



Community congratulates DPHS band



Courtesy

Fresh off a gold-medal performance at a major event, the David Prouty High School Panthers Band is eager to perform at the upcoming Spring Concert.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER — The community congratulates the David Prouty High School Panthers Band for its gold-medal performance at the Great East Music Festival.

"All the students worked hard for this moment, and it showed through the judges' comments and scores. They perfected two pieces that will be featured at the upcoming 2024 Spring Concert later this month," read a statement released by Spencer-East Brookfield

Regional School District Superintendent Paul Haughey.

School leaders are impressed with the progression and dedication they've seen from band members. Their preparedness and cohesiveness didn't go unnoticed by the judges.

"Over the last year, the music students at David Prouty have shown not only amazing musical skills, but heart in the program as well as the school. One of the judges stated that they show extreme passion and love for their craft, and it showed through their

music and how they presented themselves on the stage," said band director Kelsey Forfa. "They received great feedback that we will be putting toward our Spring Concert."

Added Forfa, "I am amazed by all the students in the band and couldn't be prouder of them. They truly remind me why I love teaching at David Prouty. When they enter a competition, they are always giving 100 percent and it really shows."

Students were thrilled to showcase their skills and teamwork achieved through extensive preparations.

"Band has taught

me that stepping out of my comfort zone and experiencing new things is a vital way to grow as a person, and it has helped me take that next big step into the real world," said band member Lily Melanson. "I will forever be grateful for all that the DPHS Band and our incredible director, Mrs. Forfa, have brought to myself and others."

Working hard each day, band members are not only building their skills but also friendships.

"To my peers and I, band is not simply just 'band.' It is a way to freely express yourself with others through a common passion of music while making

incredible new friends and memories along the way," Melanson added.

Looking ahead, band members are eager to perform at the Spring Concert. The event will take place on Tuesday, May 21, at 6:30 p.m. in the David Prouty High School auditorium.

"The Prouty Band continues to grow musically each year, taking on harder music and expanding their understanding of what makes music," Forfa told the New Leader. "I love recording the students at the beginning of the year and the concert to show the growth through their dynamics, articulations, and emotion throughout the music."

Leicester Town Meeting recessed amid disagreements

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — Last week's Annual Town Meeting was recessed to next month after ongoing disagreements between the Select Board and Advisory Committee led to confusion over warrant articles.

From the onset, the May 7 Town Meeting was rife with disagreements between the boards over the opening articles, prior to the town budget article.

During the discussion of Article 2A, after the Advisory Committee offered a substitute motion on the article, several voters became frustrated with the discord and confusion.

"At that point, a resident rose and made the motion that Town Meeting recess until a date certain, with the request that the TA/Select Board and Advisory meet and reconcile their differences that exist on some of the articles, including the budget," said Town Administrator David Genereux.

The Town Meeting will resume on Tuesday, June 4, at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall gym.

Town Moderator Doug Belanger has also asked that the Select Board and Advisory Committee meet ahead of the June 4 meeting.

"They will work between now and then to discuss their differences and come up with something that is understandable to the public," Belanger said.

Select Board Chairman Rick Antanavica told the New Leader the latest set of numbers his board received from the Advisory Committee were submitted too late and, consequently, had to be presented as part of a handout at Town Meeting.

"Hopefully, we can come to a compromise so it works for the whole town," Antanavica said.

The process of preparing items for Town Meeting generally takes several months.

"The budget—and other financial articles that are recommended by the Select Board and Town Administrator—is the result of a collaborative process with departments that commenced in December," Genereux added. "These budgets and transfers fund operations that provide needed services to residents without an override. This collaborative approach has produced recommendations for funding that will keep the town moving forward."

Advisory Committee Chairman Peter Cusolito did not respond to the New Leader's request for comment on the Town Meeting.

Meanwhile, Belanger has offered his services as a mediator to help the boards navigate the impasse.

Following the May 7 Town Meeting, residents and officials expressed disappointment over the rifts between town boards that have hindered progress.

"In my forty years of [municipal] involvement, I have never been more embarrassed for my community," Belanger said of the issues leading to the recessed meeting.

To learn more about the Town Meeting, visit www.leicesterma.org. A copy of the latest Town Meeting warrant is also available on the Web site.

Schlegel edges out Burkhardt for selectman's seat



Courtesy

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

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

NORTH BROOKFIELD — In the latest narrowly decided election in recent years, Vaughn Schlegel edged Joan Burkhardt for a seat on the Select Board.

Two years after the 2022 Select Board race resulted in a tie, Schlegel slipped past Burkhardt by 30 votes (410-380) at the May 6 Annual Town Election.

"I'm grateful to the voters of North Brookfield for turning out to vote and choosing me as your new selectman," Schlegel told the New Leader. "I'd like to thank Joan Burkhardt for a competitive and positive campaign, and I look forward to serving our community."

Select Board candidates appreciate the tight races in recent years, which have made every door-knock and cam-

paign event critical.

In 2022, then incumbent selectman Dale Kiley and challenger Elizabeth Brooke Canada each earned 351 votes—the first tie for a major race in the town's election history. Kiley subsequently announced over the summer that he would pull out of the race due to plans to move away from North Brookfield. At the follow-up election in September, Canada topped new Select Board candidate Patrick Gustafson by yet another close margin (583-557).

Two years later, with the narrow election behind him, Schlegel is thankful to his campaign team and supporters for conveying his message to voters.

"Thank you to those who worked so hard to help and support me with my campaign," Schlegel said. "To all my friends and family, I thank you for your time and believing in me. I worked tirelessly to get where I am, and I put in the work to understand the job before me. I will continue to use the knowledge I've gained to better our community."

Immediately after arriving in North Brookfield, Schlegel wasted no time in serving his new community by becoming a member of the Finance Committee

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Wire Village choir brings inspiration to community



Courtesy

Members of the Inspire Kids Choir show off their creativity to the community.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER — The Inspire Kids Choir recently brought inspiration to the entire community during a concert this month.

The May 2 show allowed local families, friends, and residents to see the hard work and musical skills of students. The after-school choir at Wire Village Elementary School, run by director Lauren Curren, has seen major success over the past year.

This semester, 96 kids have been involved in the choir, an increase of approximately 20 students from last semester.

"The concert was Spencer's feel-good event of the spring. It is heartwarming to see the community come together to listen to the voices of the next generation," Curren said.

The theme of the May 2 performance, "Feeling in Color," allowed

students to explore the rainbow of human emotion through music. Curren and the choir's sound engineer also wrote an anthem called "Inspire" for the students.

"The kids' voices sounded beautiful, as they brought us through our theme, 'Feeling in Color.' Our goal this semester was to help them navigate the complexity of emotion. Each song was attached to a color and feeling," Curren added.

During lessons ahead of the show, students broke into smaller groups to help them focus on deciphering a song's message. The process helped students greatly in their preparation process.

"This is where we connect and create a stronger community through music. We want to give them tools and coping skills to deal

Turn To **CHOIR** page A14

Salve Regina University student honored as Newman Civic Fellow

NEWPORT, R.I. — Campus Compact, a national coalition of colleges and universities working to advance the public purposes of higher education, has named the student civic leaders from 38 states, Washington, D.C., and Mexico who will make up the 2024-2025 cohort of Newman Civic Fellows. Jacob Stolberg, a student at Salve Regina University, was named as a member of the cohort.

The Newman Civic Fellowship is a yearlong program that recognizes students who stand out for their leadership potential and commitment to creating positive change in communities. The fellowship is named for the late Frank Newman, one of Campus Compact's founders, who was a tireless advocate for civic engagement in

higher education. In the spirit of Dr. Newman's leadership, each fellow is nominated by their campus president or chancellor, who is invited to select one exemplary community-committed student from their campus each year.

Salve President Kelli Armstrong selected Stolberg for the honor. A Secondary Education and Mathematics major, the rising Junior is engaged in the Student Government Association and serves as a peer mentor. He also mentors local high school students through his participation in Salve Regina's Pathways program, focused on guiding first-generation students and their families

to high school graduation and college enrollment. His dedication to community service dates back to his high school years, during which he served on the select board of his hometown of Leicester, Massachusetts, participated with the AmeriCorps Generation Teach program, and volunteered as an Eagle Scout. Stolberg believes educators play a critical role in inspiring the next generation to become active participants in their communities.

Armstrong noted, "As a future educator, Jacob is committed to helping students better understand social challenges by exposing them to

different perspectives and encouraging them to work for a world that is harmonious, just, and merciful."

Through the fellowship, Campus Compact provides these students with learning and networking opportunities that help to nurture their development as civic leaders. Programming emphasizes personal, professional, and civic growth that can empower them to collaborate effectively across disciplines and create large-scale positive change.

The cornerstone of the fellowship is the Annual Convening of Newman Civic Fellows, which offers intensive in-per-

son skill-building and networking over three days. The fellowship also provides fellows with pathways to apply for exclusive opportunities, including mini-grants to help fund community projects, scholarships, and post-graduate opportunities.

"We are honored to recognize such an outstanding group of community-committed students," said Campus Compact President Bobbie Laur. "One of the best parts of the Newman Civic Fellowships is the richness of students' perspectives, experiences, and backgrounds and how these varied stories all led to their passion-

ate engagement with the social, political, and environmental issues impacting our world. These students will be the catalysts for change on many levels, and we are privileged to help empower them to create that change."

The Newman Civic Fellowship is generously supported by The Allstate Foundation. Learn more at compact.org/newman-civic-fellowship. You can read more about each of the student leaders selected for this year's cohort at compact.org/current-programs/newman-civic-fellowship/newman-civic-fellows.

West Brookfield church prepares for annual festival

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

WEST BROOKFIELD — During the upcoming Asparagus Festival, volunteers with First Congregational Church of West Brookfield will once again serve their signature asparagus chowder from the church lawn.

Last year, for the first time since the festival began, church volunteers served their chowder from the church lawn instead of the Town Common. After a successful debut of the new format,

volunteers will once again offer soups from the lawn at this year's event (Saturday, May 18).

The church serves up both hot chowder by the cup and cold quarts of chowder to go. The cold quarts will be available for sale on both the Town Common and the church lawn, whereas the hot chowder will only be available on the church lawn, along with cold drinks and desserts.

Hot chowder will be served from 10 a.m. until it runs out. Be sure to arrive early with your appetite, as the chowder has been known to run out quickly at recent events.

"The kitchen creates 140 gallons of the hot, creamy chowder each year and works

for days in advance in preparation, chopping vegetables and measuring ingredients," read a statement released by church volunteers.

