huge range of TBI frequency, often due to the lack of consistent recording systems in various countries and the fact many minor TBIs never get diagnosed. One study from 2019 “estimated a TBI incidence of 939 per 100,000 population [globally], which included 55.9 million mild and 5.48 million severe TBIs annually. These estimates are far higher than any other global estimates, yet are unlikely to include falsely identified cases of people with TBI, and therefore provide some idea of the extent of TBI undercounting.”

In the US, the Centers for Disease Control started tracking TBIs in 1989, that page states. “The center's most recent report provides information on TBI mortality in 2017, including an estimated 61,131 TBI deaths,” the site states. “...Throughout this period, TBI death rates were significantly higher for males than for



Scott Maloney

females and were higher for American Indian/Alaska Native people than for other reported racial/ethnic groups. The leading causes of TBI death included motor vehicle crashes, falls, suicide, and homicide.” That same year also saw just under 224,000 TBI hospi-

talizations.

Of the total, 48 percent came from falls, as Maloney's did. The NIH data show a general trend of growing frequency as people get older, with a huge jump for those age 75-plus. (The lowest risks were for ages 5-14.)

“I realized I could

either get better or get bitter,” he recalled to a small audience at Gladys Kelly Library last week.

A big part of recovery for him was being “blessed with the ability to motivate myself” and having a “great support system” in his family.

Today, Maloney brings his experience to audiences in various forms as an effort to remind people to remember “you don't got to, you get to” do the basic tasks of life, something he almost didn't get the chance to do. The core message was to remember “the two most powerful words” — “I am...”

“The words you follow that with will dictate your future,” he said, encouraging the audience to repeat after him positive thoughts about themselves. Many people experiencing loss (of personal skills, loved ones or many other things) tend to go down “a rabbit hole” of negative thinking, sometimes including suicidal thoughts. Maloney noted that's “a permanent solution to a temporary situation.”

“If you see me, hear me, or feel my energy, you're still in the game.”

Instead of going that way, “don't water the weeds, fertilize the flowers,” he said. “... The best

way to fix problems” is to help others.

That can be as basic as approaching them with a smile. “There are over 7,000 languages, and a smile speaks them all,” he said.

Recovery, though, also requires personal discipline, because “it's going to be harder before it gets easier,” he learned. “... If you truly want something that's realistically attainable and you don't have discipline, you will feel regret.”

He credited his brother for pushing him to recover — sometimes literally, as in pushing his wheelchair into the YMCA pool for therapy sessions.

In Maloney's case, those trials have included PTSD and daily seizures, multiple medications, and other “consequences you can't charm your way out of,” he said. One of them was a total change of career — he's now a TV reporter and speaker, but in high school and college, he wanted to be a cop.

“I've talked in many places, but I've never met the doctor who saved my life,” he noted.

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

Spencer Cultural Council now accepting applications

SPENCER — The largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, the Local Cultural Council (LCC) Program enriches the cultural life of all cities and towns in Massachusetts. Led by municipally appointed volunteers, LCCs award \$7.5 million every year, supporting 7,500 cultural programs that include everything from field trips to lectures, festivals, and dance performances.

The Spencer Cultural Council grant cycle is now open (closes Oct. 16). This is a very easy grant to apply for. Grants are awarded/denied by Jan. 1, 2025. The grants need to be completed by Dec. 31, 2025. Grants are reimbursed to grantees when paperwork is submitted after the program. For questions contact Denise at dfarmosa@cwmar.org. The online application can be found at <https://massculturalcouncil.org/communities/local-cultural-council-program/application-process/>.

Who is eligible to

apply for an LCC grant?

Applicants must reside or be located in Massachusetts. Local Cultural Councils may accept applications from anyone included in the list below:

Individuals. Individual applicants must show that a public benefit results from the project for which they are applying.

Incorporated private nonprofit organizations.

Unincorporated associations that can establish a nonprofit objective.

For-profit organizations whose application demonstrates public benefit.

A group of individuals coming together with a common purpose (e.g., local community band, theater group) that do not have nonprofit status.

Public schools, libraries, other municipal agencies, and the Local Cultural Council itself.

Religious orga-

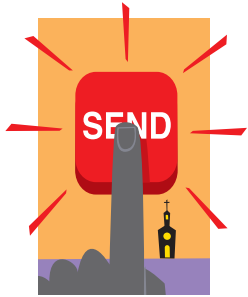
nizations. Religious organizations or groups with a religious affiliation are eligible to apply for funding for a project or program that: Is available to the general public. Has the purpose of benefiting the public, not the religious organization. LCCs cannot fund activities that are “inherently religious” such as religious worship, instruction, and proselytization.

The Mass Cultural Council is extremely appreciative of the efforts made by Local Cultural Council members in ensuring public access to culture in our communities. LCCs and their grant recipients are vital partners in our attempt to raise awareness about public funding for arts and culture in Massachusetts, both in the Legislature and with the public. The Spencer Cultural Council is a local agency funded by Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

*Staying
united after
the election:
A call to
remember
what matters
most*

Once the dust settles after the upcoming presidential election, it's important for all of us—no matter who we voted for—to remember that we are still neighbors, friends, and family. Elections have the power to highlight our differences, but they don't change the core of what really makes us a community. When the votes are counted and the debates subside, we must find our way back to what binds us: a shared commitment to the well-being of our families, our neighborhoods, and the place we call home.

While political divisions can feel sharp and personal, especially in today's climate, it's essential to remember that the most meaningful connections in our lives aren't determined by a vote. The person who will lend you a cup of sugar, help you shovel your driveway, or cheer for your kid's team on a chilly Saturday morning is your neighbor—not just a political identity. Whether we find ourselves celebrating or disappointed by the election's outcome, the morning after still requires us to move forward—together.

Our communities are built on cooperation and common ground, regardless of who holds office. We rely on each other in ways that go beyond politics. Schools still need teachers, businesses still need customers, and we all still need that feeling of connection with those around us. The conversations we have at the local coffee shop, at school pick-ups, or during community events are what truly shape the fabric of our daily lives. These moments, not political debates, are what sustain us.

This is not to say that the issues at stake in elections don't matter—they absolutely do. We must continue to advocate for what we believe in, speak our minds, and hold our leaders accountable. But it's also vital that we don't let the divisions of the political arena spill over into the personal relationships that hold our communities together. After all, when the election is over, we still share the same streets, parks, and grocery stores.

So, how do we move forward? First, by listening. Let's take the time to really hear one another, even when we disagree. Let's focus on finding common ground—there's often more of it than we realize. Whether it's addressing local issues, supporting a neighbor in need, or simply being kind to one another, we can all contribute to the healing and rebuilding process that follows every election.

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

Food for thought

To the Editor:

I, like so many Americans, am not thrilled with either of our presidential candidates. However, we must vote for the candidate that will better our country and fight for what is right.

If you vote for Harris and she doesn't meet your expectations, you can vote her out in four years. Democracy!

If you vote for Trump, you may be stuck with him forever, as he has stated many times that he wants to be a dictator and run this country like Putin, Kim Jong-un and Victor Orban. Dictatorship!

Think about it.

NOREEN FERNANDES
WEST BROOKFIELD

Happy Birthday wishes

To the Editor:

This poem is dedicated to the people who never get a birthday card or a birthday call.

Happy Birthday special one
On your birthday, hope you have some fun
As balloons turn, twist, and float in the air
My wishes for you today are special because I care
It's a fact, thinking about you during the year
Gives me a desire and energy to give you a loud cheer

You always greet people with a bright smile,
Handshake that is firm
There are so many good things about you we could all learn
Continue to go for the "Gold"
Have faith, you are never too old
On your special day, we have many birthday wishes
You deserve all the good things in life, that enriches

DONALD L. GAUDETTE, SR.
SOUTH HADLEY
(Formerly of Brookfield)

Sense and sensibility

To the Editor:

Under the Progressive Biden/Harris last four years, they have spent \$113 billion of your tax money on the Obama started Ukraine war. If you're a farmer in Ukraine, do you care if you have Zelenskyy or Putin as the head of your government? Of course not! They are going to tax and rule over you the same while you just try to live your life farming. Instead, for the last four years, we have seen incessant bombing, destruction, and killing all in the name of power. What is the end result? A country destroyed and thousands of poor people dead. Those at the top with the power on both sides being enriched in their bank accounts. What is the end game for the people?

In Haiti, we see a government overthrown by militias and thugs. A people thrown in total chaos. Why hasn't the Biden/Harris administration sent in peace keeping forces to help the poor people getting preyed upon? Wouldn't it be a better use of our \$113 billion to build a country instead of destroying one? Instead of destroying a country and people like Ukraine, why not save and build up a country like Haiti. Why hasn't the immigration Czar Kamala proposed this? Instead of fixing their homeland the Harris answer for countries like Haiti is to ship the people over to the US suburbs and burden the poor people of the USA. Is that what the citizens of our country want our tax dollars to be used for? Do you trust Kamala to be the solution?

