



©2024, Issue #37 Free by request to residents of East Brookfield, West Brookfield, North Brookfield, Brookfield, Leicester and Spencer
 SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO NEWS@STONEBRIDGEPRESS.NEWS Friday, September 13, 2024

Brookfield residents voice concern over proposed cannabis facility

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

BROOKFIELD — Residents continue to voice concerns over a proposed cannabis facility on Molasses Hill Road.

The proposal recently entered the approval process with the town and the state, officials said. The proposed facility is located at 6 Molasses Hill Rd.

“Currently, there is a plan that has been submitted to the town’s Conservation Committee for proposed work to be completed in or near existing wetlands on the property,” said Town Administrator Ron Aponte. “Additionally, a Host Community Agreement has been negotiated and signed by the town’s Select Board and the proposed facility’s applicant, Keith Realty/David Fromm.”

To move forward in the process, the applicant would need to request permits from the town’s Board of Health and Planning Board before all local rules and regulations are satisfied, officials said.

“Even if all the local permits and approvals are secured, the state’s Cannabis Control Commission will perform its own level of vetting and approval of the project before the proposed facility would be allowed to commence,” Aponte added. “It’s a relatively long and involved process, but it needs to be that way in order to assure that the facility is safe and appropriate.”

Officials confirmed that an enforcement order was levied against the applicant by the Conservation Commission.

“The enforcement order is questioning whether or not the work completed to date at the site is in compliance with the plan and scope of work approved by the Conservation Commission on May 15,” Aponte explained.

Additionally, the enforcement order requires the applicant to cease all activity affecting the buffer zone and/or resource areas, officials said.

The applicant has filed for an appeal of the enforcement order with the state’s Superior Court, Aponte confirmed.

As of press time, the court had not rendered a decision on the appeal.

Meanwhile, residents have expressed sever-

Turn To **CANNABIS** page **A13**

Lynch steps in as Athletic Director at LHS

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — Having coached and taught at Leicester High School for the past two decades, Michael Lynch is eager to continue supporting student-athletes in his new role as Athletic Director.

Hired as the district’s AD in July, Lynch and his team worked quickly to be ready for the start of fall sports. With a 20-year career in teaching and coaching, Lynch brought no shortage of familiarity with Leicester academics and athletics to his new position.

“I’m heavily invested in our community. I teach, coach, and live in town, and I am very much motivated to help our athletes have an athletic experience they can be proud of,” said Lynch, who teaches history and social studies at LHS.

Lynch’s coaching resume includes 20 years of leading basketball teams. He spent five years as the junior varsity coach and another 15 years at the varsity level.

Additionally, Lynch spent six years coaching football at LHS (2005-11), and he also worked as the Assistant to the Athletic Director.

For Leicester school officials, it was important to hire an experienced leader to steer the athletics department through an important transitional period. Now that the LHS community has established itself at the former Becker College campus, Lynch and his team are looking forward to building a strong home-field advantage for student-athletes.

“My short-term goal as AD is to help our ath-



Courtesy
 Michael Lynch was hired as the new Athletic Director in Leicester.

letic programs feel more at home in the new LHS campus. This includes personalizing our facilities, weight room, football field, gymnasium, and locker rooms,” Lynch told the New Leader. “We’ve already made some strides this fall with our new logo on the center of the football field, maroon painting in the gymnasium, and a revamping of our home locker room in our gymnasium. Lots of great volunteer work has been done to help make that happen.”

Between the pandemic impacts of 2020-21 and the transition to a new campus, LHS athletes and coaches have faced significant instability in recent years. Looking ahead, Lynch is eager

said. “The coaches are doing a good job of this at the team level, and I’d love to be able to help do this from an administrative level.”

A graduate of Auburn High School, where he played football and basketball, Lynch understands the many benefits sports can have for students as they prepare for their next chapters. In his new role, he hopes to see even more students get involved in athletics and join the game.

“There are a lot of similarities in teaching and coaching. You’re getting a chance to share your passion about a subject that you love,” Lynch said. “The aspect of coaching I always loved is the team-building element. You are taking these random athletes from different backgrounds, with different personalities and abilities, and you are transforming them into a functioning unit. There’s nothing more rewarding than those moments where you see it all come together on the field.”

Lynch graduated from Anna Maria College, where he played basketball.

Turn To **LYNCH** page **A13**

Leicester schools wrap up busy summer of maintenance projects

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — School officials thank community members for their help during one of the district’s busiest summer maintenance schedules.

For Leicester Public Schools Superintendent Brett Kustigian and his team, there hasn’t been much time for lounging poolside during recent summers. From overseeing the high school’s transition to the former Becker College campus, to rolling out new academic programming and extracurricular groups, school leaders have been kept plenty busy over the last few summers.

But this year’s packed list of summer maintenance tasks presented a unique challenge—and it took contributions from throughout the community to get the job done.

“There were more than usual maintenance issues that required updating, such as carpets being replaced with laminate floors; outdated ceiling tiles needing replacement; and refreshing walls with new paint,” said Selectman Kevin Menard. “There were several other projects, which included repairing the sinkholes in the turf field caused by excessive rainfall and replacing the turf field logo with the Leicester Wolverine logo. Additionally, we installed a new drainage system at the Winslow School to prevent water from entering the building every time it would rain.”

Menard and his Board thanked several individuals for their work this past summer, including Superintendent Kustigian, Assistant Superintendent Richard Lind, LHS Principal Ted Zawada, the Town Administrator’s Office, the Leicester DPW, Kris Lauzon, and local students and staff members who served as volunteers on various projects.

“It was a pleasure working with all of them this past summer for the successful completion of our planned goals,” Menard added. “This was a very successful collaborative effort, with everyone striving for the same goals.”

Several school officials, students, coaches, and families took part in volunteer projects to help get their respective buildings and fields ready for the fall.

In addition to the maintenance projects this past summer, school officials were also forced to choose alternative locker room arrangements for the LHS football team after accessibility issues precluded use of the previous setup.

This year, the football team will use the newly renovated locker rooms at the Winslow Ave School. Officials thank everyone who took part in efforts to get the locker rooms ready for the fall season.

“The passionate volunteers with the common purpose of supporting our schools are driving monumental changes,” Kustigian said. “We would not be where we are without the community’s support. The best part is, we are just getting started.”

Dashboard Diner collects school supplies for local students

SPENCER — Local students recently got a back-to-school boost thanks to a community business and its patrons.

Over the past few weeks, the Dashboard Diner team has collected donations of school supplies from its customers. Last week, the diner’s leadership team presented the donations to officials at Wire Village School and Knox Trail Middle School.

“We really appreciate the generosity of The

Dashboard Diner community to support the students of Knox Trail Middle School. Donations like this allow us to target support for students who might need some extra assistance,” said KTMS Principal Sean McNiff.

Area residents always offer strong support to community assistance events. Diner patrons once again stepped up in a big way to help students.

“A huge thank you to everyone who contributed. Your generosity will help students start the school year off strong, and we couldn’t have done this without your support. We’re grateful to be part of such a giving community,” read a statement released by The Dashboard Diner.

Officials at both schools thank The Dashboard Diner for ensuring that local students have the supplies they need for a successful school year.

“Thank you to The Dashboard Diner for your kindness, generosity, partnership, and support of our students in their learning,” read a statement released by the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District.



Courtesy

The Dashboard Diner team collected donations of school supplies that will benefit two local schools.

Country Bank appoints Marco Bernasconi, Jr. as Chief Operating and Innovation Officer

REGION — Mary McGovern, President and CEO of Country Bank, announced Marco Bernasconi, Jr. as its Chief Operating and Innovation Officer. This new role and its announcement mark a strategic decision in the bank's journey of growth and innovation.

"We are excited to welcome Marco as our new Chief Operating and Innovation Officer. He has extensive experience in technology, banking, and fintech and a proven track record of transformative leadership. Marco will be invaluable as we continue to enhance our digital services and product offerings. His commit-

ment to innovation and forward-thinking vision perfectly align with our Corporate Values of Integrity, Service, Teamwork, Excellence, and Prosperity. We are confident that his exceptional skills will undoubtedly contribute to Country Bank's growth and deliver outstanding value to our customers," said Mary McGovern, Country Bank's President and CEO.

Bernasconi's distinguished career spans more than 30 years, during which he has held various senior positions in the banking industry. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from

Eastern Connecticut State University. He has a double major in Finance and Marketing and a minor in Economics. With an impressive technology, banking, and fintech background, Marco brings knowledge and a proven track record to this pivotal role.

His journey began at Chelsea Groton Savings Bank, where he excelled in roles ranging from teller to senior positions in Retail, Loan Operations, and Credit. He further honed his expertise as a Conversion Specialist at the FDIC, focusing on loan conversions and audits. Marco's leadership skills were enhanced during his tenure as the

Chief Service Officer at COCC, where he led a significant organizational transformation that resulted in increased revenue and a substantial team and customer base expansion.

Bernasconi's leadership was further demonstrated during his two-year tenure as the President and CEO of North Brookfield Savings Bank. Before joining Country Bank, he was a Principal of Fintech and Digital Transformation at Wolf & Company, Inc., where he continued to drive digital transformation and innovation. His achievements have been recognized with numerous awards, including the

Best of Central MA from the WBJ, and the 2022 Bank Award from Extraordinary Banker.

"Joining Country Bank as Chief Operating and Innovation Officer is an incredible opportunity. I am excited to contribute to the bank's growth and innovation plans. I aim to drive transformative solutions that enhance operational excellence and deliver exceptional value to our customers. I look forward to working with the team to build on Country Bank's legacy of excellence and innovation," said Marco Bernasconi, Jr.

In addition to his professional achievements, Marco actively supports Seabury's Charitable

Foundation and various fintech advisory roles, reflecting his dedication to community and industry development. Marco's commitment to making a difference in the community and industry is truly inspiring.

Bernasconi resides with his wife Renee in West Harford, Conn. He cherishes time on the Cape with his wife of 28 years, their twins Marco and Ibrinna who live in Boston, and their beloved dog Ruger. In his spare time, he enjoys relaxing on the beach, boating, and other water activities with his friends and family.

Community partners support local homeless population

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER — The police department is continuing its partnership with several local agencies and organizations to help reduce homelessness in our area.

At the Spencer Fair earlier this month, members of the police department once again teamed up with volunteers from the Spencer Senior Center, the Open Sky organization, and the Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance (CMHA).

Volunteers set up a table at the fair to collect donations from guests in support of local homeless populations.

"All monies collected at the fair will go toward helping to shelter the homeless in winter months when it is below zero temperatures," said Senior Center Director April Caruso.

In January of 2023, 18 homeless individuals were identified in town during a joint police and volunteer community outreach program. Nearly two years later, thanks to the efforts of local volunteers, community support-

ers, organizations, and police leaders, Spencer's homelessness numbers have significantly declined.

Still, even one person experiencing homelessness in town is too many, officials said, and they continue to work toward offering support and resources.

"Open Sky has provided us with valuable resources to provide to our homeless population. Though the numbers have dwindled, we still occasionally have those that are in need of shelter," said Spencer Police Chief Michael Befford.

Across the state and the country, officials have seen an increase in homelessness since the pandemic struck in 2020. Causes include lost jobs; soaring costs of groceries, supplies, rent, and heating oil; and spikes in substance abuse and mental health struggles.

In Spencer, community leaders team up through several projects to ensure that homeless populations have access to shelter and resources.

"The Senior Center, SPD, Open Sky, and CMHA meet monthly at

the Senior Center to collaborate and discuss ways of helping to reduce homelessness. I am honored to be a part of such a team," Caruso said.

With overnight temperatures dropping and winter on the way, community members are asked to continue their support of those experiencing homelessness. If you would like to assist the mission, you can make an online donation by visiting the CMHA website: www.cmhaonline.org.

Once you arrive at the Web site, click the green "Donate" button at the top right corner. Please include "Spencer Fund" in the comments section.

"One hundred percent of your donations will go directly to help those in need right here in Spencer. Your generosity can make a lifesaving difference," read a statement released by the police department. "Thank you for supporting our efforts to ensure everyone in our community has a safe place to stay during difficult times."

Save the date for Leicester Harvest Fair

LEICESTER — The 24th annual Leicester Harvest Fair will be held on Saturday, Sept. 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. — rain or shine. Mark your calendar and plan to join the festivities on the Leicester Common, in the Town Hall and adjacent buildings! Skilled artisans will demonstrate historic crafts, and local crafters will sell their wares. Food booths will offer a tasty selection. Traditional folk music performances at the Band Stand, performances by school musicians, and activities for children will entertain Fairgoers of all ages.