For this year's festival, the church's volunteer pool features about 25 people performing various tasks. These include local residents volunteering as kitchen workers, cashiers, chowder servers, and members of the cleanup crew, among other jobs.

"Participation in the Asparagus Festival with the church's famous asparagus chowder is one of their biggest fundraisers each year, with proceeds benefiting the general fund of the church and their mission programs," the statement read.

For more information about this year's offerings, please call the church at 508-867-7078.

The annual Asparagus and Flower Heritage Festival will once again draw thousands of guests from throughout the region and the country. Set for Saturday, May 18, the festival will take place on the Town Common from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Dozens of vendors, crafters, and growers from across New England will take part in the event. The festival will also include an array of foods and treats; musical performances; appearances from local organizations and businesses; and special activities for families and children.

The event will take place rain or shine.

Curry College welcomes Michael Ouellette into Alexander Graham Bell Honor Society

MILTON — Curry College welcomes Michael Ouellette of Leicester into the Alexander Graham Bell Honor Society.

The objective of the Alexander Graham Bell (AGB) Honor Society is to promote and recognize academic excellence at Curry College. The Society is named for the famous inventor, Alexander Graham Bell, who was an early chancellor at Curry College. It was founded in 1971 to recognize and promote academic excellence through a variety of activities at Curry.

The Alexander Graham Bell Honor Society is one of Curry's most distinguished organizations. Membership in the Society is limited to those students who have achieved Dean's List every semester while enrolled at Curry College.

About Curry College

Curry College, founded in Boston in 1879, is a private, co-educational, liberal arts-based institution located on 131 acres in Milton, Massachusetts. The College extends its educational programs to a continuing education branch campus in Plymouth. The College offers 24 undergraduate majors in specialized and liberal arts programs, as well as graduate degrees in accounting, business, education, criminal justice, and nursing to a combined enrollment of nearly 2,500 students.

The student body consists of 1,700 traditional students and nearly 800 continuing education and graduate students. The College offers a wide array of co-curricular activities ranging from 16 NCAA Division III athletic teams to an outstanding theatre and fine arts program. Visit us on the Web at www.curry.edu.

[www.Stonebridge Press.com](http://www.StonebridgePress.com)

PROPERTIES FOR RENT
Prince Edward Island, Canada
Summer/Fall Weekly Cottage Rental
2-bedroom newly constructed oceanfront cottage that sleeps 8. Sweeping views of the pond, ocean and lighthouse. Enjoy kayaking, bicycling and beach walking.
\$900/wk. Contact Scott at 603-254-5032 or scottm@plymouth.edu
TYBEE ISLAND, GEORGIA
YEAR-ROUND SHORT-TERM RENTAL
1-bedroom unit overlooking ocean in a gated community with pool and walkway to beach. Sleeps 4. Watch dolphins at play, freighters, pelicans and fishing boats. Prices vary.
Contact Oceanfront Cottage Rentals at 800-786-5889 or <http://www.oceanfrontcottage.com/listings/218-bay-breezes>

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Sutton, MA
Furniture, glassware, small kitchen appl, tools, TV's, snowblower, car (Hyundai Elantra)

SUPERINTENDENT
The Historic Spencer Pine Grove Cemetery is in need of a Superintendent to manage the upkeep of the cemetery and oversee burials and plot sales. This position is part time and seasonal ranging from 10 to 30 hours per week. Qualifications include landscaping experience, "people" skills and knowledge of small engine and equipment maintenance. The rate is 20 to 25 per hour based upon experience. Please call for an interview at 508-635-7733.

Friday's Child

Hi! My name is Marie and I love dancing!
Marie, whose pronouns are she, he, they/them, is kind, engaging, and resilient. Marie's foster family and teachers describe them as friendly, playful, and affectionate. Marie loves dancing and will dance for hours in the afternoon but is shy to show off their dance moves. They also enjoy going on daily walks for fresh air. Marie's favorite restaurants include Chinese buffets and McDonalds and their favorite meal consist of fried chicken sandwiches with coke products.
<https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/6138>

If you're at least 18 years old, have a stable source of income, and room in your heart, you may be a perfect match to adopt a waiting child. Adoptive parents can be single, married, or partnered; experienced or not; renters or homeowners; LGBTQ+ singles and couples. As an adoptive parent, you won't have to pay any fees, adoption from foster care is completely free in Massachusetts.

The process to adopt a child from foster care includes training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you. These steps will help match you with a child or sibling group that your family will fit well with.

To learn more about adoption from foster care visit www.mareinc.org. 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.



'Afternoon of Brass' Concert Series returns to Boston, Worcester Memorial Day Weekend

WORCESTER — Building on critically and commercially acclaimed shows since 2019, the team at Northbridge Brass Endeavors is proud to present the Afternoon of Brass #3 concert series. Concert goes and volunteer musicians will experience an unforgettable afternoon filled with the rich sounds of brass music. Three afternoon concerts are planned: May 24 and May 25 at the Old South Church in Boston and May 26 at Mechanics Hall in Worcester. New for this year is a call for volunteer singers and brass players who will join forces with the professional brass onstage at Mechanics Hall.

Featuring WGBH/WCRB's Brian McCreath as emcee, Lawrence Isaacson as resident conductor, Stephen Bulla as guest conductor and selected Boston Symphony Orchestra and Pops brass players, the concert series will be nothing less than ... spectacular! Don't miss

out on this exciting opportunity to experience the power and beauty of brass music live in person either as a participant or spectator.

Paying homage to the spirit of the Memorial Day holiday, the program begins with "Taps" and "Retreat" (Butterfield) arranged for "The President's Own" United States Marine Band brass by former USMC arranger Thomas Knox. The program includes some of the most demanding works ever written and arranged for brass including: "Festive Overture" (Shostakovich), "Polovtsian Dances from Prince Igor" (Borodin), "Arrival of the Queen of Sheba" (Handel), "Grand March from Tannhäuser" (Wagner) and "Pictures at an Exhibition" (Mussorgsky). While all concerts feature "Adventures on Earth from E.T." (Williams), "Elsa's Procession to the Cathedral" (Wagner) and "Gathering of the Armies on the

River Scheldt" (Wagner), only the final concert at Mechanics Hall will feature the volunteer musicians onstage with the professional brass ensemble.

Volunteer singers will add operatic glory to "Adventures on Earth." Guest conductor Stephen Bulla leads the musical adventure with his unique arrangement for brass, chorus and piano. Volunteer brass players will add reinforced power to "Elsa's Procession to the Cathedral" and "Gathering of the Armies on the River Scheldt" under the direction of producer, conductor, and trombonist Patrick Smith. "We've got about a hundred volunteers so far and we have room for another hundred," said Smith who added "to register and receive more information just complete the Interest & Availability form at our website." Volunteer musicians must be at least 13 years of age.

For tickets and more information go to Afternoon of Brass #3: Memorial

Weekend Spectacular. There is no option for cash at the door. Tickets must be purchased in advance online. Discounted tickets are available to active-duty military and veterans, first responders, dependent family members, as well as EBT, WIC, and CC cardholders, and residents of towns

Relay for Life returns June 15

SOUTHBRIDGE — The 27th Relay For Life of Southern Worcester County will take place on Saturday, June 15 from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. at McMahon Field, 25 Cole Ave, Southbridge.

We would like to invite and survivors to our continental breakfast which will happen after our opening ceremony and the Survivor lap. We also invite them to have dinner with us at 5 p.m.

Survivor T-Shirts will no longer be available at the Relay, we ask that survivors either register on the Relay website www.relayforlife.org/swc or to call 1-800-227-2345. Please allow a few weeks for delivery.

ChichiWow Hot Dogs will be with us during the day.

Our one-pound auction is happening at 1 p.m.

There will be a hula hoop lap, two legged lap, crazy hat lap, tutu lap, purple slime bucket challenge and more.

For more information, please visit our Web site, www.relayforlife.org/swc.

Coast Guard offers boating safety checks

REGION — Get your free 2024 Vessel Safety Check and enter to win a Safe Boating Award at the Memorial Beach Boat Ramp Saturday, June 15 at Nipmuc Cove, Webster Lake, and the Wallum Lake Boat Ramp Saturday, June 22 at Douglas State Forest.

Bring any type of watercraft from kayaks, canoes, PWCs, sailboats, cabin cruisers, to ski & pontoon boats for a stem to stern check of equipment for compliance to federal and state safety regulations. Vessels can be inspected on a trailer as well as afloat.

Trailerred vessels, not having Webster access sticker and not launching, can be examined at the entrance gate to Memorial Ramp. Personal Watercraft, not allowed to launch at the Wallum Lake Ramp on weekends, can also be examined at the gate. Both locations can accommodate boats arriving by water. The stations will be active from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at both the locations, with the following Sundays as rain-dates if needed.

Vessel Examiners are qualified and experienced to answer any boating related questions or concerns along with being trained to spot any potential problems. They will award your vessel with a 2024 VSC decal if it meets Auxiliary standards on items such as: registration & hull numbering, life jackets, fire extinguishers, expiration dates on flares (if required), working navigation lights, overall vessel condition, etc. A VSC is conducted only with your consent; no reports are filed with any law enforcement agency. There are no citations, legal obligations, or penalties on violations or potential problems found. A VSC decal might result in a boat insurance discount and will indicate to law enforcement on the water that your vessel complies with safety regulations. The Examiner will give the vessel owner options and information on correcting any issues. Often a quick trip to the

nearest boating supply vendor is all that is necessary to obtain missing safety items and easily pass a re-inspection, sometimes on the same day.

Coast Guard Auxiliary Vessel Examiners will be around the local lakes at various, un-scheduled times during the boating season; they are few in number and not readily available inland. Cannot make it to the station...schedule a VSC online at the link below, or you can connect with a Tri-State Examiner by call or text to (508) 864-0782.

Best to take advantage of this scheduled opportunity and start your boating season with a visit to our station, a 2024 VSC Decal, and a chance to win one of several great rewards.

As a reward for getting a VSC from one of our Tri-State Examiners or at one of our two stations this year, you will be entered to win one of several gift certificates from local marinas, venues, and restaurants. One entry for each vessel examined, winners will be determined and contacted following a drawing on September 24 at our flotilla meeting. It is a WIN for knowing that your boat is equipped properly, and a possible WIN for dinner, or boating equipment & services.

Safe Boating Supporters for this reward program are: Hazard Marine, Lakeview Marine, Indian Ranch. Restaurants: Point Breeze, Eighty Ates Bistro,

Waterfront Mary's, & Saloon No. 6 in Webster.

Lakeside Kids Event at Memorial Beach Thursday, June 6, 4 - 7 p.m.