It's time to open your eyes to reality. The Progressive Dems party plan is to

purposely creates chaos. When these happens, they can institute emergency solutions that eliminate an individual or a community right. It's a path to power and control. A path to destroy Democracy and instead have a socialist style government where you get to vote in a free election. The only problem is they will only give you the choice of voting for one person. Is that the kind of future you dream your children have?

It's time to bring common sense and sensibility back to our lives. Trump will broker peace in the Ukraine. Trump will demand the countries that are sending these illegals here take them back and provide for their citizens. We provide millions of dollars of aid to these countries. He will send our US forces in to build refugee camps in their countries and set up business zones there for companies to provide work. Instead of our aid being funneled to the dictators, Trump will make sure its building their countries up to support them where they were borne and call home. That's the way a smart a businessperson solves the migrant crisis. Kamala will just keep dumping them in your neighborhoods. Vote this fall for the sensible solution. Vote Trump in 2024. Those socialists that write letters that support Kamala and are concerned with the illegals can go volunteer to help set up in the refugee camps. Do your part to make their lives better and do something useful in your life!

MARK ROBILLARD
SPENCER

Massachusetts Ballot Question 1: State auditor's
authority to audit the legislature, etc.

To the Editor:

In the upcoming November election voters will have a chance to vote for or against five Ballot Questions.

The first ballot question almost without doubt ranks as the most important.

Brief summaries of the question, summary, what your yes vote will do, statement of fiscal consequences and the argument in favor follows.

"SUMMARY: A YES Vote would specify that the State Auditor has the authority to audit the legislature

"STATEMENT OF FISCAL CONSEQUENCES: The proposal has no discernable material fiscal consequences for state and municipal government consequences

"ARGUMENTS: IN FAVOR A YES vote expressly authorizes the State Auditor to audit the Massachusetts Legislature.

"The State Auditor is independently elected by the people of Massachusetts to audit every state entity to help make the government work better The State Legislature is the only state entity refusing to be audited by the State Auditor's office. Legislative leaders claim it is sufficient for the Legislature to conduct audits of itself through a procured private vendor. However, the Massachusetts legislature is continuously ranked as one of the least effective, least transparent legislatures in America and is one of only four legislatures that exempts itself from public record laws.

"Support for this initiative will help the state Auditor's office shine a bright light on how taxpayer dollars are spent to help increase transparency, accountability and accessibility the people of Massachusetts."

(Readers can find the full brief for Ballot Question 1 in the red colored Ballot Question Information for Voters booklet in the mailed copy or on-line.)

The leadership of the Ultra Democratic controlled State Legislature has strongly opposed this outside their control Audit proposal and other similar efforts. They want to hide their in-house shenanigans and possible crimes from voters and legal authority's eyes. This outside audit proposal, originally put forward by a knowledgeable former Democratic legislator stands as a big step in the right direction.

Regarding last week's "Taylor Swift is talented but unformed" letter:

My reading of Ms. Swift's endorsement of the nominated Kamala Harris - Doug Walz for President ticket indicates that whether you agree or not stands as a well-informed opinion. Likewise, many other billionaires endorse the Harris -Walz ticket.

Further, this female written letter says "But as is often the case with female voters, they have often no clue about policy, they choose their candidates based on gender." No evidence of this is presented.

Women do favor the Harris - Walz ticket by a large and increasing margin. I see at least two policy and personal reasons.

First, they understand who Donald Trump is and how his personal actions and "policies" have affected women. Read for example, why former conservative Republican ranking member of Congress Liz Chaney why she will vote for Harris-Walz, as will her father former Vice President Dick Chaney.

Then remember that the moderately liberal policies that Harris -Walz propose appear are similar to those selected and enacted the last seven (male) Democratic Presidents and their male and female administrations.

KEVIN KANE
SPENCER

What can
insurance
do for you?

It's probably not on your calendar, but



September is Life Insurance Awareness Month. And it's indeed a pretty good idea to be aware of what life insurance can do for you.

Life insurance can help you in two main ways. First, life insurance policies offer a death benefit that can assist your family if you're no longer around. And second, some types of life insurance offer the chance to build cash value, which can work for you during your lifetime.

Let's look at the death benefit first. If something were to happen to you, your life insurance proceeds could help your family meet at least three major needs:

Paying a mortgage - The biggest expense many families face is their monthly mortgage. If you weren't around, could your family continue paying the mortgage? Or would they have to move? With a sufficient life insurance death benefit, they could remain in their home, meeting the monthly mortgage payments, or perhaps pay off the loan entirely (although this might not be in their best financial interest).

Paying for education - If you have young children, you may already be saving for their college education - because you know college is expensive. Without your income, would college, or some other form of post-secondary education or training, still be realistic? Again, the proceeds from an insurance policy could make the difference.

Paying off debts - You might have a car loan, credit card debt or other financial obligations. If your surviving spouse is a joint account holder for these debts, they could still be liable for paying them off. But insurance proceeds could be used to retire the debts immediately, or over time.

All life insurance policies offer a death benefit. But permanent insurance, unlike term insurance, also offers the chance to build cash value - which can be a valuable supplement to your IRA and 401(k) or other retirement accounts.

A cash value policy such as whole life also can provide flexibility for changing financial needs or emergencies in retirement. And here's another key advantage: Because this type of policy provides fixed, guaranteed returns, it is not dependent on the performance of the financial markets and is thus insulated from the market downturns that can happen while you're retired. So, taking money from the cash value of your whole life policy may help you avoid selling investments that have temporarily declined in value.

Keep in mind, though, that the premiums for a cash value policy will generally be substantially higher than those for term insurance. That's why some people choose to "buy term and invest the difference" rather than purchase a permanent life policy with cash value. Whether this strategy is right for you depends on a few different factors, perhaps the most important of which is your ability and willingness to consistently invest the money you would have otherwise placed in a cash value policy.

In any case, should you choose cash value insurance, you generally have three ways to get at the money: withdrawals, loans or surrender of the policy. You'll want to weigh all the factors involved - including taxes and the effect on the policy's death benefit - when deciding on how to access the cash value.

Life Insurance Awareness Month ends on Sept. 30. But your need for life insurance, and the potential benefits it provides, can last a lifetime.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

There is only one reason Democrats oppose voter ID requirements

To the Editor:

Do you need to buy an airline ticket, book a hotel room, reserve a rental car? Without a valid ID, you will be holed up at home!

If you look younger than 40, you need an ID to purchase alcohol and cigarettes. Some events/ venues require wristbands that confirm IDs were checked.

All banking transactions, from cashing a check to setting up a savings/checking account to applying for a loan/mortgage require identification.

How do I get a fishing license, a hunting license, a firearms license, a driver's license, a construction supervisors license, a hoisting license, a marriage license? I need a photo ID.

Try adopting a pet! You need to fill out volumes of paperwork that includes name, address, SSN, IRS filings, next of kin, food in the fridge and varmints in the yard!

To be eligible to adopt a child in Massachusetts, you need to be a Massachusetts resident 18 years of age or older, have a stable source of income, rent or own a home that meets DCF's home safety standards and pass a background check thus valid identification is mandatory.

A visit to a doctor requires registration with a valid ID then repeating your date of birth to every person that speaks to you. A visit to a hospital requires a wristband ID and repetition of your date of birth to every person that speaks to you.

Do you need food stamps or welfare benefits? Be prepared to show ID.

Applications for jobs and unemployment benefits require valid identification to start the process.

Casino patrons must have a state driver's license, a military ID, or a valid passport to gain physical access to gaming floors.

Is it possible to pick up your prescription without ID? What about donating blood? Can anyone donate blood anonymously? not!

What if your cell phone lands at the bottom of the lake or if you need to call the cable company to scream about your bill? No ID equals no progress!

So how can requiring a valid identification to vote be racist? It's obviously not!

Democrats don't want valid identification as a prerequisite to vote because valid identification prevents fraud, theft and other criminal activities and safeguards the revenues and reputations of those providing the sales or service.

JEN GAUCHER
SPENCER

I plan to vote for freedom

To the Editor:

I was so glad to read your Editorial, "Sanity Over Chaos," in last week's Spencer New Leader. It says all that everyone should know in order to vote well this coming Nov. 5.

In my view, unfortunately, Trump and his MAGA Republicans have been pretty strong in planning an authoritarian/oligarchy rule for our country, eliminating our Democratic Republic and our freedoms under our Constitution. I have heard and read from reliable news sources that in the MAGA Republicans Project 2025 manual, it explains how and where our loss of freedoms will take place under a Trump leadership.

I will be thinking about all the freedoms that we enjoy and old ones to be restored when I vote for our next President on Nov. 5.

CAROL J. (LUCAS) RIZZO
SPENCER

Tips for Planting Bulbs this Season



TAKE THE HINT
KAREN TRAINOR

drained soil is a requisite for flower bulbs. If you have poor soil, raised flower beds may be an effective alternative.