Plan to enter your garden vegetables and flowers, your best canned and baked goods, your homebrew, your photography and your fabric/fiber crafts to enrich the Fair exhibits. All are welcome to enter; adult and youth classes. Entries will be accepted at the Town Hall on Friday, Sept. 20, from 4 to 7 p.m. Exhibit entry instructions can be found in Harvest Fair premium brochures available at the Leicester Town Hall, Senior Center, Public Library, at local businesses, and on the Harvest Fair Facebook page. New this year, Massachusetts Master Gardeners will offer garden advice and free soil tests. Instructions for collecting a soil sample can be found on the Leicester Harvest Fair Facebook page or by clicking "gather your soil sample" at <https://massmastergardeners.org/educational-resources/soil-testing>.

Don't miss this festive annual gathering!

Knights of Columbus sponsor spaghetti dinner

WEST BROOKFIELD — Knights of Columbus Council 11080 is sponsoring a spaghetti dinner this weekend.

The event is set for Saturday, Sept. 14, in Dugan Hall of Sacred Heart Church (10 Milk St.).

Proceeds from the event will benefit local food pantries.

Dinner includes pasta fagioli; a garden salad; meatballs and sausage; spaghetti and sauce; Italian bread; a dessert; and water, soda, and coffee.

The cost of dinner is a \$15 donation. Children under 12 years old will pay \$10 per guest.

Take-out will be available at 6 p.m. The sit-down dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.

Admission tickets are also good for entry for a special door prize.

The event will also include a 50/50 raffle and other fun activities.

Advance ticket purchases are encouraged. Tickets are available by calling 413-813-8100, or by sending an email to: wallyconnor122@gmail.com.

Tickets will only be available at the door while they last.

Spencer police investigate fatal accident

SPENCER — Police continue to investigate the cause of a Greenville Street accident that claimed the life of a Spencer woman.

The Worcester County District Attorney's Office has identified Michelle Mann, 47, as the victim of the Aug. 28 wreck.

The single-vehicle crash took place at approximately 8:15 p.m. on Greenville Street near Sibley Farm. The Spencer Police Department received multiple 911 calls reporting the wreck.

Upon arrival, officers discovered a vehicle overturned on its roof, with a single female occupant inside. The Spencer Fire Department and Spencer EMS also responded to the scene.

Mann was pronounced deceased at the scene. "The CEMLEC Accident Reconstruction Unit was requested and, along with the Spencer Police Department, conducted an investigation into the crash. Initial evidence suggests that speed was a contributing factor in this accident," read a statement released by the SPD.

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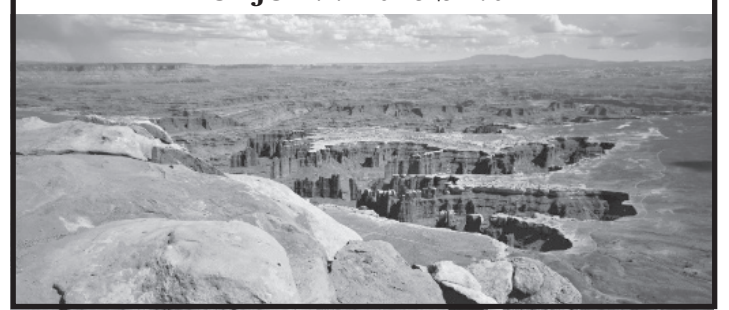
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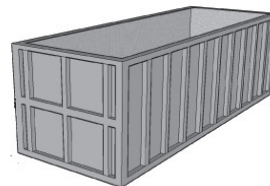
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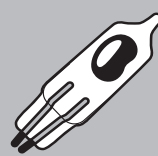
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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO24P2996EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
 David R. Lapierre, Sr.
Also known as: David R. Lapierre
Date of Death: 07/21/2024

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/01/2024.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
 Date: August 30, 2024
 Stephanie K. Fattman,
 Register of Probate
 September 13, 2024

Town of Spencer
Conservation Commission
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the requirements of the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act, MGL c. 131, s. 40 and the Spencer Wetlands By-Law: **Jennifer Kaplan** has filed a **RDA** with the Spencer Conservation Commission to remove trees located at **90 Chickering Road, Spencer, MA.** **Lawrence & Lisa Wheeler** have filed an **NOI** with the Spencer Conservation Commission to repair an existing septic system and remove a one bedroom structure located at 30-32 Ledge Avenue, Spencer, MA. Applications can be reviewed at the Office of Development and Inspectional Services, Town Hall. A public hearing regarding these filings will be held by the Spencer Conservation Commission in McCourt Social Hall at Town Hall, 157 Main Street, on Wednesday, September 25, 2024 at which time all persons having an interest may be present or call in remotely to participate. Conservation Commission meetings open at 6:15 p.m.
 Mary McLaughlin, Chairwoman
 September 13, 2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO23P3983EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
 Mary E. Bahn
Also known as: Mary Bahn
Date of Death: 03/26/2022

To all interested persons:
 A Petition for **S/A - Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been

filed by **Patricia S. Paine-Schulz of New Braunfels TX** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: **Patricia S. Paine-Schulz of New Braunfels TX** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/01/2024.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
 Date: August 27, 2024
 Stephanie K. Fattman,
 Register of Probate
 September 13, 2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO24P3033EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
 Melanie Patricia Deem Rokes
Also known as:
 Melanie P. LaFountain
Date of Death: 03/11/2024

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/01/2024.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
 Date: September 04, 2024
 Stephanie K. Fattman,
 Register of Probate
 September 13, 2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO24P2625EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
 Norman B Labonte
Date of Death:02/13/2023

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/01/2024.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
 Date: September 04, 2024
 Stephanie K. Fattman,
 Register of Probate
 September 13, 2024

(SEAL)
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
24 SM 003120
ORDER OF NOTICE

TO:
 Keith Scott
 and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 *et seq.*:
 Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC
 claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in **Spencer**, numbered **9 Hebert Road**, given by Keith Scott to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), as mortgagee, as nominee for Nationstar Mortgage LLC D/B/A Mr. Cooper its successors and assigns, dated December 17, 2019, and recorded or filed in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 61605, Page 268, and now held by Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.
 If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before 10/14/2024 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of non-compliance with the Act.
 Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of this Court on 8/29/2024.
 Attest:
 Deborah J. Patterson
 Recorder
 September 13, 2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO24P2993EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
 Michael J Kelly
Date of Death: 06/23/2024

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/24/2024.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
 Date: August 30, 2024
 Stephanie K. Fattman,
 Register of Probate
 September 13, 2024

Notice of Public Hearing

The Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing beginning at 6:05 pm on Wednesday 25 September 2024 at the Brookfield Police Station conference room at 7 Prouty Street. The purpose of the hearing is to consider an application for a Special Permit for a deck modification at 48 Quaboag Street. Property is pre-existing, non-conforming, and in the rural residential district. Applications can be reviewed at the Town Hall located at 6 Central Street, Brookfield MA 01506.
 Tim Simon- ZBA Chairman
 September 6, 2024
 September 13, 2024

Town of West Brookfield
Zoning Board of Appeals

A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, October 8, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at the West Brookfield Town Hall, to act on an application for a Special Permit, for West Brookfield Rescue Squad and Dean's Automotive for the property located at 92 West Main Street, West Brookfield. The applicant wishes to change the usage on this property. A Special Permit is required -3 Use Regulations and 3.1 Basic Requirements.
 September 13, 2024

LEGAL NOTICE

Jonathan Santos, owner of a 2011, Infinity G37 Plate# 155T82 Vin# JN1C-V6AR5BM355873, has abandoned vehicle on 07/09/24 at Deer Pond Auto/JR'S Towing LLC. Deer pond will seek ownership of vehicle after 21 days of first ad placement if vehicle is not reclaimed and all charges fully paid for.
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Investing during an election year

BY CHRISTOPHER MALLON
SVP & PROGRAM MANAGER
THE CAPSTONE PLANNING GROUP

Presidential elections, with their high stakes and intense media coverage, can create a sense of urgency and uncertainty that tempts investors to make emotional decisions. The idea that the outcome of an election will dramatically alter the investment landscape is pervasive, but history and financial theory suggest otherwise. While the upcoming election has the potential to increase short-term volatility, long-term investors should be cautious about making rash decisions on presidential elections.

It's natural to want your candidate to win, but when it comes to investing, be leery about placing too much emphasis on this one factor. Historically speaking, staying invested has a much larger impact on your long-term investment returns. The chart below shows how U.S. stocks have performed under different parties dating back to 1933. Although past results are not predictive of future returns, a \$1,000 investment in the S&P 500 Index made when Franklin D. Roosevelt took office

would be worth almost \$22 million today.

During that time there were eight Democratic presidents and seven Republican presidents. The key takeaway? Over the long-term, U.S. stocks have trended higher regardless of which political party has been in the oval office.

Unfortunately, some individuals can become so emotionally attached to one political candidate and party they'll make extreme decisions on their entire portfolio. These individuals will say things like, "If [blank] gets elected I will take all of my money out of the market" or "I will only invest if the [blank] party wins". They'll often move money to the sidelines and sit in cash for extended periods of time. Below we'll analyze the potential consequences of this mindset in more detail.

What would happen if an investor placed \$100,000 in the S&P 500 back in 1950, and only kept their money in the market when their "preferred political party" was in the White House? Well, they would have around \$3.0 million if they only invested during Democratic presidency years and \$1.0 million

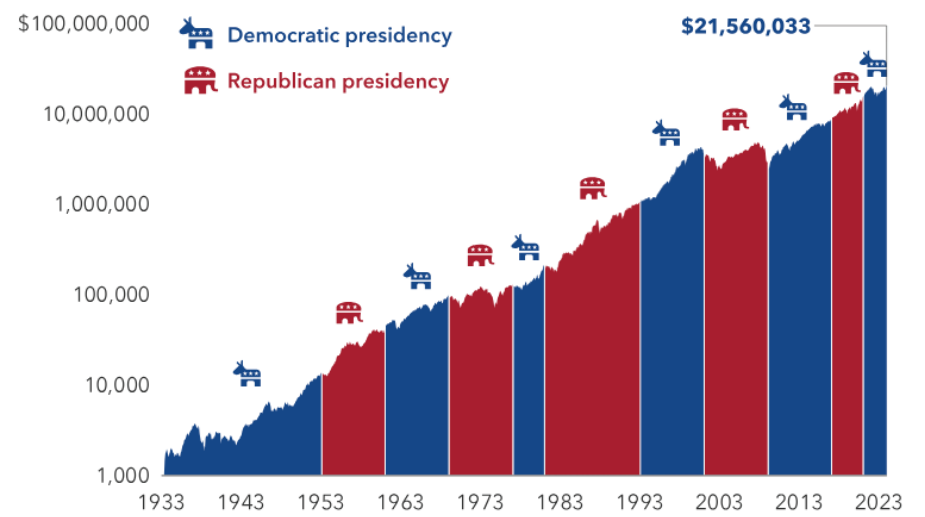
if they only invested in Republican presidency years. Not bad...but for perspective, they would have \$31.7 million if they bought and held the S & P 500 over the entire time-frame!

Contrary to what the media may portray, research indicates that markets do not consistently favor one political party over the other. While some argue that Republican administrations are more favorable for business due to their policies on taxation and deregulation, others will note there have been periods of strong market performance under Democrats due to fiscal stimulus and social spending.

Investors who focus solely on the presidential race may also overlook the importance of congressional elections and the potential for a divided government. Historically, the stock market has delivered higher average returns when Washington is split (i.e., a Democrat President with Republican Congress, or a Republican President with Democrat Congress). Why? Because Wall Street prefers clarity, and splitting control makes radical policy

Stocks have trended higher regardless of which party has been in office

Growth of a hypothetical \$1,000 investment in S&P 500 Index



Sources: Capital Group, Morningstar, Standard & Poor's. As of December 31, 2023. Dates of party control are based on inauguration dates. Values are based on total returns in USD. Shown on a logarithmic scale. Past results are not predictive of results in future periods.

change less likely. Come this November, there will be 34 seats in the Senate along with 435 seats in the House up for election.

Ultimately, markets are influenced by a complex array of factors—economic data, corporate earnings, global events, monetary policy, technological innovations, and more.

Sophisticated investors typically adhere to a long-term strategy that is based on fundamentals rather than short-term events like elections. Warren Buffett,

one of the world's most renowned investors, also advises against making investment decisions based on political events.

Come this November, focus on maintaining an appropriate asset allocation based on your financial goals and risk profile.

About The Capstone Planning Group

The Capstone Planning Group is an experienced wealth management team conveniently located at Cornerstone Bank. The team offers comprehensive financial planning, asset management, and insurance. To learn more about the team and schedule a courtesy consultation please visit www.thecapstone.group or call 508-764-0046.

Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Hypothetical illustrations are ex-dividends. All indexes are unmanaged and can't be invested in directly. The modern design of the S&P 500 stock index was first launched in 1957. Performance back to 1950 incorporates the performance of the predecessor index, the S&P 90. Sources: LPL Research, Bloomberg 06/24/24,

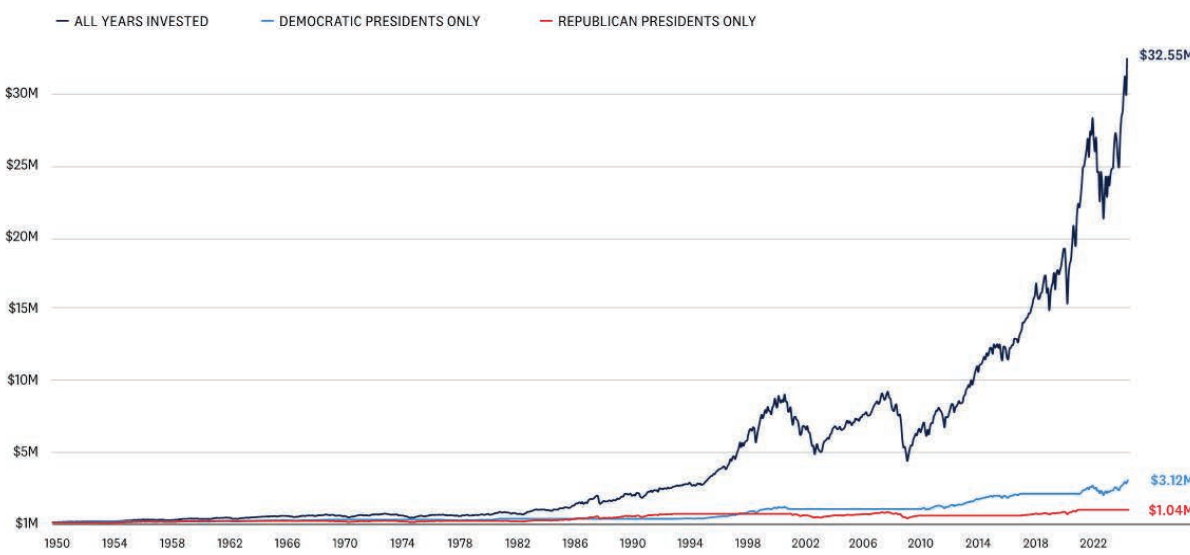
Capital Group, "3 mistakes investors make during election years"

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S&P 500 vs. Political Party Portfolios (1950–YTD)



Source: LPL Research, Bloomberg 06/24/24
Past performance is no guarantee of future results. All indexes are unmanaged and can't be invested in directly. The modern design of the S&P 500 stock index was first launched in 1957. Performance back to 1950 incorporates the performance of the predecessor index, the S&P 90.

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Christ Memorial Episcopal Church to hold tag sale

NORTH BROOKFIELD — Christ Memorial Episcopal Church will hold a tag sale on Saturday, Sept. 14.

The event will take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Available items include plants (indoor and outdoor); puzzles and books; clothes; children's items; kitchen and household items; and several others.

In the event of rain, the event will be postponed to Saturday, Sept. 21.

The church is located at 133 North Main St.

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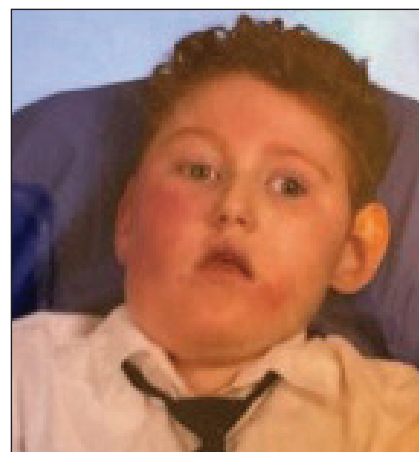
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Registration # 8266

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Korben is a sweet boy with complex medical needs. He enjoys having books read to him and loves to listen to music and TV shows. He is reported to enjoy being around other peers and will babble as a form of communication. The adults in Korben's life describe him as a happy, silly, and loving young boy. Korben loves to have preferred adults read to him and spend time with him.

<https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/8266>

Can I Adopt?

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.

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
 PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
 EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Raising the bar for decency and leadership

There was a time when being American meant standing for something bigger than ourselves—when looking out for one another, showing respect, and upholding certain standards was simply the way things were. But somewhere along the way, we've lost our way a bit. The tone of our politics has shifted from a place of professionalism and decorum to something more like a never-ending reality show.

The truth is, politics was never meant to be a joke. It's about the serious business of leading a country—of shaping policies that affect all of us, from the farmers in the heartland to the teachers in our towns. Yet lately, it feels like decency and respect have taken a backseat to personal attacks, name-calling, and divisiveness. It's not just embarrassing—it's harmful. We deserve better, and it's time we demand better.

As Americans, we need to band together and make kindness a priority once again. Not just in our daily lives, but in the way we engage with politics. Our leaders should be held to higher standards. They should represent us with dignity and professionalism, not petty squabbles and cheap shots. Politics should be about problem-solving, not point-scoring.

Imagine what we could accomplish if we focused on bringing people together instead of tearing each other down. Kindness doesn't mean we all have to agree on everything, but it does mean treating each other with respect—even when we disagree. The strength of America has always been in our diversity of thought and background. But diversity only works when there's a foundation of decency and empathy.

We have to stop lowering the bar and start raising our expectations. Our political leaders should exemplify the best of us—people who are informed, compassionate, and ready to fight for what's right, without losing their humanity in the process. Let's return to a time when class, integrity, and decorum mattered in public life. When we disagreed with one another civilly, knowing that, at the end of the day, we're all on the same team.

America is at its best when we care about our neighbors, when we stand up for those who can't, and when we hold our leaders accountable to a higher standard. Together, we can make America kind again. Not just in the way we treat one another, but in how we demand professionalism, decency, and class from our leaders.

The future of this country depends on all of us—not just the people we elect, but the expectations we set. Let's set them high.

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

President Trump

To the Editor:
 Now, more than ever we need former President Trump back in the White House. He cares more for the country, and the people of this country, more than he cares about himself. His sham trial in New York, which in actuality was outside the statute of limitations, was brought by a man who pledged to bring President Trump down. Tried not by a jury of his peers, but in a county in which President Trump had a 2 percent approval rating. Of course they would convict. The daughter of the Judge, Merchan (who presided over this case), has been linked to Kamala Harris through very generous political contributions.

President Trump was elected as the Republican candidate by the voters of this country. President Biden was selected as the democrat candidate. He appointed Kamala Harris as his successor. No voting involved. That is not what this country is based upon. Dictators appoint and are appointed. In her last election try, she received such a

low number of votes that she dropped out. This after condemning Joe Biden, and calling him old and feeble. Then she was selected as a DEI vice president. She was solely selected because she fit the criteria. Well, almost fit the criteria. Joe Biden wanted a female African American. Close enough. She identified as an Indian all her life until her color suddenly became an advantage. Her word salad speeches are hard to understand or interpret. Her job as border czar was a disaster. She never made it there. Her job to control gun violence went nowhere. If she was receiving a job performance review, she would be considered a total failure. What has she done?

President Trump has proven he can be a leader. Our economy thrived, joblessness and inflation were at an all time low, there were no wars, businesses were coming back. All that has been lost over the last four years. We need Donald Trump back in the Oval Office.

STEVE TSIHLS
 WEST BROOKFIELD

Kamala's nonsense

To the Editor:
 The Democrats' leftist machine is trying to fake you out with all the [nonsense]. They will try to obstruct, confuse, and mix you up on her plans all to get your vote. Here are her plans based on what she has said. Look them over and see if you like them.

Kamala wants to decriminalize illegal immigration and offer the "newcomers" free health care. This means open borders with our hospitals overburdened with illegals. The added pressure on budgets to pay for the freebies they give these hordes will directly impact the solvency of social security and Medicaid. Dems like to say, "No illegals are receiving Social Security." They think people are stupid. We all know the government takes the taxes we pay into social security and instead puts "IOU's" in place. So your Social Security is indeed being used to pay for the illegals, and what's left is a bunch of paper IOU's. So do not believe their shell game. Her wide-open border plan and free money will break your future.

Kamala's energy plan is no fracking for oil and all electric vehicles by 2035. Get ready for record high energy prices and higher car prices. Their war on gas cars has driven the price of used vehicles thru the roof. Many families now cannot afford to have a car. Her administration will be a double down on the New Green Deal fiasco. A vote for her is continued rises in your home budget.

Kamala's foreign policy is to fully support Hamas and push Russia even more. She supports the thousands of radical Hamas supporters that desecrate our monuments. She will continue to push Russia until the nuclear

missiles get launched. Do you really want to live in a world where we have nuclear fallout and the breakdown of order. We know that she is like Biden. A hollow puppet controlled by the Defense industry and the Deep State apparatus that gets their funding from promoting war.

Kamala's solution to "Fix" the inflation problem that she and Joe created is to attack the supermarkets and food companies. You know, the ones that had to raise prices due to the added energy and labor costs. Anything she tries to do will be just added on to the costs and paid by you. She will then try to tax and unrealized capital gains you make. That means taxing bank interest and 401K money even if you do not cash them out. Sounds great!

It's time to open your eyes and stop believing the propaganda that the Dem controlled news media is cramming in front of you. You know Donald Trump. On foreign affairs he's a fast thinking, brash and tough negotiator. He scares both friends and foe. He will settle the wars and keep peace thru strength of character. If you put Kamala in there, they will walk all over her! Trump's a business person, and he knows how to do the deal to get the best cost on everything. With Navarro and Kudlow as advisors they will have this economy humming once again and prices will fall. You know that and I know that! Heck even most Dems know that! So, stop believing the left's [nonsense] and vote with your brains. Vote Trump in 2024!

MARK ROBILLARD
 SPENCER

A heartfelt thank you

To the Editor:
 A heartfelt special thank you to Andy, Lisa, Sue & Maddie Lynch, as well as all of the members of the Spencer Agricultural Association and Spencer Fair Committee, for your gracious and thoughtful dedication of this year's 135th Spencer Fair in memory of my husband Kevin.

This gesture was such a lovely tribute to him. He truly was loved and admired by the many people whose lives he touched.

With sincerest gratitude and appreciation,

DONNA LANAGAN AND FAMILY
 SPENCER

Trump and Vance's MAGA responses on how to improve American child care

To the Editor:
 For most American families, the need, cost, and quality of child care assistance from the birth of children into school years remains an issue. It includes questions like:

- who will provide it?
- can we afford it? and
- how good will it be?

Child care does not have to be such a big problem. For good reasons, many well developed countries in Europe and around the world provide their families with child care assistance. These countries do it not only to help the parents and children. They also know how much more well cared for and educated children will later contribute to their country and its' economy. As a result, they invest in all their children.

Such countries provide family child care assistance in a number of ways including:

- Paid leave for parents during early childhood,
 - Child grants to assist middle and lower income raise their children well and
 - Well-funded childcare programs for all families
 - Providing for well funded competently child care facilities
- Recently, on camera, the "Make

America Great Again" candidate, Donald Trump, and JD Vance responded the child care situation facing America as follows:

After the nothing burger of saying "child care is care," Trump went on to say it isn't a problem because the United States is going to impose a 15 percent tariff on imports from China. Two main problems exist with this answer. First, "Tariffs on China" in no way is a child care policy or program. Second, since tariffs on closely resemble an additional sales tax, on what families buy, famines would have less to spend on child care.

Separately, JD Vance said that having grandparents and aunts and uncles take "more" responsibility for child care would help solve the problem. Again at least two problems stand out. First, it assumes we substitutes are willing and able (in time and distance to help out more. Second it assumes these assistants have the capability to provide the kind of child care that children need.

In conclusion, concerning child care, it appears that neither Trump r Vance have any idea - or much care - about "Making America Great" Child Care needs.

KEVIN KANE
 SPENCER

How to be a 'seasonal' investor



FINANCIAL FOCUS
TREVOR NIELSEN

As we transition from summer to autumn, change is all around us — leaves are taking on new colors, temperatures are dropping, and the days are getting shorter. But you can also experience different seasons in various aspects of your life — including when you invest. What are the seasons of an investor's life? And how should you respond to them?

The first such season may happen when you are in your 20s and just starting out in the working world. At this stage in your life, it's especially important to prioritize your financial goals. At the top of your mind may be a short-term goal, such as saving for a down payment on a house. To help achieve this goal, you'd generally want to save in "cash" accounts and invest in fixed-income vehicles that offer preservation of principal. At the same time, you don't want to disregard a longer-term goal — in particular, saving for retirement. While you may not be able to afford to put much away, every amount helps. And you'll want to invest for growth.