Sponsored by Lakeview Marine this event has been planned to introduce the kids of our community to the fun that can be had on and around the water! Learn the many ways to enjoy our beautiful lakes - sign up for swim lessons, try

out a kayak, learn fishing casting techniques, "Touch a Boat" get up close to recreational & public safety boats from the police and fire departments. The Coast Guard Auxiliary Tri-State Flotilla will have a boating safety tent with information, handouts, and CG coloring books for kids.

The posted activities are subject to change based on weather conditions and vendor availability.

Join Pine Grove Cemetery cleanup May 25

SPENCER — Spencer residents and PGC plot owners, please join us for the Spencer Pine Grove Cemetery's annual volunteer spring clean up day on Saturday, May 25 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Route 31 North (North Spencer Road).

Help us: Get rid of winter debris Neaten up gravesites Remove trash and Show our respect for loved ones buried here!

Refreshments will be provided! Come and provide a community service while enjoying a beautiful and serene setting.

St. Joseph's Parish Indoor/Outdoor Yard Sale

Date: Saturday, May 25th
Time: 8am - 3pm
Location: 28 Mt. Pleasant St., North Brookfield

Featured items include - Household, furniture, small furnishings, decorative items, and attic treasures

Proceeds to benefit St. Joseph's Church

SOPHOMORES NAMED TO BAY PATH HONOR ROLL

CHARLTON — Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical School congratulates the following grade 10 students on being named to the honor roll for the third quarter of the 2023-2024 school year.

High Honors

Helena Adkins, Addison Aho, Logan Barriere, Vincent Bedard, David Betancur, Isabella Bitar, Dominic Boyd, Aleah Brink, Brianna Brink, Emily Corey, Jayla Fowler, Aiden Giroux-Provencher, Joshua Irons, Jr., Zackery Kelleher, Phoebe Lawendowski, Ava Mastrototaro, Felix Menard, Alexis Messina, Alexis Moody, Kayleigh Ramm, Jordan Russell, Gabriel Turcotte, Gabriela Vazquez Hernandez, Esmerelda Velez, Haylee Zuorwski

Honors

Bayleigh Abdella, Adriana Alicea, Sarah Appiah Kubi, Jacob Archambault, Alexander Audunsson, Victoria Bachand, Arianna Belanger, Emma Berry, Edward Blash, Riley Boucher, Lucien Brodeur, Alissa Burlingame, Dimitri Burt, Liam Carlson, Samuel Ceppetelli, Lily Chartier, Frederick Cierpich II, Charles Congdon, Hunter Coombs, Maxton Cournoyer, Jacob Creeron, Valentina Culbersen, Brody Cunningham, Joseph Daige, Abigail Dejong, Myiah DeLaRosa, Treyton Dery, Brandon Donnell, Nathan Dube, Savannah Dubois, Jocelyn Evans, Anika Ferrantino, Jordan Ferreira, Ethan Ford, Anthony Gonya, Aliyah Gonyea, Sadie Hawley, Luke Heller, Kolton Hemenway, Liam Hesselton, Lillian Horner, Grace Huehls, Hannah Ingalls, Nicholas Jalbert, Joshua Jeffers, Samuel Kittredge, Cassie Kotomski, Nia Laforest, Joel Landor, Jomar Landor, Zachary Landry, Gabrielle Lapan, Elyse Laramie, Miranda Linde, Michael Lulu, Lucas Lyons, Cullen MacLeod, Philipos Makrodimitras, Mystic Marion, Emily McDonald, Madeline McDonald-Trimby, Kyle Mondor, Gianna Morelli, Tyson Moriarty, Chase Newman, Liam Nicoll, Sebastian Nieuwenhoff, Benjamin Nocchi, Kamryn Nourse, Matthew Obrycki, Kelsey Olson, Cole Paradis, Amari Pereira, Mariah Pereira,

Adam Phaneuf, Jacob Pratt, Connor Reidy, Grace Retallic, Nathan Rouille Montoya, Jared Senosk, Luke Smolski, Keagan Standring, Nathan Steen, Gaige Thompson, Ashley Tingle, Josiah Torres, Yandel Torres, Ellie Vanleck, Natalie Vigeant, Ava Wall, Ethan Wall, Hunter White, Trey Wilkin, Madison Williamson

Principal's List

Violet Aucella, Rhianna Balliet, Nathan Bernard, Ryan Berthiaume, William Blash, Marianelys Cintron Perez, Hailey Costa, Connor Czechowski, Nicholas Dasilva, Samuel Davis, Heidi Ebbeling, Aedan Ellis-Morris, Matthew Falcigno, Yandel Feliciano, Leia Foster, Rylee Fulmine, Tristan Garcia-Cruz, Hailey Gentile, Anna Guay, Carlos Guerra, Isaiah Harris-Harrington, Christian Johnson, Tabian Keegan, Ayden Kennedy, Callie Lambert, Alyssa Lopez, Mia Lussier, Cheyanne Mitchell, Sebastian Moniz, Jordan Nichols, Oskaryna Nunez, Connor O'Brien, Angelica Padilla, Aiden Perzanoski, Samantha Prefontaine, Samantha Reseigh, Taylor Richard, Marian Rodriguez Rivera, Sawyer Schultz, Jaxon Sitko, Braden Smith, Alexxis Spenard, Thadæus Tweneboa, Elias Vega, Reece Verderber, Marc Anthony Weld, Zaylie Whiteman



Tarentino Strong
www.tarentinofund.org

Please join us for the
2024 Tarentino Strong 5K held in memory of Officer Ronald Tarentino, Jr. Sunday, June 9th @ Auburn Elks Kids Fun Run @ 9:30
5K @ 10:00 with chip timing and finish line photos Family Fun Event with DJ, Emergency Vehicles, Raffles, Coffee, Treats, Free Giveaways...

runsignup.com/tarentino



MERCURY RECOVERY PROGRAM

Mercury is an element that can be harmful to human health and the environment if not disposed of properly.

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
 PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
 EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Embracing nature's flourish: The case for No Mow May

As we wind down the month of May, a rare opportunity has presented itself, with a chance to change our relationship with our lawns and embrace the beauty of nature's unruly charm. "No Mow May" is a movement that encourages homeowners and communities to refrain from mowing their lawns for the entire month. While it may initially sound unconventional, this initiative carries several benefits for both our environment and our well-being.

No Mow May supports biodiversity. By allowing our lawns to grow freely, we create habitats and food sources for a variety of insects, birds, and small mammals. Native wildflowers, clovers, and grasses flourish, attracting pollinators such as bees and butterflies that are crucial to our ecosystem's health. Through this simple act of not mowing our lawns, we actively contribute to the preservation of local flora and fauna, helping to restore balance to our landscapes.

No Mow May presents an opportunity for us to reconnect with nature and foster a sense of wonder in our surroundings. As we witness the transformation of our lawns into vibrant meadows, we are reminded of the cyclical nature of life and the beauty found in untamed spaces. Stepping outside and immersing ourselves in these naturally evolving environments can be a source of inspiration, relaxation, and a respite from the demands of our daily lives.

Further, No Mow May holds significant environmental benefits. By refraining from mowing, we reduce our carbon footprint and conserve valuable resources.

Critics may argue that unkempt lawns present a sense of neglect or an invitation for pests. However, it is important to distinguish between neglect and intentional cultivation of natural spaces. No Mow May encourages us to redefine our perception of what a "perfect" lawn looks like, allowing for a shift in aesthetics that prioritizes the health of our ecosystems over conforming to conventional norms.

Let your lawn be a canvas for nature's masterpiece, even if just for a few weeks!

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

CPA tax increase

To the Editor:
 Here we go again! A new way of taxing property owners with a nice name. CPA, or Community Preservation Act, is a state law put in place allowing communities to add a tax surcharge of property owners. A tax new tax increase on you. Sounds great — reserving your community — until you read its real purpose. Create a revenue stream to finance "Affordable Housing." This is the Progressive Dems' left trick of wrapping a tax increase in a pretty wrapper. They know that the majority of Dem voters are not that bright and can be easily fooled with this deception. Another Dem trick with no treat from your Queen Healy.

Who does our great state of Massachusetts prioritize our affordable housing stock for? We all know. The thousands of illegals being flown into Massachusetts by Biden and housed by Healy. So just how does this "Preserve" your community? Ask the people of Leicester how their community has been "preserved" with the former Becker college housing illegals. Instead of allowing it to be sold to developers who would put high end condos and increase the tax base they now have a public housing project in their little town funded by property tax collections. There's talk of new high density housing being put in the old drive in. May be a new home for Hamas refugees to relocate and "Preserve" our community.

You are asked if you're against it why didn't you attend the town meeting? Anyone who goes to these sees the room is stacked with supporters of the proposal. You end up in a minority in a hostile environment. The ones Biden has bought and paid for. Present and ex school workers who had their pensions fully paid off by Biden. The same ones Biden released from school loans. It doesn't really entice people to show up when you have the Biden army there. But you do have the final say at election time. It has to be voted on at the annual town election. So read the

facts online under "CPA Spencer." A 3 percent surcharge on a home valued at \$350,000 will get another \$98.7 added to your bill. The state will match that by 43 percent. You know what happens when the state matches it. They get a say in what you spend it on. Our Queen Healy and the Boston Dems are intent on filling our communities up with housing for the illegals. This way they get you to help foot the bill and put a financial burden on you. Isn't that great of them! This on top of the financial burden placed by the town on property owners with school debt exclusions. All the money the state spent on housing illegals could have built us new schools 10X over! Our administrators are doing such a great job! With their support for Biden, pretty soon, they will preserve your community so much that you won't be able to afford to live here.

Here's a novel idea! Why not insist that a bylaw be created that requires any monies from the CPA tax go in to a "Parks and Recreation Fund Account" with the stipulation that it can only be spent on projects approved by voters at the polls. Ask the selectmen if they approve of that. Then you see who really cares about our community. If they don't, then it's time to say enough of these bureaucrats. No tax increases until the state stops the giveaway to the illegals. It's time to say live within the means like everybody has to do. Time to say to those trying to force you out and fill the community with illegals living on your dime. Enough is enough! This bill is about as much as "Preserving Community" as Biden's "Inflation Reduction Act" had with reducing inflation. It's all a ruse to tax you more and think that it's going to help you. The only one it will help is the Progressive Dems get your hard earned money to support destroying our communities. I urge you to vote a big "No" this fall on it, and on any selectman who supports it.