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

For an interesting mix, merge short plants with tall specimens to give variety and depth as well as differing textures. And don't underestimate the power of fragrance. Nothing is more delightful than a pathway of floral scents welcoming visitors to your door! You should also decide if you want to plan out every aspect of planting a semi formal garden, or if you choose instead to toss convention and bulbs to the wind, planting bulbs the natural way, thus creating a natural sprinkling of blooms. Scaling plants to the bed is another important factor when plotting your plan.

A simple rule to follow is to keep in mind the tallest plant in an island flower bed should have a mature height that is equal to about half the width of the bed. Place these plants in the center, so they can be viewed from all sides. Also remember to take into account plants that grow and expand quickly.

Color is another major consideration when planting your bulbs. If you want your garden to be a showcase all season, select a variety of bulbs that flower during early, middle and late spring and summer for a continuous burst of color. Just as in the home, in the garden bed cool colors seem to recede and warm colors appear to come forward. To make a small garden area appear larger and more spacious, plant flowers in cool, light colors. As a general rule white goes a long way in a garden bed, but if you use a lot of white flowers in an area, consider adding a dramatic splash of bright red or bright pink or purple for visual contrast. And, remember, if you are growing flowers to cut and bring the blooms indoors, choose colors that will go with the decor of your home, as well as harmonize with one another in the garden. Gardens, in fact, are often planned around color. The ambiance of your outdoor living space is determined by color and your choices decide whether your garden flowers contrast or complement each other which can result in either a subtle hue of color or a spectacular show of brilliant blooms. For a bright, showy garden, eye catching bright reds, yellows, purples and whites take center stage in a flower bed. Such contrasting colors can be often be achieved with little effort simply by matching up opposite colors on the standard color wheel.

Planting Prep: Planting time varies depending on location, but here in the Northeast it ranges from September until as long as the soil can be worked, usually around the end of October.

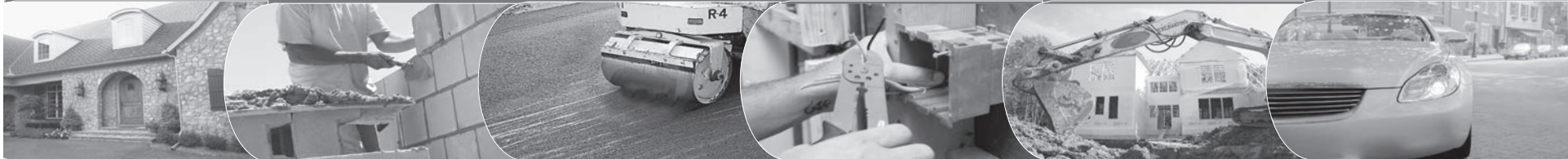
Prepare your bed by making sure soil is properly fertilized. Be sure to dig out the soil to the proper depth. Loosen the soil and if you choose, add a bulb booster to the soil. Bulbs should be planted with pointed side up. Place them firmly, yet gently, into the ground. Cover the bulbs loosely with soil,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

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month (or whenever 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 E-mail KDRR@aol.com. Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn.

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Sheriff’s Office earns re-accreditation from American Correctional Association



Worcester County Sheriff Lewis Evangelidis (pictured center) recently announced a major accomplishment for his office.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — The Worcester County Sheriff’s Office (WCSO) has now completed all requirements for re-accreditation through the American Correctional Association. Worcester County Sheriff Lewis Evangelidis recently announced that his department received a compliance score of

98.7 percent for its re-accreditation process. For more than 150 years, the American Correctional Association (ACA) has promoted correctional effectiveness on a national level. The organization serves all individuals and groups, both public and private, that share a common goal of improving the justice system. In April, the Worcester

County Jail and House of Correction hosted a panel of ACA auditors who evaluated the facility on over 420 standards. These include inmate safety, healthcare, mental health resources, education, programming, officer training, staff safety, and facility administration. “In an exit interview with on-site ACA auditors and WCSO adminis-

trative staff, the auditors praised the work of the Sheriff’s Office,” read a statement released by the WCSO. “The auditors mentioned that they regularly evaluate correctional facilities across the nation, but have seen few institutions that operate at the level of the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office.” For Evangelidis and his team, the results are a testament to strong training, a dedicated staff, and a daily commitment to safety and high-quality services. “The auditors’ comments strongly affirmed the excellent quality of the work our staff does,” Evangelidis said. “It is incredibly valuable to receive such a high level of praise from the ACA auditors, especially considering their extensive careers in corrections and experience visiting correctional facilities.

Their feedback is not only important to hear, but also serves as a great source of motivation for us to continue our work.” Correctional institutions accredited by the ACA must be re-accredited every three years to maintain their accreditation status. The Worcester County Sheriff’s Office has maintained its status since its initial accreditation in 2008, but the review process was far more challenging for the WCSO during that early period prior to the current Sheriff’s arrival. “When I took office in 2011, my administration inherited one of the oldest facilities in the state,” added Evangelidis. “Initially, we faced significant challenges that jeopardized re-accreditation. Meeting ACA standards became a top priority for my administrative team. Striving to meet all standards has set our

facility up for long-term success.” Even though Massachusetts does not mandate an audit of its correctional facilities by the ACA, Evangelidis and his team welcome the regular reviews of their facility. “It is important that we are held to the highest standards of care, custody, and control of the inmate population,” Evangelidis said. “We also want to ensure a high level of professionalism and training across all staffing groups. The employees of the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office play a crucial role in the overall safety and well-being of the residents of Worcester County. Thank you to the hardworking WCSO staff who strive every day to improve our communities.”

Bay Path Nursing students complete adult mental health First Aid training



Pictured — Far left, standing: Jammie Glenn with members of the Bay Path PN Class of 2025.

C H A R L T O N — Research states that the overall suicide rate in the US has increased by 35 percent since 1999, and suicide is the 10th leading cause of death overall in the US. September is National Suicide Prevention Month and Bay Path practical nursing (PN) students are doing their share in learning. The PN class of 2025 learned the signs of suicide to prevent home or workplace-based tragedy. Some members of the PN Class of 2025 completed the Blended Adult Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training lead by Jammie Glenn, Project Director of the Shrewsbury Youth and Family Services, Inc. (www.SYFS-MA.org). The six-hour curriculum, completed in one full professional development day, gives the participant a three-year certification upon completion. Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN

Academy Director at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy has been working with the Shrewsbury Youth and Family Services for the PN students MHFA training for over five years. “We are blessed to have Jammie Glenn, the Project Director and the Shrewsbury Youth and Family Services for their continued provision of the MHFA training for the PN students!” said Bolandrina. “It is important for our future nurses to have the skills and knowledge to identify and respond to signs of mental disorders and how to provide initial help and support,” Bolandrina added. MHFA trained individuals may assist someone experiencing a mental health or substance use-related crisis. In the MHFA course, the PN students learned risk factors and warning signs for mental health and addiction concerns, strategies for how to help in crisis

and non-crisis situations and well as where to turn for help for both adult and youth. Topics covered include depression, mood disorders, anxiety, trauma, psychosis, and substance use disorders. Participants learned how to apply the MHFA action plan in situations when someone is experiencing panic attacks, suicidal thoughts of behaviors, non-suicidal self-injury, acute psychosis (hallucinations or delusions), overdose or withdrawal from alcohol or drug use, and reactions to a traumatic event. “Providing education to the PN students and supporting them so they’re in the best state of mind for their nursing journey is a wonderful tie-in,” Bolandrina said. The feedback on the MHFA training remains positive. We continue to engage in conversation, education, and breaking the stigma of mental health disorders.

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Public invited to open house at Spencer Fire Department

SPENCER — The fire department invites local residents and families to attend its annual open house, which always features a packed schedule of activities and displays. This year’s open house will take place on Sunday, Oct. 6, from 8 a.m. until noon at the fire station (11 West Main Street). Highlights will include a bake sale; a fire safety information table; visits from Smokey Bear and Sparky the Fire Dog; and a demonstration by Remy, the ATF and State Police Ignitable liquid-sniffing canine. Guests will also get to see a demonstration of the SFD’s lifesaving rescue tools at work, as firefighters showcase how they cut apart vehicles during rescue operations. Additionally, a Life-Flight helicopter is scheduled to land on site, and guests will also enjoy a free pancake breakfast. The event is a great way for kids and families to meet their first responders and see fire trucks on display. Several other emergency vehicles will also be featured. The program is free to the public.

Class of 2025 student representatives elected at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy!



CHARLTON — New student representatives to the Bay Path RVTHS Practical Nursing Academy PN Class of 2025 were elected recently and began their term this fall.

Practical nursing students Julie Peloquin and Delene Sarsfield were voted as student representatives for the PN class of 2025. The student representatives are an important part of the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Faculty Organization (PNFO). Their main responsibility is to be a link between Practical Nursing faculty, staff, and the students, and to contribute to Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy activities and projects. Peloquin and Sarsfield represented the students of the PN Class of 2025 on the advisory board and steering committee meeting held on Sept. 24.