Now, as the seasons of your life progress, let's consider your early middle years. At this point, you've moved past the down payment on your home and you're well into paying a mortgage regularly. And you might even have retired your student loans. But now, you may have another major goal — helping build resources for your children's college education or other post-secondary training. For this objective, you could consider several options, one of which is a 529 education savings plan, which can provide federally tax-free earnings and withdrawals if the money is used for qualified educational expenses. But you're also moving closer to retirement, so, if you can afford it, you may want to increase your contributions to your IRA and your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan.

As the seasons continue to move on, and you find yourself in your later middle years, your financial situation may have changed significantly. Now, your children may be out of school, your earnings may have grown to their highest level, and you might even have paid off your mortgage. Given these factors, you may now be able to devote more of your resources toward your retirement by ramping up your IRA and 401(k) contributions even further, and possibly also considering other investment vehicles. And you may want to inject more balance into your portfolio, possibly lowering its overall risk level somewhat, especially in the years immediately preceding your retirement.

Once you move into your retirement season, you may need to continue, and possibly accelerate, the movement toward a more balanced portfolio — one that provides you with more income-producing opportunities. Some investments provide current income, while others provide it in the future, but all of them can contribute to your ability to enjoy your retirement lifestyle. However, you still need some growth-oriented investments to help keep you ahead of inflation. Plus, it's a good idea to keep at least a year's worth of living expenses in cash and another few years' worth in short-term, fixed-income investments. By doing so, you can help avoid having to sell assets in a down market.

The seasons of your life may come and go more quickly than you realize — but you can be prepared for them by making the appropriate investment moves.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Be forewarned! And become informed!

To the Editor:
Spencer residents, your most important act as a citizen of democracy is to know the facts and to vote accordingly!

Override season is upon us once again! Like Covid, they have become a common occurrence!

If you are a homeowner, your property taxes are going to increase and if you are a renter your rent is going to increase! Again and again and again!

The latest scuttlebutt is that the Town Manager and the select board are going to be blessing us with a giant override to fund about 10 salaried positions in town.

The plan is that the override will appear on the regular election ballot in November!

Four of the salaried positions are for full time firefighters (whose grant will run out) that

they will try and justify with lower property insurance rates for homeowners...but don't be fooled!

Your property insurance rate decrease will be a few Washingtons, but your tax increases will be mega-Benjamins!

Please keep in mind that the school override has not yet increased your taxes, but it will soon enough!

David Prouty Class of 1984 graduated 180 students. David Prouty Class of 2023 graduated 63 students!

We need a new school because enrollment is decreasing!

Do we need four more full time salaried fire-fighters because fires are increasing?

JEN GAUCHER
SPENCER

Consider what's at stake

To the Editor:

"We have met the enemy, and he is us." So said Pogo, the 'possum in the Pogo comic strip by Walt Kelly. The saying is true for our country right now. Too many of us as a people keep electing politicians who are out to destroy us, some deliberately and some blindly, persuaded by the lies we and they have been told.

There is a video, "Agenda: Grinding America Down." If you can get hold of a copy, I urge you to see it before the election. May you be informed about what is really at stake here. The way I see it, our country is at the edge of a cliff right now. If Kamala Harris is elected president, our country will fall over the edge, and that will be the end of our once great nation. There will be so many sweeping changes put in place, we will all be the worse for it. But by then, it will be too late. The Democratic party today wants to make us a Socialist,

even Communist country, like Cuba and Venezuela. Do we hear of people in the world flocking to Cuba and Venezuela, where there is hardship and poverty and lack of freedom? Some Cubans have risked their lives, like so many in the world, to get to this land of ours, this freedom that we have enjoyed and is in peril of being taken away forever.

If you hate Donald Trump, fine. But know this: he is the only alternative we have. You may not like the man, but when he was president, our economy was great, the border crisis was being addressed, black unemployment was at its lowest in history, and we were respected by other countries around the world.

If you are at all religious, please pray for God's guidance, get the video and watch it, and please consider what's at stake.

NANCY J. NOWAK
SPENCER

Gambling memorabilia



1829. Slot machines started being used in New York in 1891. The Golden Gate Casino, the first casino in Las Vegas, opened in 1906. In 1910, U.S. gambling laws halted gambling until the Great Depression of the 1930s, when it became legal again.

There are many reasons that people collect gambling memorabilia. They may like the history and focus on an era like Victorian gambling memorabilia. Casinos were also extravagant social spaces with "debonair personalities, luxury, and high-society figures," according to the "Island Echo" of the United Kingdom's Isle of Wight. Many collectors are attracted to that lifestyle.

Some recent auction results attest to the desirability of gambling memorabilia. A 1930s wood gambling carnival wheel sold for \$500 last month. A rare early 1900s bicycle competition mechanical parlor gambling machine sold for \$2,500 in June. We sold a vintage Mills Novelty quarter slot machine for \$500 in our June auction.

A colorful painted saloon wheel described as being circa 1900 "from an Indian Territory in Oklahoma" brought \$10,000 in 2016. A Desert Inn \$25 casino chip sold for \$25,000 in 2013. A 1936 Evans Roll-ette machine described as "one of the rarest and most sought-after 20th century casino machines" went for \$28,000 in 2016. A Charles Fey slot machine, considered to be the first 3-reel gambling machine, hit the jackpot, selling for \$145,000 in 2017.



ANTIQUES,
COLLECTIBLES
& ESTATES
WAYNE TUISKULA

Gambling has a long history. Tiles from 2,300 BC were found in China and are believed to have been used in a game of chance, according to gambling.net. Slips like current day Keno tickets from 200 BC were found and may have been used to fund government projects. Dice were discovered in an Egyptian tomb in 3,000 BC and the Greek poet Sophocles mentions them in his writings from around 500 BC. Gambling was banned in Ancient Rome and penalties were imposed on those caught participating. The citizens began using chips so authorities wouldn't see that they were playing for money. Playing cards were invented by the Chinese in 800 AD.

Gambling has of course developed and progressed since. An early version of Baccarat migrated from Italy to France in the 1400s. In 1601, Miguel de Cervantes (the author of Don Quixote) wrote about a Spanish game called veintiuna that was like blackjack, according to gambling.net. A gambling house (an early form of casino) opened in Italy in 1638. Roulette was invented in France in 1796. Poker may have developed over time, but one of the first times a recognizable form of the game was played occurred in New Orleans in

We'll have a collection of gambling memorabilia from a local estate in our major auction starting this month. That auction will also feature a wide variety of other items including gold jewelry, sterling silver, art, coins, and historical items. We are always accepting quality consignments of all kinds for future auctions. I'll be appraising items for the public at the Scandinavian Culture Center in Newton from 1 to 3 p.m. on Sept. 21. Please visit our Web site, <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).

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- Building size: 9,536 SF
- Lot size: 13,939 SF
- Loading docks: (1) tailgate height
- Basement: partial | Unfinished



MORE INFO:



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Local nonprofits receive \$91,000 boost from Webster Five Foundation



Courtesy

Participants in United Way of Central Massachusetts – Women’s Initiative, which received \$2,500 from the Webster Five Foundation. The awarded grant monies will be utilized to support the Dollar Scholar program, which provides girls aged 10-14 with basic financial literacy skills and valuable knowledge to support their college, career and life plans.

AUBURN — The Webster Five Foundation is pleased to announce that 18 Massachusetts nonprofit organizations will benefit from \$91,000 in grants during the Foundation’s third cycle of grants this year.

Each quarter, the Foundation provides grants to nonprofit organizations or programs that support expanding or improving access to education, culture and the arts, social services, charitable activities and community development.

The following organizations were awarded funding from the Webster Five Foundation in this grant cycle:

Community Legal Aid -- \$10,000 to support its Language Access Project, which provides necessary and free legal services to low-income and elderly residents in Worcester County regardless of their primary language.

Legendary Legacies -- \$3,000 and a match of up to \$2,000 to support its Reintegration, Food Transport and Employment Preparation programs for formerly gang-involved and previously incarcerated individuals in Worcester.

Mustard Seed Catholic Worker Community Inc. -- \$2,500 towards its Summer Enrichment Programming for Low-Income Youth. The Mustard Seed Catholic Worker is a house of hospitality inspired by the

vision of Dorothy Day. Old Sturbridge Village -- \$7,000 for its Educational Outreach to grades 3, 4, 5 and 8 Webster Public School students and teachers for the 2024-2025 academic year.

Pakachoag Music School of Greater Worcester -- \$2,500 to support the Music Matters Financial Aid Program, which provides tuition assistance to program participants from low-and-moderate income families.

Pernet Family Health Service -- \$4,000 for its Youth Program Enrichment Activities, which ensures summer activities are accessible to low-income students and their families by removing the barriers of transportation and fees.

Regional Environmental Council, Inc. -- \$5,000 as the first installment of a \$25,000 multi-year grant to support the organization’s capital campaign to develop the Center for Urban Agriculture and Food Security, located in Worcester’s Main South neighborhood.

RIA, Inc. -- \$1,500 towards its SheFund: Supporting Emergency and Basic Needs, Housing, and Education for Survivors, which offers community-based services to adults with experience in the commercial sex trade.

Safe Exit Initiative

(f/k/a Living In Freedom Together, Inc.) -- \$5,000 for its HARBOR Drop-In Center, which provides individuals with experience in the sex trade and sex trafficking and individuals at a higher risk of entry into the sex trade with access to health and social services.

Southeast Asian Coalition of Central Massachusetts, Inc. -- \$5,000 to support its Food Security program, which provides foods and meals meeting the cultural and dietary needs of its food-insecure clients.

Tri-Valley, Inc. -- \$6,000 to support its Money Management Program, which assists low-income elders who are at risk of losing their independence due to an inability to manage their own finances.

United Way of Central Massachusetts – Women’s Initiative -- \$2,500 to support the Dollar Scholar program, which provides girls aged 10-14 with basic financial literacy skills and valuable knowledge to support their college, career and life plans.

United Way of South Central Massachusetts -- \$1,500 and a match of up to \$1,000 towards the purchase of capacity building software for its program applications, known as eCimpact.

Worcester Area Mission Society, United Church of Christ -- \$3,000 to support the Pre-K Plus program, which prepares

children who do not have access to early education to enter kindergarten successfully.

Worcester Earn-a-Bike, Inc. (WEAB) -- \$1,000 to support its Youth Earn-a-Bike program, a mentoring and skill building program designed to empower Worcester’s youth.

Worcester Youth Center, Inc. -- \$3,500 for its Core Programming, which provides free structured programs and support groups to youth aged 14-24.

YWCA Central Massachusetts, Inc. -- \$15,000 to support the Financial Literacy

for Domestic Violence Survivors program, which empowers participants to learn resources and strategies to address the financial and safety challenges when ending an abusive relationship.

Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Library, Inc. -- \$15,000 as an installment of the ten-year \$150,000 gift to the Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library. Each grant installment has been used for the library’s building enhancements as well as additional services.

“At Webster Five, our role as a community

bank is to be a supporter of progress in our community,” said Don Doyle, President/CEO, Webster Five. “These grants are our way of acknowledging and amplifying the profound impact these nonprofits have. We are deeply grateful for the opportunity to contribute to their essential work and to support their continued success.”

Since its inception in 1996, the Foundation has awarded \$4,128,370 to 298 organizations. The next round of grant recipients will be awarded later this fall.