MARK ROBILLARD
 SPENCER

Younger workers must balance financial priorities



FINANCIAL FOCUS
TREVOR NIELSEN

If you're a younger worker just starting out in your career, you've got tremendous personal and professional opportunities ahead of you. But this is also when you will need to make some key decisions — especially about your financial priorities.

When considering your priorities, you may find it helpful to look at these three areas:

Paying off debts – If you're like many young working people, one of your biggest debts may be your student loans — and paying these down is, by necessity, a priority, because falling behind on your student loan payments can lead to late fees and other problems. So, if you haven't done so already, you may want to enroll in autopay, which will help you stay current on your loan and possibly earn a rate reduction.

Saving for short-term goals – At this stage of your life, you may be thinking about saving for at least one or two significant short-term goals, such as a wedding or a down payment to a house — or perhaps both. Obviously, your ability to save for these goals will depend on your income, your current cost of living and your debt situation. But if a wedding or a new home is indeed a priority for you, you'll want to look at what's possible, in terms of putting money away. Since you know you'll need a certain amount of money at a given time, you may want to automatically move a set amount from your checking or savings account each month to a low-risk account whose principal is essentially protected. You might not earn a lot on such an account, but at the same time, you won't have to worry about a drop in value just when you need to take out the money.

Saving for retirement – Even though you may just be at the beginning of your working life, it's not too soon to begin preparing for its conclusion. You could spend two, or even three, decades in an active retirement, so you will need to accumulate considerable financial resources. Fortunately, here's an area in which you may be able to get some help, starting right away. If you work for a mid-size or large company, your employer may well offer a 401(k) or similar retirement plan. Your pre-tax salary deferral contributions are generally not taxable, so the more you put in, the lower your taxable income. Plus, your earnings can grow on a tax-deferred basis. (If your employer offers a Roth 401(k), your contributions will be taxable, but withdrawals will be tax-free, provided you meet certain conditions.) These days, even many small employers often offer some type of retirement plan, so it's likely to your benefit to take full advantage of it by contributing as much as you can afford.

Prioritizing these long-term savings goals, and striving to meet them with the appropriate solutions, can certainly be challenging. But as a young worker, you have the greatest — and most irreplaceable — asset on your side: time. So, make the most of it. Think carefully about your needs and options and take the steps that enable you to keep making progress toward all your objectives.

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.

Toms are looking for love



Courtesy
Peter with a nice smallmouth bass from Wachusett Res recently!



THE GREAT OUTDOORS
 RALPH TRUE

sure sign that toms are on the hunt for romance with a new lady.

Freshwater fishing for trout, and numerous other species of fish have anglers becoming more serious about their sport. Wachusett Res is providing better action for lakers, salmon and as this week's second picture shows smallmouth bass.

Local ponds and rivers are also producing some nice trout for anglers to enjoy catching. Mass. will continue to stock trout until Memorial Day in most areas, and will stock areas a bit later if the trout become available.

Deer are also having their young this month, and residents are asked not to get too close to a young deer, or attempt to pick it up if they think the fawn is abandoned. The mother is not too far away and often hides their young as they do every year.

Waterfowl are also having a very good year hatching out their young. Local geese have been spotted with a good family of goslings, and ducks also seem to be having a good hatching of their young.

Numerous ospreys in the Uxbridge area have been spotted catching fish in local ponds and carrying them off to feed their young. Ospreys were nearly wiped out locally when the DDT poison was used to kill mosquitos and other insects. Watching ospreys diving into the water at high speeds to catch fish is extremely entertaining, and they can dive down up to three feet to catch a fish.

Wildlife is in good shape locally & with the help of sportsmen's money, they should stay that way.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!



This week's second picture shows Alex with his first turkey ever. Nice bird!

Turkey hunting is starting to improve as toms start to find new areas to look for love. Many hens are already sitting on their eggs. More sightings of turkeys roaming fields and side roads, are a

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Readers Share Favorite Hacks and Hints

It's time to take a peek into the Take the Hint! snail mail and virtual mailboxes. Thanks to all the readers who have taken time from their busy schedule to send in their great tips for dealing with the little nuisances in life. And remember readers, your tip puts you in the running for a three course dinner for two at the Publick House! From reusing common items to adding creativity to keeping the birdbath clean, the following tips from readers are sure to make the season's hassles a little easier to handle!

A reader offers her tried and true strategy (using an unexpected household item) to safely remove ticks:

Warmer weather is right around the corner and so are the ticks! A friend told us to put toothpaste on area as soon as you discover a tick biting. You will soon see movement of the tick as they willingly escape the

dreaded toothpaste. My husband and both had success with this method last summer. It really works. Good luck and stay safe!

Nancy Asplund
Brimfield, MA

This medley of creative reuse and recycling tips save time and money!

1. **Dryer wipes:** I don't use them in the dryer; I put them in plastic totes when I store clothes, Christmas items, curtains, etc. They give a pleasant smell to the clothes.

Then when I remove the wipes from the totes, I use them to clean the bathroom sink and tub and/or use them dry on a Swiffer (use two and push into holes on back) for a quick pick up.

2. **Used tissue paper:** I cut it up into a convenient size and use to wipe grease out of pans and as a quick way to clean the kitchen floor when food drops there,



TAKE
THE
HINT
KAREN
TRAINOR

3. **Alcohol pre-moistened towels:** Restaurants sometimes give these out with messy foods. Use to wipe your hands after making meatballs, meatloaf, cutting chicken up, etc. I wet the ones that have dried up. They also can be used for doing a quick kitchen counter or floor pickup.

These ideas enable one to recycle items normally discarded after one use.

Cynthia Vlasaly
Whitinsville, MA

This reader's tip uses copper's natural algicide properties to solve a common garden challenge:

Love birdbaths but hate potential mosquito infestation due to standing water? Toss three or

four copper pennies into your birdbath, it keeps the water clean, clear, and mosquito free!

Note: Pre 1982 pennies were made of copper, KJE
No address submitted

Talk about Yankee Ingenuity! From a quick fix to a creative keepsake, this reader always comes up with useful ideas:

Here's a solution I found for when the hard plastic ring on a new pump shampoo bottle cracked: Luckily, in my odds and ends drawer, I always tuck in one spare pump from a previous empty bottle just for such emergencies. I was able to remove the broken and put on the replacement in seconds! Time to watch for a new spare. This works for hand lotion or glass or kitchen cleaners too!

I recently dug into my sewing and craft basket to embellish a child's

book. I simply attached a heart of craft fur to a Baby Animal book with open and peek windows. This easy addition offered a touch sense to go along with the peek and surprise to the story book. Personalize it more by writing a personal inscription.

Viola Bramel
Northbridge, MA

Prize Winner

Congratulations to Nancy Asplund, whose name was drawn for Dinner for Two at the Publick House. She shared her tick removal method above.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month (or whenever enough entries are received) will

win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renowned restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I'm in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I'm counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

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

Gardening helps grow healthy, happy kids

Gardeners know and research is proving that gardening, even viewing a garden, as well as spending time in nature is good for the mind, body, and spirit. It improves strength and flexibility, lowers blood pressure, and elevates our moods.

This is also true for the youngsters in our lives. Recent studies found that school-aged children who participate in outdoor activities have better vision than those who spend most of their time indoors. Children who engage in nature and gardening are more focused, score better on exams, and are less likely to develop or exhibit symptoms of ADHD. And kids who play outside and get a bit dirty also have stronger immune systems.

Help get the kids in your life involved in gardening. There are a variety of ways to get youngsters involved no matter how much space or time you have.

Consider giving each child their own garden space or a container garden to design, plant, and tend. Containers are a great option when planting space and time are limited. And just about anything can be grown in a pot. An old 5-gallon bucket or washtub with holes drilled into the bottom, recycled nursery pots, or a colorful raised planter make great gardens.

Provide them with some kid-sized tools and equipment. The tools' smaller scale will be easier for them to handle and having their own tools that match yours makes gardening even more special. Consider investing in a set of kids' gardening tools including hand tools, long-handled tools, and even a wheelbarrow like those at Corona Tools USA (coronatools.com).

Keep in mind the goal is for kids to have fun and develop an interest in gardening. You may need to bite your tongue when their combinations are rather unique, or plants are spaced improperly. Provide some guidance but be prepared to let them experiment and learn from their failures as well as successes.

Kids like to water even at an

early age. The biggest challenge is getting the water to the plant but that will come with time, practice, and a few water-soaked outfits. Your efforts will be rewarded when your child takes over watering your container gardens.

You may notice kids often find bugs and worms more interesting than plants. Use this as a gateway into gardening. Get kids involved in worm composting or hunting for earthworms in the compost pile. They will have fun on the worm hunt while helping you turn your compost pile.

Use the "Pluck, Drop and Stomp" method to manage garden pests. Point out the bad guys and the damage they do. Be sure they know to watch for the good guys and leave them be to help the garden grow. Then have the children pluck the bad bugs off the plant, drop them to the ground, and stomp on them. This eco-friendly pest management strategy also burns



GARDEN
MOMENTS
MELINDA
MYERS

some of that excess energy.

Include lots of color in the garden and containers. Michigan State University surveyed kids before creating their children's garden. They found kids were much more excited and likely to participate when a garden is filled with color.

And as the flowers are maturing and your family is overrun with vegetables, consider sharing the harvest and a few bouquets of flowers. Giving helps children grow into caring, well-rounded adults. And food pantries in your community are always in need of fresh produce. Most of the food-insecure people in our communities are kids and seniors who greatly benefit from fresh nutri-

tious vegetables.

Be sure to end the growing season with a harvest party. Use your homegrown produce to prepare a picnic or fancy dinner for family and friends. Then use some of those beautiful flowers you grew to decorate the table.

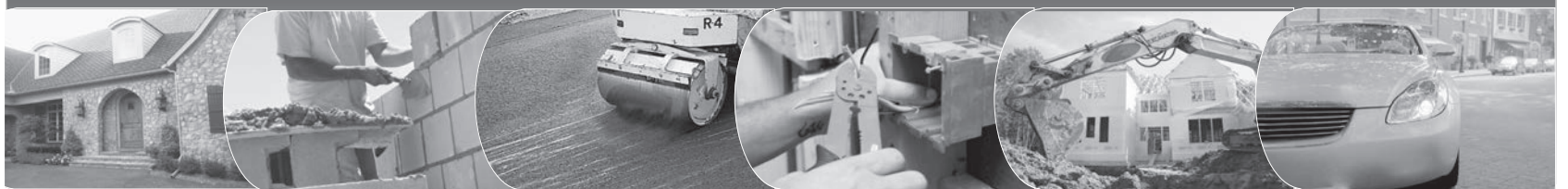
Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the recently released *Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition* and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment TV &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



Corona Tools — Courtesy

Research has shown that gardening and spending time in nature is beneficial to kids, including but not limited to better vision, increased focus, and a stronger immune system.