Student representatives are responsible for attending the PNFO meetings, where they serve as non-voting members. The student representatives speak on behalf of the student body and report on topics they want to bring to the PNFO's attention. The student representatives are also invited to attend the spring Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for in the Spring, March 2025.

"One of the goals of the student representative role is to continue to advocate for governance by increasing awareness of student's role in governance," said Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN, Ed, RN, CRRN Academy Director.

The student representatives will work together towards feedback on topics on the PNFO agenda.

"The topics that go into the agenda are ones that resonate with the student body, these are very unifying topics, and are all in congruence with regulatory and accreditation requirements for BORN (Board of Registration in Nursing), COE (Council on Occupational Education), and ACEN (Accreditation Commission

for Education in Nursing)," Bolandrina said.

Peloquin of Southbridge is with the Department of Developmental Services as DSW II, providing direct care in a group residential setting for individuals with developmental, physical, and mental disabilities. As DSW II, she acts as shift supervisor and guide staff in care and operation of the shift. She mediates issues and handles scheduling/house duties as necessary. Peloquin is a graduate of Southbridge High School (2004) where she was active in Show Choir, Drama Club, Chess Club (Vice President), and School to Career Program. Her project was with Dystopia Rising Massachusetts- setting guide. From 2015-2020 she studied at Worcester State University majoring in Psychology. She took four semesters of French (fluent in conversational French) and various visual/fine arts courses.

Sarsfield of Charlton is a multi-faceted, efficient, ethical, motivated, and reliable Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA). She has over 15 years of centered-based patient care and customer service experience. She is employed at CareOne at Millbury as a CNA (since 2019) and was with Sterling Village at Sterling from 2008 to 2019. She graduated from the Holy Name Central Catholic Jr./Sr. High School in Worcester (2005). Sarsfield's long-term goal is to complete her practical nursing education, become an LPN (Licensed Practical Nurse), and bridge into an RN (Registered Nurse) program with her field of interest-hospice and palliative care nursing. She is a 2024 PCE (Program for Continuing Education) Grant recipient from P.E.O. International (Philanthropic Educational Organization, www.peointernational.org) Sarsfield was also newly elected as an officer of the UNICEF Club.

Both Peloquin and Sarsfield have a valid Health Care Provider/ Basic Life Support Provider CPR, Dementia Care Certified, and Mental Health First Aid Certified. Student representatives will bring student issues up, participate in governance, and focus on not just current students but may include alumni and possibly incoming students in conversations and activities.

Spencer police will sport updated uniforms this fall

SPENCER — Along with the changing of the seasons, the Spencer Police Department also has some exciting changes to announce this fall.

"We are proud to announce that our officers will be sporting a new look. Chief Michael Befford, in collaboration with an internal uniform committee, has introduced updated uniforms to better serve our community," read a statement released by the SPD.

Spencer Police officers are now wearing a new police patch that celebrates history and quality of service.

"This new patch incorporates our town seal, which features our historic Town Hall," the SPD statement read. "Along with the updated patch, officers will be wearing new pants and duty belts designed to better distribute weight and reduce tension on our officers while they serve. These changes enhance both comfort and performance, allowing us to be at our best for the community."

Residents are also reminded to be on the lookout for new SPD pink patches for sale.

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Octoberfest returns to Town House this weekend

NORTHBROOKFIELD — The Friends of the North Brookfield Town House will hold their annual Octoberfest this weekend.

The event is set for Sunday, Sept. 29, from noon to 4 p.m. at Common Ground Cider Works (31 East Brookfield Rd.).

The program will include vendors offering a variety of goods; music provided by the Dee Gees and Mama Mia Mania; and North Brookfield's own Tabby LeBlanc playing music throughout the day.

Raffle prizes will also be available, including a three-day vacation package to Misty Harbor Resort in Wells, Maine; a family pass to Old Sturbridge Village; a wine tasting at Hardwick Winery; and a gift card from Salem Cross Inn, among others.

Common Ground Cider Works will offer German food and desserts. The event will also include games and activities for the whole family.

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OBITUARIES

Beverly A. Arnesen, 85



West Brookfield – Beverly A. (Dorman) Arnesen, 85, of West Brookfield, died on Tuesday, September 10, 2024, in Quaboag Rehabilitation and Skilled Center following a brief period of declining health.

She leaves her husband, Thomas J. Arnesen; her son, Ronald Lariviere and his partner, Amy of Charlton; as well as her grandson, Nathan Lariviere and his partner, Kiera; and two great-grandchildren, Amelia and Audrey. She also leaves her sister, Jill OConnor and her husband Mark of Barre; her brother-in-law, Arne Arnesen and his wife Diane of Hampden; her sister-in-law, Anne Tetreault and her husband Paul of Southbridge; as well as numerous nieces and nephews whom she loved dearly. She was born in Northampton, daughter of the late Kenneth and Elva (Wheeler) Dorman, and has lived in West Brookfield for over 45 years.

Beverly spent her early years in Gilbertville and graduated from

Hardwick High School. She worked as a hairdresser, once owning her own salon in Sturbridge for many years. She enjoyed working as a hostess at the Sturbridge Host Hotel where she could meet and talk with both local residents and travelers. Tom and Beverly lived on Lake Wickaboag and enjoyed the relaxation, boating, and numerous activities offered with lake living. She and Tom were members of the Springfield Yacht Club in Chester, CT., and they loved navigating the waters of Long Island Sound for nearly 40 years. Beverly had an infectious laugh and was loved by all she touched. She loved all God's animals and was adored by those lucky enough to have her befriend them.

A Celebration of Beverly's Life is being planned in the fall. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Shriners Hospital for Children, 516 Carew St., Springfield, MA 01104 or at www.shrinershospitalforchildren.org.

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

An online guest book is available at varnumfuneralhome.com

Roger Raymond LaMontagne



SPENCER: A dearly loved man is being mourned by relatives and friends. Surrounded by his loving family, Roger Raymond LaMontagne passed from this world into eternal life on September 21 after a relentless battle with acute myeloid leukemia. He was the oldest of eight children, born in Pawtucket, RI, the son of Jeanne (Ferland) LaMontagne and Raymond LaMontagne. He is predeceased by three brothers, Raymond, Lucien, and Ernest. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Phyllis (LeBlanc) LaMontagne, two children, Elizabeth McNicol and her husband Eric and their children, James and Matthew; James LaMontagne and his children, Ellen and Nathan. He is also survived by siblings Armand, Lucille, Henry, and Anne and many nieces and nephews.

Roger began his teaching career as a member of the religious order of Brothers of Christian Instruction. He taught at Prevest High School in Fall River, MA in 1958 and later at Mt. Assumption Institute in Plattsburgh, NY, and Cathedral High in Detroit, MI. He ended his forty-year career in education at Quabbin Regional Middle - High School in Barre, MA in 1998. Roger was a master teacher who received accolades from countless former students who were grateful for his guidance and

encouragement. Many of them pursued careers in areas related to the subjects he taught. Roger was an active member of his parish church, where he taught religious education for many years. He also served on the parish council, was a Eucharistic minister for over forty years, and a member of the St. Vincent de Paul committee. Roger was a skilled carpenter who spent a good part of his summers building and repairing. A lover of the outdoors, he always reserved time for camping trips with his family, finding solace and relaxation in the wonders of nature. Family was always front and center for Roger; he was ever thankful for the happy life he shared with his wife, children, and grandchildren. His days were filled with purpose and love, and he has left us a legacy of happy memories and an example of a strong faith that promises a happier life beyond the present one. Roger's funeral will be held on Thursday, Sept. 26th. from the J.HENRI MORIN & SON FUNERAL HOME, 23 Maple Terr., Spencer with a Mass of Christian Burial at 10 am. in Our Lady of the Rosary Church, 7 Church St., Spencer. Burial will follow in Worcester County Memorial Park, Paxton. Calling hours are Wednesday from 5 to 7 p.m. in the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Mary, Queen of the Rosary Parish, 46 Maple St., Spencer 01562.

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Manifestation

Manifestation—does it truly work? For decades, this concept has captured significant attention, especially in the pages of popular self-help books like “The Secret” by Rhonda Byrne, “Think and Grow Rich” by Napoleon Hill, and “The Power of Now” by Eckhart Tolle. These works suggest that the mind can create reality, emphasizing positive thinking, visualization, and belief as the key.

So, what's the truth behind manifestation? Is it a genuine force or just another trend?

Looking through history, we find compelling examples of people who have manifested their desires remarkably. Jesus manifested bread and fish to feed thousands, turned water into wine, and raised Lazarus from the dead. How did He do it? He told us: ‘Everything is possible for the one who believes’ (Mark 9:23). This belief, central to Jesus’ miracles, also applies to those who have shaped the world through their conviction.