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POLICE REPORTS

Leicester Police Log

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29

12:43 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 12:48 a.m.: assist other PD (Main Street), services rendered; 12:56 a.m.: disabled mv (Pleasant Street), spoken to; 1:17 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 12:23 a.m.: assist other PD (Charlton Road, Charlton), services rendered; 6:49 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), spoken to; 9:05 a.m.: keep the peace (Carleton Road), services rendered; 11:08 a.m.: accident (Stafford Street), report taken; 3:33 p.m.: welfare check (South Main Street), no action required; 4:26 p.m.: assist citizen (Bond Street); 4:51 p.m.: welfare check (Marshall Street), report taken; 5:48 p.m.: disturbance (Marshall Street), spoken to; 7:36 p.m.: ambulance (Henshaw Street), transported; 11:11 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:44 p.m.: disabled mv (Paxton Street), resolved.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30

1:05 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 1:38 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), resolved; 2:00 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:51 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), Antonio Marcelle Thomas, 49, 399 Pleasant Street, Leicester, unnecessary use of fog light, op w/license suspended for OUI, arrest; 9:07 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 9:52 a.m.: lobby service (Carleton Road), report taken; 12:23 p.m.: animal complaint (Paxton Street), referred; 1:00 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 1:29 p.m.: restraining order service (Reservoir Street), unable to serve; 1:51 p.m.: hit/run accident (Soojians Drive), report taken; 2:20 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), written warning; 3:52 p.m.: summons service (Moose Hill Road), unable to serve; 4:08 p.m.: summons service (River Street), unable to serve; 5:15 p.m.: assist other PD (Pleasant Street), gone on arrival; 5:25 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street, Worcester), call canceled; 5:56 p.m.: summons service (Moose Hill Road), served; 6:31 p.m.: keep the peace (Carleton Road), assisted; 7:19 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 8:30 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:40 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:12 p.m.: ambulance (Green Street), transported.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31

12:32 a.m.: welfare check (Crystal Street), assisted; 1:04 a.m.: suspicious mv (Paxton Street), resolved; 3:28 a.m.: disturbance (Reservoir Street), unable to locate; 4:39 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 8:37 a.m.: mv stop (Pine Street), written warning; 8:55 a.m.: mv stop (Pine Street), verbal warning; 8:58 a.m.: disturbance (Stafford Street), spoken to; 9:31 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 9:38 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 9:42 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 10:47 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), written warning; 11:17 a.m.: hit/run accident (Main Street), report taken; 1:18 p.m.: assist other PD (South Main Street), services rendered; 1:55 p.m.: ambulance (Edward Street), transported; 3:16 p.m.: animal complaint (Second Street), referred; 3:21 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 3:22 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), spoken to; 3:34 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 3:51 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 4:12 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 4:20 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 4:22 p.m.: mv stop (Pine Street), verbal warning; 4:31 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 4:43 p.m.: assist citizen (Main Street); 4:50 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 5:01 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 5:16 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 5:39 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 6:25 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 6:48 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 7:26 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 7:57 p.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant Street), referred; 8:33 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:11 p.m.: welfare check (Chesnar Drive), assisted; 9:47 p.m.: investigation (Main Street), report taken; 9:50 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:13 p.m.: disturbance (Brickyard Road), resolved; 11:23 p.m.: erratic operator (Cemetery Road), unable to locate; 11:30 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), unable to locate; 11:53 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

12:13 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), verbal warning; 12:27 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), Jonathan Cuadrado Rivera, 38, 76 Grove Street, North Brookfield, OUI liquor, marked lanes violation, possession of open container of alcohol in mv, speeding, arrest; 12:35 a.m.: welfare check (Main Street), services rendered; 12:58 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 3:34 a.m.: mutual aid (Meadowbrook Road, Spencer), services rendered; 4:40 a.m.: suspicious person (South Main Street), investigated; 7:47 a.m.: runaway (Mulberry Street), resolved; 8:16 a.m.: mv stop (Chapel Street), verbal warning; 8:27 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), mv towed; 8:41 a.m.: suspicious activity (Marshall Street), investigated; 8:49 a.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), spoken to; 9:27 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:00 a.m.:

threats (Main Street), peace restored; 11:38 a.m.: assist citizen (Carleton Road); 12:33 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 12:50 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 12:54 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 3:46 p.m.: assist citizen (Main Street); 3:47 p.m.: summons service (Dale Court), unable to serve; 4:22 p.m.: welfare check (Hemlock Street), assisted; 5:10 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), verbal warning; 6:12 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 6:43 p.m.: RV complaint (Lake Shore Drive), spoken to; 7:06 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:19 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 8:26 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:33 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 8:38 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:40 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 8:52 p.m.: assist citizen (Whittemore Street); 9:30 p.m.: assist other PD (Pleasant Street, Paxton), services rendered; 10:17 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 10:34 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 11:49 p.m.: family problem (Main Street), report taken; 11:50 p.m.: threats (Brookside Drive), report taken.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

3:22 a.m.: mv stop (Rawson Street), verbal warning; 5:19 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 9:05 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 10:29 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), verbal warning; 10:48 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), resolved; 11:05 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), resolved; 11:32 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:59 p.m.: disturbance (Henshaw Street), unable to locate; 1:19 p.m.: mv stop (Marshall Street), verbal warning; 1:46 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:52 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 1:58 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:14 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), verbal warning; 2:26 p.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 2:29 p.m.: assist citizen (Main Street), advised civil action; 4:10 p.m.: arrest warrant service (Newfield Street), unable to serve; 4:26 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 5:56 p.m.: accident (Pine Street), report taken; 6:39 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 9:06 p.m.: noise complaint (Pleasant Street), spoken to; 9:16 p.m.: disabled mv (Pleasant Street), assisted; 10:42 p.m.: runaway (McCarthy Avenue), resolve.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

12:04 a.m.: suspicious mv (Denny Place), unfounded; 1:13 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:05 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), citation issued; 3:46 a.m.: investigation (Monterey Drive), report taken; 5:10 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 5:16 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 5:17 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), citation issued; 7:18 a.m.: accident (Spring Street), report taken; 7:55 a.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), referred; 7:58 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 7:59 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), false alarm; 8:14 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), citation issued; 8:26 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), spoken to; 8:41 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), written warning; 8:55 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), citation issued; 9:12 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), citation issued; 9:31 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 9:48 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), Victoria Isabel Rodriguez Morales, 35, 633 Millbury Street, #1L, Worcester; op w/suspended license, nontransparent/window obstructed, no inspection sticker, arrest; 10:21 a.m.: stolen mv recovery (Carleton Road), resolved; 10:36 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 12:21 p.m.: suspicious mv (Huntoon Memorial Highway), no action required; 12:26 p.m.: b mv (Stafford Street), assisted; 2:10 p.m.: assist citizen (Towtad Street); 2:32 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 3:13 p.m.: accident (Stafford Street), report taken; 4:00 p.m.: assist citizen (Craig Street); 4:27 p.m.: ambulance (Pine Street), transported; 5:16 p.m.: mutual aid (out of town/Auburn), resolved; 5:23 p.m.: suspicious mv (Ackley Drive), resolved; 5:54 p.m.: ambulance (Southbridge Street, Auburn), transported; 6:18 p.m.: ambulance (Cottage Drive, Auburn), transported; 7:36 p.m.: ambulance (Russell Street, Worcester), call canceled; 8:44 p.m.: suspicious mv (Reservoir Street), resolved; 9:29 p.m.: ambulance (Elm Street, Spencer), transported; 11:42 p.m.: disturbance (Henshaw Street), report taken.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

12:27 a.m.: attempted breaking/entering (Chesnar Drive), report taken; 8:48 a.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), referred; 1:06 p.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant Street), referred; 1:34 p.m.: ambulance (Siani Road), transported; 2:37 p.m.: investigation (Pleasant Street), report taken; 4:02 p.m.: disabled mv (Huntoon Memorial Highway), summons served; 4:10 p.m.: restraining order service (Pleasant Street), served; 4:24 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 7:02 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), citation issued; 7:19 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Church Street), investigated; 9:45 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported.

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Spencer Police Log

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28

3:58 a.m.: medical/general (Charlton Road); 4:20 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 5:29 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Condon Drive), open line; 8:56 a.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), referred; 9:31 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 10:03 a.m.: medical/general (Sherwood Drive); 10:15 a.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 10:39 a.m.: mv fire (Main Street), referred; 10:52 a.m.: threats (Mechanic Street), rec. threats via text; 12:12 p.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 12:42 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), family issue; 12:52 p.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 3:25 p.m.: fire/woods/grass/other (Donnelly Road), tree falling toward house; 3:35 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 3:50 p.m.: animal complaint (May Street), snake on porch; 5:11 p.m.: medical/general (North Spencer Road); 6:09 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 7:29 p.m.: building checked, secure; 8:51 p.m.: accident/fatal (Greenville Street), report taken; 9:27 p.m.: disabled mv (Valley Street), assisted; 10:10 p.m.: 911 call (Smithville Road), hang-up; 10:50 p.m.: disturbance (Rustic Lane), fem. yelling; 11:58 p.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info rec'd; (total daily mv stops - 0).

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29

2:00/4:48/5:37 a.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info rec'd; 8:03 a.m.: disturbance (West Main Street), re: violating fire inspector order; 8:15 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 8:17 a.m.: medical/general (Salem Street); 1:15 p.m.: harassment prevention order service (West Main Street); 1:23 p.m.: medical/general (Chickering Road); 1:28 p.m.: mv complaint (Greenville Street), c/o mvs speeding; 1:38 p.m.: parking complaint (Main Street), flyer left on windshield; 3:31 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), resp. to senior ctr; 4:04 p.m.: officer wanted (Charron Street), req. welfare check; 5:06 p.m.: mv complaint (Greenville Street), erratic operator; 7:50 p.m.: disturbance (Chestnut Street), disruptive party; 9:02 p.m.: disturbance (Smithville Road), fight; 11:40/11:52 p.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info rec'd; (total daily mv stops - 0).

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30

2:53/3:32 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 4:20 a.m.: commercial alarm (West Main Street), services rendered; 5:48 a.m.: medical/general (Maple Street), lift assist; 7:21 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 8:42 a.m.: vandalism (Mechanic Street), report taken; 8:46 a.m.: citizen complaint (North Spencer Road), req. signs moved; 9:57 a.m.: medical/general (Ledge Avenue); 10:22 a.m.: citizen complaint (Smithville Road), c/o road closure; 10:41 a.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 1:11 p.m.: suspicious persons (West Main Street), c/o violinist outside bldg.; 2:36 p.m.: medical/general (Parent Street); 4:05 p.m.: hit/run accident (Main Street), report taken; 4:22 p.m.: officer wanted (Elm Street), req. welfare check; 4:40 p.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), mc speeding; 5:47 p.m.: medical/sudden death (Chestnut Street); 6:12 p.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), erratic operator; 7:03 p.m.: suspicious mv (Deer Run Road), investigated; 9:01 p.m.: officer wanted (Adams Street), req. welfare check; 9:01 p.m.: building checked, secure; 9:13 p.m.: medical/general (Crestview Drive); 10:30 p.m.: juvenile matter (West Main Street), c/o kids on skateboards; 10:55 p.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 11:02 p.m.: juvenile matter (West Main Street), won't leave business; 11:11 p.m.: domestic (Lakeview Drive), unwanted party; (total daily mv stops - 3).

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31

1:21-2:12 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:03 a.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), investigated; 2:14 a.m.: parking violation (Grant Street), ticket issued; 8:51 a.m.: lost/found (Condon Drive), license plate found; 9:46 a.m.: officer wanted (Ash Street), argument; 9:54 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), re: soliciting; 10:33 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Maple Street), resolved; 11:17 a.m.: fraud (Main Street), report taken; 11:35 a.m.: fraud (Wilson Avenue), report taken; 11:55 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 12:06 p.m.: medical/general (North Spencer Road); 12:42 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), assisted; 12:54 p.m.: officer wanted (Paxton Road), req. welfare check; 1:30 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), question re: license; 1:34 p.m.: mv complaint (Greenville Street), erratic operator; 1:57 p.m.: 911 call (Smithville Road), accidental; 2:54 p.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), referred; 3:50 p.m.: mv complaint (Thompson Pond Road), re: mvs passing house; 4:32 p.m.: suspicious persons (Donnelly Cross Road), re: item thrown on lawn; 6:43 p.m.: fire alarm (West Main Street), referred; 7:47 p.m.: accident (Smithville Cross Road), report taken; 7:48 p.m.: disturbance (Smithville Road), intoxicated parties; 8:11 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), re: traffic flow; 8:42 p.m.: disturbance (Smithville Road), verbal dispute; 8:58 p.m.: officer wanted (Smithville Road), re: bee sting; 9:25 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Thornberry Circle), referred; 9:55 p.m.: disturbance

(Smithville Road), re: group causing problems; 11:24 p.m.: officer wanted (Smithville Road), m/f dispute; 11:42 p.m.: officer wanted (Smithville Road), daugh. refuses to return home; (total daily mv stops - 0).

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

12:52 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), assist Leicester PD at drive-in; 12:58 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), assist Leicester PD w/ mv stop; 1:34 a.m.: fire alarm (West Main Street), referred; between 1:39-2:03 a.m.: time and location of incident not recorded on police log, John P. Graceffa, 46, 209 Paxton Road, Spencer, assault w/dangerous weapon, assault/2 counts, arrest; 3:32 a.m.: medical/general (Meadowbrook Road); 5:03 a.m.: mv repossessed (Meadow Road), info rec'd; 6:58 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 8:44 a.m.: medical/general (Salem Street); 9:29 a.m.: mv lock-out (West Main Street), assisted; 9:32 a.m.: disturbance (West Main Street), unwanted party; 9:45 a.m.: accident (Meadow Road), report taken; 11:07 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Sturbridge PD bolo; 11:39 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 11:48 a.m.: disturbance (Main Street), disruptive customers; 12:07 p.m.: juvenile matter (School Street), re: unwanted text msg/calls; 12:22 p.m.: elderly matter (Howe Village), req. welfare check; 12:29 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Sturbridge PD bolo; 12:47 p.m.: medical/general (Elm Street); 12:59 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 2:40 p.m.: fire alarm (Bixby Road), referred; 3:06 p.m.: 911 call (North Spencer Road), resolved; 3:25 p.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 3:52 p.m.: accident (North Spencer Road), report taken; 4:58 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Mechanic Street), investigated; 5:19 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 5:22 p.m.: 911 call (Smithville Road), accidental; 5:39 p.m.: accident (Smithville Road), report taken; 5:50 p.m.: accident (Meadow Road), report taken; 6:41 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street), lift assist; 6:50 p.m.: elderly matter (Mechanic Street), req. welfare check; 8:48 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Paxton Pd bolo/welfare check; 9:46 p.m.: accident (Meadow Road), report taken; 10:45 p.m.: medical/general (Charlton Road); (total daily mv stops - 0).