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LMS students seek funding for upcoming trip



Six Leicester Middle School students will attend a national competition.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — Community fundraising assistance is requested to help Leicester Middle School send its first ever group of students to the University of Maryland to participate in the final competition of the National History Day program.

Six LMS students qualified to attend nationals as a result of their projects submitted during the Massachusetts History Day competition held at Winchester High School last month.

The state competition featured 400 students representing 40 schools. The following Leicester Middle School students qualified for participation in the national program: Evelyn Clark, Alexis Dould, Amelia McIntyre, Emily Hipple, Eloise Vera, and Gia Dombroski.

The students' road to nationals began at a school-wide LMS History Day program held on Feb. 7.

"All LMS students in grades six and eight presented research projects to judges at LMS. Our judges included members of the Massachusetts legislature, college professors, and school offi-

cials," said LMS social studies teacher Norman Everett.

At the school-wide competition, 39 LMS students were selected to move on to the regional competition held on March 10. Leicester served as host for the event, welcoming 150 students from more than 20 schools across central Massachusetts. Students were then selected from this group to advance to the state competition held on April 6.

The national competition will take place June 9-13 in Maryland. Students will have the opportunity to present their work at a major event that is attended by students from all 50 states.

Additionally, students will visit several Washington DC historical sites. For the entirety of the competition, students will stay on the University of Maryland campus.

The trip will cost about \$538 per person, and community members are asked to help support the students and their chaperones by making donations.

"Our goal is to reduce the financial burden of this trip by fund-

raising. We have set up a GoFundMe to pay the costs of the trip. The funds raised will be used to pay for registration fees, food, and housing," read a statement released by school officials. "Transportation has been provided at no cost by the Massachusetts Historical Society."

If you would like to make a donation in support of the students, visit: <https://gofund.me/6e6bda4f>.

Another option to reach the fundraising site is visiting www.GoFundMe.com. You can then type "Support Leicester MS Students' National History Quest" into the search box in the upper left corner of the page.

Donations will be accepted through May 31.

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Courtesy

Local seniors enjoy a recent picnic hosted by the Worcester County Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff's Office looks forward to return of Senior Picnic

SHREWSBURY — Sheriff Lew Evangelidis and the Worcester County Sheriff's Office look forward to the return of the annual Sheriff's Senior Picnic.

This year's event will take place on Saturday, June 8, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at SAC Park in Shrewsbury.

"Due to the success of previous years, the picnic will once again be held as a drive-thru and feature a BBQ boxed lunch, goodie bags, music, giveaways, raffle prizes, and more," read a statement released by the Sheriff's Office.

The event is free and open to all residents in Worcester County over the age of 60. Space is limited and an RSVP is required to attend.

Please visit the following site to RSVP: ReserveDeputySheriff.com/2024-senior-picnic.

You may also reserve your spot at the event by calling 508-796-2638, or through email at nydia@worcestercountysheriff.org.

Please leave a message with your name, address, and phone number.

Those wishing to attend the event must register by May 20.

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POLICE REPORTS

Leicester Police Log THURSDAY, MAY 2

1:17 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 1:31 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Carleton Road), spoken to; 2:11 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 2:53 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street) verbal warning; 7:51 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), spoken to; 8:47 a.m.: family problem (McCarthy Avenue), peace restored; 10:18 a.m.: debris in road (Folsom Street), no action required; 10:35 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 11:30 a.m.: investigation (South Main Street), report taken; 11:39 a.m.: restraining order service (Main Street), unable to serve; 1:47 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 1:56 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 2:12 p.m.: property found (Pleasant Street), services rendered; 3:19 p.m.: welfare check (Henshaw Street), assisted; 3:35 p.m.: restraining order service (Main Street), unable to serve; 3:44 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 3:50 p.m.: restraining order service (McCarthy Avenue), served; 4:17 p.m.: ambulance (High Street, Spencer), transported; 5:02 p.m.: larceny (Pleasant Street), investigated; 5:38 p.m.: ambulance (Chandler Street, Worcester), call canceled; 6:22 p.m.: property found (Main Street), lobby service; 6:32 p.m.: restraining order service (McCarthy Avenue), unable to serve; 7:08 p.m.: runaway (Brickyard Road), spoken to; 7:27 p.m.: erratic operator (Peter Salem Road), gone on arrival; 8:54 a.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), referred; 9:23 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 9:31 p.m.: accident (Stafford Street), report taken; 11:02 p.m.: assist citizen (Main Street).

FRIDAY, MAY 3

2:53 a.m.: assist citizen (Main Street); 3:47 a.m.: ambulance (South Main Street), transported; 7:16 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 8:00 a.m.: suspicious mv (Stafford Street), mv towed; 8:45 a.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), Pedro L. Morales, 33, 12 Wall Street, #2, Worcester, op w/suspended registration, warrant, arrest, name and address redacted from police log, shoplifting by concealing merchandise/greater than \$250, possession Class E drug (suboxone), criminal application issued; 8:51 a.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 10:12 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:23 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:29 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), citation issued; 10:39 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 10:58 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:13 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 11:21 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 12:03 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), Eric Hunter Kellenberger, 47, 27 Prospect Street, Princeton, failure to appear upon recognizance, arrest; 12:40 p.m.: family problem (Utica Street), services rendered; 12:43 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), citation issued; 12:46 p.m.: ambulance (West Street), transported; 1:01 p.m.: hit/run accident (River Street), report taken; 1:16 p.m.: school incident (Main Street), services rendered; 1:43 p.m.: animal complaint (Marshall Street), referred; 2:16 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 2:20 p.m.: restraining order service (Main Street), unable to serve; 4:14 p.m.: investigation (Paxton Street), report taken; 5:42 p.m.: gunshots heard (Pine Street), unable to locate; 5:55 p.m.: investigation (Sabina Circle), report taken; 6:03 p.m.: arrest warrant service (Town Beach Road), unable to serve; 6:14 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), written warning; 6:51 p.m.: mv stop (Mayflower Road), spoken to; 8:06 p.m.: welfare check (Utica Street), assisted; 9:48 p.m.: suspicious mv (Waite Street), investigated; 10:10 p.m.: disturbance (Franklin Street), services rendered; 11:00 p.m.: disturbance (Collier Avenue), services rendered; 11:59 p.m.: harassment (Pleasant Street), report taken.

SATURDAY, MAY 4

1:56 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), Lawrence Colon, 38, 13 Lincoln Street, 2nd Floor, Spencer; OUI liquor, marked lanes violation, possession Class B/ subsequent offense, arrest; 4:02 a.m.: accident (Pleasant Street), report taken; 7:12 a.m.: assist citizen (Main Street), restraining order served; 8:01 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), written warning; 8:16 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 9:16 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 9:16 a.m.: ambulance (Henshaw Street), transported; 9:21 a.m.: mv stop (River Street), spoken to; 9:24 a.m.: mv stop (River Street), written warning; 9:34 a.m.: mv stop (River Street), spoken to; 9:44 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 9:48 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 9:51 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 9:58 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 10:02 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 10:08 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:13 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 10:24 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 10:30 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 10:39 a.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 10:41 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 11:01 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 11:21 a.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street), advised civil action; 11:38 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 11:43 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 11:49 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), written warning;

12:07 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street, Worcester), verbal warning; 1:14 p.m.: ambulance (School Street, Spencer), transported; 1:50 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), unable to locate; 1:53 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:00 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, criminal application issued; 2:09 p.m.: ambulance (Burncoat Street), transported; 3:21 p.m.: restraining order service (South Main Street), served; 7:32 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), citation issued; 7:39 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), citation issued; 7:49 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 7:56 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), citation issued; 8:10 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 8:23 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:24 p.m.: mv stop (Mannville Street), written warning; 8:26 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 8:34 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 8:39 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:44 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 8:48 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended registration, uninsured mv, criminal application issued; 8:53 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 9:27 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:31 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 9:47 p.m.: mv stop (Mill Street), verbal warning; 9:55 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, possession Class C drug, criminal application issued; 11:39 p.m.: suspicious activity (Hland Avenue), spoken to.

SUNDAY, MAY 5

12:06 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:24 a.m.: mv stop (Baldwin Street), verbal warning; 12:48 a.m.: mv stop (Rawson Street), verbal warning; 12:57 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), Edmond Ankamah, 43, 19 Merrifield Street, #1F, Worcester, unregistered mv, number plate violation to conceal ID, arrest; 7:55 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street, Spencer), transported; 8:24 a.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant Street), referred; 8:52 a.m.: ambulance (Warren Avenue), transported; 9:26 a.m.: family problem (Dale Court), report taken; 11:28 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, criminal application issued; 1:18 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, unregistered mv, criminal application issued; 1:53 p.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 2:22 p.m.: welfare check (Paxton Street), services rendered; 3:16 p.m.: family problem (Utica Street), Mitchell A. Wedge, 27, 3 Utica Street, Leicester, witness/juror/police/court official intimidation, arrest; 4:37 p.m.: lobby service (Main Street), report taken; 4:44 p.m.: ambulance (South Main Street), transported; 5:18 p.m.: neighbor dispute (Maple Glen Lane), report taken; 6:00 p.m.: suspicious person (Chapel Street), report taken; 6:54 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 7:04 p.m.: disturbance (Collier Avenue), services rendered; 7:13 p.m.: ambulance (Collier Avenue), transported; 10:02 p.m.: suspicious activity (Brown Street), resolved.

MONDAY, MAY 6

12:14 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 12:45 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 1:00 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:44 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:16 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 2:30 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:40 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 6:55 a.m.: investigation (South Main Street), resolved; 9:28 a.m.: property found (South Main Street), report taken; 9:41 a.m.: parking complaint (West Street), resolved; 9:45 a.m.: ambulance (Burncoat Lane), transported; 10:08 a.m.: suspicious person (Main Street), resolved; 10:15 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), Adrian de Jesus Parra, 18, 19 Grand Street, #3, Worcester, unlicensed operation, no inspection sticker, arrest; 10:56 a.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 11:21 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 11:41 a.m.: investigation (South Main Street), report taken; 12:14 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:11 p.m.: parking complaint (Pleasant Street), resolved; 1:18 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:25 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, uninsured mv, unregistered mv, op w/suspended registration, criminal application issued; 1:27 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 3:27 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), written warning; 3:29 p.m.: ambulance (First Street, Worcester), transported; 3:33 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 3:41 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 4:00 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 4:08 p.m.: animal complaint (Grove Street), referred; 4:13 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 4:15 p.m.: assist citizen (Paxton Street); 4:29 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 4:50 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 4:57 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 5:09 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 5:28 p.m.: ambulance (Burncoat Lane), transported; 5:55 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 6:02 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), written warning; 6:11 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 6:28 p.m.: investiga-

tion (Yellow Cab, Worcester), report taken; 8:21 p.m.: welfare check (Peter Salem Road), assisted; 9:39 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 11:42 p.m.: welfare check (South Main Street), assisted.