Gandhi, through non-violent resistance, and Martin Luther King Jr., with his vision of equality, both relied on unwavering belief to drive their movements. Likewise, innovators like Elon Musk and Steve Jobs revolutionized industries by maintaining steadfast belief in their visions. They didn't just wish for success—they visualized it, believed in it, and worked relentlessly to bring it to reality.

There is a distinction between miraculous manifestations, such as Jesus multiplying bread, and the achievements of inventors and social activists. While one may seem instantaneous and the other a slower, deliberate process, both are rooted in the same fundamental principle: belief.

Whether miraculous or transformative, faith in the outcome drives these manifestations into reality.

A common thread among those who teach manifestation techniques is the importance of

assuming your desires are already fulfilled, even before they physically manifest. Whether it's modern self-help gurus or ancient spiritual teachings, the principle remains the same: you must believe you have what you want before it arrives in your reality.

The central idea is that by aligning your thoughts, feelings, and beliefs with the desired

outcome, you attract that outcome into your life.

This idea of belief has been central to Jesus’ teachings, as mentioned above. He emphasized it again in Mark 11:23: ‘Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, “Go, throw yourself into the sea,” and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them.’ Here, Jesus highlights the crucial role of unwavering belief in the process. It's not enough to ask for what you want—you must act as if it is already done.

The idea is clear: belief and emotional alignment with your desired outcome create the

conditions for its realization. So how does this apply in your life? Imagine you're aiming for a promotion at work. Instead of doubting or hoping, visualize yourself already in that role—feeling confident, acting as if the promotion is yours. The same goes for personal goals, like getting healthier. Instead of focusing

on the obstacles, believe you're already living a healthier lifestyle, making choices aligned with that belief. The principle remains the same even in bigger dreams—starting a business, finding your dream home, or writing a book.

If you think success is inevitable, you'll naturally align your actions, mindset, and energy toward making that vision a reality. Belief becomes the foundation for your daily actions, driving you forward even when challenges arise.

So, does manifestation truly work? Well, it has great business leaders and revolutionaries. You might attribute their success to luck or chance, but you can't deny that they believed with all their heart in their vision. That kind of belief—so strong that it drives every action—is undeniably a common thread among those who achieve remarkable outcomes. So, is it luck, or is it the power of belief? The line between the two may be thinner than we think.

The real question is: Are you willing to believe before you see? As countless teachers and

thinkers have encouraged, can you assume your wish is already fulfilled? Perhaps it's time to believe not only in the world around you but in your ability to shape it. What if the life you dream of is waiting on the other side of the limits you've created in your mind?

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LEGALS

THE TOWN OF EAST BROOKFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

he East Brookfield Select Board, as Local Licensing Authority shall hold a public hearing on the application of Hadley Path, LLC to Amend an existing Fuel Storage License at 232 East Main Street. The Amendment is to add a 6,000-gallon underground Diesel Fuel storage tank. Said public hearing will be held on Monday, October 7, 2024 at 7:00 PM in the Memorial Town Complex, 122 Connie Mack Drive, East Brookfield.

All interested parties are invited to attend.

Andrew Lynch, Chairman
Andrew Levasseur, Clerk
Robert Button, Member
Cc: Town Clerk
Cc: Tim Reeves – Hadley Path, LLC/
Sherman Oil Company
Cc: Abutters (attached)
September 20, 2024
September 27, 2024

At the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting to be held on Tuesday, October 08, 2024, in the McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA, a public hearing will be held on the following items starting at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard:

Notice of Public Hearing – Spencer Zoning Board of Appeals

Special Permit (Renewal) – Applicant/ Owner: Leo Aucoin; Location: Cranberry Meadow Road, Spencer Assessor's Map R02-2 & 2-1. The applicant is looking to renew their Special Permit under Sections 4.2.H.1 and 4.8.6 (H) of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw to continue a gravel removal operation. The property is located in the Rural Residential zoning district.

Special Permit (Renewal) – Applicant/ Owner: Royal Crest Farm/ Robert, Margaret, & Anthony Moschini; Location: 30 Howe Road, Spencer Assessor's Map R23-25. The applicant is looking to renew their Special Permit under Sections 4.2.H.1 and 4.8.6 (H) of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw to continue a gravel removal operation. The property is located in

the Rural Residential zoning district.
September 20, 2024
Septmber 27, 2024

(SEAL)
**COMMONWEALTH
OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL
COURT**
**Docket Number: 24 SM 003290
ORDER OF NOTICE**

TO:
Ronnie Joseph Boudreau a/k/a
Ronnie Boudreau; Jennifer Towle;
Vanessa Towle
And to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (*et seq*):
CMG Mortgage, Inc.
claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Spencer, numbered 54 Cherry Street, given by Ronnie Joseph Boudreau and Jennifer Towle to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Homebridge Financial Services, Inc., dated December 20, 2021, and recorded at Worcester County (Worcester

District) Registry of Deeds in Book 66787, Page 116, and now held by the plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before October 28, 2024 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the grounds of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on September 13, 2024.

Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
September 27, 2024

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CLINIC
continued from page A1

in the community. I'd much rather have people coming here to get supervised help instead of buying street drugs. We all want them to get the help they need to become productive members of the community."

At the Sept. 16 meeting, Hicks reiterated his request for members of the clinic's leadership team to attend a Selectmen's meeting and answer questions.

Selectman Anthony Pepe, who opposes the clinic operating in Spencer, shared concerns that it could negatively

impact recent momentum across town.

Following the Select Board meeting, Pepe told the New Leader, "I understand the human side of this issue. Opiate addiction is a scourge that is taking a huge toll on families and communities across the country. I do believe facilities of this kind serve a purpose to address this huge problem. My job is to look after the best interests of the town. My point at our last meeting is that I don't see the fit with our town; I see it as a safety and quality of life issue

for our townspeople, as well as an infrastructure issue."

Added Pepe, "I am also concerned about any effect on the businesses in town. I fear we don't have the resources to deal with any issues that arise from this. We are working to improve our town as best as we can. We're building a new school, trying to fix our roads, trying to draw families and new businesses to

Spencer, and attempting to revitalize downtown. I am worried that this clinic will take us a step back in that effort."

Selectmen also conveyed frustrations over having no local control of the proposal.

"We have no say in what happens. The state takes everything out of the town's hands and leaves it so you don't have an opportunity to fight it. I think it's a big

mistake," said Selectman Gary Woodbury.

Hicks, who previously worked as a school superintendent, said the clinic could play a major role in helping area residents transform their lives.

"I saw kids' lives destroyed because of drugs. If someone needs help, I don't mind them coming to Spencer to get help," Hicks said during the Board meeting. "There are people

out there who, without a place to go to, are going to revert back to street drugs."

As of press time, no date had been scheduled for the clinic's leadership team to present to the Board.

"I look forward to meeting with the management of this facility to see how they will help us address these concerns," Pepe said.

SOLAR
continued from page A1

and a selectman."

A previous attempt by Spencer officials to implement a cap on large-scale solar arrays in town was blocked by the Attorney General.

Now that petition signatures have been delivered to state officials, Carol McPherson and her team are hoping for broader discussions among legislators about the impacts of large-scale commercial solar development, particularly on small rural communities.

"The McPhersons wish to thank everyone who collected signatures and those who signed the petitions," read a statement released by Carol McPherson.

The petition drive has also served as an educational tool for local youngsters eager to learn about environmental concerns in their own back yards, group leaders said. The process also highlights the opportunities for residents to get actively involved in issues affecting their communities, rather than remain on the sidelines of social media pages.

"A teacher in Spencer took a copy of the petition to use in his classroom to discuss the rights of each citizen to express their opinion by using this process," Carol McPherson said.

TIP TOP
continued from page A1

Co-ops also show up in some less familiar places. Acorn Renewable Energy Co-op in Vermont, for example, was founded in 2008 to help transition area communities from dependence on fossil fuels to a greater reliance on renewable energy. Real Pickles in Massachusetts, which transforms produce from Northeast family farms into fermented foods such as organic dill pickles, sauerkraut, and kimchi, converted to a co-operative in 2013, demonstrating the potential for a more sustainable path for business succession that roots wealth, jobs, and infrastructure in our region over time.

Credit Unions, with more than 403

million members in 118 countries, will be celebrating the 76th annual International Credit Union Day on Oct. 17. As not-for-profit financial co-operatives, these community based financial institutions are owned by their members, the people who use them for savings and checking accounts, loans, and retirement funds. This year's observation will emphasize how the movement brings people closer together through co-operative finance and its continuing efforts to building financial inclusion around the world through the co-operative business model.

As we enjoy summer's bounty and prepare for the arrival of fall color in our region, Co-op Month offers an opportunity to learn more about the many co-operatives that are part of the fabric of our communities. Look

for the "Go Co-op" signs on the shelves of your food co-op that identify co-op made products. You may be surprised by what you find, including dairy products from Cabot Creamery Co-op and Organic Valley, fresh produce from local farmers, fairly traded coffee, tea, and chocolate from Equal Exchange, supplements, cards, gifts— and much more!