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

12:06 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 12:40 a.m.: suspicious mv (Smithville Road), investigated; 3:25 a.m.: disturbance (South Street), Sayge Marie Crete, 50 Houghton Street, Worcester, warrant, arrest; 3:53 a.m.: building checked, secure; 5:46 a.m.: lost/found (West Main Street), wallet lost; 11:24 a.m.: animal complaint (Meadow Road), dead skunk; 11:27 a.m.: medical/general (Smithville Road); 12:16 p.m.: DPW call (Paxton Road), low-hanging wire; 12:37 p.m.: officer wanted (Church Street), re: boyfriend; 12:49 p.m.: accident (Pleasant Street), report taken; 1:33 p.m.: juvenile matter (Cherry Street), services rendered; 1:42 p.m.: lost/found (Main Street), debit card found; 3:35 p.m.: medical/general (North Spencer Road); 5:30 p.m.: mv repossessed (Cooney Road), info rec'd; 5:38 p.m.: RV accident (North Spencer Road), mini bikes/no plates; 6:00 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), assist Leicester PD w/accident; 6:34 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), erratic operator; 6:38 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), accidental; 8:20 p.m.: officer wanted (South Spencer Road), TT unit stuck at bridge; 11:46 p.m.: disturbance (Park Street), noise complaint; (total daily mv stops - 1).

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

12:01 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Leicester PD bolo/runaway; 12:56 a.m.: disturbance (Maple Street), hears someone outside; 5:11 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 5:54 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 7:24 a.m.: mv theft (Hastings Road), rep. dirt bike stolen; 7:24 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 8:47 a.m.: hit/run accident (Northwest Road), report taken; 12:32 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: scam emails; 12:54 p.m.: commercial alarm (Mechanic Street), services rendered; 1:22 p.m.: animal complaint (Old Farm Road), poss. rabies exposure; 1:24 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 1:27 p.m.: disturbance (Temple Street), parking/noise complaint; 2:36 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 2:39 p.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), investigated; 3:23 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), hang-up; 3:56 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 4:02 p.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), loose dog; 4:42 p.m.: disabled mv (West Main Street), assisted; 5:31 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 5:38 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), William Arthur Hackett, Junior, 39, 4 Pearl Street, Spencer, OUI liquor, negligent operation, improper operation, arrest; 6:31 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 7:20 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 7:39 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), referred; 8:11 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), probs w/ex; 8:12 p.m.: officer wanted (Valley Street), re: suicidal ideation; 8:20 p.m.: medical/general (High Street); 8:59 p.m.: juvenile matter (Main Street), daugh. left; 9:25 p.m.: medical/general (Elm Street); 10:04 p.m.: medical/general (Charlton Road), lift assist; (total daily mv stops - 5).

###

Hildene is Paxton-area Seniors' destination for Oct. 24

PAXTON — The Paxton-area Senior bus trip season is flying by quickly! Our next-to-last trip for the 2024 traveling season is Thursday, Oct. 24.

We'll depart at 8:15 a.m. from Paxton Senior Center (Council on Aging, 17 West St. (Route 31), just south of the traffic light at the Paxton Common. Our first stop, other than a short break at the eclectic Guilford (Vt.) Welcome Center, is for lunch at 11:30 a.m. at the Publyk House in Bennington, Vt. We depart there at 1:15 p.m. And within one half hour we will arrive at Hildene, the Lincoln Family home in Manchester, Vt.

Robert Todd Lincoln was the only child of Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln to survive to maturity. We will enjoy a self-guided tour of their property which consists of a lot of choices: Fourteen (14) historic buildings, including the Georgian Revival mansion, formal gardens and observatory on this now 412-acre estate, Welcome Center, the Museum Store in the historic carriage barn, 1903 Pullman (train) car, Sunbeam (British auto) and the Hildene Farm.

We will make a quick stop (pmt. on your own) at the Brattleboro McDonalds on the way home, arriving back at the Paxton Senior Center at 7:30 p.m. The price for the entire day is \$126 and includes the delicious lunch, including gratuity, at the Publyk House; the self-guided tour at Hildene, the Lincoln Family Home; and the luxury Wilson Bus motor coach transportation. It does not include the bus driver's gratuity.

The Lincolns built the home as a summer home at the turn of the 20th Century. Robert first visited Manchester as a young man. Some 40 years later he returned to purchase 392 acres to build what he had called his ancestral home. Robert was president of the Pullman Company, the largest manufacturing corporation in the country, at that time.

Lunch at The Publyk House in Bennington begins with a salad of mixed greens, seasonal vegetables and Balsamic Vinaigrette dressing. Choose your entree from Roast Turkey dinner (mashed potatoes, stuffing, pan gravy and cranberry sauce); Homemade Layered Meatloaf (mashed potatoes, green beans, gravy and cheddar cheese); Baked New England Cod (cheddar and cracker crumb topping with lemon beurre blanc, mashed potatoes, seasonal vegetable medley); or Penne Pasta Primavera (tri-color peppers, broccoli, mushrooms, tomatoes, carrots and onions, tossed with pasta in olive oil, garlic, butter and white wine). All entrees come with salad, coffee/tea and seasonal fruit crisp or cobbler with fresh whipped cream for dessert.

Again, the tour date is Thursday, Oct. 24. For reservations, call Deb Grensavitch (508-754-6366) or email Deb at grensavitchd@aol.com. Please make payments to FOCOA (or Paxton FOCOA) and send them to Deb Grensavitch at 88 Laurel St., Paxton, MA 01612-1234.

Super fuses and super-fires

WEBINAR LOOKS AT THREAT OF NUCLEAR WAR

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

REGION — Although major media have publicized the fact the US is spending about \$1 trillion over the next decade to upgrade the country's nuclear arsenal, some scientists, military folks, and diplomats are very concerned the public doesn't hear much about what that actually means.

Specifically, MIT professor Ted Postol worries about the effect of a recent decision to equip about 1,600 sub-launched Trident missile warheads with what's being dubbed a "super fuse." He spoke about that at some length in a webinar last weekend attended by more than 400 people worldwide, sponsored by the International Peace Coalition.

Postol said this fuse greatly improves accuracy by enabling a missile's multiple warheads to be detonated in close proximity, rather than when reaching individual target points. The combination is intended to destroy hardened, underground missile silos, which the smaller Trident warheads (100 kt, about eight times stronger than the Hiroshima bomb) typically can't do alone with "conventional fuses," he said.

"You have, in a sense, a giant increase in the ability to use higher-yield warheads in other missions," he said. He was referring to the fact some Tridents have 475 kt warheads, while similar-size and larger warheads exist on the longer-range, land-based ICBMs.

"That would only be done if you intended to fight and win a nuclear war," he added. "... Of course, you can't do that, because you'll end up destroying your own country, the other country, and the world in the process. But the US is putting tremendous resources into that capacity."

Under such conditions, Postol said, Russian and Chinese officials "have no choice" but to think we're trying to destroy their nuclear forces before they can be launched, thus increasing the risk of mistaken and preemptive launches. He sees that as a concern especially with the fact Russian launch detection ability is presently limited.

Some sources have argued they don't have satellite detection like the US does. Their system is ground-based and limited to seeing missiles in flight when they cross the horizon. That means the time available to determine if it's really a launch or just a mistake is shorter. On the other hand, the russianforces.org website states they have at least four operational satellites for that purpose as of May 2024, but notes "Reliable detection would probably require deployment of a full constellation of

ten satellites, some of which will be deployed on geosynchronous orbits."

A quick internet search didn't find comparable information regarding China's detection capacity. US policy for the last couple years has been shifting to focus as much on that country as China, with some in the government arguing the US should be able to fight nuclear wars with Russia, China and North Korea or Iran at the same time. Several US sources have argued China is expanding its arsenal, aiming to have about 1500 operational missiles by 2030. (It now has about 500, about a third of what the US and Russia each currently field. Both also have many more in storage, and many of them carry multiple warheads.)

The "Shake and Bake" talk

Later, Postol added that his work in the Pentagon over the years "with a lot of great soldiers" has led him to feel the underlying problem is that most people — soldiers and civilians — don't understand the effects nukes can have when used "because they weren't trained to." Instead, nuclear planning is a "very ritualized process" focusing on target radii and other numbers, and the people involved "were simply doing what they were told to do."

To counteract that, he periodically gives his "shake and bake talk" based on a paper he wrote on the medical effects of detonation-caused "superfires." It's "a deadpan, detailed description of the effects of nuclear weapons," he said. When a warhead explodes, the air flashes to about 100 million degrees, and that sets fire to almost everything over many square miles. The heat is accompanied by "hurricane-force winds on the street that are above the temperature of boiling water. Nothing survives that," he said.

Often, students have written him notes saying they'd had "nightmares after that class." Sometimes, soldiers tell him "I don't want to do anything like this. That's criminal. It's against my oath as an officer not to murder people arbitrarily," Postol added.

Security strategy

To fellow webinar speaker retired Col Larry Wilkerson, this whole situation is best summed up by Shakespeare's line in Julius Caesar — "cry havoc and let slip the dogs of war." He argues that's what our government has been putting in place for years now because of a US security strategy that "will not tolerate any opposition to its primacy at all."

The Cold War, he said, "put us at the peak of the mountain." Since then,

policy has been to focus "almost entirely" on military responses to "any stirring at the bottom of that mountain," regardless of what a country's actual capability or intent is. "If it stirs, we will kill it," he said.

But, Wilkerson added, the country with "the most incredible capacity to do damage to the world" is the US itself. What worries him is that "we're going to get sucked into something that's initially conventional" but turns nuclear if we see ourselves losing, citing such risks in both the Middle East and Ukraine today.

Wilkerson said today's nuclear use doctrine is very similar to the one the US had in the late 1950s and '60s, when officers openly wrote about the idea of using nukes in combat.

Russian policy seems similar, too; he noted they've published ideas calling it "escalate to deescalate." Under that idea, if attacked with some of our very powerful conventional weapons (a few approach small nukes in destructive capacity), Russia could respond with "low-yield" nukes. The Russians have also been using a few new hypersonic missiles in Ukraine.

Over the last few decades, Wilkerson added, most of the treaties controlling the number and distribution of nukes have been abrogated. While they worked to bring down global arsenals in the late 1980s and '90s, reducing them from roughly 70,000 warheads to about 17,000, "there's nothing anymore to control those weapons other than the insane leaders of the Empire," he said (referring to the US). He attributes a lot of the treaty breakdown to lobbying by the nuclear weapons industry, who "got scared" when the world was destroying the nukes.

Today, just one arms control treaty remains in force between the US and Russia — New START, which is set to expire in 2026 and has yet to see any effort toward renegotiation. The Non-Proliferation Treaty also exists; that's aimed at preventing the dissemination of nukes to non-weapon nations, but four nations have obtained nukes since then: India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea. A third treaty, the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, officially went into effect in 2020, and has been ratified by 70 nations, but none of the nuclear-armed ones have even signed it.

The webinar also included several other speakers who looked at aspects of this issue, mostly from their own country's point of view.

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

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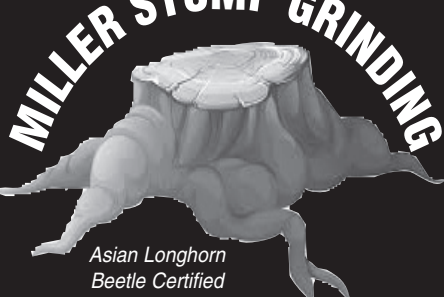
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CANNABIS

continued from page A1

al concerns over the proposal. During the May 15 Conservation Commission meeting attended by Fromm, residents asked questions about proposed development and permitting.

Additionally, concerns have been shared by an assemblage of parties operating under the name: Molasses Hill Group. These concerns involve environmental impacts, fire hazards, and light pollution problems which group members fear the project would create.

"Molasses Hill is a rural residential area and is not a suitable location for manufacturing," read a statement released by the Molasses Hill Group. "The strong, pungent odor from growing/processing can travel over a mile radius. Even with the use of greenhouses, the air is vented via large fans and can be a major problem."