TUESDAY, MAY 7

12:22 a.m.: suspicious mv (Huntoon Memorial Highway), investigated; 12:52 a.m.: investigation (South Main Street), report taken; 2:38 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 6:00 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 8:47 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended registration, criminal application issued; 9:14 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 10:53 a.m.: investigation (out of town, no location provided on police log), report taken; 11:01 a.m.: disabled mv (Marshall Street), assisted; 11:04 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 12:59 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), resolved; 1:32 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 4:12 p.m.: investigation (Main Street), report taken; 4:24 p.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), referred; 4:32 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 4:37 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 4:53 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), mv towed; 4:57 p.m.: erratic operator (Whittemore Street), assisted; 5:29 p.m.: animal complaint (Chapel Street), referred; 7:06 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), no action required; 7:11 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), spoken to; 8:21 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Grove Street), report taken.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8

7:09 a.m.: accident (South Main Street), report taken; 8:41 a.m.: disabled mv (Mill Street), gone on arrival; 9:43 a.m.: suspicious person (Pine Street), services rendered; 10:31 a.m.: residential alarm (Billy's Way), call canceled; 12:28 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 12:57 p.m.: ambulance (Chatham Street, Worcester), transported; 1:54 p.m.: animal complaint (Sargent Street), referred; 2:54 p.m.: accident (River Street), report taken; 3:29 p.m.: assist other PD (Gould Road, Charlton), assisted; 3:36 p.m.: welfare check (Soojians Drive), unable to locate; 5:40 p.m.: ambulance (Warren Avenue), transported; 6:22 p.m.: property found (Towtaid Street), services rendered; 7:03 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), peace restored; 8:55 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Dale Court), no service; 9:00 p.m.: restraining order service (Beech Street), served.

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Spencer Police Log

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

1:01 a.m.: medical/general (North Spencer Road); 1:16-2:50 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 8:32 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), re: items found in truck; 9:04 a.m.: parking violation (Church Street), ticket issued; 9:31 a.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), rep. loud noise/"commotion"; 10:41 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), landlord/tenant issue; 11:27 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 11:54 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 12:57 p.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), spoken to; 3:08 p.m.: medical/general (Crown Street); 3:56 p.m.: mutual aid (High Street), assist DCF; 4:00 p.m.: medical/general (Jones Street); 4:00 p.m.: parking complaint (Maple Street), re: unreg. mv on property; 4:14 p.m.: mutual aid (Brooks Pond Road), welfare check/agency making request not noted on police log; 4:32 p.m.: 911 call (Pearl Street), hang-up; 5:31 p.m.: RV complaint (High Street), kids/motor bikes in street; 6:26 p.m.: juvenile matter (Ash Street), kids directing traffic; 6:57 p.m.: medical/general (Bell Street); 7:43 p.m.: mv complaint (Route 49), erratic operator; 8:20 p.m.: 911 call (Sunset Lane), accidental; 8:43 p.m.: suspicious activity (Main Street), investigated; 9:49 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), assist Paxton PD; 10:28 p.m.: 911 call (Pearl Street), rep. people outside window; 10:55 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; (total daily mv stops - 2).

THURSDAY, MAY 2

2:17-3:31 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:30/3:30/3:43 a.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info rec'd; 3:18 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 4:26 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), assist East Brookfield PD/disoriented female; 8:34 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 9:18 a.m.: hit/run accident (Main Street), rep. previous accident; 10:25 a.m.: animal complaint (Wall Street), concerned about dog; 11:39 a.m.: residential alarm (R. Jones Road), services rendered; 12:26 p.m.: 911 call (Cherry Street), parking complaint; 3:44 p.m.: accident (Meadow Road), report taken; 4:05 p.m.: medical/general (High Street); 4:38 p.m.: assault (West Main Street), rep. assaulted by customer; 4:54 p.m.: officer wanted (Grove Street), spoken to; 5:14 p.m.: fire alarm (Bixby Road), referred; 5:54 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), info taken; 8:33 p.m.: parking violation (Main Street), ticket issued; 9:07 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), info taken; 10:38 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Thompson Pond Road), wires on fire; 10:57 p.m.: residential alarm (Grove Street), services rendered; (total daily mv stops - 1).

FRIDAY, MAY 3

12:33-2:33 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:01 a.m.: mutual aid (Main Street), assist State Police w/stop; 2:03 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street),

services rendered; 2:50 a.m.: domestic assault (Ash Street), rep. of abuse; 7:30 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 7:42 a.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), dead deer; 9:00 a.m.: citizen complaint (Point Eastalee Drive), re: paving eqpt.; 9:26 a.m.: DPW call (Pleasant Street), re: sinkhole; 9:34 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 10:06 a.m.: hit/run accident (West Main Street), report taken; 11:00 a.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 11:19 a.m.: animal complaint (Wilson Street), re: stray cat; 11:56 a.m.: disturbance (Wall Street), services rendered; 12:42 p.m.: medical/general (Crestview Drive); 1:08 p.m.: property check request (Clark Road), services rendered; 2:01 p.m.: suspicious mv (Cranberry Meadow Road), investigated; 3:07 p.m.: commercial alarm (West Main Street), services rendered; 3:32 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), rep. scratch on mv; 3:47 p.m.: obscene phone calls (West Main Street), rec'd vulgar prank calls; 3:48 p.m.: DPW call (Meadow Road), rep. brown water; 5:16 p.m.: officer wanted (Cherry Street), spoken to; 5:40 p.m.: parking complaint (Cherry Street), mv bumper blocking d/way; 6:38 p.m.: mutual aid (North Spencer Road), assist Paxton PD/accident; 7:02 p.m.: officer wanted (Wall Street), welfare check; 10:10 p.m.: mutual aid (Woodside Road), re: juvenile matter w/Auburn; 10:33 p.m.: officer wanted (Bixby Road), rec's wrong Walmart order; 11:12 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 11:31 p.m.: building checked, secure; (total daily mv stops - 1).

SATURDAY, MAY 4

1:15 a.m.: disturbance (Browning Pond Road), abandoned 911 call; 2:01 a.m.: mv complaint (Wilson Street), truck speeding/doing burnouts; 2:42-2:47 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 5:18 a.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info rec'd; 6:44 a.m.: medical/general (Pleasant Street); 8:21 a.m.: mv lockout (Maple Street), assisted; 10:34 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 10:50 a.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), skunk in trap; 11:31 a.m.: officer wanted (Treadwell Drive), spoken to; 12:39 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), rep. of smoke; 12:44 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 1:04 p.m.: medical/general (School Street); 1:53 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 2:39 p.m.: medical/general (Cherry Street); 3:46 p.m.: officer wanted (Cherry Street), landlord/tenant issue; 4:10 p.m.: juvenile matter (Condon Drive), kids on 4X4s in road/no helmets; 4:43 p.m.: animal complaint (Temple Street), re: baby birds on ground; 4:50 p.m.: officer wanted (Tom Casey Road), re: suspicious \$100 bill; 5:27 p.m.: medical/general (Wire Village Road); 5:46 p.m.: illegal dumping (Donnelly Cross Road), dumped on front lawn; 7:04 p.m.: lost/found (Browning Pond Road), items found; 7:09 p.m.: juvenile matter (Main Street), kids on bikes in traffic; 8:15 p.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), investigated; 9:05 p.m.: suspicious persons (Lake Street), services rendered; 9:14 p.m.: disabled mv (West Main Street), assisted; 11:36 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), welfare check; (total daily mv stops - 1).

SUNDAY, MAY 5

12:38-1:33 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:30 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Smithville Road), resolved; 7:20 a.m.: medical/general (Grove Street); 7:44 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street), 7:58 a.m.: medical/general (Grant Street); 8:10 a.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), re: family issues; 11:32 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 2:03 p.m.: medical/general (Mechanic Street); 2:09 p.m.: commercial alarm (Mechanic Street), services rendered; 2:19 p.m.: mv complaint (Greenville Street), erratic operator; 2:28 p.m.: medical/general (North Spencer Road); 3:52 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 6:11 p.m.: medical/general (Condon Drive); 9:31 p.m.: medical/general (Mechanic Street); (total daily mv stops - 1).

MONDAY, MAY 6

12:38 a.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info rec'd; 7:54 a.m.: animal complaint (Mechanic Street), former tenant left three cats; 8:06 a.m.: mv complaint (Chestnut Street), mv almost struck child at bus stop; 8:59 a.m.: medical/general (Meadow Road); 9:20 a.m.: medical/general (G.H. Wilson Road); 9:26 a.m.: mv lockout (West Main Street), assisted; 9:33 a.m.: fire/woods/grass (Jolicoeur Avenue), neighbor burning plastics; 9:56 a.m.: odor of gas (Sampson Street), referred; 10:43 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 10:58 a.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 11:27 a.m.: disturbance (Highland Street), noise complaint; 11:51 a.m.: fire alarm (Crestview Drive), referred; 11:58 a.m.: animal complaint (Vine Street), found parakeet/in possession; 12:01 p.m.: residential alarm (R. Jones Road), services rendered; 12:13 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 12:25 p.m.: larceny (West Main Street), tires stole/report taken; 12:54 p.m.: officer wanted (Meadow Road), rep. sale of multiple pistols/revolvers; 1:17 p.m.: fraud (Valley Street), report taken; 2:00 p.m.: medical/general (Charlton Road); 2:09 p.m.: officer wanted (Hastings Road), req. escort/retrieve belongings; 2:52 p.m.: medical/general (Wire Village Road); 3:01 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 3:47 p.m.: accident (McDonald Street), report taken; 4:16 p.m.: 911 call (Jolicoeur Avenue), accidental; 4:38 p.m.: mv lockout (Meadow

Latest antiques and collectibles auction news

Before I discuss the latest auction news, I'd like to thank Dotti Durst and everyone from the Learning in Retirement group who attended my presentation on downsizing hosted at Quinebaug Valley Community College in Danielson, Conn. last week.