For more information on Co-op Month and resources on co-operatives, visit <https://nfca.coop>.

Erbin Crowell is Executive Director of the Neighboring Food Co-op Association and serves on the Board of Directors of the National Cooperative Business Association. He may be contacted at erbin@nfca.coop

MUSIC
continued from page A1

The students recently met the President of the Tournament of Roses, Edward Morales, at Leominster High School. The musicians are thrilled to receive this opportunity to take part in a signature event.

"I'm really looking forward to visiting California, considering I've never been, and I'm super excited to be

marching with so many people in such a big parade," said Ella Smith, an LHS senior who plays trombone. "I'm grateful for the opportunity to meet more trombonists like myself, and I hope I get to visit the beach while I'm there."

Added McKenzie Settle, a Millbury High School junior flutist who resides in Leicester, "It means so much to me because Marching Band has become a staple part of my high

school career. I'm looking forward to going to California with my friends and performing together."

Additional local band participants include Russell Baker (trumpet); Trevor Moorghen (tenor saxophone); Sean Alves (drumline); and Zachary Soulor (trumpet).

"The New England Honor Band isn't just a band—it's a symphony of passion, talent, and camaraderie," read a statement released by band organizers. "Our ensemble

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More and more gardeners are adding native plants to their landscapes. These plants provide more than beautiful flowers for us to enjoy. They also support pollinators and other beneficial insects, and provide food and shelter for songbirds, toads, and other wildlife.

In addition, these plants help protect and improve our soil and manage stormwater. The plants slow stormwater runoff and help direct it into the soil through pathways created by their deep roots to the groundwater below. These

deep roots also help break up compacted clay soils. Legumes like blue false indigo (*Baptisia australis*) that are hardy in zones 3 to 10 help add nitrogen to the soil while supporting a variety of pollinators.



GARDEN
MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA
MYERS



Melinda Myers
A bee nectaring on purple prairie clover (*Dalea purpurea*) which is hardy in zones 3-8.

The spring-blooming native columbine's (*Aquilegia canadensis*) red and yellow flowers provide food for hummingbirds and long-tongued insects. Wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*) makes an excellent groundcover that can hold its ground against garlic mustard and other invasive plants.

Perhaps you or members of your household have been reluctant to add these plants to your landscape. Some people worry that these plants won't fit in with their current landscape design or be accepted by their neighbors. One option is to start including native plants in your landscape one plant or garden at a time.

As always, make sure the plants you select are suited to the growing conditions, your garden design, and the available space. Some native plants are aggressive and work best when given a lot of room to grow and spread. Others grow in clumps and slowly increase in size making them easier to include in smaller yards.


plant that's a favorite of the monarch caterpillar. It spreads by seeds and deep rhizomes making it challenging to contain. Consider growing other native milkweeds that will support the monarch but are less aggressive when space is limited. Butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) hardy in zones 3 to 10 is a great option for those with sunny well-drained locations. Red milkweed also known as swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) also grows best in full sun, but this milkweed tolerates moist soils.


Think about substitutions when starting to add native plants to the garden. When one plant dies look for a native plant to fill the void. Consider one with a similar growth habit, texture, and bloom time. Prairie dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*) is a North American native grass with a growth habit similar to ornamental fountain grass (*Pennisetum*) and it provides many more benefits. Hardy in zones 3 to 8, it has uniquely fragrant flowers in late summer, golden fall color, and seeds that look like gems when covered with ice in the winter. It is also a host plant for six different moths and butterflies. This elegant grass is at home in just about any style garden.

As you get to know the native plants of your region and gain experience adding them to your gardens you may decide to create gardens of all native plants. Look to nature for some winning combinations. Combine plants that look good together, have the same growing conditions, and are equally assertive. When aggressive plants are mixed in with timid plants, you end up with a garden of just one or two overly assertive plants.

As always, do your research first. Visit nearby nature centers and talk to others growing native plants to gather information and inspiration. As you gain success and confidence, you are sure to find creative ways to add these beauties to your landscape.

Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, including *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* radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.





Stanis Laus
Age 9
Registration # 8566

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To learn more about adoption from foster care visit 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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Leicester Police Log

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

12:21 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 2:05 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), written warning; 2:36 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 3:18 a.m.: suspicious activity (Stafford Street), resolved; 7:11 a.m.: suspicious mv (Paxton Street), gone on arrival; 7:16 a.m.: suspicious mv (Mulberry Street), gone on arrival; 8:38 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:48 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:56 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, criminal application issued; 9:22 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 9:37 a.m.: mv stop (Auburn Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, criminal application issued; 9:52 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:41 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 11:39 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 11:43 a.m.: suspicious person (Main Street), transported to hospital; 1:43 p.m.: mv stop (Sargent Street), verbal warning; 1:57 p.m.: mv stop (Sargent Street), citation issued; 2:06 p.m.: mv stop (Sargent Street), verbal warning; 2:40 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), written warning; 2:44 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 3:35 p.m.: welfare check (Chesnar Drive), unable to locate; 4:14 p.m.: investigation (Main Street), report taken; 4:20 p.m.: welfare check (Sunset Drive), spoken to; 4:50 p.m.: investigation (Mulberry Street), report taken; 5:00 p.m.: mv stop (River Street), verbal warning; 5:04 p.m.: mv stop (River Street), written warning; 5:13 p.m.: mv stop (River Street), verbal warning; 5:49 p.m.: welfare check (Lexington Avenue), services rendered; 6:37 p.m.: mv stop (Marshall Street), written warning; 7:00 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), written warning; 8:42 p.m.: welfare check (Mannville Street), spoken to; 10:01 p.m.: mv stop (Whittemore Street), verbal warning; 10:16 p.m.: suspicious activity (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, unregistered mv, uninsured mv, criminal application issued.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

12:25 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, obstructed/nontransparent window, criminal application issued; 1:10 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 1:38 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 6:45 a.m.: accident (McNeil Highway), mv towed; 7:03 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (South Main Street), call canceled; 8:18 a.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), referred; 8:28 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), citation issued; 8:45 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 8:54 a.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 9:19 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), mv towed; 9:37 a.m.: suspicious person (Locust Street), report taken; 10:01 a.m.: welfare check (South Main Street), transported to hospital; 12:17 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 1:12 p.m.: ambulance (Breezy Green Road), transported; 4:30 p.m.: assist citizen (Fairview Drive); 5:23 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 5:27 p.m.: trespassing (Soojians Drive), name and address redacted from police log, shoplifting by concealing merchandise, shoplifting by asportation, trespassing, criminal application issued; 6:34 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), Allison Avagianos, 43, 402 Neponset Avenue, #3M, Dorchester, failure to appear upon recognizance, larceny under \$1200, warrant, arrest; 7:17 p.m.: residential b&e (Tobin Road), report taken; 8:22 p.m.: investigation (Soojians Drive), report taken; 8:31 p.m.: suspicious activity (Winslow Avenue), resolved; 10:00 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Chesnar Drive), Ahmed Ali Termos, 58, 4 Chesnar Drive, Cherry Valley, strangulation/suffocation, intimidating a witness/juror/police, court official, kidnapping, assault & battery, a&b w/ dangerous weapon, attempting to commit a crime (possession of firearm w/o FID), possession of ammunition w/o FID, arrest; 11:34 p.m.: investigation (Chesnar Drive), report taken.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

12:01 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, failure to dim headlights, op w/suspended license, criminal application issued; 2:47 a.m.: investigation (South Main Street), report taken; 9:06 a.m.: suspicious activity (Chesnar Drive), spoken to; 10:36 a.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), referred; 10:44 a.m.: mv stop (Auburn Street), verbal warning; 10:49 a.m.: mv stop (Auburn Street), verbal warning; 11:13 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 11:37 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 11:55 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 12:02 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:23 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:06 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:43 p.m.: mv stop (Marshall Street), citation issued; 1:54 p.m.: mv stop (Mulberry Street), verbal warning; 2:02 p.m.: erratic operator (Mulberry Street), citation issued; 2:48 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 4:03 p.m.: investigation (Soojians Drive), report taken; 4:19 p.m.: assist citizen (Chesnar Drive); 5:20 p.m.: assist citizen

(Stafford Street, Worcester); 6:58 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 8:23 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street, Spencer), transported; 8:24 p.m.: welfare check (Pleasant Street), assisted; 9:11 p.m.: welfare check (Chesnar Drive), assisted; 9:51 p.m.: assist other PD (Hemlock Street), call canceled.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