Community members also said they are unclear on the process by which compliance would be overseen, if the proposal is greenlighted.

"What procedures will be in place to enforce violations? Are they complaint driven? What is the town of Brookfield's role in this process?" read the statement released by the Molasses Hill Group.

The applicant could not be reached for comment on the proposal by press time.

LYNCH

continued from page A1

ball. He later obtained his master's degree at Worcester State.

Over the past two decades, school officials have been impressed with Lynch's ability to inspire students in the classroom and on the court.

"Mike has spent years in town building his reputation, and people trust him. We couldn't have asked for a better person to be our AD, and I know he will be here for years to come," said Leicester Public Schools Superintendent Brett Kustigian.

Outside of school, Lynch loves spending time with his four kids. He is also involved in local youth basketball and soccer programs.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — The police department is rolling out a new unit that will increase safety while strengthening community bonds.

The LPD's Mountain Bike Unit will be active in several assignments across town. Residents are looking forward to seeing officers on their bikes during large community events, neighborhood activities, and general patrols.

"Many years ago, the Leicester Police Department had a bicycle patrol unit that eventually dissolved over time," said LPD Chief Kenneth Antanavica. "In the last two months, officers have expressed interest and enthusiasm in obtaining their mandatory bicycle patrol certification to deploy for various events in and around town."

The police department sent Sgt. Guertin and Officer Lombardozzi to bicycle patrol certification programming in

Milford. LPD leaders are eager to see their officers utilize the new unit to build community relationships and enhance visibility.

"The Mountain Bike Unit will be instrumental in providing officers with an effective community policing tool by allowing for personal interaction between citizens and officers that is not possible in a marked police cruiser," Antanavica told the New Leader. "Having police officers on bicycles is advantageous, allowing officers to patrol areas that are difficult to get to."

Bicycle patrol officers will operate on a seasonal basis, from mid-May until late autumn. Officers will attend a variety of community events, including the annual Harvest Fair, the Memorial Day Parade, the Little League Parade, and several other programs.

During their patrols at large events, members of the Mountain Bike Unit will perform the dual roles of ensuring safety while

interacting with guests.

"One of the biggest advantages to bicycle patrols is the ability to navigate crowds, crowded areas, and go where the standard patrol car would not be able to quickly," Antanavica said.

Police leaders recognize that officers on bicycle patrols are often viewed as more approachable than those monitoring events in cruisers or with K-9 partners. The new unit is expected to help police forge relationships with teenagers, young adults, families, and seniors.

"Unlike patrol vehicles, the novelty of a police officer on a bike is a great way to overcome negative perceptions surrounding law enforcement," Antanavica said. "Bicycle patrol officers are not the lights and sirens associated with police cruisers—they are police officers who can connect with the public on a different level and really enhance community policing and strengthen community relationships."

As an added benefit, bicycles and other equipment for the new unit are cost-effective and have a long lifespan. Recently, Worcester County District Attorney Joseph Early presented the LPD with a check to offset the costs of equipment.

"We are happy to support the town of Leicester and the Leicester Police Department as they get a new mountain bike to better serve their town. Thank you for all you do to keep your community safer," read a statement released by the DA's Office.

Looking ahead, LPD leaders are also excited about using the Mountain Bike Unit to bolster school security as needed during large events or other requests for service.

"We have an open campus high school, and the bicycle officers would be able to patrol the open campus if there were ever a threat directed at the school, staff, or other personnel, and be highly visible," the Chief said.

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Library Hours: Monday 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Tuesday 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Thursday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Special Fall Events

Book Sale Special - Saturday, September 21st 9:30am to 12:30pm

Purchase 4 books for \$1 and get 1 free! There will be a small bake sale and raffle running as well. This is a great time to refresh your bookshelves while helping us raise money to support all of our fantastic programs.

Local Author Talk - Monday, September 23rd at 5:30pm
Diane Buzzell will be

in the library to talk about her book *The Artist, the Farmer, the Hunter, and the Good Guy*. Light refreshments will be served and all ages are invited to attend!

Krispy Kreme Fundraiser for Our Playground

Stop by the library the week of October 15th - October 28th to reserve a box (or more!). Each box costs \$15. The donuts will be delivered on Tuesday, November 5th (Election Day) and will be available for pickup anytime between 10am and 5pm. All proceeds will go towards fixing and improving our playground!

Town Wide Tag Sale - Saturday, October 19th from 9am-1pm

Want to be a stop on our map? Stop by the library and pay the fee of \$5 to have your address

put on the map by October 5th. On Saturday, October 19th everyone who wants to check out the sales can stop by the library and pick up the map for \$5. The maps have the list of tag sales, the hours the address will be open, and what they are selling. The library will also have a few tag sale items. All proceeds will go to the Rebuild the Playground fund!

East Brookfield Public Library Craft Fair - Saturday, November 16th, 9:30 am to 12:30pm

Back by popular demand - come support local crafters! A great time to pick up some early holiday gifts - dolls, knitted items, handmade cat beds, and more! Note: not all crafters accept credit cards, so please plan to bring cash for purchases.

Are you a crafter interested in a spot? Stop by the library or message us on facebook to reserve your spot! Spots are \$10 each and include a light lunch.

Wreath Program - November 18th at 5:00pm

We are offering three different options for our ribbon wreath program this year! Each wreath will take between 4 and 9 hours to complete. All participants must register in advance no later than Monday, November 4th. Note - this program is for adults only.

The three options: Dragon Wreath- \$30 for parts; Snowman Head Wreath- \$20 for parts; Holiday Wreath- no cost

St. John the Baptist announces Harvest Thyme Craft Fair

EAST BROOKFIELD — St. John the Baptist Parish will be hosting its annual Harvest Thyme Craft Fair on Saturday, Oct. 19 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Raffles, gift baskets, a lottery tree, silent auction, craft tables, jewelry, books, and attic treasures will all be offered. A Café with great soups, meat pies, chili, cider, and baked goods will also be available.

Come and enjoy the fair and food! The parish awaits you! The address 131 Blaine Ave., East Brookfield. For more information, please call 508-867-6469.

Cornerstone Bank committed to helping families achieve financial wellness

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank is once again proving its deeply rooted commitment to the economic well-being of the community it serves. The bank recently donated \$5,000 to the Quabog Valley Community Development Corporation (QVDC), a non-profit organization that helps local small businesses grow and prosper.

Cornerstone's donation is focused on giving low-to-moderate income residents unique access to financial security. The contribution goes to the QVDC's Harrison and Diane Quirk Financial Fitness Club,

a program that offers a free, 12-month matched savings plan along with advice from professional advisors on spending, borrowing and reducing debt.

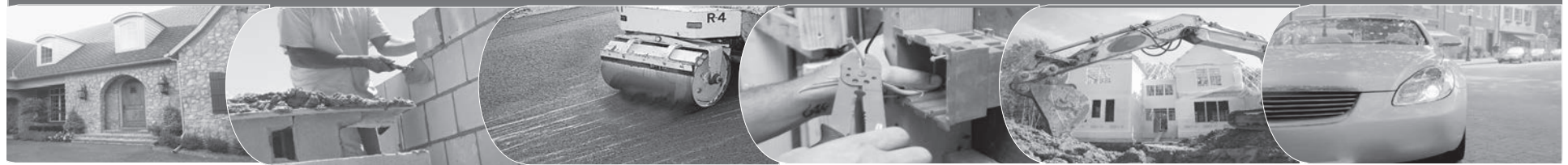
"This program not only sets participants up for personal financial growth, but it also has a direct impact on their families, and a positive ripple effect on the local economy," said Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman. "Industry studies suggest that a healthy financial life leads to good mental and physical well-being."

This donation marks Cornerstone Bank's second gift to

the Financial Fitness Club, which has generated positive results. Participants typically spend a year learning about how their relationship with money affects their lives. The program shows them how to make a habit of saving every month, sticking to a household budget and working to protect credit scores.

"We're thrilled to have a hand in helping individuals and families reach their financial goals," said Tallman. "We're confident the economic security people gain from the Financial Fitness program will lay the foundation for achieving even bigger dreams."

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Tips for preventing vole damage in your landscape

Matted down, grassy trails in the lawn and missing bark on trees and shrubs in late winter and early spring might be when you first become aware of voles in your landscape. Fall is an important time to protect plants from damage.



GARDEN MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA MYERS

Voies are herbivores actively feeding on plants, seeds, bulbs, and the trunks and roots of various trees and ornamental plants year-round. Soon after planting you may discover voles have devoured young plants and dug up newly planted seeds and bulbs.

Moles are often blamed for the damage caused by voles. Unlike voles, moles feed on earthworms and some soil-dwelling insects. They travel in interconnected tunnels three to 12 inches below ground whereas voles typically use above-ground surface runways.

Although short-lived, voles are very productive, and their populations tend to peak every three to five years. You'll often see a rise in the number of voles and damage they cause when winters are mild and there is a consistent cover.

The damage to lawns is irritating but usually only cosmetic and can be repaired. Allow the surrounding grass to fill in narrow trails or overseed the trails and damaged areas in spring.

Reduce the risk of damage to your plants by pulling mulch away from the trunk of trees and stems of shrubs. Enclose susceptible plants, typically new plantings and young trees, with a cylin-

der of hardware cloth. Sink the wire several inches into the ground to keep the voles out.

Keep the grass surrounding flower beds mowed to reduce the risk of voles moving into the garden. Cut tall grasses shorter in the fall so they do not fall over and create homes for these pests. The same is true for branches lying on the ground. Trimming these off the soil surface also helps eliminate vole habitats.

Boost your success by including Plantskydd (plantskydd.com) in your efforts to prevent vole damage. This organic odor-based repellent is snow and rain-resistant. Apply a liberal amount of the granular Plantskydd over the soil surface around your plantings. Apply it in the fall to protect your plants over winter and early in the growing season to protect new plantings. As always, read and follow label directions for the greatest success.

Some gardeners choose to use a snap trap to manage these rodents. When populations are high there can be hundreds of them, limiting the success of this option. If you opt to use a rat trap baited with peanut butter and oats and placed on one of their trails, set it inside a pipe. The pipe or a similar cover prevents birds from feeding on the oats and being killed by the trap.

A variety of animals including hawks, owls, and foxes feast on voles, helping to manage their populations. Avoid using



Melinda Myers

Damage to a lawn caused by voles.

rodent poison that puts them as well as cats and dogs at risk when feeding on a poisoned vole.

Working with nature and adapting your landscape management strategies can help you reduce vole damage while growing a beautiful landscape.

Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, including *Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition* and

Small Space Gardening. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video and DVD series* and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

Peace Pilgrim

It's easy to feel like everything is falling apart these days. The economy is uncertain, with prices climbing and jobs becoming more unstable. We hear endless news about war and global unrest, and as elections approach, the sense of instability only grows. Many of us lie awake at night, wondering how we'll make it through these difficult times.

POSITIVELY SPEAKING
.....
TOBY MOORE

Wouldn't it be nice to let go and trust that everything will be OK?

That's precisely how Peace Pilgrim lived her life. In 1953, she set out on a mysterious journey that would last nearly 30 years, walking over 25,000 miles zig zagging across the United States.

She gave up her name, her possessions, and her

home, choosing to live with nothing but the clothes on her back, a comb, a pen, and a few small pieces of paper. She had no money, no food, and no specific destination, yet she walked without fear, relying on the kindness of others for food and shelter.

Her mission was to spread a message of peace, and through her unwavering faith, she trusted that everything she needed would be provided.

Peace Pilgrim lived in simplicity. "Unnecessary possessions are unnecessary burdens. If you have them, you have to take care of them!" she would often say.

Her life was proof that there is great freedom in

simplicity.

She believed that "those who have enough but not too much are the happiest." With nothing but her faith and her message, she showed that peace and contentment come from within, not from material things.

Throughout her journey, she encountered challenges that would have caused most people to lose hope, but her trust never wavered. She believed that "a pilgrim is a wanderer with a purpose." Her purpose was to spread peace, and she trusted that life would support her in that mission. And time after time, the help she needed arrived—often in mysterious ways.

Once, while walking through the Rocky Mountains, she was caught in a fierce snowstorm with no shelter in

sight. It seemed impossible that she could make it through the night. But instead of panicking, she kept walking, trusting that something would come. Sure enough, just as the storm became unbearable, a stranger appeared, offering her a warm coat and a place to stay. The stranger had no reason to be there but had felt an inexplicable urge to drive down that road.

Another time, while walking through the Mojave Desert, she went days without food. Hunger gnawed at her, but she remained calm. She knew that help would arrive when she needed it. And sure enough, a man driving down that empty road stopped to offer her food and water. He had felt a nudge to take a detour, not knowing why, but was surprised to find her

there.