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES
WAYNE TUISKULA

Now diving into recent auctions news, a piece of history from a tragic event from over 100 years ago recently set an auction record. John Jacob Astor IV was the great grandson of John Astor the fur trader that founded the family fortune, according to Britannica. Astor IV was on the board of several corporations and

founded several restaurants including the Astoria, which later became the Waldorf Astoria. He was the wealthiest man aboard the Titanic when the ill-fated ship sank in 1912. Astor IV perished when the ship hit an iceberg. When his body was recovered, he had a Waltham 14-karat gold "pocket watch, diamond ring, gold and diamond cufflinks, 225 pounds in English notes, and \$2,440," according to CBS. Astor IV was in his 40s and had married an 18-year-old woman in 1911. The couple went on an extended honeymoon in Europe and Egypt



while waiting for gossip about their marriage to die down. They were on their way back to New York when the Titanic sank. Astor IV reportedly asked if he could join his wife on a lifeboat because of her "delicate condition." When he was told that he needed to wait for women and children first, he is said to have thrown his gloves to his wife and lit a cigarette while the ship sank. Astor IV's watch sold for \$1.46 million last month, an auction record for any

object from the Titanic.

Some rare collectibles are now being offered in an online auction that ends on June 1st, according to Fox News. A wide variety of collectibles are already reaching impressive figures with three weeks of bidding remaining. A 1986 Nintendo NES Entertainment System unopened in the box is at \$17,000. An engraved silver and gold-plated belt buckle worn by Harry Houdini has already reached \$27,000. A paint-

ing by Bob Ross, who taught painting on his "Joy of Painting" television show, has a current bid of \$45,000.

Other pieces from that sale are expected to bring even more. In 1953, Marilyn Monroe appeared on the cover of the first issue of Playboy magazine. The highest graded copy at a 9.6 out of 10 is expected to sell for half a million dollars. A jersey that Mickey Mantle wore during his 1957 MVP season is expected to bring in the millions. A high-grade Michael Jordan rookie card sold for over \$1 million in 2022. A newer but rarer Michael Jordan card surpassed that mark. Only one 2003-2004 Upper Deck Logoman (NBA logo) patch card with a Michael Jordan signature was ever print-

ed. It's expected to sell for between \$3 million and \$5 million. It's been over 20 years since Michael Jordan played in the NBA and he's still setting records.

Our sports memorabilia, sports cards, and comic books online auction begins soon. There is still time to consign coins, art, gold jewelry, sterling silver, historical items, advertising signs, and other antiques for our summer online auction. Please visit our website <https://centralmassauctions.com> for links to upcoming events.

Contact us to consign items or for auction information at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique, Collectibles Auctions and Appraisal Services info@centralmassauctions.com or (508-612-6111).

We're all "built differently"

Whenever we see individuals excelling in their fields, people who are highly skilled—whether in athletics, business, stock trading, acting, writing, culinary

POSITIVELY SPEAKING
TOBY MOORE

arts, scientific research, medicine, education, or trades—we often dismiss their success with a wave of the hand and a remark: "Well, they're just built differently."

Of course, in certain cases, that might hold some truth. For instance, I once had the privilege of getting to know an Olympic Gold Medal-winning swimmer, the fastest man in the world at the time. I assumed his success mainly stemmed from his meticulous diet, rigorous supplement regimen, and relentless training routine.

I was surprised to learn I was only partially correct. Indeed, he was built

differently in many ways, possessing the physical and mental attributes that few can claim.

While it's good to recognize the greatness in others and to admire their natural advantages, the core of their success often lies in relentless perseverance and an unwavering commitment to their goals.

Consider how there may have been others with the raw talent of Tom Brady, but without his extraordinary work ethic and dedication, they never reached similar heights.

I can't help but think that sometimes, when people remark, "They're just built differently," they are perilously close to crafting excuses for their lack of success. This mindset undermines their potential and creates a barrier to

personal achievement by attributing success solely to inherent qualities rather than effort and determination.

If by "built differently," you mean athletes who meticulously analyze game footage to improve their tactics, who spend extra hours practicing beyond team sessions, and who focus on both mental and physical conditioning, then yes, they're built differently.

If it refers to a businessperson who relentlessly networks and fosters relationships, always the first to arrive and the last to leave the office, continuously scouting new market trends and innovations to stay ahead—yes, they're built differently.

If you're talking about artists or writers who commit to daily practice, constantly seek feedback, find new inspirations, and balance their intui-

tive gifts with a rigorous work ethic to hone their craft—indeed, they're built differently.

Or perhaps you mean the entrepreneur who is a perpetual learner, not deterred by failure but using it as a stepping stone, managing to keep their passion ignited, driving innovation, and inspiring others. Then, absolutely, they are built differently.

Sometimes, people are simply willing to do whatever it takes to reach the next level. They're what you might call go-getters.

Many times, their only natural gifts are drive and desire and their willingness to put their ego aside and continue to learn.

But does that mean they're built differently because they possess the drive that others lack?

Perhaps, but it's not always so clear-cut. Many behaviors, choic-

es, addictions, and habits can severely undermine motivation. I'm sure we've all experienced this in our way. While I generally consider myself a motivated go-getting, I've learned that engaging in certain behaviors zaps my willpower.

These actions trigger what feels like a chemical imbalance that leaves me struggling to get out of bed, moping around with a bitter attitude, and wondering what the point of it all is.

For me, specific behaviors can devastatingly impact my motivation, plunge me into depression, and rob me of the desire to engage with life.

It's easy to make excuses, succumb to bitterness, feel tired, angry, or depressed, and convince yourself that you don't have what it takes, but at the end of the day, being 'built differently' can be a choice.

The fundamental difference between someone who is seen as 'built differently' and someone who is caught up making excuses often lies in their mentality.

Ultimately, being 'built different' means choosing to be different. It means choosing the harder path, the one less traveled, and the one that leads to genuine, hard-earned success.

The next time you admire someone who seems effortlessly successful, remember that we all possess unique capabilities. Each of us has the potential to excel in ways that are distinctly our own. We're all built differently, and embracing that fact allows us to unlock our own paths to greatness.

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OBITUARIES

Michael, "Mickey" H. Luszey Sr., 84



Michael, "Mickey" H. Luszey Sr., 84 of Woodinville, WA passed away peacefully after a long illness surrounded by his family. Michael was born in Spencer MA on August 22, 1939. He was the youngest of 3 children of the late Rita (Ethier) and Joseph Luszey.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Maryann (Goodman) Luszey. He leaves is 2 children, daughter Diane Tarantino and son Michael Luszey Jr. His two sisters, Dorothy Keyes, wife of the late William Keyes Sr. of Spencer, MA and Ann Austin and her husband Harry Austin also of Spencer Ma. He leaves nephews, William Keyes Jr., and his wife Pamela of Spencer. Kenneth Keyes and his wife Althea of Spencer. David Austin and his wife Michele of Woodland Park CO. Johnny Austin and his wife Tina of East Brookfield Ma. Michael also leaves his grandchildren, Tara, Austin, Brianna and Travis, his great-grandchildren, Tatum, Makenna, and Bodin, all of which he absolutely adored.

Michael served his country in the U.S. Air Force joining in November of 1956; he was stationed in Anchorage AK and Paine Field WA. It was during

this time in his life he met, fell in love with and married his life partner Maryann on October 16, 1959, after receiving permission from his commanding officer.

"Mickey" moved his family to Washington state in the summer of 1969 where he began a 30 plus year career as the prison counselor at the Washington state correctional facility. During his career he was recognized by receiving numerous awards for Appreciation of Outstanding Service to the Citizens of Washington state.

Mickey was an avid golfer, lover of all sports teams on the West coast yet still loved the New England Patriots and the Boston Red Sox. Michael always had a smile on his face and was more than happy to help anyone in need. He was a wonderful husband, father, brother, grandfather, and great grandfather; he will be greatly missed by all.

A grave side service will be held Friday, May 17, 2024, from 2 pm to 3pm Pacific standard time at Purdy and Walters at Floral Hill funeral home & Cemetery in Lynnwood, Washington.

Donations can be made to "Mary Queen of the Rosery" food pantry in Spencer MA.



LOGS

continued from page A10

Road), assisted; 5:44 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), rep. customer threatening clerk; 5:50 p.m.: officer wanted (Hastings Road), re: alarm violations; 7:57 p.m.: medical/general (Valley Street); 8:03 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 9:33 p.m.: 911 call (Gauthier Road), misdial; (total daily mv stops - 1).

TUESDAY, MAY 7

1:53 a.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street), lift assist; 2:28-3:03 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 6:17 a.m.: accident (Maple Street), mv vs deer; 7:00 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), accidental; 8:58 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 9:42 a.m.: fraud (Lyford Road), report taken; 9:47 a.m.: intelligence/drugs (West Main Street), info rec'd; 11:01 a.m.: mv repossessed (Lyford Road), info rec'd; 11:46 a.m.: medical/sudden death (Wilson Avenue); 11:54 a.m.: fraud (Main Street), report taken; 12:09 p.m.: medical/general (Roberta Bay); 12:59 p.m.: officer wanted (Hastings Road), re: mv that was

towed; 1:51 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 2:19 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 2:24 p.m.: mv repossessed (Mechanic Street), info rec'd; 3:00 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 4:39 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), Cesar Steven Diez, 26, 40 Pleasant Street, Spencer; OUI liquor/2nd offense, op w/license suspended for OUI, op w/suspended license, arrest; 4:47 p.m.: medical/general (Charlton Road); 4:57 p.m.: officer wanted (Wm. Casey Road), re: incident at house; 6:02 p.m.: juvenile matter (South Spencer Road), DA referral; 7:04 p.m.: residential fire (Main Street), referred; 7:21 p.m.: hit/run accident (North Spencer Road), report taken; 7:26 p.m.: medical/general (Roberta Bay); 8:08 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 8:48 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Maple Street), referred; 9:35 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), req. escort; 9:57 p.m.: disturbance (Pleasant Street), noise complaint; 10:06 p.m.: medical/general (Sunset Lane); (total daily mv stops - 4).