2:42 a.m.: animal complaint (Craig Street), referred; 6:51 a.m.: parking complaint (Main Street), resolved; 7:40 a.m.: ambulance (Winslow Avenue), transported; 9:06 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 9:20 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 9:25 a.m.: mv stop (Soojians Drive), spoken to; 9:33 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 10:03 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 10:10 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:26 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:28 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 11:00 a.m.: suspicious person (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:26 a.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), gone on arrival; 11:31 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), spoken to; 12:20 p.m.: mutual aid (Pleasant Street, Paxton), call canceled; 12:24 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:25 p.m.: mv stop (Marshall Street), verbal warning; 12:27 p.m.: erratic operator (Paxton Street), investigated; 12:48 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), citation issued; 1:00 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:34 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 1:48 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 2:01 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 2:09 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), no action required; 2:28 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 2:37 p.m.: mv stop (Soojians Drive), verbal warning; 3:53 p.m.: erratic operator (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 4:20 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 4:44 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 5:14 p.m.: mv stop (River Street), verbal warning; 5:19 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), written warning; 5:37 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 5:42 p.m.: suspicious person (Mulberry Street), resolved; 6:09 p.m.: mv stop (Watson Street), verbal warning; 6:22 p.m.: mv stop (Hemlock Street), written warning; 7:41 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), unfounded; 7:47 p.m.: mv stop (Harborton Drive), written warning; 8:50 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 9:45 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 9:58 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 11:20 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

1:48 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 2:20 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 3:50 a.m.: suspicious mv (Pleasant Street), resolved; 5:15 a.m.: mv stop (Paxon Street), verbal warning; 5:25 a.m.: mv stop (Paxon Street), citation issued; 6:56 a.m.: ambulance (Chapel Street), transported; 7:37 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 7:57 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), citation issued; 8:10 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), citation issued; 8:27 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), citation issued; 9:06 a.m.: welfare check (Stafford Street), report taken; 9:32 a.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 11:47 a.m.: ambulance (Warren Avenue), transported; 11:53 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 1:42 p.m.: assist other PD (Henshaw Street), call canceled; 2:06 p.m.: welfare check (Pleasant Street), transported to hospital; 2:43 p.m.: investigation (South Main Street), report taken; 3:52 p.m.: assist citizen (Maple Street); 4:36 p.m.: investigation (South Main Street), report taken; 4:58 p.m.: animal complaint (Mannville Street), referred; 5:28 p.m.: mv stop (Mulberry Street), verbal warning; 5:39 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), written warning; 6:42 p.m.: ambulance (Rawson Street), transported.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

1:56 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Chesnar Drive), unfounded; 8:31 a.m.: accident (Pleasant Street), report taken; 9:48 a.m.: assist citizen (Stafford Street); 10:28 a.m.: illegal dumping (Main Street), spoken to; 10:35 a.m.: investigation (Pelham Street, Worcester), report taken; 12:05 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street, Worcester), call canceled; 1:31 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), citation issued; 1:34 p.m.: threats (River Street), name and address redacted from police log, a&b on public employee, improper storage of a firearm/2 counts, assault, criminal application issued; 2:32 p.m.: ambulance (Maple Avenue, Oxford), transported; 3:20 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), written warning; 6:28 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 6:34 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), report taken; 8:37 p.m.: ambulance (Mian Street), transported; 8:57 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:53 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 10:29 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Chesnar Drive), investigated.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

4:05 a.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 5:17 a.m.: ambulance (Watch Street), transported; 6:59 a.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 7:56 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), spoken to; 10:57 a.m.: investigation (South Main Street), report taken; 12:00 p.m.: ambulance (Henshaw Street), transported; 12:33 p.m.: disturbance (Soojians Drive), spoken to; 12:44 p.m.: investigation (Stafford Street), report taken; 12:59 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported;

1:33 p.m.: neighbor dispute (Rawson Street), report taken; 2:57 p.m.: suspicious mv (Reservoir Street), resolved; 4:19 p.m.: accident (Stafford Street), Diana Pandi Progi, 57, 1146 Stafford Street, Rochdale, OUI liquor; negligent operation, arrest; 8:29 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 9:16 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), assisted.

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Spencer Police Log

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

12:12-3:24 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:30 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Brimfield PD bolo; 4:10/5:49 a.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info rec'd; 7:15 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 8:12 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 8:29 a.m.: officer wanted (Crown Street), app. to make/register firearm; 8:38 a.m.: officer wanted (Greenville Street), app. to make/register firearm; 9:11 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Sherwood Drive), hang-up; 9:43 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), debris in road; 9:51 a.m.: juvenile matter (Ash Street), rep. incident w/son; 10:29 a.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), loose dog; 10:52 a.m.: suspicious persons (Highland Street), investigated; 12:54 p.m.: medical/general (Bixby Road); 1:00 p.m.: disabled mv (Lake Street), no action required; 1:50 p.m.: disabled mv (Meadow Road), assisted; 1:58 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Gold Nugget Road), rep. illegal burn; 2:48 p.m.: juvenile matter (Ash Street), re: threat to bring firearm to school; 3:22 p.m.: 911 call (Main Street), child w/phone; 3:30 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 4:42 p.m.: assault (Main Street), report taken; 4:42 p.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), rep. poss. stolen bike; 5:16 p.m.: animal complaint (Lambs Grove), cat attacked by dog; 5:45 p.m.: officer wanted (Dufault Road), req. welfare check; 6:59 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), open line; 9:09 p.m.: medical/general (Valley Street); 9:10 p.m.: officer wanted (Greenville Street), req. welfare check; 11:12 p.m.: medical/general (Crestview Drive); (total daily mv stops – 1).

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

12:14-1:19 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:42 a.m.: medical/general (Lyford Road); 4:05 a.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info rec'd; 6:36 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Main Street), hang-up; 7:51 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 8:38 a.m.: officer wanted (Robert Bay), re: tenant/rent pay't; 9:48 a.m.: fire alarm (Brown Street), referred; 10:54 a.m.: citizen complaint (Casey Street), re: road closure; 11:40 a.m.: restraining order service (Chestnut Street); 12:00 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), c/o excessive exhaust; 12:17 p.m.: medical/general (Marble Road); 12:45 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 1:21 p.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 1:36 p.m.: fraud (Gold Nugget Road), report taken; 1:50 p.m.: odor of gas (Charlton Road), referred; 1:50 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Ash Street), illegal burn; 2:18 p.m.: elderly matter (Laurel Lane), re: concern for neighbor; 2:46 p.m.: disturbance (Greenville Street), unwanted party; 3:05 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 3:08 p.m.: restraining order service (Hastings Road); 3:36 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 3:46 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 3:46 p.m.: officer wanted (Lyford Road), req. welfare check; 4:57 p.m.: DPW call (Donnelly Road), branch in road; 8:55 p.m.: larceny (Main Street), rep. delivery taken by neighbor; 11:40 p.m.: medical/general (Irving Street); (total daily mv stops – 4).

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

12:23-2:38 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:33 a.m.: mutual aid (Main Street), assist State Police; 5:13/5:30/5:57 a.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info rec'd; 6:23 a.m.: residential alarm (Sherwood Drive), services rendered; 7:00 abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), resolved; 7:26 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 8:30 a.m.: medical/general (Wall Street); 8:35 a.m.: animal complaint (Wm. Casey Road), porcupine/appears sick; 10:14 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 10:39 a.m.: fraud (Pearl Street), report taken; 12:18 p.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 12:18 p.m.: disabled mv (West Main Street), services rendered; 1:13 p.m.: animal complaint (Meadow Road), re: K9 shepherd in kennel; 1:50 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Route 49), no contact; 5:06 p.m.: mv complaint (North Spencer Road), erratic operator/mc; 5:35 p.m.: juvenile matter (G.H. Wilson Road), daughter threatening to run away; 7:41 p.m.: medical/general (Brooks Pond Road); 9:37 p.m.: juvenile matter (Pleasant Street), rep. school incident; 11:09 p.m.: disturbance (Brooks Pond Road), noise complaint; (total daily mv stops – 0).

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

12:39-12:41 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:48 a.m.: officer wanted (Maple Street), catalytic converter found; 3:22 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street), lift assist; 4:32 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street), lift assist; 7:52 a.m.: animal complaint (Howard Hurley Road), injured possum; 10:07 a.m.: fire/woods/grass (Chickering Road), rep. brush fire; 11:04 a.m.: fire/woods/grass (Summit

Street), rep. neighbor burning trash; 11:06 a.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 11:27 a.m.: officer wanted (Charron Street), re: crack in apt. window; 11:28 a.m.: officer wanted (Chestnut Street), re: issues w/spouse; 11:46 a.m.: fire alarm (Adams Street), referred; 11:49 a.m.: medical/general (Dufault Road); 12:25 p.m.: fire (Westland Drive), referred; 12:37 p.m.: school alarm (Main Street), accidental; 12:43 p.m.: officer wanted (Cherry Street), re: male waving rifle; 1:36 p.m.: 911 call (Taylor Drive), no emergency; 4:21 p.m.: residential alarm (North Spencer Roads), services rendered; 4:54 p.m.: fire alarm (Howe Village), referred; 6:29 p.m.: medical/general (Cottage Street); 7:34 p.m.: suspicious persons (Smithville Road), investigated; 7:44 p.m.: accident (Paxton Road), report taken; 7:47 p.m.: officer wanted (North Brookfield Roads), welfare check; 8:12 p.m.: medical/general (Crestview Drive); 8:18 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 9:02 p.m.: suspicious mv (Crown Street), investigated; 9:43 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Leicester PD bolo; (total daily mv stops – 2).