She once said, "for light, I go directly to the Source of light, not to any of the reflections." She trusted not in the material world but in a deeper, spiritual source. She showed that peace comes from within, which can produce a knowing that everything will be taken care of.

The true mystery of Peace Pilgrim wasn't just how she survived physically, but how she radiated such calm and positivity in every situation.

"When you find peace within yourself, you become the kind of person who can live at peace with others," she said.

And indeed, wherever she went, people felt drawn to her message of peace. Her calm, centered presence inspired thousands of people.

Though her identity

remained unknown for many years, it wasn't until after her death in 1981 that people learned she had been born Mildred Lisette Norman. She had lived a normal life before experiencing a spiritual awakening that led her to dedicate her life to peace.

Despite her hardships, she always remained positive, saying, "Keep your feet on the ground and your thoughts at lofty heights."

The secret may be found in trusting the journey and believing in the goodness of others and the world. By following the example of Peace Pilgrim, we can learn to embrace uncertainty, knowing that even in the most trying times, life provides exactly what we need.

All About Corn on the Cob

Corn on the cob is not only one of the tastiest pleasures of the summer; it's also one of the most popular, with American per capita consumption averaging a little over four pounds of fresh corn each year!



TAKE THE HINT
.....
KAREN TRAINOR

If fresh corn on the cob is on your menu this season, read on for some tips and tricks to make the sweet treat even more enjoyable. From picking prime corn on the cob to serving up the irresistible ears, the following hints, both old and new - help you serve up your share of the classic summer pleasure.

Freshness Check: Want to ensure fresh, sweet corn on your table this season? Take these tips from farmers: Look for bright green husks that are slightly moist. The silk

should be slightly sticky and a pale golden color. If you press gently against the husk you should be able to feel the kernels. Also check out the bottom of the ear; where it was cut off the stalk. If it is brown, the ear was likely not picked that day. If corn kernels are exposed, look for plump kernels in even rows.

Corn Rules: Did you know corn on the cob will lose up to 25% of its sugar content after just six hours of storage at room

is picked, the sugar in the corn begins to convert to starch. To keep corn at optimum taste, keep corn chilled at about 36 degrees. Keep corn in the refrigerator with the husks intact until you can cook it. This helps to slow down the sugar to starch conversion, thus maintaining its sweetness longer.

Corn off the Cob: While cutting the corn off the cob removes half the fun of eating it, sometimes it's a necessary task. Ever wonder what is the most efficient way to carve a cob? Lay the cob down on its side on a cutting board and use a sharp chef knife or serrated edge knife to cut off the kernels, rotating the as you go. This way, there is less mess than if you held the cob

tically.

Milky Way: If you're cutting corn off the cob for a recipe, be sure to get all the milky liquid this way: After the kernels are removed, simply run the flat edge of a knife down the cob, applying a bit of pressure.

Cooking Corn: If you're boiling corn never salt the water, as that can toughen the kernels. Want to add heighten sweetness of bland corn? Add a teaspoon or two of sugar to the boiling water. Cook for three to five minutes.

Steaming Hot: Steaming corn is a favored way to serve up fresh corn on the cob. If you don't have a steamer, simply put about two inches of water in a large stock pot. Stand ears upright in the pan. Cover and cook on high until water boils. Turn off heat and allow to steam with cover on for about 7 to 9 minutes.

Cooler Corn: Several years ago, a reader sent in this effortless trick for cooking corn for a crowd. It employs an ice cooler and a little patience and is perfect for camping trips as kettles of hot water are readily available.

To do: Shuck corn and place into a clean cooler (not Styrofoam). Pour in enough boiling water to cover corn. Cover cooler (make sure it has a tight fitting lid). Keep lid on for 30 minutes (don't peek)! When lid is opened, corn should be cooked to perfection. With the lid on the corn will stay hot for

about two hours,

Husk-free Hack: Several years ago, this trick to cook corn quickly in the microwave was making the internet rounds, and is still my favorite easy method to cook corn for one or two servings:

Cut about one inch off the cob on the stem end (make sure you cut into at least the first row of kernels). Cook corn in the microwave (I put one ear in for four minutes; two ears in for five). Remove from microwave and using an oven mitt or pot-holder, hold the corn up over a plate by the silk leaves and shake hard; the cob will slide right out of the husk, leaving a clean, cooked cob!

Freezing corn for the winter? A couple of years ago, reader Howard Whitcomb of Brookfield passed along this timely tip that bears repeating:

A handy way of putting up kernel corn for the winter is to first blanch the corn in a pot, and I suggest putting a teaspoon of sugar in the pot because it makes it a little bit sweeter. Boil it for about three minutes. To avoid the mess when cutting kernels, I use a bundt pan. I put the pointed end of the cob in the hole in the middle of the pan and cut the kernels off with a knife. They fall right around that circle inside of the pan and no mess!

Corn Fun Facts
*The more silk on the cob, the more the kernels!
*The number of rows on a kernel is always an even number.
*There are about 800

kernels in 16 rows on each ear of corn.

*It takes about two ears of medium sized corn on the cob to equal a cup of kernels.

*The corncob (ear) is actually part of the corn plant's flower.

*The world record for eating corn on the cob stands at 61.75 ears consumed in 12 minutes by American competitive eater Carmen Cincotti.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

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

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

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Foraging, Part 2: Finding food underfoot



A few samples of edible mushrooms. Monger also had some mushroom jerky the audience could try.

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — Continuing down to the ground from last week, long-time forager Karen Monger often finds food in forms that many people literally step on or over.

Some of them are super-common, like dandelions; some are commonly seen as a nuisance, like burdock; and some have the reputation of being toxic, like mushrooms. But in fact, many of them are both edible and tasty.

As she noted while speaking at Charlton Library two weeks ago, “Edible does not always mean palatable. It just means ‘does not have toxins.’” That’s especially true of mushrooms, which our society has a tendency to avoid harvesting for fear of poison. Monger said she specifically looks for about 40 tasty species, but hundreds of them are edible (with the above caveat), about 40 will make you sick, and fewer than 10 will kill you. There are thousands of mushroom species worldwide.

“Americans can be pretty cavalier about what’s out there,” she noted, adding that many more plants are toxic than mushrooms. “... It’s very important to me everybody stay safe” while picking and eating wild foods.

A key part of that is finding good information. “I’m not your mom, and I’m not the foraging police,” she said before noting there are a very wide variety of written resources on foraging out there. AI is writing “a lot of bad things to sell on Amazon,” so people need to make sure the writer is a real human with some experience foraging.

That said, many plant and fungi species are entirely edible, and often have multiple uses. Take chicory, noted for its blue flowers. That’s been long used as an additive in and substitute for coffee, with its root being ground and roasted until it’s “black and crispy.” The plant is a perennial and “mildly invasive, so you’re doing a good thing if you’re digging up chicory,” she said.

Maybe even more common is the

dandelion, whose ground and roasted root is also sometimes a coffee substitute, while



Library Director Karen Wall and forager Karen Monger talk after the presentation.

the flowers and leaves can be turned into tea, jelly, wine or a salad vegetable. Typically, dandelions are best when eaten young; they tend to become fairly bitter with age.

Often right next to it, you’ll find chickweed, which she noted “tastes a little bit like corn.” It’s notable for having five-part “very deeply-split white flowers” and a tiny line of hairs down the length of its stem “like a mohawk.”

Not far away is likely to be the very invasive garlic mustard, which Monger described as “such a bully.” It was brought over from Europe intentionally by colonists who wanted edible plants they recognized (it’s called “Jack by the hedge” in England); it tastes “a heck of a lot like horseradish” or wasabi. People can eat the first-year roots or leaves, but they need to be cooked/boiled to eliminate cyanide.

Mushrooms

At the same level, many mushrooms are edible, Monger said. One of her favorites is maitake, sometimes called “hen of the woods,” but the name in Japanese means “the dancing mushroom.”

That’s identifiable by the fact it’s a “polypore,” having many holes on the underside of its umbrella; other species do, too, including the two “chicken mushrooms” (“chicken of the woods”) which are also edible.

Maitake is “slightly parasitic,” favors red oaks, and has a “savory, meaty, roasty flavor” where “really well-cooked maitake feels like bacon.” She noted it “can get ridiculously large,” showing a photo of her husband carrying an 80-pound maitake. (That shroom produced two quart jars of dehydrated mushrooms.)

The “chicken mushrooms” (*Laetiporus* spe-

cies) are best noted for being bright orange on top and growing often on dead trees and tasting vaguely like chicken. (Be careful, though; there’s another orange species that’s toxic; as she noted later “There are always things that look like what you want.”) Monger noted it’s best when collected young; old and dry specimens contain a chemical that tends to make it inedible and chalky.

One somewhat unusual species is known as “shaggy mane.” That needs to be cooked and eaten quickly; if allowed to sit, it will digest itself and liquefy to spread its spores. Another, called honey mushroom, also

needs to be boiled before sauteeing or cooked with tomatoes to avoid sliminess; that’s popular in Polish and Russian rural communities.

She noted the three “lion’s mane” species (*Herichium* spp) are tasty and supposed to help the brain, while oyster mushrooms (*Pleurotus* spp) fell “like you’re eating a juicy pork chop” when crushed and fried. Another popular type is the porcini, recognizable by their “hamburger-bun-shaped cap” and “white netting on the stem.”

Going underground, Native Americans often dug up and ate groundnuts (*Apios americana*, with various common names including American potato bean), a legume in the peanut family. This plant has very thin, flowering vines and the edible roots “look like teeny, tiny potatoes” that taste like water chestnuts, Monger said.

Burdock roots are also edible; Monger digs those in the fall, finding the first-year plants best. Those are identifiable by their fuzzy leaves; the roots can be cooked in stews or pickled, among other uses. She noted the gobo found in Asian markets is cultivated burdock.

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Join Edward Street for Worcester’s 13th Annual Day of Play Family Festival

WORCESTER — Edward Street is proudly hosting Worcester’s 13th annual Day of Play Family Festival on Saturday, Sept. 14 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Elm Park.

Families and children can immerse themselves in the power of play with more than 50 activities to explore and performers to enjoy.

“This festival brings our community together and it is an honor for Edward Street to host this festival for the 13th year,” shared Eve Gilmore, Edward Street CEO. “We look forward to welcoming the children and families of Central Massachusetts once again to join in the joy of play.”

Day of Play was founded by Edward Street in 2010 and continues to unite the Worcester community year after year. The festival features eight key areas of play for children and their families:

- Active Play;
- Construction;
- Creative Arts;
- Health & Wellness;
- Mindfulness;
- Performance;
- Reading; and
- STEM

Community volunteers and organizations help bring these play activities to life.

“It’s an enduring tradition in the Worcester community because it brings young children and families together in a natural way,” shared Karen O’Neill, Planning Committee Member and Professor of Early Childhood Education at Quinsigamond Community College. “Play is universal and foundational to being human. The Day of Play provides time away from screens and the busy demands we all have in our lives.”

This year’s Community Read is centered around the Pete the Cat book series by Eric Litwin and will feature a special appearance by Pete the Cat himself!

Scheduled performers include:

- Betty Machete and the Jumping Fleas;
- Janoah the Juggler;
- The Wormtown Mugwumps;
- The Traditional Lion Dancers;
- Dan & Imogene Gay;
- The InDaZone dance team; and
- Cory “the Pied Piper” Scott.

Life Skill Martial Arts will lead demonstrations and workshops, and other featured activities include:

- An obstacle course;
- Stomp rockets;
- Bubble making; and
- A soccer skills clinic run by volunteers from Cultural Exchange Through Soccer (CETS).

Along with these activities, Crocodile River Music will host a “musical instru-

ments petting zoo,” Mass. Audubon will run an interactive nature table, and Skins & Scales will return with all sorts of reptiles to learn about — plus much, much more.

View our full schedule on our website: <https://www.worcesterdayofplay.org/>

The Day of Play is a free, volunteer-based event and open to the public thanks to our sponsors, including:

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Webster Five
YWCA of Central MA.

The rain date is Saturday, September 28th.

For more information, visit <http://www.worcesterdayofplay.org> or the Day of Play Facebook page.

About Edward Street
Edward Street is a private, non-profit agency that collaborates to improve the quality and impact of early education and care, enhancing the development of young children and strengthening families in Central Massachusetts. Learn more at www.edwardstreet.org.

About Worcester Family Partnership
Worcester Family Partnership is funded through a MA Department of Early Education and Care grant to provide support services to families with children birth to school age. Worcester Family Partnership offers free playgroups, the opportunity to participate in a free screening for your child, and many other programs. Learn more at <https://worcesterschools.org/about/community-partnerships/worcester-family-partnership/>.

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