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LEGALS

NOTICE TO ABUTTERS PUBLIC HEARING

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

The hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, May 28th at 6:15pm on the petition of National Grid (No. 30727619) and Verizon New England, Inc. who are requesting permission to locate poles, wires and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public way:
BEAMAN RD. - National Grid to install 1 JO Pole on Beaman Rd. beginning at a point approximately 12.5 feet

northwest of the centerline of the intersection of Coy Hill Rd. and Beaman Rd. and continuing approximately 600 feet in a southeast direction. P3-50 Beaman Rd: Install Pole ~55' south of existing Pole #3 Beaman Rd. towards P#4 Beaman Rd.
Members of the public are invited to attend this hearing to express any comments or concerns. If you are unable to attend in person, you may submit your comments or concerns to my attention prior to the hearing to be included as part of the official records.
Municipal Contact:
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Executive Assistant
Town Administrator/
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A.C. 78A

DOCKET NO. 23P1807PM
THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
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PROBATE COURT

To all persons interested in the estate of Helen Hart of North Brookfield, in said county, a person under conservatorship. A petition has been presented to said Court for authority to sell - private sale - certain real estate of said Helen Hart for maintenance.
If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney shall file a written appearance in said Court at Worcester before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the twenty-eighth day of May, 2024 the

return date of this citation.
Witness Leilah A. Keamy, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this second day of May 2024.
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate
May 17, 2024

Town of West Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals

A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, June 11, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the West Brookfield Town Hall, to act on an application for a Special Permit, for John Vasil. The applicant wishes to build a new garage with an in-law apartment on his property located at 19 Milk Street.
May 10, 2024
May 17, 2024

SCHLEGEL

continued from page A1

and Planning Board. His goal was to learn how the town operates—and what challenges he could help address—by being directly involved in boards.

“When I moved to town a year and a half ago, I wanted to get involved in the community I call home. I wanted to find a way to give back to my community,” Schlegel told the New Leader in

a previous interview. “I formed a lot of good relationships with other people that work for the town, and in doing so I learned a lot of the problems facing North Brookfield. I worked with several departments and committees, as well as the Board of Selectmen, in trying to address some of these issues. When John Tripp decided to step down as a selectman, that’s when I made the decision to run, where I can make a real change

for my community. I didn’t think twice about it.”

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

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

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

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

Looking ahead, Schlegel hopes to help the town find ways to address several issues. These include school

choice departures that have negatively impacted the town.

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

est, and put out a positive outlook on our school district.”

Schlegel has also proposed the idea of revitalizing the town’s Economic Development Committee.

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

CHOIR

continued from page A1

with the difficult times,” Curren said. “We also want to help them really embrace and fully feel the positive times. We learned to breathe to find calm, and how it feels to really accept compliments and to give them.”

Added Curren, “We want to hear how these kids are feeling, and we want to hear about what makes them proud. We use the music to tell their stories. They always surprise us with their wisdom.”

Several individuals are thanked for making the program a success, including Curren; co-directors Marcelle Bastille, Lisa Rafferty, Jennifer Cooney, Jessica Collette, and Matt St. Louis;

youth directors Grace Haftartzuk, Rianna Ortiz, Greenly Waugh, Melany Reil, and Isabella Costello; and sound engineer Scott Griffin.

“I can’t thank Lauren and her volunteers enough for the incredible dedication and passion they’ve shown in creating Inspire here at Wire Village. Their tireless efforts have not only brought music into our students’ lives, but have also created a sense of community and joy within our school,” said Wire Village School Principal Melanie Ethier.

School leaders and community members look forward to seeing the students continue to hone their skills.

“This community has a musical soul, as you can see from the number of students and parents who participated in this program,” said Wire Village School music teacher Jennifer Cooney.

Looking ahead, program leaders hope to have another strong team of volunteers in place next year.

“We hope to be around and inspiring for a long time,” Curren said.

“We need new youth volunteers for next year. We will miss our original crew—they are off to college, and we couldn’t be more proud of them.”

If you are interested in volunteering with the program, please send an email to: lcurrenmusic@gmail.com.

Farmers markets kick off season



Gus Steeves

A couple farmers await customers on opening day of the Charlton Farmers Market.



Lynda and Madelyn Shoup of Webster display their recycled crafts.

Murnane, the nonprofit’s director. “Our goal is to make sure farmers markets are as vibrant as possible for the farmers who attend.”

She was speaking at the State Grange’s Agricultural Expo at Holy Cross a couple weeks ago.

“A lot of people don’t think of Massachusetts as an agricultural state, but we have a lot that people don’t realize,” observed Mass Department of Agricultural Resources spokesman Rick Leblanc the same day. “... Our farms are fabulous in this state. They do so many things.”

Leblanc runs the MassGrown Web site, which is basically a database of all kinds of agrarian things, some well-known, some obscure. On it, visitors can find local breweries and vineyards, a long list of specialty crops, dairies, sheep farms, pick-your-own farms, CSAs (community supported farms that sell crops by subscription), mobile and fixed markets, and many other things. He noted they’re often trying to expand their listings and categories; for example, they just added mushroom growers and nurseries selling native plants.

The map is “open to anybody who wants to sell to the public,” so it might not include some small producers or those growing just for themselves, he added.

Leblanc said MDAR is now working with the Department of Conservation and Recreation on a “Growing Wild” program to promote pollinator gardening with native plants specifically to “combat all the invasives.” He noted there’s also rising interest in edible wild plants, and the Mass Nursery Association is trying to promote eating the weeds and native plants.

“We are incredibly fortunate that we’re in a state that values farming and farmers markets,” Murnane said, noting the Bay State is in the top five in terms of farmers markets per capita. Regarding the MFM site, she added, they aim to make it “as easy as possible to navigate.”

Massachusetts also tries to encourage less-well-off people’s participation in such markets and access to fresh food. Many accept WIC and/or SNAP benefits (those who do are listed on the website).

The latter program automatically offers what’s called the HIP (Healthy Incentive Program) benefit. People using SNAP get an additional \$40-\$80 a month specifically for use at such markets, which “basically makes it free for them to get fruit and vegetables,” Murnane said. (That’s a good thing, since farmers market produce tends to be more expensive than the same produce in a supermarket, but most of it also isn’t being shipped from California, Iowa or some foreign country, especially during the spring and summer markets. Some producers are organic, some are not.)

In our area, the Regional Environmental Coalition’s mobile market has stopped for now, but will reopen in three locations every Wednesday starting June 26. It’s in Southbridge’s Central Street lot from 10-11:30 a.m., followed by two sites in Webster – the Housing Authority’s Golden Heights complex Building 19 from 1:30-2:30 p.m., and at Town Hall from 3:30-4:30 p.m. The REC also has several sites in Worcester itself.

Starting the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend, the Big Bunny Farmer’s Market resumes in the supermarket’s parking lot in Southbridge. Next door in Sturbridge, the farmers’ market on the Common opens every Sunday from June 2-Oct 13 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Several other markets are also open, or resuming soon, across the region.

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

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — Despite a fast-moving thunderstorm hitting just after it started, Charlton Grange kicked off its outdoor Farmers’ Market season in good spirits last Wednesday.

Somewhat damp visitors had the choice of various crafts, baked goods, products made from recycled items, honey and more, alongside a ballot question petition. It will return every Wednesday from 4-7 on the Common and shifts to indoors at the Grange during winter.

This market is just one of many opening up for the year, and some that never closed for the winter. Most of them are depicted on the MassFarmersMarket.org website, which includes hundreds of places “where farmers could get the highest and best return for their investment” in their farms, said Edith

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The Town of Dudley seeks to fill two (2) Truck Driver/Laborer positions for the Highway Department. Under the general direction of the Highway Superintendent, he/she is responsible for operating equipment in connection with construction, maintenance and repair of streets and related facilities. Perform general maintenance and repair work on equipment for snow removal, cleaning and patching, installing drainage system and other related work.

Qualifications:
High School Diploma or Equivalent, one year of highway experience in municipal government is preferred,
Valid Driver’s License: CDL – Class B with Airbrake Endorsement – Ability to obtain CDL Class A required.
Prior experience in the operation of equipment, materials, and tools relative to road construction and maintenance.
Knowledge of basic safety standards, practices and procedures, Ability to understand and carry out oral and written instructions. Ability to work with other town employees and the public.
Ability to work independently; prioritize tasks and meet deadlines.
Coordination, alertness, physical strength, and stamina
Ability to withstand exposure to adverse weather conditions.
To be considered please submit resume to
Michelle Jervis, Asst. Town Administrator/HR Director,
townadmin2@dudleyma.gov or call 508-949-8001.
A full job description can be found on www.dudleyma.gov under Employment Opportunities.
Salary Range: \$23.09 – 25.08
The Town of Dudley is an equal opportunity employer.
Job Type: Full-time

**HELP WANTED
TOWN OF DUDLEY
TOWN ACCOUNTANT**

The Town of Dudley is seeking a qualified leader who is collaborative -minded and self-directed for the critical position of Town Accountant. Under the direction of the Town Administrator the candidate would be responsible for day-to-day activities of the town’s accounting function as to maintenance of all financial records, accounts payable, internal and external audit and compliant with applicable State laws and town policies.

A bachelor’s degree in accounting or related field is required, master’s degree preferred. An understanding of GAAP and GASB and knowledge of Massachusetts municipal finance laws and MA. General Laws. Also, familiar with municipal financial software applications and Uniform Massachusetts Accounting Standards (UMAS). Knowledge of VADAR Systems a plus.

Salary range is commensurate with experience and qualifications, beginning within established salary range – Grade 4 - \$86,000.

This is a full-time position with competitive benefits. Applicants should submit a cover letter and resume to Michelle Jervis, Assistant Town Administrator/HR Director at townadmin2@dudleyma.gov. A complete job description can be found on www.dudleyma.gov under Employment Opportunities.

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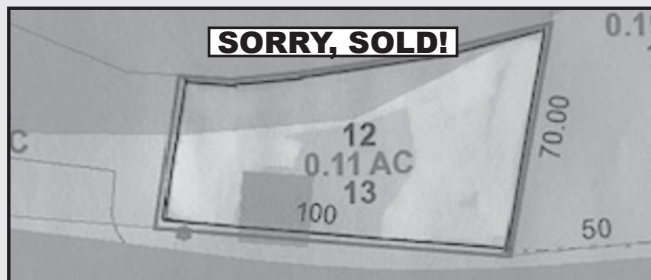


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Leicester PD welcomes new officers

LEICESTER — The Leicester Police Department recently welcomed two new officers during a pinning ceremony led by Chief Kenneth Antanavica.

On May 7, new LPD Officers Ives Fisher and Stephen Kustigian were sworn in and pinned for duty.

In attendance were the new officers' fam-

ily members, friends, colleagues, and members of the department leadership team. Also attending were members of the Leicester Fire Department, the Select Board, and the Town Administrator's Office.

"We're excited to have Officers Fisher and Kustigian joining our team and wish them success and safety as they

acclimate to the great town of Leicester. If you see them out and about, please say hello," read a statement released by the LPD.

Courtesy

From left, LPD Officer Stephen Kustigian and Officer Ives Fisher are sworn in by Chief Kenneth Antanavica.



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