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

1:05 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 1:19 a.m.: suspicious mv (Park Street), investigated; 9:32 a.m.: medical/general (Lambs Grove); 9:37 a.m.: medical/general (Church Street); 11:45 a.m.: medical/general (Jones Street); 12:46 p.m.: mv lockout (West Main Street), assisted; 2:11 p.m.: fire alarm (Church Street), referred; 2:25 p.m.: 911 call (Howe Village), resolved; 2:35 p.m.: suspicious persons (West Main Street), investigated; 4:01 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 5:17 p.m.: fire alarm (Howe Village), referred; 5:42 p.m.: juvenile matter (Chestnut Street), rep. child yelling for help; 6:51 p.m.: mv lockout (Maple Street), assisted; 7:06 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), keep the peace; 7:13 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Cherry Street), referred; 8:36 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), c/o radio station; 8:55 p.m.: suspicious persons (Roys Drive), investigated; 9:26 p.m.: commercial alarm (Elm Street), services rendered; 10:36 p.m.: 911 call (Irving Street), hang-up; (total daily mv stops – 5).

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

12:11-2:20 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 6:39 a.m.: medical/general (Roys Drive); 8:10 a.m.: animal complaint (Bixby Road), re: missing cat; 9:46 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: missing juvenile; 10:10 a.m.: medical/general (Fairview Drive); 10:19 a.m.: animal complaint (Howe Village), wants to surrender her dog; 10:44 a.m.: fraud (Howe Road), report taken; 11:07 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 11:34 a.m.: mv lockout (West Main Street), assisted; 11:56 a.m.: disturbance (West Main Street), re: mv tow; 12:00 p.m.: medical/general (North Spencer Road); 12:34 p.m.: restraining order service (Church Street); 1:08 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 1:12 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), no emergency; 1:16 p.m.: restraining order service (Lloyd Dyer Drive); 2:29 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 2:32 p.m.: medical/general (Clark Street); 2:51 p.m.: trespassing (Duggan Street), rep. neighbor trespassed; 4:25 p.m.: juvenile matter (Main Street), re: incident at school; 4:39 p.m.: fraud (East Charlton Road), report taken; 6:50 p.m.: intelligence/drugs (West Main Street), info rec'd; 7:00 p.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant Street), kittens found; 7:54 p.m.: suspicious mv (Hastings Road), investigated; 8:36 p.m.: disturbance (Prospect Street), noise complaint; 11:23 p.m.: disturbance (Bixby Road), noise complaint; 11:57 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; (total daily mv stops – 1).

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

12:03-12:13 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:27 a.m.: disturbance (Lake Street), noise complaint; 3:41 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: email rec'd; 4:21 a.m.: school alarm (Ash Street), services rendered; 6:39 a.m.: officer wanted (Howe Village), rep. poss. break-in; 6:59 a.m.: FID card issued (West Main Street), assisted; 7:27 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 7:28 a.m.: animal complaint (Condon Drive), barking dogs; 10:35 a.m.: mutual aid (Main Street), assist State Police; 11:17 a.m.: animal complaint (North Spencer Road), re: missing cat; 12:01 p.m.: medical/general (Bixby Road); 12:34 p.m.: fraud (Borkum Road), report taken; 12:44 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (McCormick Road), req. board of health; 1:42 p.m.: medical/general (Mechanic Street); 3:04 p.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), questions re: restraining order; 4:21 p.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), dog in closed car; 4:23 p.m.: disturbance (Greenville Street), neighbor dispute; 4:47 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 5:31 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: text msgs. rec'd; 6:00 p.m.: officer wanted (Howe Village), items taken from apt.; 6:11 p.m.: accident (Mechanic Street), report taken; 6:44 p.m.: DPW call (McDonald Street), req. new stop sign; 8:06 p.m.: medical/general (Pleasant Street); 8:23 p.m.: mv stop (Maple Street), Charles P. Mandeville, 34, 21 Lincoln Street, Spencer; OUI liquor/2nd offense, negligent operation, arrest; 8:56 p.m.: suspicious mv (South Spencer Road), investigated; (total daily mv stops – 4).

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What’s the Difference?

There are four differences between Picture A and Picture B.

A



B



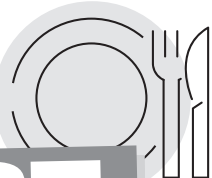
Answers: 1. Bread on board turned 2. More pasta in upper left corner 3. Missing pasta above tortillas 4. Pasta replaced other grain in bottom bowl

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1934: The ocean liner RMS Queen Mary is launched.
1950: United Nations troops recapture Seoul from North Korean forces.
1969: Abbey Road, the last recorded album by The Beatles, is released.

Food FACT:



Consuming these foods helps a person stay full, maintain a healthy weight, and have a healthy digestive system.

Answer: Whole grains

NEW WORD

FIBER

dietary material containing substances such as cellulose

How they say that in...

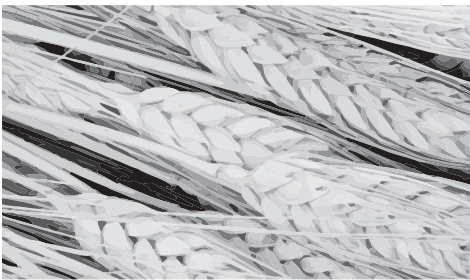
English: Grain
Spanish: Grano
Italian: Cereali
French: Céréales
German: Getreide

Did You Know?

Most people should aim to eat between 25 and 30 grams of fiber each day from a variety of sources.



Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Wheat

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to cats.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 14 = E)

A. 21 14 16 12

Clue: Sound a cat makes

B. 6 22 19 19

Clue: Cat's vibration

C. 12 26 23 2 11 14 19 2

Clue: Sensory hairs

D. 6 16 22 7 5 14

Clue: Jump on suddenly

Answers: A. meow B. purr C. whiskers D. pounce

SUDOKU

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

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!

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

ANSWER:



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**We Want
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Featured New Construction Listing!

WEBSTER- 22 COOPER RD

Imagine Yourself in a New Craftsman Style Home ~* Tucked away on Cooper Rd, near Webster Lake w/Access at Lakeside Beach/Boat Ramp . This is the 2nd of 4 New Construction Homes To Be Built at this Site. Offers 2,250 SF+/- of Living Area, 7 Rms, 4 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths! 2 car garage! **\$579,900**



* June Cazeault * Laurie Sullivan* Lori Johnson-Chausse * William Gilmore II * Maureen Cimoch * Bryan Pelletier

[SORRY, SOLD!]



large private rear deck & backyard

**DUDLEY
3 FILO RD**

Need Your Own Space? ~* Come Home to this Exceptionally Spacious 1,800 sf+ Ranch ~ situated on a Private 0.35 acre on a 'Dead End' Country Road! 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, year-round Sunroom, 19'x25' Great Room w/cathedral ceilings, hardwood floors, large private rear deck & backyard **NEW PRICE \$449,900**

WEBSTER - 6 SLATER ST



[SORRY, SOLD!]

2 family - 3 bedroom apartment & a 1 bedroom apartment. Many new updates. Central Air! Plenty of parking. Centrally Located.

\$399,900.

**STURBRIDGE - 66 WESTWOOD DR
WATERFRONT LAND!**



1640' direct waterfront on Cedar Lake! Secluded 11.61 Acres - Pristine, Undeveloped, Private & Serene! Preliminary Plan suggests the potential for up to 5 house lots! 119' roadfront w/Gravel Drive Access to Land & Lake! 183 ac+- Cedar Lake is full recreational - A Once in a Lifetime Opportunity! **\$949,000**



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25 SUTTON AVE**

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[SORRY, SOLD!]

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10 NEW STREET**

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On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg



*Webster Lake -
24-2 Laurelwood Drive
Waterfront Lot !*

Approximately 11,000 Sq. Ft. of mostly cleared flat land, gentle decline to waters edge. Sandy Shore line! Western views. Call for a viewing! **\$625,000**



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My commitment is to offer professional, personalized, and effective communication throughout the real estate process. Whether you're buying or selling, I'm here to provide exceptional service and guide you every step of the way.

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Existing well on property
Unique Opportunity -
Existing House needs to be demolished
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CHARLTON- 4 BEDROOMS



*1.37 Acres
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FOR SALE



- Historical building, also known as Tiffany-Leonard House, built in 1832
- Large Executive Offices with Elegant Finishes and High Ceilings
- Large Open Concept Cubicle Areas



- Listing price: \$550,000
- Building size: 9,536 SF
- Lot size: 13,939 SF
- Loading docks: (1) tailgate height
- Basement: partial | Unfinished



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JONAH D. GLICKMAN
Vice President

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